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## News Letter

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# NEWS IN THE NEWS

SPECIAL V-D SUPPLEMENT

JAPANESE AMERICAN COMMITTEE FOR DEMOCRACY

AUGUST, 1945

## FULL EMPLOYMENT NECESSARY for PEACE

As a gladdened nation suddenly realizes that the "duration of the war" is over, and releases its pent-up emotions in frenzied joy-making, the possibility of mass unemployment grimly jerks us back to the reminder that the tasks of victory are many. "60 million jobs" was a war-phrase for the postwar period. "Postwar" is now. And those thousands of unemployed lines at former war production plants indicate all too clearly the need for a vast reconversion and employment plan.

Will we nisei, too, lose our jobs? What can we do to assure ourselves security in the coming period? We have already seen how the Negroes and women have been among the first to be released from their jobs as comparative latecomers in industry. They had been unable to gain employment in different fields until war necessity and the FEPC opened up opportunities for them. We nisei are also in the same position, since most of us got our jobs after evacuation.

Reliable authorities estimate up to 10 million unemployed in a few months. Immediate Congressional action is necessary to maintain the living standard of our people. We can do our part by:

1. joining others who are fighting for a full employment program, notably the labor movement, and,
2. taking political action.

There are many bills in Congress today which deserve immediate attention. Congress must be reconvened at once to pass bills dealing with the human phase of reconversion. Congress  
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## NISEI GI'S IN PACIFIC WAR

Dramatically, the story of Nisei GI's participation in the war against Japan has hit the columns of many veteran correspondents covering the Pacific theater. They are moving stories of individual heroism -- some are conspicuous deeds of bravery; others of more quiet, but as enduring, courage, the day-by-day kind, born of the swamps and the jungles that make up the terrain of Pacific warfare.

Outstanding exploits of these American soldiers of Japanese ancestry -- MI's, they are called, Military Intelligence men attached to the Marines and the Infantry -- are so many, we can mention only a few. Their work in interpreting, decoding, reconnaissance -- which entailed hazardous work within Japanese lines -- and in other "special and dangerous missions" is now a significant and historical fact. We know too, that there were also individual nisei infantrymen scattered in various outfits in this theater. They took part in the fighting in the Philippines, Bataan, Guadalcanal, Bougainville, the Marshalls, Ta-

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## NEW SUN FOR OLD

The high priests of Shinto and the arrogant latter-day samurai -- they who boasted that surrender was not a part of their conqueror's vocabulary -- have given up the fight they started. The "Divine" Emperor is now taking orders from an undivine general named MacArthur. The banzais are heard no more. And the Potsdam Declaration can now be wielded with vigor to clean up the Imperial House of Japan.

The blood-red Rising Sun, the Hinomaru terror of the Orient, has set. We, the jubilant peoples of the victorious democracies, hope it is sunset forever for fascism and the destructive anachronism of war. In rejoicing we have snake-danced in Times Square, put fuse to firecrackers in Chungking, swilled vodka in Red Square and ditched the reserve of the British in the once bombed-out streets of London.

But while we celebrate the end of the blood-spilling and the fall of fascism's last major bastion, let it be remembered:

That the end of a war -- even of a justly and courageously fought war which the right side won -- is the beginning of a political struggle just as grim and portentous.

That unless the terms of the Potsdam Declaration are enforced without compromise, we face the terrible probability of another war in another generation, if not sooner -- and the next one may spell the utter extinction of humanity.

That there are men of influence in our national councils who would trim the branches but leave untouched the roots of the Japanese fascist oligarchy's will to war.

That the only hope of a civilized future for Japan and for a world that doesn't want any more war anywhere is a renovated Japan completely cleared of the murk of medieval myths and the economic compulsions toward aggression -- the clap-trap of "Divine Rule," the feverish, primitive Yamato cult, the damming up of national wealth in the vaults of the Zai-batsu.

That the only logical and just sequel to our military victory will be the encouragement of an unreservedly democratic people's Japan to replace the feudal-fascist regime which made Tokyo synonymous with fear, hate, treachery and blood -- the sending up of a new sun over the other side of the Pacific to eclipse the old for all time.

And let it be remembered on our own side that the breaking of the great wave of victory has piled up in our yard a vast mountain of problems the solution of which will require every bit as much of the energy and ingenuity we expended to win the war.

