

Costello Report Raps WRA

Army 'Unwilling' to Run Jap Internee Centers

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By United Press

The Army wants no part of supervising the Japanese-Americans in relocation camps while agencies exist which "could and should" handle them efficiently.

Thus, the Dies sub-committee headed by Rep. Costello (D., Calif.), shied away from a recommendation that the War Department supplant the War Relocation Authority in this field.

"The War Department has a sufficient burden in effectively conducting the war, because of which we know that the War Department is unwilling to assume any additional burdens which could and should be efficiently handled by other agencies of the Government," Costello said in a report on its three-months' investigation of WRA.

RELEASED DANGEROUS JAPS

Costello's committee said that the WRA, under Director Dillon S. Myer, has released 23 members of the Butoku-Kai, an organization which it said is a youth branch of the notorious Black Dragon society pledged to "the enhancement of the spirit of Japanese military virtue" in this country.

In a scathing report signed by two members of the three-man committee, the WRA was held "incompetent" to supervise 106,000 Japanese-Americans with proper safeguard for the national security.

The report recommended, instead of Army supervision, that the loyal Americans of Jap ancestry be segregated from the disloyal Nisei, as the Japanese-Americans are called; that an intensive investigation be made of those seeking release from relocation camps, and that an intensive program of Americanization be followed in all WRA camps.

INSUFFICIENT INVESTIGATION

"It is conceded that every undesirable Japanese will not be singled out," Costello said, "but certainly the segregation program should include all those who have already indicated their loyalty to Japan on the questionnaires which were signed and submitted by the individual Japanese evacuees."

In many cases, the report stated, the Nisei were released on indefinite leave for outside employment, for temporary leaves (not exceeding 30 days) for private business, or seasonal leave for locally-needed employment, without sufficient investigation.

Because most of the relocation cen-

ters were established beyond the limits of military zones subject to martial law, Costello explained, it is not possible to prevent the release of Japanese who desire to be freed unless they are known to be disloyal and undesirable.

MYER SCORED

The release of members of the Butoku-Kai, which it held to be subversive in character, the sub-committee said was proof that "there exists within the WRA a complete lack of familiarity with the subversive Japanese organizations or even the general techniques of subversion."

Myer himself, the report stated, appears to be typical of the total neglect of an effort to enlist administrative personnel in the WRA to handle persons of Japanese ancestry.

"It is apparent from the testimony given before the sub-committee that few, if any, among the administrative personnel of the WRA have ever so much as read a book on the Japanese before they undertook their heavy responsibilities for dealing with this racial group," it said.