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SEGREGATION

Segregation of the so-called disloyal evacuees to the Tule Lake Relocation Center has been announced to commence in September.

There lies then, less than a month in which to do some fast and serious thinking. This applies to both the powers that be, WRA officials, Project Directors, and etc., who will have guidance in its materializations and the evacuees themselves who will have to live the consequences of whatever bungling they allow to be planned by their indifference, apathy and attitude of fatalistic resignation of "shikataganai".

Officials, however well intentioned, have realization only of a portion of the evacuation significance; they have only earned a living by helping the evacuees. They have neither experienced the pangs nor pathos nor have they had to live the consequences of their own official gropings. It is therefore natural that these officials seem not to have comprehended the process of the motivations underlying the signing for repatriation and expatriation, and the designation of no on 28 and regard them as people\* "who frankly have declared their sympathy for Japan or their lack of allegiance to the U. S." -- "whose interests are not in harmony with those of U. S."

It is the purpose of the writer in his humble way to compare these WRA reasonings which crystallized the segregation policy with the evacuee motivations. It is hoped that it will have the effect of clarifying segregation criteria.

The writer is convinced that it is the earnest desire of Washington and the WRA to make the movement from and to Tule Lake in the most human way with the minimum of unnecessary privation and consequent discontent.

\*WRA policy released by J. Baker chief reports officer Poston Chronicle 7/31/43.

Relevantly it is felt that the WRA has consistently failed to tap the greatest source for initiative in the successful planning to Relocations by ignoring the evacuee viewpoint in making its blueprints; and that to this failure may be traced much of the attendant miseries that were wholly preventable and unnecessary. The writer therefore, RECOMMENDS THAT EVACUEES PLANNING BE INCORPORATED in the TULE LAKE PLAN, that the future residents work out the details for Tule Lake while still at their present centers in consultation with these recommendations. For at best even the evacuee community analysts can only point out the general principles derived from past experiences.

That in the mechanics pertaining to re-orientation of the new group into Tule Lake the lessons learned from the experiences of the ten relocation fillings be utilized:

1. PROVISION FOR PRIVACY. That it be remembered kept uppermost that the worst previous mistake in housing procedure was the failure to recognize the evacuees as beings with human sensitivities of many years American acculturation.
2. PROVISION FOR SOCIABILITY. That in the future block housing set-up adequate provisions be made for the social needs of the residents as social beings who need places besides door steps, bedroom, mess or latrines to keep the morale and the morals.
3. PRESERVATION OF SOCIAL TIES. Be one of the objectives in block fillings, that the securities enjoyed by center association be preserved.

Who are to occupy Tule Lake?

The writer recommends a re-examination of the WRA thesis upon which segregation is fundamentally based. It appears that an overall superficial and erroneous presumption will lead to many further WRA mistakes in policies and bungling of justice. For to the thousands who had preferred American residence and American ideals although denied citizenship the signing for repatriation was not and is not a "frank declaration of sympathy for Japan and lack of allegiance to the U. S." Had that been the case so many thou-

sands would not have been caught in the wake of the war with farms, businesses, homes and grown up Nisei children!

To the many Nisei the signing for Expatriation and no on 28 did not mean an aversion to the American way of life.

Then what did they mean? What is the significance of the many new sign-ups following announcement for Tule Lake segregation?

A subjective analysis of underlying motivations appear prudent as well as necessary. Let the WRA official imagine himself wearing the Evacuee's abrasive ill-fitting new shoes styled relocation. Then only could he recapture something of the turmoil, the conflicts and the perplexities of the mental processes that finally settled into the decision and realize SUDDENLY that the evacuees were told to choose between the RELOCATION WAY of LIFE for the duration or an early escape to the Japanese way of life, the feeling of deep suspicion for these signers vanishes as he realizes that:

1. THE SIGNING FOR REPATRIATION SIGNIFIED NOT AN AVERSION TO THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE BUT TO THE RELOCATION WAY OF LIFE.

- to coralling with strangers in sub-garage quarters,
- to inadequate subsistence, health, and education facilities.

2. That it signifies a DESIRE TO ESCAPE this RELOCATION WAY OF LIFE.

- to salvage years of deterioration under these conditions.

3. Signifies DESIRE FOR ECONOMIC GAIN AND HOPE

- by being at first base in Japan for advantageous concessions, monopolies, etc.

That these decisions were nurtured by the permeation of the feeling that "there is no future" in America for the persons of Japanese origin.

4. SIGNING FOR EXPATRIATION BY THE NISEI signified the feeling of FUTILITY FOR FUTURE in AMERICAN and not preference for Japanese way of life.

- abrogation of civil rights in forced citizen evacuation.
- doubts as to the meaning of American democracy for the colored races.

Desire to salvage the most important foundations years from duration deterioration and the hope for economic gains are also dynamic forces (previously mentioned).

How then account for the large number who have not retracted their desire since the opening of resettlement possibilities. True this change in policy brought a wave of satisfaction in sentiment. But these people had originated themselves into thinking that there was no future in America. Then as the possibility was beginning to take contagious hold the flare of anti-sentiment burned up their hope of resettlement success:

1. Bad California publicity effects of the American flyers execution.
2. The Phoenix race antagonism culminating into the 3 day anti-trading law.
3. The back-firing besmirching of evacuees by disgruntled former Relocation employees.
4. The race riots in Detroit.
5. The Dies committee distortions.

All these incidents had the cumulative effect of stifling rising hopes, of crystallizing see-sawing doubts to a RESIGNATION to try to make the best of life in Japan for there seem to be NO FUTURE IN AMERICA for one of JAPANESE RACE. This is certainly not a decision of sympathy for Japan.

The majority of these signers WRA-designated as disloyal, then are in the main Americans at heart and very much in thought. How to separate these from the small minority whose loyalties pulsate with Japan? The listing of the non-American residents such as tourists, students etc., is simple.

Segregation as a basic policy is fundamentally sound. It serves to further the national interest as well as the evacuee interest. It facilitates evacuee acceptance into new communities and thereby accelerates the rehabilitation of evacuee life and morale. Meanwhile the incapacity of a group of Isseis and the young Niseis to go out for resettlement must be recognized.

And the close-habitatation with them of people whose disappointments and sufferings have been too great or whose disillusionment so extreme as to make their pervasive resentments demoralizing to their contacts is to be discouraged.

The segregation of these people then appears to be the specific task confronting the WRA. The wisdom of moving the entire group who have designated a desire for expatriation or repatriation under the "Disloyal" label should be re-considered. Mothers know the psychological effect of a child "Bad boy".

220/

Min Spicer

12-1-42  
6.30 pm Tsdy  
A.H.Leighton

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Ntrvu w Dr. Ishimaru.

I told him I wd com to hs ffice as it z quietr tan mine. Got tr a ltl aftr 4. He z busy n othr room w a pt. Cam nto hs ffice abt 4.15 and we talkd til 5.40 He dd most f t talkg, z quite voluabl, prodd by a v fu qestns fm me. Talkd w enthusiasm and intrest, kept chngng positn, tipg ~~xx~~ bac n chr, r leang on desk w both arms and putg hs hed dwn on tm.

He began by referg to Milr who z suprvisg t phys exam f a nu Cauc who s just beg addd to t pic frc and who wil spl n traing tm n art f slf dfns. Sd he hrd ta Milr carried a gat. Ta z poor business, hdnt seen him himself, b othrs hd told him, peopl feel prety sor abt it.

Scn I cam bac I hv been keepg quiet and my ears wide opn. Ts central comitee hv takn a big job on tr hands. I dont see wat ty got out f ts strike, -Al t headaches f t admin. Nw its shiftd to tm and it s tr responsability. B I tq ty wil do al rt, most f tm. Tr r 2 on tr -- I gav tr names to Mr Hd -- We hv to watch out fr. Tr s n o doubt n my mind ta tr r som peopl bac f ts tg sting n up. AL Why?

