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EXPERTS DISCUSS COMMUNITY RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO EVACUEES
AT NEW YORK CITY MEETING OF GROUPS AIDING IN RESETTLEMENT

Representatives of 20 national and local agencies and organizations cooperating in resettlement attended the first of a series of discussion meetings designed to acquaint them with community resources available to resettlers in the Middle Atlantic Area on January 27 in the New York City WRA relocation office. The audience of some 50 persons included many Issei and Nisei.

Four speakers discussed the various ways in which public and private agencies are assisting evacuees in meeting problems concerned with resettlement and family reunions. They also stressed the fact that these services would be continued after the liquidation of the War Relocation Authority. Resettlers who need aid in planning for family reunions as well as financial assistance were urged to avail themselves of all the services provided by these organizations which have been established to help people who need assistance. All the speakers asked evacuees particularly to seek help because resettlement undoubtedly raises many problems which cannot be solved by an individual alone.

The speakers were: Miss Alice J. Webber, regional public assistance representative, and Wistar Chubb, district office manager, Social Security Board, New York City; Miss Edith Harris, welfare center administrator, New York City Department of Welfare; and Miss Alice Taggart, assistant director of family services, Community Service Society of New York.

The meeting was organized as a result of inquiries from resettlers regarding the types of assistance available by E. Price Steiding, relocation officer in charge of the New York WRA district office, and Nathaniel A. Snyder, area community adjustment adviser.

According to Leo T. Simmons, acting relocation supervisor for the Middle Atlantic Area, future meetings in New York City, Philadelphia, and possibly other cities will deal with housing, employment, education, recreation, and other matters of concern to evacuees who are establishing themselves in new communities.

Representatives were present from the following: New York State Department of Social Welfare; Resettlement Council of the Japanese American Organizations in New York City; New York Relocation Hostel; Committee on Resettlement of Japanese Americans; Federal Council of Churches; American Baptist Home Mission Society; American Friends Service Committee; New York Buddhist Church; Japanese Methodist Church; Japanese Christian Association; Japanese Christian Institute; Japanese American Citizens League; Japanese American Committee for Democracy.

Also, New York Church Committee for Japanese Americans; Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church; Presbyterian Board of National Missions; National Council of the Episcopal Church; Riverside Church; Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York; Presbyterian Church of Brooklyn; and the War Relocation Authority.

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Miss Webber explained how the Federal, state, and local governments cooperate in aiding evacuees to meet their security needs under the special Resettlement Assistance Program of the Social Security Board, for which some of the funds have been provided by the War Relocation Authority. She invited resettlers to come to the Board's regional office in New York City for information or assistance, particularly after the WRA field relocation offices have been closed.

The Board's provisions for Old Age and Survivors Insurance and for Unemployment Compensation were described by Mr. Chubb. He said that field offices of the Social Security Board would be glad to aid Issei as well as Nisei. They were invited to request information regarding the benefits to which they are individually entitled.

Miss Harris pointed out how New York City's 15 welfare centers aid family groups and individuals in meeting basic needs which they are unable to supply themselves. She explained how, under the Resettlement Assistance Program, the city's centers assist Issei and Nisei in securing emergency medical treatment, obtaining furniture, working out budget problems, arranging for the care of orphan children, and solving many other kinds of problems. "We keep our doors open to persons as long as they need our help, and they are always welcome to return later if necessary," Miss Harris said. "We consider our responsibility seriously, and are eager to aid individuals and family groups that need our help."

The many ways in which private agencies such as the Community Service Society of New York can help resettled families and individuals were discussed by Miss Taggart, who demonstrated an intimate knowledge of the problems faced by resettlers in adjusting to a new community. She showed how they can be helped to meet such problems as furnishing and equipping an apartment, obtaining necessary medical or dental attention in case of financial need, and helping working mothers to find day nurseries for their children. "Our aim," Miss Taggart said, "is to help people find out what they want and how to accomplish it." She pointed out that the Community Service Society and the New York City Department of Welfare coordinate their assistance in some cases, such as contributing jointly toward the special expenses incurred by an evacuated family in re-establishing itself and setting up housekeeping.

According to Mr. Simmons, "the speakers at this conference impressed the audience with their understanding of the attitudes of persons of Japanese ancestry who may need resettlement assistance and advice from public and private agencies. They also showed a real appreciation of the difficulties facing evacuees who leave the relocation centers to resettle and demonstrated a sincere willingness to help resettlers to establish themselves in their new communities. I am confident that the other meetings in this series will prove as helpful as the first one to the representatives of the many agencies and organizations which are playing an increasingly important role in the resettlement program."

During the discussion period many questions were asked by members of the audience. A number of them, including former residents of relocation centers, expressed appreciation for the information made available at this meeting. They urged that the information be brought to the general attention of evacuees and that additional meetings be held on other subjects related to resettlement.

Excerpts from an address by the Honorable Joseph C. Grow, Special Assistant to the Secretary of State, at the annual banquet of the Holland Society of New York, New York City November 18, 1943

One of the proudest achievements of our country is our assimilation of many different races within our borders. We take well-justified pride in the term "melting pot" as applied to our nation. The existence and purpose and membership of the Holland Society are a living testimonial to that great principle, and it is especially interesting to note that even three centuries ago, when the Dutch West India Company had extended to all friendly European countries the privilege of trading with the then province of New Amsterdam, the town of New Amsterdam rapidly assumed the cosmopolitan character for which it has ever since been noted and that according to contemporary reports, eighteen languages were spoken among its 400 or 500 inhabitants in 1643.

The point I wish to make is this. In time of war, blind prejudice is always rampant. In the last war I remember that even loyal Americans with German names were all too often looked at askance. That bigotry fortunately does not exist today, but it does exist today among a large proportion of our fellow countrymen with regard to American citizens of Japanese descent. In fact many, perhaps most, of our compatriots refer to those fellow-citizens of ours quite indiscriminately as "Japs". In reading the many letters I receive from all over the country on that subject I very seldom know whether the writer is referring to Americans or to outright enemy aliens. There is, or should be, a great difference there.

In time of war, especially, we must take every proper step to protect our country from hostile acts, especially from espionage or sabotage within our gates. We have competent official authorities to attend to that consideration, and they are attending to it, constantly and effectively. I do know that like the Americans of German descent, the overwhelming majority of Americans of Japanese origin wish to be and are wholly loyal to the United States, and not only that, but they wish to prove that loyalty in service to their native land. Reiman Morin, of the Associated Press, reports from the Fifth Army in Italy that the first unit of American-born Japanese troops went into combat smiling with satisfaction as if they were going to a baseball game; their motto is "Remember Pearl Harbor", and their commander said that he wouldn't trade his command for any other in the Army. Their officers, said Morin, are unanimously enthusiastic about the quality and spirit of those men and said they never had seen any troops train harder and more assiduously and never had any doubt as to what to expect of them in combat. A German prisoner was brought past their encampment one day; he gaped with surprise when he saw their faces and asked if they were Japanese. An interpreter explained that they were Americans of Japanese parentage. The German shook his head in wonder and said: "Ach; that's American." There are camps in our country today engaged exclusively in training these men for military service. I have met and talked to them. Their officers are proud of their charges.

What I wish to say is merely this. Those Americans of Japanese descent have grown up in our country, in our democratic atmosphere. Most of them have never known anything else. Among those few who have been to Japan, most of them could not stand the life there and soon returned to the United States. The overwhelming majority of those men want to be loyal to us, and,

perhaps surprisingly, the few who don't want to be loyal to us often say so openly. It does not make for loyalty to be constantly under suspicion when grounds for suspicion are absent. I have too great a belief in the sanctity of American citizenship to want to see those Americans of Japanese descent penalized and alienated through blind prejudice. I want to see them given a square deal. I want to see them treated as we rightly treat all other American citizens regardless of their racial origin - with respect and support, unless or until they have proved themselves unworthy of respect and support. That fundamental principle should apply all along the line - to every citizen of the United States of America.

Once, again, Gentlemen, I heartily thank you for the honor you have accorded me tonight.

January 28, 1943

IMMEDIATE

RELEASE

LOYAL AMERICANS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY
TO COMPOSE SPECIAL UNIT IN ARMY

The War Department announced today that plans have been completed for the admission of a substantial number of American citizens of Japanese ancestry to the Army of the United States.

This action was taken following study by the War Department of many earnest requests by loyal American citizens of Japanese extraction for the organization of a special unit of the Army in which they could have their share in the fight against the Nation's enemies.

The Following statement was issued by the Honorable Henry L. Stimson, Secretary of War:

"It is the inherent right of every faithful citizen, regardless of ancestry, to bear arms in the Nation's battle. When obstacles to the free expression of that right are imposed by emergency considerations, those barriers should be removed as soon as humanly possible. Loyalty to country is a voice that must be heard, and I am glad that I am now able to give active proof that this basic American belief is not a casualty of war."

The War Department announced that the initial procedure in the formation of the unit authorized by the Secretary will be voluntary induction. Facilities for this will be nation-wide, including the Hawaiian Islands and the War Relocation Centers in this country. No individual will be inducted if doubt exists as to his loyalty.

Upon induction the "nisei," as American-born citizens of Japanese parentage are termed, will begin training as a combat team for service in an active theater. This combat team will include the customary elements of infantry, artillery, engineer, and medical personnel. No effort will be spared in developing it into an efficient well-rounded, hard-hitting unit.

OM-2409

The new unit will be trained separately from the battalion of Americans of Japanese extraction -- originally a Hawaiian National Guard organization -- which is already a component of the Army.

The War Department's action, it was announced, is part of a larger program which will enable all loyal American citizens of Japanese ancestry to make their proper contribution toward winning the war -- through employment in war production as well as military service.

END

PROBLEMS OF EVACUEE RESETTLEMENT IN CALIFORNIA

Address by Dillon S. Meyer, Director of the War Relocation Authority, at Eagle Rock, California, June 19, 1945.

WRA is nearing the finish line. There are still some resettlement problems in California, as well as elsewhere, to be overcome. We need a lot of sympathetic understanding and active help, but with the experience we have behind us, and the support that is being offered on every hand, we think we know pretty well how the rest of the job is going to work out.

A great many of the obstacles that still stand in the way are hand-overs from 1943. That year we had more poison spread about the evacuees--more lies and half-truths--than I would have believed possible. During the year before, WRA's first months of existence were primarily a period of housekeeping and planning for the future. In 1942 we had the job of receiving the evacuees at partially completed centers; setting up all the administrative machinery necessary to the efficient and economical operation of these centers; establishment of all the functions and services which you would expect to find in 10 ordinary small cities outside.

But in 1943 the difficulties began to multiply. Looking back, it seems that there was an official investigation of one sort or another being conducted throughout the year without a break. It wasn't quite that bad, but we did spend a great deal of time answering accusations; defending ourselves from the attacks of a violently opposing and highly imaginative section of the national press. We met a discouraging unfriendliness on many fronts, and watched with alarm the fabrication and growth of suffocating myths which we had neither the time nor the staff to deal with adequately.

I doubt now that there was any effective way in 1943 to deal with the damning falsehoods that fast gained credence throughout the country, and especially on the West Coast. We did not have an audience large enough or strong enough to turn the tide. It was the thing to do in 1943 to believe the worst about America's Japanese.

