

“I AM WHITE TOO!”

Bhagat Singh Thind

1892-1967



written & illustrated by desire grover

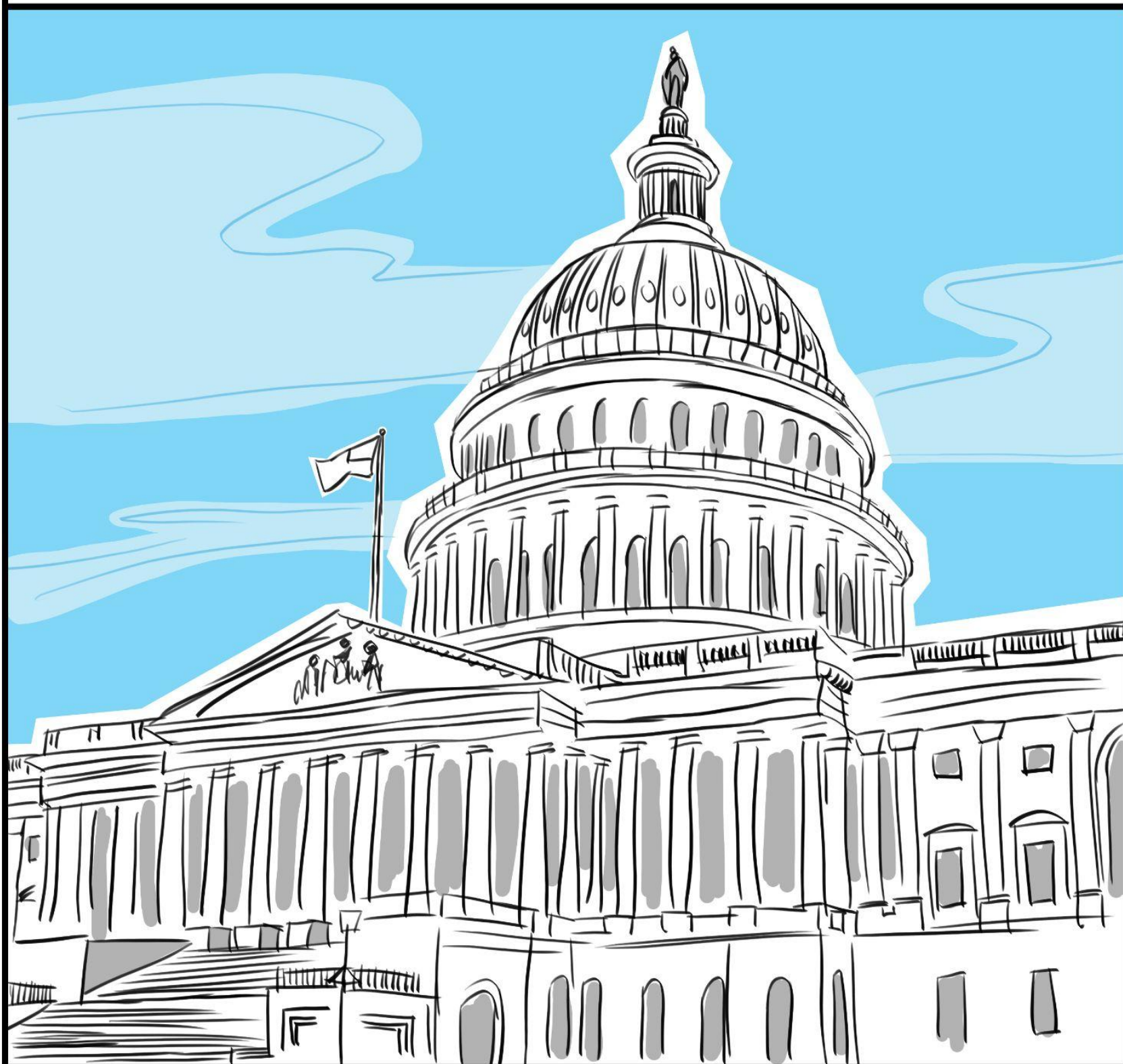
AS A YOUNG MAN BHAGAT SINGH THIND CAME TO AMERICA
EAGER TO BUILD A LIFE HE COULD BE PROUD OF!



