

HEADQUARTERS WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND
Office of the Commanding General
Presidio of San Francisco, California

PUBLIC PROCLAMATION NO. 21

17 December 1944

To: The people within the States of Arizona, California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington, and the Public generally:

Whereas, There has been substantial improvement in the military situation since the period when the imposition of certain restrictions on and the exclusion and evacuation of all persons of Japanese ancestry from designated areas of the Western Defense Command was warranted; and

Whereas, There is still reasonable possibility of hostile acts against the West Coast Area of the United States and this possibility of enemy action requires adequate measures to prevent aid and comfort to the enemy and to prevent the commission of acts of sabotage or espionage separately or in connection therewith; and

Whereas, The present military situation makes possible modification and relaxation of restrictions and the termination of the system of mass exclusion of persons of Japanese ancestry as hereinafter provided, and permits the substitution for mass exclusion of a system of individual determination and exclusion of those individuals whose presence within sensitive areas of the Western Defense Command is deemed a source of potential danger to the military security thereof; and

Whereas, Available information permits the determination of potential danger on an individual basis; and

Whereas, The Secretary of War has designated the undersigned as the Military Commander to carry out the duties and responsibilities imposed by Executive Order No. 9066, dated 19 February 1942, for that portion of the United States embraced in the Western Defense Command, and authorized the undersigned to modify or cancel any orders issued under the said Executive Order by former Commanding Generals of the Western Defense Command.

Now, Therefore, I H. C. Pratt, Major General, U.S. Army, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the President of the United States and by the Secretary of War and my powers and prerogatives as Commanding General, Western Defense Command, do hereby declare and proclaim that:

1. Paragraph 5, Public Proclamation Number 1, dated 2 March 1942, as amended, is hereby rescinded.

2. Paragraph 5, Public Proclamation Number 2, dated 16 March 1942, as amended, is hereby rescinded.

3. The following numbered Public Proclamations issued by the Commanding General, Western Defense Command, are hereby rescinded.

No. 3, dated 24 March 1942;

No. 4, dated 27 March 1942;

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No. 5, dated 30 March 1942;
No. 6, dated 2 June 1942;
No. 7, dated 3 June 1942;
No. 11, dated 18 August 1942.

4. Civilian Exclusion Orders Nos. 1 to 108 inclusive and Civilian Restrictive Order No. 1 are hereby rescinded.

5. Those persons concerning whom specific Individual Exclusion Orders have been issued prior to the effective date of this Proclamation shall continue to be excluded by virtue of such Individual Exclusion Orders.

6. Those persons who are to remain excluded will be designated by the Commanding General, Western Defense Command. All persons of Japanese ancestry not designated by name for exclusion, or other control by the Commanding General, Western Defense Command or whose movement is not the subject of an order issued by any War Department or other Government Agency acting within the scope of its authority are hereby exempted from the provisions of all Public Proclamations, Civilian Exclusion Orders and Civilian Restrictive Orders pertaining exclusively to persons of Japanese ancestry heretofore issued by the Commanding General, Western Defense Command, except as provided by paragraph 7 hereof.

7. In order that the departure from War Relocation Project areas may proceed in an orderly and peaceful manner Public Proclamation Number 8, dated 27 June 1942, and Civilian Restrictive Orders Nos. 18, 19, 20, 23, 24 and 30 shall remain in force and effect until midnight 20 January 1945, at which time they shall be of no further force or effect except as to those persons who have been designated individually for exclusion or other control, or may be so designated at a future date.

8. The effect of the rescission of Public Proclamation and Civilian Exclusion Orders in paragraphs 1, 2, 3, and 4 preceding, and the purpose of this Public Proclamation is to restore to all persons of Japanese ancestry who were excluded under orders of the Commanding General, Western Defense Command and who have not been designated individually for exclusion, or other control, their full rights to enter and remain in the military areas of the Western Defense Command. The people of the states situated within the Western Defense Command, are assured that the records of all persons of Japanese ancestry have been carefully examined and only those persons who have been cleared by military authority have been permitted to return. They should be accorded the same treatment and allowed to enjoy the same privileges accorded other law abiding American citizens or residents.

9. This proclamation shall not operate to affect any offense heretofore committed, nor any conviction or penalty incurred because of violations of the provisions of Public Proclamations, Civilian Exclusion Orders, Civilian Restrictive Orders, or Individual Exclusion Orders heretofore issued.

10. All Public Proclamations, Civilian Restrictive Orders, and Individual Exclusion Orders insofar as they are in conflict with this proclamation are amended accordingly.

11. All Public Proclamations, Civilian Exclusion Orders, Civilian Restrictive Orders, and Individual Exclusion Orders herein referred to are those issued by the Commanding General, Western Defense Command.

