

PRESENTATION TO CHICAGO BAR ASSOCIATION

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THE INTERNMENT OF GERMAN AND EUROPEANS BY THE US IN WW2

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Beginning:

"60,000 enemy aliens..... mostly Germans" were picked up shortly after Pearl Harbor. About 90 Hearing Boards of a distinguished lawyer and a couple of private citizens would hear the case presented by the FBI. "We didn't allow lawyers to represent them. I may say, Mr. Justice (Goldberg) that it went much better, much faster without lawyers." This was stated by James Rowe, the then Assistant Attorney General to Francis Biddle before the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC).

The Ending:

Truman's Proclamation 2655 July 14, 1945 ordered deportation of internees, which prompted 200 individual case filings which were consolidated into one, the Schleuter case. This was heard in Federal Court and decided by Judge Simon Rifkind, and appealed to the Circuit Court of Appeals, which affirmed all of the lower court. It agreed that habeas corpus was properly "dismissed"; that appellant, "was entitled to no hearing" and therefore "cannot complain of the quality of the hearing" he got. Thus the hear- say evidence of anonymous, not present witnesses was impossible to challenge. The Court also sustained the constitutionality of the Alien Enemy Act of 1798, in addition to sustaining the continued war powers granted the President. See the NY Times report of 1/3/47 headed 700 Enemy Aliens Facing Ouster—enclosed.

The Mitigation:

Being sent from Crystal City Texas Internment to Ellis Island for deportation, several fortuitous delays proved decisive. In July 1947, the Senate sub- Committee

on the Judiciary, chaired by Senator Langer (ND) was convened, granting each of us hearings. This resulted in S.1749 directing that Attorney General Tom C. Clark to "cancel forthwith all outstanding warrants of arrest, removal, or deportation "in the cases of"250 named. I am on page two, but the bill was rendered moot by the mass release.. The Constitution prevailed even though the Executive wanted us gone and the courts agreed, but the legislative prevailed. I was 17 when arrested on the Attorney General Warrant in Woodward High Cincinnati, and 22 in September 1947, when I was free on that ferry to Manhattan.

The Interim period of Internment

In 1940 The Alien Registration Act required every alien 14 and older to register no matter the nationality including employment or school data.

After Paarl Harbor all aliens of the enemy were re-registered and required to carry an internal passport, surrender of all weapons, short wave radio, cameras; travel over 50 miles required notification of authorities. Air travel totally out.

I was arrested on Attorney General Warrant in March '43 in my High school. I had that hearing per above and have not been provided under FOIA the hearing notes, but most everything else. I was 2 nights in the Hamilton County Workhouse, in a 3 tier cell block, single cells, galvanized bucket was the toilet.

I was taken to Chicago in shackles to 4800 S. Ellis, an old mansion devoid of everything except iron cots. On my 18th birthday I requested to be permitted to sign up for the draft, which was initially not granted until HQ said I was correct, but was never classified. On Easter Sunday a Roman Catholic and a Romanian Catholic priest (both incarcerated) held ecumenical services for 37 inmates. See signature exhibit. The mansion has been beautifully restored by the new black owners who permitted a shoot of the documentary of two years ago THE CHIDREN OF INTERNMENT.

In July '43 I was sent to the family camp to be reunited with my parents interned in August '42. The inmate internees were almost 50/50 Japanese German. Additionally there were a thousand from Central and South America brought there for interment. Except for guards, administration staff, and excellent health

and medical staff, the internees did all the work being paid 10 cents an hour. Work was NOT required but welcomed as a way of mitigating boredom. Each family lived ate and slept as a family unit. Provisions were available from a "company store" using paste board scrip.

There were several repatriation exchanges between Germany and the USA. These were arranged by both Departments of State with the Protecting Power Switzerland (representing both nations during the war) making all arrangements to utilize the neutral Swedish SS Gripsholm and assuring necessary caveats of traversing war zone Atlantic. The exchange was one for one which was usually a heavily wounded US airman shot down over Germany and/or a wounded German POW or civilian from Crystal City Internment. Thus an entire family of say five, composed of a German father, US wife, US children, could be sent to war torn Germany and into NAZI education for the kids.

There were 258 babies born there in the same OB room, same delivery table, and the same OB doctors. IT IS INSTRUCTIVE, THAT EACH BABY WAS A US CITIZEN BORN ON US SOIL, YET ONLY THE JAPANESE HERITAGE BABY RECEIVED THAT APOLOGY AND THAT \$20,000 INTERNMENT COMPENSATION. THE GERMAN HERITAGE OR GERMAN-LATINO HERITAGE RECEIVED NOT A SINGLE DIME. What is more equal than new borns? EQUAL JUSTICE?

The Japanese saga is well known. The German/European is not known. In fact hundreds, if not thousands of letters even to a lawyer of stature Kermit Roosevelt of U. Penn receives no answer. Letters to all the Congressmen, Senators of the "GERMAN CAUCUS" have never been answered.

It is quite obvious that some agency of the US government has put a stop or embargo on publicizing the internment of Europeans. The 25% of Americans claiming German heritage, and the 4 million who served in all theaters of WW2 deserve the complete unvarnished truth, no more no less. We had the same possibly even more losses than the Japanese. My family's home was destroyed by looters and pillagers and lost to foreclosure.

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