

Outrigger Club Bars Nakama, Ace Swimmer

He can hang his clothes on a hau tree limb but he can't have lunch at the Outrigger Canoe club.

Kiyoshi (Keo) Nakama, outstanding Hawaii swimmer, learned that Sunday when, as a guest of William (Bill) Smith, another noted swimmer, he was refused admission to the exclusive Waikiki club because he is of Japanese extraction.

Mr. Smith, now an athletic specialist first class in the navy, was denied the privilege of taking his friend Keo to lunch in the club by Gay Harris, acting manager.

Mr. Smith is a life member of the club.

However, as the friends were leaving the club entrance after being turned down, Mr. Harris called Mr. Smith back.

"Hey, Bill, how about you and Keo competing in the Thanksgiving swim here?" Mr. Harris asked.

"What do you think?" Mr. Smith replied.

The incident was related to a Star-Bulletin reporter by William

Walter Napoleon, president of the Natatorium A. C., said today that as the result of the Outrigger Canoe club-Bill Smith incident, his swimmers entered in the Thanksgiving Day meet are planning to withdraw from the competition.

Fourteen members, only two of whom are of oriental extraction, are scheduled to take part.

"I've recommended that they not swim," Mr. Napoleon said. "This incident is the talk of Waikiki beach and I don't want my boys to go into a place where they are not wanted.

"Racial discrimination has no place in Hawaii."

(Singing Bill) Smith Sr., in the presence of Bill Jr., who did not contradict his statements.

Harold A. Mountain, Castle & Cooke executive and president of the Outrigger Canoe club, confirmed today that it has always been an "unwritten policy" of the club not to accept Orientals as members or guests.

He said he was aware of the Nakama-Smith incident.

"It is a ticklish situation," Mr. Mountain commented. "I don't believe it was handled in the best manner possible."

Mr. Nakama returned last week from the mainland after be-



Kiyoshi Nakama

ing graduated from Ohio State university and is now teaching at Farrington high school.

Between 1942 and 1945 he won nine national AAU championship swimming titles, and was one of the university's most popular athletes.

Mr. Smith is the world champion in middle distance freestyle swimming.

He also attended Ohio State university and was Mr. Nakama's teammate in the university swimming squad. He plans to return there when he is discharged from the navy.

Before returning to Honolulu, Mr. Nakama was honored with a farewell dinner at Columbus, O., which was attended by state notables, including an ex-governor of Ohio.

Mr. Harris told The Star-Bulletin that in his action in the matter he was conforming to the policy of the club.