

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

In reply, please refer to:

Econ. Mgt.

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, OFFICE
WHITCOMB HOTEL BUILDING

November 14, 1942

MEMORANDUM TO: Harvey M. Coverley, Acting Regional Director
SUBJECT: INVESTIGATION AT TULE LAKE WAR RELOCATION AREA
November 2-6, inclusive

(Investigation of numerous complaints and charges made in letters to Congressmen, the Army and the War Relocation Authority and in newspapers. These letters and articles severely criticize the War Relocation Authority and the Japanese evacuees at the Tule Lake Project.)

Philip J. Webster
Philip J. Webster
Acting Assistant Regional Director



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SUMMARY OF COMPLAINTS

The numerous complaints made in newspaper articles and in letters are briefed as follows:*

1. Evacuees Outside the Project Boundaries Without Permit or White Escort.

"The Japs are riding around in pleasure cars up there with Government licenses on them and we saw 4 boys and 3 girls all dressed up fit to kill. And many other cars all full of cars" (Japs ?) "riding around up there. No white men with them. Now of course the natives are biased up there. They're sore because the Japs have moved in their neighborhood, but they are ten times as sore because they are running around the country up there, outside the camp....."

Recorded conversation between Major Moffitt and Mr. Schaefer of San Francisco, Oct. 27, 1942.
(For complete conversation see Supplement 1, Complaint No. 12)

"The Portland Branch Office Resident Agent at Medford, Oregon, has been advised by Captain Staats of the Oregon State Police, Medford, Oregon, of a complaint he had received from Sheriff Low of Klamath County, Oregon, to the effect that Japanese from the Tule Lake Assembly and Relocation Center were permitted to run all over the hills and to drive trucks on the streets of Klamath Falls unaccompanied by guards."

(Letter to A.C. of S., G-2, Western Defense Command and Fourth Army, Presidio of San Francisco, California from Frank N. McGrath, Major, Infantry, Officer in Charge, Portland Branch, dated Sept. 29, 1942) (For complete letter see Supplement 1, Complaint No. 14)

* These references are typical but not complete. For complete record of complaints see Supplement 1.

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".....On one occasion a truck load of Japs traveled forty miles, through the heart of a national forest to Medicine Lake, after rocks to adorn their camp, this without a guard, thereby opening an excellent opportunity for acts of sabotage....."

Letter to Lt.Gen. John L. DeWitt,
Commanding General, Western Defense
Command, from W. I. Humphreys,
Executive Secretary, Northern
Council of Conservation Clubs,
dated Oct. 5, 1942.
(For complete letter see Supplement 1, Complaint No. 11)

".....however, it is difficult to understand why army equipment should be used by Japs joyriding....."

Letter to Lt.Gen. J.L. DeWitt,
Commanding General, Western Defense
Command and Fourth Army, from P.N.
Meyers, McCloud, California, dated
Aug. 27, 1942.
(For complete letter see Supplement 1, Complaint No. 15)

".....Those farmers in this area, without exception, are World War veterans. They bitterly resent the way the situation is being handled. They do not want Japs running unrestrained all over the county, and, as stated before, if the situation is allowed to run on the citizens will need the protection, and there is a very good chance that something of a serious nature may develop in the valley....."

Article authored by W.I. Humphreys
appearing in Dunsmuir News, Oct.
9, 1942.
(For complete article see Supplement 1, Complaint No. 9)

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2. Disorderly Conduct of Japanese Evacuees

Speeding

".....The trucks from the Japanese Camp travel 40 to 45 miles an hour, utterly disregarding the speed limits or tire conservations."

Letter to Hon. Walter M. Pierce,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C. from Fred H.
Heilbronner, Klamath Falls,
dated Oct. 5, 1942.
(For complete letter see
Supplement 1, Complaint No.10)

".....Why is a Jap permitted to speed down the highway at a rate we good citizens have pledged not to drive in order to save rubber?....."

Letter to President Franklin
D. Roosevelt from Mrs. Geo. W.
Shaw, Tule Lake, dated July
29, 1942.
(For complete letter see
Supplement 1, Complaint No.15)

Causing Damage to Civilian Cars

"One of the cute little habits of the Japanese people living at Newell who drive about the countryside unescorted, is to stop their heavy trucks suddenly in front of a trailing motorist, so that the driver behind runs into army truck with resultant damage to his car This sly, crafty sabotage arouses the ire of farmers living in the community, for it is an ideology that the American scorns. He is slow to realize that anyone could stoop to trickery of this kind. Deliberate destruction and possible personal injury.

"It seems a shame that people of the community should be subjected to treatment of this kind by these wards of the WRA, who are not, in the first place, supposed to roam at will unescorted."

Editorial appearing in
Tulelake Reporter, Oct. 22,
1942.
(For complete editorial see
Supplement 1, Complaint No.2)

Painting Names on Cliff

".....We have been advised that there have been some recent paintings by someone on the petroglyphs on the eastern side of what we term the "Peninsula" it appears that someone has taken yellow paint and painted a name, presumably a Japanese name, about eight inches to a foot in height and twelve to fifteen feet in length....."

Letter to E. L. Shirrell, Project Director, W.R.A. from Earl C. Reynolds, Klamath Falls, dated Oct. 2, 1942.

(For complete letter see Supplement 1, Complaint No. 18)

Defying Military Police

"I hear from a reliable source they" (the Japs) "even defy the orders of a guard. In fact, a Jap informed a guard 'he didn't have the nerve to shoot'....."

Refer Mrs. Shaw reference given under Speeding above.

Thumbing Noses at Local Citizens

".....They are driven by Japanese drivers who thumb their hands to their noses at both the citizens and military police....."

Refer Fred H. Heilbronner reference given under Speeding above.

3. Illegal Fishing and Hunting - Game Refuge Hearing

"They are fishing ducks and geese out of refuge with fish hooks and lines....."

Refer Schaefer reference given under Evacuees Outside the Project Boundaries Without Permit or White Escort above.

".....Mr. Hugh Worcester, chief enforcement officer of the Fish and Wildlife Service entered the camp and arrested Japs for violation of Federal game laws. He was reproached by the Civilian manager for doing his duty....."

Refer W. I. Humphreys reference (letter)
Evacuees Outside the Project Boundaries
Without Permit or White Escort, above.

".....The camp manager who failed to heed written requests that he attend this public hearing, sending an underling instead, states he must protect the Japs to avoid "international complications". Why so much concern for the Japs in view of their mistreatment of war nurses, of tortures and wanton and summary execution of members of our armed forces held captive by them? We question the wisdom or necessity of having ex-WPA employees, quite obviously of a political turn of mind, administer such a project; public opinion seems to indicate that they are not operating at a financial loss to themselves....."

Refer W. I. Humphreys reference (letter)
Evacuees Outside the Project Boundaries
Without Permit or White Escort above.

".....Last week, Hugh Worcester, regional enforcement officer of the federal fish and wildlife service, entered the confines of the camp and arrested four Japanese who were illegally taking waterfowl in violation of federal statutes. The manager of the camp, Mr. Sherrel, upbraided Mr. Worcester for entering the camp, and pointedly told him he had no business in it. The officer, however, did not leave without the culprits, who will stand trial in federal court...."

Article in Dunsmuir News, October 9,
1942. (For complete article see
Supplement 1, Complaint No.9)

4. Contraband

".....Reliable information has been furnished this Command that several of the colonists have received an excessive number of knives, hatchets, axes, and similar articles under the guise of mechanical tools. These were received during the time the WRA, had charge of the inspection.

It is urgently requested that agents of Western Defense Command & 4th Army be sent here to make a search of this War Relocation Authority

Area for it is the opinion of the Commanding Officer and other officers of this post that there is at the present time many unauthorized articles of contraband in the possession of the evacuees such as knives, axes, guns, radio equipment and other articles. This situation should be corrected and these removed at once."

Letter to HQ. Office of the Commanding General, Ninth Service Command, Fort Douglas, Utah, from Henry H. Miller, 1st Lt., C.M.P. Executive Officer, 320 Military Police Escort Guard Company, Tule Lake, Calif. dated Oct. 14, 1942.

(For complete letter see Supplement 1, Complaint No. 17)

5. Charges of Waste

"Laxity in policing the camp was openly laid at the door of WRA management, and flagrant waste of government money--spending for non-essentials and thriftlessness in handling necessities.

.....It takes away a lot of the joy of making sacrifices for our government when a government agency is pouring thousands of dollars down ratholes of waste at our very doors.

Where other government agencies are putting forth every effort to conserve rubber and equipment, comments are made of the wanton waste of those commodities by the Japanese people of Newell. They can be seen at any time of day driving on the highways and country roads in trucks, burning up the tires with speed, and are scrapping new equipment faster than it can be manufactured.

.....We hear of profligate waste of foodstuffs.

These things add up to nothing less than sabotage."

Editorial appearing in the Tulelake Reporter, Oct. 8, 1942.
(For complete editorial see Supplement 1, Complaint No. 1)

6. Complaints that Evacuees Enjoy Special Food Privileges

"These Japanese are fed according to regular Government Soldier Rations and have the best of meats, foods, milk, etc., while we here are rationed and cannot buy hams or bacon, they receive ham and bacon by the truck load. They also receive choice cuts of beef that we cannot obtain and cannot afford to buy. The Captain of the Military Police says his own men haven't any bacon, yet the Jap camp has plenty. This camp is consuming over 1500 gallons of milk per day while we are going to be rationed in the very near future. What about our own children?"

Refer Fred H. Heilbronner reference
given under Speeding above.

7. Claim Shortage of Teachers Caused by Project

"They complain about the teaching facilities for their children, yet the War Relocation Authority has supplied 96 teachers for them while our own schools are short-handed."

Refer Fred H. Heilbronner reference
given under Speeding above

8. Demurrage

"Demurrage bills are run up on the government on freight cars held on the siding while the Japanese men strike on some foolish pretext or other."

Editorial appearing in the Tulalake
Reporter, Oct. 8, 1942.
(For complete editorial see Supplement
1, Complaint No. 1)

"They are shipping some 50,000 tons of coal, many cars are not unloaded in time and demurrage has to be paid because the Japs are too lazy to work and are not compelled to."

Refer Fred H. Heilbronner reference
given under Speeding above.

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"Freight cars loaded with materials and supplies are permitted to stand at the camp, with public funds being used to pay the railroad demurrage on them."

Article appearing in Dunsmuir News,
Oct. 9, 1942.

(For complete article see Supplement 1, Complaint No. 9)

".....Freight cars, loaded with supplies and material for the camp are consistently allowed to stand on siding at the camp with public funds used to pay demurrage on them. The Japs are on "sit down strike", and refuse to unload them....."

Refer W. I. Humphreys reference (letter)
Evacuees Outside the Project Boundaries
Without Permit or White Escort above.

9. Sitdown Strikes

"Now they tell me they had a sit-down strike up there and wouldn't work in the garden....."

Refer Schaefer reference given
under Evacuees Outside the Project
Boundaries Without Permit or White
Escort above.

"This" (demurrage) "is necessary (?) because the Japs are on a 'sitdown strike' and refuse to unload their own supplies".

Article in Dunsmuir News, October 9,
1942. (For complete article see
Supplement 1, Complaint No.9)

".....Freight cars, loaded with supplies and material for the camp are consistently allowed to stand on siding at the camp with public funds used to pay demurrage on them. The Japs are on "sit down strike", and refuse to unload them....."

Refer W. I. Humphreys reference (letter)
Evacuees Outside the Project Boundaries
Without Permit or White Escort above.

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10. Military Drilling by Evacuees

"Another complaint that has come to us recently from reputable citizens here, is to the effect that military drills are observed taking place regularly on the grounds of the Japanese center at Newell. Maybe it's just innocent marching, and--maybe it isn't?"

Editorial appearing in Tulelake
Reporter, Oct. 22, 1942.
(For complete editorial see
Supplement 1, Complaint No. 2)

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CONCLUSIONS

1. Evacuees Outside of Project Boundaries Without Permit or White Escort

The impression is widespread throughout the entire area surrounding the Tule Lake War Relocation Project that Japanese evacuees have been riding in Government owned motor cars outside of the Project boundary without a Caucasian escort. The people in this area believe that this is a common practice. In five days of intensive investigation, during which 47 people were interviewed, only six cases could be found where people had first-hand knowledge of such instances. This number includes two cases where evacuees were a short distance outside the Project boundary on hikes. In all probability other cases have occurred but the evidence does not support the claim that this situation occurs frequently. Three of the known cases are due to the negligence of one WRA employee who no longer is connected with the Project.

2. Disorderly Conduct of Japanese Evacuees

Complaints have been made that the Japanese evacuees frequently "speed" in Government owned cars, purposely cause damage to cars of local citizens, defy military police, thumb their noses at local citizens, interfere with hunters, and that one of them painted his name in large letters on a cliff near the petroglyphs and that this constituted an offensive act. Investigation shows that there have been about six arrests made of evacuees for speeding by the military police, the highest speed charged being 42 miles an hour. There is no evidence that evacuees have maliciously caused damage to civilian cars, that they have defied military police, thumbed their noses at local citizens, or interfered with hunters.

A Japanese boy of high school age did paint his name in yellow paint on a cliff located just inside the present Project boundary. On this cliff many names have been carved in the soft stone over the past 40 years. The petroglyphs are preserved by the National Park Service and it is understandable that local people are very much interested in seeing that these petroglyphs are in no way mutilated. However, the painting was done at a point about a mile away.

3. Illegal Fishing and Hunting - Game Refuge Hearing

Charges have been made that the evacuees are engaged in illegal fishing and hunting of geese and ducks, and that the Tule Lake Project administration is not cooperative with the State and Federal law enforcement officers.

The charge of illegal fishing and hunting is true. There are now eight cases where one or more evacuees have been apprehended and are awaiting trial. The charge that WRA officials are uncooperative is untrue. Not only has the project administration warned the evacuees against illegal fishing and hunting but, in most cases now pending, it was WRA personnel that turned the evacuees over to the law enforcement officers.

The complaint that the Project Director did not feel the game refuge hearing held on October 4 was important enough for him to attend and that he sent an "underling instead", is unfounded. The Project Director a week previous to receiving notice of this hearing had accepted an invitation to speak before a large meeting which was held at the same time as the hearing. Eric Eastman, Chief of the Agricultural Division, is the WRA official who attended the hearing and in no way can he be considered an "underling". He was sent to the hearing because the problems that were to be brought up chiefly concerned the agricultural area for which he is responsible.

4. Contraband

The military police guarding the Tule Lake Project are of the opinion that there are numerous dangerous weapons such as knives, hatchets, and axes in the hands of the evacuees and that this constitutes a real hazard to life and property. The number of such articles in the hands of the evacuees cannot be determined without a thorough house to house check which obviously was outside the scope of this investigation. The WRA Project administration shares the belief of the military police that many such articles are in the hands of the evacuees but differ in the conclusion that this constitutes a serious menace. The WRA administration contends that many if not most of these articles are necessary to the normal functioning of the Project; many knives being necessary in the kitchens, hatchets and axes being necessary in building operations to cut kindling and for other domestic purposes. It does not appear that this difference of opinion can be reconciled at the Project

level. It is desirable that parties in higher authority pass judgment as to whether there is any unnecessary danger involved. There is no difference of opinion between the military police and the WRA Project administration regarding the withholding of fire arms, liquor, cameras, or shortwave radios as contraband.

5. Charges of Waste

The complaint has been frequently made that the WRA has been very wasteful with particular reference to automotive equipment, tires, gas, food, and lumber. There may have been some waste in connection with the use of automotive equipment although there is no evidence that, even if this is true, this waste was any more than might have been expected considering the many difficulties encountered in establishing and organizing the Project. It is doubtful whether the local citizens have fully appreciated the large amount of trucking that has been necessary in moving building materials, coal, agricultural products, household goods, and the many other articles and products involved in the establishment of the Project.

There is little evidence that there has been any serious wastage of food. The evacuees are being fed on a food budget of 45 cents a day per capita which precludes the possibility of much waste. One of the problems has been to train new cooks inasmuch as there were not enough professional cooks available among the evacuees. It may be that these new cooks have been somewhat wasteful of food due to lack of experience. If so, time will correct this.

6. Complaints that Evacuees Enjoy Special Food Privileges

One of the bitterest complaints being made by local people is that the evacuees are not only enjoying expensive foods but that they are being served food such as ham and bacon which is difficult to obtain or cannot be obtained at all in local markets. There is no evidence to support this contention. The evacuees are subject to the same restrictions and rationing as other civilians. Though some complaints have indicated that ham and bacon is not obtainable in local markets this is not true. Each purchase must be limited but these meats can be obtained. The 45 cent food budget for evacuees is sufficient evidence that evacuees are not enjoying expensive foods.

7. Claim Shortage of Teachers Caused by Project

The charges that the Tule Lake Project has hired Oregon teachers by offering higher salaries than those prevailing in Oregon, thus causing a shortage of teachers, is unfounded. A careful check of the teachers now employed at the Project reveals the fact that only two taught in Oregon last year. No active recruiting of Oregon teachers is taking place.

8. Demurrage

It is true that there will probably be some charges for demurrage. No such bills have as yet been rendered to WRA. In all probability, if any such charges are made, they will not be unduly large inasmuch as WRA takes the position that some of the delay in unloading freight was due to a shortage of switch engines. Delays traceable to WRA appear to have been due to causes beyond the control of this Agency.

9. Sitdown Strikes

The claim that there have been strikes on the part of the Japanese is true. The question of the causes of these strikes is complicated and has many ramifications. One of the chief causes of these strikes is the fact that the compensation received by the evacuees for labor is low in comparison to comparable work outside of the Project and that the Federal Government has been very slow in making payments after the labor has been completed. At the present time some of these wage payments are six to eight weeks in arrears and some of the evacuees are suffering real hardship because they do not have this money to buy essentials such as shoes. The WRA is not the Agency which pays out the money.

10. Military Drill by Evacuees

There is no evidence to substantiate the claim that evacuees are participating in military drill or any other war-like practices.

11. Tardy Payment of Bills

Many merchants in the territory surrounding the Project have sold and delivered products to the Project and many of these have not received full payment. Some have not received any payment for products delivered as long ago as May of this year. This is causing a real inconvenience to some inasmuch as it is necessary for them to secure outside financing which requires interest payments. This situation is no doubt the cause of much "hard feeling" against the Tule Lake Project. The WRA is partially responsible because of delay in approving bills. This delay has been caused by the difficulties and problems attendant on organizing the Project and setting up an accounting system. The WRA is not the Agency that actually pays these bills and therefore cannot be held responsible for additional delays which have occurred.

SCOPE OF INVESTIGATION

A total of 47 persons were interviewed by me and in each case some or all of the questions in point were discussed. Twenty-one of these persons are employed at the Tule Lake Relocation Project, while 26 are not. (For a complete list of those interviewed see Supplement 2). These interviews ranged from about 15 minutes to over 3 hours each.

I drove approximately 125 miles in and around the Relocation Area including Tule Lake, Klamath Falls, and the office of the Fish and Wildlife Service west of the Project Area. In all cases where it was possible I talked to the editors of newspapers who had published critical articles or editorials and the writers of letters making complaints. This included the editors of the "Tule Lake Reporter" and the "Herald and News" of Klamath Falls. I also talked to Sergeant Tichenor, in charge of the Klamath Falls Office of the Oregon State Police, three of his subordinate officers, and to L. L. Low, Sheriff of Klamath County, Oregon. I interviewed Captain Patterson of the Military Police regarding contraband and evacuees leaving the project area unescorted.

