

Governor Ralph L. Carr:

A Voice for the Minority

Time

2 to 3 class periods (50 minutes per period)

Overview

This lesson asks students to focus on one individual's actions in the face of overt injustice on the part of the government and blatant racism on the part of the public. Elected officials occupy a crucial position in times of crisis: When the need for decisive action arises, it is hoped that a politician will be able to make fair decisions and that his/her constituency will agree with those decisions. However, in times of crisis the correct action is not necessarily the popular one; in that case, officials must sometimes choose between conscience and career. Ralph L. Carr, governor of Colorado from 1939 to 1943, was faced with that choice in regard to the removal of Japanese Americans from the West Coast to Colorado in 1942.

Objectives

- Students will understand that while most of the nation's leaders ignored their own stated philosophies of justice and equality in causing/allowing the incarceration to happen, a small minority of citizens protested.
- Students will understand the pressures that were placed on the governors of the Western states by their constituencies in response to the federal government's plan to remove Japanese Americans from the West Coast.
- Students will understand the consequences Governor Carr's stance had on his political career.

Essential Questions

- How do societies striving for equality come to terms with the tension between the good of the one and the good of the many?
- How is the balance between the one and the many influenced by visual language?

Guiding Question(s)

- How and why did Colorado Governor Ralph L. Carr attempt to maintain a balance between the safety of the nation and the liberty of Japanese Americans in Colorado during World War II?

Colorado Model Content Standards (2008)

- History 2.2: Students know how to interpret and evaluate primary and secondary sources of historical information.
- History 2.3: Students apply knowledge of the past to analyze present-day issues and events from multiple historically objective perspectives.
- History 5.1: Students understand how democratic ideas and institutions in the United States have developed, changed, and/or been maintained.
- History 5.3: Students know how political power has been acquired, maintained, used, and/or lost throughout history.

Materials

- Packets of Executive Orders issued by Governor Carr:
 - *Handout 2-1: "Good Will Week"*
 - *Handout 2-2: "Constitution Day"*
 - *Handout 2-3: "National 4-H Mobilization Week"*
 - *Handout 2-4: "Colorado Preparedness Week"*
 - *Handout 2-5: "Brotherhood Week"*
 - *Handout 2-6: "American Indian Day"*
 - *Handout 2-7: "I Am an American Day"*
 - *Handout 2-8: "Anti-Loose Talk Days"*
 - *Handout 2-9: "First Annual Bible Week"*
- Packets of correspondence:
 - *Handout 2-10: Letter from George Nakagawa to Governor Ralph Carr, dated December 9, 1941 (1)*
 - *Handout 2-11: Letter from George Nakagawa to Governor Ralph Carr, dated December 9, 1941 (2)*
 - *Handout 2-12: Letter from Governor Ralph Carr to George Nakagawa, dated December 11, 1941 (1)*
 - *Handout 2-13: Letter from Governor Ralph Carr to*

- *George Nakagawa, dated December 11, 1941 (2)*
- Handout 2-14: Letter from George S. Lilley to Governor Ralph Carr dated December 8, 1941
- Handout 2-15: Letter from Governor Ralph Carr to George S. Lilley, dated December 11, 1941
- Handout 2-16: Transcription of Governor Carr’s radio address on February 29, 1942
- An optional *Time* magazine article, “The Primaries” (September 21, 1942) can be downloaded at <http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,773566,00.html> (accessed July 22, 2009).

Background

When a person gains power, we most clearly see his/her character revealed in what he or she chooses to do with that power. Governors and presidents have an interesting special privilege: they can designate specific days in honor of this, that, or the other thing—basically, anything that strikes their fancy. By simply issuing one of these Executive Orders, an otherwise ordinary day like April 13, for example, becomes “Colorado High-Top Shoe Day.” (This is the same basic privilege that created Executive Order 9066, which had far more devastating effects than honoring high-top shoes!) Governors and presidents take this privilege very seriously because it gives them a chance to foster desirable community behaviors and organizations, but in fact *their* character is often revealed in what they choose to single out and honor with such public attention.

