

WRA Head Assails Dies Publicity on Japanese

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The safety of American prisoners in Japan and the confidence of this Nation's Oriental allies are being jeopardized by sensational Dies Committee publicity based on "half-truths, exaggerations and falsehoods," Dillon S. Myer, War Relocation Authority director, told investigators yesterday during a hearing on his agency's practices. Myer angrily attacked stories given out prior to the opening of the hearing by Robert E. Stripling, chief committee investigator, to two Washington newspapers, in which, Myer asserted, it was stated that WRA is releasing Japanese belonging to secret, subversive Japanese organizations.

"No Basis in Fact"

The WRA director said flatly: "There is absolutely no basis in fact for Stripling's charges. Mr. Stripling has never supplied me with the name of a single subversive Japanese-American we have released."

Meanwhile, as Myer defended his agency before a House committee, the Senate was adopting a resolution to compel a change in its policies.

By voice vote the Senate adopted

a resolution asking President Roosevelt to order immediate segregation of loyal and disloyal Japanese-Americans in relocation centers. The resolution was offered by Senator Downey (Democrat) of California. Senators McKeller (Democrat) of Tennessee and Evercomb (Democrat) of West Virginia asserted that the resolution should also contain a recommendation that camp management should shift from WRA to the Army.

Myer yesterday read into the

record a prepared statement on the methods of the subcommittee of which Representative Costello (Democrat) of California is chairman.

"The program of the War Relocation Authority," he said, "has been under investigation for the past eight weeks in such a manner as to achieve maximum publicity of sensational statements based on half-truths, exaggerations and falsehood; statements of witnesses have been released to the public with-

Americans as 'Half-Truths'

out verification of their accuracy, thus giving Nation-wide currency to many distortions and downright untruths."

"This practice," Myer continued, "has fostered a public feeling of mistrust, suspicion and hatred."

He charged Dies Committee publicity with having had the following effects:

1. Providing the enemy with material which can be used to convince the peoples of the Orient that the United States is undemocratic and is fighting a racial war.
2. Undermining the unity of the American people.
3. Betraying the democratic objectives which this Nation and its Allies are fighting to preserve.
4. It may lead to further maltreatment of our citizens who are prisoners or who are interned in Japan.

Says FBI Helps

He testified it was the policy of the WRA to release as many Japanese from the centers as possible to provide normal living for them and relieve the manpower shortage.

He told the committee that the FBI does not investigate each individual Japanese, but that their

names are checked against FBI lists.

Representative Mundt (Republican) of South Dakota questioned the WRA director at length when it was developed that Japanese-Americans refused permits to live in the Eastern Command area are released in the Midwest.

Myer had testified that a joint board checked all Japanese-Americans who had applied for release before General Drum would consent to their being in the Eastern Command. The joint board is composed of representatives of the Office of Naval Intelligence, the Military Intelligence, the provost marshal's office and a WRA representative, with an FBI representative sitting in on the conferences.

Mundt said he completely failed to understand why a man turned down by the joint board would be released in the Midwest.

He asked if Myer took the position that "a bad Jap on the East Coast is a good Jap in Omaha." Myer said the WRA was deferring to the wishes of General Drum.

Mundt also asked if the public would not feel more confidence in WRA and less hostile to Japanese-Americans if the FBI had really investigated all those released.