I personally investigated the cliff upon which a Japanese boy had painted three Japanese names with yellow paint. All necessary records were checked including the record of contraband articles. I inspected the farming area where illegal hunting took place.

While this investigation was confined primarily to complaints and charges which had been made in newspaper articles and editorials and in letters, some attention was also given to additional serious complaints which are being spread by word of mouth.

EVIDENCE THAT COMPLAINTS ARE EXAGGERATED

While there is some basis for complaints, there is considerable evidence that such complaints are much exaggerated. Perhaps the best indicator of this can be found in news articles in the Redding Record-Searchlight and the Herald and News of Klamath Falls.

In order to determine for themselves the veracity of persistent rumors concerning conditions at the Tule Lake War Relocation Project, a committee of four Redding business men, William Quinlan, Tom L. Stanley, J. R. Shannon, and Paul C. Bodenhamer, visited the Relocation Center and interviewed the Project Director and leading citizens in Klamath Falls and Tulelake. The results of the committee's investigations proved most of these rumors "in the opinion of the investigators, to be absolutely false and the rest grossly exaggerated." The findings of this committee are ably expressed by members of the committee in a series of articles appearing in the Redding Record-Searchlight October 24, 26 and 27, 1942. This investigation and report by parties not connected with the War Relocation Authority so well illustrates the exaggerated nature of antagonistic stories now being circulated that it is given here in full. (See Exhibits 1, 2, 3 and 4 following).

Japanese Camp Rumors Exploded

(This is the first of a series of articles based on the visit of four Redding business men to the Japanese relocation camp at Tule Lake.)

Four Redding business men, alarmed at rumors of "scandalous conditions" at the Japanese internment camp at Tule Lake, Siskiyou county, were back today with a report that the camp is well conducted and that most of the rumors are totally false and the remainder grossly exaggerated.

The party consisted of William Quinlan, head of the Auto Accessories company; Tom L. Stanley, manager of the Shasta-Cascade Wonderland association; J. R. Shannon of the Redding Printing company and Paul C. Bodenhamer, editor of the Record-Searchlight.

Many Rumors Heard

Their investigation was prompted by reports that Japanese were allowed to go to and from the camp at will and without guards, that the Japanese were allowed huge quantities of building materials, scarce foods and other supplies which ordinarily are difficult for civilians to obtain, that there was wanton destruction of equipment and farm produce, and similar stories.

After interviewing leading citizens in Klamath Falls and Tule Lake, closest communities to the war relocation authority's Newell camp at Tule Lake, the party visited the camp, made a thorough inspection and interviewed Elmer L. Shintell, the camp director.

Two Boundaries

Part of the confusion, the group found, comes from the fact that there are two boundaries at the camp. First there is what is known as the project center, an area covered with the buildings which house the interned Japanese, the administrative personnel, the hospital and other facilities. It is surrounded by a fence, and at each corner is a guard tower.

Around this is the "project area," which includes land for a considerable distance in each direction and a 2,300-acre farm on which the Japanese are raising vegetables and livestock.

During the daytime the Japanese are allowed freedom to go and come within the project area, which includes the farm. The exterior boundaries of the project area are patrolled by army guards. At night the Japanese are required to stay within the "project center" and the guard towers are manned.

Highway Through Area

The highway from Tule Lake to Canby runs through the "project area" and past one side of the "project center." Civilian traffic is allowed to use the road, but each car is stopped by a U. S. army guard who checks to see that no guns or cameras enter. At the gate to the project center, another armed army guard halts visitors to determine whether they have passes.

Director Shirrell pointed out that of the nearly 15,000 Japanese at the camp, two-thirds are American citizens by birth and the remainder are the parents of American citizens. He added that the FBI rounded up 3,200 Japanese on the Pacific coast suspected of being dangerous and shipped them inland.

"This is the first time in history that the American government has evacuated citizens," he pointed out. Many of the young men, he said, are disappointed that they are not allowed to enlist in the U. S. army.

Here are some of the stories which were investigated, and the facts the business men's committee found:

RUMOR: Japanese can wander all over the country without guards. American visitors are stopped and searched by Japanese who confiscate their cameras and guns.

FACT: White American soldiers guard the entrances of both the project area and project center. It is they who inquire about guns and cameras. (Guns and cameras may be transported along the highway if they are not loaded.) Japanese in the camp do most of the work, policing and administrative work inside the camp. A polite Japanese boy, formerly of Oroville, took the names of the Redding party and prepared the

pass form for them to present at the administration building.

Japanese are not permitted outside the center at night without a military pass, and are not permitted outside the project area without white escort. One white guard on two occasions disobeyed instructions and left the group of Japanese he was escorting. He has been discharged. Two Japanese boys were sent from the farm to get some equipment at the camp's plumbing shop. Claiming that they thought the plumbing shop in the town of Tule Lake was meant, they went there. They were picked up by police and returned to camp.

Two Japanese attempted to escape. One, an elderly man not considered mentally competent, tried to hitch-hike to Fresno, where he had left his family. The other, a belligerent youth who demanded that he be served beer, sneaked under the fence. The elderly man was brought back and eventually sent to another camp. The boy was tried before the judicial council of Japanese within the camp and sentenced by his own people to garbage detail.

RUMOR: The Japanese plowed up acres of potatoes and left them on the ground so that they were frozen and rendered useless for food. One report said 2,500 acres of potatoes were thus wasted.

FACT: Of the 2,300 acres now being farmed, 600 acres were planted to potatoes and these now are being harvested. The camp opened last April, and since that time the Tule Lake area has not had a frost which would freeze potatoes even if they were left on the ground.

RUMOR: While civilians on the outside can only rarely get ham or bacon, tons and tons of such meats have been shipped to the camp and stored.

FACT: The camp received some hams and bacon several months ago, when there was not shortage on the civilian market. All orders for smoked meat for the camp are now filled with salt pork.

The Japanese are fed for 45 cents per day per person. All menus are made up several weeks in advance and sent to the U. S. army quartermaster corps, which calculates the amount needed and buys it, shipping the supplies to the camp. The menus for Oct. 21 to 28 contain neither ham nor bacon. The camp is restricted to a maximum of 2½ pounds of meat per week per person, the limit which civilians have been asked to observe voluntarily.

EXHIBIT-1

WATCH OUT FOR RUMORS

IN the Saturday issue of this paper and again on the front page of this issue the rumors about the Japanese internment camp at Tule Lake have been deflated and exploded.

The four Redding men who investigated found that some of the rumors were pitiable and laughable when contrasted with the actual facts. They found that the camp, while obviously not perfect, was well conducted in humane fashion. The Japanese confined there were being neither pampered nor abused.

This case of the Tule Lake rumors illustrates so vividly the danger that we will be carried away by our hates and prejudices under the stress of wartime. All of us, and particularly those who hate or think they hate the Japanese as people are all too willing to believe anything they are told, provided it's bad.

Lieut. Gen. J. L. DeWitt, the western defense commander, is warning of the possibility of sabotage on the west coast, and along with that goes fifth column work. A gullible public, ready to seize and magnify rumors, is a fertile field for the fifth columnist who spreads disturbing rumors to upset and disunite the people.

The best way to defeat a rumor is to ask direct questions. The group from Redding found many who believed and happily spread the various stories about the camp. But asked: "Can you give me the name of someone who actually saw it?" they mumbled that no, they didn't know anyone who actually knew; they had just heard. Public officials and private citizens were anxious that they not be quoted, displaying an uneasy realization that the things they were saying they could not back up with facts.

Rumor is one of the favorite weapons of the axis. Guard against it. When you hear a disturbing story, whether it's about Japanese camps, or spies and saboteurs in our midst or whispered stories of military affairs, ask questions. Ask who said so, who saw it. Write down the remark and who said it. You'll find that most of the rumors will explode in your face. And you'll be helping to win the psychological war.

The Truth Behind Japanese Rumors

(Editor's note: This is the second of a series of articles on the findings of a committee of Redding business men

who investigated the Japanese internment camp at Tule Lake. The first article appeared Saturday.)

By PAUL C. BODENHAMER

Scraps of information and misinformation about the Newell relocation camp for Japanese at Tule Lake have been enlarged and distorted until they have become monstrous rumors of "terrible conditions."

A party of four Redding business men, including this writer, investigated Friday and found that the nearer they drew to the camp, the less tangible and definite the stories became. Most of them proved, in the opinion of the investigators, to be absolutely false and the rest grossly exaggerated. It was significant that no one could be found who said he had seen, first hand, any of these "outrages" which were described.

In the party were William Quinlan, Tom L. Stanley, J. R. Shannon and Paul C. Bodenhamer.

Rumors Exploded

The first article of this series, published Saturday, contrasted the rumors with the facts that were found. Here are some more rumors and facts:

RUMOR: Although civilians are restricted on building materials, Japanese can buy any quantity of lumber, plumbing, supplies, etc., and are building elaborate porches and additions to their homes in the camp.

FACT: If they have money, the Japanese have the same right as anyone else to order supplies, if they can get them and can pay for them. They cannot buy anything which an ordinary civilian cannot buy.

From scrap lumber and some purchased lumber, many of the Japanese have built small gabled roofs and side walls as tiny shelters at their otherwise bare doorways. These are in most cases scarcely wider than the doors and extend outward two or three feet.

For each block of houses, sheltering some 250 Japanese, there is a mess hall, a latrine, a shower room and a laundry room. There are no water pipes in the houses themselves; therefore no place to put plumbing equipment if purchased.

RUMOR: Japanese at the camp have been snaring ducks and geese and also catching them with hooks and lines.

FACT: This is true, but not on the scale implied by many of the stories. A group of four was caught by federal game wardens and sent to federal court for trial. Altogether 18 Japanese have been caught for alleged game violations, and of these, 11 were caught and turned in by the camp management.

The ducks gorge themselves on grain in the project barley field.

(Continued on Page 1)
(Continued from Page 1)

and as Project Director Elmer L. Shirrell puts it, are so unafraid that "they snarl at you as you go by." Japanese are not the only ones who take game illegally.

RUMOR: The Japanese are rapidly destroying the project's trucks and other automotive equipment by fast and reckless driving.

FACT: This also has some basis in fact. Most of the drivers are youngsters 17 to 20 years of age with the natural tendency of boys of that age to speed if they can get away with it. But the streets inside the project center are policed by Japanese wardens who enforce a 20-mile speed limit, and the highway is patrolled by military police who keep all vehicles to a 30-mile limit. Any driver who gets a ticket from military police loses his right to drive.

Shirrell said all the automotive equipment was in used condition when received, most of it borrowed from the CCC. There have been collisions in which fenders were dented, but none in which vehicles were destroyed or seriously damaged.

RUMOR: Fifty carloads of coal were shipped to the camp, but stood on a siding because the Japanese refused to unload it. The government had to pay demurrage fees during the delay.

FACT: The coal did sit on the siding, drawing demurrage fees but it was not the fault of the Japanese. The coal and a huge shipment of wall board for construction of houses in the camp arrived at the same time, and just at the height of the harvest period. At the same time the army withdrew a number of trucks from the camp. There simply were not enough trucks to do everything, and the coal had to wait. Some of the trucks are now being returned to the camp.

RUMOR: Every baby born there draws \$19 a month from the day it is born.

FACT: Under international law the Japanese interned at the camp are regarded as prisoners. Under terms of the Geneva convention they must be furnished with shelter, clothing, food and essential medical attention. Shirrell started with the idea that the Japanese should be required to pay \$20 a month for their care unless they worked, but the state department insisted that the terms of the Geneva convention be complied with in detail, so that there could be no excuse for reprisals.

The Japanese who wish to work, and most of them do, are paid \$12 per month if they are apprentices, \$16 a month in average jobs, such as those on the farm, and a top of \$19 a month for doctors, dentists and other skilled or professional occupations.

The clothing allowance runs up to \$3 per person per month.

RUMOR: The Japanese drill in military formation, like bundists.

FACT: Apparently this is based on the fact that some surplus army clothing of 1918 vintage was issued as clothing. They are nondescript and anything but military looking. As for a story that children drilled with sticks for guns, Shirrell said he had never seen or heard of such a practice, and it was the first time he had heard that particular rumor. The children we saw were playing football.

Committee Probes Anti-Jap Feeling

By PAUL C. BODENHAMER

When a group of Redding business men found that the rumors of "scandalous conditions" and "pampering" of Japanese at the Newell relocation center at Tule Lake were false, they sought the reason for the spread of the tales.

Definite reasons were hard to pin down, but the conversations with those who had heard and refold the stories gave a number of hints. Among them were these:

1. The natural tendency to hate the nationals of a country with which we are at war. The population of Tule Lake is almost entirely World war veterans and their families, and it is natural that their feelings might run stronger than those of non-veterans.

U. S. Observes Law

2. A feeling that the treatment of the evacuated Japanese is much better than the treatment accorded American prisoners in Japanese hands. Conditions in Japanese prison camps are largely unknown; some reports tell of terrible mistreatment, while others indicate military prisoners, at least, are given decent treatment. Whatever the truth may be, the American government has determined that it will not descend to the savagery of some of our enemies. The treatment at Newell is strictly in accord with international law and the Geneva treaty.

3. Siskiyou county never had Japanese residents, and it was natural that the residents should be disturbed at having some 15,000 of them brought in, even though they are confined to the camp.

Drained Off Labor

4. The camp was built in about two months as a rush job just as farmers were harvesting crops. The contractors drained off the normal farm help with high wages for construction work. This worked a hardship on farmers of the area.

5. Tule Lake and the Klamath basin have some of the richest soil in the West, and it grows superb potatoes, beets, rutabagas, turnips, grain and other crops. Present residents fear that the Japanese, having learned of the richness of the region, may return and settle there after the war, causing a new problem.

Fear of Competition

6. Some fear was expressed that produce from the camp's farm would compete with private agriculture. But as one prominent potato grower pointed out, there is now a scarcity of almost every kind of produce and prices are pegged, so that for the present this will not hurt the farmers.

7. Lieut. Gen. J. L. DeWitt, western defense commander, asked the state fish and game commission to close a strip a half mile wide around the camp to hunting, so that there could be no accident or incident in which a Japanese could be shot. This was a precaution against an incident which would give the Japanese government an excuse for mistreatment of American prisoners.

This, coupled with the report that several of the Japanese in the camp has snared ducks and geese, roused the ire of sportsmen.

Local Residents Calm

In fairness, it must be stated that the stories about the camp were wilder, and the feeling against the camp was stronger, the farther one went from the camp.

In Tule Lake those interviewed took a calm view and were quick to volunteer the fact that they did not know of the stories first hand. At Klamath Falls a prominent business man expressed the view that "Those fellows are doing the best they can. All you have to do is take a common sense attitude."

One public official in the area said representatives from Gen. DeWitt's office had conducted an investigation and that "the situation" probably would be cleared up. He said the principal objection was that "the Japs are getting quail on toast" while civilians were having to make sacrifices.

The Redding committee found that the Japanese, while well fed and properly sheltered, had only simple accommodations and simple food. They are fed at a cost of 45 cents per day per person.

EXHIBIT-4

In addition to the Redding Record-Searchlight articles, two members of the committee have expressed their change in attitude, after visiting the Relocation Center, in letters. One of these letters is from Mr. Wm. A. Quinlan to Congressman Harry L. Englebright (See Exhibit 5 below), and the other is from Mr. T. L. Stanley to Mr. E. L. Shirrell, Project Director, Tule Lake War Relocation Project (See Exhibit 6).

October 26, 1942

Congressman Harry L. Englebright
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Englebright:

Thank you for your letter in reply to my telegram with reference to the Japanese camp at Tulalake.

The sending of the telegram was inspired by wild stories concerning the camp, which were circulated by word of mouth and through the press. Last week I took it upon myself with three other Redding business men to run down the rumors and investigate the camp. The enclosed clipping from the Record-Searchlight of October 24 is part of our story.

In time of war we are apt to forget, at moments, that we are a Democracy; a people with a form of government guarantying freedom to every citizen. Such freedom and associated rights are defined in our Constitution and laws. The necessities of war may curtail the freedom, but should not make us forget the rights.

I did not see a single Jap at Tulalake. I saw nearly fifteen thousand people of Japanese ancestry--the great majority American citizens. In twenty years or so the Japanese will be dead. The remainder will be American citizens of Japanese ancestry; loyal American citizens entitled to the freedom and rights of our Democracy.

The problem of Congress, and of California Congressmen in particular, is to see that these citizens are protected from hysteria founded on prejudice of war thinking.

WRA is doing a good job at Tulalake. The man in charge understands the problem and is administering it well.

Sincerely yours,

Wm. A. Quinlan

EXHIBIT 5

THE SHASTIA-CASCADE WONDERLAND ASSOCIATION

Redding, California

October 24, 1942

Mr. E. L. Shirrell, Camp Director
War Relocation Authority
Newell, California

Dear Mr. Shirrell:

Please accept on behalf of our Committee our very deep appreciation of the frankness and the fairness which you received our visit to your office yesterday. Much rumor going the rapid rounds here was creating a lot of unfavorable reaction in much of our territory, and our Association felt that we might be useful in getting at the bottom of things so appointed this committee to find out.

Mr. Quilan represented the Rotary Club, Mr. Shannon the Redding Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Bodenhamer the press and aside from our own organization I represented the local Defense Council as its chairman. There may be a few other committees under our sponsorship call on you, but all will have for their purpose helping you and straightening out the public mind a bit.

Aside from the report which we will render, I want you to know the reaction of the committee was very favorable to your work and the manner in which you were administering a hard job, with unpopular background. It was the unanimous feeling that we were rather proud of the fact that the ideals of our government were so well being carried out by you personally. You are between the necessary rigidity of the military and the softer humanitarian principles of every right thinking American and add the over-all fact that we are in the midst of the hates of war.

I think you need the help of an aggressive, sensible public relations man to cultivate a few flowers among the thorns of this district. Information and understanding are powerful factors in meeting the barrage of rumors.

Again please accept our thanks and best wishes and a willingness to help where we can.

Sincerely,

/s/ T. L. Stanley
General Manager

EXHIBIT 6

Two articles appearing in the Herald and News, Klamath Falls, clearly indicate the marked contrast in tone of articles inspired by rumors as compared with those based on fact-finding investigations. The article appearing in this paper on October 14, 1942 (See Exhibit 7 below) apparently based on rumors, directs attention to a number of conditions considered as being "grossly wrong" and in need of immediate investigation. A subsequent article appearing in this paper on October 28, 1942 (See Exhibit 8) and based on facts presented by an investigating committee states in part: "As far as members of this committee can ascertain the vast majority of rumors are unfounded and we recommend at this time that before any stories are repeated concerning the Japanese Relocation center the facts concerning these stories be fully determined and the stories investigated....."

It should be observed that Mr. Fred Heilbronner of Klamath Falls is prominently mentioned in both articles; one based on rumors, the other on findings of an investigating committee. (Also see Supplement 1, Complaint No. 10 in which Mr. Heilbronner wrote to Congressman Walter M. Pierce giving numerous complaints in detail. U. S. Senator Rufus C. Holman also received a similar letter from Mr. Heilbronner and turned it over to the War Relocation Authority requesting that a careful investigation be made.

Newell Jap Center Conditions Flayed; Japanese Charged With Duck Fishing

Heilbronner Notifies McNary Investiga- tion Needed

Conditions at the Japanese relocation center at Tulelake, subject of widespread current discussion in southern Oregon and northern California, have been called to the attention of California congressmen and senators by Senator Charles L. McNary, following receipt of a protest from this area, it was learned Wednesday.