In this activity, students will have a chance to hone their “people-reading” skills by analyzing some of Governor Carr’s Executive Orders, as well as his correspondence with members of the community. By doing so, they will discover the priorities as a leader that led to Carr’s stance on Colorado’s participation in the removal of the West Coast Japanese Americans. There is a particularly good collection of documents

at the Granada Japanese Internment Camp Web site referenced below which show the diverse reactions to Carr’s stand as well as reveal his own concerns about the right course of action.

Opening

- Discuss with the class ways in which we get to know people and how we gather evidence by which to judge their characters. Focus that discussion on politicians: How do we really learn what sort of person an individual is once all the “campaign promising” is over and he/she takes office? (See the discussion above in “Background.”)
- Tell the students that they are going to look at some documents produced by Ralph L. Carr, the man elected to lead Colorado during the stressful World War II years. The goal is to predict how he might react when called upon to make a decision between the dictates of his conscience and the dictates of the public who elected him.

Activities

- Divide the class into groups of no more than five and provide each group with a packet of Carr’s Executive Orders. The task is to read each order and glean from it details about Carr’s values. Depending on the skills of the class, you might want to read through one order together: point out such structural features as the opening rationale of the order and the “Therefore” announcement, etc., and then analyze that order for insights into Carr. Allow each group time to analyze the documents. Their end product might be a list of descriptors of Carr’s character, with observations from the orders given to support each one. The groups can share their observations. (In addition, see “Extensions” below.)
- Next, outline the dilemmas faced by the governors of the states selected for concentration camp sites. (See “References” below.)
- Ask the class to predict in writing how Carr might

have responded to federal orders and public pressure, including support for their opinions.

Closing

- Conclude with *Handout 2-16*, a reading that recounts Carr’s reaction to the establishment of the Amache Camp Site in Granada, Colorado. Discuss how accurately their predictions matched his behavior in reality. Pose this lesson’s guiding question: *How and why did Colorado Governor Ralph L. Carr attempt to maintain a balance between the safety of the nation and the liberty of Japanese Americans in Colorado during World War II?*
- Use the packets of Carr’s correspondence in one of these ways:
 - As additional documents for use in the activity above;
 - As a culminating activity, read the letters written to Carr first and predict how he might respond to each, then read his responses for confirmation of the predictions;
 - As the basis of a timed or untimed Document-Based Question writing activity. (See Lesson 4 of this unit for more information about Document-Based Questions.)

Extensions

- Have students collect clippings about current issues that present to elected officials the difficult choice between conscience and possible reelection. Have them formulate—individually or in groups—a response to the issue that might resolve the dilemma. In addition, students might research their senators’ and representatives’ actions in the face of such choices.
- Appoint students “Governor for the Day,” allowing them each to issue an Executive Order to promote an attitude or behavior that, in their opinion, would improve the community. Caution them that their character will be revealed by their choice, so announcing

- a “Smoke All the Pot You Want Day” or “No School Month” is not appropriate. This should be a serious examination of the values and behaviors that build and maintain a healthy society—and perhaps those Executive Orders could be issued to the whole school over several weeks as a community-building activity.
- Use the opening paragraphs from “The Primaries,” the *Time* article published on September 21, 1942, to discuss the nation’s view of Carr in his own day. There is a particular irony in the last lines about Carr’s possible “temporary eclipse” that proved to be a “permanent eclipse.” Only now, more than 50 years later, has his admirable character been recognized.
- View a presentation about Governor Carr by Adam Schrager, author of *The Principled Politician: The Ralph Carr Story*. Clips are available on the Japanese American National Museum’s Web site: <http://www.janm.org/projects/ec/resources/curricula-media>

References

- Carr, Ralph L. Selected Executive Orders. 1941–42. Colorado State Archives.
- “Governor Ralph Carr. Granada Japanese Internment Camp.” Colorado State Archives. <http://www.colorado.gov/dpa/doit/archives/govs/carr.html> (accessed July 24, 2009).
- Lamm, Richard D., and Duane A. Smith. *Pioneers and Politicians: Ten Colorado Governors in Profile*. Boulder, Colo.: Pruett Publishing Co., 1984.
- Schrager, Adam. *The Principled Politician: The Ralph Carr Story*. Golden, Colo.: Fulcrum Publishing, 2008.

