

# Eberharter's Report Defends WRA Policy On Jap-Americans

Star 8-25-43  
By JAMES E. CHINN.

Activities of the War Relocation Authority, including release of Japanese-Americans from the 10 relocation centers in which they were placed after outbreak of the war, were strongly defended today by Representative Eberharter, Democrat of Pennsylvania, a member of the Dies Subcommittee which investigated the agency.

The preponderance of evidence gathered by the subcommittee, he declared, indicates that the WRA "is doing a good job in handling an extremely difficult problem."

The statement was made in answer to charges of the two other members of the subcommittee—Representatives Costello, Democrat, of California, and Mundt, Republican, of South Dakota, that the WRA program has been lacking in competency and efficiency and its policy with respect to release of the evacuees in the camps had been "loose."

## Challenges Statements.

Mr. Eberharter's views were contained in a minority report. In it, he charged the subcommittee had never met to discuss the contents of a report and the one turned out by the majority members was "prejudiced" and embodied statements that had not been proved.

Take exception to a recommendation in the majority report that a special board representing the FBI, the Army and Navy Intelligence Services, the WRA and other "pertinent" Federal agencies be created to pass on future applicants for release from the camps, Mr. Eberharter said:

"The testimony produced before this subcommittee shows that large numbers of Japanese-American evacuees are working in war plants and in agriculture, and doing a good job. The Army has found that many of them are so trustworthy that they are being used in military intelligence and other secret work of high military importance."

## "Feeble" Recommendations.

Mr. Eberharter declared the majority report had made a "big point" about release from the camps of 23 members of the Butoku-kai, a Japanese fencing organization affiliated with the Black Dragon Society of Japan.

"This is 23 people out of 16,000 released," he said. "Even in the case of these 23 neither the majority report nor the hearings offer any evidence that any of the 23 were subversive."

After "all the wind and fury" of

the long report of the majority, he said it was climaxed with three "feeble, meaningless recommendations" which hardly support its "prejudiced tone."

Mr. Eberharter's own recommendations were that the WRA complete its program of segregating the loyal from the disloyal in the relocation centers, continue its Americanization program and "by all means, go ahead with its resettlement program."