Bad as it was, however, 1943 was not a total loss. Early that year the War Department announced that volunteers from the mainland and from Hawaii would be accepted to serve in a special All-Nisei Combat Team. This was the first time citizens of Japanese ancestry had been acceptable for induction in any manner since June, 1942, when the War Department had advised Selective Service to discontinue Nisei inductions until further notice. Several hundred volunteered from the centers, along with a large group from Hawaii.

During the year we completed our relocation organization in the East, the Midwest and Rocky Mountain areas, establishing offices which could help evacuees find employment, housing and acceptance in normal American communities, where they reentered the mainstream of normal life and began to contribute their share to the nation's war-time job. We helped 17,000 evacuees effect a successful resettlement during 1943, and these pioneers into a new land east of the Sierra Nevadas began to win general acceptance for themselves and for those who were to follow them from the centers.

1944 was as successful as 1943 had been difficult. The year opened with announcement by the War Department--undeniably impressed by the excellent showing made by the 442nd Combat Team in training and by the outstanding record of the 100th Battalion already on the battle front--that Nisei again would be inducted through regular Selective Service procedures. I think that this action of the War Department, restoring to American citizens the privilege and duty of fighting for their country, is the most basic and most important single factor which makes possible a decent solution to the problems created by the evacuation. I had urged that announcement for many months, and I have entertained no doubts about successfully completing my job since Secretary Stimson in that way announced official War Department acceptance for the Nisei.

Hundreds of young citizens began leaving the centers to start their training at Camp Shelby, Miss., and smaller groups soon were leaving the ports of embarkation.

The relocation program continued with increasing velocity, as new friends of those already relocated began to speak out for them and it became, with the passing of time, an established fact that the evacuees could find pleasant, solid and economically satisfactory living and working adjustments away from the West Coast. As stories of outstanding Nisei soldiering began to come back from the Italian front, fair-minded people at home who had not bothered themselves greatly about the evacuated group began to piece together the threads of information and wonder what they could do for the displaced wives and sisters and parents of these fighting men. The general situation of the evacuee group continued to be steadily favorable throughout the year, until the middle of December, when relocation received its great impetus with announcement by the War Department that the military situation had become such that mass exclusion was no longer necessary or desirable. The nation, still in the unprecedented turmoil of having to fight two major wars, had nevertheless been big enough to study a comparatively minor problem and relieve the restrictions which had displaced a small minority of its people, as soon as military necessity for the evacuation no longer existed.

When the War Department announced that, effective January 2, 1945, all those evacuees determined individually eligible by Army authorities would be free to return to the evacuated area, WRA was ready with definite policies for subsequent administering of its responsibilities. Among other things, we had definitely decided that the centers should be closed as soon thereafter as efficiently possible. The carefully studied reasons for that major decision are still completely valid.

All through 1944, however, and to some extent through this half of 1945, WRA has been plagued by the myths which gained currency in 1943 until some people began to accept them as established fact. There has been no let-up in our fight against this poison which has been spread deliberately in a bid for calculated results.

There have been a great variety of myths. Many of them were manufactured 40 years ago. Some are vicious, some almost credible, some just plain ridiculous. They are identical in that they are false and in that they have been repeatedly challenged both by WRA and by many thinking and interested people outside of WRA. But some of these myths still persist through the efforts of far-sighted enemies of the American bill of rights who wish to prolong their present economic opportunities, or they remain involuntarily in the minds of other people who have been led by continuous repetition into believing them.

One of the most popular and most sinister of the myths that have been built up is the one that all children born in the United States of Japanese parents owe allegiance to Japan. This arises from the fact that many of the American-born Japanese--but not all of them, by any means--are so-called "dual citizens."

The fact is that children born in the United States of alien fathers from almost every country in the world, outside of South and Central America, are dual citizens, at least until they become of age. In the great majority of cases, they remain dual citizens for life unless they renounce allegiance to one country or the other. The Japanese law which resulted in dual citizenship for some children born of Japanese parents in the United States before the war was not at all unique and was, in fact, far more liberal than the nationality law of Germany and many other nations. Since 1924, a child born of Japanese parents in this country has been a dual citizen only if registered as such by the parents with a Japanese consulate within fourteen days after birth. And even children so registered have had the privilege of renouncing their Japanese citizenship after they reach the age of 21. Dual citizenship is a bug-a-boo of international law, not an American term for a sinister Oriental creed that guarantees to the Emperor of Japan the unhesitating obedience of his contemporary's grandchildren in foreign lands.

A few weeks ago a Washington columnist placed dual citizenship in its proper category when he reported that a national official of the Veterans of Foreign Wars was refused a French visa because the French embassy declared that he was a dual citizen of France and a deserter from the French Army. The columnist reported that the trouble was ironed out, especially since this man is American born and therefore had no obligation to serve in the French army, but only after the French embassy discovered that the man's father had been born in Alsace, which country at that time flew the German flag. The columnist reported France was delighted to issue the man a visa on the basis that he was a German.

And then there is the myth that the religion of all Japanese, no matter where they live, binds them to the Emperor; that they all have Shinto shrines in their homes.

The fact is that the Japanese in the United States have two major religions; Buddhism and Christianity. There is no evidence that Buddhism is in any way connected with Emperor worship. Shintoism on the other hand is divided into three distinct kinds. One of these three is state Shintoism, which fosters a belief in the divinity of the Emperor and the purity of the Japanese race. This state Shintoism, a comparatively recent development in Japanese history, is the creed which has given rise to the accusation that all Japanese are Emperor worshippers. The charge that all Japanese in the United States, or even any considerable number of them, have Shinto shrines in their homes is a pure fabrication which has no substance at all except in the minds of the persons who concocted it.

You have heard a hundred variations on the theme that all the Japanese language schools maintained in the many communities on the West Coast before the war attempted to inculcate American-born Japanese with the national ideals of the Japanese Imperial Government. I personally

think that the Japanese language schools as such should not be reinstituted. I happen to think that this country's public schools are doing an adequate job.

But much of what has been bandied about concerning the Japanese "indoctrination" that flowed from the language schools here on the Coast has been completely debunked. The hundreds of Nisei boys fighting in the Pacific in the uniform of the United States Army, establishing outstanding records of loyalty and devotion to duty, represent a complete refutation of such a charge. Similar schools have been conducted by the Chinese, by the Germans and by many other nationalities in the form of parochial schools. They have all been supplementary to the public schools and were established so that these first generation Americans could acquire the language facilities necessary within the family group.

I don't doubt that many teachers of Japanese language schools may have tried to inculcate the Japanese culture into their students, but if they did they have failed miserably.

Our public schools, on the other hand, have done a really magnificent job of inspiring our young citizens including those of Japanese descent with an understanding of American institutions. And I want to pay tribute here to the public school system of California and the other West Coast States both for the training they have given these youngsters in the past and for the way they are now receiving evacuee children upon their return. I have always felt it is deeply significant that we find comparatively little prejudice against Japanese Americans in the primary and the secondary schools.

But if I may be permitted to make a suggestion, I would advocate that courses in the Oriental languages be added to the curriculum of the high schools in this section of the country. I believe that this is important in view of the far-reaching possibilities of postwar trade and other relations which we will undoubtedly have with the Oriental nations.

We can't overlook the often repeated myth that the Japanese in California deliberately concentrated in strategic areas to be near important military installations. The fact is that the vast majority of the Japanese who lived near important military installations when the war began had been settled in the same localities long before they became military sites. The main geographic pattern of Japanese population was fixed many years ago with reference to economic, social and soil conditions. That these points may now be near certain strategic military and industrial areas is no proof of a diabolical purpose on the part of the Japanese Americans. The two communities most frequently cited to support the allegation that the Japanese chose important military sites for colonization are Terminal Island and the San Francisco-Oakland Bay region. Actually, the settlement of Japanese fishermen on Terminal Island began in 1901 and practically halted in 1907. Roosevelt Naval Base and Reeves Field, which have given military significance to the Island, were of course not established until long afterwards.

As for the second community, the total population of foreign-born Japanese in the San Francisco-Oakland metropolitan district in 1940 was

4,676. In the same area lived 24,387 foreign-born Germans and 42,861 foreign-born Italians.

It has been falsely stated many times that Nisei soldiers are not used in the Pacific theatre because the Army does not trust them to fight against the Japanese. The fact is, and it is documented in a recently multilithed WRA pamphlet "Nisei in the War Against Japan", that Nisei soldiers are serving with the United States Army in every battle area of the Pacific and in Burma. In addition they are serving, on loan from the Army, with the Marine Corps and with various units of the Allied Nations.

You also can read this story in the current issue of the American Mercury magazine. I understand that this same article, slightly boiled down, will also be carried in the July issue of Readers' Digest.

One of the most ridiculous, but at the same time most persistent of the myths is that the Japanese in this country knew all about Pearl Harbor but that not one felt called upon to warn the authorities.

I called this statement ridiculous. How many of you men and women-- unquestionably loyal to the United States, interested in its affairs and conversant with hundreds of military and civilian officials--how many of you knew the date and the hour of the Normandy invasion? How many of you knew that Iwo Jima was to be invaded until you read of that accomplishment over your morning coffee?

Enemies of the evacuees whisper that they congregated in close little groups and seemed excited on Pearl Harbor day. How many of you talked about that tragic occurrence with a neighbor? Which one of you did not seem excited on that Sunday evening?

And then there are a collection of myths: that the presence of Japanese workers in a community lowers the standard of living; that Japanese Americans are mainly stoop laborers and domestic workers; that American farmers of European descent cannot compete with farmers of Japanese descent. The truth is that these accusations grow from the fact that these people have refused to remain in the role of stoop laborers.

They are hated because as the new generation grows up they do not stay on an inferior standard, but in full accord with the American tradition seek to improve their economic position. Actually, they are condemned for what ordinarily would be commended. 1940 census figures tell the story. Nearly three-fourths of the paid workers in the evacuated group were employed in a wide range of occupations not classified as either farm labor or domestic work.

This group concentrated in the production of vegetables, berries and small fruits, because experience had proven to them that they could compete more successfully in this type of farming than in others. They also generally agree that the farmers of this group did not displace the farmers of European descent. They came in after we had quit, and they made a go of a crippled industry.

In the same connection there is the myth that the farming methods of the Japanese ruined the soil and caused the land to depreciate in value.

This is flatly not true. I personally know something about soil conservation and I know these people as a group bought at least as much fertilizer as the average California farmer and they maintained production at a high level. I personally know that their intensive farming reclaimed low areas, little patches of land between the telephone posts and fences, small vacant tracts in residential and business sections, and that they generally did a very good job of farming and of conserving the soil.

But the biggest, the most fundamental, the most dangerous myth of all is the old threadbare cliché "Once a Jap, always a Jap." In a sense, this underlies all the other myths. It is the last refuge of the race-baiter--the accusation he falls back on after all his other charges and innuendoes have been refuted. It permits him to point to the people in relocation centers and make the perfectly fantastic statement, "These people are killing and torturing our boys in the Southwest Pacific. When our boys return, they will not tolerate these people in their midst."