Unemployment and insecurity, the time-bombs of political and economic tension. The handout of left-overs and the handout of nothing to darker-skinned Americans. The reconversion to peacetime production of the titanic industrial machine we built and operated at an incredible pace to avenge Pearl Harbor. Lingering apathy toward the great problems of home and abroad which are no longer the concern of politicians and statesmen alone.

These, in their own way, are obstacles no less formidable than the Luftwaffe and the Wehrmacht, the Kamikazes and the banzai battalions.

There are many more victories yet to be won.

## NIX on GREW as MacARTHUR AIDE - JACD

Criticizing ex-Ambassador to Japan Joseph C. Grew as an advocate of appeasement toward militarist Japan, the JACD last week conveyed to President Truman the satisfaction of its members with the acceptance of Grew's resignation as Under-Secretary of State.

As long as Grew's ideas influenced our Far Eastern policy, the letter to the President said, "there were reasons for fearing that the roots of fascism in the Orient would be exterminated only in part."

The JACD also took note of press rumors of a possible appointment of Grew as political

adviser to General MacArthur.

If any adviser is to be assigned to the General, the organization said, the appointee must be "one who stands unqualifiedly for the utter destruction of the war-making powers of fascist, Imperial Japan and who will exert every effort to assist the Japanese people in the realization of a truly democratic Japanese State."

On Dean Acheson's appointment as successor to Grew, the letter expressed hope that it "signifies the determination of our government to reject completely any half-way measures" in eliminating military-fascism.

## JACD ISSUES STATEMENT ON SURRENDER

In a vigorous statement of its position on the military surrender of Japan, the Japanese American Committee for Democracy welcomed the final victory as having established "the pre-conditions for a peaceful and secure world," but called for vigilance against the maintenance in Japan of the old order which caused the war.

The statement warned that there are officials in our government who advocate the retention of the imperialist Japanese political and economic structure responsible for Pearl Harbor. It then asked the people of America to ensure the establishment of a democratic Japanese government "by seeing that the Potsdam Declaration is carried through to its logical conclusion."

The statement follows in full:

"The surrender of the fascist militarist government of Japan is joyous news for all freedom-loving people. The last link of the axis and the fascist stronghold in Asia has been defeated militarily. The pre-condition for a peaceful and secure world has been established.

"This is a time of rejoicing; however, we must not forget what our men have been fighting for, namely, that the people of all nations may live in a more democratic and prosperous world.

"All the terms of the Potsdam Declaration must be completely fulfilled. Most important are the provisions dealing with the punishment and removal from office of all those who are responsible for this war, and removal of all obstacles to the revival and strengthening of democratic tendencies among the Japanese people. Only by accomplishing these tasks can we have a free, people's Japan which is essential for the future peace of the world.

"In light of our AMG's past activities in the occupied territories in Europe we believe that utmost vigilance must be exercised by the people of America to see that the people's movement in Japan is encouraged and not suppressed.

"Under these conditions and only under these conditions can there be established in accordance with the freely expressed will of the Japanese people a peacefully inclined and responsible government."

"It is also under these conditions that the question of the status of the Emperor can be determined by the people of Japan. At the present time, however, there are officials in our government who are trying to influence and weaken our policy by advocating the retention of the status quo as well as the Emperor which would mean the maintenance of the same conditions which gave rise to the war. We

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# What They Said About V-J

We called up the following people for comments on the Surrender. Here's what they said:

**EUGENE MOY, Pres., China Daily News:** "Chungking's policy" (ed. note: that of forbidding Chinese Red Forces to disarm the Japanese armies and puppet troops; and to maintain law and order) "reflects the determination of the reactionary clique in the Kuomintang to stop at nothing in order to suppress the Chinese people and their democratic movement -- even to the point of enlisting the services of the Japanese and the puppet troops. It is tantamount to Chungking's collaboration with the enemy and their puppets."