Dr. I. To get pwr, to tip ovr t whol tg. I tq ty r pro axis. T boys we hv to watch r t Judo and Sumo clubs. I tq we hv to face it, tr r som peopl n hr ta perhaps sd be got out f hr so we k hv a peacfl cummunity-- evn if it takes an investigatn and t FBI to do it. We'll hv to watch tm and wn we see wat ty r up to, we wil hv to take steps.

AL Hw k u be sur ta tes guys really r wat u sa, tes 2?

Dr I A man told me n whom I hv q confidence. It s beg talkd al ovr t camp wat tes peopl r dog. T Iseis r most f tm agsnt it. Tos ta hv

children espc. Som f tes ba chlrs mite be t ones ta r n it  
mos t, causg t ~~xxxxxxx~~ most trbl.

AL Any gangs fm LA?

Dr I. No, nt hr. I hvnt hrd f any gangstrs or gamblers mixd up n ts.  
Ty hv plenty f ta sort f trbl at Gila. Ty run gamblg joints tr fr  
hi sta kes and ty sa if a ny one squeels,, ty wil kil him. Ts tg ~~x~~  
hr I tq z wel organised bfr t strike and ty tried to do it once or ~~xxx~~  
twice bfr, b I tq it z organised hr, or by parolees, b nt gangs fm  
LA. DD I evr tel u abt t meetg I a tend f t Isei bfr I went a wa?  
U kno tr hs been a story gog arwnd hr fm som Isei ta ty wd rathr be  
treatd like enemy aliens, and get tr rts thru t Spanish Ambasadr.  
Ty sd ~~ss~~ t Amer citz sd be treatd l wa, and ty anothr.  
I told tm ta if ta wr tru, it wd be easy to fix. If any body wants  
to go to an internment camp, notg wd be easier. Why ty cd let me  
kno and I cd turn tr names n if ta z wat ty wantd. B I sd do u felos  
mean u want to be ~~xxx~~ separated fm ur childrn? Do u want to hv one  
camp fr t Iseis,? I told tm I wantd ta sort f talk sqashed.

(He z v vehement n talkg along ts line.) Som f tes felos dont cr wat  
ba d effect al ts publicty s hvg on us who hv to liv n ts country,  
ty dont seem~~x~~ to care abt tr childrn any mo. B most f t Isei r ~~disgust~~  
disgusted. If u ask tm nw ty cant sa wat t strike z abt and ty sa ta  
we wr sur crazy at ta tim. Lots f tm just sa it s ovr and frgtn. Ty  
sa it doesnt matr nw, its a tg f t past. B ta just shos u hw ty dont  
undrstand. T d amage it dd on t ~~xxx~~ outside s stil tr.

AL Hw to t Nisei feel?

DR I. Tr s a risg feelg ta ty want to do somtg to dfnd tmselvs.  
I tq t tim s nt ~~xx~~ ripe yet fr tm to get organised, I tq we sd just  
let ts comitee go on and see wat ty a complish. If ty fail, t peopl  
wil elect anothr one rt awa. It s a gd tg to hv ta respnsability  
n t hands f t peopl. If t need coms, t ~~x~~ Nisei k organise rt awa  
nw to maintain peace n t comunity. Most f tm want to do ta.

We hd a meetg hr n t hospitl just t othr nite and ty al feel strgl abt it.

AL. Hw abt othrs a side fm ts profesnl clas?

Dr. I. I tq it s t sam. I hv a v larj pernl folog n ts comunity and I hv Mr Hed's confidence.

AL Wat abt Ag dept and t schl~~x~~ tchrs?

DR.I. I dont kno abt tm. B ts comitee s on t spot n regrd to me. Ty kno I hv a folg and I hv Mr. H's confidence. Ty hv askd me to join, B I told tm I wantd to be a neubral observr fr a wl. Tr z a story startd ta I skipd out to SLC wn ts strike z comg up. I hv told tm ta it s up to tm to get ta rumr clrd up. Wn ty do and wn ty need me, I and ask fr my help, tn I'll step n, b ty wil hv to do wat I sa. I am on t comitee nw ta s to~~x~~ pic out t mmb~~r~~s f t honor comitee, ta s t comitee to clr peopl's names. Ta comitee s suposd to be md up f peopl ovr 50, b I dont tq ta s write. U kn~~t~~ pic just any old farmr bcz he s a nice guy fr a job like ta. U need som one w educt and bkgrwnd. U need somone ta knos somtg abt socialogy and u need a psychologist, some one who undrstands and can evaluate persona' relations. ~~Tx~~ Ta s wat I t q. Ty r gog to run nto a snag tr. Wn ty get tr list drawn up, I bet ty ~~xxx~~ wont find anybody who wil be wilg to serv. It wil end n a stalemate.

AL Wat wd hapn if som one z beatn up tonite?

DR.I. I tq t admin and t peopl sd hand it rt to t comitee and demand ta ty do somtg. I tq ty wd too. I tq ty wd kno hw to trace it and I tq t comuntiy wd bac tm up n dog ta.

If I hd been hr ta aftrnoon wn t cwncl resignd, I dont tq ta I wd hv handld it ta wa. Ty cam n w clubs fm t crwd and told tm to resign, b I wd hv askd fr tim. I wd hv askd fr a cpl f hours at least and I' d hv gone dwn and talkd to Mr Uchida and Figli, I kno tm both and I wd hv got tr point f vu and tn I wd hv talkd to ~~x~~ t admin and I

a m sur som wa wd hv been fwnd,. I tq t a dmin wd hv been wilg to let  
tm go n t comntiy pendg som trial hr. I tq it cd hv been aranged.  
Ta s my wa f dog tgs. I certnl wdnt hv resignd, I wd hv askd fr  
tim. I tq ty wr n t rt objectg to holdg him ovr t legal time, b  
rt aftr ts strike got startd, t Uchida case got pushd wa n t bacgrwnd.  
Nw ty dont kno wat t strike z al abt. I ask peopl al ovr t place wat  
it z abt and ty cant tel me, Isei or Nisei. Ty sa ty went bcz othrs  
wr gog, or bcz ty wr frcd. T tgs ta czd ta strike wr t ltl tgs,  
bac pay, lac f stovs, FBI dogs bfr evac and tes trbl makrs who  
r stirg it up delib. I dont tq any f t real ldrs f t trbl r n t  
comitees, ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~, b ty put presr on othrs, tes  
two on t executiv comitee r stooges fr t real ldrs who r behind t  
seens. B a stooge s as abd as t real tg and u nevr kno hw long ty will  
sta just a stooge.

At t end I askd him wat he thot my dept sd do n ts situ. He  
sd we sd study t personalites f tes men who r leadrs, piece q tg to-  
gthr abt tm. I objectd to ts on t grwnd ta we wr mo neutral obsrvrs  
and it znt our job to colect data x ta mite be used agsnt peopl, and  
it wd make peopl misundrstand our mtivs. He sd it sd be f ntrest  
to us nonetheless. Tn he sugestd ta we ask as many peopl as poss  
wat caused t strike and make a study f t ansrs we get. Finally he  
thot I sd put it as a prob to my psychological class, wat ty wd hv done  
if ty hd been chrman x f t cwncil t aftrnoon it resigned.

