

Wax, Rosalie (Hankey),  
2:6

Tule Lake fieldnotes, Jul 1944, pp 1-49

N.B. Readers must not disclose identity of individual evacuees

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JULY 2, 1944

TALK WITH KIMI HASHIMOTO

Kimi, a Nisei from Gila, was in fairly good spirits. We discussed the beating which had taken place in a neighboring block (Kurihara). She said that on the whole people didn't know why he was beaten up. Kimi likes her work in the Administration building. The Caucasians in her section are real nice to her, but some of the ones across the way are snotty. Kimi knew nothing about the warden election at all; she doesn't interest herself in such things.

TALK WITH MRS. KOMURA

Mrs. Komura said that in her block (21 - a supposedly tough block) there was no meeting held at all to nominate wardens. She knew no details about the beating. About the Hitomi beating, she said that some people said they really wanted to get the man's brother, Manager of the Co-op, but they thought Hitomi, should be beaten up too.

On the subject of beatings she had an interesting story to tell. Her sister-in-law's child had hurt her ear with a bobby pin. The ear bled pretty badly, but the mother hesitated to call the doctor, since an announcement has come out, stating that doctors should be called only in an emergency and minor ills should be treated at the clinic. Since the ear continued to bleed and the child cried, the mother finally called the ambulance. The ambulance arrived followed by a car with two policemen in it. (Mrs. Komura called them F.B.I. men, I don't know how she knew they were F.B.I.) The ambulance driver said, "Oh, this is nothing," and went to speak to the policemen, telling them it was only a child who had hurt her ear. The men drove away.

Mrs. Komura also remarked that the Co-op is getting more and more unpopular. She has now been told several times by evacuees, "If you say anything against the Co-op anywhere, you're going to be put in the stockade."

So far as I have been able to learn, no one has been arrested for any of the supposedly "inu" beatings which have taken place. Said Mrs. Komura, "They're too smart to get caught. The man who did turn himself over (the hammer assault) was crazy. That's why he gave himself up." Mrs. Komura added that people were saying that even the hammer assault was an inu beating. The old man had found out that his friend was acting like an inu.

Mrs. Komura also told me that a woman whose husband is in the stockade had remarked at sewing class, that her husband had told her that all the men in the stockade would now be released the first part of July.

TALK WITH KURIHARA

Kurihara remarked that the man beaten in 74 was supposed to be very unpopular in his block. I asked why only third-rate inus were being beaten up. "You should know," said he, "the big ones are too well guarded. But the guard will slip up some time." I said this was what I had suspected.

As to the warden nominating meeting, he said the people in his block had been urged to come to the meeting to elect the warden, but only about four people had gone. A friend from Manzanar came in at this moment and Kurihara said, "How was it in Manzanar, were there enough inus there (to hold an election)?" The friend from the Manzanar section said he didn't think



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anybody had been nominated in his block. "Who wants to be a legal dog?" he added.

TALK WITH MR. ROBERTSON

Had a talk with Mr. Robertson in which I re-stressed the seriousness of public sentiment against the Co-op. Robertson said that he had talked to Runcorn and that Runcorn had recommended the immediate issuing of a dividend. Runcorn insisted the books were all right and that they are gone over every month by an outside accountant. Robertson said he had then recommended that the account be written up and published in an understandable form. Runcorn said he had not thought of that.

Robertson also told me that last night some members of the Resegregation group had approached him and told him that the removal of the Issei to Santa Fe was the last straw. They no longer could restrain their boys. Future attacks might not be restricted to beatings. There might be a murder.



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Heard this morning that the Japanese head of the Co-op had been murdered. I do not know whether this is Hitomi or not. The murder occurred last night. According to a Caucasian informant the man was found this morning with a knife pushed through his throat from the larynx to the base of the brain. All the Co-op stores are closed today. As I passed the stockade this morning I saw a man from the Police call a detainee to the wall. He told him in a voice I could scarcely hear that all the Co-ops were closed today. The detainee made a non-committal reply.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

A teacher who had attended a meeting at which the murder was discussed in detail told me the following. Mr. Gunderson, High School Principal and only Caucasian member of the Co-op's board of directors was at this meeting. Hitomi was returning from the Carnival. He suspected that he was being followed and when he reached his block went into the latrine. When he came out he saw that the group was waiting for him. He ran to his brother's house, closer than his own, and was overtaken on the doorstep. In some manner, word has been gotten to the remaining Board of Directors that they are next in line. They have resigned in a body. Mr. Gunderson, however, has not resigned. One young man who is reported to have made a "rash remark" has been arrested by the police and has been grilled for hours. No actual suspects, however, have been apprehended.

#### TALK WITH SOLDIERS

Rode to Klamath Falls with some soldiers who had taken some part in the investigation. They told me some pretty good finger prints had been found, which would aid in finding the killers if a large enough group of suspects were pulled in. (I was under the impression that the authorities have everyone's finger prints, so if the prints are clear, finding the attackers should be a comparatively easy matter.) The soldiers also told me that Takahashi had been beaten Sunday night.

[At this point I decided that the best thing for me to do was to disappear. Mr. Best had come close to asking me to leave the center after the shooting of Mr. Okamoto, and I thought it would be wise to leave voluntarily and return when things had quieted down than to be ordered off, perhaps permanently. I returned to Berkeley where I received a letter from Mr. Kurihara advising me to stay out of the center for a while. (Later, Mr. Kurihara(1) told me that it was not his but my life he was concerned about. Immediately after Mr. Hitomi had been killed, some fanatics had spread the rumor that "a Caucasian would be next.")]

But I was not able to endure the dreariness of wartime Berkeley and after nine days I talked to Dr. Thomas into letting me return to Tule Lake, arguing that I could get a good deal of data even if I were not permitted to enter the colony. After I returned I wrote to my Japanese American friends, asking them to let me know when it would be safe for me to visit them. Meanwhile, I talked to staff members and to a few Japanese Americans who worked in the Administrative section and were willing to come to visit me during their lunch hour.]

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[1. On July 20.]



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[Some of my notes for July 12 have been lost.]

PART OF TALK WITH MR. RUNCORN, HEAD OF CO-OP

Mr. Runcorn told me that some of the families of Co-op officers who had fled to the hospital had been sent to other centers. Mr. Akitsuki and the families of five other men are still there [at the hospital].

Reorganization of Co-op Board of Directors

A new Board has been formed which is supposed to be composed largely of pro-status quo people. Runcorn was very happy about this. (Attached copy of "Co-operator" gives information.)

As for the Administration, we left the matter very much up to the Co-op. Some of the Board Members wanted the Administration to close the stores. I appreciate that the decision was left entirely up to them. (Resigned Board Members, particularly Yamatani, urged closing of stores.)

I met with the board all morning (Monday, July 3) and we decided to open the Co-op Wednesday and then close it for the day of the funeral. That was all their own decision. Mr. Best didn't push them or bring pressure on them at all.

Boom Buying in the Co-op

The people are uneasy. There has been boom buying in the Co-op. They bought \$8,000 worth on Thursday and \$11,000 on Friday, the day before the funeral. I think they are afraid of closing.

(The people may also fear another "incident" and stock up as they did last November.)

Panic of Appointed Personnel

The personnel up here are afraid. We had a meeting last night in which I tried to reassure them. Some of them wanted to have their Co-op cut off from the evacuee Co-op.

Positive Stand of New Board

The New Board has withdrawn the Old Board's previous cancellation of a large clothing order. It will take 90 days to get this order and I think this is a good sign.

Resignations

There were wholesale resignations on the Co-op staff. All the key employees resigned the first morning (Monday). Then the store managers wanted to quit, but the new board has requested them to stay on.

The only thing I'm worried about is that our Co-op regulations state that no member of the board can be a block national. I don't know exactly what a block national is except that I know they can only draw their money out of the bank in driblets. Nobody here has a list of block nationals in Tule.



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### Runcorn's Plan

My whole idea is to Co-operate and get the good will of the Board. I know they're going to be a much more demanding board. My idea is that the Administration has to maintain the initiative but not do it in a two-fisted manner. I told Black before this happened that he had the Co-op.

[The last page of my talk with Mr. Runcorn and the first page of my talk with Mr. O'Day have been lost.]

### TALK WITH MR. O'DAY, Technician at Hospital

[Mr. O'Day was one of the most fluent of my Caucasian informants. Ernest Besig, Director of the Northern California Branch of the A.C.L.U. had visited the project on July 11 and had talked with some of the stockade detainees and with their relatives. Mr. Besig had not been permitted to talk to the detainees in private. The WRA had insisted that he interview the detainees in the presence of a member of the WRA Internal Security staff.]

of Mahrt and not Best. They had instructed Besig (of A.C.L.U.) not to mention anything about the murder since it was their (the Administration's) impression that the murder had been initiated from the stockade. That was their chief concern.

Then we went to see Best. Best said nothing at all. All the conversation was handled by Lechlitter, the Project Attorney. Lechlitter said that if Besig wanted to do any work at all, he would have to conform to the requirements (not talk about the murder). He said, 'You did talk about the murder.' Besig said, 'Well, that's an admission that you listened to the conversation.' Lechlitter said, 'We're carrying on an investigation of a murder. I must have an agreement.' Besig said, 'What I talk about is my own business.' Lechlitter started arguing and Besig said, 'You shut your damn big mouth. You may be able to push these Japs around, but you can't push me around. I'll do what I please.'

Schmidt was there too. He didn't say a word either.

Besig said there was a fellow, a doctor who he wanted to see the next day. Best said he had no objections, but he would brook no interference with the investigation (of the murder).

This morning (July 12) Besig and I stayed over at the mess hall and talked till about 8:45. Mr. Best's secretary found us over there and said Mr. Best wanted to see us. I took him over and left him. About 20 minutes later Fagan told me Besig wanted to see me. I found him packing his suitcase. He told me he'd have to leave. He had been told his conversation of last night had interfered with the investigation.

Besig said that since he'd had an appointment with this man (a doctor) it [ordering him to leave] was an infringement of his right to demand council and he was going to make one sweet stink about it.

Afterwards, Black called me (O'Day) to Best's office and Best told me he had requested him (Besig) to leave because he had asked one of the men in the stockade, 'Do you think Hitomi's murder was engineered from the stockade?' Actually, the woman's [recording secretary] notes had said he had asked the fellow if he knew the murder had occurred.

Best said that he was very much disgusted about the whole thing. 'They (A.C.L.U.) couldn't have sent a worse representative. We both want to see the same things accomplished, but the first words he said to me were, 'I'm going to get in your hair.' He (Besig) never



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let up on this attitude for one minute. He refused to show even a normal decent courtesy. He's got guts but that's about all he's got.

I myself (O'Day) felt he had failed to use tact and diplomacy (O'Day himself is no model of either). My own impression was that his getting kicked out was highly satisfactory to him and he felt he was getting a weapon by it. Best said that he thought he wanted that too, but that the protection of the colony at this time was of more importance to him than anything else.

O'DAY'S TALK WITH AN EVACUEE DENTIST

I talked to my friend the dentist the other day. He said a great deal of the problem would be solved if we would make up a list of all of the people eligible for leave clearance and have a train movement to move them out. He said you can't have a camp of this, half democratic and half force. You have to have discipline, set the thing out clearly, understand it and appreciate it.

He said, 'We have a lot of draft dodgers here and a lot who have committed themselves just enough so they can get a place to stay and see which side is going to win. It's that sort of cowardly bunch who should be kicked out.' Then there's the group whom the lackadaisical attitude of the WRA allowed to stay here from the beginning. They should be kicked out too.

BRIEF TALK WITH TEACHER, MISS YOUNG

High School Teacher Threatened With Beating

Three High School boys came into the Administrative wing and called out one of the evacuee teachers. The story is that they started to beat him up because of alleged unfairness in giving them their proper order in registration.

TALK WITH ROBERTSON AND DR. AND MRS. OPLER

Reaction to Okamoto Verdict

Robertson said he had not noticed any particular reaction to the Okamoto verdict. Opler said that his informants agreed that "It was pretty bad, but was only adding to the present fire of discontent a little."

The Murder

Best and Schmidt, said Robertson, have not changed their viewpoint since the murder. Opler added that Best would like to get the specific person who did it, just as if it were justice on the outside. The last couple of days Best has shifted to the feeling that the terror isn't going to recur. It's been days since the murder.

Robertson: Best thinks it was a specific killing for a specific purpose, that it had nothing to do with current politics and that there is little probability that another will occur.

The night of the killing Tsuda's block was patrolled.(1)

[1. When Mr. Tsuda in April had refused to join forces with the Resegregationists, they had spread the rumor that he and his associates were inu.]



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Opler added that he had seen an Internal Security Car tonight taking Tsuda and Kimura(1) to see Best. He also said that there is some vague indication that Hitomi was killed because of the resentment of his activities in gambling. Tsuda, who, according to rumor, runs the most successful gambling house on the project, may conceivably be thought to know something about this.

Rudeness to Mrs. Opler

Mrs. Opler went to visit an evacuee friend in the colony. The friend was not at home and she went next door to inquire. Here a man was digging weeds. She spoke to him, but he kept right on digging. Finally, when she spoke to him again he said without turning around, 'I don't know.' The implication was, 'Get the hell out of here.'