There are so many things wrong about that myth that it's hard to know where to begin. In the first place, it's absolutely contradicted by all the scientific evidence we have. I don't know of a single reputable biologist or anthropologist who will support it. These scientists will tell you that physical characteristics of race are inherited--we all know that, of course--but the idea that loyalty to Japanese institutions is somehow carried in the bloodstream is pure bunk.

All our experience in WRA with the Japanese American people convinces me that our American institutions have been far more potent in affecting the minds of these youngsters than any transplanted institutions of the Orient. Japanese American children placed in a normal American environment and given half a chance will absorb Americanism almost as naturally as they breathe. In fact, we have learned that even when you put them in camps and cut them off from the mainstream of American life, they will reach out for American institutions and develop them even in such an artificial atmosphere. The race baiters it seems to me, show a regrettable lack of faith in America when they ignore these fundamental facts.

If further refutation is needed for this idea that no person of Japanese ancestry can conceivably be loyal to the United States, we can certainly find it in the combat record of the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Combat Team. I have talked to several of these boys who have returned with wounds and I have read news stories quoting others. And it's clear to me that these boys have been fighting with that old cliché "Once a Jap, etc." firmly embedded in their minds. It's been almost a hymn of hate with them, and it helps to explain the almost pathetic eagerness which some of them have shown to get in the fight against Japan. They have been fighting "like demons", as one correspondent put it, to smash that ugly, un-American concept--to win honor and vindication not only for themselves, but for their relatives and friends, for all Japanese Americans who prefer the American way of life. When you look at some of the honors these boys have won--two Presidential citations, 31 Distinguished Service Crosses, 183 Silver Stars, 218 Bronze Stars, 64 Divisional Citations--there can be very little doubt about where their loyalties lie.

It is true, as the race baiters say, that the Caucasian veterans are going to come back full of wrath on this subject. In fact, some of

them have already come back and written back with the highest indignation. The only catch is that their wrath and their indignation are directed not against the Japanese Americans but against the people who are pushing them around, shooting at them in the night, and organizing boycotts to put them out of business. When the boys who have known the Nisei soldiers in combat return, that sort of thing will not long be tolerated.

I have touched rather casually upon some of these myths and even more casually upon the facts which refuted them. If you are interested you may read the whole story in "Myths and Facts About Japanese Americans", a WRA pamphlet answering the common misconceptions regarding Americans of Japanese ancestry. Copies are available at our local WRA offices if you should desire one.

With the military necessity for mass exclusion no longer existent, and after complete individual Army clearance had been given the great majority of evacuees still living in the centers, relocation north, east, south, and west got really under way early in 1945. The rate of departure from the centers has been steadily increasing from something like 100 a week to more than 1,000 the past week. More than 12,000 men, women and children have become reestablished in normal outside communities since the War Department lifted its mass exclusion orders. Slightly less than two-thirds of this total have resettled east of the Sierra Nevadas, the others returning to their homes on the West Coast.

This rate of relocation has been very close to what we expected. We expect the rate of departures to increase steadily to a peak which may be reached in the late summer or early fall.

I am confident of this pattern in spite of the fact that some of the old myths stubbornly persist through the efforts of organized political and economic resistance, particularly against the return of the evacuees to their West Coast homes. I am confident, in spite of the fact that with repetition of the myths there are constantly new accusations hurled in the path of democratic justice.

Among the new charges, the recent accusation has been made that I am propagandizing in the interests of a particular racial group: That WRA circulates "propaganda" favoring the Japanese people. The connotation is that WRA is being very undemocratic. The charge carries the vicious implication that a government agency is working in the interest of the people of Japan. It was shouted for the ears of unthinking people whose subsequent repetitions would tend to discredit the agency and the evacuees, cloud their relocation program and delay their return to normal American life.

Such an accusation is recognized as pure nonsense by thinking people, who know that WRA's work is with a strictly American racial group whose ancestry happens to be Japanese. WRA was created for that particular purpose. The Congress has continued to appropriate funds for that particular purpose--namely civilian administration of the relocation of people evacuated from military areas because of military necessity. It just happens that our work has been limited almost entirely to persons of one particular ancestry. If I have been "propagandizing" it has been not for any group of people but for the American Bill of Rights, for

decency and fairplay and individual opportunity. It has been necessary to insist that the evacuee group receive that kind of justice--insist in every way I know--for the simple reason that there are those who from the platform, over the radio, through the press and by door-to-door campaigns endeavor to deny these people the rights guaranteed them by the Constitution. The very vigor of this irresponsible but organized resistance has set the pace for our counter efforts.

The most recent charge was made by State Senator Jack B. Tenney--that Japanese Americans and aliens with an open and notoriously disloyal attitude are being released by the WRA to work in war plants and on wharves and docks. The San Francisco News, in quoting the Los Angeles senator to this effect, indicated that the charge was made in a resolution calling for approval by FBI and Army and Navy intelligence officers of WRA decisions affecting persons of Japanese ancestry.

The senator's remark could have been made only from ignorance or malice. By now every intelligent person should know that the Army lifted its mass exclusion order because the military need for exclusion no longer exists. Certainly a State Senator should know that the War Department is solely responsible, and always has been responsible, for checking each individual and determining exactly who will and who will not be permitted back on the West Coast. These facts have been clearly stated time and time again by the Army, by WRA and by others.

Part and parcel of the myths and the accusations are the acts of terrorism that have been directed at returning evacuees since the exclusion orders were lifted by the War Department the first of this year.

Since January 2 there have been 33 incidents of violence or open intimidation directed against returning evacuees, just in California. Twenty of these have been shooting attacks. There were also one attempted dynamiting, three arson cases and nine instances where evacuees were threatened and warned to stay out of the community.

Secretary Ickes reported 24 of these instances to the nation the middle of last month. Immediately, organizations which stand for democracy and decency and fair play, individuals who see the threat that such practices represent to the nation, and editors from one end of the country to the other shouted their disapproval.

A California editor wrote:

"Here is a problem primarily of law enforcement and law observance right in our own state. We cannot, as California citizens, do much about safeguarding representative government and democratic freedom in Poland, in Greece, in Spain or in Argentina. But we can demand that our state government and our various county officials observe and defend the letter and the spirit of the American Constitution in regard to minority groups of American citizens."

And across the country, in Pennsylvania:

"But if there is sympathy for the hoodlums on the part of the constituted authorities, it is time a higher power stepped in to show them that

there is no room anywhere in this country for the philosophy this terrorism reflects..Big as this country is, it isn't large enough to fight a war against tyranny and oppression and tolerate them at home."

But the incidents continued unabated. The number climbed to 33 within the next two weeks.

Probably more dangerous even than the incidents and the forces that support them, however, is the rationalization--private and public--which permits the perpetrators to go unpunished.

Two of the 33 incidents actually got into court. In the first, three men accused of attempting to burn and dynamite ranch buildings of an American citizen in Placer County were quickly found not guilty by a jury which had heard the defense attorney plead that "this is a white man's country." In the second, a man who admitted firing four shotgun blasts at the home of a returned family, from a distance at which any one of the buckshot would have caused death, was tried for firing a gun in a "rude and threatening manner." The defendant was found guilty, sentenced to six months in jail, and freed on probation.

Editors found such a situation intolerable. They wrote about California's "anemic" law and recalled the San Francisco Chronicle's phrase condemning a Washington Judge's \$1,000-fine as punishment for burning four houses. The Chronicle said: "He has praised this kind of outlawry with faint damns."

Secretary Ickes told his press conference it seemed as if law and disorder had been substituted for law and order, and that if someone shot into his home he would think it was "pretty damned rude." But the judge complacently defended his position. He said it was not strictly his decision, that several local residents were in the courtroom and talked the case over before the trial. They agreed, according to the judge, that they did not want any more hoodlumism in their county but feared that imposing sentence on the defendant would fan the flames of community sentiment and lead to more shootings.

Then there is also the case of Mary Masuda, in Orange County. That young woman, you may recall, was visited by five men and warned to stay out of the community, in spite of the fact that she had four brothers in the service before the eldest was killed at Cassino. Local officials told her, when she asked for protection, that they could do nothing until some "overt act" had been committed.

Part of the same story is brilliantly revealed in the complaint of a former California state senator, speaking last month before a mass meeting of the California Preservation Association at Auburn, Placer County. He was quoted by the Sacramento BEE as terming the induction of Japanese Americans in the U. S. Army "the saddest thing that has happened in this war." He declared their bravery and fighting is being used as a "selling point" by "pro-Japanese" interests.

But no such thinking can rationalize away the rights and honor due members of the most decorated combat unit in the American Army.

Right here I want to make it clear that I feel no sense of anger

sincere feeling of pity. I am sorry for a judge who samples public opinion before he places sentence. I am sorry for a merchant who against his personal convictions participates in a boycott and whispers to himself an excuse that he knows is not valid. I sincerely pity all men and women who succumb to rationalization and refuse to face the facts, especially when they are bringing nationwide shame upon their communities as well as themselves.

So long as these myths continue to be fostered by the race-baiters and repeated by unthinking people, so long as insupportable accusations win credence and acts of violence are allowed to occur, just so long is a victorious America in danger of succumbing to the historic principle of war that the culture of the conquered will prevail. Because these things are evidence of the culture which was Nazism. Hitler is dead, but I repeat what has been said before: here is evidence that Hitler won a victory in America.

These myths are the tools of individuals who bully merchants into placing 'No Japs Wanted' signs in their windows, applaud the terrorism which has been directed against returning evacuees, and establish economic boycotts against one group of people--a group which today is of Japanese ancestry and which tomorrow may be Jews or Filipinos or Negroes or Catholics or some other sect or racial group.

Just so long as these myths are bandied about for a purpose we can know that there are men among us who subscribe to the methods and the principles, or lack of principles, which brought Germany to her downfall. The men responsible are not the men who pull the triggers when rifles are fired in the night. They are not the ones who strike the match that burns a home to the ground. Those really responsible publicly 'abhor' the hoodlumism that has brought shame to the state of California, but in the next breath they privately accept full responsibility for the acts that occur. They whisper the falsehoods and calculatingly fan the sparks of misled prejudice into overt acts of lawlessness which damn the meaning of democracy.

These incidents--the night riders and the discouragement they spread--is one of the specific problems faced by WRA in its determination to go out of business, which after all is another way of saying to help some 50,000 people reestablish themselves in American society. To overcome this problem the evacuees must have the support of decent, thinking Americans whose convictions allow them and urge them to be vocal in asserting themselves. In order to dispel these rationalizations and Hitler-like actions, they must give the country and their local communities definite and tangible evidence that they do not intend to tolerate organized bigotry, lax law enforcement and similar un-American practices.

There have been important instances where definite and tangible action has been taken. Last month the Monterey Peninsula Herald of Monterey, California published a full page advertisement demanding "The Democratic Way of Life For All." It quoted an official War Department statement:

"The War Department believes that the people of the Pacific Coast area will accord returning persons of Japanese ancestry all the considerations

to which they are entitled as loyal citizens and law-abiding residents."

Below the statement were listed 449 residents of the community who subscribed to the policy stated as follows:

"We, the undersigned, then believe that it is the privilege and responsibility of this community to cooperate with the National Government by insuring the democratic way of life to all members of the community."

