JACL LEADER
SPEAKS ON
RESETTLEMENT

"Despite the hardships which accompany voluntary resettlement, evacuees should take every step to leave the center and settle themselves in normal American communities in the Midwest and the East before the termination of the war," Mike Masaoka, national JACL executive secretary, declared last Saturday afternoon before a huge audience which jammed the dining hall of Block 38.

"Those who choose to retain the comparative security of relocation centers rather than to rebuild their homes in the outside world are exposing themselves to the break-in down of their ambition, initiative, moral standards and family bonds. The phases of evacuation life are inevitably conducive to the development of indolence, petty jealousies and lack of self-reliance. "As long as we are certain that our destiny lies here in America alone, we must strive to build our future in this land of our birth. If the pioneer issel who were unfamiliar with the American language and customs were able to accomplish as much as they were able within the last 40 years, we, their American-born children, certainly should have the stamina to seek and find success in this nation. Resettlement is a challenge which we must accept; we owe that much to our future generations."

Scouring the "deplorable lack of interest in their future shown by the Japanese American people before the war," Masaoka emphatically urged that the people of Japanese ancestry organize themselves so that "never again will they become victims of ruthless pressure and anti-minority groups."

He declared that the Japanese American Citizens League will continue to devote its energy and resources unstintingly to the interests of the Japanese American people, not only in terms of today, but in those of the future.

"Critics of the JACL have been more vocal than active," he stated. "Our organization has been working not merely for its members, but for the Japanese American people as a whole. We have gone to bat every time any court case or legislation, State or Congressional, has threatened our rights. And when the JACL has won in any instance, the benefits from its work are for all of the Japanese American people to share in, and not for the members of the League alone.

"The Christmas gift program under which every evacuee child was given at least one free present last December was inspired and instigated by the JACL."

"Since the very beginning of the war, the JACL has actively worked toward the recreational, educational and social interests of the thousands of Japanese Americans in the U.S. Army."

"The League has been working throughout the United States for the defense of our just rights and interests. At the present it is the only organization in a position to represent nationally the Japanese American people. Those who criticize the work of the JACL or the sincerity of its leaders are welcomed to form their own organization to represent the Japanese American people."

At the conclusion of Masaoka's 2-hour address, the assembly was opened to questions from the audience.

After collaborating with various City groups and investigating local conditions, Masaoka and Hito Okada, national JACL treasurer, left Topaz yesterday afternoon to return to Salt Lake City. The executive secretary is planning to visit the Minidoka and Heart Mountain centers before going to Washington, D.C.