Robertson: I've been told by friends that the colony is rejoicing, not sorrowing over the murder.

Opler: The attitude is, 'He had it coming to him.'

Caucasians Supposed to be Marked Men

Schmidt, Best, Black, Huycke and Kirkman of Mess Operations.

Questions on War Situation

Robertson: Three of the Manzanar boys asked me if I thought that Japan was winning the war.

Court Martial

The boy who testified poorly for Okamoto at the inquest corrected it at the Court Martial.

Japanese Who Fled to Hospital After Hitomi Murder

Best is urging every one of them to go back to the colony.

On Besig:

Best called Washington and Provinse told Best to put Besig off the project. He's coming back the 28th though. The appeals board for relocation and the Spanish Consul are coming on the 28th too.

Opler: As I see it now, there's absolutely no chance that the Administration can ever come back (Best regain confidence of people). Robertson agreed.

Co-op Board:

Robertson: The new board are supporters of the pro-status quo(2) policy.

Opler: I heard Schmidt discussing the new appointments. Schmidt said to me, 'Well, didn't you expect that?' He pretends now that he anticipated everything. He said, 'Sure, we'll probably have a right about face at this center and the anti-status quo people will all be in the stockade. Even Best laughed at that, but Schmidt meant it seriously.'

[1. Mitsuho Kimura had been a member of the permanent Executive Board of the Daihyo Sha Kai, and had been released from the stockade at about the same time as Mr. Tsuda. He was also a noted judo champion.]

[2. That is, persons opposed to co-operation with the Administration.]



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Mrs. Opler's Version of Attack on Evacuee Teacher

The teacher was confronted in the hall by some fresh guys. The teacher gave one of them a sock. The boy felt he had been gypped out of his place in line in registration. He came in the next day with a group of six boys. Two watched the exits and four approached the teacher. One called the teacher inu. The teacher hit him. We heard the noise. A Caucasian teacher called out. I called the Colonial police. Priscilla Robertson crawled out of the window and got Gundy (policeman) and he broke it up.

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ROBERTSON

Heard from Robertson that Best had gone to see Kurihara and had asked him about the murders. Kurihara said that Best ought to know who was doing it and added that he was unable to understand how all this could go on and the administration not be aware of it. Kurihara also said that Best should find out from the same sources that told him (Kurihara).

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About 9:30 p.m., tonight I caught sight of Yamatani, Akitsuki, and one other man strolling along from the direction of Best's house. They did not greet me. Evidently they have not yet returned to the colony.

TALK WITH TEACHER

Reported 24 Hours 3rd Degree

Miss Z, a teacher, came into my room at 11:30 p.m. and asked me if I knew Besig's address. I said I did not and asked what was up. She said it had leaked out that Mr. Tsuda and two other evacuees were in the process of being given a 24 hour third degree by Internal Security, and a staff member wanted to get in touch with Besig.

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NEW ENTRANCE GATE SINCE MURDER

The old "Gate 2" by which evacuees and Caucasians entered the colony up to July 3rd has been locked and another gate several hundred yards to the east has been substituted. There is considerable complaint from the teachers because this new gate is far less convenient. I was told that the purpose of the change is to mitigate the possibility of evacuees getting near the stockade and to protect those who have sought refuge in the hospital. The hospital is directly opposite the old entrance.



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TALK WITH O'DAY

Men Given Grilling

The boys grilled are supposed to have been four from Jerome. Among them was Ige, who came here from Leupp and was kept in the stockade for five and a half months, even though he was not here at the time of the trouble. The men were said to have been grilled since early yesterday morning until 4:00 a.m. this morning (July 14). O'Day did not know whether Tsuda was among those questioned. (Tsuda is an Old Tule Laker.)

I couldn't see any alternative. I let my contact in the colony know about it. (Evidently O'Day is acquainted with a member of the undercover group which is now calling itself "the new group.") (1) I thought they could do more about it since they know Besig's address.

Besig's Visit in Print

Besig came out in print today. Lechlitter told me about it. He said that Besig had stated that some men had been kept in the stockade for eight months without being allowed contact with their families and that they had been denied legal council. Lechlitter said that fortunately the paper allowed WRA to make a statement in the same issue. WRA said the men had not been denied legal council. (Lechlitter intimated that what they had not been given was "legal council of their own choice." Evidently this is what Besig should have said.) Moreover, continued the WRA statement, these men that Besig had contacted had expressed their loyalty to Japan.

I said, 'That doesn't make any difference.' Lechlitter said, 'It does, under the new law.' I said, 'You, yourself have stated that an announcement of intention to repatriate had nothing to do with a citizen's obligations or priveleges. Besides these fellows were put in the stockade for eight months before the law was passed.'

It seems to me that WRA's statement was just a deliberate attempt to stir up public feeling against the internees.

Visit in Colony Evening of July 12

Lechlitter and I went into the colony the night of July 12. We met 48 people, who, with the exception of two or three were interested in the hearing Board. All of them were related to the men in the stockade. Okamoto presided. He was able to keep the group in complete order. He jokingly handled a tough part of the group.

He asked Lechlitter to explain the "kicking out" of the attorney. Lechlitter said he hadn't been kicked out but had been requested to leave. The Administration could not allow anyone to interfere with the murder investigation. He stated that WRA had called Mr. Besig's boss in New York, Mr. Baldren, and Baldren had said that Besig had not come under his authority.

[1. By the "new group" Mr. O'Day meant the Saiban-iin (Lawsuit Committee) composed of relatives of the stockade detainees, all of whom were Resegregationists. (See Thomas and Nishimoto, p. 291.) Though I had talked to O'Day many times, this was the first time I learned that he too was in contact with the Resegregationists.]



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Those present then wanted to know why they couldn't visit the people in the stockade. Lechlitter said they were trouble makers (the internees) and that the Administration couldn't allow visits except on their own discretion. Very little visiting was going to be allowed.

I was surprised at the extent with which Lechlitter was frank with the people, as to what had occurred. He said there were two major reasons that the Administration didn't want Besig here at this time. One was that people had come to Best and said that they had been threatened with bodily harm unless they agreed to see Mr. Besig. The second was the killing.

When Lechlitter said they expected to solve the murder in a week or two the woman they call the queen of the colony (Mrs. Matsuda of my notes) and others exchanged glances of considerable amusement. I understand that the Administration doesn't have a single item of physical evidence as to who could have done it.

TALK WITH OPLER AND ROBERTSON

Robertson appears to spend many of his evenings at Opler's house now, since his family is in Los Angeles where one of his children is undergoing a rather serious operation. Both he and Opler were very low in mind. At one time during the evening a car came up and stopped. It was Bagley (Social Welfare), who had been called into the colony to take pictures of the block 16 mess hall. Robertson and Opler immediately thought another murder had happened. Robertson called up Internal Security but got no information. Robertson and Opler thereupon accompanied Bagley to Block 16. There they found several Internal Security cars also driving up "to investigate the report." It turned out to be a farewell dinner for Markley, Reports Officer, who is leaving to enter UNRAH, I think.

Opler told me that Okamoto, who is taking such a prominent part in the Civil Liberties Union matter was prominent in Heart Mountain where he was on the Fair Labor Practice Board.

Opler:

Besig and Stockade: Besig said that even in a jail outside you have a right to be heard by council without a third party being present. They put Besig in a little room with two large rooms on each side. Probably cops were glued to both keyholes.

Shimada and Furakawa: (who were active in breaking status quo) Shimada has gone into the Newell Star. Furakawa has resigned.

Robertson:

The Appeal Board Coming July 28: If the WRA has denied people relocation then they may appeal through this Board. The decision of the Board is final.

Opler: Opler suspects that Hitomi's murder was instigated by a true "New Group" from Manzanar.(1)

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[1. Another reference to Mr. Wakayama's Manzanar gang.]



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TALK WITH JIM TAKEUCHI

Went to Jim's workplace (in the Administrative section) today to give him the sausage he had asked me to get for him in Berkeley. He said he would like to have me come to see him, but says that since he has been seen a lot with Hayward, his boss, he fears he is developing some slight reputation as an inu. We will try to meet someplace this side of the fence and I anticipate a considerable amount of information. In hurried asides, Jim told me that what surprised him most of all in the last two weeks is the quiet way most people took the acquittal of the soldier. No protest was made. He had expected something. He added that "you never saw such a mess as the murder." He visited the scene later and found an enormous pool of blood. "The funny thing is," he continued "that the murder had split the camp into two parts. Half feel sorry for the guy and the other half are glad. Of course they say he was killed for embezzling Co-op funds, but that was just talk. Nobody could prove it." Jim is following out his plan as mentioned in previous notes and has asked for leave clearance. His hearing is on the 19th.

He remarked that he thought that the Administration was deliberately not making serious efforts to find the murderer. "If the people think that the murderer is loose in camp, more of them will want to relocate. I was in Lechlitter's office the other day and saw a tremendous sheet of applications for leave clearance." (Personally, I think Jim is exaggerating a bit, but that some of the No. 1 inu want to get out of camp, cannot be doubted.)

M. KIMURA REFUSES TO TALK TO ME

Failed to get an appointment with Mitsuho Kimura who, (as an Executive Committee member of the Daihyo Sha Kai) could tell me a good deal about what happened during October and November of last year. Will have to wait until things quiet down.

RECEIVED THREE LETTERS TODAY

Letter From Mr. Kurihara

July 14. "I was slightly misinformed. You may call at your convenience the days as specified. The rights of my roommates must be respected. Please refrain from visiting on Saturdays and Sundays."

(Saturdays and Sundays are days in which the streets are filled with baseball fans and others bent on recreation.)

Letter From Mrs. Komura (Dated July 14):

Yes, I shall admit frankly, this block people are all very hard headed and are all eyes and ears, wanting something to gossip about and criticize about. It's a awful tough block. So as much as I would like to meet you and hear your interesting talk, I'm afraid to ask you in our block so Keizo advises me to "drop in my office," he says. So I'm asking you please drop into cold storage office and he will contact you and pay you for what I owe you.

Letter From Mrs. Yamashiro (Dated July 15):

"While you were gone, George and I painted the rooms (mother's and ours) and gee the place looks like new again. Won't you come and see how it looks now? Let's see, this coming Wednesday which is the 19th around 1 o'clock would certainly be a swell time for us. Hoping that you may come on that date and time (we will be waiting) I'll say Adios."



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#### TALK WITH OPLER

##### Co-op's New Board of Directors:

Opler told me that if I would keep it confidential and not let my informants know, he would let me in on the fact that some of the members of the Co-op's new Board of Directors have been urged to take the positions deliberately by some of the members who have resigned. "They want them in there to keep the thing from going screwy." Opler's assistant, Obayashi, is one of the new Board Members and he, among others, has proposed some immediate reforms. Among these is, instead of relying on the Co-op publications to disseminate information (nobody reads the Co-op papers anyway) Obayashi proposed giving Engeikai (variety show) entertainments for the people and insert Co-op news between the acts.

##### Sentiment of Old Board Toward the People:

Opler then made some remarks about the old Board Members and the Coordinating Committee's attitude toward the people in general. (See also Sakoda's remarks on Akitsuki.)

"The feeling among the Co-op men was, 'If you do that sort of thing (anything to get the goodwill of people such as distributing the baseball and bat to each block) you'll be criticized for doing it.' They just thought they'd roll along until they could give out the money (patronage dividend) which was what really counted.

"They were pretty damned snobbish about the people in the center. They took the attitude, 'We're smart business men. The people are dumb.' They never verbalized it but it was there. (Cf. Hankey interview with Yoshimura and Iwamoto in March.) It showed in the Coordinating Committee's actions also. Hitomi was very much of that way of thought."

##### Draft Evaders Arrested:

According to the Examiner, 27 draft evaders have been taken from camp and are to be tried in the Federal Court in Yreka. Twelve were taken Saturday, twelve Sunday and three today. As yet there appears to be no reaction in camp at all. The people seeing these boys off were just the normal family groups.

##### Takahashi Beating of July 3:

Takahashi was not beaten up badly at all. In fact, it seems to me that the beating must have been interrupted or something.

##### Besig (A.C.L.U.) Reputation in Colony:

Stories about Besig are all over the colony, what a grand man he is, etc. It may have had something to do with stopping the anti-Caucasian wave.

##### Coordinating Committee in Late February

[I was preparing a report for Dr. Thomas and had seen an unclear reference to "trouble between the Coordinating Committee and the residents of Block 49" in late February. I asked Dr. Opler about this.]

I think that was in ward VI. I think it was that the block manager and the Daihyo Sha Kai block representative got along very well in that block. The Coordinating Committee claimed they were running the block against the wishes of the majority. They thought a man named Tsuchiya was one of the main agitators. I think if you went into the block now you'd find it was pretty heavily status quo.



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The Coordinating Committee was in the ascendancy for a very short time, but when the pick-ups continued, they started sliding.

The Coordinating committee was interested in getting more jobs at that time. They were fighting with the Administration all the way. They would come to those meetings and be polite all the time. If they had ceased being polite, Best would have scrapped them. It was during that period that Huycke would say, [at Coordinating Committee meetings] 'There is one thing I can't tell you,' And look ominous. They felt themselves slipping.