Fred Heilbronner, prominent Klamath Falls man and grand chef de gare of the 40 et 8 in Oregon, has sent a letter to Senator McNary citing conditions he said are "grossly wrong and should be investigated immediately." In addition to Heilbronner's statement, the situation relating to freedom allegedly granted the Japanese colonists at Tulelake have been widely

discussed in this region in the past few weeks, and within the last week have been commented upon in the press of Siskiyou county.

Heilbronner at the outset asserted that the number of military police at the project is inadequate. He went on to charge that trucks from the Japanese settlement travel 40 to 45 miles an hour, "utterly disregarding the speed limits or tire conservation." These trucks, he asserted, are driven by Japanese drivers, "who thumb their hands to their noses at both citizens and military police."

The local man said the Japanese complain about the teaching facilities for their children, "yet the war relocation authority has supplied 96 teachers for them while our own schools are short-handed."

He asserted that while hams and bacon cannot be bought in this community, they are shipped in by the truckload to the

Japanese colony. The project, he said, is consuming more than 1500 gallons of milk per day "while we are going to be rationed in the near future."

Heilbronner told Senator McNary and other Oregon congressmen and senators that 50,000 tons of coal are being shipped to the Tule lake project and that many cars are not unloaded in time and demurrage paid because the colonists "are too lazy to work and are not compelled to."

The Klamath man called attention to the fact that many of the white citizens on Tule lake are war veterans whose sons are in the present war. "How do you think they feel about it?" he asked. He asserted that Japanese at the project are "treated better than Uncle Sam's own citizen" and said "it is time to call a halt and investigate."

The Dunsmuir (Siskiyou county) News and the Siskiyou Daily News of Yreka in recent editions contained articles criticizing the freedom granted Japanese evacuees at the Newell settlement.

W. I. Humphreys, writing in the Dunsmuir paper, said that "by the statement of the civilians in charge . . . inmates of the camp are permitted to travel at will in the whole valley if cleared by authorities at the camp."

The Yreka paper editorially criticized what it described as "coddling" the Japanese.

California Game Chief Charges Violation Of Federal Laws

SACRAMENTO, Oct. 14 (AP)—Japanese held in the Tule lake internment center have illegally caught ducks and geese by using baited fish-hooks, according to George Miller, executive secretary of the California fish and game commission.

Miller said the commission has been informed several flagrant violations of the federal wildlife laws have been recorded at the huge internment settlement and that "at least four" persons may be prosecuted in federal court here.

However, Assistant U. S. District Attorney Emmet Seawell said no complaints have been filed here yet.

Japanese have also devised ingenious snares to capture pheas-

ants in the colony, Miller said the commission was told.

Hundreds of thousands of ducks and geese have blanketed the vast tule marshes around the internment center, Miller said after a recent visit there.

Some Japanese, in violation of federal game laws, have baited fish-hooks and captured ducks and geese on set-lines, Miller said he was told.

Although their quarters do not include regular cooking provisions, the Japanese have managed to cook the birds on heating stoves, Miller said.

"Word Gets Around"

State game officials, anxious to protect the game birds from unsportsmanlike and out-of-season hunting, have been unable to help prevent the Japanese depredations, Miller said, because the project is federally controlled and the violations are federal in nature.

Miller said WRA authorities have asked state game wardens to help with the problem but a military pass is required to place an agent in the center and "the word gets around as soon as a game officer obtains a pass and enters the area."

Herald and News
Klamath Falls, Ore.
October 14, 1942

EXHIBIT - 7

Partial Report Made on Chamber Probe Of Condition at WRA Tule Lake Center

Partial report of an investigation being made of the WRA project at Tule lake was filed with the Klamath chamber of commerce board of directors Wednesday and approved by the board.

In it, the chamber committee made no final conclusions, but reported findings made so far and advised against idle rumors. Any report of mismanagement or other such matters should be given to the proper authorities, the committee said. Rudy Jacobs is chairman of the committee and Fred Heilbronner is director in charge.

Herewith is the report in full: "On Thursday afternoon, October 22, 1942, Chairman Rudy Jacobs, Director in Charge Fred Heilbronner, Don Kenyon and Earl C. Reynolds visited the Tule lake project of the War Relocation authority. In submitting the following report, the committee wishes to emphasize that the re-

port is not final and is still subject to revision and open to additional study and information.

"The committee met with Elmer L. Shirrell, project director, and after briefly explaining the project to members of the committee, Mr. Shirrell answered questions put to him by the various members. The party was later conducted through the project by a Japanese resident.

"As far as members of the committee can ascertain the vast majority of rumors are unfounded and we recommend at this time that before any stories are repeated concerning the Japanese Relocation center the facts concerning these stories be fully determined and the stories investigated. It is our belief that no good can come from idle rumors or gossip and we further believe that if there is any mismanagement or any acts being committed that are not for the general welfare these cases

should be reported to the proper authorities only after, and we repeat, the facts have been ascertained.

"We further feel that lack of knowledge concerning the set-up of the Tulelake project has been the cause of many rumors. If the members of the board of directors will picture in their own minds that portion of the project upon which is located the residences, stores, administration buildings and soldiers' barracks and hereafter called the "Center" and then picture that portion of Modoc county surrounding this Center and including the farm and the contiguous territory between the Center and the farm and this portion of land hereafter to be called the "Area," it will help to clarify the situation. It was the privilege of the committee to have read to it the orders from General DeWitt's headquarters, stat-

ing that this project was not an evacuation camp, an internment camp or an internment center, but rather a Relocation project. Within the Center Japanese residents are allowed freedom at all times, and between sunset and sunrise this Area is patrolled by the troops stationed there. This patrolling is done by vehicles and by the aid of seven towers equipped with powerful searchlights. No Japanese resident is allowed to leave this Center between sunset and sunrise. Between the hours of sunrise and sunset Japanese residents are allowed the freedom of the Area, and the boundaries of the Area are then patrolled by the troops stationed there. While Japanese residents are allowed to cross the highway at the main gate and also to cross over the Southern Pacific railroad tracks directly across from the main gate in order to reach the hog farm, poultry farm and vegetable farm, they are not allowed to walk up and down the highway

or the railroad tracks. At the present time trucks going from the Center to the various farm units must use the highway for a considerable distance. However, there is under construction a private road leading from the vegetable farm east directly to the Southern Pacific tracks. We have been advised by Southern Pacific officials that a right-of-way has been obtained adjacent to the Southern Pacific tracks and opposite the regular highway for a road which would eliminate the use of the highway by trucks driven by Japanese to a great extent except for trucks crossing the highway right at the main gate.

"We inquired as to the rumors with reference to the Japanese "roaming the countryside." Mr. Shirrell informed us that one Caucasian guard had on three different occasions signed that he was accompanying parties of Japanese to various points outside of the Area—one of them being to Medicine lake and one to a nursery northeast of Tulelake. However, on these three occasions this guard did not accompany the Japanese and, therefore, there was fact for the stories that the Japanese were outside of the Area unescorted. This guard has now been dismissed from the services of the War Relocation authority, and we have been further informed by an officer of General DeWitt's staff that these facts are true.

"Mr. Shirrell stated that the salary of teachers in the Elementary school was \$1660, in the high school \$2000 and the salary for the head of the schools was \$2600—these salaries all being based on a twelve-month basis with a 2½ day a month leave. The teachers are all under Civil Service. Mr. Shirrell stated that the enrollment in the high school was 2200 and in the elementary school 1500. We failed to obtain the number of teachers and, after our return, the criticism of a

Partial Report Made on Chamber Probe of Center

light teacher load was expressed. This cannot be determined until after we have found out the number of teachers in the system. The teachers are living in quarters which were first in-

tended for the armed forces but were not used by them and have been converted into teachers' quarters. Mr. Shirrell further reported that only one teacher was teaching in the Relocation Center who in 1941-1942 taught in the state of Oregon, and she was from Eugene, Ore.

"Mr. Shirrell advised us that they were experiencing the same food shortages at the Center as civilians were experiencing. Residents at the Center are fed by the Quartermasters department at Sacramento and are on army rations of 45c a day maximum; for instance their meat ration was 2 1/2 pounds per person a week. They have three fish days a week and consume approximately 18,000 pounds of fish per week.

"Mr. Shirrell advised us that there were 14,475 residents at the Center and that approximately 66 2/3 per cent of them were American citizens. 65,000 of these men and women are on the payroll. The pay for common labor is \$12 per month, for semi-skilled \$16 per month and for professional such as doctors, dentists, attorneys, teachers, \$19 per month. There is a clothing allowance of \$2.25 for children, \$3.25 for women and \$3.75 per month for men. Mr. Shirrell said that he had no authority to force any one of these residents to work and, under the International law, could not produce food nor products of any kind for the armed forces of the United States. Likewise he could not force them to work under the same law. Mr. Shirrell admits that labor troubles are many, a great portion of which is through lack of understanding and lack of proper facilities and conditions for the laborers. In fur-

ther investigating the matter of so-called strikes at the Center we asked an officer of the United States army from General DeWitt's office concerning them and his answer was, "Well, isn't that a good American custom?"

"We found that the army is now inspecting all incoming parcel post, express and freight shipments. However, first class mail, incoming or outgoing at the Center, is not censored unless censored at its source; for example foreign mail.

"In visiting the mess halls we found the quarters and personnel clean and were given to understand by our guide that there was ample food and that second helpings were served when requested. Our guide further explained that the older people in the Center desired fish, therefore the three fish days per week. This did not fully meet with the

younger members' approval at the Center. However, inasmuch as they desired meat, there was apparently no evidence of dissension over this matter.

"We visited one of the common enterprise stores operated by the Japanese themselves and found a variety of goods offered for sale. The store was located in one of the buildings which was intended for a barracks and seemed rather busy. However, we were informed by the buyer that he could not purchase any gum, candy bars or coca cola, and we saw no evidence of any of these products though there were other types of carbonated drinks and some ice cream bars.

"In discussing the sale of produce Mr. Shirrell advised that insofar as practical this produce was being shipped to other project centers, but that there was a surplus of some of the produce and this was being sold on the open market. Mr. Shirrell was not too familiar with the sale of this produce inasmuch as it is handled from the San Francisco office. He did state, however, that they were receiving \$1 per hundred weight field run for potatoes that had been dug, picked

up and bucked out to the edge of the field. The purchaser was picking them up at the edge of the field and shipping them to Healdsburg, Calif., where they had a lend-lease government contract.

"As stated at the beginning, we have no definite recommendations to make at this time, although we believe that if a large sign were placed at the outskirts of the Area, calling attention to civilians that they were now entering the Area, this would be of assistance. We also suggest that a more rigid inspection of people entering and leaving the Center be carried out and that a closer check be made upon Caucasians who enter the Center to determine whether or not they are privileged to go, unescorted, throughout the Area.

Respectfully submitted,
NATIONAL DEFENSE COM-
MITTEE.

Rudy Jacobs, Chairman,
Fred Heilbronner, Director in
Charge,
Don Kenyon,
C. Reeves,
Earl C. Reynolds.

EXHIBIT -8

Page - 2

A careful reading of Complaints Nos. 1, 2 and 3, Supplement 1, which are articles written in the Tule Lake Reporter and Complaint No. 10, Supplement 1, which is a letter from Fred Hielbrunner of Klamath Falls, to Congressman Walter M. Pierce, will show that both of these parties have been prominently identified with circulating information severely critical of the Japanese evacuees and the management of the Tule Lake Project. This investigator had a personal interview with Mr. Hielbrunner and with Mrs. Sarah Welch, news editor of the Tule Lake Reporter. In each case the criticisms which had been made were checked over point by point and in not a single instance did either of these persons have any first hand knowledge of any of the conditions about which they complained. All of their information was hearsay and in few cases could they even indicate who had given them their information so that a further check could be made.

EVACUEES OUTSIDE THE PROJECT BOUNDARIES WITHOUT
PERMIT OR WHITE ESCORT

(See Summary of Complaints 1 and Supplement 1)

The complaint which has occurred most frequently is that evacuees have been riding in Government cars outside of the project boundaries without a white escort. Consequently more time was devoted to establishing the facts on this subject than on any other single question. Only six cases could be found where persons definitely stated that they had seen with their own eyes evacuees outside of the Project Area unescorted. Many other persons said that they knew that such cases were occurring but that they had gotten this information from someone else.

Conditions Which Have Led to Misunderstandings

There are a number of conditions which have no doubt contributed to the confusion and misunderstandings on the part of the people living in the vicinity of the Tule Lake Project Area.

The Project Center and the Project Area

Many people apparently do not realize that in addition to the Project Center, which includes the area containing the buildings, there is a considerably larger area which surrounds the Center and which is a part of the War Relocation Project Area. For example, a hill which rises east of the Center is within the Project Area. Evacuees are permitted to climb this hill during daylight hours without permit and unescorted. The evacuees in large numbers hike on this hill on Saturday afternoons and Sundays. A number of people have complained about this apparently believing that the evacuees in so doing are entirely outside of the Project Area.

Evacuees in Klamath Falls on Way to Project Area

Klamath Falls is the passenger railhead for this Project and all Japanese coming to or from this Project must use this railhead. When the evacuees are taken to or from this station they are accompanied by a Caucasian escort. However, a number of evacuees have been sent to the Tule Lake Project from internment camps at Santa Fe, New Mexico; Missoula, Montana; Bismarck, North Dakota; and Sharp Point, California; and such persons have been seen in Klamath Falls without guard. Due to the present irregularity in train service, on numerous occasions such evacuees have arrived in Klamath Falls before the authorities at the Tule Lake Project have been given notice of their arrival. Consequently such persons may have been in and around the station without guard for a period of from one to two hours.

Evacuees in Tule Lake and Klamath Falls for Special Purposes

Although it is not a common practice to take evacuees to Tule Lake or Klamath Falls, it is necessary to do this occasionally. For example, Dr. Carson who is in charge of the Project hospital has found it necessary to take several of his evacuee patients to Klamath Falls for special treatment which could not be provided on the Project. On occasion it has been necessary to take evacuees to unload heavy equipment which has arrived by flat car at the Tule Lake freight station because there is no unloading platform at the Project suitable for handling heavy equipment. In all such cases permits are issued to the evacuees and a Caucasian accompanies them. However, it is possible that persons may have seen evacuees on the streets of Tule Lake or Klamath Falls and not been aware of the fact that they were accompanied by a Caucasian.

Road Layout

Extensive farming operations have been carried on throughout the summer months and are continuing at the present time. This farm area is entirely within the Project boundaries. However, in order to reach this farm area it is necessary to drive from the Project Center about 4½ miles in a northerly direction along the paved county highway which runs from Alturas to Klamath Falls. This road is extensively traveled by the public who have no connection with the Tule Lake Project. Hundreds of such people have no doubt seen Japanese in Government-owned trucks driving along this highway to and from the farm and, although such evacuees are within the Project boundaries, such passers-by might well conclude that they are outside of the Project boundaries unescorted.

Example of How False Rumors Get Started

L. L. Low, Sheriff of Klamath County, Oregon, stated that on the 29th day of October he was returning with three companions to Klamath Falls after an extensive trip. On the way from Lakeview he encountered 14 Government-owned trucks stopped along the roadside headed toward Klamath Falls. Around many of these trucks were Japanese. Mr. Low slowed down to more closely observe the situation but did not come to a full stop, nor did he question the Japanese. He stated that he looked very closely and saw no Caucasians and, therefore, concluded that these Japanese were many miles from the Tule Lake Project Area unescorted.

A check with the management of the Tule Lake Project showed that on the 29th day of October 16 Government-owned trucks were on their way from Missoula, Montana, to the Tule Lake Project. These trucks were being turned over to the Tule Lake Project by the U. S. Forest Service Depot at Missoula. Japanese drivers were taken to Montana in passenger

cars by Mr. Gifford and Mr. Sloan of W.R.A. to drive the trucks back to the Project. These two men reported that throughout the entire return trip they were with the Japanese, one driving the leading truck and the other driving the truck bringing up the rear. There is little doubt that the trucks which Sheriff Low saw were those in the caravan coming from Montana and that he failed to see the two Caucasian guards.

Known Cases of Evacuees Being Outside the Project Area

The following six cases are the only instances that could be found where there is definite evidence that evacuees have been outside the Project area without a permit or a Caucasian escort. The first three of these cases discussed below are the result of the negligence of one W.R.A. employee whose connection with the Tule Lake Project has been severed.

Trip to Medicine Lake

During the latter part of August, a W.R.A. employee secured a permit for several evacuees to take a truck to get rock to be used for landscaping at the Project. When the permit was issued it was expected that this employee would accompany these Japanese outside the Project boundaries. However, he failed to do so and the Japanese drove considerable distance to Medicine Lake in the Modoc National Forest. They said they had gotten lost. (See Supplement 1, Complaints No. 14 and 15)

Trip to Moeller's Nursery

About the end of July, the same W.R.A. employee referred to above secured a permit for Japanese to take two trucks to Moeller's Nursery located on the main highway just east of Klamath Falls. As before, this employee failed to accompany these evacuees as he had been instructed to do. All the evidence indicates that the Japanese went to and from Moeller's Nursery a total distance of about 72 miles along the Klamath to Alturas highway. Investigation revealed that Officer Lowry of the Oregon State Police saw two Government-owned trucks stopped along the highway about this date with Japanese standing beside the trucks drinking bottles of beer. It further revealed that Mrs. Nellie Robinson and Marie Bolton of Robinsons' Market, which is located on this highway a short distance from Moeller's Nursery, sold bottles of beer to Japanese evacuees at this store at this time. This situation was also checked with Mr. Moeller of the Moeller Nursery. The evidence is all but conclusive that the reports of Mr. Moeller, Mrs. Robinson, Miss Bolton and Officer Lowry that they saw Japanese outside of the Project unescorted are all the same case.

Trip to Ice Cream Parlor in Tule Lake

The third violation of regulations by this W.R.A. employee occurred when he picked up two evacuees when he was driving to Tule Lake and treated them to ice cream at an ice cream parlor. When he picked up the evacuees they were inside the Project boundaries and when they arrived in Tule Lake they were only a short distance outside of these boundaries. This is a case where the evacuees did not have a permit to leave the area, but does not involve the question of an escort because a Caucasian was with them at all times. When questioned regarding this situation, this employee explained that the day was hot and he simply forgot about the necessity of securing a permit.

Hike Near Horse Mountain

Captain Patterson, in charge of Military Police guarding the Tule Lake Project Area, stated that on November 3 a Corporal on patrol duty brought him a note which he had found in a crevice of a rock a short distance east of the Project boundary. The note read as follows: "8/18/42 - Time: 3:40--weather good, nice breeze - 7147 Apartment A. Please bring bottle and this note." Captain Patterson on the same day went with the Corporal to investigate the spot where this note was found. As they crossed over the east boundary they saw a number of Japanese in the distance walking toward the boundary. They circled around a hill and intercepted these Japanese, about 10 in number, just as they were about to cross the boundary of the Project Area. When questioned about what they had been doing, they just said that they had been taking a little walk.

Hike in Vicinity of Petroglyphs

Captain Patterson said that some time the latter part of September approximately 40 evacuees were found by Military Police on patrol hiking about one mile outside of the Project boundary in the neighborhood of the petroglyphs west of the Project. While there is no question that these evacuees were outside the Project without a white escort, there is some question as to whether the evacuees were aware of the fact. The terrain is rough in this locality and the signs marking the boundary are a considerable distance apart.

Trip in Truck to Tule Lake

Mr. F. L. Connor reported that about the 23rd of October he was driving about 2:00 in the afternoon north of the highway from the Project Center to Tule Lake and came upon two Japanese evacuees in a truck. There was no Caucasian guard with these Japanese. Mr. Connor followed them until they stopped in Tule Lake and then drove on. Tule Lake is outside of the Project boundaries.