"Good Will Week" Handout 2-1

Hand Out 2. 1

EXECUTIVE ORDER
PROCLAMATION
GOOD WILL WEEK

The very graphic examples being forced upon the minds of thinking people of an absence of good-will among men and nations should urge us to lay the foundation for that time when a feeling of friendship and mutual concern for the wishes of our fellows will prevail in the world.

It has been the habit for a number of years to proclaim a good-will week and to call upon all men and nations to observe it generously and definitely. This year it comes under the classification of a "must" order.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ralph L. Carr, Governor of the State of Colorado, do proclaim the week commencing May 12th and ending May 18th as

GOOD WILL WEEK

in Colorado and call upon the people in their churches, synagogues, schools and other civic and educational institutions and meetings to call to the attention and to determine that good-will shall continue among all people, regardless of creed, color or class to the end that there may be unity which will bring a victory of liberty and peace.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereto set my hand and caused the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado to be hereunto affixed, at Denver, this 27 day of April, A. D. 1942.

"Constitution Day" Handout 2-2

Hand Out 2.2

EXPLANATION CONSTITUTION DAY.

A century and a half ago a body of men delegated by their respective colonies met in Philadelphia and after months of tireless effort, bitter argument and stormy discussion, the Constitution of the United States was drafted, later to be ratified by the several states and declared adopted by the Congress of the United States.

The wisdom of those men who worked under the leadership of George Washington, striking directly away from ancient standards and rules of government to provide a basic and fixed structure upon which was to be built the greatest republic on earth, has ever been the source of inspiration and admiration among men the world over.

The Constitution, in its clarity and simplicity, has been broad enough to allow adjustments and progress. It has been a living, growing thing, yet rigid in its protection of life, liberty and freedom of action for the people. While the masses throughout the world, with few exceptions, groan under the burden of dictatorship, the people of the United States breathe the air of freedom. It offers the solution to the problems of a warring world. It suggests the course which the stricken people may follow in the way back to civilization and peace.

Believing that we should impress upon the people of the world the security which has been given through this written Constitution, I
Ralph L. Carr, Governor of Colorado, proclaim and designate Wednesday,
September 17, 1941, as

CONSTITUTION DAY

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereto set my hand and caused the
Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, to be hereunto affixed, at Denver,
this 16th day of September, A. D. 1941.

"National 4-H Mobilization Week" Handout 2-3

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Hand Out 2.3

EXECUTIVE ORDER

PROCLAMATION

Thousands of farm boys and girls and young men and young women of Colorado are needed to help with all kinds of war-time work right on their own farms, in their own homes, and in their own communities. We are asking that they volunteer for such service with the 4-H Clubs of the nation this summer, and thereby become members of a vast army of young people who are training for leadership while they are helping to win the war.

With the welfare of our country in the balance, we must fight on every front - at home and abroad. 4-H Clubs are fighting on the farm and home fronts where dangers are less but jobs just as important.

We must win this war and also win the peace. Farm boys and girls of today have a chance to do their part by serving with honor on the home front.

T H E R E F O R E, I, Ralph L. Carr, Governor of the State of Colorado, urge all rural boys and girls and young men and young women between the ages of 10 and 21 to volunteer to serve their country by joining a 4-H club and assisting their nation in various ways in winning this war.

I am glad to affix my signature proclaiming the week of April 5th through April 11th as

NATIONAL 4-H MOBILIZATION WEEK

in the State of Colorado. I hereby urge every farm young person to see his county extension agent or home demonstration agent in volunteering to enroll in 4-H Club work.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereto set my hand and caused the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, to be hereunto affixed, at Denver, this Sixteenth day of March, A. D. 1942.



"Colorado Preparedness Week" Handout 2-4

Hand Out 2.4

EXECUTIVE ORDER

PROCLAMATION

Free men and women are fighting against the armed aggression of dictators. Our young men are being enrolled and trained by democratic processes into a great and powerful army. Some are being taught the trade of arms, while others are being schooled in the skills of defense production. And brothers and sister, and their elders, are just as surely enrolled in our Nation's defense. This war now raging has at stake the freedom on which our America was founded. Not men alone, but more and more materials are the stuff of modern war, America's productive industry and Democracy's service of supply. Our task is to build for defense, not only more guns, more ships, more tanks, more airplanes, but warmer blankets, stronger shoes, more nourishing food. Tougher thread is as useful as tougher steel. And the demand for all in this time of urgency is Speed, Speed and more Speed.