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KAYO IIDA

Kayo Iida, the young girl who lives in block 7 and does some typing for me called on me in my room this morning. She assured me that there was no increase of ill feeling toward Caucasians or toward Japanese visited by Caucasians in her block. This young woman exhibits a "Pro-status quo" feeling remarkable in a young Nisei.

Attitudes of People From October 1 to 14:

The thing that struck us was, I think, the first appearance of the camp. The comparison with Topaz was very poor. The latrines, the mess and the apartments were so poor in condition and so different.

We noticed the people here were so easy going and let everything up to the Administration, and didn't bother to put in their viewpoints or anything.

Especially about the Co-ops it was so different from the other Co-ops. We were shocked to see all the vegetables, potatoes and luxuries like cosmetics and desserts, because at Topaz we just had simple cupcakes and one kind of cookies and things like that. We didn't have varieties there and yet that was adequate for us there.

At first it was so new to us and so long since we had gone to a store that we were glad. But as time went on we noticed that it wasn't so good. That was one way of wasting our money as well as giving the government an opportunity of not feeding us.

Another thing that struck us was the great number of Yes-Yes people and people who hadn't registered who were here. We had expected just one group and had expected to run this camp as we wanted to. We had high hopes of that.

Organization of the Daihyo Sha Kai:

I think personally that the farm accident came too soon. When we first came here we were disappointed and knew it had to be changed. If the farm accident had not come so soon we could have made the changes gradually. It was going along smoothly enough, but was spoiled by the farm people from Topaz [evacuees from Topaz, brought in to harvest the crop when the farm crew went on strike.] When the harvesters came that made the people angry. Especially when they found out that our food was being shipped to them.

Hitomi's Death:

This might sound awfully heartless but nobody had sympathy for him. The whole camp felt that way. It had a lot to do with the Co-op and people felt he was really behind all the things going on with the Administration and especially for the people sent into the stockade



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- especially the most recent pick-ups. The people began to hate the Co-op, especially after Akitsuki was transferred from the Co-op head to the Coordinating Committee. Akitsuki and Hitomi were suspected. When people kept being put into the stockade after the Coordinating Committee was put into office, the people became angry.

#### The New Co-op Board:

Well, as far as our block is concerned they were very satisfied with the New Board representatives. The people expect some improvement now, although some people think that maybe it will not go on as smoothly as I hope it would.

#### Arrest of Draft Evaders:

I haven't heard much about that. They all expect them to come back. People who are repatriates say, 'After the trial they'll all be back soon.' The Yes-Yes people just don't give a hang about them anyway.

#### Reactions to Acquittal of Soldier:

There were very harsh reactions. It was very shocking and disappointing news. It seemed so unfair and unjust.

(Kayo had not heard of the visit of the Civil Liberties Union Representative.)

#### General Feelings:

We think the best way would be for the people in the hospital and the stockade to shake hands and have Mr. Best leave and Mr. Robertson take his place.

#### LETTER FROM MRS. MATSUDA (July 15, 1944)

Received your letter this morning and am glad to hear of your safe return to the center.

Yes, the conditions are very tense in here and I think it wise to ask you to refrain from coming here for sometime, for my own good and security as well as yours. (Mrs. Matsuda lives in block 6.) I am sorry for your study but please try to understand the situation, and let's hope for the much broader normalcy to return soon.

About the subject: period between October 1 to 14. I came to this center September 19, so I think I qualify in behalf of some of the voice of those days.

We came to Tule Lake Center with great expectation and high hopes to be able to join our fellow Japanese subjects whose ideas and future thoughts and desire to return to her mother country at her emergencies and to serve her were the main purpose in seeking repatriation and expatriation were the same; but, all were in the contrary much to our disappointments on our already weary minds and body. When we learned of the facts of failure on the part of the WRA to carry out this as a segregation center, that many a loyal ones still remained here at large numbers and many uncertain in status, no-no, no-yes, yes, no, the non-registrants, this dump was certainly no place for us.

The fact that no definite policy was taken in consideration by the WRA authority, to handle us as a repat. and expat. Then also the poor facilities for the housing, poor foods, employments unfair to the new comers, as compared to the previous camps we have come from, were all brought up to our attention as soon as we came here and dissatisfaction arouse. To make this center liveable as possible as we have been privileged in other center, to



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ascertain a certain status as a repat. and expat. not be dealt alike with the other uncertain element. It was the feeling and the opinion of the segretees to form a central committee to carry out these above mentioned facts for the benefits of our own and felt it most necessary to ascertain a certain status as we previous had expected.

At the early part of October the negotiating committee was born to meet with the above mentioned opinion of the segretees.

What the former Tuleans or the uncertain ones thought at this time I have no idea, but the segretees were all for it.

It is regrettable that I can not be of much help to you at this time as much as I want to.

(Yesterday (July 17) I had received a short note from Mrs. Matsuda, asking me to get in touch with a certain Mr. Wallace who, she said, was visiting the project and was a special investigator to Mr. Ickes. In her letter she said: "I would appreciate it very much for I feel that I must see him in order to have our side of the story be heard by him before he leaves here.")

[I did not do this, because I felt that to appear as a partisan or assistant to the Resegregation Group, might lead to my being asked to leave the project.]

#### GOSSIP ABOUT SCHMIDT AND HITOMI

Heard from Caucasian informant today that Schmidt is talking of leaving here after July 28 (the date of the arrival on the Spanish Consul). Schmidt also mentioned that "they" had several leads on the Hitomi killing. Schmidt thinks it was a one man affair and that the murderer was a friend of Hitomi. Schmidt said there was no place near Hitomi's house that an assassin could have hidden himself. Moreover, Hitomi did not get the chance to utter a cry for help. Also Schmidt says he has evidence that Hitomi was a philanderer and had broken up several homes.



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TALK WITH GEORGE YAMASHIRO AND HIS WIFE

As usual when I see George he fires three times as many questions at me as I ask him and gets far better answers. The first question was: "What's this rumor that Mr. Robertson is going to be Project Director here?" He added, "I heard that Mr. Komura wrote to Mr. Ickes to fire Mr. Best."

On Hitomi Killing:

The people are very quiet about it. Mr. Hitomi is dead; so the people are quiet. If they aren't quiet they may go to jail. They say, 'Well, he's passed away. After all, he's a Buddha now. Let him sleep peacefully.' It used to be he had a very bad reputation. But since he's passed away the people don't say much. It wouldn't be good manners.

Arrest of "Draft Evaders":

The people are doing nothing. Everybody is willing to go (to jail) if it comes to that. The Japanese don't think anything about it. Those 27 boys had a lot of sympathy though. But I wouldn't change(1) (for fear of going to jail).

Election of New Co-op Board:

I was shocked. I was completely dumb. They told me to come (to the meeting) but I didn't go. Those people who took the job belong to the unwise group. Maybe they do it just to get a name. Perhaps it was somebody who used to be farmer. He has no name and he's going to do something about it.

Mr. Takahashi and His Exodus to Hospital Refuge:

I was surprised at Mr. Takahashi. (Takahashi (who, had been beaten on July 1 or 2) lives in Yamashiro's block.) I thought he could take it. He was just hit with the hand.

I hear they don't like them in the hospital mess. The waitresses don't like them.

George added that he heard that the people who had gone to the hospital to be safe had to enter the hospital mess in small groups. Even so, the waitresses wouldn't serve them. Then they tried to eat in the Caucasian mess. But the Caucasians there didn't like them either.

Grilling of Young Men by Internal Security:

I heard those boys were grilled for three days and nights. One of them was Kitadani, a tough kid. We used to call him "the dead end kid" in Leupp. He was grilled because they found him with a knife.

The Co-op

You know what people call the Co-op? Shibu Rokubu - 40%-60%. That means, which side is taking the 60%. That's what people are talking about the Co-op. Akitsuki or Hitomi - they don't know who's taking it.

Also they said Mr. Hitomi hired nothing but Sacramento people in the Co-op. He hired his brother in the Sewing Factory, his relatives and his friends in the Co-op.

[1. George, if I remember correctly, had already applied for repatriation.]



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Giri:

(Interestingly enough, Yamashiro did not seem acquainted with the implication that giri has in camp.)

It means, in plain English - We can't lose face. According to the Japanese dictionary you could use it in lots of other ways. It's a bushido (code of the samurai) idea.

It's like when you're not a relative, but yet you act like a relative. In other words, like you and me, we have no relation, but if anything happens we're going to act like mother and son.(1)

We used to read about giri in the Japanese monthly magazines. The gangsters (heroes of the stories) used to live by giri. That stayed in the Japanese' head. Those gangsters had no right to land. They went from place to place.

In the Tokugawa times those gangs were formed. Their business was gambling. The Japanese government hated these gamblers. So the gamblers went from place to place. For instance, if I'm a small gambler and head of a joint and a fellow gambler asks me to let him stay in my joint I let him stay. Next day he goes on and sleeps at another joint till he gets back to his gang. If I ever get in a fight that makes him giri toward me. He would give his life for me just for that one night's sleep and maybe two meals.

The gamblers were not samurai. They wore a sword but the samurai wore two swords.

The gamblers were called yakuza in Japan. They were bad from the beginning.

(The last statement was made to explain that these gangsters, although they were regarded in a romantic light by the people, weren't (said George) heroes like Jesse James or Robin Hood. "Jesse James was good in the beginning but the yakuza 'were bad from the beginning.'")

George left at that time and I asked his wife (Sally) to tell me about her hopes of Tule when she came here from Gila.

When we saw the camp there were a bunch of boys on a potatoe truck. They pointed. 'That's Tule,' they said. When I saw it tears came to my eyes. It was the first step towards Japan and George would be here and everything.

I really thought this camp was going to be much different than Gila. But when (on November 1) we were told in the block here that we were going to see Mr. Best - you should have seen the line! We marched there. We thought we had gone early but the place was already jammed with people.

Trip to Tule

All during the trip all the people coming from Gila, all they talked about was how things were going to be in Tule Lake. There wouldn't be any more inus. No more Yes-Yes. They were so glad when they saw the camp.

The people came with such high hopes and got so little.

Reaction to Old Tuleans

There were some families here - old Tuleans - who said, 'We haven't decided whether

[1. This statement was to prove prophetic. See Fieldnotes for January 25 when my intervention may have kept Mr. Yamashiro's friend, Mr. Doi, from being interned with the Resegregationists.]



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we're going back to Japan yet. Our boys just refused to register.' I told my parents, 'Gee, they just stayed here. They didn't want to go out.' I don't have much respect for them.

Change of Nisei:

My students are asking me, 'Sensei,' they say, 'What would you think if I got leave clearance and got out of here?' They believe all they read in the papers. They says, 'Saipan was taken, this place and that place was taken. Gee whiz, what's going to happen to us?' I really don't blame them.

State of Camp:

I think everyone is dead here. It's all shut. My students' fathers, they used to be active men, but they're just quieting down and staying at home.

TALK WITH MAY IWOHARA

While walking home I met May. She told me she had received my letter and was just planning to call on me. She was obviously nervous to be seen talking to a Caucasian inside the camp so we hurriedly arranged to meet in the "smoking room" of the hospital wing where the "refugees" have taken up residence. When I met her there she asked me how things were in camp. I said they didn't look too good. This worried her. She told me that Akitsuki was leaving the hospital tomorrow and going back to live in camp. He wasn't going back to his family, but was going to live in bachelor quarters with the fielders, his Judo boys, who had sworn to protect him with their lives.

She asked me about gossip in the colony about Hitomi. I asked, "What gossip?" "The gossip about his having a concubine." I said that no Japanese had told me that. May said that Akitsuki too was accused by rumor of having a concubine. With delicacy she indicated that this was supposed to be herself. "How ridiculous," said I, though I had heard this said by Japanese.

Acquittal of Soldier:

The verdict was kind of expected. They knew the result before they even started. All those things are whitewashed.

Underground Work:

I think the pro-status quo group and the stockade releasees have been working together for a long time.

February 1944 Coordinating Committee Trouble With Mr. Failing:

There were so many boys who weren't placed on the payroll. These boys contended that they had been told to wait until the payroll came. Mr. Failing said they shouldn't have waited and he hired other boys. The boys argued that they had waited till this date. In regard to that, the Coordinating Committee recommended to Mr. Failing that they be assigned and that one of them be assigned as foreman of the group as a responsible person (member of Divisional Responsible men). This foreman wasn't called either by Mr. Failing.

When the Coordinating Committee's messenger took the recommendation to Mr. Failing, Mr. Failing swore at him. Mr. Best sort of smoothed it over.

Attitude on Entering Camp in October:

You know how it was on th train. After being so tired to come to this dirty camp which



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was dark and dusty and windy. The Housing didn't want us to be what they call a homogeneous group so they scattered us all over. We didn't have a single friend in our whole block.(1) We resented the Housing Department. Then in the latter part of October, they broke the Housing Department windows. They didn't find the guilty ones at that time. I think that was the spark of the whole incident (breaking windows).

Well, housing was the worst. We came into rooms with half the plaster board stolen; there was even nothing to light the stove with. We had to take it or leave it.

