

JUNE 16, 1943

Pastor Not Sure Ickes' 3 Japs Went to Session

The Rev. Clarence W. Cranford, pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church, last night said he did not know whether the three Japanese employed on Secretary Ickes' farm attended a "fellowship" meeting at his church May 22, or sat in on a session at the Japanese-American Citizens League as charged by the Dies Committee.

Dr. Cranford said he does not know the Japanese employed by Ickes either by sight or by name.

No Way of Knowing

[A statement in a morning newspaper had misquoted Dr. Cranford as confirming the presence of the Ickes Japanese at the church meeting.]

"Someone told me they had said they attended the fellowship meeting at our church," Dr. Cranford said, "but I have no way of knowing whether they were there or not, or whether they went to another meeting later.

"All I know is that a group of Japanese did have a fellowship meeting in our church May 22. It was arranged by a young Japanese-American who is now in the Army.

Seen Leaving Place

Investigators for the Dies Committee said they saw Ickes' Japanese "farmers" leave the headquarters of the Japanese-American Citizens League at 1324 Fourteenth St. NW., following a turbulent meeting.

After the meeting, the investigators seized records of the league. Included in the files was a letter from an official of the league revealing that members were plotting last April to open the restricted West Coast defense command area to interned Japanese-Americans.