

## **Source C: Excerpts from Attorney General Frances Biddle and FBI director J. Edgar Hoover**

**Attorney General Francis Biddle, press release from the Justice Department (excerpt), December 10, 1941**

So long as the aliens in this country conduct themselves in accordance with law, they need fear no interference by the Department of Justice or by any other agency of the Federal government. They may be assured indeed, that every effort will be made to protect them from any discrimination or abuse. ... Inevitably, there are some among our alien population who are disloyal. The Federal government is fully aware of the dangers presented not only by such persons but also by disloyal citizens. The government has control of the activities of these elements. At no time, however; will the government engage in wholesale condemnation of any alien group. [italics in the original]

*Public domain. Reprinted from the Untold Story: Internment of Japanese Americans in Hawai'i website, Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii.*

**Attorney General Francis Biddle, letter to Congressman Leland Ford (excerpt), January 27, 1942**

Because of the legal difficulties involved in attempting to intern or evacuate the thousands of American-born persons of Japanese race who are, of course, American citizens, the department has not deemed it advisable to remove all persons of the Japanese race into the interior of the country.

*Public domain. Reprinted from the Untold Story: Internment of Japanese Americans in Hawai'i website, Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii.*

[http://hawaiiinternment.org/sites/default/files/%20JCCH\\_USHistory\\_TAB3.pdf](http://hawaiiinternment.org/sites/default/files/%20JCCH_USHistory_TAB3.pdf).

**FBI Director John Edgar Hoover, memo to Attorney General Biddle (excerpt), February 2, 1942**

The necessity for mass evacuation is based primarily upon public and political pressure rather than on factual data. Public hysteria and in some instances, the comments of the press and radio announcers, have resulted in a tremendous amount of pressure being brought to bear on Governor Olson and Earl Warren, Attorney General of the State, and on the military authorities. It is interesting to observe that little mention has been made of the mass evacuation of enemy aliens.

It is believed by many that the mass evacuation will be a cure-all and will eliminate the danger of Japanese espionage and sabotage. It would, of course, eliminate the possibility of the Japanese physically committing sabotage on the coast. However, experience has taught that the Japanese often rely on Occidentals to obtain physically their information for them. Bureau cases substantiate this.

If only the Japanese aliens are excluded from restricted areas, the problem of enforcement becomes extremely difficult. The necessity for challenging every Japanese observed within these areas is obvious. Then there must follow a close interrogation to establish citizenship.

There also remains the fact that a large portion of the aliens have immediate or close relatives who are citizens and who would have access to the restricted areas. It is recognized that the second generation Japanese are, as a whole, more inclined to be loyal to this country than their alien elders. Irrespective of this, aliens and citizens being in the same families would tend to nullify effectiveness of the exclusion of aliens and not citizens from restricted areas. The advisability of excluding aliens and not citizens is therefore highly controversial.

*Public domain. Reprinted from Wes Injerd, "The Preservation of a People: A Look at the Evacuation and Relocation of the People of Japanese Ancestry in the United States during World War II." <http://home.comcast.net/~eo9066/1942/42-02/IA094.html>.*