That is an example of vocal support. Every name on that list is a weight on the democratic side of the balance. The mere fact that a man asked that his name be included is a direct influence for right over someone whose name did not appear, and over someone else who might otherwise become confused under the influence of irresponsible counsel and commit an act which would place Monterey under the same kind of shame which brands otherwise similar California communities.

More recently, on May 16, three Nisei were removed from work in a Stockton, California, warehouse because 300 members of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union Local 6 had voted the previous day to refuse to work with them and threatened to strike if the Nisei stayed. But the president of Local 6 did not agree and stated publicly:

"Local 6, now as in the past, will not tolerate any discrimination against loyal Americans....The so-called 'Stockton incident'....does not represent the thinking of the majority of our members...We have begun an investigation to determine responsibility for the incident."

And two days later ILWU officers, representatives of the state Attorney General's office, WRA people and representatives of the FEPC were in Stockton, asking members of the local to sign a pledge not to "refuse to work with any person because of such person's race, color or creed." On May 22 the ILWU suspended the Stockton local, and threatened that every member of the unit who had not signed the agreement to work with Nisei by the following evening would be suspended from the union and face expulsion trial.

That is an example of vigorous, sudden, hard-hitting and straight-to-the-point protection of individual rights.

On May 22 the Stockton Record carried a full page advertisement which stated in part:

"Discrimination does not stop at any designated point. In Germany, it did not stop with the Jews. After them came the trade unionists, then the Catholics, then all those who hadn't voted for Hitler in the first instance, and on and on until skeletons were piled high in torture camps.

"Stockton's own sons have died so that this might not happen in America. We have faith in our members who work here, and we have faith in the people of Stockton. We confidently believe they will solve this problem in a manner which will make Americans proud."

Less spectacular, but definitely outspoken and tangible, is the support of a small committee at Hood River, Oregon, which defies two

flourishing 'anti' groups in the name of liberty and justice for all Americans. This handful of citizens, too few to demand democracy, nevertheless identifies itself and its members publicly and strives to combat the 'anti' elements with nothing more than true statements of fact. Out-numbered as they are, so far as organization is concerned, these few individuals have made themselves heard. There is more decency and understanding and democracy in Hood River today than before they took up the fight for justice.

Perhaps our greatest problem facing relocation is the matter of housing, which is as much a problem in one part of the country as another, and as much a problem for one group of individuals as another.

There doubtless must be some sort of temporary housing provided for some of these people, but regardless of the type it will generally be better housing than the barracks provided in the Relocation Centers. Hostels, temporary homes provided and operated by interested outside groups throughout the West Coast as well as in other areas, are playing an important role in meeting this initial problem. Additional hostels will be established, so that families can relocate together and be sheltered while they find their individual permanent solution. But there is another vast source of housing available to these returning evacuees.

There are thousands of West Coast homes where domestic help is needed and desired--homes which can provide rooms as supplement to salary. Certainly in these times, with domestic wages at their current standard, I think that many of the evacuees would be quick to accept that type of work. It is clean, respectable work, and it offers excellent transition possibilities.

In spite of all these problems, in spite of past mistakes and in spite of individual injustices which have occurred, we and the public must not be soft hearted about the job that must be done. There are important--urgent--reasons for the announced time limit on completion of the relocation job.

First, and probably most important, the institutionalized, subsidized life of the centers, destructive as it is to individual initiative and to normal family ties, is an insupportable environment for the thousands of children and young people who have had to spend formative years there. It is an environment that should be wiped off the record of American history as quickly as possible. The evacuee youngsters should have the chance, as young Americans, to grow up in American communities.

Second, it is important that the job of resettlement be completed now, when the demand for workers to maintain the war economy makes job opportunities more plentiful than at any time in our history.

Third, full wartime economy has placed private and public welfare agencies, right now, in the best position in which they have been or will be to help evacuees become rehabilitated and reestablished. The return of large numbers of veterans and unemployed from war plants will radically change the employment and assistance pictures.

Fourth, consideration must be given to the fact that members of Congress have repeatedly asked how long the WRA will continue to spend

public funds for the maintenance in segregated communities of persons able to take their place in normal life. The answer, as you know, is that WRA has requested no funds for operating the centers beyond January 2 of next year.

And fifth, as long as the centers remain open and occupied--isolated colonies cut off from the rest of American life--their residents will be marked out as the target of suspicion and hostility, the prey of the race baiters.

There will necessarily be some temporary relocation for a few individuals and families, some making time on a second-choice job while they work out the arrangements for a permanent individual solution. But this will be only the first step. And the first step must be taken soon if the evacuees are not to remain permanently in the centers, dependent on government bounty, deprived of all initiative and self-respect. The longer the readjustment is postponed, the harder it is for the evacuees to face the problems it implies, the easier it is to cling to the false security of the isolated center life.

This step that must be taken is a step that requires personal courage and outside support. It is the first step in a job that must be done from a positive approach, not from the shaky platform of sentimentality. You, as thinking members of a democratic society, must help the evacuees and the people in your own community to understand the problems and face them as rational human beings. We are working under the basic American principle that under our democracy a man is judged on his individual worth and allowed to prosper in direct accordance with his ability, his industry, his personal decency and his democratic regard for the rights of his fellowmen. We are working not for a racial group or a man or a family. We are fighting for the principle of individual rights.

That is the job of WRA and the role of California in relocation--to ask and to demand that the principle of democracy be applied to a small minority which has been charged with, and to some extent persecuted because of, nothing more than the shape of their faces.

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Light

An Address by Sergeant Ben Kuroki, U.S. Army Air Force
Commonwealth Club, San Francisco, Cal.
February 4, 1944

I want to thank you gentlemen, especially Mr. Deutsch and Mr. Ward, for inviting me to speak to you today. This is a great honor, and I really appreciate it. I just hope that I won't disappoint you. People who are going to make speeches usually start out by saying that they don't know how to, but in my case it's really true. A soldier's job is to fight, not talk, but I'll do the best I can.

I've spent most of my life in Hershey, Nebraska, which isn't where they make Hershey candy bars. Hershey is so small that probably none of you has ever heard of it. Before the war the population was about 500; now I guess it's about 300.

I didn't even live in Hershey; my father had a farm a mile north of town. I remember the farmers used to go to town every Saturday night and stand in groups on the street corners talking about their cows and horses. We've lived on that farm since 1928, and after I finished high school I helped my father work it until the war came along.

The last two years are what really matter, though, and maybe I can tell you something about them, even if I don't know much about making speeches. That's one thing the Army didn't teach me, though it taught me a lot of other things, and the experience I went through as a result of being in the Army taught me even more.

I learned more about democracy, for one thing, than you'll find in all the books, because I saw it in action. When you live with men under combat conditions for 15 months, you begin to understand what brotherhood, equality, tolerance and unselfishness really mean. They're no longer just words.

Under fire, a man's ancestry, what he did before the war, or even his present rank, don't matter at all. You're fighting as a team--that's the only way a bomber crew can fight--you're fighting for each other's life and for your country, and whether you realize it at the time or not, you're living and proving democracy.

Something happened on my first mission that might give you an idea of what I mean. We were in a flak zone--the anti-aircraft was terribly accurate--and we had a flock of fighters attacking us.

A shell burst right above the tail, and flak poured down. Our tail gunner was a young kid named Dawley, from New Jersey. The piece that got him was so big it tore a four-inch hole through a quarter of an inch of aluminum and double-welded steel. It caught him just above the ear. It went through his fur helmet, and in so far we couldn't even see it when we got to him.

I was firing the right waist gun on our Liberator that day. All of a sudden I heard him yell over the interphone: "I'm hit in the head, let's get the hell out of here!"

We couldn't leave the guns until we'd shaken the Messerschmitts that were after us--it would have been suicide--but in a few minutes the tunnel gunner and I were able to get back to the tail.

We pulled Dawley back into the fuselage, so that we could work on him and at the same time watch out for more fighters. Then we took off our fur jackets and covered him up. It was about 10 below zero and we were about freezing to death.

He was in terrible shape; I can't even begin to describe the look of pain on his face. He was semi-conscious; but he couldn't open his mouth to speak. His lips seemed to be parched, as though he was dying of thirst. We couldn't understand how he was still alive.

I called the radio operator, because he's the one who is supposed to administer first aid on a Liberator, but instead the co-pilot, a first lieutenant, came back. He was going to give Dawley a morphine injection, but I stopped him. They'd taught us in gunnery school not to give morphine for head injuries; it might kill the man instantly. The co-pilot had either forgotten or was so excited he could think only of stopping the pain.

Anyway, I motioned to him--we couldn't hear each other above the roar of the motors--I pointed to my head and shook it. The co-pilot evidently understood, because he didn't give Dawley the morphine.

That tail gunner lived to fly and fight again, and the last I heard he had completed his tour of duty. Whether or not I was instrumental in saving his life by stopping that morphine injection isn't important--it was just that we had to work together regardless of rank or ancestry.

The tunnel gunner that helped me with him was Jewish, I'm a Japanese-American, the bombardier of our crew was a German, the left waist gunner was an Irishman. Later I flew with an American Indian pilot and a Polish tunnel gunner. What difference did it make? We had a job to do, and we did it with a kind of comradeship that was the finest thing in the world.

That first mission was over Bizerte; it was the 13th of December, 1942, and we'd just arrived in French North Africa from England two days before. When I say "we" I'm talking about the outfit I was serving with; it was Brig. Gen. Ted Timberlake's Liberator bomber group, which everybody over there called "Ted's Traveling Circus" because it got around so much back and forth between England and Africa. In fact, it got around so much it kept German military intelligence guessing, trying to figure out where it was from week to week.

It was a funny thing--I'd just been assigned to a crew the day before we left England, although the group had been based there for about four months. I'd finished gunnery school more than a month before, and ever since I'd been trying to get assigned to a crew. It wasn't easy; I'd talk to the pilot whenever I knew there was going to be an opening in a crew, and each pilot would assign me temporarily and then replace me when the time came for permanent assignment.

I understood well enough how they felt; and they knew I was as good as any man they did assign, but still they were uneasy. But I wanted to get into combat more than anything in the world, so I kept after it.

In fact, it had been one continual struggle from the beginning of my Army career, and I felt that I had done pretty well to get overseas and to

gunnery school.

Two days after Pearl Harbor, my brother Fred and I drove 150 miles to Grand Island, Nebraska, to enlist in the Army Air Forces. We were held up for nearly a month because of all the confusion and misunderstanding in Army camps at that time. For the first time in our lives we found out what prejudice was.

I began to realize right then that I had a couple of strikes on me to begin with, and that I was going to be fighting two battles instead of one--against the Axis and against intolerance among my fellow-Americans.

Finally, after two more trips to Grand Island and three telephone calls, Fred and I were accepted at the recruiting station at North Platte, and sent to Sheppard Field, Texas, for basic training.

There was so much prejudice among the recruits there, that I wondered if it would always be like that; if I would ever be able to overcome it. Even now I would rather go through my bombing missions again than face that kind of prejudice.

My kid brother Fred could hardly stand it. He'd come back to the barracks at night and bury his head in his pillow and actually cry. We were not only away from home for the first time; but because of this discrimination, we were the loneliest two soldiers in the Army.