Since adequate national preparedness is absolutely essential to American victory, and since a civilian as well as a military preparedness is so imperative at this time, and the need therefor is of vital interest to all,

THEREFORE, I, Ralph L. Carr, Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby set aside the period between February 15 and February 28 as Colorado Preparedness Week, for the purpose of informing and reminding the people of Colorado of the importance and necessity for an adequate national preparedness.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereto set my hand and caused the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado to be hereunto affixed, at Denver, this thirty first day of January, A. D. 1942.

Courtesy of the Colorado State Archives and Public Records

"Brotherhood Week" Handout 2-5

Hand Out 2.5

EXECUTIVE ORDER

PROCLAMATION.

NATIONAL BROTHERHOOD WEEK

At no time in its history has this Country been given clearer reasons for brotherhood among men than in 1942. The one nation in the world which is made up of people from all other nations and which by reason of that very fact, has become the people of the greatest of nations, must unite and stand united if our form of Government is to continue.

This is the time for us to recognize the value of true brotherhood, not only in marching side by side to meet a common enemy, but in those more basic and intimate relationships in our daily contacts with other people. It is fitting that the week of Washington's birthday has been selected as Brotherhood Week for 1942.

T H E R E F O R E, I, Ralph L. Carr, Governor of Colorado, do set aside the week from February 15th to February 22nd, 1942, as

BROTHERHOOD WEEK

and urge the people of Colorado in their churches, their schoolrooms, their service organizations and in their private activities to recognize the true meaning of this Week and to observe it in every fitting manner.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereto set my hand and caused the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado to be hereunto affixed, at Denver, this 21 day of January, A. D. 1942.

"American Indian Day" Handout 2-6

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Hand Out 2.6

PROCLAMATION

AMERICAN INDIAN DAY

The American Indian - the First American - is proving himself to be entitled to be listed in this emergency among the Best Americans. It is well to cherish and to remember the civilization which the Indian helped to develop, the contribution which he has made to American life and the position which he has now assumed in society, as a part of our American melting pot.

It seems fitting that all states in which Indians are found in large numbers should set aside a day for the observance of their customs and for the recognition of their qualities and contributions.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ralph L. Carr, Governor of the State of Colorado, do set aside Saturday, the Twenty-sixth day of September, 1942 as

AMERICAN INDIAN DAY

in Colorado and ask the people to honor the American Indian in our schools, our public gatherings and our homes, by programs, by fitting music and by expressions of goodwill and friendship toward our Red Brothers.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereto set my hand and caused the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, to be hereunto affixed, at Denver, this 26 day of September, A. D. 1942.

"I Am an American Day" Handout 2-7

Hand Out 2.7

EXECUTIVE ORDER

PROCLAMATION

"I AM AN AMERICAN" DAY.

People who become citizens of the United States of America at this time have reason, as never before, to be grateful. Only those who qualify in every way are accepted in these times, and only those who are truly Americans at heart should be received.

Therefore, when a man is naturalized, he becomes a person who is outstanding among his fellows; he has acquired a great possession, and this country has added another fine citizen.

To recognize these persons and to call the attention of all Americans to this fact, the third Sunday in May has been designated as Citizen Day.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ralph L. Carr, Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby designate Sunday May 17, 1942, as "I AM AN AMERICAN" DAY in the State of Colorado, and urge that this day be observed as a public occasion in recognition of our citizens who have attained their majority of who have been naturalized in the past year, and I call upon all state and local officials and all patriotic, civil and educational organizations to join in exercises calculated to impress upon all of our citizens, both native-born and naturalized, the special significance of citizenship in this nation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereto set my hand and caused the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado to be hereunto affixed, at Denver, this _____ day of May, A. D. 1942.

