

Dies Comes Up With Sensation: A Jap Buddhist Baseball Player

Opening Hearing on WRA Gets Off to a Dull Start

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WASHINGTON, July 2.—The Dies Subcommittee started off its well-advertised "10 days of sensational hearings" by discovering that its star suspect—one Paul Abe—had once played on a Buddhist baseball team and belonged to a club which was once addressed by an unnamed official of the National Youth Administration (NYA).

The Costello Subcommittee of the Dies investigating group had called on Abe to help prove that the War Relocation Authority (WRA) has released "subversive" Japanese internees under pressure from the Japanese-American Citizens League.

Abe told the Committee yesterday he hasn't yet been accepted for membership in the League, which was founded many years ago to improve the loyalty of second generation Japanese Americans. He disclosed he has an apartment next to the League's headquarters here, which were recently ransacked by Dies' investigators.

Worked in Embassy

Abe resigned as a clerk from the Japanese Embassy before Pearl Harbor and went to work as secretary to a Washington correspondent for a Tokyo daily.

Now a clerk in the Registrar's office at George Washington University, Abe declared the FBI cleared him in a four-hour interview shortly after Pearl Harbor.

He said that in May, 1941, he refused to accept a Japanese Embassy proffer of a renewal of his \$115 scholarship to study at George Washington.

"I could not accept it in conscience," he added.

Abe admitted that he saw that Japanese-American relations were becoming quite strained at that time. He denied any knowledge of some marine pamphlets relating to inland waterways, to which Investigator J. B. Matthews mysteriously alluded.

Lowdown on Kurusu

The Committee later called on Toki Slocum, a violently pro-American Japanese, who said he had served as a secret investi-

gator for the FBI in San Francisco and at the War Relocation Center at Manzanar, Cal., where he was interned.

Slocum hinted that he picked up some gossip for the FBI in San Francisco's "Little Tokyo" during the visit of Saburo Kurusu, special Japanese envoy, in the Fall of 1941. Kurusu, according to Slocum, got "drunk" at a banquet in San Francisco and let slip the news that war was about to break out.

Slocum now works for the War Manpower Commission. And the Committee failed to lure him into indicting the WRA. He said:

"The WRA has done a thankless job well."

Of the Japanese - American Citizens League, Slocum said: "I resigned because it got too political. There was too much of a struggle for power."

"You mean it was a pressure group," added Rep. Mundt (R., S. D.).

Slocum looked a little puzzled at the term but replied dutifully, "Yes, sir."