Possibility of Other Cases

Mr. Schaeffer of San Francisco reported to Major Moffitt that "in a trap shoot they had up there a week ago Sunday a mile from the camp, the Japanese were so thick they had to hold up their shooting until they got them out of the way." An inspection of the trap-shooting grounds revealed that they were within the Project Area. Therefore, in all likelihood, the Japanese watching the trap shoot were within the boundaries. This trap-shooting area has been used for many years, but the owners were told after this shoot that they could not use the area as long as the Tule Lake Project is active.

There probably are additional cases where evacuees have either hiked outside or driven cars outside of the Project Area. However, it does not appear likely that such cases have been frequent.

Mr. J. W. Kirby, General Manager of the California-Oregon Telephone Company, who lives in Klamath Falls, stated that his company has been installing telephone equipment at the project since the early stages of construction last May. In this connection, he estimates that he has driven on the highway from Klamath Falls to the Project Center during this period at least 50 times. During these trips he did not believe that at any time he saw Japanese driving cars outside of the Project boundaries without a Caucasian escort.

Sergeant Tichenor, in charge of the Klamath Falls station of the Oregon State Police, has six officers under his direction. Some of these officers regularly patrol the highway between Klamath Falls and the Project Center, particularly that portion of the highway extending for several miles east and south of Klamath Falls. About 60 days ago Sergeant Tichenor stated that he had instructed his men that if they found any Japanese evacuees outside of the Project boundaries unescorted they were to take them into custody and put them in jail. He further stated that it would be very difficult for evacuees to drive this stretch of highway unescorted without its being apparent to the officers on patrol. To date no evacuees have been encountered unescorted.

Captain Patterson stated that at no time had any of his men who regularly patrol outside the boundaries of the Project Area reported any evacuees hiking at a distance of more than $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles outside of the Project boundary.

DISORDERLY CONDUCT OF JAPANESE EVACUEES

(See Summary of Complaints 2 and Supplement 1)

Speeding

The four and one-half mile stretch of highway leading from the Project Center north to the turn off the Project Farm is regularly patrolled by Military Police cars. The speed limit has been set by the Military Police at 30 miles per hour. Several evacuees driving in

Government-owned cars over this stretch have been cited by the Military Police for exceeding the 30-mile speed limit. About six citations have been given to evacuees and the highest rate of speed has been 42 miles per hour. In each case of speeding the W.R.A. has taken the right to drive away from the evacuee.

Causing Damage to Civilian Cars

The editor of the Tulalake Reporter was asked if she could verify her claim that Japanese evacuees were purposely stopping trucks abruptly on the high in order to cause trailing autos to crash into the rear end of the trucks. The editor had no personal knowledge of this and could only refer me to a grain buyer named Mr. Luther. Two attempts to contact Mr. Luther at his office in Tulalake were unsuccessful.

Painting Names on Cliff

Inspection revealed that a Japanese boy of high school age, named Tommy Takiji Kitagawa, who with others had been assigned to put up boundary markers, painted in large letters with yellow paint the following on a cliff: "Al," "Tami K." and "Miki." The point where these names were painted is within the Project boundary and not, as indicated in the complaint, at a point near the petroglyphs which is about one mile outside of the Project boundary. At the point where the painting was done, visitors over a long period of years have carved their names and initials in the soft rock. One of these names carries the date 1901. It seems apparent that the Japanese boy, in using the paint which he was using for stencilling in connection with erecting signs, was simply attempting to "go one better" than Caucasians who had placed their name on the cliff over the past year. The Project Director has given orders for Tommy Kitagawa to remove the paint.

Defying Military Police

No evidence could be found that Japanese evacuees have defied the Military Police, as claimed.

Thumbing Noses at Local Citizens

No evidence could be found that Japanese evacuees have thumbed their noses at citizens and Military Police, as claimed.

ILLEGAL FISHING AND HUNTING--GAME REFUGE HEARING

(See Summary of Complaints 3 and Supplement 1)

Several complaints have been made that the Japanese evacuees have participated in illegal hunting and fishing. The Tule Lake Project has a record of eight cases where Japanese evacuees have been apprehended and the evidence indicated that they have broken fishing and hunting laws. However, these cases are scheduled for Federal Court, which has not yet convened in this area; and, therefore, it can not be definitely determined whether they are guilty. The cases on record are as follows:

Case No. 28

October 3, 1942. Mr. Worcester and Mr. Fairchild of Federal Game Reserve apprehended:

Martin Natsuhara, Hiroshi Sagara,
Yasukichi Natsuhara, and George Kawaye

These men had game in their possession. The number of birds in their possession is unknown.

Case No. 33

October 17, 1942. Mr. Cliff Kallam, Farm Superintendent, found the following men preparing to barbecue two geese:

Riichi Okamoto, Seizo Harada, Shugoro Suzuki, Rikichi
Uno, Bunji Mayeda, Kuraso Furuta, Bunkichi Matsumoto,
Shunji Tanabe, and Kuwaichi Otani

Case No. 34

October 18, 1942. Kichihei Yamamoto brought to Project Center from Farm by Federal Game Commission. He had in his possession three ducks and four geese when apprehended.

Case No. 35

Masasuke Fujikatsu brought to Project by Federal Game Commission for fishing at the Farm.

Case No. 38

On October 16, 1942, agents William Tirre and Aubrey Goodwin apprehended Kenichi Kato who had in his possession two white-fronted geese and one pin-tail duck.

Case No. 39

On October 16, 1942, Masuyuki Horiuchi, 1715-D, apprehended by Deputy U. S. Game Management Agents, William Tirre and Aubrey Goodwin, for fishing in canal between pumps 5 and 6.

Case No. 40

October 27, 1942. Military Police Patrol apprehended Tetsuo Mizutani who had two geese and one duck in his possession at the farm.

Case No. 41

October 27, 1942. Military Police Patrol apprehended Chiyokichi Endo with a goose in his possession.

Mr. W. I. Humphreys, Executive Secretary, Northern Council of Conservation Clubs, in his memorandum of October 5 to Lieutenant General John L. DeWitt (See Complaint No. 11), said, "Mr. Hugh Worcester, Chief Enforcement Officer of Fish and Wildlife Service, entered the camp and arrested Japanese for violation of Federal game laws. He was reproached by the civilian manager for doing his duty."

The statement that those in charge of the Tule Lake Project are not cooperating with the game wardens is untrue. As a matter of fact, in most of the cases above, the apparent violation of fish and game laws was discovered first by W.R.A. personnel, and they were the ones who turned the evacuees over to the law-enforcement officers.

CONTRABAND

(See Summary of Complaints 4 and Supplement 1)

There is considerable disagreement between WRA officials in charge of the Tule Lake Project and the Military Police guarding this Project as to what is contraband. It is agreed that contraband includes fire arms, cameras, liquor, and short-wave radios. The disagreement occurs over the question, "What is a dangerous weapon?" A memorandum dated September 13, written by Lieutenant General John L. DeWitt, Western Defense Command and Fourth Army, to the Commanding General, Communications Zone, Subject: Parcel Inspection at certain War Relocation Projects, describes what is contraband and what is not. However, there is disagreement as to the interpretation of this memorandum.

For example: The Military Police, on the 27th of October, came across a double-edge knife about seven inches long, while inspecting incoming packages. This knife was sent from Montgomery War to Frank Nakaoki, 3316-C. The Military Police took this knife on the grounds that it was a dangerous weapon and that it was not a tool or implement of an artisan or professional person. The knife was turned over to the Division of Internal Security of W.R.A. Mr. T. R. Lewis of the Division of Internal Security, upon investigation, found that Mr. Nakaoki had ordered the knife to use in cutting up fish and that this was a type of knife commonly used for this purpose. Thereupon he released the knife to Mr. Nakaoki. The Military Police have objected to the turning over of this knife. Prior to November 2, the W.R.A. officials at Tule Lake had not received a copy of the memorandum of September 13, referred to above, which specifically states that no articles which have been held by the Military Police shall "be delivered to a center resident without the express permission of this headquarters." The fish knife had been returned before receiving this memorandum. Tule Lake Project officials say that they will abide by this memorandum from now on.

A search of the contraband register indicated that Military Police had also held up the delivery of an RCA radio manual and some radio condensers.

There is no question that there are a considerable number of axes, hatchets, and knives in the hands of evacuees on the Project. No one knows how many there are. The W.R.A. officials believe that there are no more such articles than would be normally expected as regular household or professional tools among this group, and they do not believe that they constitute any unusually dangerous threat to life or property. On the other hand, the Military Police feel that they do constitute a danger, and they are desirous of determining the number of such articles in the hands of evacuees. It appears that this involves a question of policy and that the proper authorities should clarify this situation.

CHARGES OF WASTE

(See Summary of Complaints 5 and Supplement 1)

A number of complaints are to the effect that the W.R.A. management at Tule Lake is wasteful of automobile tires, gasoline, food, lumber, and other products. It is difficult to determine whether such complaints are well founded, although it seems clear that such complaints, if true at all, are exaggerated.

Automotive Equipment

In the case of automotive equipment, gas, and tires, it may be that there was more driving than necessary during the first few weeks after the Project had been started. However, it must be borne in mind that there was and still is a great deal of building and farming taking place which involves the moving of large quantities of materials.

The Project has had a shortage of automotive equipment which has necessitated trucks, tractors, and autos working long hours. The management of the Project is making strenuous efforts to reduce the use of equipment to a minimum compatible with the effective carrying on of its program.

Food and Ice

Charges have been made that large amounts of food have been wasted. One specific charge is that a large quantity of weiners were thrown in the garbage unused. There was a shipment of weiners which were spoiled when they reached the Project, and these had to be discarded. Due to the condition of the meat, the W.R.A. did not pay for it. It is unlikely that gross waste of food is taking place inasmuch as the evacuees are being fed on a food budget of 45 cents per day per capita.

The charge has been made that a carload of ice was allowed to stand on the track so long that most of it melted. Many cars of perishable agricultural produce were produced, packed, and shipped from this Project this summer and early fall. Ice was necessary to pack these products. Care has been exercised to carefully gauge the arrival of ice to reach the Project at the time agricultural produce is ready for packing; and, in some cases, packing had to await the arrival of ice. There is no evidence that the management has been negligent in the handling of this situation.

Lumber

One local citizen complained of the amount of scrap lumber, left over from the building of the Center, which was burned. He contended that this was wasteful and that this lumber could have either been used on the Project or by citizens in the surrounding area. Investigation showed that considerable scrap lumber was burned by the contractors who built the camp for the Army but that little or no scrap lumber has been burned since the W.R. A. took charge of the Project. Scrap lumber is highly prized by the evacuees to make improvements to their residences, and there is no evidence that any is being wasted.

COMPLAINTS THAT EVACUEES ENJOY SPECIAL FOOD PRIVILEGES

(See Summary of Complaints 6 and Supplement 1)

Numerous complaints are being made that the Japanese evacuees are given choice cuts of beef, ham, and bacon, large quantities of milk, coca cola, popsicles, and buttermilk while the amounts of these products that can be obtained by citizens for many miles from the Center are either limited or cannot be obtained at all. It is the general feeling in this area that the shortages, real or fancied, are caused by the Project. This complaint is not only widespread but is the source of much bitter feeling.

Little Food Bought in Local Markets

There is little or no evidence to support the contention that the Tule Lake Relocation Center has affected the amount of food available for consumption in the area outside of the Project. Very little of the food is bought in local markets as most of it is bought in San Francisco and Portland. Suggested menus for the Project must be in the hands of the Regional Office of WRA 45 days in advance. These menus are handled through the Quartermaster Corps of the Army. Due to this advance buying, it is true that there is some ham and bacon still in storage at the Center, but the amount of this is very limited and that which is on hand is being used very sparingly. On the other hand, an interview with a Safeway Store clerk in Klamath Falls revealed the fact that it is possible to get ham and bacon although in limited quantities.

Rationing

Mr. Mortimer Cooke, who is in charge of the Commissary, stated that the Project has no advantages, in purchasing scarce food products, over local citizens. The evacuees are subject to the same restrictions and rationing as anyone else.

No Fancy Foods

The complaints regarding the evacuees enjoying fancy foods such as high-priced cuts of meat, are unsubstantiated. Meat is not purchased by single cuts. Entire carcasses are purchased, thus cuts of meat range all the way from the choicest to the poorest. The fact that the evacuees are being fed for 45 cents per day precludes the possibility that much fancy food is being served. Though no proof could be found, there is some evidence to indicate that clerks in food stores in Klamath Falls have blamed the "Jap Camp" for shortages when they have found it necessary to limit purchases of regular customers.

Coca Cola

No Coca Cola has been delivered to the Center since July. The impression that people have that the Project can get Coca Cola, while they cannot, may arise from the fact that they see the Coca Cola auto turn into the Project from time to time. These deliveries are being made to the Military Police for use in their Canteen and not for the use of the evacuees. The Project does not enjoy any special privileges in its purchasing of Coca Cola, popsicles, soda pop, or ice cream.

Milk Supply

The milk supply is obtained from the Lost River Dairy. Due to outside criticism, the Project offered to curtail its consumption of milk, but the manager of the dairy complained saying that he had contracted with other dairy men for the milk and that substantial curtailment would put him out of business. He said there was no shortage of milk in the area.

CLAIM SHORTAGE OF TEACHERS CAUSED BY PROJECT

(See Summary of Complaints 7 and Supplement 1)

The complaint is widespread that the Project has hired a large number of Oregon teachers by offering larger than prevailing salaries and thus has caused a shortage of teachers in this State. A careful check of the record of every teacher at the Center was made. This showed that there are only two teachers now at the Project who taught in Oregon schools last year. Most of the teachers come from California and the Middle West. No recruiting of teachers is taking place in Oregon. The scale of salaries and all other requirements are in keeping with the standards set up by the Department of Education of the State of California.

The project is now short nine elementary teachers and 20 high school teachers. Classes are considerably larger than the 40 pupils per class which is considered standard.

DEMURRAGE

(See Summary of Complaints 8 and Supplement 1)

It is true that some freight cars have been left on the siding for several days waiting to be unloaded. No demurrage charges have been made against the Tule Lake Project so far. The only time that demurrage charges have been incurred has been in the past month, and this has been due to a combination of circumstances which appear to be beyond the control of the W.R.A. The Project has never received

the full quota of automotive equipment that had been planned for it. During the past month freight traffic to and from the Center has been exceedingly heavy due to the fact that large shipments of lumber, sheetrock, and other insulating and building materials, as well as large shipments of coal arrived while other large shipments of farm produce were being sent from the Center. At the height of these shipments, 44 trucks on loan from the CCC were taken away from the Project by the U. S. Army. Inasmuch as the remaining trucks were needed for hauling farm products, garbage, lumber and other products, as well as unloading freight, an acute shortage occurred. Trucks were forced to work 18 to 20 hours per day.

Another contributing factor was the fact that the Project could not get a switch engine from the Southern Pacific Company to move cars to proper unloading spots. As a switch engine was requested in writing from this Company and, since the lack of this engine contributed largely to the delay in unloading freight cars, the Project Director believes that the W.R.A. has a legitimate claim against any large demurrage charges. In any event, it does not appear that these charges will be unreasonable when all circumstances are considered.

SITDOWN STRIKES

(See Summary of Complaints 9 and Supplement 1)

Several complaints have been made that the Japanese are lazy, unpatriotic, and frequently go on strike. It is true that there have been a number of strikes. Most of these can be traced to difficult policy questions regarding compensation for work and working conditions. One of the chief complaints on the part of the Japanese is that the rate of pay is not only comparatively low but that they do not receive their pay promptly. Payments to the evacuees for their work are now delayed from four to eight weeks, although there are good prospects that this situation will improve in the near future. Some of the Japanese have little or no money on hand and are actually in need of such essentials as clothing. Ernest Rhoads, Chief of Division of Fire Control, stated that about 20 of his firemen were in need of shoes and that some of them are practically barefoot. In view of the fact that the temperature has already gone as low as eight degrees, this is a serious situation.

MILITARY DRILLING BY THE EVACUEES

The charge has been made that the evacuees participate in military drills. There is no evidence to substantiate this claim or that the evacuees are participating in any other war-like practice.

SPECIAL CAUSES OF ANTAGONISM

It is perhaps more or less natural for Caucasian citizens to be antagonistic toward the Japanese evacuees, due to our experiences at Pearl Harbor and atrocity stories involving the Japanese that are widely circulated. However, there are several special circumstances connected with the Tule Lake Relocation Area that accentuate these antagonisms.

The Tule Lake Project is situated on land which is being developed and settled by the Bureau of Reclamation. The settlers now on the Project are World War veterans. Not only did these men fight in World War I, but many of them have sons fighting in the military service of the country at the present time. Under these circumstances, it is natural that some are particularly prejudiced against the Japanese.

A number of these veterans, as well as other people living in this vicinity, had leased land from the Bureau of Reclamation for farming purposes over a period of several years. These were valuable leases and often required considerable capital and equipment for carrying on farming operations. Due to the urgency of establishing the Tule Lake Project as quickly as possible, the Army cancelled these leases without giving the leasees any warning. Not only is this true, but several of these men complain that they have never received any official word on this subject or any remuneration for damages suffered. One such person made a trip from Tule Lake to the Regional Office of the War Relocation Authority in San Francisco to see if he could get some "action." In planning for his 1942 farming program of his leased land, he had borrowed \$3,000 at a local bank and had used some of this money for buying seed and equipment. When the leased land was taken away from him he had no place to use these and, therefore, cannot avoid a financial loss unless the Federal Government pays him damages. He feels very much abused, particularly because he is still paying interest on the borrowed money and yet can get no information as to what redress, if any, he can expect from the Government.

For many years this area has been an important game refuge. It is the natural feeding ground of ducks and geese on their annual flights from Canada to Mexico and return. It is one of the most important fly-ways in the United States, and it is estimated that there is an average of around 150,000 to 200,000 geese and 500,000 ducks that use this feeding ground annually. Hunters, during the hunting season, come into this area by the thousands and local people in the area look forward to hunting season with keen anticipation. The Tule Lake Project is located near the center of this hunting area, and it can readily be understood to what extent it interferes with the hunting practices of thousands of individuals which

have been established over the years. There is no question that this is the source of considerable ill feeling against the entire Project and the War Relocation Authority program.

Many merchants throughout this area have sold products valued at many thousands of dollars to the War Relocation Authority for use at the Tule Lake Project. This includes a wide range of products such as food, general merchandise, farm implements, and seed. Many of these merchants have received little or no payment for products and service rendered and some of these unpaid bills date back as far as five months. In some cases, these merchants have been placed in very embarrassing financial positions because they did not have sufficient capital to carry this account. Some have found it necessary to seek outside financing and are paying high interest rates. In an effort to get paid, some have incurred considerable extra expense; for example, one merchant who made three trips to the War Relocation Authority Regional Office in San Francisco.

This investigator talked to several merchants who have not been paid. Mr. Earl Ager of Earl's Market at Tule Lake has delivered \$12,170 worth of products to the Tule Lake Project and, so far, has only received \$36 on this account. He is one of those who has had to borrow money at interest and was extremely critical, to say the least, of the War Relocation Authority. No amount of explaining that it was a complicated and time-consuming job to set up a new set of books for a large newly-created Federal agency could pacify him, nor did it do any good to explain that the War Relocation Authority does not actually pay out the money. He repeated over and over again that Elmer Shirrell, Project Director, is the one that bought his merchandise, and he must be held responsible for the delay. He stated further if he didn't get his money soon he would take some drastic action.