*Clashes between I + organized N unite  
lead to some attacks on Carec Personnel.*

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Jan. 4, 1943

Tep Ishimaru came into my office and threw a typed paper on my desk, saying, "Maybe you'd like to look at this. It isn't finished, but I'm working on it and I think I'll send it to Myers and McCloy and those guys when I get it finished." I read the paper which was a five page statement in general terms of the injustices suffered by California Japanese in the pre-evacuation period as a result of FBI raids and loss of property, etc. I told him I thought it was an excellent statement, but that I would suggest he make it more specific. We then talked of various things, TI doing most of the talking: Amano and Sugiyama came around the other day asking me to get back on the council. I didn't fool around with them. I came right out and let them know I wasn't going to suck anybody's ass. They know I've got more social background than anybody else on the council. That's why they came around. They're alright, but I told 'em, Hell, with what people are saying about me, I'm not going to do anything. I told em they'll be coming around and wanting me to use my government connections, but I'm not doing anything. Let them come right out if they want to get something done. I won't do it until they admit they're a bunch of liars. It's not that I don't want to help. I spent a lot of time helping these people out. You know that. I didn't mind doing it, doing what I could. I have the connections alright. But I'm <sup>not</sup> sucking anybody's ass. Maybe it'll do me good to get a rest for awhile. They'll find out. Maybe those kids will get some good experience.

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I can rest for a couple of months and do a little work on bigger things like this paper. I'll give this Central Ex. Cte. just about two weeks. Then it'll go under. Why, the people know those guys cant do anything. Who do they know?

(He outlined a plan for the FBI from Los Angeles to come in occasianlly to Poston and question people a little. He believes this would make "the trouble-makers" keep out of hings--- "if they just let it be known that they were keeping their eyes on things." He has taken this up with Mr. Head and the latter has said that it is a good idea. TI intends to stop at the FBI office in L.A. on hisway to Manzanar and suggest it to them there. "Gelvin has told me that he doesn't want anything to do with the FBI in Phoenix.")

TI: I had a lot of experience with the FBI in L.A. When they were picking up guys before evacuation. It was plenty bad, I'M tellin you. I helped out a bunch that had organized a kendo club. We had had it cleared before we organized it. It was alright with everybody. Wll, they took up that whole bunch. There's some of them over in Lordsburg now. Only charge was being in the kendo club. There was a ld. of talk about the club training the Japanese to cut people up. Well, I just told them. I said 'You have your fencing. You use real metal foils and all that. In kendo we just use split bamboo. It's not even as bad as fencing. I wen t before the hearing board. I told them just that. When it was over, the judge came over to me. He shook my hand and he said, "I know how it is. You're an American. I'm an American." But some of those guys didn't know what to say. Did you ever know what

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they asked them in those hearings. They would ask, 'Would you ~~xxx~~ step on a picture of the emperor and the Japanese flag?' A fellow who wasn't prepared would say 'No', and they would shove him out through the back door and send him to an interment camp right away. That was supposed to be hearing. Well, I wanted to tell some of those fellows what to say. I would have said, "I wouldn't step on any country's flag." But those guys didn't have time to think. One fellow was asked, 'If the Japs came to California and invaded it, would you take up arms against your countrymen?' How could he answer. Which ever way he answered they would send him out. I tried to help out in those cases. I can tell you that the FBI never asked me to get anybody. They asked me questions, sure, but they never asked me to get anybody.

Well, I've got some plans. How about a Japanese representative in WRA. He could go around and find out conditions in camps and be an adviser. Maybe two or three guys. They need somebody to do that.

This Central Ex. C<sup>+</sup> doesn't have any brains. They haven't done anything. You know that. One of em is an embezzler. That's the kind of guys they've got on there. And most of the people are against them. They don't know the men on the administration. I know Wade Head. He's allright. But they don't know how to deal with him. Why, I remember when that bunch on the councils came up from II and III about the stoves. They were just plain god damn fools. hey went in there to see him. I wasn't going in, but Wade Head came along and said, "Tep, dont you want to sit in." I sat in and they acted liked damn fools. I heard Wade Head say to em, "If you think you're put-

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ting pressure on me, you're damn well mistaken." They got him sore. They defeated their own purpose. I told em that. I left before hey came out. I wasn't gonna sit in on a thing like that. That was a dumb stunt. They dont know how to act. Wade Head is alright. He's trying to do his best. And I guess Gelvin is alright, too. He doesn't say much. But he knows what he's doing. These birds dont realize that. They dont know what you have to buck.

(EHS)

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July 16, 1942 5

I attended a meeting of all the unemployed people in Poston (Camp #1) this morning held at the ball field adjacent to the Fire Department building, near Block 30. I arrived there about 9:00 a.m. and the meeting was already well under way, consequently I missed the greater part of the talk made by Mr. Evans, who was conducting the meeting. A large number of block managers and the unemployed in their blocks were represented. There must have been about 100 people in all in attendance, mostly men. There were about 18 young girls who were between the ages of 15 to 20. Ninety-nine per cent of the men represented the issei (older group) who were well in their fifties and sixties. They were seated on a 45 degree angle with men of the same block quite well-grouped together. Some squatted on the ground, most of them stood up. From what little I heard of the speech made by Mr. Evans who spoke in English, I was able to jot down roughly the following comments:

"We know how hot it is outside and how difficult it is to work on any project which requires working in the sun and dust. Many of you are just not used to this sort of environment and condition. We fully realize this. We of the administration are not here to dictate to you or compell you to work on any project against your own will. We are here only to assist you in improving your own city of Poston. We need many, many men workers on the subjugation project, the canal project, and the adobe brick making project for the construction of the school buildings. All we want is your cooperation and patience as we plan together the improvement and development of Poston, a city which we can

be proud of and which the entire United States and the world may take notice of. I earnestly beg of you, all the cooperation you can give us. This cooperation must be purely voluntary and you must sincerely believe that you want to contribute towards improving your community as well as your own living here. Whatever contributions you can make, small as it may be, will only accelerate the administration's program of developing more fully your community."

As Mr. Evans spoke in English and most of the people there were the older Japanese who understood very little English, it was very noticeable that the exact message delivered by Mr. Evans was not being clearly comprehended by the people. The people, however, were very attentive and appeared making every effort to grasp the keynote of the speech. Later I learned from another person that there was a Japanese interpreter but due to the difficulty experienced by the interpreter, the interpretation of Mr. Evans speech was abandoned.

At the end of his speech, Mr. Evans asked all the block managers to get together with the people of his own block and relay to them the keynote of the address and also to get the names of all those present. I elbowed my way around so that I could observe and note the reactions of the people in general. I heard a block manager who seems to be conveying the keynote of the talk to the people rather successfully. The people seemed to be very open-minded and reacted rather favorable with respect to the things Mr. Evans spoke about. I observed another group and the reactions were almost similar. The two block managers I had

first contacted appeared to be very good speakers in both Japanese and English and were making a very favorable impression upon the people. In short they explained: "You, the Issei group as well as the parents of the younger generation, must set an example and open the way for the less experienced nisei group (second generation). How little your contribution in some form of work on some project may be, if all of us cooperated, it will add up to a great deal. You are the bulwark of the community and whatever actions you take will determine in large the actions of the others, especially the younger ones. The administration is doing everything they can to make your living here as comfortable as they possibly can but your cooperation is most essential toward attaining this goal. Even if you can work one or two days out of a week, that help will be immeasurable. You must feel that this is in no way any compulsion and the administration hopes that you will see what they are trying to do and with that understanding make your contribution that originates from your very own heart's desires." I listened to Mr. Henry Kuwahara, Block Manager of Block 30, as he talked to the people who turned out from his own block. There were only four elderly men but about 18 young girls, who were the only feminine representatives there. Speaking to the 4 issei men, he explained in Japanese all that the other managers had said to their own Japanese all that the other managers had said to their own men. Mr. Kuwahara is also a very good speaker in the Japanese and English language and thereby was able to carry his message to his block people very effectively. On top of all the interpretation of Mr. Evans speech

he cited an interesting incident about himself. He explained that before he arrived in Poston and in the process of being evacuated he was rather resentful at all the sacrifices he had had to make and had made up his mind that he was not going to do any kind of work that the administration here may ask of him. But as he arrived here on the bus along with all the many others, an incident changed his entire attitude towards the whole evacuation and relocation program. He saw many hundreds of young people and old people alike all assembled to greet them and as he stepped off the bus he saw a long line of young men working cooperatively in unloading the baggages from the bus. He was so impressed by this cooperative spirit shown that he made up his mind then and there that he was going to contribute his share along whatever line that may be available and cooperate with the administration and the community as a whole. He explained to his block people that they must unite and only by cooperation can they improve this community. Each one of them, old and young alike, had a definite contribution to make.

