

RW-2, "Discrimination-Apartment hunting"

**Transcript: pp. 8-9**

**Text for pop-ups/audio alternatives**

**Time-Line: Decade V, 1941-1945, Local and National Events, "More than 10,000 Japanese-Americans are interned at U.S. concentration camps..."**

I And the fear had been because they were of Japanese decent?

RW ...And that they were saboteurs and so on. As a matter of fact one of the things that just burned me up there was a man in San Diego by the name of Gerta who sent a letter to the editor about every three weeks of the most vicious stuff about these terrible Japs. They were all yellow, they were all dirty saboteurs and so on and they kept publishing this stuff here in Bridgeport. Now why in the world this would come and they would publish it, but they did for weeks and months on end. And I was relocating people and with these letters.

But, then part of the problem too was that we had to find housing for these people and so that became part of my job and what I found was the thing, --and I've said this more than once, I discovered that in this city there was a greater amount of human concern and compassion, Because we would go to people advertising rent and I'd say, "Look I'm here to" --and sometimes I'd have a Japanese American with me and I'd say "We need a room for this man, he's working at Bullards or Sikorsky or whatever." And he would say "Well, we have a room if you'd like to look at it." Once in a while they'd see this person they'd say "Well, ya know my aunt owns this house and I'd have to check with her..." and you knew it. But it never got the..."what the, what are you bringing these people for?" And I really found a great sense in the city of Bridgeport among all of our people a sense of concern, compassion, and so on.

I It's such a, always been a city of immigrants and....

RW Yes it has, it so that one more set of immigrants and now, what is it 86% are minority and in the city of Bridgeport, so...

I It's still a city of immigrants, just different groups

RW Exactly, precisely, it's a whole different group. So that this was one of the fascinating sides of, in addition to preaching and teaching and counseling and doing the pastoral calling and so on, this was very interesting, and the great thing about it --I've said more than once, that the thing that I appreciate most about my church here was that it was a free pulpit.