12. This Proclamation shall become effective at midnight, 2400, PWT 2 January 1945.

H. C. Pratt
Major General, U. S. Army
Commanding.

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6 December 1944

Honorable Clarence F. Lea
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Lea:

In the absence of the Secretary of War, I am replying to the motion which was approved at a meeting of an informal committee of the California Delegation on December 4, 1944, that the Secretary of War be requested to make a statement for publication on the following points:

a. The policies of the War Department on the release and relocation of individual Japanese under the present mass exclusion program:

b. An explanation of the question of who has the authority to release individual Japanese and who would have the authority to terminate the mass exclusion of Japanese:

c. Explanation of the legal sources of authority under which the War Department is acting:

d. A statement of the basis of future policy with respect to the mass exclusion of Japanese.

The legal authority for the mass exclusion of persons of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast was supplied by Executive Order No. 9066 and the Act of March 21, 1942, both of which are attached as enclosures. The Executive Order, after reciting the necessity of protection against sabotage and espionage, authorized the Secretary of War, or any military commander who was designated by him, to establish military areas from which any or all persons may be excluded and with respect to which the right of any person to enter, remain in, or leave shall be subject to whatever restrictions the Secretary of War or the military commander may impose. The Commanding General of the Western Defense Command was designated as a Military Commander under the terms of this Executive Order and carried out the evacuation under its authority.

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As a result of these considerations I think it is clear that the mass exclusion of persons of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast will be continued only so long as the military situation requires. How long this will be is a military question. No assurances as to time can be given except the assurance that when the Commanding General of the Western Defense Command, the officer who is responsible for the defense of the West Coast, determines that the continuation of mass exclusion is no longer required for the prevention of sabotage and espionage, it must be terminated by him. The question is one which is continually involved in litigation and each lawsuit requires a redetermination of the question. It must also be borne in mind that the Commanding General of the Western Defense Command, as the officer responsible for the defense of the West Coast, is not going to take any action which in his opinion would endanger the security of the West Coast. As a result, if at some future date mass exclusion should be rescinded, it is quite clear that this would be accompanied by an individual exclusion program of all those Japanese who are felt to be disloyal.

I realize that if mass exclusion should be rescinded certain problems will be created. I wish to emphasize again that these adjustment problems are the problems for which the civilian agencies of the state and federal governments and not the Army are responsible. Furthermore, there is no reason to believe that the civilian agencies are incapable of handling the problems which may be presented. I assume that the War Relocation Authority intends to keep up its efforts to relocate the evacuees in other parts of the country and I assume that if mass exclusion were to be rescinded, the civilian agencies would see to it that such evacuees as were permitted to return to the West Coast would do so on an orderly and gradual basis. My attention has also recently been directed to a statement of Governor Warren of California that if the military authorities decide that military necessity no longer requires the continued mass exclusion of persons of Japanese descent from the West Coast areas, the civilian authorities of California will cooperate in that decision.

I realize also that many persons may say there is a possibility that disorders might occur if persons of Japanese descent are permitted to return to the West Coast. Although this is not a matter which can be taken into consideration in acting under Executive Order No. 9066, the War Department is interested in this question because any serious trouble might result in retaliation against American soldiers who are held as prisoners of war by the Japanese. If the military authorities determine that military considerations no longer require mass exclusion of persons

of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast, we have every faith that the people on the West Coast, as have those of other areas in the United States into which persons of Japanese ancestry originally removed from the coast have been relocated, will show their good citizenship by abiding by the military judgment, and do their utmost to prevent any acts of discrimination against any of these people who may be permitted to return.

Sincerely,

/s/ John J. McCloy

JOHN J. McCLOY
Assistant Secretary of War

11-28-45

from WCCA the responsibility for
coast states, about 1,000 of whom
er 1,500 were working in the beet fields.
ur years since then, the group under WRA has been
eased by approximately 1,000 Hawaiians, 2,500 parolees from the
Department of Justice, and about 5,500 births.

Of this 120,000 approximately 13,000 remain at Tule Lake, 2,000
have died, 1,500 have been transferred to Justice, 600 have gone to
Japan and more than 102,000 have relocated.

Of those who have relocated from centers some 45,000 have re-
turned to the west coast states from which they were evacuated and at
least 5,000 more who previously relocated in the east have returned home.
The remaining 50 percent are scattered through the remainder of the
country. Nearly 20 percent are in Illinois, between five and 10 percent
in Colorado, Utah and Ohio and less than five percent in each of the
other states.

(Above estimates apply to 11-30-45 when Rohwer will have been
closed.)

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