

Dies Probers Order Secret Jap Hearing

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Abruptly cancelling scheduled public hearings, the Dies Subcommittee investigating the War Relocation Authority's handling of the Japanese problem, will go into executive session today to question Army and Navy intelligence officers and Department of Justice representatives on how thoroughly Japanese released from WRA camps are investigated.

Representative Costello (Democrat) of California, chairman of the subcommittee, said yesterday that the group was particularly anxious to know why it was that "a bad Jap in Baltimore is a good Jap in Omaha."

He said the committee had failed to obtain a satisfactory answer from Dillon S. Myer, WRA director, on whether or not Japanese-Americans refused permission to settle in the Eastern command area were released in the Midwest.

Myer had testified that at the request of Gen. Hugh Drum of the Eastern command, a special joint board had been established to pass on applications of Japanese-Americans to be released from WRA centers to the East. The board is composed of Army and Navy Intelligence officers, representatives of the Provost Marshal's office and WRA officials.

The committee, Costello said, probably will issue a report of its findings within two weeks.

Costello asserted he was convinced that the Japanese-Americans, on the basis of Myer's testimony, were not being investigated carefully enough.

"The public knowledge of how inadequate the investigation of these Japanese is tends to increase rather than allay prejudice," Costello asserted.

He added that the committee was concerned about espionage more than sabotage.