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Report of the Select Committee Investigating National Defense Migration

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REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE INVESTIGATING NATIONAL DEFENSE MIGRATION. House of Representatives. Preliminary Report and Recommendations on Problems of Evacuation of Citizens and Aliens from Military Areas. March 19, 1942

Safeguarding the nation from the enemy within is today of paramount importance. The difficulties presented differ greatly from those of 1917, due to the fact that the Japanese, both citizen and alien, unlike the Germans and Italians, form an unassimilated, non-stratified group engaged chiefly in agriculture and localized in areas on the West Coast which the War department has designated "Military Areas." Already the evacuation of 112,353 Japanese from these areas has begun.

In its report and recommendations the Special Investigating Committee is concerned chiefly with the problems which result from the unprecedented size of the migration, the impossibility of separating loyal citizens from enemy agents, racial problems, and difficulties involved in resettling an agricultural group. The Committee recommends:

1. Protection of evacuees through an alien property custodian. Every effort must be made to protect the Japanese from sharpers and loss due to the necessity of rapidly liquidating real and personal assets.

2. Immediate removal to temporary reception centers while long term plans are being formulated for resettlement. Throughout all moves the family unit and, where possible, the community unit should be maintained.

3. Formulation of plans for resettlement which will not only make the group self-sufficient but will be an aid to their assimilation and Americanization, not just internment for the duration.