As previously stated in this report, some of the early delays in payment are traceable directly to difficulties encountered by the W.R.A. in handling these early accounts. On the other hand, W.R.A. is only partially responsible because considerable delay has resulted after accounts which have been approved have been turned over to O.E.M.

EXAMPLES OF ANTAGONISM

Three examples can be cited to indicate the extent of the antagonistic attitude of local people.

Not long ago, at the invitation of the Project Director, the Rotary Club of Klamath Falls, including the wives of Rotary members,

attended an evening dinner and entertainment at the Project. A real effort was made by the management to acquaint these people with the program. After dinner they were shown around the Center and the Japanese gave them a formal entertainment. These Rotarians returned to Klamath Falls very enthusiastic and apparently without exception were much impressed with what they had seen. It was thought that this would go a long way toward bringing about a better understanding between the Project and the local citizens and other service clubs were invited to visit the Center. However, before any club could come to the Project these prospective dates were cancelled by the clubs themselves. Investigation indicates that the sole reason for this was that the people in Klamath Falls severely criticized the Rotarians for having anything to do with the Tule Lake Project. They were unimpressed with the enthusiastic reports and brought so much social pressure to bear on the Rotarians that they ceased saying anything more about their visit.

More specifically, Mr. L. L. Low, Sheriff of Klamath County, was asked by this investigator what he thought about the visit of the Rotarians to the Project, and he said he thought it was a big mistake. He said that having the Project in this area was unfortunate at best and that the less it interfered with the normal lives of the local people and the less they had to do with the Project the better. He was thoroughly out of sympathy with any other service clubs or groups visiting the Center.

Mr. L. F. Barber of the Tule Lake Hardware Company stated that several Sundays ago at the height of the grain harvest he was driving a truckload of Caucasian laborers to his field near the Project boundary. These laborers were going to work on Sunday because of the urgency of the grain-crop harvest. As they approached the field they saw numerous Japanese hiking on a hill within the Project boundary. Mr. Barber reports that he nearly lost this labor crew because they were so mad that they were working on Sunday while these ----- Japanese were taking it easy. Mr. Barber said he shared this feeling but, of course, did not say so because he was trying to keep the laborers from quitting. Mr. Barber was asked, "How much were you paying these laborers?" Mr. Barber stated that "I paid them from \$1 to \$1.25 an hour."

Mrs. Sarah W. Welch, news editor of the Tulelake Reporter, was interviewed. This paper had for several weeks run news articles and editorials which were very critical of the W.R.A. program at Tule Lake (See Complaints Number 1, 2, and 3 in Supplement 1). As previously stated, Mrs. Welch had no first-hand knowledge of the instances criticized, and indicated that she would be more careful in the future to check up on the authenticity of statements given her second-hand. During this interview she made a very significant

statement. She said that in last week's issue there was no article which criticized the Tule Lake Project. She said that one of her subscribers called up and wanted to know why. When Mrs. Welch said she could find no criticism to make that week, the subscriber indicated that she had better get busy and find some more criticism because that was the main reason she was interested in reading the paper.

SUPPLEMENT I

COPIES OF NEWSPAPER ARTICLES AND ALL
CORRESPONDENCE CONTAINING COMPLAINTS

WRA GETS RIBBING

Feelings pent-up through many months because it seemed to be for the good of the community as a whole, were released in a flood Sunday at a widely attended meeting of farmers and sportsmen, and the Tule Lake WRA came in for a good, round 'cussin.

Laxity in policing the camp was openly laid at the door of WRA management, and flagrant waste of government money—spending for non-essentials and thriftlessness in handling necessities.

Probably all the accusations were not true. Probably some of them were half-truths, some of them all true.

Farmers are generally blunt, plain, fact-facing people. The very nature of their work makes them so. To deal with nature they must be a patient lot—and they are. Also they love fair play.

No one in the community wants to see the Japanese colony given a hard deal. All would be quick to protest any mistreatment of our unfortunate guests. On the other hand there shouldn't be any coddling.

It takes away a lot of the joy of making sacrifices for our government when a government agency is pouring thousands of dollars down ratholes of waste at our very doors.

Where other government agencies are putting forth every effort to conserve rubber and equipment, commnts are made of the wanton waste of those commodities by the Japanese people of Newell. They can be seen at any time of day driving on the highways and country roads in trucks, burning up the tires with speed, and are scrapping new equipment faster than it can be manufactured.

Demurrage bills are run up on the government on freight cars held on the siding while the Japanese men strike on some foolish pretext or other.

We hear of profligate waste of foodstuffs.

These things add up to nothing less than sabotage.

We want to see WRA give the Japanese a fair deal; we would also like to see the WRA give Americans a fair deal. We think it would be well if the WRA would turn a bright light inward and give themselves a good, thorough self-searching. Surely there can't be so much smoke of criticism without some fire.

Irate Sportsmen And Land Owners Join Hands In Protest Of Additional Land Closure To Hunting Asked By WRA Of State Division Fish And Wild Life

**REQUESTED CLOSURE WOULD ROB TULELAKE OF MANY
ACRES OF FINEST SHOOTING GROUNDS VISITED BY
THOUSANDS ANNUALLY; DAMAGE WOULD RESULT TO
CROPS BY HUNDREDS OF BIRDS FEEDING**

Excitement ran high Sunday afternoon, at a meeting in American Legion hall, Tulelake, when landowners, ranchers and sportsmen joined in a protest against the request of the Tule Lake War Relocation Authority's request to the California Division of Fish and Wild Life for additional "closed to hunting" areas adjacent to the Japanese Relocation colony at Newell, about eight miles south of Tulelake.

With the additional closure requested, which includes a half-mile or more bordering the Japanese center and the WRA agriculture project a few miles northwest of the peninsula, the entire closure would take in many deeded homesteads.

After discussions that waxed hot with dissatisfaction of WRA management and displeasure at the request for additional acreage to be closed to the public for shooting, a motion was passed unanimously that the boundaries of hunting areas be left unchanged.

The final ruling of the California Fish and Game on the matter is expected before the opening of the season, October 15.

The public hearing on the WRA request was sponsored by the Tulelake-Butte Valley Sportsmen's association at the suggestion of the California Division of Fish and Game for the purpose of getting a true picture of the matter, and the reaction of people affected by the additional closure.

Ben Williams, Alturas, game commissioner, presided at meeting. Other officials present were George P. Miller, executive of California Fish and Game commission and William Humphreys, secretary of the northern council of conservation clubs of California; Hugh Worcester, regional director Federal bureau Fish and Wild Life, and C. G. Fairchild, local executive of the local game refuge. Capt. W. L. Patterson, commandant of the provost guard, represented the army.

Irate Sportsmen

A howl went up from sportsmen at the requested closure of such additional acreage in the heart of the most attractive shooting grounds in the entire area, while land owners, and ranchers clamored that the closure would result in great losses to the farmers during spring and fall. It is during those seasons that the birds feed on the young crops and it is necessary to get permits from state and federal departments to resort to shooting to scare the birds out of the fields.

Nearly all of the land to the north side of the Japanese center to be included in the proposed additional closure is deeded homestead land, small tracts of from 60 to 80 acres.

E. E. Eastman, head of the agricultural and industry department, who was the sole WRA representative present, was chiefly interested in the agricultural aspect. The measure was sought by the WRA, Mr. Eastman pointed out, as a measure for the protection of

the Japanese population against possible chances of injury by accidental shooting.

Several ranchers were of the opinion that if there were persons desirous of shooting Japs that they needn't wait for the hunting season or an open area, as they would be able to find them anywhere at any time, as they wander around unescorted at all times.

Hugh Worcester, regional director of federal bureau Fish and Wild Life, stated that with the limited personnel necessary this year, it was extremely unfavorable to close additional area because of the burden of policing it.

At the close of the discussion a resolution concerning Sheepy lake area, asking that it be left open for hunting as in the past for the duration of the war, was passed by the Tulelake-Butte Valley Sportsmen's association and by the Klamath Sportsmen.

As an optimistic closing note, Nathan Moran of San Francisco, a past state official and now director of California Sportsmen's council reported that on a recent trip of observation made of Lower Klamath and Tule Lake areas, it was noted that there was more water in the entire area for birds; more refuge than in the past, and increased numbers of ducks and geese.

Tulelake Reporter
Tulelake, Calif.
October 8, 1942

COMPLAINT NO. 3

CUTE LITTLE HABITS

One of the cute little habits of the Japanese people living at Newell who drive about the countryside unescorted, is to stop their heavy trucks suddenly in front of a trailing motorist, so that the driver behind runs into army truck with resultant damage to his car. The Japanese driver has all the best of it. He knows his truck is heavy enough to escape damage while getting in a rap on the motorist's vehicle.

This sly, crafty sabotage arouses the ire of farmers living in the community, for it is an ideology that the American scorns. He is slow to realize that anyone could stoop to trickery of this kind. Deliberate destruction and possible personal injury.

It seems a shame that people of the community should be subjected to treatment of this kind by these wards of the WRA, who are not, in the first place, supposed to roam at will unescorted.

Another complaint that has come to us recently from reputable citizens here, is to the effect that military drills are observed taking place regularly on the grounds of the Japanese center at Newell. Maybe it's just innocent marching, and—maybe it isn't?

Tulelake Reporter
Tulelake, Calif.
October 22, 1942

COMPLAINT NO. 4

SEE EXHIBIT - 7

Redding Citizens Investigate Tule Lake WRA Project

On a visit of investigation of WRA management of the Newell Japanese relocation center, upon which public attention has been focused the past month, several prominent citizens of Redding were in Tulelake Friday.

They were Tom L. Stanley, manager of the Shasta-Cascade Wonderland and Shasta county chairman of the council of defense; Paul Bodenhamer, editor of Redding Searchlight; J. R. Shannon, vice-president of the Redding Chamber of Commerce and Wm. Quinlan, a businessman and member of the board of directors of the Redding Rotary club.

Tulelake Reporter
Tulelake, Calif.
October 29, 1942

Pierce Starts Official Probe Of Newell

Following his visit here a week ago it did not take Congressman Walter M. Pierce of Oregon long to get things rolling on conferences at Washington, D. C., looking into the matter of reports of mismanagement of the Tule Lake Japanese relocation center at Newell.

According to a communication which was forwarded to this office Wednesday, a conference was to be held in Washington on Monday between the Tolan committee and the war relocation authority regarding necessity of congressional action, regarding more satisfactory handling of the problem.

It was also stated that Regional Director Howalt was investigating the project Monday.

When Congressman Pierce visited Tulelake last week he held what he termed an "unofficial investigation" and interviewed several residents of the community who have had opportunities to observe what is termed "mismanagement," and "waste," at the center.

While the message from Washington stressed the question of Japanese labor supply, that is considered a past issue here, whereas the question of extraordinary privileges to camp colonists and laxity in management of the war relocation authority have engaged local attention.

In cases of this kind it is usually found that after unfavorable publicity has been received, an investigation clears the atmosphere of rumors and if there are conditions to be improved, they can be pointed out by the proper authorities. The Reporter is ready to give full publicity to both sides of the case in a conscientious effort to sift truth from rumor.

Tulelake Reporter
Tulelake, Calif.
October 29, 1942

COMPLAINT NO. 6

STATE WARNS WRA FARM HERE ON LABELING

According to the "Siskiyou Daily News," published on October 21, the State Department of Agriculture has reprimanded the "Tulelake Jap camp" for violating state marketing rules.

The complaint centered around failure of the Jap camp to mark produce grown there and sold on the open market as originating at the relocation center. Hereafter such produce will be confiscated unless it bears the label of the Jap camp, the state authorities warned.

Meanwhile, at least two investigations of the Tulelake camp were reported underway by Federal authorities, arising out of complaints of Americans living in that region. One of the investigations was being made by the F. B. I., the article concluded.

Tulelake Reporter
Tulelake, Calif.
October 29, 1942

COMPLAINT NO. 7

SEE EXHIBIT - 8

Gov. Sprague Asks Roosevelt to Force Japanese Internee Harvest Assistance

SALEM, Oct. 16 (AP)—Governor Charles A. Sprague telegraphed a request to President Roosevelt today asking him to force Japanese internees to assist in harvesting farm crops, particularly sugar beets.

The governor, bitterly criticizing the Japanese for not volunteering for farm work, said they should be told they must work or else be deported after the war.

The governor's telegram said: "More than 200,000 tons of sugar beets in eastern Oregon and western Idaho will be lost unless additional help can be secured during the coming four weeks.

Labor Pool

"In the meantime the greatest pool of idle labor in all the west exists within a day's ride of the fields where labor is

needed. This labor is to be found in the war relocation authority camps for Japanese evacuees from which efforts to obtain voluntary recruitment have been a dismal failure.

"From Newell camp near Tulelake, Calif., only 800 of the 15,000 or more Japanese have accepted employment. I am shocked at reports of attitude expressed by these Japanese, many of whom, prior to internment, gave assurance of their desire to promote the welfare of the nation in any way they could serve.

"Spirit of Lethargy"

"Now a spirit of lethargy and indifference prevails. According to information given me today, only 6000 of the 15,000 in the camp pretend to do any work; 9000 live in absolute idleness and grouse about the food

and treatment accorded by the government.

"The work offered in the sugar beet fields of eastern Oregon carries prevailing standards of pay without discrimination, and the Japanese workers now in the area are well satisfied with conditions.

"What we need is a definite push from WRA officials to get these Japanese evacuees to work. No compulsion would be required if employment agents had the support of WRA executives in encouraging response of evacuees.

"If voluntary recruitment fails, then Japanese evacuees should be compelled to work or be told they will be deported after the war. Will you not instruct WRA officials to give positive assistance in recruitment program?"

Herald & News
Klamath Falls, Oregon
October 16, 1942

OREGON'S DEMOCRATIC REPRESENTATIVE SOLVES KLAMATH'S MOST PRESSING PROBLEMS

Congressman Walter M. Pierce took one good look at the situation confronting Klamath County through the proximity of the Japanese Camp at Tulelake.

Recognized a condition Dangerous to You.

Demanded and Obtained an Investigation.

**READ WASHINGTON'S
REPORTS OF HIS
EFFORTS IN YOUR
BEHALF**

**JAP CENTER
TO BE PROBED**

Washington, D. C., October 27, 1942 — SPECIAL — The lower house in Congress, through its committee investigating war activities, the Tolson Committee, and the War Relocation Authority, on the demand of Oregon's Democratic Representative Walter M. Pierce, today undertook an investigation of conditions at the Japanese War Relocation Center, Tulelake, California. A personal representative of the Tolson Committee is en route to Klamath Falls and Tulelake with instructions to investigate and make a confidential report to that committee. Dillon Myer, Director of the War Relocation Authority, has promised to go the limit in finding and uprooting the cause of dissatisfaction at Tulelake as it affects that section and the neighboring industrial and agricultural communities in Klamath county.

Complaints had been made by prominent Klamath citizens, among them, Mr. Fred H. Heilbronner, and Governor Sprague of Oregon had found it necessary to give his attention to unsatisfactory conditions prevailing there. These conditions were reported to Representative Walter M. Pierce when he visited Klamath county, October 18, 19 and 20th. Prominent citizens of Klamath Falls, Merrill, and Malin also reported unsatisfactory conditions and Mr. Pierce immediately made a trip to this Japanese Center.

What he saw convinced him that Congress needed to know of the conditions that prevailed. He immediately reported to the Legislature and to the office of the War Relocation Authority, who have taken immediate steps as outlined above.

Herald & News
Klamath Falls, Oreg.
October 31, 1942
(Political Advertisement)

Conduct Of Jap Camp At Tulelake Scored By Dunsmuir Resident

Japanese Are Said To Be Permitted To
Roam Valley At Will; American Resi-
dents Of Vicinity Resent Conditions

(By W. I. Humphreys)

The average man feels that the detention camps where those of Japanese ancestry are interned were set in operation so that persons who might be a menace to our national security would be under surveillance. The residents of the Tulelake basin feel that if steps are not taken to alter conditions at the Jap camp there, it may soon be necessary to protect the citizens from the Jap internees.

By the statement of the civilians in charge of the camp, who, by the way, are former W. P. A. officials, and formerly connected with the rehabilitation work for veterans of World War number one,

inmates of the camp are permitted to travel at will in the whole valley if cleared by authorities at the camp.

On one occasion recently a truckload of Japs went into the Shasta national forest all the way to Medicine lake without guards. This was for the purpose of gathering rocks to beautify their camp.

In the first place, this opened up a wonderful opportunity for sabotage. Secondly, there are plenty of rocks in the lava beds adjoining the camp, had there been a legitimate need for them.

The camp is self-governing. Military police on duty are charged only with setting up a patrol around the acreage used for the camp. Should one of them escape, the civil authorities are supposed to apprehend him or her.

Freight cars loaded with materials and supplies are permitted to stand at the camp, with public funds being used to pay the railroad demurrage on them. This is necessary (?) because the Japs are on a "sitdown strike," and refuse to unload their own supplies.

With the public being urged to buy war bonds and stamps for the war effort, does it not seem a little ridiculous that moneys should be expended so needlessly, just because the Japs do not choose to work?

Last week, Hugh Worcester, regional enforcement officer of the federal fish and wildlife service, entered the confines of the camp and arrested four Japanese who were illegally taking waterfowl in violation of federal statutes. The manager of the camp, Mr. Sherrel, upbraided Mr. Worcester for entering the camp, and pointedly told him he had no business in it. The officer, however, did not leave without the culprits, who will stand trial in federal court.

Now the War Relocation Authority asks the fish and game commission to close an area one-half mile wide around the exterior boundaries of the camp to hunters. This to protect the Japs. These are deeded lands, under crop, estimated at about \$4500.00 per forty acres and definitely vital to the war effort. If they are closed it will mean that waterfowl will entirely destroy all the crop and it will only take a few days for them to do it.

So, taking into consideration the mistreatment by the Japs of army nurses, wanton and summary execution of prisoners of war held by them, don't you, Mr. and Mrs. Reader, think it is going just a bit too far to lean over backward in protecting Japanese nationals to an extent where thousands of dollars of vital foodstuffs will be destroyed, and public and private property of American citizens are menaced by allowing interned Japanese virtual freedom?

Those farmers in this area, without exception, are World War veterans. They bitterly resent the way the situation is being handled. They do not want Japs running unrestrained all over the county, and, as stated before, if the situation is allowed to run on the citizens will need the protection, and there is a very good chance that something of a serious nature may develop in the valley.

The game commission did not grant the closure, and the matter has been called to the attention of Lieutenant General John L. DeWitt. In the meantime there is much food for serious thought in the whole situation.

Dunsmuir News
Dunsmuir, Calif.
October 9, 1942

COMPLAINT NO. 10

COPY

FRED H. HEILBRONNER
821 Spring St.,
Klamath Falls, Oregon.

October 5, 1942

Hon. Walter M. Pierce
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Here are some pertinent facts and information that we think are grossly wrong and should be investigated immediately. We also ask that you refer this information to the California Senators and Congressmen for their consideration and investigation.

1. There are over 15,000 Japanese interned at Camp Newell, California, about 4 or 5 miles from Tullake, California, one of the richest agricultural communities in the Pacific Northwest. The Military Police there have accommodations for 800 to 1000 soldiers, but at present there is only one company of 110 men to police this large number of people. Should any major disorder occur, this handful of men would be wholly inadequate to cope with the situation.

2. The farmers and citizens of this and the Tullake Community are wholeheartedly complying with the 35 miles per hour speed limit to conserve our gasoline and tires, yet the trucks from the Japanese camp travel 40 to 45 miles per hour, utterly disregarding the speed limits or tire conservations. They are driven by Japanese drivers, who thumb their hands to their noses at both the citizens and the Military Police. They also make many unnecessary trips to different parts of the basin.