To elderly men appearing about sixty or so commented that they were rather old and not capable of doing too strenuous work much as they would like to. They expressed the notion that above everything else, the physical well being of the people is most important. Consequently doing strenuous work much as they would like to. They expressed the notion that above everything else, the physical well being of the people is most important. Consequently doing strenuous work out in the hot sun and dust would only aid to cripple them who are rather old and physically not too well. Mr. Kuwahara explained to them that they could sign up for work on

one of the three projects (adobe brick making, canal construction or subjugation crew) and to do whatever amount of work they feel they were capable of doing without ruining their physical health--even though their work amounts to one or two days a week.

The 18 young girls who were with Mr. Kuwahara all seem to be from Block 30. Mr. Evans talked to them and they seemed very cheerful and anxious to work. They were dressed rather attractively and were in direct contrast to the appearance of the older men. They indicated their desire to work on the adobe brick making project and although most of them are still of school age, they seemed very anxious to do something instead of idling each day away. Mr. Kuwahara stated that if there were enough women and girls working, this will drive the men and boys on to work even harder besides hurting the pride of the men who are idle and encouraging them to apply for work.

(TY)

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I left the meeting at about 10:00 a.m. The people were still grouped by blocks and discussing whether they should definitely sign up for work. (Dr. Leighton will see Mr. Evans regarding the final outcome.) (T.Y.)

Mr. Evans said that almost all present --perhaps every one, signed up for work. About 30 went to look at the adobe project, but only 7 stayed. The rest went to the irrigation works . (AHL)

Strike 61 - (copy filed)  
Personality. 220 - Smoot Katow (original filed)

RBS 10/13/43

[Rosamond B. Spicer]

Interview by AHL with Smoot Katow

Place: Henrici's Restaurant, Merchandise Mart, Chicago  
Present; Mr. and Mrs. Smoot Katow, AHL, RBS.

Mr. and Mrs. Katow had come at our invitation to have lunch.

The conversation at first was rather slow. Smoot particularly was hesitant. Mrs. Katow said very little, and particularly during the latter part of the conversation looked rather bored and was glancing around at people. After lunch I asked her if she had followed the strike and she replied that she had not at all, that she had not known what it was all about.

It was quite difficult to draw Smoot out at first. Direct questions did not work, so AHL turned to presenting ideas, "If such and such a thing had been done what would have happened?" Under this Smoot loosened up considerably. He began to talk more easily and with more interest.

The following is not a verbatim account but a summary of what he said.

AHL tried to draw <sup>SK</sup> ~~him~~ out on the Com. of 12 and the Com. of 8 and how he had gotten into them. Smoot said that it was on the final day (Tuesday) of the strike. The Com. of 72 started saying that there should be more Niseis ~~in~~ <sup>in the Com. of 12.</sup> it. There was only one, Andy S. <sup>Yamamoto.</sup> The Niseis said this, and also some of the Isseis who were on the Com. Red Cross Takahashi was one who spoke most strongly for it. So it was put up to the Niseis to elect some representatives. The Niseis (of the 72) retired behind the curtain in Judo hdqtrs and they nominated about 8. SK was not nominated. Then Hiroshi Amano said that they should nominate SK and he did. On the vote SK tied for fourth place with two or three others (He later said that only 3 Nisei were added) The others hastily withdrew and said that they did not want it. AHL asked why they didn't want it and

SK said that they were just smarter and quicker than he, he was just too slow. So, he became a member.

AHL asked him if the members of the Comm. of 12 were afraid that they might be arrested. Smoot looked a little surprised and at first nodded a little in assent and then said that he was not. "He knew Mr. Head and he knew Mr. Evans, and he didn't think they would do anything like that. "And I was also counting on you, Dr. Leighton. That's the way I felt about it."

Then he went on to say that he had felt, as had other Nisei, that it was much better to be on the inside and fight and perhaps be able to do something than to be on the outside with no influence. "He had been sort of glad to be elected from that standpoint.

8 AHL began to ask about cutting the Comm of 12 to the Comm. of 8 and why they had done it. SK was at first a little confused, he could not remember just exactly how it had happened. Then he remembered that there had been two elections. They had had reelection for the Comm. of 12 and had put in 4I and 4 N., ~~xxxxxxxx~~ AHL added that the chairman, vice chairman, secretary, and ? made up the 12. Then they had decided to cut it to 8. The reason given was that the 12 was too cumbersome and there should be fewer. Actually, however, the cause of ~~it~~ <sup>the cut</sup> was the desire of Nakamura and Okamoto to get rid of Mitani, Agric. Takahashi, and Ishimaru, which they accomplished. Sk said that he had thought at the time that this was wrong and he had said as much to Andy. Andy, however, did not have very much power and couldn't do anything. ~~It~~ went ahead. SK says that it was a big mistake and that is where all the trouble started. (It split the backing of the CEC, ~~xxxxxxxx~~ the strong Mitani following was withdrawn.)

Then AHL told of how some of the Administration, ~~namely~~ Haas, thought

that WH should have drawn out the strike longer and longer. They saw that the power of the Comm. of 12 was slipping. This was obvious from Mitani begging the Ad. to release Uchida so that they could show the crowd.

SK replied that they <sup>the Adm. + the evacuees;</sup> had wanted substantially the same things, however.

He said that Mitani was not a good negotiator, it was always too obvious just what he wanted. SK said that he could always negotiate with him and win. AHL said that Andy was obvious too. SK replied that Andy was a very smart fellow. Then he agreed that the Gwamskk CEC was slipping,

but that it had large segments of the community behind it and was actually pretty powerful still, he mentioned "organizations" which were back of it. <sup>But, he said, they wanted to end it. They were tired of staying up all night.</sup> Then there was quite a discussion about the balance of power after

the strike. AHL brought out how WH had tried to let the evacuees indicate whom they wanted to come out on top and would get most community backing. Also mentioned the difficulty of knowing what group to favor. SK said that one of the difficulties was that the CEC did not know where it stood. It would have been much better if WH had taken some kind of stand, either positive or negative. Then they would have known where they stood.

SK criticized the WRA policy <sup>which allowed</sup> of saying that only Nisei <sup>to</sup> should hold office, saying he did not understand Provinsse's point on that. He said that it might have been different if there had not been that distinction from the first. AHL said that it was supposed to favor the citizens, but SK said that it had not worked.

AHL ~~xxxxx~~ stated the problem ~~xxxxx~~ which the Admin. faced in selecting personnel from the evacuees: they did not know the evacuees and the evacuees did not know each other. SK said that it would have been much better for the people to have elected the persons to hold offices themselves, then things would have gone much ~~smo~~ smoothly. He said that he

had felt all along that the evacuees should have more power. AHL said that the Ad. thought so to, but could not figure out how to give it to them and cited the factions and objections when a step was made in any direction. S<sup>A</sup> said that perhaps a solution might have been to have more frequent elections, but that otherwise they could not have done differently from what was done.

S<sup>A</sup> mentioned that he had not known Uchida at all, scarcely remembered him even now. We all laughed. SK said that he had seen ~~Uchida~~ a fellow in the latrine, <sup>- "I shouldn't say that" -</sup> and had been told that he was supposed to be in the jail, so he had figured that that must be Uchida. AHL asked if Okamoto and Nakamura had been active politically before the strike. SK said that he had never heard of them before that. Didn't seem to know if they had been IAB or not.