After basic I was sent to clerical school at Fort Logan, Colorado, and then to Barksdale Field near Shreveport, Louisiana, for permanent assignment. Of the 40 clerks sent to Barksdale, I was the last one assigned. I spent about a month at Barksdale, most of it on K.P. You've all heard the Air Forces motto, "Keep 'Em Flying." Well, my motto was "Keep 'Em Feeling"; they called me "Keep 'Em Peeling" Kuroki in those days.

The most discouraging thing about that was the fact that I had no assurance that I ever would be assigned. About the only thing that kept me going were the wonderful letters of encouragement I received from home. My sister would write me that I had to realize that Americans were shocked by Pearl Harbor, and that many of them were unable to distinguish between Japanese and Americans of Japanese descent. I still was without a friend in the Army, though, and that made it bad. There was only one boy who was kind to me at all--he used to get my mail for me when I was on K. P. and couldn't get away.

I was finally assigned to a squadron in General Timberlake's bomber group, which had been formed at Barksdale and was ready to move to Fort Myers, Florida, for final training. A few days before we were to leave, the commanding officer of my squadron called me in and told me I wasn't going; and that I was to be transferred to another outfit.

That was about the worst news I had ever heard. I asked him why, and he said that he had nothing to do with it. He started asking me questions then--how I liked the Army, and so forth. I told him pretty bluntly about the prejudice I was encountering, and that I didn't even go into town because I couldn't enjoy a minute of it when I did. He seemed sympathetic enough, but he said there was nothing he could do to stop my being transferred.

But, my words must have had some effect, because the day before the group left, he called me back and ~~told me to pack my bags~~ that I was going with them then.

At Fort Myers I did clerical work for about three months. I gradually began to win over some of the soldiers, and the boy who used to get my mail for me at Barksdale became a good friend of mine. We were in a truck accident one day, and I was able to help him. After that we were inseparable.

When the group had finished training and was ready to go overseas, I was given orders, as I had been at Barksdale, transferring me out of my squadron. This was even worse than the time at Barksdale, because I really wanted to go overseas and had been counting on it for three months.

General Timberlake--he was then a colonel--was already up north with the air echelon of the group, so I couldn't see him. I went to see the squadron adjutant and begged him, with tears streaming down my face, to take me along. He said there was nothing he could do about it, that it wasn't because I was of Japanese descent. But he did agree to talk it over with the group adjutant, and in about an hour he came back with the good news that I would remain with the outfit. I was about the happiest guy in the world just then.

We shipped north right after that and sailed from New York on the last day of August 1942. Ours was the first Liberator group sent to the European theater. As soon as we had our base set up in England, I applied for combat duty. I had to beg for that too, but at least I was sent to gunnery school.

It wasn't much schooling--about a week, I guess--a lot different from the way it is now, when every crew member goes to school for months in this country. I really learned to shoot the hard way, in combat.

As a result of the recommendations of the armament officer, I was accepted on Major J. B. Epting's crew as an auxiliary member; we were to go out on a raid the next day, but it was cancelled because of the weather. About a week later I was permanently assigned to his crew. The next day we flew to Africa and my tour of duty began. Once again I'd received a break just in the nick of time.

We were glad to get away from the cold, fog, rain and mud of England. Boy, Africa seemed like heaven for the first two days. It was dry and warm and the sun was shining. It was interesting, too, at first. I met my first live Arab. The Arabs used to come out to the base peddling tangerines and oranges and eggs, foods we hadn't seen for months in England. I remember in London they were asking 18 shillings--about \$3.50--for a pound of grapes; one of our boys even asked the vendor if they had golden seeds in them.

One of our gunners made a deal with an Arab--a filthy barefoot old man dressed in something that looked like grandma's nightgown. The gunner told him he would trade the plane for six eggs delivered every day for six months. So every day the Arab would bring him six eggs. Then he would go over to the plane and pat it and smile, thinking of the day when it would be his. We wondered what he thought when we took off one day and didn't come back.

After the second night in Africa we weren't so sure it was an improvement on England. It started to rain and kept on raining until we finally

couldn't operate at all. We had no tents or barracks or any place to sleep. Some of the boys slept under the plane until it got too muddy. I picked the flight deck inside for myself, but gave it up so that Major Epting could sleep there. I slept in the top turret.

If you have any idea of the size of a top turret on a Liberator, you can imagine how comfortable I was. I had to sit up, and all night I would bump into switches which would snap on and wake me up. One night of that was enough for me.

We'd left England in such a hurry that we didn't have mess kits. All the time we were in French North Africa we ate our canned hash and hardtack out of sardine cans.

And the mud--I've never seen such gooey mud. Our group flew about three or four missions from that base and then the planes couldn't even get off the ground. They'd start to take off and sink into the mud all the way up to the belly, and then we'd have to unload the bombs, dig the ship out, reload and try again. It was a mess. After about 18 days we gave up and moved out of there.

From French North Africa we went to the Libyan desert, near Tobruk, not long after the Germans had surrendered it. Tobruk was the most desolate place I have ever seen; it was full of abandoned tanks and guns and broken buildings. Only a church had escaped complete destruction, and no living person dwelt in that city.

But as far as we were concerned, we were glad to get out of our mud-hole in North Africa, but not for long. We were in Libya three months. In all that time, we were able to take a bath only once, and that was when we were given leave to fly to an Egyptian city for that specific purpose. That was the only time we shaved, too; we must have looked like a convention of Rip Van Winkles before we left.

There were no laundry facilities; we were allowed only a pint of water a day for everything. This water we drew from a well, which we had to abandon after a while when we found some dead Germans in it.

We were at least 300 miles from any town, excepting the dead city of Tobruk. We had no entertainment of any kind out there on the desert; when we weren't on raids we just lay around in our tents, or took walks in the desert.

The most dismal Christmas eve of my life I spent on the Libyan desert. It was cold, and we didn't even have tents to sleep under. We slept in our clothes and didn't even take off our shoes. Our morale was certainly low that night, as we thought of the fun we could be having in the States, and of our families and friends back there. But it's things like that, as well as actually fighting together, that bring men close to one another, as close as brothers.

Our group was going on raids about every other day while we were in the desert, and they were all pretty rough. We bombed Rommel's shipping lines over and over at Bizerte, Tunis, Sfax, Sousse and Tripoli in Africa. Then we started in on Sicily and Italy.

We had some boys of Italian parentage flying with us, and whenever we took off to bomb Naples or Rome I'd kid them about bombing their honorable ancestors. "We're really going to make the spaghetti fly today," I'd say, and they'd retort that they couldn't wait to knock the rice out of my dishonorable ancestors.

Naples was always a rough target. It was the "flak city" of the Italian theater. The flak burst so thick and black you couldn't even see the planes a hundred yards behind you. Yet our raids over there were called spectacular examples of precision bombing.

We participated in the first American raid on Rome last July. It was the biggest surprise I'd had so far; we thought we were going to run into heavy opposition, and we were almost disappointed when we found hardly any.

We bombed Sicily and Southern Italy at altitudes of about 25,000 feet, and it really gets cold at that height. One time over Palermo it was 42 below zero. I froze two oxygen masks; after that I had to suck on the hose to get any oxygen.

Even at that height we could see our bombs breaking exactly on their targets, and as much as an hour after we had left the targets we could see the smoke rising from the fires we had caused.

It gave you a funny feeling; you couldn't help but think of the people being hurt down there. I wasn't particularly religious before the war, but I always said a prayer, and I know for sure that my pal Kettering, the radio operator, did too, for the innocent people we were destroying on raids like that.

But we were in no position to be sentimental about it. The people knew they were in danger, and they could have gotten out. Besides, we weren't fighting against individual people, but against ideas. It was Hitlerism or democracy, and we couldn't afford to let it be Hitlerism. And so, unfortunately, it was German and Italian lives or ours. That was the only way you could look at it.

It was a happy day when after three months of Libya, we received orders to return to England. We took off from Tobruk at midnight. There was no formation; the planes left at two-minute intervals, and each was on its own.

The next morning, instead of seeing daylight, we looked out over a blanket of clouds without any opening. We had had to go up to about 10,000 feet to get over the clouds, and now we couldn't go under them, for fear of crashing into mountains.

We were lost. The navigator could do nothing, and the radio operator, though he was working like mad, couldn't get his messages through because of the weather. Finally he got a message, but by that time we didn't have enough gas to get to the air field that had answered us. We'd already been up 11 hours and 20 minutes with a 10-hours' supply of gas. We expected to go down any minute.

The pilot called back that anyone who wanted to bail out could do so. Nobody did; I know I had so much faith in Major Epting's flying ability that I wouldn't leave until he did. All of a sudden, and it seemed like a miracle

to us who were tensely waiting for the crash, there was a tiny rift in the clouds. Epting didn't wait one second; he just dove right into it, and made a perfect landing in a valley that wasn't big enough to land a cub in safely.

We had just gotten out of the plane when a swarm of Arabs surrounded us. There must have been a hundred of them, and they were armed with rifles, spears, and some with clubs. When we saw them coming we debated whether we should shoot at them or try to talk to them. We decided to talk to them, but we couldn't understand them and they couldn't understand us.

They didn't hurt us, but they certainly weren't friendly. They took everything away from us--guns, wallets and everything we had in our pockets--and they wouldn't let us near the plane.

We had no idea where we were, but in a few minutes a Spanish officer came up and arrested us, and we found out that we had landed in Spanish Morocco. The officer marched all of us, our crew and the Arabs, into a native village about two miles away. The procession we made caused more excitement, I guess, than that village had had in its entire history.

The natives all thought I was Chinese, but Kettering, our radio operator, explained to the Spanish soldiers that I was Japanese American. That created quite a stir when it got around. Most of the people, both Spanish and Arabs, flatly refused to believe it, and later it took the American embassy to prove it to them.

In a few days we were flown to Spain in a German plane and interned in a mountain village. We thought we'd be there for the duration, but within two months, through methods I can't reveal, we were in England.

From England we bombed targets in Germany and began preparations for the raid on the Romanian oil fields at Ploesti, preparations that were to last three months and take us back to the Libyan desert. In England our group practiced low-level bombing. We practice-bombed our own airfields, each plane having its own specific target. That way our bombardiers got accustomed to finding targets at low altitude.

After nearly a month in England we returned to Africa. This time our base was set up near the city of Bengasi in Libya. Here we had a complete dummy target of what we later learned were the Ploesti refineries.

Up to this time I had been a tail gunner, but now I was assigned to the top turret, the position I held throughout the rest of my missions. To celebrate the event, Kettering painted in big red letters across the glass dome of the turret these words: "Top Turret Gunner Most Honorable Son Sgt. Ben Kuroki." "Most Honorable Son" was what they usually called me--that or "Hara-kiri." They were a great bunch over there.

Every day that we weren't on missions, 175 Liberators loaded with practice bombs would take off in groups at regular intervals and bomb duplicates of the real target. On these practice raids, each group rather than each plane had its specific target, so that it was really a dress rehearsal of the actual raid. Some of the planes flew so low that they came back with their bomb-bay doors torn off. And we sure scared the daylights out of the natives; we had to dodge groups of Arabs and their camels all over that desert.

Despite the heat we had to do double work, because we had only a skeleton ground crew--our real base was still in England. We'd go up into 10 to 20-below-zero temperatures and then come back into 110-above heat. It was no wonder that a lot of the boys came down with colds.