3. They complain about the teaching facilities for their children, yet the War Relocation Authority has supplied 96 teachers for them while our own schools are short-handed.

4. These Japanese are fed according to regular Government Soldier Rations and have the best of meats, foods, milk, etc., while we here are rationed and cannot buy hams or bacon, they receive ham and bacon by the truck load. They also receive choice cuts of beef that we cannot obtain and cannot afford to buy. The Captain of the Military Police says his own men haven't any bacon, yet the Jap camp has plenty. This camp is consuming over 1500 gallons of milk per day while we are going to be rationed in the very near future. What about our own children?

The War Relocation Authority at Camp Newell, I think, and I voice the sentiments of a great many people both in Klamath Falls and Tullake, has made a mess of managing this project and a prompt investigation should be made. They are shipping some 50,000 tons of coal, many cars are not unloaded in time and demurrage has to be paid because the Japs are too lazy to work and are not compelled to. Thirty miles adjacent to this camp, there

are 10,000 cords of forest wood (slashings, tops, limbs and old logs) going to waste that could be utilized.

We do not mind being rationed and asked to do things to help win the war, but when Japs are not rationed and are treated better than Uncle Sam's own citizens, it is time to call a halt and to investigate. This Tulelake community has a lot of Veterans who served in the last war and their sons are in the war now. How do you think they feel about it? Are our prisoners being treated royally in the Philippines, Bataan, Corregidor and Japan? Food is also being wasted at this camp, in great quantities, good feed that has never been prepared. This is through inefficient management at the camp, and should be corrected.

Please don't pigeon-hole this letter, send an investigator and ascertain the facts for yourself.

Yours very truly,

Signed, FRED H. HEILBRONNER

P.S. I am A Director of the Klamath County Chamber of Commerce
Chairman of the Klamath Armory Administration
Chairman of the Klamath Falls Troop Entertainment Committee
Finance Officer of Klamath Post No.8, American Legion, 3d yr.
Grand Chef de Gare, 40 & 8, State of Oregon, 1942-1943
Chairman, Klamath County Local Board #2, Selective Service

Walter M. Pierce
2d Congressional District
Oregon

Member Committee on
Agriculture

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

October 13, 1942

Mr. John H. Provinse
War Relocation Authority
War Building
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Provinse:

Following telephone conversation about the letter received by Mr. Pierce from his constituent, Mr. Fred H. Heilbrenner, of Klamath Falls, I am enclosing copy of Mr. Heilbrenner's letter for your consideration. I am also sending a copy of it to your Regional Director, Mr. Elmer Rowalt, Whitcomb Hotel, San Francisco, California. Copy has gone to the Telam Committee.

I am sorry that I did not have for you copies of the clippings sent to me by Mr. Heilbrenner, but if you will get into correspondence with him he will undoubtedly send you these clippings from the Klamath Falls paper relating to the situation of the hunters in the Tululake region.

Mr. Pierce would also like some facts about the reported action of your agents in Oregon who seek to have teachers break their contracts with districts on the promise of larger wages in Japanese Camps for teaching music and other subjects to Japanese and children. These reports have very much concerned the people of Oregon.

If you received further information about the absentee voting of the Japanese, we should be pleased to have it. I know that this is within the province of the States but thought you might possibly have information coming to you.

Very sincerely yours,

Cornelia Marvin Pierce, Sec'y.

Enclosure

61

cc: Mr. Elmer Rowalt, Whitcomb Hotel, San Francisco, Calif.

October 5, 1942

SUBJECT: Japanese evacuation camp at Tululake, Calif.

TO: Lt. Gen. John L. DeWitt
Commanding General
Western Defense Command

1. A hearing was held at Tululake on October 4 by the State Fish and Game Commission on the request of the War Allocation Authority to close and bar hunters from a strip of deeded land one half mile wide surrounding the alien camp; the sense of the meeting was that such action was not necessary, and a resolution was presented to the Commission asking that such application by the W.R.A. be withdrawn.
2. The residents of the valley are very resentful as to the manner in which the civilians in charge of the camp are conducting it. They are all veterans of the first world war, most of them with sons in service in the present war, and it is apparent that if something is not done to relieve the present situation, there may be future troubles to contend with in the area.
3. There is a wide main irrigation canal surrounding the Jap camp, fenced on both sides, with a wide right of way in addition to the canal, with all the area posted as a Federal bird refuge. As the request was made as a means of protecting the Japs against gunfire by hunters, it is not required for the simple reason that a shotgun will not be dangerous, not being effective at a range of 100 yards, which is the nearest to the camp a hunter could approach.
4. It is our belief that this camp was founded for the purpose of interning persons of Japanese ancestry who might be a menace to our national security. After an investigation of existing conditions it seems that soon it will be necessary to protect the civilian residents of the area against the Japanese.
5. By the statement of the civilians in charge of the camp these Japs are permitted to travel anywhere within the valley, if cleared from the camp. On one occasion a truck load of Japs traveled forty miles, through the heart of a national forest to Medicine Lake, after rocks to adorn their camp, this without a guard, thereby opening an excellent opportunity for acts of sabotage.
6. The camp appears to be self governed, with military police on duty merely charged with patrolling a beat outside the camp, and not charged with the apprehension of Japanese who might escape from the area.
7. Freight cars, loaded with supplies and material for the camp are consistently allowed to stand on siding at the camp with public funds used to pay demurrage on them. The Japs are on "sit down strike" and refuse to unload them.
8. With the public buying war bonds and stamps to support the war effort, such expenditure of funds is both ridiculous and wholly uncalled for.
9. Mr. Hugh Worcester, chief enforcement officer of the Fish and Wildlife

Service entered the camp and arrested Japs for violation of Federal game laws. He was reproached by the civilian manager for doing his duty.

10. The camp manager, who failed to heed written requests that he attend this public hearing, sending an underling instead, states he must protect the Japs to avoid "international" complications. Why so much concern for Japs in view of their mistreatment of war nurses, of tortures and wanton and summary execution of members of our armed forces held captive by them? We question the wisdom, or necessity of having ex-WPA employees, quite obviously of a political turn of mind, administer such a project; public opinion seems to indicate that they are not operating at a financial loss to themselves.

11. We protest closure of areas under crops which will be destroyed by waterfowl, causing a loss of many thousands of dollars worth of foodstuffs essential to the war effort.

12. We feel that if conditions such as these, if not correctible by your headquarters, should be at once brought by your headquarters to the attention of higher authority, and appropriate action taken to discard civilian authority in these camps, and place them under proper and efficient military control for the safeguarding of property and lives of American citizens.

Respectfully,

W. I. Humphreys
Executive Secretary
(Northern Council of Conservation Clubs)

RECORD No. 10

Conversation between Major Moffitt and Mr. Schaefer (Tule Lake)

Date and time: October 27, 1942 Time: 2:55 p.m.

Transcribed by: Evelyn M. Rudy October 27, 1942

SUBJECT: _____

M. Go right ahead Mr. Schaefer

S. The Japs are riding around in pleasure cars up there with Government licenses on them and we saw 4 boys and 3 girls all dressed up fit to kill. And many other cars all full of cars riding around up there. No white men with them.

M. Yes. Can you tell me where?

S. Where?

M. Yes. Where you saw these people.

S. I saw them ... the 4 boys and the 3 girls just outside of the town of Tule Lake.

M. I see.

S. On that side of the town that is farthest away from the Concentration Camp. I don't know my directions, whether it is East, South, or West.

M. But you know for a fact that it was not within the boundaries of the Tule Lake Reservation.

S. Oh no! It was miles from there. And we saw many other cars, all with Government licenses on them, all pleasure cars.

M. Pleasure? That is Government sedans.

S. That's right.

M. With Japanese, without any Caucasian, that is any white drivers.

S. There was not a Christian in sight. Now they have a Jap guard in the entrance of the Camp. No white men or soldiers are in sight. They are fishing ducks and geese out of refuge with fish-hooks and lines. The authority for that statement is the man in charge of the Geological ... Biological ... some kind of Survey... I can't tell you what it is exactly. He is the author of that statement. In a trap-shoot they had up there a week ago Sunday a mile from the camp, the Japs were so thick they had to hold up their shoot till they got them out of the way. And so on, and on and on...

- M. Yes, Tell me Mr. Schaefer, what is your address and phone number, if we could have it?
- S. You bet. I'm known as Bud Schaefer. That's easier than my given name. Schaeffer. (spells) 366 Post Street. Telephone, Garfield 3400.
- M. Fine. (Repeats all the above). The occasion for having that is because as you know the War Relocation Authority is the agency that has control of the Japanese at the Tule Lake Camp. The Army's concern was in gathering the Japanese up and placing them in our temporary settlement camps and then transferring them and shipping them to the various Relocation Centers. But I'd like to pass that information on and I appreciate your interest in advising us of it.
- S. I tell you what I'd appreciate your doing. If anything comes of it, I'd appreciate your giving me a ring.
- M. Well I know very well the information will receive close attention because we are vitally concerned in whatever aspects of the problem are related to the Army and also to know of the reaction from those who have actually seen the condition.
- S. Yes. Well now wild horses wouldn't drag on me the names of the men who were with him. They are all on leave.
- M. That's all right.
- S. And they prefer not to be involved...
- M. Certainly and it is perfectly all right. There is no need of even requesting...
- S. ...any additional information that I could give - and I have some - now of course the natives are biased up there. They're sore because the Japs have moved in their neighborhood, but they are 10 times as sore because they are running around the country up there, outside of the camp. Now they tell me they had a sit-down strike up there and wouldn't work in the garden which may or may not be so. That, I don't know. I didn't see. Other things I've told you, I've seen. And lots more.
- M. Yes. Thank you very much for calling Mr. Schaeffer.
- S. O.K. Bye.
- M. Bye.

Mr. Bill Camp of the Chronicle called and gave the following information:

On October 15, 1942, Bud Schaeffer, Optician, 366 Post, San Francisco, telephone Garfield 3400, and four Army officers went duck hunting in the Tule Lake region and observed a great deal of laxity in the Japanese there one mile from the internment camp, with loads of Japanese boys and girls joy-riding. He went to a shooting meet and said that at the meet the Japs were so numerous there, which was a mile away from the camp, that they had to rope them off to keep them from getting in their way. The conditions were terrible and they were baiting fish hooks and hooking ducks and geese in the game reserve. He has tried to report to the Examiner and other papers but they didn't use any of it.

Mr. Camp stated that he (Schaeffer) evidently wanted some publicity and had come out in favor of more stringent regulations. He says (Schaeffer) that if the newspapers won't help him he'll use his influence with these Army officers, who, according to Schaeffer, were very much aroused at this laxity and they would contact General DeWitt.

Mr. Camp felt that Mr. Bates and Mr. Fryer should give him information on this and perhaps Schaeffer could be stopped from making trouble by talking too much in too many places.

COMPLAINT NO. 13

Tulelake, California
July 29, 1942

President Franklin D. Roosevelt
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

I'm just an average American citizen, but it so happens that I reside at Tulelake, California, the location of the new Jap reception center and I, being a loyal American citizen, am certainly at a loss to understand the apparent laxity at the camp. From all appearances the Center is truly a "reception" for the Japs - a reception with all the fixings.

Do you recall what happened last summer when a few Army boys called to women on a golf course? Why then are the Japs permitted to shout at women whom they are passing. Is it the fact that the Japs are riding in government cars and our soldiers were walking?

Why are the Japs permitted to chase deer on a refuge set aside by the President of the United States as the Tulelake National Wildlife Refuge? An American citizen is not allowed to do this. Why are the Japs permitted to leave camp? Does Japan accord our Americans such a courtesy? The Japs have even crossed the State line into Klamath Falls. Is it supposed they can do no harm there? Why interne them at all if the Authority at the camp is so lax? Why is a Jap permitted to speed down the highway at a rate we good citizens have pledged not to drive in order to save rubber? Does the government semi-trailer they drive afford them impunity? I hear from a reliable source they even defy the orders of a guard. In fact a Jap informed the guard he "didn't have the nerve to shoot".

I realize you cannot personally oversee every camp, but I firmly believe in justice. Is this fair to our Armed forces? Have we any indication they have been as lenient with our Americans? Have you already forgotten Pearl Harbor?

Yours very truly,

Mrs. George W. Shaw
Route 1, Box 59
Tulelake, California

COMPLAINT NO. 14

HEADQUARTERS WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND AND FOURTH ARMY
Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff G-2
Presidio of San Francisco, California
Portland Branch, 229 U. S. Court House

September 29, 1942

Subject: Japanese at the Tule Lake Assembly and Relocation Center,
Tule Lake, California.

To: A. C. of S., G-2, Western Defense Command and Fourth
Army, Presidio of San Francisco, California.

The Portland Branch Office Resident Agent at Medford, Oregon, has been advised by Captain Staats of the Oregon State Police, Medford, Oregon, of a complaint he had received from Sheriff Low of Klamath County, Oregon, to the effect that Japanese from the Tule Lake Assembly and Relocation Center were permitted to run all over the hills and to drive trucks on the streets of Klamath Falls unaccompanied by guards.

FRANK N. McGRATH
Major, Infantry,
Officer in Charge..

C O N F I D E N T I A L

Office of
SHERIFF OF KLAMATH COUNTY
Klamath Falls, Oregon

October 10, 1942

Mr. Elmer Shirrell
Project Director
Tule Lake Relocation Project
Newell, Calif.

Dear Sir:

In regard to the report that I had reported that Japanese were allowed to drive trucks on the streets of Klamath Falls and run all over the hills, please be advised that I have never seen this and never made such a statement. However, it is general rumor around Klamath County, that the Japanese do travel around in Government cars and trucks unescorted.

Yours very truly,

L. L. LOW
Sheriff Klamath County, Ore.

COMPLAINT NO. 16

August 27, 1942

Lieut. Gen. J. L. DeWitt, Commanding General
Western Defense Command and Fourth Army
Presidio of San Francisco, California.

Attention: Intelligence

Sir:

I have been informed that on August 24 eleven Japanese were observed by a Forest Service fire guard near Medicine Lake, Siskiyou County. This party was riding in an Army truck and when stopped by the guard showed a pass from the Tulelake internment camp and stated they were "looking around." This information is unverified so far as I am concerned, but it was given me by the mother of the guard in question.

Possibly the incident has been reported to you through other channels, or possibly it may be of no moment and in accord with your orders and regulations; however, it is difficult to understand why army equipment should be used by Japs joyriding. On the long chance that someone may be covering up laxity, I am passing the information on for what it may be worth.

Yours truly,

P. N. Myers

Box 158
McCloud, California

COMPLAINT NO. 15

Yreka, California
September 23, 1942

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt
Pres. U. S. A.
Washington, D.C.

Dear President Roosevelt:

Enclosed clippings are explanatory and your attention is called to same for whatever action you deem necessary.

The Japs leave their camp at Tule Lake, Calif., in government trucks and 11 of them recently went to Medicine Lake for rocks to decorate their camp and they informed the Forest Service authority at Medicine Lake that they had a permit to go from their camp.

Yours truly,

R. G. Mathy

WAR DEPARTMENT
Services of Supply
Office of the Provost Marshal General
Washington
October 6, 1942

War Relocation Authority
Whitcomb Hotel
San Francisco, California

Dear Sirs:

Inclosed herewith is a letter dated September 23, 1942, with inclosures addressed to the President of the United States and referred to the Provost Marshal General for reply, concerning activities of evacuees at the Tule Lake Relocation Center, Tule Lake, California.

This letter with inclosures is referred to you for reply, the writer not having been informed of the reference.

Yours very truly,

B. M. Bryan
Colonel, F. A.,
Chief, Aliens Division

Incl.
Ltr. fm. R.G. Mather
w/incls., 9-23-42

COMPLAINT NO. 17

320 MILITARY POLICE ESCORT GUARD COMPANY
Tule Lake, California

October 14, 1942

SUBJECT: Postal Inspection at Camp Newell, Tule Lake, Calif.

TO: HQ, Office of the Commanding General
Ninth Service Command, Fort Douglas, Utah (THRU CHANNELS)

1. Reference is hereby made to your letter SPKSI, File 333.1
October 3, 1942 containing copy of Directive from Lt. Gen. DeWitt.

2. On October 8, 1942, we placed a Sergeant and One Private First Class in charge of inspecting all Postal Packages, Express, Freight, Automobile Freight, and other deliveries into Camp Newell, Tule Lake, California. The Central Location point for all of this is the Post Office Branch of Camp Newell, Tule Lake, Calif. The Postal Authorities, Express, Railway Road, Automobile Freight Lines and others have been sent a copy of the orders have been directed to deliver all packages at the Camp Newell Branch Post Office. The War Relocation Authorities has agreed to build an addition on the back of the present Post Office building an efficient size to handle freight, express, and other packages in addition to Parcel Post. This construction is to commence immediately and will be adequate even at the busiest seasons. This command will see that this addition is started at once.

3. The contraband register is being maintained in accordance with the Directive. Herewith inclosed is a copy of the Company Order on inspections, a sample sheet of the Contraband Register and a summary of the Directive from Lt. General J. L. DeWitt, which has been published and posted.

→ 4. Reliable information has been furnished this Command that several of the colonists have received an excessive number of knives, hatchets, axes, and similar articles under the guise of mechanical tools. These were received during the time the WRA had charge of the inspection.

→ 5. It is urgently requested that agents of Western Defense Command & 4th Army be sent here to make a search of this War Relocation Authority Area for it is the opinion of the Commanding Officer and other officers of this post that there is at the present time many unauthorized articles of contraband in the possession of the evacuees such as knives, axes, guns, radio equipment and other articles. This situation should be corrected and these removed at once.

For the Commanding Officer

(SIGNED) HENRY H. MILLER
1st Lt., CMP
Executive Officer

COMPLAINT NO. 18

KLAMATH COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Klamath Falls, Oregon

October 2, 1942

Mr. E. L. Shirrell
Project Director
War Relocation Authority
Tule Lake, Calif.

Dear Mr. Shirrell:

We have been advised that there have been some recent paintings by someone on the petroglyphs on the eastern side of what we term the "Peninsula" south and west of the headquarters of the Japanese Relocation Center. We have not had the opportunity to verify this report or to investigate the writing but, if the statements of our informer are true, it appears that someone has taken yellow paint and painted a name, presumably a Japanese name, about eight inches to a foot in height and twelve to fifteen feet in length. No doubt if this was done by someone in the Japanese Relocation Center it was a thoughtless act, and we are calling this to your attention hoping that maybe you can caution the men and women and particularly the younger folks who are living at the Center against such acts. I think if it is called to their attention and it is pointed out to them that we are desirous of maintaining and preserving these writings this act will not be repeated.

After you have had time look into this matter, may we please hear from you?

Most cordially yours,

/s/ Earl C. Reynolds
Executive Secretary

COMPLAINT NO. 19

KLAMATH NEWS AND HERALD
KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON

October 15, 1942

Mr. Elmer L. Shirrell
War Relocation Project
Newell, California

Dear Mr. Shirrell:

Today I read a letter sent by you to the Klamath County Chamber of Commerce in reference to painting on the peninsula petroglyphs.

I note that you state that this offense occurred "outside the boundaries and not inside our project area."

I would appreciate if you will tell me whether this paint was therefore outside any area in which picture-taking is not permitted in connection with the war relocation project. Was it, or was it not, in a prohibited area, so far as picture-taking is concerned?