"Anti-Loose Talk Days" Handout 2-8

Hand Out 2.8
EXECUTIVE ORDER
PROCLAMATION
ANTI-LOOSE TALK DAYS

Our nation is involved in the greatest war of all time, and upon its outcome will depend its future course for generations to come; and

The constant cooperation of every individual is required in order that the conclusion of this war shall result in complete victory for this nation and its allies; and

A part of the cooperation demanded of every individual is that he, at no time knowingly or unwittingly, provide information which may be of value or which may comfort our vicious enemies; and

Loose talk is one of the most dangerous sources of important information to our enemies; and

The Colorado State Junior Chamber of Commerce and the Colorado Defense Council, are sponsoring a campaign to awaken the citizens of Colorado to the danger of loose talk, now, therefore,

I, Ralph L. Garr, as Governor of the State of Colorado, in conjunction with the campaign of the Colorado State Junior Chamber of Commerce and the Colorado Defense Council, do hereby

DECLARE AND PROCLAIM the period from November 1, 1942 to November 15, 1942, as

ANTI-LOOSE TALK DAYS

and urge the support of every citizen of Colorado so that no American war effort shall fail, nor American boy die because of a thoughtless word carelessly spoken.

GIVEN
GIVEN this 29th day of October, 1942, at Denver, Colorado,
under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado,

"First Annual Bible Week" Handout 2-9

Hand Out 2.9

EXECUTIVE ORDER
PROCLAMATION
FIRST ANNUAL BIBLE WEEK.

At no time in the history of civilization have the people needed the lessons to be found in that history of human growth and spiritual inspiration which we call the Bible as much as today. Between the covers of that Book are to be found the answers to all problems of every individual and of the world itself. When men and nations devote their attention more definitely to its guide-posts and suggestions, they will cease to plan each other's death and the destruction of humankind.

THEREFORE, I, Ralph L. Carr, Governor of the State of Colorado, do designate the week of December 8 to 14, 1941, as the

FIRST ANNUAL BIBLE WEEK

in Colorado and recommend to the people in their places of worship, in their homes and in their gathering places that they resort to the Bible for inspiration, for enlightenment and for the solution of their problems.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereto set my hand and caused the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado to be hereunto attached, at Denver, this First day of December, A. D. 1941.

Governor of Colorado

Letter from George Nakagawa to Governor Ralph Carr, dated December 9, 1941 (1) Handout 2-10

Hand Out 2.10

December 9, 1941

The Honorable Ralph L. Carr
Governor of Colorado

Your Excellency:

In behalf of those Japanese Aliens, many of whom are our parents, who are residents of the State of Colorado, and most of them continuously so for the past thirty to forty years, we are directed to say: they immigrated to these United States in search of a land where they would have the right to live, the right to express themselves, and the right to be free and equal people.

Though the privilege of acquiring citizenship through the process of naturalization has been denied them by law, they are carefully upholding and abiding by the laws and regulations of this country of their adoption, and are, in every manner and respect, eagerly living up to the standards of citizenship as exemplified by their American neighbors.

At their request we are forwarding to you their pledge of loyalty and unreserved support to the United States of America and to the State of Colorado.

Respectfully yours,

Japanese American Citizens League


State Chairman

Letter from George Nakagawa to Governor Ralph Carr, dated December 9, 1941 (2)

Handout 2-11

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Hand Out 2.11

December 9, 1941

The Honorable Ralph L. Carr
Governor of Colorado

Your Excellency:

We, AMERICAN citizens of Japanese ancestry, now residing in the State of Colorado do reaffirm our pledge of allegiance to these United States.

This pledge of allegiance to the Stars and Stripes is proclaimed by all the AMERICAN citizens of Japanese ancestry and is made without reservations or secret evasions of mind whatsoever.

We greatly deplore the fact that the nation with whom we are now at war is the nation from which our parents originally emigrated, but we are AMERICANS - 100% AMERICANS - and together with our fellow AMERICANS we will faithfully and unswervingly do everything in our power - give our lives when the occasion demands - to uphold the ideals and traditions of our form of AMERICAN government.

We ask you, as our Governor, to call upon us and all our resources to further the efforts of our great nation to bring this world conflagration to an early end.