AHL asked what the police had been doing during the strike (This was early in the talk.) SK said that they were scared and were all staying home, just like a lot of the Nisei. They didn't know what was going on.

Juvenile delinquency was mentioned. <sup>SK</sup> He said that he believed, and also Okamoto, that the solution was stronger police force with more authority and also the force under the control of the evacuees, not the Caucasians.

Also early in the talk SK had suddenly volunteered that the Council should not have resigned on the first day of the strike. They did so because they were scared. They had come into that meeting, a bunch of young Niseis, and they did not know what it was all about. He thought that Hidemi Ogawa should never have proposed the motion and that it would not have gone that way if Tep had been there. He said that the Nisei did not know what the specific issues were at all but that they fell in with the motion for resignation because they were mad about a lot of

things and so were willing to resign.

Then Sk said that a lot of the trouble in Poston was due to the fact that the group of responsible Nisei business men who were older and accustomed to taking control of things were completely absent from Poston. If there had been more there of the age of Ishimaru -- "Though/ not like him" -- there would not have been all that trouble. That older age group was missing as were most of those of his <sup>SK's</sup> own age group. There was a group of these older business men who had done well and were living on the west side of LA. at evacuation. They had some sort of club. He, Sk had been recently taken into it although he was about 5 years younger than most of them. They had practically all been sent to Granada. AHL remarked that Granada was supposed to be one of the best run centers.

March 17, 1943

On the way home this noon, I met M. I. and T. I. sisters intending to resettle soon who had just returned from Camouflage and were going to wash up. They both had kerchiefs bounded around their heads. There was a fine film of lint all over them. Much of it had accumulated on their pompadour which had not been covered by the kerchief. Both of them looked very tired.

M. I. said quite expressingly, "We work like H—!" T. I. exclaimed, "I hate the work but the money interest me. If it wasn't for that, I'd quit."

Later in the day the following sentiment was expressed by a 13 year old boy. "Camouflage is okay. If I didn't like it, I'd quit. I'm not that desperate for money." He said that the 322 block crew was the fastest with to other equally fast crews next. The crew on which he works is above average. Upon being questioned if people talked very frequently while working he stated that they talk sometimes. (Approximately ten days later, this person quit camouflage with the exclamation—"Those slave drivers!")

March 19, 1943

"Camouflage is hard work. It's not as "stinky" as S. A. nor does the dye come off as in S. A. There is hardly any conversation. Everybody is intent upon their work. People are very money mad, indeed."

5/29-43

Health

via ~~MEMO~~. 3B recorded by CTS

Medical service.

C. R. Poston sentiment

3B was in the shower and noticed a small boy about 3 yrs of age which brought out the subject:

"Your child is circumcized, I see. It reminds me of what occurred at the hospital. A young mother brought a child and asked the doctor to ~~circum~~ give it circumcision. When the doctor examined the child it proved to be a girl." ~~Thatxixthe~~ Whereupon the two other persons <sup>present</sup> had a good laugh.

"That goes to show you this Poston psychology. The mother had heard about circumcision. Well everyone was getting it. It was free. She didn't want her child to miss it; she didn't want to miss anything that could be gotten free."

✓ 101  
FU: OUTGROUP

X: Rerelocation ; Ht Mt.  
Repatriation

Soc Jr  
4/10-43  
CTS

via Ht. Mt. Visitor (pers. call)

The young Nisei came from Ht. Mt with his wife and 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> yr child to visit his mother in law who has been ill-- arrived 4/8. He brought me messages from group of friends who are anxious to have us move to Ht. Mt.

(This fact may color his presentation of the thae situation at Ht. Mt/ -- however there seemed to be no conscious perversion from stating the facts as they existed and exist tere now. )

Housing: Much nicer , good flooring, celotex lining, well insulated so that room will change from 25 deg to 75 deg in 10 minutes. -- a person is allowed waffle iron, toaster, 2 hot plates to cook ith. 600 in block but don't feel crowded due to good arrangement. facilities

Canteen. Well supplied with fresh vegetables and frozen . at reasonable prices meats, chicken, etc.

Coop has already distributed dividend of 5% last month of profit from Sept to Mar. Next time expect it to be 7%.

Another canteen just for dry goods.

RECREATION haoll in each block, Conveniences: sewing room

has 2 elec and 2 pedal Latrine porcelain basins.

Bowling place was being constructed. the Issei's wer e enjoy ing constructionas they could go out to the CCC camp to bring the lumber etc. But it was again dismantled on announcement of the change in WRA policy for re-relocation.

"I suppose t ey didn't want to make the center too comforta ble. They wouldn't want to go out."

Schools Educat ion Good \$10.000 school bldg, White high

school teachers. . People max are satisfied with the

educational system. "No I hve not heard complaints."

~~ATTITUDES:~~

1. When 300 volunteers went from Pomona last fall we found many people dressed in suits but appearing to have worked very hard. Upon questioning we found they were residents of Cody and nearby parts who had come to Welcome us. They had been tacking up signs in the mess halls, "Welcome to Heart Mt." -- Perhaps it is because every other one is of German descent.

2. The Project director was a Jew but a very fine understanding man. The present one is a politician and is not liked by the block mgrs since the Sel. Service enlistment.

Sel Ser. When there were only 36 Volunteers from the whole camp the Pro. Dr. said it was the Block Mgrs responsibility and fault. The number had swelled to 48 in the meantime but when they heard this accusation it again dropped to 36. The Block mgrs replied that it was not their fault all they did was to communicate a message, however the feeling has not been restored.

3  
Re-rédoc- The Issei feel that they ~~will stay~~ are too old to tion. to out into the middle west to pioneer again. If they could not return to the fruits of their labors they would stay where t they are; would not budge from relocation.

even  
subsistence One block most of the Nisei signed up for repatriation. At first we had chicken every day. Then when the rest came we've had chicken 4 times since.

Activities People occupy themselves with Shibai, Shugi, Utai, English, wood carving, flower making, etc. Children are enjoying skating.

Cold.

The cold is not at all so hard to bear.

11  
FU: Blk Sty 11

Population  
199

11 Blk Sty  
5/10-43-1

Observed-rec --CTS

X: Recreation

Blk Picnic held Anniversary of volunteer arrival  
in Poston to Block 11.

X: Blk consciousness  
social development.

Place: Blk 5 Mesquite park.

X: Mothers day.

Total collected at 20¢ per \$39.50

Guests 30 --total 230 people.

Total expense \$75.35 .

Block Picnic held to commemorate the anniversary of volunteer arrival in Poston, block 11. May 9th, 1942. It was decided to weave in Mother's Day into the program.

Work- At noon the block people were presented individually with  
ing white or red carnations for adults and pink for the children which  
had been made by the young girls (daughters).

to-  
gether

~~At 4:00 PM~~ Those who did not intend to to the picnic were asked  
to come to get their supper by 2:30 P. M. Volunteer help was asked  
to help in preparation of onigiri.

to 9:00 PM.

Picnic: \$ 4:00 PM. Block 5 Mesquite park, Preeaster  
conference location was decided due to the ~~proximity~~ proximity of  
lamp post with electric outlet for amplifying.

& Sho yuguchi

The young people of the block led by Geo Chida prepared the  
task of hauling <sup>everything</sup> beyond the narrow bridge over the canal, and under-  
took the responsibility of cleaning up. Elec. maintenance dept  
resident of block ~~xxx~~ took charge of lighting <sup>wiring</sup> service from the  
main pole. Sai Yuguch working at Canteen took care of purchases.

co-  
operation  
volunteer  
Guests: The original residents of Block 11 who had moved to  
other blocks nearer the Adm. Bldg to save transportation were  
invited.