Naturally, it is important this newspaper know where pictures cannot be taken in this area. We have no desire or intention to take pictures in any place where such action is prohibited by any appropriate authority.

As you probably know, we undertook to take a picture of the paint at the peninsula, but our camera man was stopped as he was preparing to take the picture. He was given to understand that he was in an area where pictures were prohibited. On its face, your letter indicates this spot was and is not on the project, and presumably pictures could be taken.

However, I realize there may be zones of varying restrictions, and I would like to know the specific rule as regards this particular place, as well as to get an understanding of the entire area in which pictures are prohibited.

Regarding the recent uproar over freedom allegedly granted the colonists, I suggest that a statement from you or the WRA, giving the exact conditions under which colonists go outside the settlement itself, and the reasons therefore, would do much to clear the atmosphere. I would be glad to discuss any of these matters with you in person.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Malcolm Epley
Managing Editor

SUPPLEMENT II

LIST OF PERSONS INTERVIEWED

SUPPLEMENT 2

List of People Interviewed
November 2-6, inclusive

<u>Name</u>	<u>Description</u>	
Mr. Fred H. Heilbronner	Merchant, Klamath Falls	Not connected with WRA
Mr. Malcolm Epley	Managing Editor, Herald and News, Klamath Falls	"
Mrs. Doris Palmer Paine	Author and Reporter for Herald and News, Klamath Falls	"
Mr. J. W. Kirby	General Manager, California-Oregon Telephone Company, Klamath Falls	"
Mr. L. L. Low	Sheriff of Klamath County, Klamath Falls	"
Mr. W. L. Bruce	Manager, Montgomery-Ward Company, Klamath Falls	"
Mrs. Sara Welch	News Editor, Tule Lake Reporter Tule Lake, Calif.	"
Capt. W. L. Patterson	In Command of Military Police, Tule Lake War Relocation Area	"
Mr. Fairchild	Manager, Tule Lake Wildlife Refuge, Fish and Wild Life Service, Headquarters are 7 miles west of Tule Lake	"
Mr. Henshaw	Patrolman, Fish and Wild Life Service, Headquarters are 7 miles west of Tule Lake	"
Mr. Earl Ager	Owner, Earl's Market, Tule Lake	"
Mr. Floyd A. Boyd	Implement Dealer, Tule Lake	"
Mrs. Roy Campbell	Housewife, Tule Lake	"
Mr. L. F. Barber	Tule Lake Hardware Company, Tule Lake	"
Mr. H. Wechsler	Tule Lake Merchant (general merchandise)	"
Mrs. H. Wechsler	" " " " "	"
Sergeant Tichenor	Oregon State Police, Klamath Falls	"

SUPPLEMENT 2, continued

<u>Name</u>	<u>Description</u>	
Officer Clyde Lowry	Oregon State Police, Klamath Falls	Not connected with WRA
Officer Mark Sullivan	" " " " "	"
Officer Walter S. Walker	" " " " "	"
Mr. Victor Walters	Public Utilities Commissioner Auditor, Klamath Falls	"
Mrs. Nellie Robinson	Robinsons' Market, 5 miles east of Klamath Falls	"
Mr. Robinson	Robinsons' Market, 5 miles east of Klamath Falls	"
Miss Marie Bolton	Robinsons' Market, 5 miles east of Klamath Falls	"
Mr. O. R. Moeller	Moeller's Green House, 4 miles east of Klamath Falls	"
----	Clerk, Safeway Store, Klamath Falls	"
Mr. E. L. Shirrell	Project Director	Connected with Tule Lake Project
Mr. J. O. Hayes	Assistant Project Director	"
Mr. Mortimer C. Cooke	Transportation and Supply Officer	"
Mr. John D. Cook	Associate Information Specialist	"
Mr. James W. Davis	Superintendent of Equipment Maintenance	"
Mr. F. J. Slattery	Senior Engineer	"
Mr. Clifford R. Kallam	Farm Superintendent	"
Mr. George A. Hudson	Agricultural Marketing Supervisor	"
Miss Ruth Young	Secretary to the Project Director	"

SUPPLEMENT 2, continued

<u>Name</u>	<u>Description</u>	
Mr. W. E. Califf	Associate Highway Engineer	Connected with Tule Lake Project
Mr. Ernest Rhoads	Associate Fire Protection Officer	"
Mr. Clarence J. Benz	Director of Industrial Arts	"
Mr. Kendall Smith	Consumer Enterprises Superintendent	"
Mr. Frank C. Smith	Employment Officer	"
Mr. Eric Eastman	Chief of Agricultural Division	"
Mr. F. L. Connor	Administrative Officer	"
Mr. Kenneth Harkness	Superintendent of Education	"
Mr. Harold S. Jacoby	Chief of Internal Security	"
Mr. Peter Kristovich	Assistant Chief, Internal Security	"
Mr. J. P. Christianson	Chief Construction Foreman	"
Mr. Raffaele C. Bello	Head Storekeeper	"

SUPPLEMENT III

TRANSCRIPT OF CONFERENCES BETWEEN
ELMER SHIRRELL, PROJECT DIRECTOR, AND PHILIP WEBSTER

Tule Lake Project
Newell, California

November 4, 1942

Conference between Elmer L. Shirrell and Philip J. Webster.

W: I have considerable correspondence which has been turned over to me, written by citizens living near the Tule Lake Project, in which they make numerous complaints and criticisms regarding the operation of the project. Although these criticisms can be segregated into about seven or eight categories, the one which is made most frequently is concerning Japanese having been seen in automobiles and trucks outside the boundaries of the project without a white escort.

1. Japanese outside project boundaries without a white escort

W: Can you throw any light on this situation?

S: Instructions to the staff are very explicit in that no group of Japanese can leave the project area except with a Caucasian escort. Unfortunately, there have been reported to me several incidents, sometimes many weeks after their occurrence. One case involved a truck load of Japanese who were checked out by Daniel Sheehan of this staff to go out for rock to be used for ornamental work in front of the administration building. Mr. Sheehan checked these people out but did not stay with them and they wandered into a national forest where they were seen and reported.

W: Who reported this particular group?

S: This report came from Mr. Rowalt by way of a letter.

W: Do you know whether Medicine Lake was the destination to which they were supposed to go?

S: No. They were supposed to go to a place not more than four or five miles from here. Upon being questioned they said they had gotten lost, which may, or may not, be true. As a result of this occurrence and one or two others, Mr. Sheehan's status was terminated at the Tule Lake Project. He had also sent two trucks for nursery stock to a nursery on the outskirts of Klamath Falls without proper escort. I didn't hear of this, however, until

quite a while afterward. Mr. Sheehan also took a Japanese man and woman, against all orders and instructions, into an ice cream stand in Tulalake. I found out about this incident on the same day and reprimanded him severely for it. Outside of these three cases I know of no other unauthorized absence from the project without a Caucasian guard.

W: Can you fix approximately the dates of these three issues?

S: They all occurred during the month of July.

W: What was Mr. Sheehan's status on the staff?

S: Superintendent of Construction.

W: Can you give any explanation why Mr. Sheehan allowed these to occur?

S: The only reason I can give is that he was terribly busy with many construction jobs to do with only one or two Caucasian assistants. He probably figured these men were trustworthy and he could save valuable time by having them do the work. However, he knew the rules and there was really no excuse.

W: You talked with him after these incidents?

S: The case of the nursery I didn't know about until after Mr. Sheehan left. The Medicine Lake incident I discussed with him when it was reported to me. I didn't know about it until a month after it had occurred. The Klamath Falls incident (the nursery case), I learned about only within the last two or three weeks. In the case of the ice cream parlor, I talked to him the day it happened and he told me he absolutely forgot they were Japanese. They were going to the farm, a few miles from Tulalake, and since it was an extremely hot day, he asked them if they wouldn't like an ice cream soda. He really forgot that they were Japanese.

W: Well, that is on the "plus" side for him, at any rate.

W: I understand that one or two Japanese painted their names on a cliff at a point which was about 100 yards outside the project boundary. Do you have any information on this subject?

S: The first information I had on this was a letter from the Chamber of Commerce in Klamath Falls. Upon investigation by Mr. Jacoby,

Chief of Internal Security, it was discovered that two Japanese, part of the crew who were putting up the boundary signs on which they were using yellow paint for stencilling, had gone outside of what was then the boundary to add their names to those of other tourists which had collected over a long period of years, before the project was ever located here. They were punished for their offence and part of the punishment was an instruction to remove all signs of yellow paint. This will be done.

W: About how old were these boys?

S: As I remember, this gang erecting these signs for the construction division were all about high school age.

* * *

W: Mr. Schaefer, who refers to himself as "Bud" Schaefer, had a telephone conversation with Major Moffitt of the WCCA, on October 27. This telephone conversation was recorded. In the conversation Mr. Schaefer refers to a trap shoot which occurred recently, stating that "Japanese were so thick they had to hold up their shoot until they got them out of their way". Is the area where this trap shooting took place within or without the project area?

S: It is practically on the border.

W: It was then without but is now within the border?

S: Formerly it was without and at the time they held the shoot it was still without the border, but only a few yards away. The only knowledge I have of this incident is that one Sunday afternoon Mr. Ben Shults and someone else from Tulalake came to my residence to protest the fact that the Military Police had told them they could not continue their trap shoot and they were very anxious to finish their shooting that afternoon. They had been using the grounds for many years and did not realize they were so close that the Military Police felt they were too close for safety and comfort. I gave them authority to finish the shoot for that day but told them to find other grounds for this use in the future.

W: Did they complain at that time about Japanese interfering with the shoot?

S: No mention was made of Japanese.

W: Could it be possible that Japanese were within the boundaries and still able to observe the trap shooting?

S: Certainly -- and they probably were. They are very curious.

W: In other words, there is no certainty at all that this situation constituted a violation of regulations about Japanese being outside the area?

S: No.

* * *

W: Can you offer any reasons regarding the lay-out of the roads and the work arrangements that have been established in connection with the project that would give rise to the numerous rumors that evacuees are getting outside the project without an escort?

S: As you know, we have what is known as a project center and a project area. The project center is the immediate area inside the perimeter of the towers between which the village living quarters are located. Between the hours of sunset and sunrise the Japanese are not allowed outside of this project center. During the daylight hours they are allowed free access to the entire project area which includes the project center plus the acreage across the highway, in a westerly direction, where we have a branch of the administration building, wells and pumping station, the hog farm and the poultry plant. It also includes the 2300 acres of farm on the lake front which we have had under cultivation this year. The farm itself can be reached only by travel in a northwesterly direction on the county highway past the little village of Stronghold to a cross road about two miles this side of the town of Tulalake.

W: About how many total miles from the entrance of the center is this turn-off on the main highway?

S: About four and a half miles?

W: Where does this highway start and where does it lead to?

S: Klamath Falls to Alturas.

W: How heavy is the travel on this road of persons not connected with the project?

S: It grows less and less because of the tire situation but it is the only paved highway across this part of the state. After our

trucks reach this crossroad they make a left turn and go three-fourths of a mile to the farm. It has been necessary to haul an average of between four and five hundred workers a day out to this farm, take hot meals to them at noon, and bring them home in the evening. Because of the shortage of trucks it has sometimes been necessary to use government sedans to get these people back and forth. There is an Army post at this crossroad and it is the business of the military police on duty there to see that no cars containing Japanese proceed any further but make the turn to the farm at that point.

W: Are there Caucasian guards with these groups?

S: Not during daylight hours because it is within the project area. Night crews require a Caucasian guard.

W: Therefore, it would be possible for a person who is unfamiliar with the lay-out of the camp and who is driving along the main highway, to meet trucks full of Japanese or Japanese in Sedans on this five-mile stretch of highway without any Caucasian with them, and from this assume that they were outside the project area without an escort?

S: It probably would be, but for the fact that there is a military post which stops all cars entering the project area from either the north or the south sides which ought to give the general public the impression that this highway, which bisects our project, is within the proper sphere where Japanese can be driving on government business during daylight hours. At the present time, however, we are constructing two new roads, one of which is now completed, which will shorten the distance to the farm by half and also will make it unnecessary to use the county highway because these roads are on project land. We could not construct these roads earlier in the year because this was on property leased until October 15 and we could not take possession until that date.

* * *

W: I have been told that Japanese have been seen in Klamath Falls unescorted. Can you throw any light on this situation?

S: As you know, Klamath Falls is the passenger railhead for this project. All Japanese transferred in and out of Tule Lake must come by way of Klamath Falls railroad station. On all WRA and

U.S. Army transfers these people are always accompanied to or from Klamath Falls by either a military or Caucasian guard. However, the Department of Justice, in transferring Japanese from their internment camps at Santa Fe, New Mexico; Missoula, Montana; Bismarck, North Dakota; and Sharp Park, California, have not observed this plan and have sent Japanese unescorted. These people arrive in Klamath Falls and sometimes we are not notified in time to meet them or they miss connections and arrive at odd hours. Sometimes they are instructed to take the one bus which leaves Klamath Falls at 8:30 in the morning to come to the project. This has probably resulted in some Japanese being seen unescorted in Klamath Falls. As far as our own cases are concerned, they are accompanied by a Caucasian escort at all times.

W: Under what circumstances do WRA staff members take evacuees to Klamath Falls?

S: Staff members take them to Klamath Falls when they are to travel by Southern Pacific trains to other projects or other towns. Dr. Carson, Project Medical Officer, by securing, in advance, a properly signed pass from the Project Director, has authority to take Japanese patients to Klamath Falls for medical consultation or hospitalization for diseases for which we might not have proper specialists among the Japanese doctors on our staff at the project hospital. However, Dr. Carson or some Caucasian is always in attendance on these people.

W: Are there any other situations where WRA staff members take Japanese outside the project boundaries?

S: They have never taken them out without a written pass. These have been granted in very few cases. Sometimes they are taken to unload heavy equipment which has arrived by flat car at the Tulalake freight station because we do not have an unloading platform for handling heavy tractors or trucks on our project. They might also be sent with a Caucasian escort to drive back to the project trucks we had on a lend-lease agreement from CCC camps in the immediate neighborhood, or for hauling back to the project hogs, hay, or other agricultural materials we had purchased from some nearby farm. Outside of this, I know of no other instances or reasons for their leaving the project.

W: How about the Taylor Warehouse?

- S: The Taylor Warehouse #3 is on lease to the United States government. It is within the project area, near the little village of Stronghold before we make the left turn to go to the farm.
- W: Would it be possible for motorists driving by to see Japanese working in and around the Taylor Warehouse #3 without a Caucasian in sight?
- S: Certainly. We are storing potatoes and vegetables there for shipment at that siding. It is a work area. The highway itself is policed at all times by the Military Police.
- W: I was told in Klamath Falls by Mr. Low, Sheriff of Klamath County, that last Thursday he, together with a friend and their wives, were returning from Lakeview, Oregon. On this return trip they passed fourteen government trucks parked alongside the road. They slowed down and saw that Japanese were in or standing by these trucks and also carefully observed if any Caucasian was in sight. He said he was quite sure that there was no Caucasian with these Japanese. I asked which direction the trucks were headed and he said toward Tulelake. Can you tell me what this caravan of trucks was doing?
- S: We were instructed by Regional Office to send a party of Japanese drivers to Missoula, Montana to drive back sixteen trucks which were being turned over to WRA and our project by the U. S. Forest Service Depot at Missoula. These men were driven there in passenger cars accompanied by two Caucasian staff members, Mr. Gifford and Mr. Sloan, who never left them. On the return trip, Mr. Gifford headed the convoy in one passenger car and Mr. Sloan was at the rear in a second passenger car. I know from their report of the difficulties they encountered in trying to get food in restaurants and places to house the Japanese that they never left their side during the trip. I am sure the sheriff must be mistaken.

2. Japanese driving at Speeds Faster Than 35 Miles Per Hour.

- W: One of the complaints that appears two or three times in correspondence is that trucks and automobiles driven by Japanese are driven at speeds greater than 35 miles per hour. Do you have any information regarding this?
- S: This four and a half miles of paved highway which we have been using is patrolled constantly by Military Police cars and they have set a speed limit of 30 miles per hour on this stretch and they

are enforcing it. I have asked them to enforce it most rigidly upon all government cars and every time they have given me a citation of any Japanese driver who has exceeded the speed limit we have immediately removed his name from the list of truck drivers.

W: How often has this occurred?

S: Not more than half a dozen times.

W: What was the maximum speed?

S: Thirty-eight miles, 40 miles, and the highest 42 miles.

3. Illegal Hunting by the Japanese

W: There have been a number of complaints concerning Japanese catching ducks and geese illegally.

S: From the start, we have endeavored to impress the Japanese with the fact that the area in which the farm is situated is part of a Federal bird refuge. We warned them repeatedly against any attempts to catch geese and ducks. At the present time there has been, I think, a total of eight cases with one or more arrests in each case. Some of these complaints were filed by the game wardens of the Fish and Wildlife Service and, in several instances, we, ourselves, have turned in complaints to wardens when we found Japanese in possession of geese and ducks. I certainly am surprised at the statements which were made implying that we are not cooperating because it is our desire at all times to cooperate with other federal agencies, particularly in the conservation of wild life. Those on the project staff all understand this and I know they have the right attitude toward it. I have no sympathy and hold no brief for Japanese in trouble over this and hope the Marshal arrives soon to take these people for trial and sentence. We have given wide publicity in the Tulare Dispatch, our daily paper, on every arrest. However, in all fairness, I must say that with geese and ducks by the thousand eating the crops the Japanese planted, I think one can understand their attitude.

W: I believe you know that W. K. Humphreys, Executive Secretary of the Northern Council of Conservation Clubs, wrote a memorandum recently to General DeWitt in which he enumerates a number of complaints.

S: Yes.

W: Mr. Humphreys points out that a hearing was held on October 4, by the State Fish and Game Commission, to discuss the question of the boundaries of the reserve. He complains that even though you were given an urgent invitation to attend the hearing that you did not attend.

S: The first notice I had of this conference was on the Saturday afternoon previous to the Sunday on which the hearing was held. I had received a brief note from Mr. Rowalt, Acting Regional Director, telling me of the hearing and asking me to go or to send a representative. Unfortunately, when the hearing was held I had been previously scheduled for over a week to speak before a mass meeting of American citizens among the Japanese. I therefore sent Mr. Eastman who is not an underling as he states, but is Chief of Agriculture, and since the hunting situation they were going to discuss is the area surrounding the farm, I considered Mr. Eastman the logical man to send.

* * *

4. Food Provided for the Japanese

W: The complaint is widespread that the evacuees are being given excellent food, including the best cuts of meat, ham and bacon while the same types and quality of food products are either scarce or not obtainable in the local stores. This complaint comes from Klamath Falls particularly.

S: As you know, we are allowed a maximum of forty-five cents per day per person for food purchased. The suggested menus for our project must be in the hands of Regional Office forty-five days in advance at all times. These menus are subject to change as they go through the Quartermaster General of the Army, the Quartermaster Depot at Sacramento, and the Market Center in San Francisco, who order food to meet our requirements, and ship it to us in advance of the actual day they are needed. As to our serving choice cuts of beef, we must take the whole beef and it is cut up in our project meat cutting room. Various cuts are distributed to mess halls. Menus are uniform in all mess halls on the project. Quartermaster contracts are let by the Quartermaster on perishables, under which meat would come, and are delivered by whatever meat packing company gets the contract. Most of the time this has been Swift and Company whose warehouses are in San Francisco and Portland so I do not see how this affects the meat supply at Klamath Falls or any other local community. If our meat supply does not arrive, we are authorized to do emergency purchasing and occasionally we might have to buy from a local packing company but this is an unusual situation.