We didn't think much about the food. It was pretty good.

At the relocation camp there were so many that were loyal to America. We felt people with the same kind of mind would be assembled here. But we found 5,000 Yes-Yes here. They (the segregees) thought they should be kicked out.

To tell you the truth when the status-quo group had the demonstration I whole-heartedly supported it. I said, 'I don't blame them.' It was how we were housed that affected me the most.

(As we left, May introduced me to the "refugees" sitting about in the hospital room. I met Mr. Morimoto, former president of the Co-op, and also Mr. Shimokon, head of evacuee Internal Security. He was an unusually tall, heavily built Japanese.)

I walked to the canteen with May and she told me about the difficulties the "refugees" were having in getting their meals. The cook and waitresses in the hospital had called them inu and refused to feed them. Then they had tried to eat in the Caucasian mess but the cook there refused to feed them too. And, said May, Mr. Akitsuki got that cook his job. The Caucasians didn't want any Japanese cooks or waitresses, but Mr. Akitsuki convinced them that they should have them. Now, the unfortunate "refugees" are eating in a little private mess set up in a corner of the warehouse district.

May also told me that she was not so much afraid of getting murdered in camp as she was afraid of getting raped. She could not understand how I had the courage to visit in the camp now.

(Some of the Caucasians are mildly hysterical about the "refugees" living in the Administration area at such intimate quarters with them. Here are these dangerous Japs, they say. People may come out of the colony and murder us by mistake in our beds.)

TALK WITH RUNCORN

Runcorn said that he felt he had almost talked Mr. Best into giving the Co-op the \$35.00 pay for domestics. But Black was still set against it. (Black, former head of Black Fox Military Academy in Los Angeles, took an instant dislike to Runcorn, a conscientious objector, I was told.) On one occasion said, Runcorn, when he discussed the possible future demanding attitude of the new Co-op Board, Lechlitter remarked, "Hell, let's throw them all into the stockade." Runcorn is leaving day after tomorrow and will be replaced by McNeil, the old Co-op head, and by Mr. Curry.

Runcorn also told me that Lechlitter had told him that the stockade boys have now gone on a hunger strike. Just as we were getting ready to let Reverend Kai see his wife and child, and reunite a married couple they have to do that, said Lechlitter. Lechlitter blames the hunger strike on Besig.

[1. Impounded People, Spicer, et al, makes no mention of this deliberate residential separation of segregants from the same center (p. 179). It would be interesting to find out if this was done.]



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TALK WITH MR. KURIHARA

Called on Kurihara today for the first time since the murder. I had written him a letter on my arrival listing a great number of topics on which I would appreciate information. I found he had prepared a seven page report (attached) which expressed many significant and interesting current attitudes. He is quite willing to continue to gather information for me in this matter. This delights me.

He explained to begin with that when he had said "the rights of my roommates must be respected," he had actually meant the "lives of my roommates". However, he had put rights because he did not want to frighten me. He also told me, rather diffidently, that immediately after the murder "some fanatics" had spread the rumor that "a Caucasian would be next". He was cordial and obliging as could be, entirely different from the tone of his letter of July 14, which may have been written with possible censorship in mind.

He gave me the names of two Japanese with college education, whom he said he thought would be glad to help me understand the situation before the farm accident. One name was that of Mr. Tachibana, with whom I am already well acquainted and for whom I had procured a book on International Law. Another was the name of Mr. Wakayama, of whom Kurihara said, rather diffidently, that he might insult me. [I did not tell Mr. Kurihara that I had heard rumors (one was from Dr. Opler) that Wakayama was the leader of the "Manzanar Gang," a group that called themselves the Black Tigers, had signed their names in blood, and would do anything Wakayama told them to do. In any case I sent Mr. Wakayama a respectful letter, explaining my work, and asking if I might call on him.]

Hitomi's Murder:

The chief attitude is that everybody shut up like a clam. The murderer did a nice piece of work, as far as that goes (referring to complete lack of evidence).

Visit of Mr. Besig:

Everybody experienced disappointment on that. They were disappointed because the attorney was not allowed to see the men individually. That created some handicap toward expressing their opinions. I wish he would put up a fight so that the American public will be informed of the facts.

(Kurihara added that probably most of the American public would not be influenced by these facts, but perhaps a few might be.)

Arrests of Draft Evaders:

There was no reaction. None whatever. We discussed the things but the general feeling is that if they did not wish to be loyal they should not have said, "Yes-Yes." It was no more than right for the government to impound them. We expect those who did sign for repatriation or expatriation to be released if they applied prior to the date the government designated.

New Co-op Board:

I was appointed in this block but I refused to serve. It looks as if people are accepting them, as just representatives of the people.



Future:

The Administration must watch out. If it doesn't watch out it will have more trouble.

Grilling of Four Leupp Boys:

Several boys from Leupp were investigated. But the good thing was that they were released immediately. If they had been put into the stockade the Administration would have been doing a great injustice. They were very studious boys. One of the boys was taken just because the Administration thought he was a fanatic. That was no reason.

Refugees in Hospital:

I heard that the doctor in charge at the hospital objected to having them brought to the hospital. They are now being housed in the teachers' section.

Akitsuki is not wise in coming back. If he wants to continue to breath, it's better that he stays out. Many of those boys (Coordinating Committee group) were too arrogant. If they had listened to the voice of the people they wouldn't be in trouble now.

They didn't stop to think. They were just getting in well with the Administration. Especially those in the Co-op. That bunch of gamblers and embezzlers. They were sitting in high offices. They shouldn't have held those positions. They did not stop to think that there were many well educated persons who were not working in the Co-op but were far more capable.

I should not tell you this but Yamatani was on the list above Hitomi. Then that man Nakamura. He is an embezzler and an ex-convict. (Nakamura is ex-business manager of Co-op, also a "refugee".) He held one of the high offices in this camp.

They didn't have the character strong enough to refuse. They went ahead and cooperated with the Administration. Little by little they were dragged into the mire until they couldn't get out any more.

I don't think the Administration can run this new Co-op Board so easily.(1)

Kurihara went on to say that it would be very bad policy for me to meet any of my friends in the administrative area. It would not be safe. There were "eyes in the walls." "If any one is seen with you they will be branded as an inu."

"I can say that 99% of the people are happy over the killing."

New Feeling in Camp:

The feeling in camp is more on the happy side than anything else. People do expect that there will be a great change.

There will be one more incident. The Administration is at fault. If that incident develops as I anticipate. I feel that the camp is in a state where unless the Administration makes an absolute change, the beatings and the killings will continue.

Now it's beyond the Administration's power to control it. Things have gone too far.  
[1. It is significant that I did not learn until October 16 that Mr. Kurihara was playing a "behind the scenes" role in the reorganization of the Co-op. On October 16 he indicated that he was serving as an advisor to the Board of Directors. Shortly before he had told me that he was working for the Co-op as an unpaid accountant. He had a degree in accounting from Southwestern University.]



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Gripsholm Rumors:

Most of the Japanese have now recognized the idea that they'll be here for the duration of the war. They do not seem to be much affected by the prospect of exchange.

Kurihara now read me a poem which he had composed on his sentiments toward the reports of the difficulties of the Japanese armed forces. The sentiment was that no matter how thickly and darkly the clouds gather, his faith in the ultimate victory of Japan and of its just rule over the world remains unaffected.

TALK WITH O'DAY

O'Day came in this afternoon and told me that Okamoto, the man who had been chairman of the meeting held in the colony last week when the relatives of stockade internees talked to Lechlitter, had been arrested and taken to Yreka, the charge being inciting young men in Tule to resist the draft. Mr. O'Day was extremely angry and about to phone Besig in San Francisco (Don't know whether he phoned or not.) He went on at considerable length at how he had been impressed by Okamoto's intelligence and balance at the meeting and how this new action of the Administration "stinks to high heaven."

TALK WITH OPLER AND ROBERTSON

Hunger Strike in Stockade

Opler: I asked the Administration for reasons but didn't get any ones that sounded sensible. Black said that the men in the stockade had begun to send messages out on paper. As he rambled on, he said people in the stockade were beginning to send memos out to the Administrative personnel. Sugimoto had sent one to Hayward telling Hayward and the Mess Management what they wanted to eat, how they wanted it sent on, etc.

They were told not to do this and got sore and went on a hunger strike.

Opler added that in his opinion the strike was much more related to what the internees were getting to eat than to this message business.

Opler said that Okamoto had been arrested.

On Hitomi Hiring Relatives and Friends in Co-op:

Hitomi did hire relatives. Also the Tuleans did have the key positions in the Co-op and the Divisional Responsible Men's positions. That's statistically proved.

Hitomi's Murder:

The latest rumor is that Hitomi was running around with his brother's wife and that his brother killed him.

Proposed Visits of Stockade Internees with "Relatives":

Opler: There were two visits proposed, Kai and his wife and newest child and Kuratomi and his girl friend. I thought the visits were going through.

(Opler had not heard Lechlitter's remark that the hunger strike was forcing the Administration to abandon this "kindness.")



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On Nakamura - Whom Kurihara Calls an Ex-convict in his Report:

Opler: Nakamura is a repatriate and an old Tulean. He has a B.A. from U.C. Later he attended Texas A. and M. He is a young unmarried man and lives with his family. He used to be on my staff and went from there to the Co-op. He was brought into the Co-op because he majored in economics in college. They felt he'd be a business asset. He started out (in the Co-op) as volunteer labor. Then they pulled him in more and more.

He lived in ward II, with his parents. His brother went out on seasonal leave. George is a repatriate. He came from the Sacramento district but he didn't know Hitomi before he came here. George is a good guy from all points of view. He put in more time than anybody else for his 19 bucks.

On Colony Rumors that the Co-op and Coordinating Committee put People in the Stockade:

Three men were put in the stockade who led an attack on the Co-op. They didn't shut up after the December Co-op vote. They kept on pressuring and threatening and were put in the stockade. That's the only people I know of who were put in the stockade for speaking against the Co-op.

Present Attitude of Administration:

I think they're making a mistake in the Administration now. Not only about the stockade but in the apprehension of Hitomi's murderer. There's something brewing now. It is tied in with the murderer and the Coordinating Committee crowd. If they allow it to happen it's going to be bad.

Their ideas on "hoodunit" are the funniest things you ever heard. They have a new and opposite theory every day.

A lot of the colony thinks one group paid off another group to do this. They talk as vaguely as they dare, but they say as much as they dare along that line. You get the impression that the leadership in the group that was behind it is older and they kept behind the scenes and had a younger group do the killing. It was an expert job.

Robertson said here that the next murder would probably be among the following men, all ex-members of the Coordinating Committee: Shimada, Namakawa, who are now working on the Newell Star and in a rather vulnerable position; Nakao, Okamoto, and Kaido.

He added that "All the Administration is saying about the Hitomi killing is that it was a personal affair and that all the evidence points to Hitomi's brother as the culprit."

TALK WITH NISEI GIRL ABOUT HER ARRIVAL AT TULE LAKE - KIMI HASHIMOTO

"One thing, when I came here I almost cried was that all of our friends were separated from us. We said, 'Let's move.' That was important with me. I almost cried when I came here and saw it."

"The few people who came in here later were not so bad off [segregants from Manzanar]. They were put together more or less in one place."

TALK WITH NISEI GIRL, FRIEND OF MR. TAKAHASHI'S DAUGHTER - HELEN SASAJIMA

This girl, who is an intimate friend of Takahashi's daughter said that she felt very badly that the Takahashi family had taken refuge in the hospital. It made things worse. She



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wished she would come back to the colony because the longer they stay out there, the worse it will be for them. Takahashi, at least, apparently did not solicit help from the Administration. According to Helen, soldiers came to their home at night and told them that they would either have to leave camp and move to the hospital or the authorities would not be responsible for their lives. (Will try to check this.)

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TALK WITH MR. ROBERTSON

"It appears as if the Administration (Best) is seriously considering a turn about face. I was talking to Schmidt and Best today and Schmidt asked, 'Have you told Robertson how I feel about the strike?' Best said, 'No, I haven't.' Schmidt said, 'I feel those fellows ought to be down in the colony. They are doing more harm in there.'" (Schmidt was referring to hunger strike in the stockade.)

'How do you feel about it?' he asked me.

"I said, 'The whole seat of the trouble has always been in the stockade.'"

"Best said, 'I don't agree with you, but I'm just about convinced that I'll let them go back.'"

"Schmidt spent a long time in the stockade today. It was all very confidential."

"I think this new attitude is a result of pressure from Washington. The way they are acting now is encouraging but ridiculous (in the light of past action). It's coming from Myer and Provinse."

"They're trying to lead the people to believe that they have been trying to help them all along. They are also blaming the sending of the aliens to Santa Fe on the Department of Justice when it was definitely done from this project."

(I asked about the information I had received that the police had just about forced the "inu" to leave the camp.)

"Nobody knows what Internal Security told the people. They were supposed to offer the people protection if they so desired. They were not supposed to alarm them but just to bring them in if they wanted to come. Sandburn and Jeffries were the men. But Matsumoto told me that he had been urged to leave."