TO SHOW HIS GRATITUDE **HE JOINED THE U.S. ARMY** TO FIGHT
IN **WORLD WAR I**. HE WOULD BECOME THE FIRST SIKH TO
WEAR HIS TURBAN AND FULL BEARD WHILE ENLISTED!



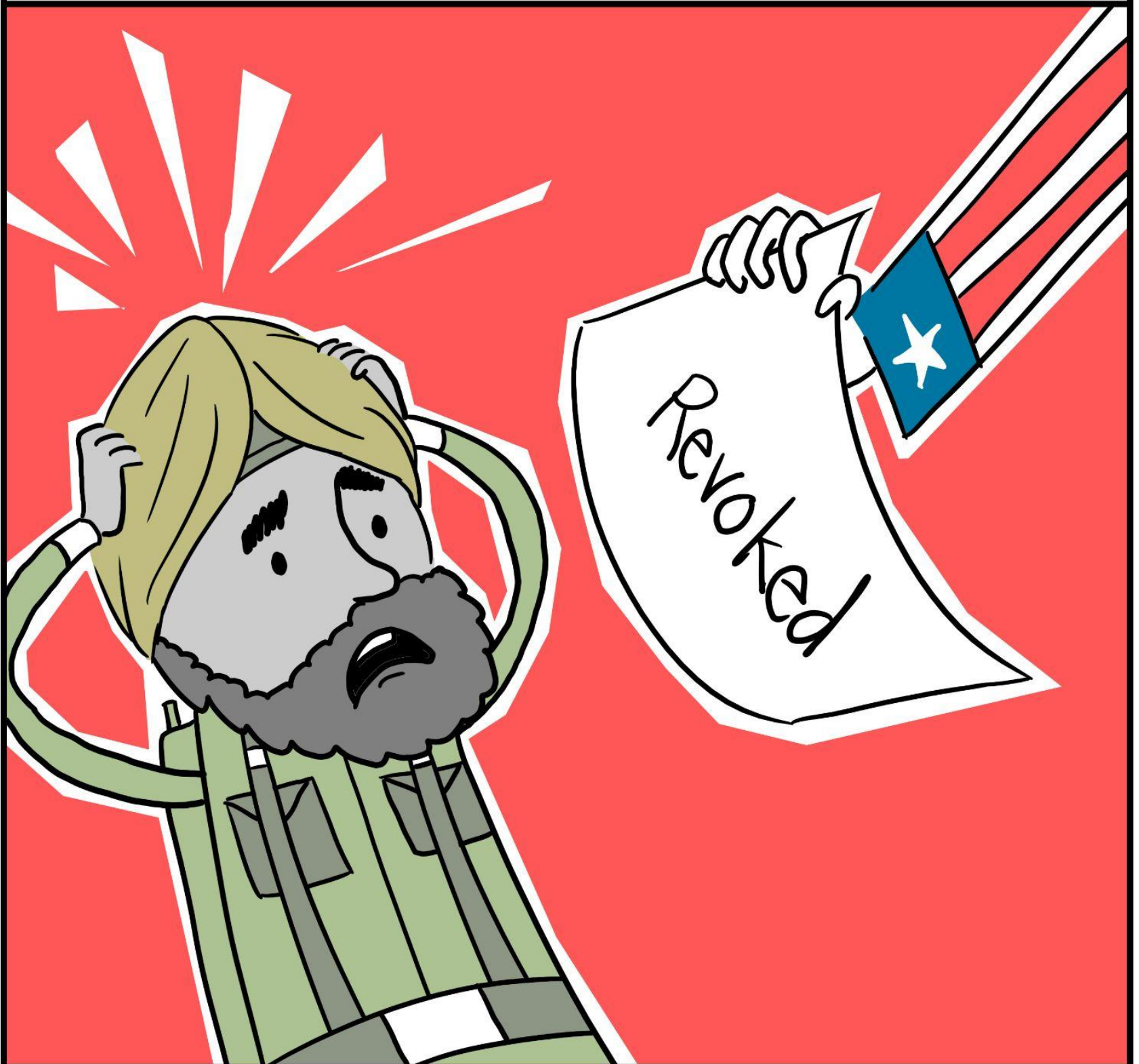
AS THE WAR WAS COMING TO A CLOSE, CONGRESS PASSED
THE **NATURALIZATION ACT OF 1918**, ALLOWING “ALIEN”
MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY TO BECOME U.S. CITIZENS.