W: Have you had to make any such emergency purchases?

- S: Yes, a few, from the Shasta Meat Packing Company, Montague, Siskiyou County, about 150 miles from the project. We did have hams and bacon for awhile which we got from Swift and Company but like everyone else now we are having considerable difficulty in getting any smoked meats and I think we have probably had all we can hope to get for a long time. I have attempted to run down this situation in Klamath Falls before. Constantly the Safeway Stores, through their clerks, have informed the public in Klamath Falls, Lakeview, and Alturas that the reason they were unable to get ham and bacon for their customers was that all of it was going to the project at Tule Lake. Such statements from them are unwarranted, of course.
- W: Of what did your attempt to straighten out this matter consist? Did you go to them?
- S: Mr. Cook, of our Information Division, attempted to locate the manager of all their stores and was told that the old manager had just left and the new manager had not yet arrived. As you know, the same subject came up in articles in Klamath Falls. At that time Mr. Apley said he checked with the manager of Safeway who said he would stop such stories being told by his clerks. I do not know whether this was done or not. They have been the worst offenders all the time. This story they told me was a very good alibi.
- W: Does the forty-five cent budget include the cost of cooking and kitchen help?
- S: No. Forty-five cents is the actual cost of food. This is in contrast to the army's daily ration figure of fifty-seven cents.
- W: Do you know how much ham and bacon you have on hand?
- S: We have some on hand that came in September but not enough for a feeding of the entire colony. The Quartermaster informs us he is unable to furnish us with ham, bacon, or other cured meats.
- W: I have been told that people in outside communities are unable to get Coca-Cola but they know that Coca-Cola is served at the Project community store right along. This is also true for popsicles, ice cream, etc.
- S: The first two or three weeks the project was in existence, due to rivalry between Alturas Coca-Cola company and the Klamath Falls dealer, we were able to get Coca-Cola. Since that time we have been unable to get popsicles, ice cream and various kinds of soda pop but we are sharing in the general shortage. We anticipate that very shortly we, like other communities, will be unable to obtain these items.

W: In regard to shortages and rationing, is it your understanding or experience that WRA is able to purchase any food products that are denied to American citizens outside the project?

S: We are subject to the same rationing rules as any city in America, which means that we may not have more than eight ounces of sugar per person per week. We are now serving not to exceed two and one-half pounds of meat per person per week and we will be restricted on coffee, tea, and chocolate as well as all other commodities which will be rationed to the general public. Because of the Japanese love for fish, we have tried to reduce the consumption of meat even below this by supplementing with purchases of fresh or frozen fish when we can obtain it.

Incidentally, all sugar ration cards were picked up on orders from Regional Office and are being held by us until such time as they leave the project.

* * *

5. Waste of Food and of Transportation Facilities

W: Several persons have claimed they knew there was extravagant waste of food -- that considerable food is thrown out in the garbage. The following are typical of statements made: "Large quantities of wieners were thrown into the garbage cans untouched dog was seen chewing on a large piece of apparently good meat near one of the mess halls; , etc., etc."

S: I do not see how there can be much wastage on forty-five cents a day per person. While we have some skilled cooks, we have had to teach great numbers of cooks how to prepare food. We are constantly on the alert to make sure they make the best possible use of raw products furnished them. I do not think our garbage would reflect the wastage that would be true in any average city of 15,000, inasmuch as we have only 64 kitchens as opposed to about 6,000 kitchens in the average town of 15,000. As to the wieners mentioned, this probably dates back to a shipment which arrived in bad condition and was condemned by the army inspector on arrival and which was therefore not used. WRA did not pay for these.

W: We have been talking about charges of waste of food. Another story which I was told was that a carload shipment of ice delivered to the project was left to stand on the tracks. A good deal of the ice melted before it was unloaded.

S: The only purchases of ice which have been made were for use in the packing shed in the shipment of carloads of vegetables leaving this project for the open market and for other projects. The ice is

left in the car at the packing shed and taken from the car as it is needed, crushed and packed into the loaded cars of vegetables. I do not think any unnecessary wastage has resulted as we gauge very carefully the arrival of each car-load of ice. In fact, we have been held up in the shipment of vegetables because the ice did not arrive on time.

- W: Another general complaint frequently made ties back to the operation of motor vehicles. Several stated they believed there was a great waste in the use of trucks and cars -- that apparently many unnecessary trips were being made.
- S: This I do not believe can possibly be true. This project at no time has received its full quota of transportation vehicles. We did have at one time 120 trucks which was not more than half our quota. Many of these were loaned by surrounding federal agencies, such as CCC camps. About a month ago 44 of these had to be returned to their rightful owners which left us with a terrific shortage of transportation because we had crops to move and tremendous stores of sheetrock, insulating material, and our winter coal supply to be unloaded. As a result of this our trucks have been on an 18 to 24-hour schedule for the last month. I believe our Transportation Division is the best organized division on the project. Mr. Cooke, as Division Chief has done a very fine job of reducing to a minimum any unnecessary trips and has conserved in every way possible the use of trucks, gasoline, and tires. A recent inspection made by Major Darlington from Regional Office gave us a very clean bill of health on this subject. His criticisms were for the most part very minor and his statement that Mr. Cooke is in control of the situation substantiates my own opinion.

6. Demurrage Charges

- W: At least two persons have complained in writing that due to inefficient management there has been a large financial loss to the government through allowing freight cars to stand idle and run up demurrage charges.
- S: I regret the demurrage charges that will probably be made against Tule Lake Project. At the present time we have no estimate of how large or small this will be. The only time we incurred demurrage charges was during the past month when we were reduced to 64 trucks. It was a shortage of transportation rather than anything else which resulted in our failure to unload cars on time. Unfortunately, the long delayed lumber, sheetrock, insulating, and other building materials which should have reached us weeks

previously started arriving at the same time our winter supply of coal was arriving and at the same time we had to move from our farm, potatoes, barley, and other vegetable crops for storage and shipment. We were forced to use trucks on the farm by day to haul crops and use the same trucks by night to haul rations, pick up garbage, and to unload freight cars. We did not have a lumber carrier. Finally, after searching eastern Oregon and northern California, we were able to rent a carrier which helped us unload. Another factor in demurrage charges was that we could not get from the Southern Pacific Company a switch engine to move cars to proper unloading spots when we had finished those at the landing platform. Some charges will be protested on the grounds that we notified the Southern Pacific Company in writing that unless we were granted a switch engine we would not be held liable. At the present time, we are current with the unloading and will keep current inasmuch as we have had some additional transportation equipment furnished us.

W: Is this statement true, that at the period of peak demands for transportation, this federal agency was required to return 44 trucks?

S: The 44 we had on loan from the CCC, declared surplus by them, were called for by the U. S. Army and we had to turn them in at the call of the army. This was right at the time of the peak demand upon our transportation facilities.

7. Teachers

W: The complaint has been made in writing and also verbally that the Tule Lake Project has hired a large number of Oregon teachers which has caused a shortage of teachers in that state. It is also the general feeling that the teachers at the project have comparatively small classes.

S: At the request of Regional Office and myself, Mr. Harkness, our Superintendent of Schools, made an investigation of this claim that we had hired Oregon teachers. As you will see by the carbon copy of his report which is attached herewith we took but one teacher and one substitute teacher. The WRA and California requirement that all teachers employed by us had to have California credentials or the equivalent prevented us from doing much recruiting in Oregon. The shortage of teachers is nation wide and not limited to Oregon. WRA standards is to have one teacher for every forty pupils. At the present moment Tule Lake is far from achieving that ideal. We opened schools with as high as 80 or 90 pupils per teacher. We are still short nine elementary and twenty high school teachers. When we get these we may be able to reduce to forty pupils per teacher as WRA is demanding of Tule Lake.

- W: You said that there was only one teacher and one substitute who taught in Oregon last year. Are there some teachers on your staff who taught in Oregon previous to last year?
- S: Yes, but they have been teaching in California since that time or were on a pension and returned to teaching after several years' absence. The regular teacher we took was from Eugene was highly recommended for our projects. At the present time we are making no attempt whatsoever to get teachers from Oregon. We have no dealings with any teachers now under contract with any school district.

9. "Sitdown" Strikes

- W: Several persons have complained that some of the waste referred to above is caused by the "sitdown" strikes of evacuees. They blame WRA for these strikes, apparently reasoning that the evacuees should be made to work and if they do not it is the result of inefficiency and mismanagement.
- S: As you know, we have no authority to make people work. They are furnished food, housing, medical care, and school for their children because they were removed from their homes and placed in a War Relocation Project. If they wish to work we then are using them to the greatest capacity, paying them \$12, \$13, and \$19 per month plus a clothing allowance. The labor difficulties we have had have been due largely to misunderstandings on the part of the Japanese, also the good old American custom of striking when you have a grievance, whether real or fancied and then too, WRA's delay in getting to them pay for previous months they had worked. For instance, we have just finished this week giving pay checks which just arrived for work done during the month of August. This means that we have been practically 60 days behind at all times in getting the evacuees paid. While you and I understand the reasons for this delay, it has been very difficult to persuade the Japanese that such delays were justified.
- W: What efforts have been made by you to get payments current?
- S: All efforts I made were practically futile until, as a result of the August conference, arrangements were made whereby on October 1st we would start on a basis of local autonomy, writing our own payrolls here, having them certified here, and paid by the Sub-Treasury at Portland. With this plan we are enabled to speed up our payrolls for Japanese and payment of goods furnished us by vendors. Our August payroll has been paid, our September payrolls are all in the Sub-Treasury office and checks are being written. We are now

beginning to compute and write the October payroll and it is my conviction we will have pay checks for October in the hands of the evacuees by November 20th at the latest.

W: When you are current in paying evacuees, do you believe this will remove one of the largest causes of misunderstanding and labor troubles?

S: Yes, but there will always be difficulties. The psychology of any evacuated group will mean certain elements of distress, certain amount of language handicaps inasmuch as they cannot understand us and we cannot understand them, the enormous wages being paid on the outside which leads to considerable discontent on their part. Many factors contribute which will always give us labor troubles, coupled with the lack of any power to make them work if they do not wish to do so. One must realize that \$16 a month, which is the wage of about 80 per cent of the workers, means a wage of about fifty cents a day.

9. Contraband

W: I have here a memorandum signed by Henry H. Miller, First Lieutenant, G.P., Executive Officer, to HQ office of Commanding General, 9th Service Command, Fort Douglas, Utah, dated October 14, subject of which is "Postal inspection at Camp Newell, Tule Lake, California. Note that in paragraphs four and five, Lieutenant Miller refers to colonists receiving an excessive number of knives, hatchets, and similar articles under the guise of mechanical tools and that he urgently requests the Western Defense Command and Fourth Army to make a search of the RA area and remove these articles. Have you any comment to make on this?

S: As you know, when we first came here the search for contraband was a function of the Military Police, then it was changed and made a function of the WRA. Then within the last month it was again returned to the Military Police. Immediately prior to its return, Captain Patterson came to me stating that he knew excessive amounts of contraband had come in during our searching. I asked what they were and he said one man had received six shingling hatchets which I pointed out were not contraband. He then spoke of materials for practicing fencing. I told him these materials were not sent to an evacuee but were sent to our recreation department and were part of the recreation equipment. These were the only comments he has ever made to me about contraband. As you know, he has long had the idea that we should not have any knives of any kind, whether they were for cooks or not and he has shown what I could consider undue alarm about many things connected with the project.

10. Military Drilling by Japanese Evacuees in Uniform

W: The charge has been made that Japanese have been seen drilling with sticks and in uniform. What about this?

S: I consider that editorial in the Tulalake Reporter one of the most vicious they have published because it was, in my opinion, a deliberate attempt to stir up fear on the part of the people surrounding the project, and nothing else. After this editorial appeared, I kept thinking three or four days as to where they got any such idea. The only thing I can imagine is that we have issued surplus 1917-19 World War army clothing which was furnished us by the U. S. Army. This does not give any military appearance to any Japanese I have seen. In fact, they look like Cox's Army as you can imagine. As to drilling with sticks, someone must have observed our colonists on Saturday afternoons and Sundays going across the highway to climb the "Peninsula", all equipped with walking sticks which seems to be part of the outing costume of Japanese hikers. Otherwise, I have no idea how this rumor started.

11. Causes of Antagonism

W: Have you any suggestions as to the causes of the antagonism which is shared by such a large proportion of the people in the territory surrounding the project?

S: We shall always have much criticism from surrounding communities. I think every project of the WRA must expect this. We are concerned with a very unpopular war job. The public does not realize, of course, that 66 per cent of the evacuees are American citizens. They look upon all of them as dangerous enemy aliens and I do not believe we will ever be able to persuade them that a high percentage of the citizens here are loyal, I am sure, and quite a percentage of the aliens are Pro-American. Our situation at Tule Lake will always be complicated due to the fact the project is located in the midst of a reclamation project which was opened to homesteaders who were veterans of the last war. These people are very definitely patriotic and have fought from the beginning against choosing this as the site for a project and have been thoroughly antagonistic ever since. Also, due to the fact that some homesteaders, in addition to owning lands, were allowed to lease other lands from the U. S. Reclamation District, which lands we took away from them, does not add to their liking for the

project. For many of these leases which were cancelled, the Army has not yet paid one cent compensation.

Some of the antipathy toward the project is due to the slowness in paying our bills. Due to the fact the Office of Emergency Management has been months behind in payment of vouchers has had its effect upon the general morale of the community. Many of these people are out thousands of dollars and while they know eventually they will be paid, this does not help solve their own pressing financial problems. I believe the new set up of certifying our own vouchers and paying in Portland independent of the OEM will overcome some of these antipathies.

W: Have you any idea how many unpaid bills are outstanding?

S: I would say offhand we probably owe a quarter of a million dollars to merchants and individuals in the Klamath Falls and Tulelake area.

W: Is it your opinion that the local merchants hold WRA responsible for payment of these bills?

S: Certainly. They do not know anything about OEM, Treasury Department or any of the problems connected with payment of bills. They feel the fault is entirely the Project's. As you know, these bills previously had to be vouchered and certified in Regional Office. Since October 1, we ought to be able to expedite payment.

W: I have read several articles in the Tulelake Reporter which were very critical of the management of the project. Is there any particular reason you know of why this publication should be so antagonistic?

S: There are two reasons, I believe. First, the subscribers are all antagonistic. They are mostly veterans about whom I spoke previously and the editor must conform somewhat to their wishes and whims in the matter and he rides the band wagon because it is the popular thing to do and will always be so. Secondly, the proprietor was very anxious from the beginning and approached me and made several trips to Regional Office wanting the job as Chief of the Information Division. I assured him that appointments were made in the Regional Office and I had nothing to do about it. I know he made several trips to San Francisco in endeavors to land this job. He was also very anxious to land a job out here for printing our daily paper, now being mimeographed on the project. Mr. Bates, Chief of Information in Regional Office, told me that his offers to print this paper were entirely out of line. The figures he was quoting were about three times what was being paid for similar jobs on other projects. This last general wave of unfriendly criticism was started very definitely by an article in the Tulelake Reporter. Rumors which have spread throughout the

whole area were copied directly from articles in the Tulalake Reporter. Mr. Davis was invited to the project many times and told that if he had any questions he wanted to ask, we would be glad to answer them but he has not seen fit to avail himself of the opportunity.

Second conference between Elmer L. Shirrell and Philip J. Webster.

This conference took place on November 5, 1942 the day after Mr. Webster had had a conference with Captain Patterson, in charge of the Military Police guarding the project area.

* * *

W: I asked Captain Patterson if he had any definite knowledge of cases where evacuees were found outside the project boundaries without a permit or a white escort. He said that this happened on numerous occasions. He said, however, that in none of these cases were the Japanese more than a mile to a mile and a half from the boundaries.

S: We had some difficulty on the first weekend after we got the new order on the freedom of access to the entire project area. There were spots where Japanese strayed between the signs, the signs being placed every 500 feet to indicate the boundaries of the project. These people were brought in by Captain Patterson and we gave them instructions and told them any further straying beyond the boundaries would result in cancelling of the privilege. It is my opinion, and I have so informed the Regional Office, that 500 feet between signs is too far. Some of these spots are in rolling country where the signs would not be visible and there is, therefore, some excuse for the evacuees. However, I feel that the patrolling of the exterior of the project is the business of the military police and have entrusted that to them and stand ready to punish any who are caught outside.

SUPPLEMENT IV

TRANSCRIPT OF CONFERENCE BETWEEN PETER KRISTOVICH,
ASSISTANT CHIEF, INTERNAL SECURITY, AND PHILIP WEBSTER

CONFERENCE BETWEEN Peter M. Kristovich, Assistant Chief,
Internal Security, Tule Lake Relocation Area
and
Philip J. Webster

Mr. Webster showed Mr. Kristovich the letter from Henry H. Miller, First Lt. CMP., Executive Officer to H.Q., Office of the Commanding General, 9th Service Command, Fort Douglas, Utah, dated October 14th, 1942.

W. Have you any comments to make regarding paragraphs 4 and 5?

K. In regards to this letter in paragraphs 4 and 5 my answer is that the colonists have had access to knives, that they had access to axes, and that they have had access to hatchets.

W. By access, what do you mean?

K. They have access to get them and actually have them. I am aware that colonists do have knives and hatchets.

I arrived on the project on July 31st. At that time all or nearly all of the colonists had arrived. It was my understanding as far as I know none of these articles were taken away from the colonists when they arrived. Of course, these articles were personal property of the colonists and many of them are in daily use at the present time. For example, knives are necessary for use of the cooks in the kitchens. Hatchets are used by the carpenters, to cut kindling, etc, etc.

When I arrived the Military Police were doing all the inspecting of the baggage.

W. About what time roughly?

K. Roughly about two months ago this duty was turned over to the War Relocation Authority. At this time Military Police told us that from that time they would not be responsible for checking people in or out of the project or for inspection. As far as I know, they gave WRA no instructions as to what was contraband. However, my understanding of the policy then was that the contraband consisted of shortwave radios, liquor, cameras, and guns. Therefore, any such articles found, we marked with the owner's name and are holding them in storage. To my knowledge we never found any guns, liquor, or cameras. In connection with shortwave radios there is a Japanese, Henry Ichimura, who has been cleared by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Naval and Army Intelligence to inspect radios to see whether the shortwave mechanisms have been removed. As far as I know none of the radios have had shortwave mechanisms. In all cases the radios were returned to the owner.

We never have considered knives, hatchets, and axes contraband but we have observed these articles in our inspection. However, we have never kept any written record on these.

W. Have you at any time received any written instructions as to what contraband is and what you are supposed to do about it?

K. As far as I personally am concerned I had not seen anything in writing until November 2nd when Captain Patterson, Commanding Officer of the Military Police brought a copy of the memorandum dated September 13th from J. L. DeWitt, Lt. General, U. S. Army Commanding General, Communications Zone, Subject - Parcel Inspection at Certain War Relocation Authority Projects. I will see that you get a copy of this.

(Mr. Webster carefully read this memorandum.)

W. Is there any procedure which you have been following which is not in line with the instructions in this memorandum?

K. No, I don't think so. There was a little question in my mind after reading the memorandum about two radio tubes which had been taken with the thought that they might be used in connection with short wave radio. In this case we got Henry Ichimura to consider the matter and he stated that their purpose was to reduce static and that as such they could not be used in connection with short wave unless there were other essential parts which the owner did not have.

I want to make it clear that Mr. Harold S. Jacoby is the Chief of Internal Security. He is now away on an extended trip.

NOTE: When Mr. Jacoby returned he read this statement and said it was entirely correct and he suggested no additions or changes.