

## 5. Tokutaro Slocum Debates Nisei Stand on Sino-Japanese War, 1938

Minutes of The *Rafu Shimpo* English Section editorial board meeting, July, 1938, at Rosslyn Hotel: "In the discussion about the Nisei stand on the Sino-Japanese war, members felt that it was only natural that the Nisei should have pro-Japanese sympathies. It was the general feeling that "even you [Tokutaro] Slocum, if you were honest with yourself, would recognize the fact you are ultimately Japanese; you are not 100% American; you are barred from inter-marrying racially; you are barred from exclusive country clubs; you are discriminated against in many ways; this is a de facto situation. Because we know this, as proud of our American citizenship as we are, we know it is something different from that of a white American citizen. Officially we are Americans, but inevitably we are treated as Japanese." To this Slocum, leaping to his feet and bringing his fist down upon the table, shouted: 'I don't like that statement that officially we are American and actually we are Japanese. We are all Americans and Japanese only to the extent we want to be. I do recognize that we are discriminated against but I do not let this resentment stand in my way. Our policy must look to the future. This Sino-Japanese war will not last forever, whereas the Nisei and Sansei will probably outlive it, so we cannot and must not jeopardize our future by participating too actively in a militant pro-Japanese campaign. I am going to have a resolution passed to tax the export of any fund raised for any foreign countries to be used for unpeaceful purposes; I'm going to do this through the American Legion and the V.F.W. Remember we are dealing with Anglo-Saxons, and they deliver the blow first."

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From Minutes of the *Rafu Shimpo* [newspaper], English language section editorial board meeting, July 1938, at Rosslyn Hotel, Los Angeles, California, as quoted in Togo Tanaka, "History of the JACL [Japanese American Citizens League]," unpublished manuscript, circa 1945, chap. 4, p. 33, folder T 6.25, Japanese American Evacuation and Resettlement Records (67/14c), Bancroft Library, Berkeley, Calif.