TALK WITH D - ADMINISTRATION

My engineer friend (who is supposed to be very reliable) said that last year the Administration had 3,000 acres of barley and sold it for 1,500 dollars when it's actual value was \$50,000. He also told me that they had five graders valued at 10,000 dollars apiece. They were charged to the farm. Only two are here. The others were hijacked someplace along the road. He said there is one and half million dollars gone on this project that can't be accounted for.

When the chicken farm burned down they found out that they had paid almost twice the market price for the chicks.

Best told Washington that he would take none of the financial responsibility here. (I asked who had the financial responsibility but my informant did not know.)



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HUNGER STRIKE

Caucasian informant told me this morning that he had heard yesterday that the hunger strike was still on. He had heard that the internees had gone on strike because they asked for an interview with Best and Best refused to see them.

RUMORS OF ATTEMPTED RAPE IN COLONY

Over the weekend I heard several people say that there had been several attempts at rape in the colony. Some staff members point to the fact that the Japanese American Internal Security resigned after the Hitomi murder. I decided to talk to my Japanese respondents about this today.

GEORGE YAMASHIRO ON RAPE

"They say a girl was attacked in Block 69. She ran away screaming. The girls can't go to school (Japanese night school). But now the boys (in the night school) are getting together and are leaving school with the girls [to see that the girls return to their "apartments" safely]."

"Some people say that the Administration is spreading the rumors to frighten the people so they will quick make another Internal Security. Other people are fighting for it. So there are two groups fighting, one wants an Internal Security and the others say we can take care of it ourselves."

"It's a fact that some people are scared. Especially all the girls. Ward III quit night school. Even the movies have quit."

"People would like an Internal Security but nobody wants to run. They don't want to be inu. I think the trying to get a new Internal Security will fall to the ground."

TALK WITH MR. TOKUNAGA, ISSEI FROM MANZANAR - entered with Manzanar group in February

Rumor of Dividing Camp into Three Groups:

There is a rumor that the Administration is trying to divide the camp into three groups. Mr. Best asked my opinion about it. He said this camp is too large to be controlled under the same Administration. So I told him, 'No matter how big the camp may be, if the policy of the Administration is based upon justice it can be controlled. Even if it is divided into three or a dozen groups, if the Administration plays monkey-business no peace will be established.'

Of course, everyone who came to this camp wished to go to Japan. Maybe, some, if Japan loses, say they do not wish to go back, but that would be very few. But of course I wish that the few who answered Yes to that question would leave.

But in the other camps we lived with some extremely pro-American and pro-Japanese people. Then we lived at peace as long as they didn't spy on each other. [Note: Even Mr. Tokunaga has the inu fear.]

Do you know how the Manzanar trouble happened? In Manzanar everyone who entered the camp have known that they couldn't do anything until the war is over. We wish to live in



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peace till the end of the war. As we see in any community there are always a few self-centered people, trying to make money in the camp, in a fair or unfair way.

I wonder if it's really true that Mr. Nash, the project director of Manzanar cheated 200,000 dollars out of the WRA funds and went to Mexico and was finally arrested. But when the head was like that you can imagine what his subordinates are like.

Then the steward of the camp was cooperating to cheat out the sugar of the camp. There were about a dozen Japanese in the group. That was the first cause of the trouble. They were the so-called inu.

First was a meeting in the center of camp to impeach the WRA officials. Then they demanded to petition the director and went to the Administration building in a big group. A dozen representatives of the mass meeting were in the Administration building and the rest of the people were outside. The representatives requested to people to keep quiet, but, when mass psychology, the soldiers came with guns and tear gas.

That was what really happened. The newspapers said it was the Japanese celebrating the 1st anniversary of Pearl Harbor. That really made the Nisei mad.

#### New Co-op Board:

The people feel it's better than it used to be. They will have a hard time, though, trying to make the whole camp understand. The Co-op is the biggest source of trouble.

#### Resignation of Internal Security:

The first trouble was that the camp residents suspected them that they are spies of the Administration. That was the main reason the police couldn't get the cooperation of the residents. And also there were the gambling groups who were protected by the police.

#### Fanatics:

In this camp no really able man will show his face because so many narrow minded fanatics are in camp that you can't honestly cooperate with these fanatics. Even your safety cannot be guaranteed.

#### Hitomi's Death:

I have not heard a single man say, 'I'm sorry he's dead.' When Okamoto was shot to death the whole camp closed down all entertainment, even small parties in homes.

#### Administrative Policy:

Anyway, the Administration is trying to make the Japanese in camp fight each other and control (by that means). So far (in the past) when a man was put into the stockade they didn't say why. But now they ask this man in the stockade, 'You know so and so? Is he your friend or your enemy?' If he says he's a friend they say, 'You better be careful about him.' And then when he's sent out they say, 'So and so informed that you did this and that.'

(As I recall, Schmidt asked me the same questions about O'Day.)

#### Rumors of Rape

The bothering of girls is just rumor, I think. Of course there is a high possibility that such crime could be committed when living this abnormal life. But a friend of mine



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tried checking up the rumors. There is no way to prove it that there was any such crime. I think that's a rumor made by the Administration to make people form a police department.

#### Rumor of Gripsholm:

About four weeks ago there was a rumor rife in camp that the exchange boat was coming. I got a letter from the Spanish Consul on July 12 saying that there wasn't the remotest possibility of an exchange boat. Why does the Administration start rumors like that?

#### Possibility of Replacing Resigned Internal Security:

I think they'll get an Internal Security but it will take time. So far the police department has been looked upon as Administrative agents. Now we are trying to get the police of this camp - our own police. We elected two officers from each block in ward VIII. We have 10 blocks and 20 police officers will be elected. That way I think we can maintain a police force.

Most of them hate to take the job but if they understand the new system I think we can get police. One man we elected might take the job and the other refused for personal reasons.

#### Arrests for Draft Evasion:

If the boys were loyal to this country people think they should be arrested. But if the government tries to conscript those who said, "No", then there will be trouble.

#### New Project Director:

I wish Mr. Merritt could be project director here. Of course he's an American and he must cooperate with the Federal government, but if he only would try to do what is right, we are satisfied. We realize the conditions here and don't ask too much.

#### Giri and Election of Representatives:

I asked Mr. Tokunaga about giri and was surprised to find that he apparently did not know what it signified in camp. He has a definitely different view of the November difficulties than those people who came here in October. I wonder how far his views are shared by other Manzanites.

Of course there may be several reasons for the failure of the election of representatives. The first group was rather fanatic. The majority of the people didn't support them; they were too extreme. When the Administration requested the second group of representatives, they tried again and very reasonable fair minded people were elected.

They were interned too, same as the first. When the M.P.'s took over the whole situation.

About a month or so ago, the Administration asked us to send a new representative group. We had a meeting. What's the use? If we send delegates to make our suggestions, they'll be put in the stockade. We don't want to send people into the stockade for our sake.

We are newcomers and are trying to keep aloof from the affairs of the past. Because of what we were informed of the past trouble, some was so extreme that we couldn't cooperate with that.



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There is still a handful of agitators. These few agitators think that by making trouble here they're doing good for Japan. That's extremely wrong. The Japanese government wishes us to live in peace until the end of the war.

The majority of the people here don't know the changes and progress that has been made in Japan. In their heads they have the Japan of 40 or 50 years ago. They don't understand the policy of Japan. They don't understand why Japan has to fight.

(Mr. Tokunaga asked me if I would buy some paper for him to write the article he intends to prepare for the study. I did so.)

#### INTERESTING OCCURANCE IN CANTEEN

While shopping in the "Caucasian" canteen, I observed an interesting incident. The store was filled with Caucasians and Japanese and a line of about half a dozen men were waiting for ice cream cones. The man who cooks for the Caucasian mess came in and began to speak in Japanese to no one in particular saying, "He doesn't eat very much." Immediately all the Japanese present became quiet and looked at nothing in particular. The cook added, "He doesn't eat any more than a canary bird." Then I noticed he was looking at one of the men in line. This gentleman assumed an expression of extreme indifference. The cook made a few more remarks in Japanese and then left, laughing boisterously. I take it, that he was tormenting one of the so-called inu, who frequent the Caucasian canteen. As soon as the cook left, the Japanese, customers and clerks began to move and talk again. (As you know, the refugees were forced to cook for themselves in one of the warehouses.)

#### LETTER FROM CONSERVATIVE KIBEI FRIEND (Dated July 20) Mr. Oda

"Since the recent incident a number of persons have been removed from the center for protection. The residents were saying so much and doubted these persons. You know what I mean---

"The situation is gradually coming back to normal but I still feel some tension in camp. At the time of the murder the situation was so grave that the WRA called a block manager's meeting and suggested we have block meetings to decide whether the residents wanted a curfew for protection. The block managers could not decide and accept that suggestion because the proposition was too important for the block managers to decide whether such matter should be brought back to the block for consultation. As far as I can see the colonists and block managers have nothing to do with such important matters. In other words, we have no authority and power to make decisions. Of course some blocks may need a curfew for protection but perhaps other blocks do not want it. It appeared to me at the meeting that the block managers felt that the residents do not want it. Probably past experience.

"In connection with the assassination, the head of colonial police and other members had resigned. Consequently, the department is facing a difficult situation in carrying out their assignments. Up to date the reputation of police is so grave that it seems to me the colonists have no interest in the colonial police affairs. It tells very clearly by past experiences and every meeting which we held has failed. None of them succeed. The colonists held meetings regarding the election of the police commissioners but unfortunately failed except for two or three blocks. It appears to me that the colonial police department feel they have no support by the colonists.

"We arrived here October 8 and I became block manager November 5 so I really do not know what was in the minds of the people between October 1 to 14. As you know this is a segregation camp but it seems to apply only to the nine (9) Relocation Centers which recently



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completed their order by sending the remaining segregees. (I hear rumors from time to time that there are many loyal persons who should relocate or go to another camp still in this center.) If peace and order is to be maintained WRA should take immediate steps to remove such persons. Unless complete segregation of segregees in this center, we shall not see any hope for peace. By means of removing such persons, I believe WRA will have a little more easier time to enforce the laws and carry out administrative policy efficiently as a real segregation camp. It seems to me that all the troubles that we have had in the past is due to entangled rumors, administrative policy and other misunderstanding.

JULY 25, 1944

TALK WITH NISEI GIRL - KAYO IIDA

Rape Rumors:

I think it's mostly rumor on the part of Internal Security. they have to make it sound bad so that we'd demand to have Internal Security back. It sounds so wild and fantastic. Most of it - like covering a girl with blankets and throwing her in a ditch. I think that's rumor.

But in ward VII a girl is supposed to have been attacked by some of the boys. Some of the boys in camp are bad.

According to the man who lives next door there is a bad bunch of boys in camp. One of the boys has been outcast from his family for things that he has done. He was so good for nothing.

TALK WITH OPLER

The people in the colony are saying that the boys taken to Yreka are being acquitted. I heard that they have thrown the cases out of court.

I think Wallace must have started that rumor about dividing the camp into three parts. I've heard it all over the colony.

Internal Security Elections:

In Manzanar they have elected all their Internal Security. The rest of the camp is spotty. Ward VII, I hear is very bad. Black didn't want to give me the information.

Rape Rumors:

Another theory is that Yamatani started the rape rumor. He is supposed to have said when his boys left the colony there would be rape. (Yamatani, a "no. 1 inu", was Commissioner of Police.)

Block 21 didn't elect any Internal Security. I think a good more than half of the blocks have them. The others wrote polite letters asking for more information, etc.

There is a self imposed curfew. As soon as it grows dark, the girls don't go out.

Tokyo Yamana (Mrs. Matsuda's brother) Faints in Stockade:

One of the boys fainted in there today, about 6:30 p.m. and was taken to the hospital.



SCENE OUTSIDE STOCKADE

As I was leaving Opler's house about 7:30 p.m. I passed the stockade. One of the Caucasian police left the small station next to the stockade and walking to the gate shouted, "Mr. Kai, Mr. Kai, your wife is here to see you." After a while the door of one of the barracks opened and Mr. Kai staggered out the door being held open by another detainee. Kai walked slowly to the station where I saw his wife, his little son and baby. Schmidt was talking to them.

BLACK'S STATEMENTS TO MEMBERS OF COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT DIVISION

A Caucasian reported to me:

Black told the people present that the thirteen men left in the stockade (one removed to hospital) were striking to the death. They had sworn they would not stop unless they were released. Best was extremely concerned, said Black. He had telephoned Myer this morning, but Myer was on vacation. He intended to telephone again tomorrow. The men have been on strike six days. Black said that the Administration had considered every plan, even that of bringing up their wives for the night. He said that the Administration is extremely anxious to release these men under favorable conditions when they can make a favorable contribution to the population. Such time has never for a moment come since their internment. It would be impossible to release them, said he, when they were on strike. That would be giving in to their demands and make it seem a large victory for them.

He also said that 60% of a new colonial police had been elected. The blocks which did not elect police would not have the usual block privileges, they would get no permits to visit in the hospital and telegrams would not be delivered. (Such functions are usually taken care of by the wardens.) Another Caucasian told that the hospital could still be visited, but a special permit would have to be obtained.

