

HIS SHATTERED FAITH IN HAWAII'S DEMOCRACY

Editor The Star-Bulletin: Words can not express the intense feeling of bitter disappointment and sorrow I experienced as I read the article in today's paper dealing with "Keo" Nakama, Ohio State aquatic star, who, as the guest of Bill Smith Jr., was refused admission at the Outrigger club because he happened to be of Japanese ancestry.

This bitter disappointment was not aimed at "racial equality" or "democracy" in America at large, since I long ago realized that those words meant little if anything so far as minority groups were concerned. Rather my keen feeling of loss came from the crushing of a cherished belief I held until today, namely, that Hawaii was head over shoulders above the type of petty discrimination existing in the west coast states. It was my firm belief, and I have enthusiastically related it to my friends on the mainland, how we here in Hawaii have arisen above such petty discriminations, and in that respect considered ourselves above California in racial relationships. This belief has been rudely shattered.

California and other states may well turn to us and say, "We are better off, since we clearly state our views, while you in Hawaii are merely giving lip service to the term 'racial equality.' Who are you to criticize us?"

R. H. S.