Respectfully yours,

Japanese American Citizens League

George K. Nakagawa

Courtesy of the Colorado State Archives and Public Records



Letter from Governor Ralph Carr to George Nakagawa, dated December 11, 1941 (1)

Handout 2-12

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Hand Out 2.12



December 11, 1941

Mr. George K. Nakagawa, State Chairman
Japanese American Citizens League
1952 Larimer Street
Denver, Colorado

My dear Mr. Nakagawa:

I am grateful for the letter, signed by yourself as State Chairman of the Japanese American Citizens League, regarding those residents of Colorado who are classed as Japanese aliens but who, by their actions and their intentions, are as definitely American as we.

I think that the determination to prevent hysterical utterances and panicky demonstrations will go far toward keeping matters quiet and making it possible for them to continue to live among us as the same good neighbors which they have been in the past.

As Governor I shall do everything I can to cooperate in carrying out this idea.

Yours sincerely,

Governor of Colorado

RLC:mlp

Letter from Governor Ralph Carr to George Nakagawa, dated December 11, 1941 (2)

Handout 2-13

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Hand Out 2.13

December 11, 1941



Mr. George K. Nakagawa, State Chairman
Japanese American Citizens League
1952 Larimer Street
Denver, Colorado

My dear Mr. Nakagawa:

I appreciate fully the feelings of the ~~American~~ citizens of Japanese ancestry, who reaffirmed their pledge of allegiance to the United States in your letter to me of Tuesday.

I know how sincere that pledge is, and insofar as I can as Governor I want to acknowledge its receipt and promise that everything which can be done to save you from embarrassment and difficulty will be done.

Please feel free to call upon me in any matter where I can be of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Governor of Colorado

RLC:mlp

Letter from George S. Lilley to Governor Ralph Carr, dated December 8, 1941

Handout 2-14

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Hand Out 2.14

GEORGE S. LILLEY

WHOLESALE POTATOES

MONTE VISTA, COLO.

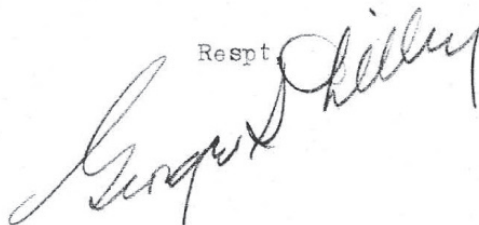
Dec. 8th 1941

Governor Ralph Carr.
State House,
Denver Colo.

Friend Carr:-

Am wondering if you consider it advisable to use any precautionary measures relative to the Japanese subjects in and around Ft. Garland, San Acacia, Mesita and Jaross Colo. Being familiar with these localities, believe it is safe to say that there are at least one hundred of these families in that section, all Japanese citizens. No doubt the situation could be handled locally if you deem it necessary that any steps of precaution be taken. Personally and especially at the present time I cannot regard any Japanese subject as a trusted citizen.

Respt



Letter from Governor Ralph Carr to George S. Lilley, dated December 11, 1941

Handout 2-15

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Hand Out 2.15

December 11, 1941



Mr. George S. Lilley
Monte Vista, Colorado

My dear Mr. Lilley:

The matters which you mention are already being considered by the FBI. The Federal Government knows every man and his background. This matter is already being taken care of, but I do appreciate your patriotic interest.

Every man must be on guard these days.

Yours sincerely,

Governor of Colorado

RLC:mlp

Courtesy of the Colorado State Archives and Public Records

Transcription of Governor Ralph Carr's radio address on February 29, 1942

Handout 2-16

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Colorado Governor Ralph Carr's speech broadcast on radio stations February 28, 1942:

People of Colorado:

In answer to the call of our country, Colorado has done everything in her power to uphold the hands of our national leaders in carrying on the battle for humanity, for liberty, and for civilization. Our people have sent their dearest possessions to the ten or a dozen battlefronts where the Stars and Stripes are leading in the fight on savagery, paganism, and the worldwide imposition of servitude upon freemen.

Today, because of a lack of information and perhaps also because of an unhappy interpretation which has been placed upon certain rumors, Colorado as a state is threatened with a charge of a disinclination to cooperate in essential war efforts. A suspicion of a lack of patriotism which is not deserved and which cannot be permitted to go unanswered has been raised.