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LETTER FROM [GEORGE MATSUMURA]

[Mr. Matsumura] is one of the men to whom Mr. Kurihara suggested I might talk. I wrote, asking if I might call on him and received the following letter.

I just received your somewhat unusual letter. I should like to take this early opportunity to welcome you to talk with me although I don't think I can be of much help in the pursuit of your study. I was very much impressed by the type of your study, which above all things, prompts me to accept without hesitation. However, I would like to request that you do not use my name in anyway.

Would you care to come to my residence on Sunday afternoon - anytime? I would like to have you meet my family too. If this arrangement is not satisfactory please set your own time and date, and I shall arrange to be off work during that time. You are welcome to stay as long as you like and we can be quite informal at my home.

There is one request I should like to make, however, and that is for you to come alone, or have someone drop you here. I think you understand why.

I shall be looking forward to your coming Sunday afternoon.

TALK WITH SALLY ON RAPE RUMORS

Sally Yamashiro said that there was still a lot of talk. Some boy had chased a girl in block 69. The boy had a blanket over his head. Also her girl friend who lives only with her mother and a sister had been annoyed by having boys knock on her door at night and shine flashlights in the window. She knew nothing of the hunger strike.

TALK WITH ROBERTSON OF ADMINISTRATION

Besig is coming to the project Sunday, July 30. I don't think he's going to get a very good reception (from Mr. Best).

I've been told in the colony that the new Internal Security won't last. I've been told that any organization under Schmidt rule wouldn't last in the colony.

Stockade Developments:

Today three more men asked to be taken to the hospital. But they have been sent back. Best was merely trying to find out what his obligations were. From what I understand, Washington left it entirely up to him.

I'm told these fellows (in the stockade) have finally made up their minds that they are going to lock horns with the Administration and that they're not going to eat until they're released. If they die, somebody's going to pay for their death. I said then, "What about Toki? He's receiving food?" They answered, "No, he's just receiving medical treatment. Injections are not food."

But he did take food. He had a glass of milk last night. The Administration had told the other fellows in the stockade that Toki has eaten. Now if he's sent back in, his life won't be worth a plugged nickel.



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Meeting of Administration and Block Managers Last Week

Joe Thomas went to talk to the block managers. (See description in Mr. Oda's letter, although Oda doesn't mention Thomas.) They said they wouldn't act without Best's authority. So the whole thing was dropped. Huycke should have gone, as head of Community Activities, but he wasn't there.

Best had a long talk with Myer today. He's feeling good. Evidently, he was told again that he had all the backing in the world.

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TALK WITH MAY IWOHARA

February Block 49 Trouble:

It started with the issue of the shoyu (soy sauce) from the Japanese Red Cross. Before it came, block 49 had a meeting as to the ways and means of distributing it. A person named Hamanishi beat up a janitor in the boiler room. It was some difference of opinion over the distribution. So all the janitors in that block became very indignant. All of his fellow workers decided that if they were going to get beaten up, they would go on strike.

A man names Tsuchida helped settle it. In the meantime the block manager, Mr. Tarada, was interned.

Akitsuki on Hospital Committee to Meet Spanish Consul:

May told me that Akitsuki had gone back to live in the colony. He had been selected as a member of the hospital committee which is preparing some kind of report for the Spanish Consul who is expected here tomorrow. When Akitsuki's name was mentioned in this meeting a man got up and said, "I don't wish to offend Mr. Akitsuki, but I think that representatives who see the Spanish Consul should be living on our side of the fence." "I am living in camp," said Akitsuki. The man apologized.

One Man to See Spanish Consul:

(In case I have not mentioned this before, O'Day told me the other night that the Spanish Consul has asked to see only one representative. Best left the selection of the man up to the committee.) May Iwihara told me today that no one has as yet been selected. One man had been thought of, but he speaks no English. May remarked that Mr. Akitsuki would be a good choice for he has studied Spanish seven years. (My private opinion is that if he is chosen, there will certainly be plenty of Bronx cheers from the bulk of the population.)



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RELATIVES OF INTERNEES -started a sit down strike this mornign in Mr. Lechlitter's office. They are supposed to have said that they would sit there until the men were let out of the stockade. This afternoon they were no longer there. Will get additional details tonight if I can.

TALK WITH MR. TACHIBANA, EX-SANTA FE INTERNEE

Tachibana and his wife were very depressed about the stockade issue. Evidently, relatives of the internees were coming to see Tachibana for advice and consolation. He said that some of the women were hysterical. "I don't understand why Mr. Best is so stubborn," said he.

General Camp Sentiment over Hitomi's Killing:

"I think as soon as the attacks which ended with the murder (here Mr. Tachibana interrupted himself and added, 'temporarily ended for the time being') the effect on the oppressed minds of the people was to a more or less optimistic viewpoint. Especially since the action was successful and the Administration was not able to find the attacker.

(Here Mrs. Tachibana interrupted) "It was a perfect crime."

(Mrs. Tachibana continued) "People were made very hopeful."

"People were sorry for the victim, but the camp as a whole, if they did not rejoice for such a happening, when they thought that was the last resort or last step to be taken to let the public and the Administration know that wrong-doing cannot continue forever. Deep thinking people do not think the choosing of this barbarous action is wise and think that it would be more or less criticized by the American public when it is known outside by the paper or radio. But the conditions of this camp were such that they were forced to use such a method. It was more or less in the atmosphere of the camp that they were forced to use such a method.

Popular Opinion of the Spanish Consul:

People on the whole are very indifferent.

I do feel this way, and after all the Japanese people are not foolish and dumb, and I don't want to consider the Japanese race as dumb. They have to accept within a certain extent being in the enclosure, but they can't be fooled all the time.

I came here March 31, 1944. But I know that the Consul Amat was visiting here the latter part of 1943. One of the requests made by the same group of people who were seriously taking the responsibility to liquidate the stockade - that was the wish of most of the people in camp.

Consul Amat was requested strongly by the people among with many other problems brought to the Consul at that time.

Unfortunately, I don't know the reason, but the Consul was not successful in meeting the wishes of the people in that particular point. He left Tule Lake without settling the stockade problem. In April of 1944 there was a reason on the part of the Coordinating Committee that they wished to conceal what they were doing toward the stockade problem and try to, in vain,



promote themselves, their good name, and regain the confidence and popularity from the people of the center and to be recognized publicly both by the colonists and the Administration and also to be known as the real representatives of the Tule Lake center, to the Japanese government if possible, through the consulate at San Francisco.

The Coordinating Committee, which was, as you know, more or less appointed by the Administration and in whom the public had no trust whatever, dogmatically requested a visit of the Consul again. Consul Amat -- we suppose that he knew that the Coordinating Committee wasn't a real representative body, because we knew they weren't real representatives elected by the people of the camp -- ever since the stockade isolated place was opened by the Administration to confine what is known as trouble makers of the camp for "said to be" severance purposes. And therefore, we supposed that Consul Amat knew that we don't have real representatives here in this camp.

He replied to the letter sent by the Coordinating Committee in April, 'I am not sure which ones are the real representatives in the camp. Therefore please, if necessary, elect representatives whereby I, the Consul, can interview them.'

On May 22, when Mr. Okamoto was shot,(1) at that time the people of the camp wholeheartedly hoped for the immediate visit of the Consul. On the following day of that happening, the rumor in the camp was that the shooting of Mr. Okamoto, even though he was second generation caused immediate attention of the Japanese government which requested the Spanish Embassy to make a thorough investigation of the facts. We don't know where we got that information but that was the rumor all over camp. (Shortwave radio? R.H.)

However, Mr. Black, with the assistance of the former members of the Coordinating Committee called a special meeting of all the block managers. And at that meeting the block managers were requested to help in his own block to choose representatives to receive an audience of the consul upon his arrival which was said to be in the very near future. And also they were told that these particular representatives were elected to make an investigation of the Okamoto shooting to be reported to the consul at San Francisco.

(with great emphasis) The people were not told that this was to be a written report and that the consul did not intend to come immediately!

Each block manager came back to his block and made all kinds of request to the people so that the people thought that the consul was coming in the very near future. Therefore, it was courtesy on the part of the Japanese people to elect representatives, which they did. But many blocks did not vote.

Some people resented to electing representatives. They felt there might be some trick on the part of the Administration, and by some members of the Coordinating Committee, who were at that meeting without portfolio.

A few days later, the representatives elected by the blocks met in a mass meeting and elected ward chairmen. The ward chairmen elected the chairman of the whole group. And the representatives discovered at that particular meeting that they had been elected with the simple aim of making a written report to the consul and that the consul was not coming.

Another thing -- the principal aim of Mr. Black to call such a special meeting of all the block managers was to form the idea of coming or visiting of the consul to this center or making of the written report of the center on the Okamoto case, what the case may be. He used this opportunity as a motive to try to form a representative body for the Japanese which is needed so badly in this camp from the point of view of the Administration. They wished to form it for all time.

[1. Mr. Okamoto was shot on May 24.]



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At this meeting it also was brought up by the chairman and a few other members who might have had a good understanding with the Administration or Mr. Black -- they actually brought up in the meeting that three representatives should continue, not only in making the written report of the Okamoto case to the consul but also as a real governing body of representatives for the camp until such a time as some other representatives were to be elected by the people.

But by this time not only the representatives but the people as a whole knew and had found out that the consul was not coming, but instead, had asked for a report.

However, on account of a few representatives who actually said, 'The continuance of our existence after the finishing of our report will be overruling the ideas and principles by which we were elected by the block residents. Therefore we must dissolve as representatives as soon as we send our written report to the consul.' Which was so decided.

(Mr. Tachibana wished to continue this account, but so many people had arrived to see him [ or consult with him] that I suggested we continue some other time. Consequently made an appointment for next Sunday afternoon.

LETTER FROM WAKAYAMA, Man Who Kurihara Says Will Probably Insult Me

Dear Miss Hankey:

July 26, 1944

I am in receipt of your letter dated the 26th in re - interview.

In respect to your honorable intent and purpose I shall be very glad to meet with you and talk things frankly.

I shall meet with you at my block office, No. 82, located at barrack #17-I on Sunday at 7:00 p.m. In the event that this date and hour do not agree with you, kindly let me know immediately.

(Wakayama is reputed to be the leader of the "Black Tiger Gang" and a very dangerous agitator. If I mysteriously disappear Sunday night, it will be my own fault. He is supposed to have told Best that he had a large group of young men under his control.)



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HUNGER STRIKE STOPS

The news spread through the Caucasian section of camp tonight that the hunger strike had been stopped about 6:30 p.m. today. Details were carefully guarded by the Administration. All that was known was that Tokio Yamane was returned to the stockade some time in the day, that he talked to the men there and that about six o'clock the entire stockade population moved into the hospital where they submitted to treatment, eating orange juice, and, some say, taking glucose. They were reported to have walked over jauntily; some people told me that they did not look as if they had been fasting for nine days. Dr. Sleath is reported to have said that the men had been fasting; however, the chief nurse, disagrees.

The evacuee doctors met every day while the strike was in session trying to come to some decision as to whether they would treat the men or not. They did not wish to have a hand in breaking the strike. Dr. Marks treated Yamane. Members of Internal Security have made repeated accusations that the barracks were full of food and that all the strikers had to do was reach under the bed for a handful. (Why the heck they didn't search the stockade systematically and prove this, they do not explain.) For the first time since November the stockade searchlights were out, and the watchtowers empty.

LETTER FROM MRS. MATSUDA

Received the following letter today. The statement that "all the strikers will be in the hospital in a few days" is very interesting, considering how it was born out. The vague threat at the end is also noteworthy.

"Thank you very much for your kind consideration."

"I met Mr. Wallace, despite his mind poisoned prior to seeing me. He's found out that some of the things Best told him were lies."

"I have been investigated by the F.B.I. They also use force! They said that I must know that they are a Federal agent as well as the WRA and Internal Security (meaning - they are together, I presume). What crooks! Really there is no justice in America."

"I have learned yesterday that my brother was the first to exhaust from the week's hunger strike and is now hospitalized. I think all will be in the hospital in a few days. The WRA took every bit of grub away from the stockade Mess Hall the third day of the hunger strike. Mr. Kozuma will testify to this. Contrary to today's Examiner of Mr. Best's usual propaganda. I wrote to Mr. Best telling him I held him responsible for the life of my brother."

"There will be no police in the center as long as the WRA forced them to do spy work or make a dog out of them for their own benefit. As long as the WRA keeps on humiliating the Colonists as have been, (such as Stockade business), no cooperation will be given to them either. In simple words, the Director is not wanted here anymore. No peace otherwise. Tolerance of the colonists have ceased."

"Don't be too surprised about anything."



TALK WITH CAUCASIAN INFORMANT O'DAYReception of Besig:

Besig was met at the train in Klamath Falls by Internal Security men. The instructions are that the Internal Security men are not to be out of earshot of him for a moment. Best sent Besig a teletype saying that Besig would be allowed to be on the project for the purpose of the hearing (Besig is attorney for one of the men appearing before the Hearing Board) and for the hearing only.