Assessment: Soda, cookies, ice and syrup for snowballs were  
served besides the sandwich and onigiri. 20¢ per person was asses  
each member of block. This also took care of the prizes that were  
offered for races of all kinds.

FU:Blk Sty

11 Blk Sty  
5/10-43 -2  
Obs'd- rec'd--CTS

Blk 11 picnic 5/9-43

PROGRAM: Chairman Teruo Kasuga, Block councilman.  
( The block manager was the overall chairman of picnic)  
Kasuga opened the picnic with a few words of the  
meaning of the picnic.

Speakers: 1. Teruo Kawata, 15 yr old Hi sch. boy gave a ~~xxxx~~  
stirring review of the evacuation hardships and his key-  
note was that through cooperation we could make something  
out of this life.

2. Rev. Mitani, as the 1st Block Mgr of Block 11  
gave a vivid picture of that first day of arrival to  
Parker, the Project not knowing of their arrival and  
waiting 3hrs for Mr. Head to return with all the avail-  
able transportation and plunging into Boston ~~xxxxxxxx~~  
emergency by being asked to take over the Block 11  
managership.

The keynote of his talk was also cooperation.  
"So long as we/ are here let us cooperate. Let's not  
get ~~xxxxxxxx~~ mad seriously about things and let  
things weigh us down. Let's regain some of our equili-  
brium physically and spiritually, and also grasp some-  
thing bigger here.

"As we have lost something of the little individual family  
we have gained something of the idea of the big block  
family -- so let's also think of the 36 blocks as  
the larger family and so also of the whole of Boston."

(The people enjoyed his talk very much. Heard: "Rev.  
Mitani, let's have the next episode of the serial.")

FU: Blk Sty

11 Blk Sty  
5/10-43-3

Ob'd--rec'd ---CTS

Blk 11 picnic 5/9-43 -3

3. Jane Kato spoke in Japanese to the mothers. "Appreciation to mothers.

It was 5:45 PM. People lined up to get supper.

Individual performances: block talent, singing  
former block talent, singing  
shigin,  
hagauta, hauta,  
ryuko-uta  
niwaka  
magic

Many people left at this time when the children's <sup>racess</sup> program was announced. (Comment heard was a feeling of dissatisfaction that the children's and other races were not held first as it was getting late and mothers of smaller children wanted to get back.) Most of the guests also left, so that the competitive games were participated in only by block people Geo. Chida and Tee Mikami had charge of this portion and program was well enjoyed by participants and spectators alike. The young Nisei who have no special talent as a group (having no cultural background except for dancing) seemed to be somewhat bored. They had worked so hard in the physical preparation ~~was~~ of the picnic but had so little participation in the showing off part of the program. Many showed this frustration by playing cards in groups.

Finally closed at 9:00 PM.

CAMP PHENOMENA The juggling of the dice of leadership in camp in the block and the lack of personel has resulted in this strange phenomean.

The block councilman who was the chairman, the block mgr who was the overall chairman, ~~thaxyoungxpxaxpka~~ so lacking in social responsibility <sup>training</sup> that the invited guests 4 families were not even introduced or presented in spite of the fact of so many blk people who did not know them. Problem for Ad. Ed. + Black Mems. Supervisors. over

Total population of block 199

Itemized acc:

Block money brought forward -----~~xxxxxx~~ 37.63

(Donated by departing evacuees  
for recreation )  
\$20.00

Collected from residents at 20¢ per 39.50  
77.13.

Expense:

30 cases soda 30.00

2 cases cookies 6.90

5.13

paper cups 4.72

2 gal syrup

for snow ball 9.00

2 bx oranges 6.90

4 lbs shrimp 3.20

Prizes for games 5.00

Miscel

75.35

2 bedridden invalids.

2 movable cripples.

MARCH 5, 1943

S

✓ K  
It was announced last night by General DeWitt that the boundary of the restricted military zone #1 has been changed from it's original point to the Colorado River. This move cast Poston, Gila and Phoenix into the free zone. Consequently, it was announced that the people who were originally evacuated from Phoenix and vicinity would be allowed to return to their former homes. However, due to the fact that the evacuees had sold most or all of their equipment prior to their evacuation, very few returned.

The following are some of the attitudes and sentiments expressed:

One lady was heard to say, "The people should be stubborn and not go back to farm, after having been forced to lose so much during evacuation." Another person said, "I would like to return, but I've sold everything."

145. Internement.  
Observation. TS  
Families of interned father. Sentiments.

5-23-43

GR. Repatriation.

For several days previous to today, much activity, and talk among the isseis centered around the preparation of Mrs. Okamura's departure to Texas, where she isto join her husband. She completed her packing, but met with arguments from her son, H.O.. It was relayed to me thru Myrt, who heard this from Mrs. Sasaki, who heard it from Haruye Nishimoto who lives next door to Mrs. Masuoka, who was the recipient of the problems of her oldest boy, H.O..

Mrs. Okamura would pack in HO's clothes with hers, and then he would pull them out. Every time he did that, he would get into an argument with his mother. For the past several weeks, HO has been inquiring, and gaining more information on the NYA job training opportunities. During this time also, he received letters from his older brother in the army that he would disown him if HO did not go with his mother. On Sunday, the day before they were to go, HO left for the river. He had taken his clothes over to a friends place. He came back in the evening, took a shower and then left for Camp III. Mrs. Okamura waited all nite, ie, up to 3 o'clock for him to return, but he did not return. She declined an automobile ride to the administration building because she felt that if she walked slowly, she would probably be able to see her son. He did not show up.

This has caused the isseis, and nisseis to begin to think about the post-war problem of repatriation, or continued living in the US, the problem of family unity, and the immediate relocation problem.

Mrs. Tabuchi felt that the son should have been forced to go. That there was no alternative; but Mrs. Katow, and Sasaki felt that when a boy reaches a certain age, he will make up his own mind. Mrs. Sasaki mentioned his own son, who had gone back to Japan a few years ago, in spite of the fact that the conditions were described to him. In the same way, she felt that the nisseis will make up their own minds after the war is over. She said that the nisseis will be just as much discriminated, and without the equal chance in Japan that the natives all have; therefore, for the nisseis, US is still the place. Difficulties will be present in every case, but at least he is more familiar with those of this country.

In the near future, the Koike's, the Sasaki's from El Centro, and the Taniguchi's will leave. Block 53 has only one family signed up for repatriation. This may have been due to the fact that the families of the other interned fathers had possibilities of returning.

118

FU: CITY GOV.  
X: Hospital  
via Dr. 2-4

INT'd ' rec'd -----CTS  
4/29-43

Soc. Jrn.  
5/6-43

S

On replacing Caucasian personal.

"We could get along much better without Caucasian heads at the hospital, for instance we don't need Pressman or Vickers. P. is interested in looks, looks always wanting to keep records so that he could show off when the Washington men come around. He isn't interested in the welfare of ~~the~~ our people. We had our own hospital in Los Angeles, for instance. We didn't need Americans to run us.

"The more self government the people have the better.

"Everybody works for \$19.00. We work on the service motive. Then there is no reason for having somebody wanting more.

"The way the hospital is run no Issei nurse wants to really work at the hospital. ~~Except in certain~~ except in certain departments. They are thoroughly disgusted. The system is bad. I've seen Pressman run the hospital for 6 month but he doesn't have the interest of ~~the~~ our people as prime objective. -- just in looks and reports. What difference does it make if the reports are in Japanese. Our patients are mostly Isseis, we should use all the Issei nurses we could get. They are older so transportation should be provided to and from hospital if they would come out to help."

118

5

FU:City gov.  
X. Personel  
via Kasuga, T. Councilman Bl 11

800 Jrn  
5/8-42  
Int'd & rec'd ---CTS

On replacing Caucasian persnnel:

Believe in replacing with Evacueee personel. Although I don't believe in the theory of appointment I believe that it would save a lot of trouble for the time geing.