A few weeks ago rumors came that alien residents of the Pacific Coast states of Japanese origin were to be evacuated and perhaps 3,500 would be sent to Colorado. From some unidentified source came another suggestion, probably born of unfriendly propaganda parentage, that California was attempting to dump a bothersome problem into Colorado's lap. The first inclination of every Coloradan was one of resentment. There was a feeling that we did not want enemy aliens within our borders who might acquire property rights, who might compete with Colorado labor, and whose presence would be a constant menace and threat to our peaceful conditions of life. Acting on this first impulse, many persons voiced a protest by mail, by telegraph, and, in some instances, through statements in the daily press. Colorado has been placed in a peculiar and embarrassing light. An official request has been made for a survey of our facilities for harboring aliens of all classes—Italians, Germans, and Japanese. Last week, a presidential order was issued directing the establishment of military zones in the United States, from which any person can be excluded. Clearly, this refers specifically to the West Coast.

In the hope that I may assist in clarifying the situation by establishing our position toward this and other national problems and our patriotism and sincerity of purpose, this announcement is made.

Colorado must never be charged with a failure to cooperate in the gravest moment of our nation's history. Three months ago, no American dreamed that the Japanese or any other people could dominate the Pacific by force of arms. Today many strongholds, including the Gibraltar of the East at Singapore, have fallen. Our own ships, our own air forces, our own army have suffered severe losses. The blood of American soldiers stains the soil of nearly every island in the Far East.

Tonight, as General Douglas MacArthur and his glorious band of Americans and Filipinos set new records for bravery and resourcefulness in the Bataan Peninsula in the face of terrific odds, we have finally come to guess the seriousness of the situation. The enemy controls the very conduct of life in every corner of the world since it has seized the countries where essential raw materials are produced.

There can be no question that the attacks on Pearl Harbor and the Philippines were aided by fifth columnists [saboteurs]. The potency of that evil organization has been proved in every European country which has fallen, exemplified by the desertion of France, as Winston Churchill described it, and the rape of Norway and the rest. The overthrow of any nation is assured when the approach of an attacking force is made smooth and paved by subversive activities within.

Courtesy of the Colorado State Archives and Public Records

Along the Pacific Coast there are thousands of persons who are not friendly to those things which we call American. Only Monday night of this week, the beautiful country surrounding Santa Barbara in Southern California was attacked by an enemy submarine which came to the surface and hurled shells at a great supply of gasoline. The enemy has become so confident that he knocks at the very front door of one of the great cities of the world and attacks the mainland of the United States.

Military strategists say that if Java falls, then Australia will constitute the only barrier between California and the enemy. Fifth columnists—our enemies—are within signaling distance of any plane, any battleship, any submarine which approaches our coast. Attacks similar to that one of Monday night, fraught with infinitely more serious consequences, are to be expected any minute.

And if Australia, New Zealand, Java, and Sumatra fall, we know what the next move will be. We will be put to it to protect our shoreline from Canada to Mexico against the most aggressive, the most effective, the most dangerous war machine that has ever been assembled. The defense of California is the defense of Colorado, of the United States of America, of the cause of the United Allies. It is the defense of the very future of that civilization which we value above everything else.

If those who command the armed forces of our nation say that it is necessary to remove any persons from the Pacific Coast and call upon Colorado to do her part in this war by furnishing temporary quarters for those individuals, we stand ready to carry out that order. If any enemy aliens must be transferred as a war measure, then we of Colorado are big enough and patriotic enough to do our duty. We announce to the world that 1,118,000 red-blooded citizens of this state are able to take care of 3,500 or any number of enemies, if that be the task which is allotted to us.

When our boys are facing thousands of them along the battlefronts of the Pacific; when Americans are being cut down by the withering fire of machine guns; when our ships are sunk by treacherous planes while their diplomats sue for peace, when our very shores are shelled by submarines—Colorado will not complain because she is asked to take care of a handful of undesirables whose presence on the coast might prove the difference between a successful invasion and the saving of our country.