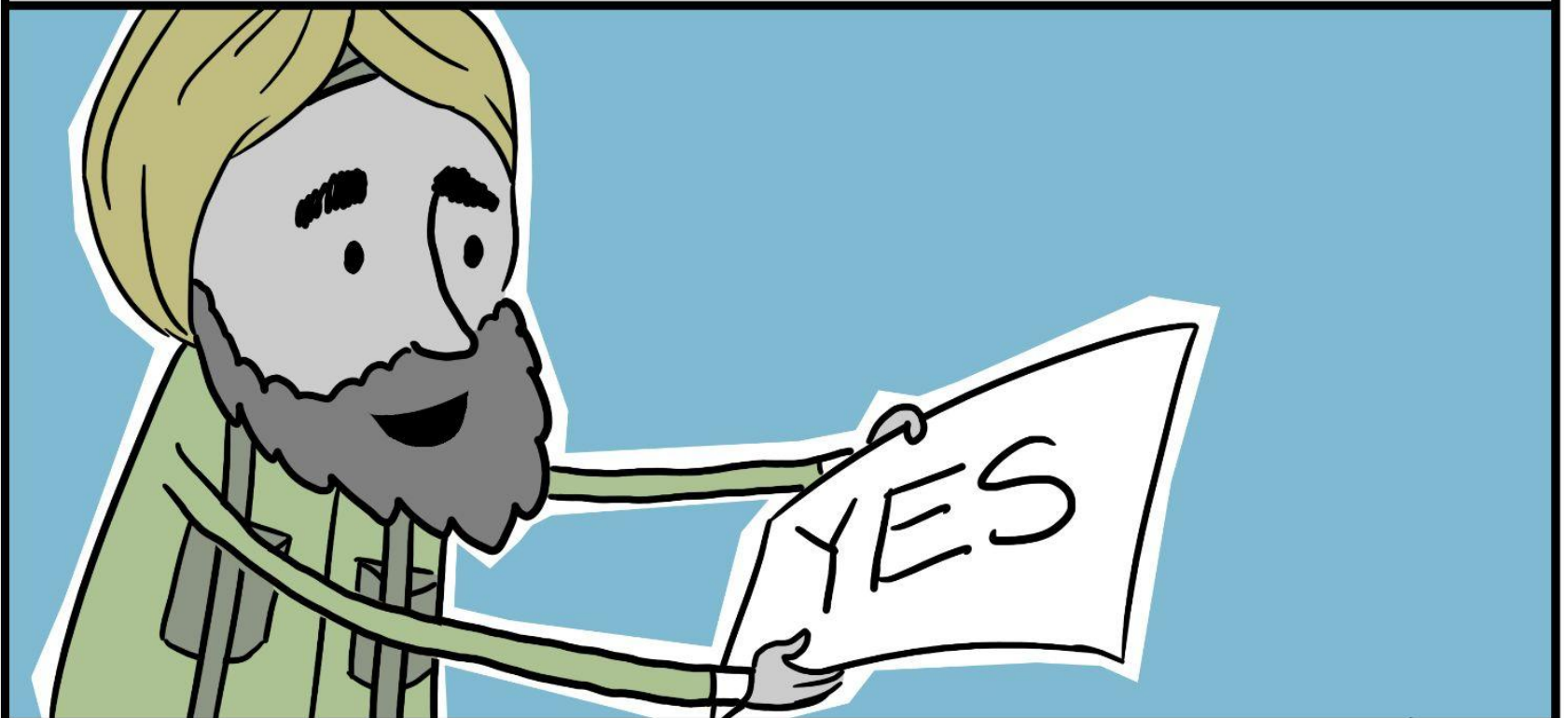
THIND APPLIED FOR HIS CITIZENSHIP AND WAS
NATURALIZED ON DECEMBER 9, 1918. IT WAS A
DREAM COME TRUE!



