Eberharter’s Report Defends WRA Policy On Jap-Americans

By JAMES E. CHINN.

Activities of the War Relocation Authority including release of Japanese-Americans from the 16 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 Muntz, 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 contained 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 Butokukan, 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 climaxd 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."

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Soldier on Japs

To the Editor: Recently in copies of Oregon papers I have been able to read I noticed speeches by ex-Congressman Walter Pierce giving the American Japanese holy hell. I have a healthy distaste for such stuff no matter how sincere. It is dangerous. As one who is pretty much in the war, I resent it. I went to college and had the good fortune to know well there some very fine Americans of Japanese ancestry.

Our lackadaisical attitude toward politics has made it possible for men who have such attitudes to get by in public affairs, to the consequent loss of the United States. Unless I miss my guess his type is going to be replaced by younger men who will call a spade a spade even though it doesn’t get votes. The solid facts are that many American-born Japanese have been a great asset to America, that they wish to be accepted and treated as Americans, that they are very gracious, honest and industrious human beings. Anyone who has associated closely with them knows this.

I hope the people of Oregon will take such speeches with a grain of salt. I am not worried about finally whipping the tar out of Germany and Japan. I am deeply concerned, however, that we have men of understanding and ability sufficient to deal with the problems we will face when the war is over. Let’s have a new clear polices.

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