**SONO OSHATO:** "Of course I'm very happy that mass hostilities have ceased, that the killing and dying of great numbers of men have been eliminated. But I am not satisfied with the Japanese surrender -- it was not a clean operation. This recent reshuffling of the Japanese cabinet, with the retention of the old militarist-fascist clique, and the absence of any democratic representation, has intensified my feeling of pessimism and dissatisfaction. I don't like their stalling at all -- it's appalling, the arrogance of the Emperor's statement. One wonders who are the victors and the conquered here. "All this emphasizes the need for political vigilance. The moment the battle ceases, the more alert we must be. The war in Europe is over -- and yet the war trials are not even evident. "I am very disappointed that there has been no mass demonstrations of workers, of students, of any group, against the military in Japan. Yet, there must be some anti-fascists within that country; there must be some people who are discontented with their leaders. (I know of the group in China, but I mean specifically, the people within

Japan.) I hope there is still a chance for some kind of democratic expression by the Japanese people."

**KAKUTARO INOUE, Economist:** "My first thought goes to the sufferings of the Japanese people during and after this war which was imposed upon them by their misleading leaders. It is my understanding that many isseis are drawing a gloomy picture as to the future of the Japanese people. However, I think the present surrender has also a bright side in that the Japanese people for the first time in their history are given an opportunity to take the fate of their country into their own hands and to build a country which they can call their own in the real sense of the word. This is guaranteed by the Potsdam Declaration. We in America, must therefore encourage and help them to achieve the spirit of the Declaration."

**TETSU NAKAMURA, Soldier's Wife:** "It is with deep joy that we learned the news that with the surrender of Japan, the military phase of World War II was ended. Though we are the conquerors, our role must be that of liberators of the Japanese people from the yoke of military fascist oppression, and help advance democratic stirrings there. We nisei have a special task for we are in a position to raise our collective voice to our government for an occupational regime which would carry out such a program. We must be ever watchful that the Grews and Doomans do not misdirect our peace aims; that the Hearsts and America Firstists do not distort a genuine peace to make of it a white racial victory. Only on the establishment of a stable, democratic Asia can the nisei or any other peoples of the world enjoy peaceful pursuits and real prosperity."

## MORE: NISEI GI'S IN PACIFIC WAR

rawa, New Georgia, Leyte, Saipan, Iwo Jima, other coral islands and steamy jungles that comprised the bitter, bloody road to Tokyo.

There's no need to elaborate on the record of T/Sgt. Ben Kuroki -- his famous, "I must concentrate on dropping some 'roses' on Tokyo Rose" was nationally spotlighted. His other "roses" over Japanese islands (besides his flights over Germany) were all a part of this total military victory.

Then we might mention "Horizontal Hank" Gosho, Seattle-born nisei, so affectionately nick-named by his buddies of the famed Merrill Marauders because he was so often pinned down by Japanese machine-gun fire; or of Sgt. Kubo's dauntless "speech" (with an armed Japanese rifleman behind him) to the frightened, miserable Japanese men, women and children huddled in a cave of Saipan, which talk finally convinced them to surrender; or there's Frank Hachiya, who volunteered for a dangerous scout mission in the battle of Leyte, and "got it" from a Japanese sniper while accomplishing the task.

What about S/Sgt. Kenny Yasui, the "Baby Sergeant York"

of the Burma front; Sgt. Tomas Sakamoto who saved the life of a general in hand-to-hand combat somewhere in a South Pacific island; T/Sgt. Terry Mizutari, killed while commanding a group of men during a Japanese counterattack and posthumously awarded the Silver Star, the Purple Heart, and a citation from his commanding general. And there are many many others.

These are only a few of the several thousand nisei soldiers who served on the Pacific -- and these are only the well-known few. They are not the exceptions. We have yet to hear the entire story -- heretofore closely guarded for military reasons -- of their role in achieving victory. The War Department, Commanding Officers of South Pacific units, and correspondants, have all indicated the invaluable service performed, the respect and affection won from their fellow comrades, by these men.

As we can rightfully point with pride, and humbleness, too, to the record of the 100th Battalion and 442nd Infantry Division in the victory in Europe, just so proudly we hail the part our nisei MI's and combat men contributed toward the military victory over Japan.

## TRUMAN HEARS FROM JACD

Among the thousands of telegrams that began to pile up on President Truman's desk following announcement of the Japanese surrender was one from the JACD. The wire, signed by Chairman Ernest S. Iiyama, declared:

"We rejoice with you at the surrender of fascist militarists of Japan. Our members will continue to support you in carrying through Potsdam Declaration to its ultimate objective of establishing a peaceful, free, people's Japan."