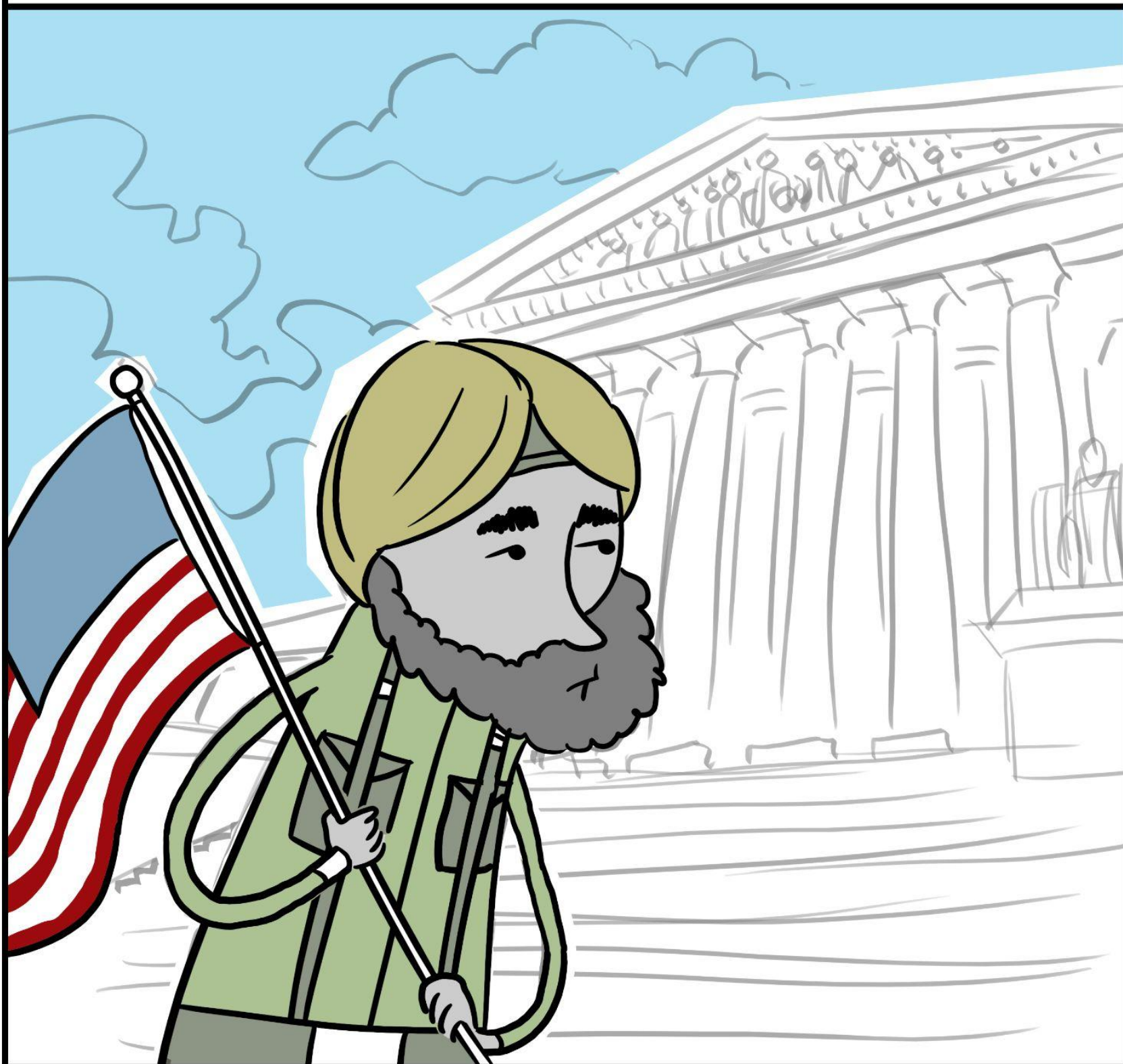
BUT ONLY FOUR DAYS LATER THE BUREAU OF
NATURALIZATION WOULD REVOKE HIS CITIZENSHIP BECAUSE
HE WAS NOT CONSIDERED TO BE A “**FREE WHITE PERSON**” AS
REQUIRED BY THE **NATURALIZATION ACT OF 1906**.



