

TEACHER'S GUIDE

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MISSION US: "Prisoner in My Homeland"

The Fair Play Committee Bulletin

In response to the questions asked on the "loyalty questionnaire," incarcerated at the Heart Mountain camp in Wyoming formed The Fair Play Committee, an organization dedicated to restoring Japanese American civil rights. The Committee believed that Nisei should not be drafted into the army until their rights as American citizens were restored. When the military reinstated the draft, the group resisted, and 85 members were arrested. Those convicted were later pardoned by President Truman in 1947. The following is an excerpt from a Fair Play Committee bulletin describing the organization and its positions and goals.

Q. What's this Fair Play Committee about?

A. The Fair Play Committee (FPC) is organized to inject justice in all the problems pertaining to our evacuation, concentration, detention and pauperization without hearing or due process of law, and oppose all unfair practices within our center, State, or Union...

Q. What does the FPC think is the right thing for any loyal American citizen to do in our present status?

A. The FPC believes that the first duty as loyal American citizens is to protect and uphold the Constitution of the United States THE CORNERSTONE OF THIS INSTRUMENT OF OUR GOVERNMENT IS INJUSTICE, LIBERTY, FREEDOM AND THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, AND THE DESECRATION OF ANY ONE OF THESE IS A DIRECT ATTACK ON THE FUNDAMENTALS THAT MOLDED OUR DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTION.

Q. Is this an objectors group?

A. No. It definitely is not an objectors group, but we would like to present both sides of this draft issue.

Q. What does the FPC think about this present draft program?

A. The FPC believes we have a right to ask that the discriminatory features in regards to this selective service be abolished, our status be clarified, and full restoration of our rights of our before being drafted. THIS ABSENCE OF CLARIFICATION OF OUR STATUS, RESTORATION OF OUR RIGHTS, AND THE LIFTING OF DISCRIMINATORY RESTRICTIONS IS THE KEYSTONE OF OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE PRESENT PROGRAM OF DRAFTING US FROM THIS CONCENTRATION CAMP.

Q. Why can't we contest the whole issue after the war?

A. Because if we knew of a cause and a country worthy of our blood, then we need never feel ashamed to look the enemy in the eye. And by the granting of these it will not only liquidate the injustices of the past, but it will guarantee against any future inroads upon the Constitution and its principles. It will guarantee assurance to the minorities who otherwise may face a similar fate in the future.

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