

MEMORANDUM REGARDING THE WEST COASTBASIC FACTS

There are approximately 1,000,000 aliens in this country of Italian and German nationality; 675,000 Italians and 300,000 Germans. It is estimated that of the Italians not more than 5,000 are anti-Fascist refugees, but of the so-called Germans, 200,000 are refugees from Nazi oppression. On the West Coast there are approximately 67,000 German and Italian aliens; 47,000 are Italians and 20,000 Germans. Of this number not many are refugees from Italy, but approximately 12,000 are believed to be refugees from Nazi oppression.

The Italians as a group are not believed to be potentially dangerous. This is particularly true of the older ones who have been in this country for many years, and most of whom have been unable to become citizens, owing to educational requirements. The German refugees as a group are believed to be loyal to this country although, doubtless, there are some disloyal persons among them, probably planted by the Nazi government. Less is known about the non-refugee German group, and it is in this group that the greatest danger seems to lie. However, it is believed that for the most part, this group consists of older residents and that the most dangerous of the German element has been naturalized.

The known-dangerous enemy aliens have been rounded up and have been interned, and this process continues and will continue. In view of this, it is believed that the most dangerous ^{persons} ~~aliens~~ at large in ~~the~~ the communities are the hostile citizens, both naturalized and native born, and the aliens of certain other countries.

PROGRAM

1. Just as soon as possible announce plans for lifting the curfew, and dealing with both Italian and German aliens. It seems expedient that plans

for Italians and Germans should be announced simultaneously. The announcement of lifting of the curfew should be accompanied by statement that the same will be rigorously enforced until lifted.

2. Plan.

(a) No mass evacuation.

(b) Provisional exemption categories with initial individual examination of those not falling within the provisional exemption categories. All, or most, Italians will be in the exempt group. German exemptions will be along the lines previously discussed (see separate memorandum).

(c) Examination of the non-exempt will be the means of systematically investigating those in this category to determine whether the individuals are potentially dangerous and should be interned. Persons examined will be recommended either for exemption, internment or parole. The examination will be conducted on the basis of dealing first with those groups within the non-exempt category which are likely to contain the most suspicious aliens. This examination program is suggested as the most efficient way of speeding up the internment process. It seems a logical supplement to the investigatory methods heretofore adopted. Those methods will, of course, continue.

(d) Undesirable citizens will be dealt with by individual exclusion orders. This can be applied to alien enemies but would only be used where internment seemed inapplicable.

COMMENTS

1. The process of setting up exempt categories for individual examination should be conducted by the Department of Justice. If the Department of Justice is unwilling to do this, consideration should be given as to whether the War Department would undertake this. It is doubtful

that the War Department should do it, except as a matter of internal procedure in sifting the aliases for the purpose of weeding out the dangerous elements.

No (2. The Department of Justice is almost certain to wish to participate in the process resulting in individual exclusion orders.

3. It would be unwise to criticize the existing internment processes merely on the basis of the proportion of aliens released. It is altogether proper that the arresting officers should arrest large numbers of suspicion who ultimately may be found not to warrant internment. It is not the function of the arresting officers to appraise finally the evidence. The arresting officers would be remiss in their duties if the arrests they made did not far exceed those that may ultimately be held.

? (4. A copy of any memorandum on this subject that may go to the President should be sent simultaneously to the Department of Justice.

A. J., Jr.

May 13, 1942