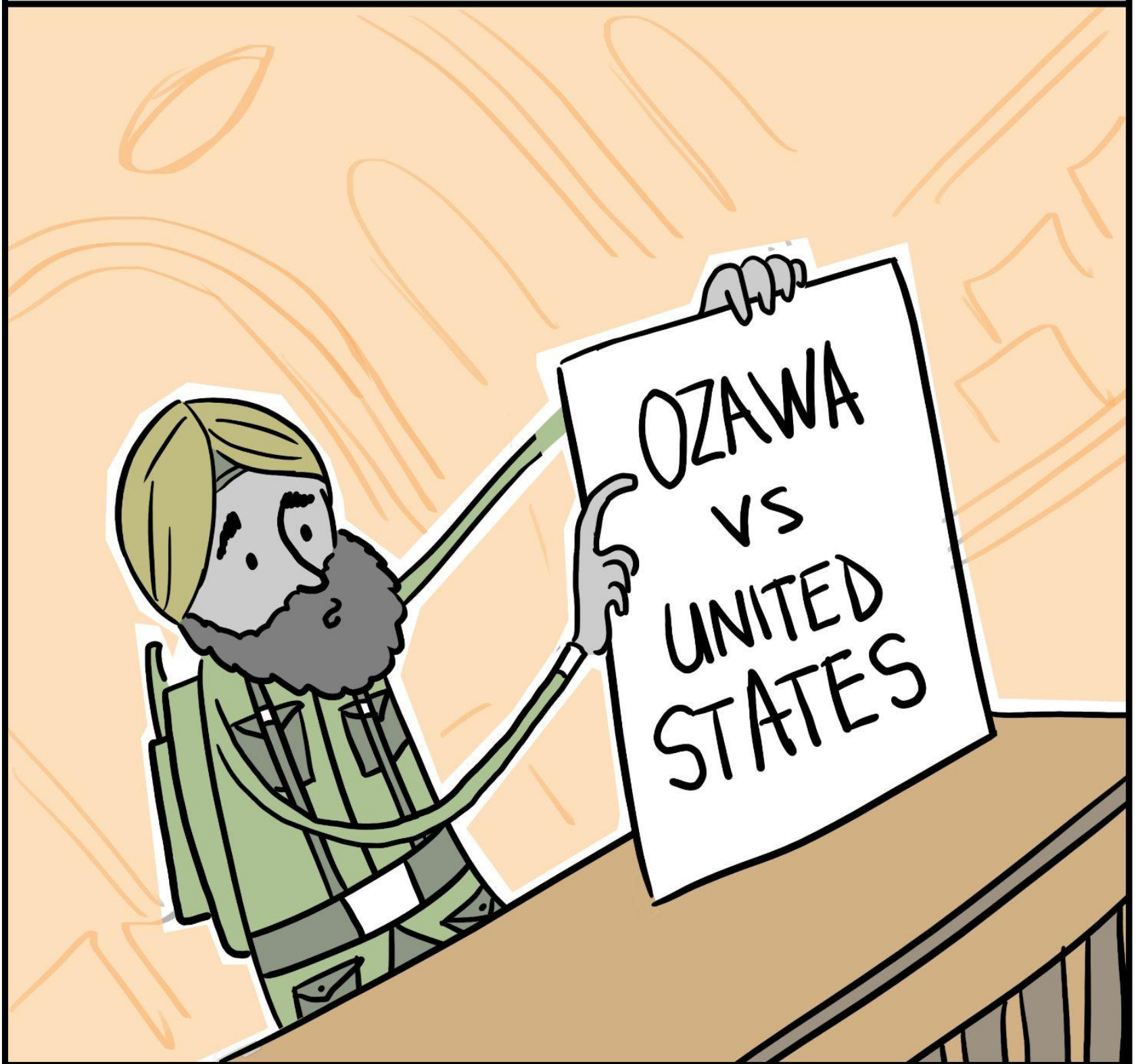
**THIND WOULD APPEAL THE RULING AND WAS ABLE TO SECURE
CITIZENSHIP IN OREGON ONLY TO HAVE IT CHALLENGED BY THE
BUREAU OF NATURALIZATION ONCE AGAIN!**