We had fewer sandstorms and they didn't last as long as when we had been stationed near Tobruk. What really worried us were the poisonous sand-viper snakes and scorpions. The scorpions especially--big two-inch long devils with curving tails were thick as flies. We'd find them in our blankets and everywhere else. If you got stung by one of them, you really knew it; you'd be sick as a dog for at least a day.

The month preceding the Ploesti raid we were taking part in the invasion of Sicily, bombing Messina, Palermo and various airfields. It's unusual for heavy bombers to bomb airfields, but we were assigned that job so that it would be impossible for enemy fighter planes to take off from those fields and strafe our ground troops as they landed.

During all our practice for Ploesti we were intensely curious as to what our target was going to be. Rumors of all kinds were floating around, but no one thought it would be Ploesti because no one could imagine how we could carry enough gas to get there and back.

Our base was guarded by British anti-aircraft gunners, and we used to ask them what they thought about our flying so low. They said it was an advantage from the point of view of escaping the heavy anti-aircraft fire, but that we would be dead ducks for anything smaller than 40 millimeter cannon. Right then we began to think of the approaching raid as a "suicide" mission.

The last week in July every crew member in every group was restricted to the base until after the mission, but it was not until the day before we left that we were told the target was the Roumanian oil fields. That was news all right. You hardly ever hear of an oil field being bombed--the only other one I know of was in Burma. We were really surprised. There had been a couple of rumors that our target was to be Ploesti, but nobody had put any stock in them--it seemed too improbable.

We were briefed all that day and into the night. The American engineer who had constructed the Ploesti refineries talked to us; he knew the exact location of every refinery and every cracking and distilling plant. The information he gave us proved invaluable the next day. They showed us motion pictures which gave details of the individual targets of each group.

In the afternoon Major General Brereton, commanding general of the Ninth Air Force, came around in a staff car and talked to us for almost an hour. He said we were going on the most important and one of the most dangerous missions in the history of heavy bombardment, that it had been planned in Washington months before. He told us that Ploesti supplied one-third of all Germany's oil and nearly all of Italy's, that it was timed, furthermore, to cut Hitler's fuel supply as his divisions rushed to defend it against the coming Allied invasion.

When he finished, our group commander--not General Timberlake, who had just been promoted from colonel and was now a wing commander, but the new group commander--briefed us again, and went into minute details of the takeoff

the next morning. He tried to encourage us as much as possible.

"I'll get my damn ship over the target if it falls apart," he said.

He got his ship over the target all right--we were close behind him. And we saw it when it fell apart, flaming to the earth.

That afternoon before the raid he emphasized that nobody had to go who didn't want to; it was really a volunteer mission. No one declined, but we were all very tense. Someone had mentioned that even if all planes were lost it would be worth the price, and that started more talk about its being a suicide mission.

We didn't sleep very much that night, and there was none of the joking that usually went on among our crew. We tried hard to sleep, because we knew it would be a long trip and we had to be at our best, but you can imagine how easy it was.

The first sergeant blew the whistle at four in the morning. While we ate breakfast the ground crews, who had been working on the planes for the last two days, gave them a final checking over. Those planes were beautiful, parked wing to wing in a long line on the runway.

We took off at the crack of dawn. It was a perfect summer day, warm and balmy. The lead plane of the group started out, and the others followed at precise intervals until finally the whole group was in the sky in perfect formation. Our group joined other groups from nearby fields at pre-arranged places. It was all split-second timing.

We were keyed up. We knew it was going to be the biggest thing we had ever done, and we were determined it would be the best. It was the same with the ground crews; they had always taken great pride in the ships, but this time they had gone overboard to get them in perfect condition. They shared our excitement and anxiety, too.

From Bengasi we flew straight over the Mediterranean. It was very calm and blue that day. We were going along at about 5,000 feet when suddenly we saw one of the planes ahead take a straight nose-dive. It went down like a bullet, crashed in the water and exploded. For half an hour we could see the smoke from it. It gave us a haunting feeling, as of approaching disaster--we could see that not a man on that plane had a chance to escape.

A couple of hours after we left Bengasi, we were crossing the mountains of Italy, going up sometimes as high as 10,000 feet to get over them. Then the Adriatic and into Yugoslavia, through Bulgaria and across the Danube into Roumania.

Over the Danube valley, in Roumania, we went down to about 300 feet, so low that we could easily see people in the streets of Roumanian towns waving at us as we went over. They must have thought we were friendly bombers because we were flying so low. Or maybe they recognized the white star on our wings and were glad that we were coming.

About 10 miles from the target, we dropped to 50 feet, following the contours of the land, up over hills and down into valleys. Our pilot would

head straight for those hills, and every time I thought sure we'd crash right into them, but he would pull us up just in time, and just enough to get over the ridge, and then down into the next valley. Coming back we were flying part of the way at five and 10 feet off the ground, and some of the planes returned to base with tree tops and even cornstalks in their bomb-bays.

We had a very good pilot. He was our squadron leader, Lt. Col. K. O. Dessert, and his copilot was our regular pilot, Major Epting.

This was the 24th mission I had flown with Major Epting and the same crew, except for Dawley, the tail gunner who was hurt during our first raid. Our ship was named in Major Epting's honor; his home town is Tupelo, Mississippi, and so we called the plane "Tupelo Lass."

The major, who is 23 years old, is one of the best pilots I've ever seen. He pulled us out of a lot of tough spots when we thought we were gone.

And between Major Epting and Col. Dessert they got us through Floesti without a scratch, but it was a miracle that they did.

We came into the oil fields at about 50 feet and went up to about 75 to bomb. The plane I was on was leading the last squadron of the second group over. Five miles from the target, heavy anti-aircraft started pounding us. When we saw the red flash of those guns we thought we'd never make it. We really started praying then. We figured that if they started shooting at us with the big guns at that distance, they would surely get us with smaller and more maneuverable batteries. We remembered the British anti-aircraft men who had said we'd be dead ducks for anything under a 40 millimeter cannon. At our height you could have brought a Liberator down with a shotgun.

Floesti was wrapped in a smoke screen which made it very difficult to find the targets. When we got over, the refineries were already blazing from the bombs and guns of the planes ahead of us.

Red tracers from the small ground guns had been zig-zagging all around us for half a mile or more, and the guns themselves were sending up terrific barrages. Just as we hit the target, gas tanks started exploding. One 10,000 gallon tank blew up right in front of us, shooting pillars of flaming gas 500 feet in the air. It was like a nightmare. We couldn't believe our eyes when we saw that blazing tank high above us. The pilot had to swerve sharply to the right to avoid what was really a cloud of fire. It was so hot it felt as though we were flying through a furnace.

The worst I saw, though, was the plane to the right of us. Light flak must have hit the gas, because all of a sudden it was burning from one end to the other. It sank right down, as though no power on earth could hold it in the air for even a second. When it hit the ground it exploded.

Every man on that ship was a friend of mine, and I knew the position each was flying. I'd seen planes go down before, but always from a high altitude, and then you don't see the crash. This way it seemed I could reach out and touch those men.

The most pitiful thing was that ship's co-pilot. He was an 18-year-old kid who'd lied about his age to get into aviation cadet training. We always

called him Junior. When our regular co-pilot, who was firing the right waist gun that day, saw Junior's ship go down, he let loose with his gun like a crazy man. Junior was his best friend.

Then we saw flak hit our group commander's plane. In a second it was burning from the bomb-bayssbacks. He pulled it up as high as he could get it; it was fantastic to see that blazing Liberator climbing straight up. As soon as he started climbing, one man jumped out, and when he could get it no higher, two more came out. Every one of us knew he had pulled it up in order to give those men a chance. Then, knowing he was done for, he deliberately dove it into the highest building in Ploesti. The instant he hit, his ship exploded.

We left Ploesti a ruin. Huge clouds of smoke and fire billowed from the ground as we pulled away from the target. It was like a war movie, seeing those masses of flames rolling toward you, and white flashes of 20-millimeter cannon-fire bursting alongside of you.

We got back to camp 13 hours after we had taken off. It was the longest bombing mission ever flown, and that explains why it was necessary to do it at low altitude. If we had bombed at the usual level, we would never have had enough gas to get back.

It was also the most dangerous mission in the history of heavy bombardment, ranking as a battle in itself. It is officially regarded not as the Ploesti raid but as "the battle of Ploesti."

There was no line at the mess hall that night. Even though we were starved, we couldn't eat when we thought of the men that should have been standing in line and weren't.

And even though we were dead tired, we couldn't sleep. I know I didn't sleep for several nights after that. The ground crews kept the runway lights on all night, and many of them stayed up until morning, though they knew the planes they had worked so hard on and their friends, the men who flew them, weren't coming back.

The next morning was rough, too. We always got up at six o'clock, and there was always a lot of yelling back and forth between the tents--sometimes we'd throw rocks at each other's tents. The only yelling we heard that morning was our co-pilot calling for his friend Junior, although he had seen him go down in flames the day before.

Ploesti was my 24th mission. For most of the crew it was the 25th; in other words, it completed their tour of duty for them. I was assigned to another crew for my last mission.

For a long time I had been thinking about volunteering for an extra five missions. I wanted to do that for my kid brother; he wasn't overseas then. The day after my 25th, I asked my commanding officer if I could go on five more. He said I should go home; in fact, there were orders out already for me to do so, and a plane ticket to the States waiting for me. But he finally gave me permission, and I stayed with the crew I had flown with on what was supposed to be my last raid.

It took me three months to get those five missions in, the weather was so bad. And then when I came home it was by banana boat and not airplane. I was sure burned up about that.

It was at this time that I flew with the only full-blooded American Indian pilot in the European theater; everybody called him "Chief", but his name was Homer Moran, and he was from South Dakota. Four of those extra five missions I flew from England over Germany.

I nearly got it on the 30th mission, my last one. We were over Munster, in Germany, and a shell exploded right above the glass dome of my top turret. It smashed the dome, ripped my helmet off, smashed my goggles and interphone. The concussion threw me back against the seat, but I didn't get a scratch. I thought the ship had blown apart, the noise of that explosion was so loud. I passed out, because my oxygen mask had been torn off, but the radio operator and the engineer pulled me out of the turret and fixed me up with an emergency mask.

Things like that aren't explained just by luck. I must have had a guardian angel flying with me that time and on the other missions, too. They say there are no atheists in foxholes; I can tell you for sure there are none in heavy bombers either.

I left England the first of December. They wanted me to stay over there, with my outfit, as chief clerk in operations, but from the beginning I have felt my combat career would not be over until I had fought in the South Pacific, and so I asked to come home for a brief rest and then be assigned to a Liberator group in the South Pacific.

It was December 7, two years to the day after Pearl Harbor, when our ship reached New York. I thought I was a pretty tough sergeant, but when I saw the Statue of Liberty and the sunlight catching those tall buildings, I damn near cried. I knew I had come home, and I felt so lucky to have gotten through all those bombing missions without a scratch that I said a prayer of thankfulness as I leaned against the rail. I only wished that all my buddies could have come home too.

I spoke earlier of having two battles to fight--against the Axis and against intolerance. They are really the same battle, I think, for we will have lost the war if our military victory is not followed by a better understanding among peoples.