Int: How should Head appoint the person.?

He might ask advice of Issei and City Council. By this time he should know who is capable.

Pay He should bet WRA salary and retain whatever portion the committee decides like the camouflage. ~~55x~~ 65%.

Qualifications: Best to get Civil service but character and real understanding of people are qualities not measurable by test and more important than academic background.

Int: How prevent everybody else from wanting WRA wages?

The Doctors should also get WRA salary and pay in their portion to trust fund.

The council should agree which department should get WRA wages ~~andccc~~ with trust fund stipulation and abide by that agreement, then there should be notrouble.

118

FU: City Management

Soc. Jrn  
5/8943

5

X: On replacing Caucasians  
via Rev. Mitani

Int'd ----- CTS

Int. went to Parish I study to ~~in~~ see Rev. Kubota and found Rev. Mitani.

"The first way of drawing <sup>e</sup>peronel on the service-motive for \$19.00 is the more ideal, but in politics there must be more compromise towards the practical. Perhaps the trust fund idea of ~~givingxxxx~~ paying him WRA wages but allowing him to keep only \$19.00 would be better.

That would add prestige to ~~here~~ his position ~~andxxxx~~ as people evaluate position from the salary amount, then it would make ~~people~~ cooperate more with him.

210

4/10-43

Administration Personnel

via F. Kobayashi. ---CTS 7/6/'43

Adm. personnel N. Findley; J. Pwell.

"I hear that Miss Findley's contract is expiring in June 1; so she's going to quit. I think she's very talented aggressive person, I think she is wasting her time here. because aggressiveness in women is something Japanese don't appreciate, tho."

"---I hear she is the most lonesome person in camp here. Nobody goes with her.

"Dr. Powell has written a book starting from the intake and how everything was taken away from us and it's all true. He is going to have it published.

"He is about brilliant man about 50 years ahead of time. That's why so many people don't understand him.

"Miss Cheney appears very stiff. "

Comment: Speaker is wife of coordinator of Com. Activities under Dr. Powell. This was a shower room conversation at midnight, the ~~usual~~ customary hour / certain ones prefer to wash up. With only one or two in the shower room and meeting coincidentally ~~xxxxxxx~~ "shower room acquaintanceship develops in which all the topics of camp and life are discussed.

SHOWER

as

SOCIAL  
CENTER.

A room should be provided adjoining the shower for powder room (lounge) where make-up may be applied, and visits exchanged. Much good use could be made of such a small convenience.

June 5, 1945

Informal Conversation — mf  
New manager for Leave Office

(Following dinner this evening, several people were seated in front of 550-12-D engaged in informal conversation. I joined them and entered their conversation. Miss Kiyoko Kimura was one of the people. Soon a lady walked up and congratulated Kiyo on her new appointment, that of becoming the head of the Leave Office in Camp 3. She had read the article in the Chronicle that day.)

Upon receiving the congratulations, Kiyo said that she did not want the job but it was forced upon her. After Mr. Paul Satow had quit after working for only a few days, Mr. Burge had asked Kiyo to take the job temporarily until another person could be found. Kiyo agreed and was undertaking the job temporarily when Mr. Burge went into the office one day and told the staff that no additional person would be hired. Thus as Kiyo stated, she was forced to take the job. She further added that she protested and argued to no avail. She was stuck with the job. Thus she is holding two jobs, that of manager and of secretary.

she continued by saying that Mr. Burge stated that no person wanted to work as manager when the secretary knew more than the manager. (It had been reported quite reliably that the reason Mr. Satow quit was because he couldn't stand the way Kiyo bossed him around. Kiyo knew he a lot and made it very plain that she did know a lot to him. I have heard several people who have worked and associated with Kiyo say that she is very hard to get along with. She thinks that she is superior to all others and tries to suppress them. She is very independent and "bossy". She does not have a pleasant voice or personality. She is always too serious and hardly cracks a smile. These are the opinions of the people with whom she had worked.)

May 3, 1943

Toseibu (Interview with Mr. Nagai. on question of ~~the~~ potential Japanese administration to take over caucasians adm. work.)

Place: Toseibu Office. Time: 10 o'clock

Others present: Mr. Kawashima, Toseibu secty., Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ head of the Social Relations Board, Judge Nomura of Judicial Commission.

Mr. Nagai in explaining the functions of the Toseibu went back to the strike incident as the starting point of the organization. Til then both the niseis and the adm. were very vague in their relations with the Isseis and their opinions. Therefore the Toseibu was organized to act between the adm. and the nisei on one hand with the Isseis on the other. He gave Mr. Head credit for being wise and far-sighted enough to help in its organization. Mr. Nagai seemed pleased with Mr. Head's attitude for one who had never associated with Japanese before evacuation. He felt that Mr. Head had an excellent administrative ability. Mr. Nagai at first was reluctant to converse very much, but as we eased into the conversation, he talked quite freely. He explained that the Tosebu was responsible for the creation of the Social Relations board which was to coap with problems of residents, between blocks, questions which youth could not bring to their own parents. He hoped that these sort of problems could be solved by the Japanese themselves instead of bringing them before the caucasian administrator such as Miss Findley. He thought it a shame for the residents as Japanese to show such problems to the ~~adm.~~ adm. He felt that we would be doing not only the

govt. of U. S. a favor by being ideal residents, but that also the Japanese govt. would certainly expect us to act accordingly. He deplored the niseis for their indifference to world affair. Instead, Mr. Nagai said, these nisei play baseball, go to dances, complain over food. With the coming of great events with the termination of war, he wished more niseis would take active part in its formation. He felt that it would not be in terms of U. S. versus Japan, but that the world had gotten so small that all must cooperate to make this world a better place in which to live. He blamed the American educational institution for making the Nisei and other Americans into soft gelatins. Everything any American does is for self interest--that goes way back from the moment a child enters school. The behavior is to get better grades, higher wages, ~~the~~ magnificent homes, even a prettier wife because in this way to outdo the other fellow and increase one's own self egotism. He cited the Lewis coal mine strike as an example. These persons are <sup>not</sup> really in there pitching and backing up their armed forces. Why? Because they're more interested in their own welfare. And in the meanwhile the war goes on. He felt that Americans have not even yet gone whole-hearted into the war efforts. And the niseis are no exceptions. They would rather deteriorate in camp complaining over little things, instead of doing something worthwhile. Most of the volunteers, Mr. \*\* of S. R. Board said, have done so because they were tired of camp life. Not so much their intense desire to be of some use to their nation. These volunteers only craved for a different environment, and since the army offered it to them, they have grabbed for the opportunity.

He

The tosibu was now working on the gambling and drinking ~~and~~. It was only that many of the Issei have become careless that such a condition has arisen. He felt the realization of the danger and the futility of gambling and drinking was necessary by all. The Issei all know this but some of them needs to be reminded to refresh their memories in morals. Mr. Nagai related how during the winter he would go from one bonfire to the next lecturing, or rather casually mentioning the problem. As it was cold, Mr. Nagai says it was necessary that they remain as it becomes cold if they leave the fire. So most would stay and listen to his lectures and keep warm by the fire rather than return to their apt.

When the question of replacing the caucasian personnel by capable Japanese persons, Mr. Nagai felt that there were many who would fit into the jobs. However he would not commit himself as to favoring which basis ( the net camouflage system, \$19 wage, or the full salary. He however felt that the niseis should fill them in as much as possible as they are the ones who need the training to ~~na~~ stand on their own two feet. He felt that the time however was not ripe just yet to transfer such jobs to any Japanese. He thought it should be done carefully and slowly. He felt that the govt. of Poston is now gradually becoming the best of all the relocation centers. But that it would take a little more time. Then after this period, he felt safe if the ~~xxxxxxx~~ administration was turned over to the Japanese residents.

Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ of the S. R. Board favored raising the pay of key position jobs gradually as the individual works more conscientiously on the job. The harder one works the higher the wage is raised. Mr. Nagai then proposed the plan of paying all key position job

into the category of \$50, \$40, and \$30. Some of the jobs in mind were that of Doctors, registered nurses, block managers, the head of the transportation, and others who are really working diligently. Mr. Nagai pointed out that there should be persons in these positions who would not crumble at the least crisis. Judge Nomura was of the opinion that such a pay would be an incentive as it made the capable person work all the harder instead of throwing up his hands and saying "~~HA~~ Why do all this for \$19." Mr. Kawashima referred to what he termed "character assassin" of the part of the Japanese people. He was afraid that much trouble would come up due to this jealousy, altho he agreed that many capable persons were in the camp. In fact he readily agreed that the Toseibu, LRB, and other boards were doing the actual administrative work already. However he doubted the plan whereby Mr. Nelson ~~whom~~ would be released from his present job. Nomura and Nagai seemed to favor the net camouflage method best of the three choice of wages. As the toseibu office now seems to become very busy with persons jotting in and out of the door, inquirer begs pardon and left. Mr. Nagai kindly told inquirer to come again to chat with him and ~~xxx~~ to visit the office frequently. (YM)

220

R.S.  
Nishimoto

## Removal of Tachibana

S<sub>2</sub>

Shortly after the attack on Kido Sunday morning four FBI agents stationed in the MP barracks just outside of Camp II and who had been conducting investigations of so-called "agitators" for the last three or four weeks entered camp and began picking up suspects. According to my chief informant in Camp II who lives two barracks away from Tachibana, the reputed head of the anti-adm. group in that camp, four FBI agents arrived at Tachibana's door shortly after three o'clock in two separate cars accompanied by MP's in two jeeps. While two of them guarded the entrance, the other two opened the door of the apartment shared by Tachibana and his father-in-law, Kobayashi, walked right in, turned on the lights and aroused the family. They then ordered Tachibana and Kobayashi to pack their suitcases to come along with them. When one of them attempted to snap a handcuff on Tachibana it is reported that he flung it aside angrily claiming that he was not a criminal--- that he was a Japanese and would go peacefully wherever they wanted him to go. The agent, thinking that Tachibana might become difficult, pulled out his pistol. At this point it is claimed that the two sons of Kobayashi--- Ken, aged 22 and Dan, aged 19---cursed the FBI roundly and challenged them to shoot the whole family if they wished to use a pistol. According to bystanders the agents appeared afraid and seemed to expect violence on the part of the boys. As he was being led into the car Tachibana is credited to have said: "I am glad I was able to do my bit for Japan." (X's version obtained from a member of Tachibana's gang in block 211 (Tachibana's block) is slightly different. When the agent pulled out his gun one of the Kobayashi boys taunted: "Now you have the gun out. Go ahead and shoot. If you're scared to shoot, put the gun away." This was accompanied by much abusive language. X does not believe that Tachibana actually uttered the farewell speech credited to him. He had known him for over twenty years and feels that the speech is not in keeping with his personality.)

Five other Issei were picked up by the FBI that morning: Kawahira and Harada of 208, Kojima of 220, Aramaki of 209, and Hamoka of 222. It is reported that when the agents came to fetch Kawahira he was in the police station being questioned for the beating of Kido, but since they were in such a hurry to remove him the police could not obtain a confession from him. As soon as the "agitators" were picked up one by one they were shot out immediately to MP hqtrs near Camp I for questioning. According to the latest adm. report the seven men have been transferred from Phoenix and are now in Texas awaiting trial. As far as I know, Dan and Ken Kobayashi, who were also picked up by the FBI later that morning and charged with resisting arrest and participating in the November strike are still in Phoenix.

## Attitudes Concerning the Incident

Adm. Attitude. The job was well done. The culprits were taken out expeditiously after securing the consent of the Judicial Commission. Crawford, Unit III adm., has always been anxious to have Tachibana and his gang removed from camp. About three or four weeks ago, allegedly on his encouragement, the FBI came in to check Tachibana's census files. Miller, James, Kennedy, Haas, etc. have constantly maintained that if the few "agitators" in Camp II could be removed they would succeed in running camp the way they desired. The intended arrest of five

Issei from camp II, including Tachibana, was announced by Norris James, Press and Intelligence Officer, at an adm. staff conference in Camp I at 10:30 Sat. morning. It is reported that all those present seemed to be greatly in favor of the idea. Evacuee attitudes. Camp II: Two contrasting sentiments appear to prevail: (1) "Now we'll run camp smoothly with those agitators out." (2) "They have bungled up everything but this is not the end."

Camp I sentiments picked up at random: "Tachibana was the restraining force on actionists in Camp II." "Beating is the best form of chiding intellectuals." "Oh, we'll have trouble again." "The forty-seven Ronins waited three years for their revenge." "We don't have to take revenge while we're in camp; there's plenty of time. Let's take their eyes out and make them blind as soon as we have a chance." "Gee, it's too bad they bungled up the beating." (Nisei). "They should have done it a little more intelligently." Ultra-liberal reaction: Identical with that of the adm. It is interesting to note that all of the foregoing statements with the exception of the "ultra-liberal" condone the beating of Kido.

X burst into my office the day after Tachibana's arrest and recounted in great detail the conversation he had had with Evans, Unit I adm and personal friend, concerning the incident. Since X in his public statements portrays the sentiments of possibly three-fourths of the Issei and nearly one-half of the Nisei of Camp I (although in private life he is one of the few real liberals I have met among the Japanese) I shall attempt to reproduce his conversation with Evans as accurately as possible to give you an insight into Camp I sentiments:

X: I didn't know you guys (adm. officials) are a bunch of Nazis\* storm troopers. You take out those persons who are opposed to your ideologies and put them in concentration camps. At best your adm. philosophy cannot be any better than that of British administrators in the Far East. How do you expect to run camp without knowing where the social norm is? If you remove camp leaders just because they criticize your point of view I'll say that WRA is a failure. In this camp I've noticed that anyone who criticizes the adm. is labeled an agitator and an agitator according to you people is pro-Axis. Don't you know there are quotation marks in the typewriter? Why don't you use them once in a while? According to your definition I'm pro-Axis." (Evans flushed when X told him this. According to Spicer, he like the rest of the adm. was convinced that Camp I residents were supporting the adm. stand 100% this time.)

Evans: Hell you're pro-Axis. I don't believe it. Well, we need people like you in the adm. I want advice. I'm lost. I really want to work for the Japanese people. You know that. Won't you advise me? (Evans had been persuading X for some time to become his Issei adviser but X under no circumstances will tie himself with the adm.)

X: I'm not criticizing you. There's nothing personal in what I said. I'm talking like this because you're sitting in that chair in this office. You are the symbol of the incompetent, unintelligent, inefficient adm. My block residents forced me to take the block manager's job but if you accept me you're going to have a hell of a trouble. I think the block people made a mistake in electing to office one of the strongest anti-adm. men in

camp. On account of social sanction I took the job but you can refuse me if you want to since no one can tell me what to say and what not to say.

Evans: As far as you're concerned we made a mistake. I'll take anything if it's from you.

X: Regarding the beating I'll say this point-blank: In Paris a German soldier was sniped at by some Frenchman. The Germans in retaliation shot a few Frenchmen. Yet, more German soldiers were ambushed. Again, a few more Frenchmen were shot. And so on. I'm laughing at you people because you think the whole thing has ended just because the attackers were arrested. You know that when motivational need is too great there is no legal sanction. You have been talking about law and order all this time but you know now how silly it sounds to me.

Recorded Feb. 3, 1943

(TT)