

FBI Disclaims Blame For Release of Jap 'Spies' From Camps

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Dies Committee Charges
Many Were Trained
In Tokio for Sabotage

The Federal Bureau of Investigation last night disclaimed any responsibility for the release of Japanese from the 10 relocation centers after a charge by the Dies committee that some of the hundreds of Japs released had been trained in espionage at a school operated by the Imperialistic Black Dragon Society in Tokio.

The FBI said it had made a careful check of Japanese in this country before and after the Pearl Harbor attack, but had nothing to do with the release of the Japs either for the purpose of attending school, working on farms or in industrial plants.

Probe Opens June 7.

Authority for discharge of the Japs from the centers, it was pointed out, is vested solely in the War Relocation Authority, an independent Government agency. All the FBI does, it was said, is to check the records in its files when the WRA requests information about Japs seeking release. This data, if any, is then furnished the WRA "without recommendations."

A Dies subcommittee will begin a preliminary investigation in Los Angeles June 7 of the release of the Japs. Representative Costello, Democrat, of California, heads the group. Other members are Representatives Eberharter, Democrat, of Pennsylvania, and Mundt, Republican, of South Dakota.

The inquiry was prompted by reports from Dies Committee investigators, according to Robert E. Stripling, chief committee investigator, that evidence had been found that a number of the Japs released from the relocation centers are secret agents of the Japanese Government.

Trained For Espionage.

These agents, Mr. Stripling said, are members of the Butokru-Kai, who were recalled to Tokio from the United States by the Black Dragon Society and taught how to carry out a program of espionage in the

United States in the event of war. The organization, he declared, has 10,000 members in this country.

The Dies sub-committee was appointed primarily to inquire into the policy of WRA, which has control over the Japs who were rounded up after the beginning of the war and placed in the centers.

"The Japs are being released at the rate of 1,000 a week to run nilly-willy all over the country," Mr. Stripling said. "There is no way of

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Japs

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determining how many are loyal to this country and how many are loyal to Japan."

He pointed out that the War Department had tried to find the answer through questionnaires sent all Japanese males in the camps between 17 and 37 years of age and that 24 per cent in their replies openly avowed allegiance to Japan. He added, however, the committee has evidence that a great many other Japanese have no use for a democracy.

Release of the Japanese, it was recalled in one official quarter, was vigorously opposed by the Committee on Natural Americans of the American Legion, which adopted a resolution in April which said in part:

"That the Japanese, whether alien or American born, be kept under military control to the extent of excluding them from the special privilege of leaving the concentration centers to attend universities or colleges."

The Dies Subcommittee expects to leave Washington early this week for Los Angeles. As soon as it returns, about the middle of June, and files a report with the full committee, there will be a series of public hearings on the subcommittee findings at which officials of the WRA are to be called as the principal witnesses.