I certainly don't propose to defend Japan. When I visit Tokyo it will be in a Liberator bomber. But I do believe that loyal Americans of Japanese descent are entitled to the democratic rights which Jefferson propounded, Washington fought for and Lincoln died for.

In my own case, I have almost won the battle against intolerance; I have many close friends, in the Army now--my best friends, as I am theirs--where two years ago I had none. But I have by no means completely won that battle. Especially now, after the widespread publicity given the recent atrocity stories, I find prejudice once again directed against me, and neither my uniform nor the medals which are visible proof of what I have been through, have been able to stop it. I don't know for sure that it is safe for me to walk

the streets of my own country.

All this is disappointing, not so much to me personally any more, but rather with reference to my fight against intolerance. I had thought that after Ploesti and 29 other missions so rough it was just short of a miracle I got through them, I wouldn't have to fight for acceptance among my own people all over again.

In most cases, I don't, and to those few who help breed fascism in America by spreading such prejudice, I can only reply in the words of the Japanese American creed; "Although some individuals may discriminate against me, I shall never become bitter or lose faith, for I know that such persons are not representative of the majority of the American people."

The people who wrote that creed are the thousands of Japanese Americans whom certain groups want deported immediately. These Japanese Americans have spent their lives proving their loyalty to the United States, as their sons and brothers are proving it now on the bloody battlefield of Italy. It is for them, in the solemn hope that they will be treated justly rather than with hysterical passion, that I speak today.



Light

RELOCATION PROBLEMS AND POLICIES

An address delivered by Director D. S. Myer of the War Relocation Authority before the Tuesday Evening Club at Pasadena, California, March 14, 1944.

Two years ago next Saturday -- on the 18th day of March, 1942 -- the War Relocation Authority was created by an executive order of the President of the United States. This new agency was confronted with a problem of unusual complexity in a field of human relations where misconceptions, confusion, and emotions stirred by the impact of the war were destined to produce wide and vigorous discussion. Many facts essential to a competent understanding of the problem have been obscured by misrepresentation and insufficient public information. I want to review some of them for you, in order to define the background of the policies which have guided the development of the WRA program during the two years since it came into existence.

The evacuation of 112,000 men, women, and children of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast in the spring of 1942 was an undertaking without parallel in our national history. On February 19, the President issued an executive order authorizing the Secretary of War, or military commanders designated by him, to prescribe military areas from which any or all persons might be excluded, or in which their movements might be restricted. Though the order made no specific mention of any group that might be evacuated, it was immediately and correctly interpreted as a forerunner to the exclusion orders that were issued by the military a few weeks later. As a result, many people of Japanese descent began to move voluntarily away from the West Coast area. This movement was accelerated on March 2 by a proclamation of the Commanding General of the Western Defense Command, designating two military zones in the states of Oregon, Washington, California, and Arizona from which certain persons might be excluded. Altogether, about 8,000 individuals of Japanese descent left the designated areas voluntarily and tried to establish new homes on their own initiative.

I want to emphasize that neither the President, in his orders authorizing the designation of exclusion areas and creating the War Relocation Authority, nor the Commanding General of the Western Defense Command in any military proclamation, ever ordered or suggested that the people to be evacuated should be confined or restricted in their movements outside the exclusion areas on the Pacific Coast. It was soon apparent, however, that 110,000 people could not be ordered to leave the coastal area and migrate inland without some kind of assistance and supervision. In various communities eastward from the exclusion areas, the appearance of the voluntary evacuees caused unfriendly tension and misunderstanding. Many families needed assistance in finding and traveling to new locations where they could support themselves and establish new homes.

These conditions became so acute that, on March 29, the Commanding

General of the Western Defense Command issued a proclamation prohibiting further voluntary relocation. Thereafter, the evacuation was accomplished under Army orders, according to a definite schedule. The people were moved, first, into 15 temporary assembly centers where they remained under Army supervision until the relocation centers, operated by the War Relocation Authority, were ready to receive them.

These WRA centers were intended only as way-stations where the evacuees could reside while arrangements were made for them to relocate in normal communities outside the exclusion zones. About two-thirds of the evacuees were American citizens by birth, as you are probably aware.

The responsibility of the War Relocation Authority for the evacuees began with their arrival at the relocation centers. Ten centers were built to receive them. These centers, constructed by the Army, are large cantonments of barrack-type buildings, usually covered with tar paper and lined with wall-board. Each building used to house the evacuees is 100 feet long and 20 feet wide, and originally divided into four, five, or six one-room apartments, allowing about 100 square feet of floor space for each person. The standard equipment for each apartment included a heating stove and a broom, plus a cot, mattress, and two Army blankets for each individual. All other furniture and equipment had to be supplied by the evacuees themselves.

There is no plumbing in the buildings where the people reside. The wash rooms, latrines, and laundry rooms are housed separately, each unit serving about 250 people living in 12 barracks. Meals are served in mess halls, cafeteria style.

Since March, 1943, the War Relocation Authority has been registered with the Office of Price Administration as an "institutional user" of foods, and has abided by all OPA restrictions on institutional consumers. In fact, WRA was adhering voluntarily to the quotas suggested by OPA even before rationing became mandatory. Every center observes two meatless days each week.

The maximum food cost permitted in a center is 45 cents per person per day or 15 cents per meal. This food is purchased through the Army Quartermaster Corps, or grown on the farmlands that surround the centers. Evacuee farm crews grow and harvest a considerable part of the vegetables served in the mess halls, and nearly all the centers also produce poultry, eggs, and pork. A few produce beef and dairy products.

In addition to supplying the evacuees with housing and food, the War Relocation Authority provides two other services: medical care and schooling for the children through high school. The medical program is operated largely by evacuee doctors, and the school curriculum is planned to stress Americanization activities.

The first nine months after the creation of WRA, on March 18, 1942, were chiefly devoted to the difficult job of establishing the necessities of

of community life in the ten new wartime cities. Transfer of the evacuees from the assembly centers to the relocation centers continued from early May until November of 1942, and the WRA staff had its hands full getting them housed, arranging to feed them, providing sanitation and safeguarding against the outbreak of epidemics, establishing police and fire protection, and attending to numerous urgent details. Every day we faced new emergencies.

Even then, however, in the midst of the transfer operations, we started a seasonal leave program, permitting workers to depart from the centers as a means of relieving the manpower shortage in western agricultural areas. In 1942 nearly 10,000 evacuee workers were given leaves from the centers to participate in harvest operations. Last year an approximately equal number left the centers on seasonal leave.

In connection with this seasonal work, I want to read an extract from a letter, written by the President of the Chamber of Commerce in Twin Falls, Idaho, describing the service the evacuees gave to this one community. He wrote:

"The citizens of the Hunt Relocation Center have performed a most patriotic service to the farmers of southern Idaho to the war effort, since their evacuation here less than fifteen months ago. Approximately 2,500 Japanese Americans have helped to harvest our bumper crops the past two falls, and helped to cultivate them the past summer. Without their help thousands of acres and tens of thousands of tons of foodstuffs would have rotted in the field each year."

Meanwhile we began in the late summer of 1942 to gear up a program for relocating the evacuees in year-round employment and in normal communities outside the evacuated area. One problem that had to be given major consideration in our planning from the start was the necessity of taking adequate precautions to safeguard the national security. Despite the rumors you may have heard and the changes that have been made, we have recognized all along that some of the evacuees have stronger ties with Japan than with the United States.

But in the beginning we had no records by which we could identify those strongly pro-Japanese individuals. We knew that immediately after the declaration of war against Japan, on December 7, 1941, and before the War Relocation Authority came into existence, the Federal Bureau of Investigation had acted to apprehend all aliens believed to be potentially dangerous to the national security. We knew that these individuals had been sent to internment camps and were not part of the population received at relocation centers. Nevertheless, we started almost immediately building up records on the relocation center population.

The most important step in this process was taken in February, 1943. In collaboration with the Army, the War Relocation Authority conducted a mass registration of all persons in the centers above 17 years of age. Both men and women, citizens and aliens, were required to fill out questionnaires

calling for information on such matters as education, previous employment, relatives in Japan, knowledge of the Japanese language, investments in Japan, organizational and religious affiliations, and other pertinent matters. In addition, the citizen evacuees were asked to pledge allegiance to the United States, and the aliens were asked to promise that they would abide by the Nation's laws and not interfere with the war effort. The information obtained from these questionnaires has been extremely useful in identifying strongly pro-Japanese or potentially dangerous individuals who are denied the privilege of leave under our regulations. In addition, we have gathered extensive information from other sources pertaining to the backgrounds and attitudes of the individual evacuees. In many cases information has been sought from former employers, former neighbors, municipal officials, and others in the communities where the evacuees lived before the evacuation. We have consulted the files of federal intelligence agencies, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, for any information available there on the people in the centers whose eligibility for leave was receiving our attention. We have made full use of our own records at the centers, including internal security and employment records, to obtain information regarding the conduct of individual evacuees since they came under the supervision of the War Relocation Authority. Many of our dockets of information on individual evacuees run to ten and twenty pages and all this information is considered in determining the eligibility of evacuees for indefinite leave. Within the past several months we have taken steps to segregate those who are ineligible for leave from the bulk of the evacuee population, and we have quartered such individuals at the Tule Lake Center.

I want to say just a few words, here, about the population at Tule Lake. Most of the adult people detained there have indicated either by word or action that they prefer to consider themselves Japanese rather than American. There are, among them, a considerable number of agitators and trouble-makers who have revealed definite inclinations to hinder the American war effort and to interfere with the orderly administration of the center. On the other hand, another and much larger element is composed of elderly aliens who have simply given up the struggle to adjust themselves to circumstances brought on by the war, and who want nothing more than to live out the rest of their days in the land of their birth. Still another group, larger than either of the previous two, is composed of children and young people whose records contain no evidence of disloyalty but who are living at Tule Lake simply because of family ties.

Several months ago, as I'm sure you'll recall, a group of troublemakers at the center precipitated disorders which culminated in the calling in of the Army, by the Project Director, to administer the center until order could be restored. The trouble was the outgrowth of a strike, incited by agitators, which brought about a complete stoppage of work in harvesting vegetables grown on the farmlands connected with the center.

The impression has been widely created in this State and in other sections of the country that the summoning of troops into the Tule Lake Center indicated a complete and permanent breakdown of the WRA administration. I want to emphasize that we have always had a division of labor with the Army

at WRA centers. Under the terms of our agreement with the War Department, we are responsible for all phases of internal administration at the centers, while the Army provides external guarding and checks the passes of people moving in and out. However, the agreement also provides that wherever violence is imminent and a show of force is needed, we can call in the troops stationed immediately outside the center for the purpose of restoring order.

Now that the segregation process is virtually completed, we are redoubling our efforts to restore the people living at the other nine centers to private life at the earliest opportunity. Those who oppose this program and advocate keeping all evacuees confined for the duration of the war are overlooking some rather fundamental provisions of the American constitution.