I met the wife of one of the stockade internees at the gate who requested that Besig get in touch with him. I didn't know what to do, so I went to Robertson and told him. Robertson went to Lechlitter. Lechlitter told Robertson that Besig could see nobody for whom Lechlitter had not given him a written request. And he wasn't taking any written requests.

Lechlitter said he had received a telegram from Myer saying that Besig was not to be allowed to do anything on the project, without written authority of Baldrin (N.Y. head of ACLU). Baldrin is supposed to have told WRA that this was O.K. according to Lechlitter.

I tried to talk to Besig but the cop kept within four feet of me all the time.

Robertson was mad and said to me, 'Why don't they quit this shilly-shallying and let those boys back in the colony?' He said there wasn't a place in the U.S. where men at least didn't know what they were charged with.

He said that when he went to Leupp as head, there were at least sixty odd men there who didn't know what they were charged with. When he got here he found that they'd put most of these men in the stockade. He had had a heck of a time getting them out.

When the Hitomi killing occurred Best was about ready to resign. Maybe if there's another killing. . .

Robertson said the Administration had kept him from talking to Wallace. The only chance he had to talk to him was about five minutes at the canteen. There he told Wallace that the colony was in a worse state than it had ever been. Wallace said he didn't believe it. Everything was so quiet. Wallace said he didn't think anything was going to happen.

Best and the Spanish Consul:

I hear that Best was very short with the Spanish Consul. The Spanish Consul had asked for the release of the men in the stockade. Best sent him a written message that he could not comply with this request. He could not consider releasing the men in the stockade until the colony was in a normal condition. If the colony became normal he would consider the Consul's request. (The consul also had an oral interview with Mr. Best.)

Just then the word came in that the men in the stockade were all in the hospital. Best said to him that the situation was resolved. The hunger strike was broken.

TALK WITH GEORGE MATSUMURA, Former Stockade Internee, Segregate Who Arrived in Late September

Matsumura is one of the people recommended to me by Mr. Kurihara. He had evidently gone to considerable pains to prepare for my visit, having prepared the following outline to help him in a discussion of camp events:



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October to December

Farm Problem

Leasing of land

Employment on farm cut

General Employment

Employment cut - population increase

Idleness as basis of evil

Camp condition

Housing

Sanitation

Hospital

Food

Abuse of allocated funds

Use of armed forces

Non-recognition of representatives

Preaching democracy, practicing gangster method

Use of force and intimidation instead of arbitration

Spying instead of discussion

Underestimating Japanese thinking and ability

Use of underhanded methods

Abuse of our position

Incomplete segregation

January to April

Stockade

Treatment of inmates

Imprisonment without trial

Severe and uncalled for punishment

Dealing of unjust methods

Geneva convention

Separation of families

May to July

Public sanction to take steps

Return to jobs but public feeling against Administration policy to cover up

Unjust laws

Employment tax

Forcing evacuees to spend money

Various taxes

Imprisonment of draft refusers

Social problems

Family financial aid

Unemployment compensation

Delinquencies -- sex - gambling - drinking

Remedies

Release of stockade

Join families of interned

Employment program - yard, sanitation, farm, cost war program

Social consultation - hospital, subsistence, employment, children and old age

Segregation - complete recognize us (Nisei) as Japanese nationals

Use of funds for the betterment of camp and condition

True attempt to cope with problems



(I was amazed at this amount of organization but went right ahead with the outline asking questions about the items on which I particularly needed information. I asked first for an analysis of public feeling in late September and early October.)

I arrived here in the last part of September, I think the people were actually divided into three groups. The first group was the people that came here that really wanted to go back to Japan and figured that coming to Tule Lake would give them the best chance.

The second group was really mad against the United States. They wouldn't go out of this camp or any other camp in order to make a living on the outside.

The third group was the younger set of boys who wanted to get out of going into the Army.

The Administration places the fault of all the trouble on the Japanese. The way we see it, it is the fault of the Administration for not recognizing the representatives the people elected. When we went to negotiate there were seventeen representatives - the Kooshoo Iin (Negotiating Committee).

The representatives were elected by the people as requested by the Administration. From that representative group, they chose the Neogtiating Committee of seven members. I think most of them were put in the stockade.

After the talk with Mr. Myer, Mr. Best said that he would recognize that committee. In a few days, the whole thing turned upside down. He refused to recognize them. That made the people mad. That was the important thing in making the people mad. All the former things were contributing points, but the real thing that brought up the trouble was the double-crossing of the Negotiating Committee. Food and housing were minor points. It was after November 13 that the feeling of the people became stronger than before.(1)

#### Farm Problem:

The time we came here, I don't know how many farmers were employed producing food. After the trouble Mr. Best sold or leased a tract of land. Why he did that we don't know. It meant unemployment for about 3,000 workers. When the people are not employed it makes them gripe and find fault.

#### The Status-quo Vote:

At the time of the status quo vote there were a lot of mugwumps who felt that if they accepted that the people in the stockade would be released.

We don't criticize a person for having a different idea from us, but we do criticize people who are not honest and right.

#### Hospital Condition:

For one example - the hospital condition is very bad. Probably the money allotted for that by the government, it seems to me, the money that should have gone into the hospital was used for the Administrative quarters.

[1. On November 12 Colonel Austin told the Negotiating Committee that he doubted its claims of representing the people and would no longer recognize it. Nevertheless, the authorities and the committee proceeded with plans for a mass meeting on November 13 at which reports would be made by the Army, WRA, and representatives of the Negotiating Committee. This was the "meeting" to which no Japanese American came. (See Thomas and Nishimoto, pp. 153-56.)



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Use of Underhanded Methods:

I mean using the dogs and the inu to get information. Some of them are not true informers. I was accused of talking with a baseball bat in my hand, trying to stop people from going to work. That's a lie. The inu, if they don't like somebody, report them to the Administration.

Incomplete Segregation:

That's a very important point. I think about 7,000 people were left here. Among those people there is quite a number who have no intention of going to Japan. Possibly half of them should go out of this camp.

Peoples' Attitude Toward Resegregation in November:

The people didn't have an idea as serious about segregation at that time. But they are strong on it now. This thing, I think the Administration should have thought about way before so they could have had complete segregation.

The Stockade and the Co-op:

The thing that really put me in the stockade was that I was an alternate for one of the block representatives for the Co-op. The person who used to be block representative for block 71 was put in the stockade. I took his place and went to the Co-op meeting. (This was the meeting on December 5 when the Daihyo Sha advocated the stopping of the sale of luxuries, R.H.)

I expressed the wishes of the people not to sell luxuries and that certain items sold by the canteen should be furnished by WRA. The people felt they were not working at that time and no ? and should not be tempted to spend more than they need. We didn't have any income, clothing allowance, or social welfare financial aid.

Instead, the Co-op went ahead and did what they pleased. They conducted a meeting more or less indication against this feeling of the people. They thought they were smart and the people were dumb.

Before that proposal was presented to the people it was discussed at the (Co-op) meeting. The questionnaire was very ambiguous. It said, "Do you accept the proposal of the Daihyo Shas?" We wanted them to write it up in detail, but it was not done.

When the representatives went back to the block, they gave a different interpretation. Some said it was the closing of the Co-op. Each block gave different answers. After the election was over, the votes were supposed to be brought to the wards to those who had charge of the election.

One block requested the ward committee to have a re-election on the subject because the block representative had made a mistake in telling the people. Instead, a representative of the Co-op suggested that they withhold the whole vote of that block. I resisted that strongly as dishonest. I got mad. He didn't like my idea. I was picked up about a week after that. I knew why.

On December 25th I was picked up. I thought they would give me a hearing immediately. For three months we didn't have any kind of a hearing.

During all that time there was nothing to do. There was no kind of enjoyment in the stockade. I read and played Mah Jong, etc. The whole thing would have been all right if they had given us individual hearings.



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During that time on one occasion the Army came into the stockade. Trouble arose because we didn't keep the stockade clean. The Lieutenant got mad and said he'd give us bread and water only. We said if they're going to be unfair, we'll go on a hunger strike. We drew up a petition and gave it to the Military Command. After three days the medical officer was supposed to check up at regular times but he merely walked through. We requested treatment for a boy who was very sick but he didn't give any.

The third day, the Army surrounded the stockade. Then all the inmates were forced to line up in the snow for three hours. They kicked and shoved us. (Here Mr. Matsumura shoed me a scar on his leg.) There were other cases like that. Some of the boys were forced to take food from the barracks to the trucks. They refused. They were kicked and beaten and made to work at the point of a gun. The barracks were cleared of all the food stuff in them and all the cigarettes. Right in front of all these people the soldiers gave away the cigarettes to each other or threw them away.

While they were searching through the barracks they took money, all kinds of valuables, wrist-watches, fountain pens. We requested these things, but they were never given back to us.

Anyhow the hunger strike lasted six days and three meals. Finally they decided to abandon the hunger strike because of a split within the stockade.

Another thing, I requested the Army to give me the OK to run a motion picture in the stockade. The Army gave me permission, but I found out that Huycke refused to loan the motion picture projector. The projector doesn't belong to the CAS anyhow, it belongs to one of the other men. But Huycke refused, stating that we were jail birds, or to that effect.

About three months later when they had the hearings, I went to interpret for the Issei. All during the time of the hearing it seems like they were trying to put together the warehouse incident (of November 4) and the Daihyo Sha Kai. We told them many times that they had nothing to do with each other.

Some of the boys who went to the warehouse had gone to prevent things from happening.

I had a friend who had a fight with a Caucasian on that night. He's a dumb person and I think the fellows who went there that night were like him - a group of irresponsible fellows. Probably during the fight or right after, I heard some of them were beaten on the head. They were not beaten at the stockade.

I had been requesting release because my wife was going to have a baby. I had a hearing two times and she went to request twice.

In the stockade we were constantly refused enough to eat. The guards (soldiers) called us Japs and sons of bitches. Naturally the boys got mad. Guards walking around would point their guns at visitors and stop us from waving to them. I was released on April 21.

#### Matsumura's Service on the New Co-op Board:

Naturally I refused the first time. But three representatives of the board of directors came and gave me a full view of the policy to be followed. The present board definitely states that they will never touch any political problems. They will keep to their business.

The present camp feeling is just waiting to see how the Co-op Board acts.



Various Social Problems in Camp:

Financial Problem - The people were never taken care of for the five or six months during segregation. Unemployment compensation cannot be given to them although they were unemployed. (Perhaps Matsumura meant during the strike.)

Gambling - I guess you know there's a lot of gambling going on. I don't know whether the Administration can do anything about it. A certain amount is all right, but when people spend all their savings on gambling, that's different.

Drinking - I don't think they should be too strict with mild forms of drinking. But on the other hand, some of the heavy drinking that goes on is not good. If they would have beer, it might help.

Sex Delinquencies - Very frankly, there are some bad things going on. In the case of one couple, this woman has two children. Her husband had work and used to go out (to work) very often. During the time of the absence of her husband a certain neighbor forced sexual intercourse on her. After that he used to visit her quite often with threats that unless she submitted he would tell her husband. He went two or three times a week. The woman was about 31 or 32, a very good looking woman and the man was about 40.

In a roundabout way the husband heard about the affair. So one day when it was snowing he watched for him to come in. He saw him go in and waited for about 15 or 20 minutes. He found them in the act.

In that case, if she had submitted of her own will, it would not have caused any problem, but it was against her will. This matter was taken up to Mr. Best. He said nothing. The guilty man went out of camp later.

There is no law or protection against rape in this camp. Probably a lot of crimes have been committed. There is a rumor that an eleven year old girl was walking in the camp and someone came behind her with a blanket, took her to an isolated place and committed a crime. She was taken to the hospital. This was right after the Internal Security resigned.

It is possible that the boys who do this go in groups.

There is only one thing that could be done to control this. That is, establish a house of prostitution. If I were the Administration I would permit the operation of a licensed house where the girls could be given regular medical inspection. That would be the only solution.

The Internal Security Elections:

The way I see it it's going all right. (Matsumura lives in the Manzanar section where the election of the new Internal Security is going with relative smoothness.)

Recent Hunger Strike:

I think it made a very strong impression on the people. Those boys had been kept there unjustly when they should have been released. The only solution which would bring back the camp to normal is the release from the stockade.

Visit of the Spanish Consul:

This is the idea the people have. Up to now the Spanish Consul hasn't been able to do anything. He hasn't been able to help the Nisei. The people have lost interest.



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Matsumura as Representative in December:

The first representative was picked up. The second asked me to take his place. I felt if a person wants to be honest, if he gets picked up for it, it's out of the principle of justice. You don't care whether they pick you up or not.

(Mr. Matsumura promised to help me in any way possible in the future. If you have any suggestion for more detail on his outline or any other of his statements, I am sure he would be glad to add more. In any case, I shall try to see him regularly from now on. R.H.)

TALK WITH TACHIBANA

Dropped in at the Tachibana home since I knew they were intimately concerned with relatives of the stockade internees and with Besig's visit. Tachibana dictated the following statement for Mr. Besig, from the relatives who were not able to contact him while he was on the project.