FRUSTRATED, THIND FOUGHT FOR HIS CITIZENSHIP ALL THE WAY UP TO **THE SUPREME COURT!** USING THE RACIAL SCIENCE OF HIS DAY, HE ARGUED THAT **HE WAS IN FACT "WHITE"** BECAUSE HE WAS AN ARYAN INDIAN OF HIGH-CASTE WHO WAS REGARDED TO BE **"CAUCASIAN."**

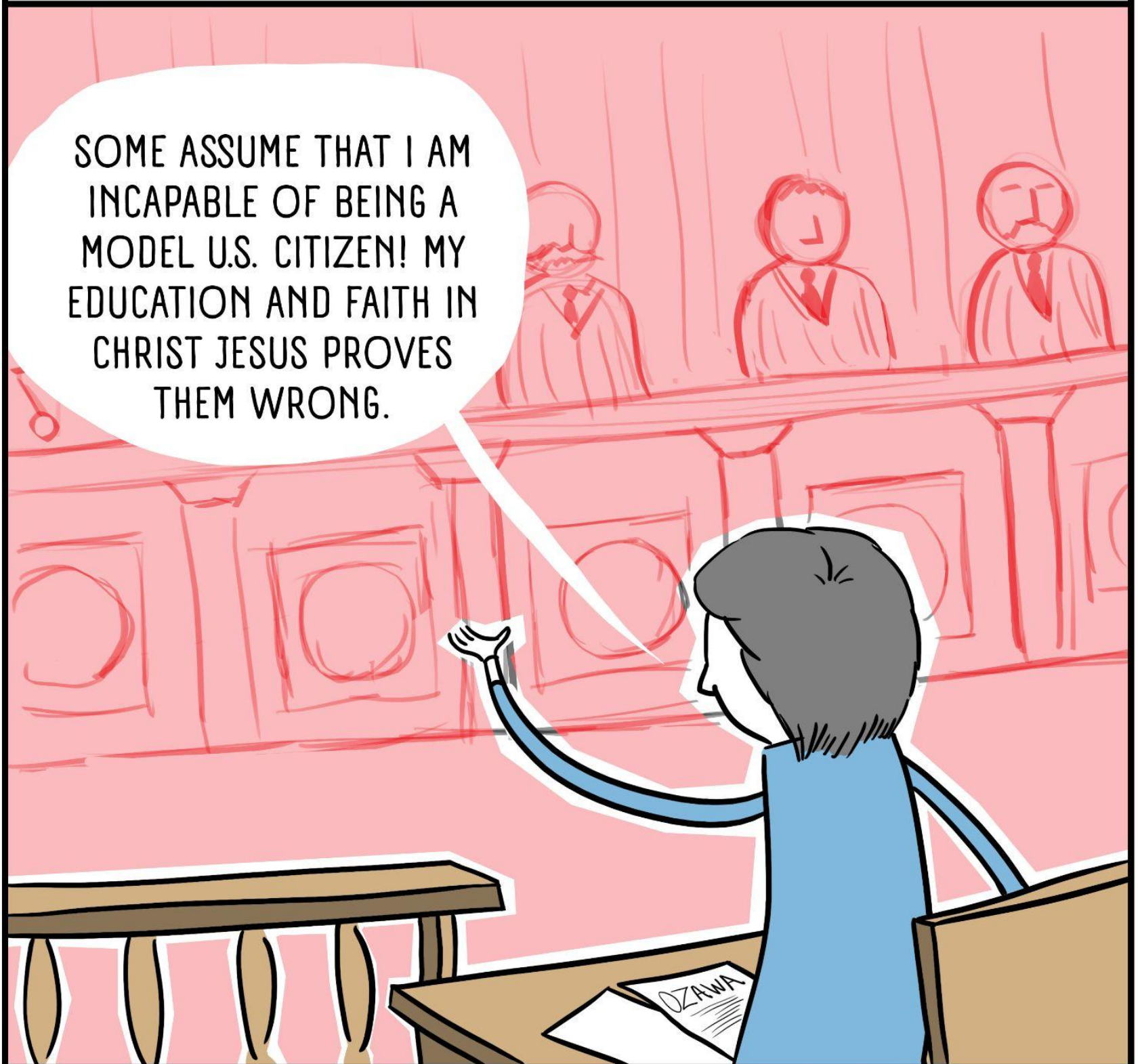


HE ALSO POINTED TO A CASE THAT THE SUPREME COURT
HAD DECIDED ONLY A YEAR BEFORE, INVOLVING A MAN
NAMED **TAKAO OZAWA**.



OZAWA ARGUED THAT ALTHOUGH HE WAS OF JAPANESE DESCENT, HE HAD LIVED IN THE U.S. FOR TWENTY YEARS AND HAD ADEQUATE SCHOOLING TO ASSIMILATE TO AMERICAN CULTURE, THEREFORE WAS ELIGIBLE FOR CITIZENSHIP REGARDLESS OF RACE!

SOME ASSUME THAT I AM INCAPABLE OF BEING A MODEL U.S. CITIZEN! MY EDUCATION AND FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS PROVES THEM WRONG.