We do not welcome any enemy aliens from any country into this state. But by the same token, we do not rejoice that our boys are conscripted. We find no happiness in the daily casualty lists which we scan for familiar names with fear and trepidation. We do not glory in the fact that we have been drawn into the most terrible warfare that humankind has ever invented. There is no pleasure in the sacrifice of great industries and the surrender of private rights for the good of the nation. In fact, there is nothing connected with this war which renders it desirable. But as patriots, as Americans, as Coloradans, we say to the world—we say to our leaders—Colorado will do her part and more.

The people of Colorado are giving their sons, are offering their possessions, are surrendering their rights and privileges to the end that this war may be fought to victory and permanent peace. If it is our duty to receive disloyal persons, we shall welcome the performance of that task.

This statement must not be construed as an invitation, however. Only because the needs of our nation dictate it, do we even consider such an arrangement. In making the transfers, we can feel assured that governmental agencies will take every precaution to protect our people, our defense projects, and our property from the same menace which demands their removal from those sections. And in this connection, I think it is only fair for us to ask in the placement of evacuees that local conditions and the needs of our

communities be consulted. Sources of water supply, timber growth, and essential industrial activities should be considered. The protection of wildlife is a major concern in Colorado.

For an understanding of the reasons for the possible evacuation of such enemy aliens, let us hear a story told by an American, a Colorado girl now living in Hawaii. She witnessed the attack on Pearl Harbor. She saw the awful results of those unbelievable assassinations. Many planes, manned by Japanese pilots, were shot down by the American anti-aircraft guns. And the bodies of those pilots shout a warning which we cannot ignore. And when the break came, when Japan loosed its attack on Pearl Harbor, the rings and insignia of the graduating classes of high school and colleges of the islands and the Pacific Coast of the United States were found on the fingers of many of the Japanese pilots who fell under American gunfire.

All of these educated Japanese are not pilots, however. All of them are not confined to the city of Tokio [sic]. Nor do they constitute all of the people who dislike Americans and America. They are to be found wherever there are Japanese, Italians, and Germans—and particularly in California.

In justice and fairness, let us pause here to speak a word in behalf of loyal German, Italian, and Japanese citizens who must not suffer for the activities and animosities of others. In Colorado there are thousands of men and women and children—in the nation there are millions of them—who by reason of blood only, are regarded by some people as unfriendly.

They are as loyal to American institutions as you or I. Many of them have been here—are American citizens, with no connection with or feeling of loyalty toward the customs and philosophies of Italy, Japan, or Germany.

The world's great melting pot is peopled by the descendants of every nation in the globe. It is not fair for the rest of us to segregate the people from one or two or three nations and to brand them as unpatriotic or disloyal regardless.

The coming of these evacuees will, of necessity, give rise to social problems, to business and labor questions, and similar vexing issues. But surely we possess the brains, the resources, the solid American character which will enable us to solve those problems properly and intelligently.

People of Colorado, let us remember that we have a job to do. Answers which would be correct under ordinary circumstances do not apply when all conditions are changed. We are at war. We must realize that.

Let us approach these social and economic problems with a new attitude of mind. Let us get that job done as quickly as possible so that our boys may come home and we may return to our American way of life.

Men of Colorado, if MacArthur and a handful of men can hold off hundreds of thousands of Japanese under the conditions which they face, we can control the conduct of any little group which may be sent to Colorado.

And finally, I urge upon our people the danger of inflammatory statements and threats against these unwelcome guests. The newspapers report that some aroused citizens have threatened force against the approach of undesirables. In my presence the other morning, a young man in uniform queted a superior as favoring the firing squad as the solution of this problem.

Such reckless statements may bring reactions which we shall always regret. Let it be understood that such conduct is not approved by the code of humanity. Americans have too great a sense of fair play. Let it also be known that we do not hold all the cards and that

reprisals would be visited upon our own soldiers, officers, and citizens who will be taken prisoners before this is over.

Let us consider ourselves as part of a great army, engaged in the most righteous war in history. No good soldier interferes with the activities of his superiors.

People of Colorado, let us all be good soldiers. Let us accept the fortunes of war with heads up. This is a solemn affair. We must approach it in that attitude of mind.