## MORE: JACD STATEMENT

emphatically state that the old political and economic structure of Japan must be changed and aid be given to set up a democratic government.

"Therefore, on this day of rejoicing, the JAPANESE AMERICAN COMMITTEE FOR DEMOCRACY urges the people of America to be more vigilant to ensure the establishment of a peacefully inclined, people's government in Japan by seeing that the Potsdam Declaration is carried through to its logical conclusion."

(Note: Corrections in paragraphs 3 and 6 were inserted to the original text.)

## MORE: EMPLOYMENT

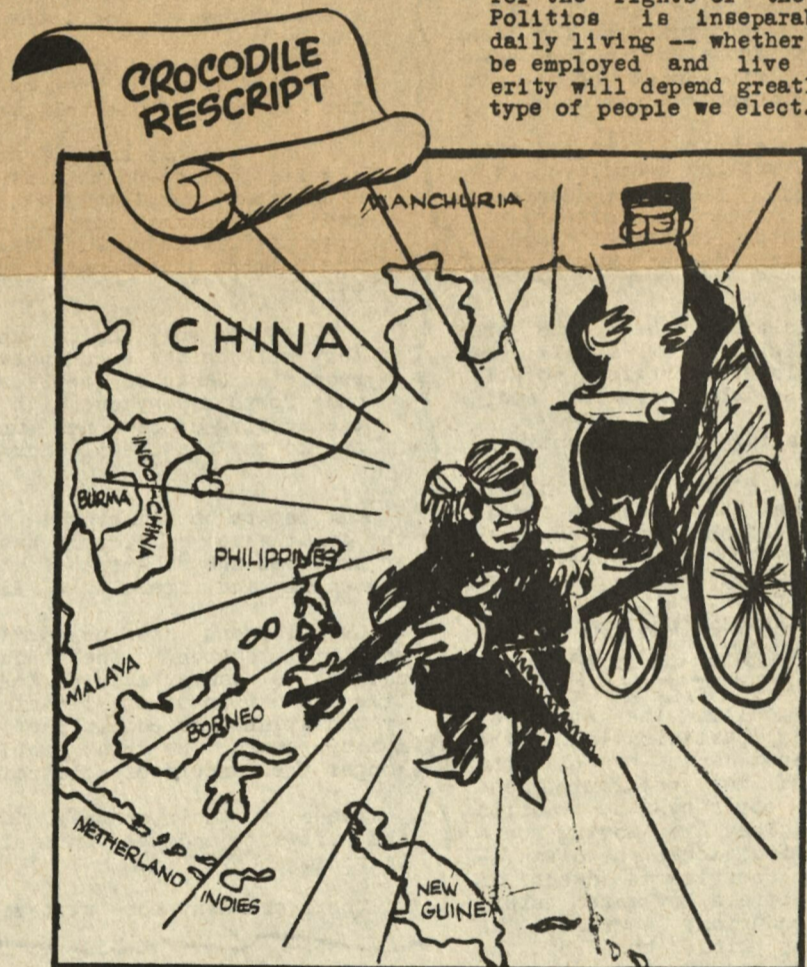
has made certain that industry will not suffer during this period, but has neglected the welfare of the workers.

The most important piece of legislation is expanded unemployment benefits of \$25 for 26 weeks. Other urgent bills are:

- 1) Murray Full Employment Bill which provides machinery to help insure full employment;
- 2) Wagner-Murray-Dingell Social Security Bill to expand existing benefits;
- 3) Wagner Housing Bill to make available low cost housing to the people;
- 4) Pepper 85¢ Minimum Hourly Wage Bill; and,
- 5) a permanent Fair Employment Practice Committee to assure equal job opportunities to all regardless of race, color, or creed.

Further, the welfare of the Japanese Americans is intrinsically bound to the welfare of the rest of the working people of the nation; hence, it is to our benefit to join labor unions, who are fighting for better living conditions for the people.

Finally, it is necessary for us, as well as the rest of the people in the United States to participate actively in local and national elections to elect those to office who will fight for the rights of the people. Politics is inseparable from daily living -- whether we will be employed and live in prosperity will depend greatly on the type of people we elect.



from the Emperor's broadcast: "..... it being far from our thought either to infringe upon the sovereignty of other nations or to embark upon territorial aggrandizement." (!!!!)

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