YET, THE SUPREME COURT DECIDED AGAINST OZAWA, ARGUING THAT HE WAS NOT **"CAUCASIAN"** AND THEREFORE NOT A **"FREE WHITE PERSON"** AS REQUIRED BY THE **NATURALIZATION ACT OF 1790**.



USING OZAWA'S CASE, THIND'S ARGUMENT WAS THAT
UNLIKE OZAWA HE WAS IN FACT **"CAUCASIAN"** AND
THEREFORE A **"FREE WHITE PERSON"** AS REQUIRED BY
THE NATURALIZATION ACT OF 1790.

ACCORDING TO YOUR
OWN RACIAL SCIENCE MY
ANCESTRY IS WHITE.



THE SUPREME COURT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE MIGHT BE "CAUCASIAN" BUT HE WOULD NOT BE PERCEIVED AS A "WHITE PERSON" BY THE COMMON MAN'S STANDARDS. THIND'S CITIZENSHIP WAS DENIED! STILL, THE FIGHT WAS NOT OVER!



MR.THIND, YOU
ARE CAUCASIAN
BUT YOU ARE
NOT WHITE.

FINALLY, IN 1935 CONGRESS WOULD PASS THE NYE-LEA ACT WHICH MADE WW1 VETERANS ELIGIBLE FOR NATURALIZATION AS U.S. CITIZENS, REGARDLESS OF THEIR RACE. SO **THIND AT LAST GAINED HIS CITIZENSHIP!**



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