Your last letter received. Expenses for the court procedure already arranged. Go ahead with the procedure if you think necessary. The hunger strike is not mainly for the releasement from the stockade. They are determined to go ahead and bring the case up in the court, whether they were treated in accordance with the constitution of the United States or not. The majority of the residents here are praying for Mr. Besig to see the boys at the stockade or their families in any way possible while he stays in the camp. If possible he should see Dr. Miyamoto.

(I took this message to Klamath Falls and saw that it was given to Mr. Besig.)

TALK WITH WAKAYAMA, REPUTED LEADER OF BLACK TIGER GANG

Walked over to see Wakayama at night. He lives in block 82, which is about a mile and a half from the gate. I found him at his home and he took me to his block office. From there he ushered me into his small private office which was about 6' x 5' and was graced with a large copy of a Japanese flag on paper, bearing mottos and songs in Japanese. I sat facing this flag during the entire interview. Wakayama was extremely oily and polite and (in my opinion) a fine bull slinger.

Theory of Beginning of Trouble in October and November:

By gathering all the news from the people, I think it amounts to this. I presume the people who came here as segregees from various centers were very much surprised to see the large amount of people of different status remaining in camp. You have to take into consideration the feeling of the segregees. The aliens have no grudge against the Administration and are supposed to be mistreated if the country in which they reside cares to do so.

But the second generation have that antagonistic feeling toward the government. We don't call it the government so much. We have a grudge against the race-baiting politicians who were responsible for this evacuation. At evacuation it seems to me everybody went haywire at that time, and everybody became hysterical. I blame the J.A.C.L.

Experiences in This Center

They came to me and told me that I was scheduled to go to the stockade. I said I was willing to go. I went to see Mr. Best. I asked him what the reason was. I said, 'Are you



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going to swallow all the false reports that come in?'

Most of the people in the stockade are innocent. Any influential people in the ward are taken in.

I told Mr. Best about my test case. I brought a habeus corpus against General DeWitt. It went to three federal courts. It was no use.

I told him he was making a big mistake by putting people in the stockade. I told him either to punish the guilty or let them out. He said it was all up to the Army and Washington.

Experiences in Assembly Center:

From Santa Anita I was taken to jail for two months. When I spoke for the people because I was requested to speak by the so-called representative government established in the center at that time. They were issuing coupons to use at the canteen. The United States money was no good. I told them I don't see why we should buy the coupons. It was a racket. My wife had to buy a book for herself and my children for themselves.

Before the evacuation I appealed that they should exempt the World War veterans.(1) they passed the buck to General DeWitt. His reply was, 'A Jap is a Jap.'

Months and months later three judges sat on the bench at the federal court in Los Angeles. I was kind of tired by that time. Everybody was broke. I found out there was something behind it. Relocation was started to help the manpower shortage. If I did win the case I'd be beaten up by the Japanese. So I declared myself disloyal. I was forced to become an enemy alien. I don't see any guarantee of safety if I do stay in this country. The only place I can go is to Japan. I have money, a fortune left me by my uncle, in Japan.

More on Interview with Mr. Best:

I told him the cause of the trouble here is this:

First, you have to expedite the release of those who have declared themselves loyal to the U.S.

Second, you should release the people in the stockade. I realize there are certain groups in the center who don't like to see the people come out of the stockade because they will be in danger. If they (the certain group) go out (relocate) there won't be any trouble.

Third. There are many people here whose status is not clear. They are uncertain. Some haven't answered the questionnaire. Some came here because of family ties. They should be sent out. It's pitiful (to separate families) but it can't be helped.

Fourth. You have to have another resegregation here.

Mr. Best said, 'Outside you folks lived together in happiness and peace.'

I told him 99 out of 100 of the people here, if everything had been done in such a way as to please the Japanese, if it had been done properly, I don't think the Issei would want to go back to Japan. But now, their only alternative is to go back to Japan, unwillingly.

[1. Mr. Wakayama served in the Medical Corps of the U.S. Army in World War I. He was also a member of the American Legion and the A.F. of L.]



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I don't want to accuse Mr. Best. I think he's doing his best. But if he's going to continue listening to the inu I don't think this camp will be a peaceful living place for anyone. Mr. Best can't prosecute people because the inu will not go into court and testify.

Co-op Board:

I was temporary Co-op representative from this area. One of my ward representatives told the old Executive Board frankly that they were not liked by the people. He told them they better resign. They laughed and said, 'You are crazy.'

Spanish Consul:

I don't think they have much confidence in him. He is a representative of a small country - especially Spain.

Japanese Colonial Police:

I don't think the Japanese want the name 'policemen.' The Japanese don't want Japanese to rule over them. They say, 'We are all behind the fence behind barbed wire, and we don't want anybody to pick us up.'

Possibility of Representative Body:

NO.

The people have full confidence in the block managers. They want all transactions to go through the block managers. But some of the block managers are appointed by the Administration and the people don't like that. (People would rather elect them.)

They have changed the name of the Civic Organizations to the Block Manager's Headquarters. It won't do any good.

We told Mr. Best to come out to the meeting and talk to the block managers. He didn't come.

Petition to Stop Hunger Strike:

We circulated a petition to stop fasting the other day. I think they have decided to continue to fast anyway.

[Mr. Wakayama impressed me as a very intelligent but also a very crafty man. I decided to see him only occasionally, lest I arouse his suspicion or offend him. I had heard from a number of sources that he was the leader of a dangerous gang of young men. I might add that he spoke to me in a very pompous manner and was the only Japanese American who treated me as if I were an inferior being.]



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GOSSIP IN BEAUTY SHOP - HELEN SASAJIMA

The two Nisei beauty operators told me about the petition to stop the hunger strike which was circulated in their block Saturday. One of them had signed it. Both appeared to be very sympathetic to the strikers. Evidently, this petition was initiated some time Saturday before the strike was stopped. It has not been turned in to the Administration.

TALK WITH TWO NISEI GIRLS - KIMI HASHIMOTO

Two Nisei friends dropped in and gossiped during their noon hour. I asked about some Old Tulean contacts but was told that they didn't mix with the Old Tuleans. "They don't seem to have much in common with us." Several girls in their office are Old Tuleans but they don't get along.

I was told again of the widespread rumor that Resegregationists are to be sent to Poston. The rape scare is definitely dying down.

TALK WITH O'DAY

Besig said he couldn't see Dr. Miyamoto. The instructions from Washington were that he couldn't see anyone except people he had seen before (on previous visit).

He said he already had enough evidence and within the next few days action will be brought. He said he wasn't discouraged. He said Baldrin (N.Y. Head) hadn't written to him at all about the Tule Lake business. He thinks Baldrin may have sold out to WRA.

TALK WITH KURIHARA

Hunger Strike:

There's a certain amount of agitation going on. The people are taking an interest. They have circulated a petition. It seems they're willing to sign. But I'm trying to kill it. Because Mr. Best told me that the boys will be released within a month. That's why I wanted to kill the agitation which may cause trouble and hardship to the Japanese as well as to the Administration.

Mr. Best told me they will be released within a month. I told people if he doesn't release the boys within a month they can have the petition already signed for presentation. In the meantime, if they present the petition to Mr. Best he will feel he's being forced.

If Mr. Best will only live up to his word and release the boys within a month we'll have a different atmosphere.

The petition was explained to us in the mess hall. In general, it was in Japanese, and is very difficult to translate properly - it states that the poor boys have been kept in the stockade a long time and we would like them released. If they should die it will be on our conscience. If the colony would get together and petition Mr. Best to have them released, people would be grateful.



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I couldn't find out who wrote it. So when I got this statement from Mr. Best, I asked a man to deliver this message to the writer. They may stop it or they may carry it through.

Some people have told me that Mr. Best cannot be relied upon. But I told them it all depends on how we look at that person. I don't believe in high pressuring a man if you can avoid it.

[I asked Mr. Kurihara what he had meant in our last talk by the term "dogs in the stockade."]

The men I referred to were Tsuda and Mori (and one other). We don't yet know whether they are working for the people or for the Administration. If it is found that they are working for the Administration it will go with them just as it has gone with the dogs.

Attitude to the New Internal Security

The reaction to that is not very favorable. There is quite a lot of argument about that. I've heard this thing two months ago. I'm not sure whether it's true or whether it's rumor. Anyway, it is said that all the Japanese who ever acted as policemen and spies for the Administration, their records will be sent back to Japan when they are exchanged.

If that is true, then when they get back to Japan they'll be on the black list. That is the point many of them are worrying about. The previous police didn't know or didn't care. Some were loyal. They were made to swear some kind of statement that they will be loyal and serve as policemen and even give up their life if necessary.

Who really is truly a Japanese will not sign that statement. The present group had been organized for the protection of the people in camp, but they do not want any connection with the police. They want to be absolutely free from the police department. They fear their records will go to Japan.

This bunch now say they will act as watchmen of the block. I believe they will refuse to serve unless they are told that they will have no connection with the Internal Security department and that they are only serving because of the demand made by the residents. They will watch their block only.

This idea of watchmen in every block will succeed if Mr. Best will sign the agreement which they have drawn up. If he refuses it may turn out to be a failure.

If they appointed me as a watchman, no matter if it was unanimous, I would not serve. I was told only 24 men really did sign. (This differs from Black's optimistic statement as released in the Newell Star.)

When the police were functioning it didn't make much difference (as far as effect on camp was concerned). Many were on the payroll just for the money.

Rape Rumors:

Rumors are dying down. Besides, any girl who stays out late at night deserves it.

Spanish Consul:

My personal impression of him was not very thankful. When I was in the office I saw that Mr. Best was helping him write the telegram to send to Washington. That didn't impress me as the action of an independent man.

(Kurihara told me that the issue of the police and their possible black listing in Japan was being taken up with the Consul.)



Co-op:

The quickest way to straighten out the Co-op from my point of view is they must cut out luxuries. If they cut out all the luxuries, then they will be respected.

All the Japanese in this camp are not rich. Some are very poor. The sixteen dollars they get barely buys their tobacco. But if my neighbor buys watermelon for his children at 20¢ a pound I can't afford to buy it for my children. As a parent I will feel very hurt. Those things hurt. I think the majority of the people agree; they don't want luxuries.

Matsumoto (ex-president of Co-op) bankrupted the Nippon bank in Sacramento. Do you think he came out pennyless?

Mr. Yamatani has said numerous times, 'If I'm afraid of two by fours, I can't make money.'

Return of Refugees (called inu) Into Camp:

Mr. Robertson asked me about sending the people back. I said, some are all right but some shouldn't be back even for a day. I told him Yamatani won't live very long.

Yamatani embezzled 20,000 dollars, and was to be sent to jail. A third party came in and he returned nine thousand dollars in bonds and stocks. So he didn't go to jail.

(Kurihara volunteered his private opinion of Mr. Wakayama; that he was a windbag and very conceited but that he was radical and potentially dangerous because he was capable of starting things which he might not be able to control. He has great influence in his block.)

TALK WITH ROBERTSON OF ADMINISTRATION

Robertson said he had heard, from Tsuda, that the hunger strike was still going on. It is explained as follows: All of the boys went to the hospital to take the doctors off the spot.

The doctors were in quite a spot. They were holding meetings. They had been holding one Saturday afternoon. They didn't know how the colony would feel. They didn't want to be accused of breaking the strike. They had spoken to the relatives and were still undecided.

The Caucasian doctors gave orders that if the internees signed an application for admittance to the hospital it would be incumbent on them (the Japanese doctors) to treat them.

The doctors were in the position of having started to break the hunger strike by feeding Yamane. My understanding of it is (gained from Japanese informants) that they all went over Saturday night to make it even. Then, I'm told they're all going out and start [the strike] over again.

Co-op Board:

Robertson had heard that the Co-op Board had turned down the domestic service handling today. They have refused to have anything to do with it on Mr. Black's terms. If it is not settled some say it will mean no domestics for the Caucasian families - and may mean the loss of a considerable number of staff members.



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Sit-Down Strike of Relatives on Saturday A.M.:

The relatives did come into the police department and say that they intended to stay there until they were allowed to see Mr. Best. Mr. Best was out of town and Mr. Black refused to see them. So they went home.

Visit of Spanish Consul:

When the Spanish Consul, Captain Martin, came out of the colony, he felt that the stockade was the main problem of the colony. But before he left the camp Saturday evening, the internees had all gone into the hospital and the Consul left, thinking that all was settled.

Robertson thinks that Tsuda is OK and that he has been working with all his might for the release of the internees since his own release. The propaganda started against him by the Matsudas' group may be jealousy, since they want to be responsible for helping the internees.

Seven families of "inu" are still living in the Caucasian area.

Robertson reminded me and I have heard from other sources that some people in the colony are trying to get hold of a picture of Mr. Best - so that if vengeance is decided upon, they won't kill the wrong man.

TALK WITH OPLER

So far as I can make out the petition did not definitely ask for the release of the internees. It just pointed out their plight.

Tsuda told me they (the detainees) were all going back on the hunger strike together.

The Administration had been saying all along that if the hunger strike hadn't come along they were going to release them.

I think that Tsuda is behind the petition.

(Opler also told me that he too had heard that Reverend Grubs, the new Protestant minister, is in danger of being picked up by the Army or F.B.I. for a supposedly subversive speech he gave. The speech is supposed to have stressed racial equality.)