

Our Closed Door

The state of Idaho and its university attracted some attention this week with announcements from Governor Clark and President Dale that this university would accept no Japanese students who are being evacuated from the restricted war areas on the coast.

The announcements were not exactly unexpected. They follow consistently the policy of Idaho's governor these past months in imposing all possible restrictions upon emigrating Japanese from coastal areas.

We will not howl idealistically about the rights of the individual in a democratic state. We are realistic enough to know that any government, democratic or otherwise, needs curtail the rights of its individuals in such times. But we object to this arbitrary, unqualified restriction placed on American Japanese students from out of the state of Idaho.

The government's plans to evacuate Japanese from important coastal areas, is an important and acceptable one. We can sympathize with individual cases, but this is war and if our American citizens located in Japan receive as courteous treatment we shall be happy. Citizens, aliens, all must in times of war give up rights of the individual to the better safety and protection of the whole state.

But the university's announcement, without giving an American Japanese student a chance to present good proof of moral and excellent character traits, says in effect: "You, who are born in this country of Japanese parents, and so unfortunate as not to have graduated from an Idaho high school, cannot, as far as we are concerned, finish your education."

Undemocratic? Yes. It's sentence passed without benefit of trial. More than that, it's unpatriotic. The immediate effect, if such a selfish policy is followed by all other states, will result in clogging the government's efforts to get all Japanese out of the important military areas as soon as possible. It certainly makes no easier our government's program of rehabilitating these people in new surroundings.

More important results of such action will be seen in the years after the war. In normal times these Japanese would be accepted as citizens, and be allowed to train themselves in our universities to carry on in adult life as intelligent citizens. Now we are at war, and we issue blanket pronouncements. Irregardless of an American Japanese student's ability, his intelligence, his character and moral standing—his education is finished.

We are not naive. Education will not of itself prevent an American Japanese from being treacherous. We are not ask-

(Continued on page 2)

Our Closed Door

(Continued from page 1)

ing for any mass emigration of Japanese students to the University of Idaho. We do not want haphazard allotments with no careful regard to the individual student's abilities and character.

But in all fairness to those loyal Japanese citizens, we ask that universities and colleges outside of the military areas give as many as possible a chance to carry on their academic work. The army takes them. Of what are we afraid?

And if these pronouncements be made on basis of self-defense and patriotism, we protest in all respect to the democratic principles for which we are fighting. It is self-defense, it's for one area and one group—and the reasons are not patriotic; they'll have something to do with politics and economies.—K. C.