

War Relocation Dominated By Japs, League Files Show

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Past

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Representative Dies (Democrat) of Texas announced yesterday that his House Committee on Un-American Activities will begin hearings next week on Japanese activities in this country, on the Government's program for dealing with the Japanese, and on the recent race riots in Detroit.

Dies told a press conference the hearings would be based in part on testimony gathered by a subcommittee on the West Coast and on files seized in Washington 10 days ago from the Japanese-American Citizens League. He said information in the league files, if true, showed the organization "largely dominated," and in part "dictated" policies of the Government's War Relocation Authority.

Evidence of Releases

He said there was evidence Japanese had been released from the relocation centers without sufficiently careful investigation, and he cited the following statement, identified by Robert Stripling, chief Dies investigator, as taken from a report by a Japanese-American Citizens League official writing last April 26 from Washington to his headquarters in Salt Lake City, Utah:

"This is strictly off the record but the project directors alone now have the power to issue indefinite furloughs. They do not need an FBI check. It seems that the prime requisite in determining whether one receives a furlough or not is his answers to Questions

27 and 28 (identified by Stripling as loyalty questions). This unusual procedure is only a temporary one which will permit the WRA here to catch up with several thousand clearance requests which they now have in the files. Once they catch up, they will again resort to the former procedure of an FBI clearance but the project director will have power to issue the furlough in cases of cleared individuals without referring them back to Washington as previously."

Activity in Detroit

Answering a question, Dies said "I think there is evidence" of Japanese who had been released from the camps engaging in subversive activities, "if the definition of subversive includes propaganda designed to spread racial hatred." He said "we will have a number of instances," but he declined to name or describe any, of Japanese released from the camps engaging in that type of propaganda. Instead, he said a report by a Dies investigator had named a Japanese major, now in an American concentration camp, having recruited some 150 Negroes into the Universal Negro Improvement Association in Detroit, but he said the association was no longer active. On another question, Dies said there had been testimony the Ku Klux Klan had recruited a "number of members" in the Detroit area. In summary, he attributed the Detroit riots to the preachments of class and race prejudice by people in this country and outside.