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Kaneshiro, Keith K.

2 - Kaneshiro

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NARS, Date 7-15-93

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WAR DEPARTMENT
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25

MID 201
KANESHIRO, Keith Kiyoshi

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E.O. 11652
NND 740062
By: ERC
NARS, Date 7-9-74

11 August 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Assistant Secretary of War,
Attention: Captain John Hall.

Subject: Corporal Keith K. Kaneshiro, ASN 36162360.

1. On January 29, 1943, Corporal Keith K. Kaneshiro, ASN 36162360, filled out a questionnaire required by the Director of the Military Intelligence Service Language School at Camp Savage, Minnesota.

2. In answer to Question #104 which states "Do you understand the principles of the Government of the United States?", Kaneshiro's answer was "Yes, according to what my Social Science and Civics teachers have taught me (elaborated under separate heading)". A copy of the elaboration is attached hereto.

3. This is forwarded for your information.

John Lansdale Jr.
JOHN LANSDALE, JR.,
Lieut. Colonel, Field Artillery,
Chief, Review Branch, MIS, CIG.

1 Inclosure.
1. copy answer to question #104.

JMA



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By ERC Date 7-9-76

"War and Pressure Groups"

104.

Ever since I was able to recite my alphabet, the American way of life was imbedded in my mind. Numerous Niseis have already mentioned in various periodicals about their unabated attachment to the principles of American Gov't. Numerous other people have mentioned this fact, but alas, like the negro, the Nisei faces a grim future under present conditions.

My statements are made for the Sociological interest which lies in the attestation of these principles. A group of people might know everything in the Constitution, recite the Declaration of Independence, and revere, John Payne's Common Sense, but under present conditions the same individuals seem to be disillusioned. Such results are necessarily the result of certain obstacles in assimilation. The Program of War Relocation seems to be only a consequence of certain phenomenon which occurs so frequently in a crisis. From the slogan "He kept us out of War", certain groups profited by discriminating against American citizens of German ancestry, some of whom had come to this country long before the Potato Famine sent hundreds of Irish to New York. German names were so unpopular, some people were forced to alter their names and there by melt in the general American society. They are fortunate.

Came Dec. 7, 1941 & the Shibboleth "Remember Pearl Harbor", has again shown, among us. A growth of certain pressure groups, presumably versed in the principles which our forefathers established at Yorktown or at Valley Forge, which are discovering new sources of torture.

Social process is evolutionary in that one group which has borne the brunt of a purge later escapes others with & subsequent growth of another group. Today, the people of Japanese ancestry are bearing the attack, not only from small economically interested groups, but the Gov't itself. However, it seems that, these pressure groups have so controlled thought in Washington, that the people who are affected thereby seem to overlook and attack the Gov't itself. A very serious movement is being devised by the American Legion and the native sons & daughters of the Golden West today, that anyone brought up in Americanism would be shocked. Tritely speaking, it is undoubtedly true that members of such organizations are representatives of a later generation of European immigrants who wrestled the land from the Indians - and now claim as their own in absolutism. They are the Americans who write books on American Patriotism.

War brings about thoughts which under ordinary conditions would seem ridiculous. Yet, without, putting an end to discriminatory activities on the Home Front, they can augment & gather ferocious momentum, that eventually, these pressure groups, through the control of persuasive devices, will enable themselves to dictate the trend of American thought to any degree; the people imagine that it is their own.

The Niseis are already in the midst of this mass psychology. Contrary to our principles of American Gov't they are in relocation centers, idling away their most productive years. It seems temporary, yet pressure groups are relentlessly endeavoring to deny the very things which we are fighting for. Yet, the Mass of our American society is unconscious, ignorant, & unmindful of all these occurrences.

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Fellow soldiers in our old outfits say, "why don't you apply for O.C.S?" Even our buddies don't know the existence of such heartaches, yet they ask of you politely, matter of factly, & even support you for your capacities. Regardless, the Niseis, who is not bitter merely passes it off by, "well, I guess my time hasn't come yet". He hides a forlorn love of our principles, so imbedded since high school classrooms.

Niseis, everywhere, are now a bewildered herd without adequate comforts of assurance from its leaders or otherwise. Collectively, they are without leaders because they are such a young group. Individually, they are reluctant to express themselves for fear that it might manifest un-patriotic notions. They are in a plight now and will be in the future unless steps are taken to assure them of our principles. A post war America will be preoccupied on matters of social reconstruction - but these relocation centers will be forgotten wards as we have already placed the Indians under a certain department of the Presidential Cabinet. They fear this - a forgotten group in a society recovering from a long war. They also fear with certain misgivings that the Gov't is some how allowing minority pressure groups to dictate its policies. On these basis Niseis are bewildered of their status, if such hatreds are allowed to continue long after the war.

My associations and education are such that I cannot see a person as representing a definite color group. Their are misfits of society even among Niseis just as their are similar ones in other areas of association.

I see a person as an American whether or not his cousin is fighting on Hitler's forces in Russia or a brother with Jap troops in the South Seas as long as his actions are in accordance with our principles of Democratic living. In the last war, German families faced such sorrow - I see no reason why the Niseis can't do the same. To me, a person is a "white American", only because he is removed from his European ancestors by 3 or 4 generations. Some who call themselves "Americans" in distinction against "Japanese", "Chinese", etc. have been found to be only "Nisei Europeans".

As a Nisei, I can truthfully say that I remember the principles of our Gov't as were taught to me in my growing years. I still abide by and practice them.

In a dark, imperceptible future, my wish is to see the Niseis not only assured but given the opportunity to see our principles in actual operation. Fundamentally we/are either "American citizens of European ancestry", or "American citizens of Oriental ancestry". The fact that we are all Americans should be undeniably understood.

Corp. K. Kaneshiro