Virtually all legal authorities who have studied the matter, including the Attorney General of the United States, have expressed grave doubt that the Federal Constitution could be interpreted to permit a mass detention program in which American citizens were involved. The Supreme Court has never ruled on the issue, but a significant statement was made by Mr. Justice Murphy in connection with the Hirabayashi case wherein the Court upheld the validity of the curfew orders applied by the West Coast military authorities prior to the evacuation. In his concurring opinion, Mr. Justice Murphy said, "This (meaning the curfew) goes to the very brink of constitutional power."

Last July, the District Court of Northern California gave a decision which related more closely to the issue. Miss Mitsuye Endo, a resident of the Tule Lake Center (before it became a segregation center) had applied for a writ of habeas corpus to gain her release. This application was denied by the court solely on the grounds that WRA has a relocation program under which she could have applied for leave without calling on the court.

We now have in nine centers, excluding Tule Lake, about 70,000 men, women, and children who are eligible for relocation in normal communities, and approximately 19,000 others have already been relocated in communities scattered across the country from the Sierra Nevada Mountains to the Atlantic Coast. I have outlined the investigation that we make of each adult evacuee before granting leave clearance, and now I want to mention briefly another important procedure in our program. In connection with relocation, we have made it a practice all along to check community sentiment in areas where the evacuees are relocating. There has never been any serious question about relocating them in the larger cities, such as Chicago, New York, and Cleveland. But in smaller cities and towns we seek reasonable assurance from responsible public officials or citizens that the evacuees will be accepted. Before granting indefinite leave permits, we also make sure that evacuees have some means of support, and we require that they keep us informed of any change of address.

Our biggest problem today is to find ways and means of relocating thousands of families which include children and young people whose alien parents desire to remain in America. There are nearly 22,000 children under

19 years of age among the 74,000 people now living in the centers, not including Tule Lake. Those 22,000 children were born in this country. Those who are old enough to go to school have gone to American schools, and they are still going to American schools, where they have been taught the principles of liberty, justice, and equality for which our country stands.

The War Relocation Authority is firmly committed to the principle that American children should not be penalized for accidents of ancestry. The people of America, loyal to the traditions that have made our country great, will never agree that the solution of the problem is to deport these children to a strange land that many of them have never known. They will never agree that the solution is to keep them confined behind barbed wire fences.

Our job is to get them away from the relocation centers, into normal communities where they can develop into normal men and women. This relocation process cannot be accomplished, however, until we have opened the door for their parents to regain the means of self-support that they lost when they were evacuated. There are many fathers and mothers among them who speak the English language with difficulty, and who are fearful of what the future holds for them outside the centers. The problem of relocating them is not a simple one.

There are many other children, of course, who have grown beyond school age, and thousands of the young men are now fighting, or training to fight for the same principles and ideals that other American boys are fighting to defend on battlefields around the world. Many of these American soldiers of Japanese ancestry have parents who are still living in relocation centers. Let me read you a portion of a letter written by an alien father to his son in the service.

He wrote: "Think not too cheaply of your life; live it as you can in the service of your country -- for what good is a lifeless soldier? Be ever careful, cautious, but never begrudge your life for your country -- be ever willing to die for her if need be. Then, and then only you have given your all, done your best, can I say that my son lived well."

Several thousand young American volunteers of Japanese descent, recruited from the American mainland and Hawaii, are now undergoing vigorous training to prepare them for battle against our Axis enemies. The officers who command them have repeatedly praised them for earnest and intelligent devotion to duty. In Italy, in the battle for Cassino and elsewhere, the fighting men of the 100th Infantry Battalion, composed of Americans of Japanese descent, have won the praise of their commanders for their valor in battle. Casualty lists, reported by the War Department, reveal that the battalion has suffered losses, in dead, wounded, and missing in action, exceeding 40 per cent of the entire personnel. The Secretary of War has commended the unit for achieving "a creditable record of fighting efficiency."

Recently I read an editorial in a western newspaper which attacked the loyalty of all Americans of Japanese ancestry, while admitting that the nisei

soldiers were making "a superficial showing of loyalty." It might be an enlightening experience for the writer of that editorial to visit some of the hospitals in the East and Middle-West where American boys of Japanese descent are recuperating from wounds received in Italy while fighting for the country that gives him the freedom to express his views. He might try to explain just what he meant by "superficial loyalty" to Yosh Omiya who lost his eyes when the American Fifth Army was fighting its way across the Volturno River. Yosh would not be able to read the editorial. Yosh will never see again.

I want to quote from a letter written by an American Army officer who was sent home among the wounded after seeing action with our Japanese American soldiers in Italy. You may have read it in the February 14 issue of Time magazine. This officer wrote in part:

"There are a lot of people in these United States who have nothing but a one-track mind. In some of the articles of your Letters to the Editors (Time, Jan. 17) I saw some of these people in a true light.

"I just came from Italy where I was assigned to the Japanese 100th Infantry Battalion. I never in my life saw any more of a true American than they are...

"Ask anyone who has seen them in action against the Jerry (to) tell you about them. They'll tell you when they have them on their flanks they are sure of security in that section..."

There have been many other letters in the same vein from American officers and men who have fought side by side with our American soldiers of Japanese ancestry.

Many citations for service beyond the call of duty have been awarded to the nisei fighters. For example, Staff Sergeant Kasuo Kozaki, a noncommissioned officer of Japanese descent, has won the Silver Star for gallantry in action. On December 28, the War Department announced awards of the Purple Heart to 58 members of the 100th Infantry Battalion. There will be many more citations and awards worn by these boys when they come home again.

I know that many of you are familiar with the record of Sergeant Ben Kuroki who has twice been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, in addition to the Air Medal with four oak-leaf clusters, for his fighting exploits in the air over Nazi territory. In speaking before the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco, on February 4, Sergeant Kuroki had this to say: "In my own case, I have almost won the battle against intolerance; I have many close friends, in the Army now -- my best friends, as I am theirs -- where two years ago I had none. But I have by no means completely won that battle. Especially now, after the widespread publicity given the recent atrocity stories, I find prejudice once again directed against me, and neither my uniform nor the medals which are visible proof of what I have been through, have been able to stop it. I don't know for sure that it is safe for me to walk the streets of my own country."

It makes me sad to think that conditions could be found in America to prompt such a statement from a man who has participated in thirty bombing missions over Germany. I wonder what attitude the professional critics of all Japanese Americans will take toward Mr. and Mrs. Shirmizu of the Colorado River Relocation Center whose son, Sergeant James Shirmizu, died from wounds received in Italy a few weeks ago. Sergeant Shirmizu also left a young wife and a two-year-old son who are living in the center. I cannot believe that many real Americans would advocate deporting this family after the close of the war. Most of these boys I have been mentioning are volunteers. For nearly two years after Pearl Harbor, Americans of Japanese descent were not inducted through Selective Service until January 21, of this year, when the War Department announced that plans had been completed to receive them through the general Selective Service System. In explaining the order, the War Department said that "the excellent showing" made by the Japanese American combat team now in training, and "the outstanding record" achieved by the 100th Infantry Battalion in Italy were major factors for taking greater numbers of nisei into the armed forces.

Our records show that, up to the fourth of March, 107 boys have been accepted for Army service from the relocation centers. These inductees are credited, for the most part, to the Selective Service boards in the West Coast communities where they were living before the evacuation.

Despite the record of patriotic devotion achieved by nisei soldiers in the American Army, there are still a great many people in this section of the country and elsewhere who persist in believing that all persons of Japanese ancestry are basically disloyal to the United States. Because of the emotions aroused by the Pearl Harbor attack and the Pacific war, it has become extremely easy--and, unfortunately, quite popular in some areas--to attack all Japanese-Americans indiscriminately. The nisei boys and girls, along with their alien parents and their third-generation children, have become fair game for special interest groups who would like to deprive them permanently of their rightful place in our national life. The extremists participating in this campaign go so far as to advocate wholesale deportation; the more "moderate" element will apparently be satisfied if all people of Japanese descent are kept out of the Pacific coastal area.

We in the War Relocation Authority are fully aware that the forces advocating deportation or permanent exclusion of this minority group are energetic and resourceful. We know that many of the participants are tightly organized and that they have ample funds at their disposal. They have already made it quite clear that they will seize every opportunity to stir up popular fears and resentments against the entire group of Japanese descent in this country.

Much of the campaign is centered around attacks on the War Relocation Authority. The Hearst press, for example, has used almost every conceivable device to create the impression that WRA is incompetent, lax in its administration, and excessively sympathetic toward the evacuees. Naturally we cannot agree with these charges. In the last analysis, I sincerely doubt

whether the Hearst press and the other opposition forces are much concerned about our comparatively small organization. The real target, in my judgment, is the evacuees. Attacks aimed at WRA are merely an indirect method of fomenting antagonisms against the people in relocation centers.

One of the most popular lines of attack is the charge that people in relocation centers are being provided with luxurious foods and that they are eating at government expense far better than the average American family. In these days, when all of us are tightening our belts just a little and going without some of our favorite peacetime dishes, such an allegation obviously has tremendous emotional possibilities. It hits the average citizen in a highly vulnerable spot and has stimulated many people who are normally quite mild-mannered into almost incoherent hatred and anger. The only trouble with this charge is that it is completely without foundation. Gradually, as a result of eye-witness news stories coming out of relocation centers, more and more people are coming to realize this fact, and the charge is losing much of its former potency. But I feel sure we in WRA have not heard the last of it yet, much as we should like to.

Another line of approach is to disseminate the idea that WRA's leave procedures are lax and inadequate, and that we are deliberately or heedlessly turning potential spies and saboteurs loose upon the Nation. This is one of the most deadly of all the opposition charges since it appeals to one of the most elemental of human emotions--the emotion of fear. But like the food charge, it is utterly untrue. Actually, as I indicated earlier, we have gone to great lengths in our efforts to safeguard the national security and we have taken every feasible precaution in granting leave permits under the relocation program.

Still another charge is perhaps the most popular of all. This is the allegation that WRA is pampering and coddling the people at relocation centers. Now, those are extremely vague terms, and I don't suppose we ever will be completely successful in nailing down this charge. As long as disgruntled former employees of WRA who were discharged for incompetence continue to pour out their resentments publicly, the accusation of "social-mindedness" will probably go on appearing with monotonous regularity in the public prints. It is interesting to note, however, that a member of the Japanese Diet was recently quoted in a propaganda broadcast as complaining that American internees in the Far East are being treated "too generously."

There is still another assertion of the race baiters that needs some attention--the assertion that Japanese-Americans returning to the West Coast, when the military necessity for exclusion has ended, will be mobbed and forced to leave. The District Attorney of Los Angeles County, for example, is reported to have said that he has received letters from three organizations informing him that the members have "pledged to kill any Japanese who comes to California now or after the war." If we have come to the point where threats of murder against some of our own citizens are made as a means of discouraging their freedom of movement, then I think it is time we re-examine our national conscience.

Fundamentally, the campaign against Americans of Japanese ancestry is a campaign of hate. The forces leading this drive have deliberately set out to foster mass hatred, and in many parts of this State they have already reaped a bumper crop. One of their favorite devices is to identify the people in relocation centers as closely as possible with our real enemies across the Pacific. Basically, this strategy is a denial of the potency of American institutions. It assumes that merely because an individual is of Japanese extraction, he is somehow immune to the effect of our public school system and of all the other Americanizing influences that operate in a normal American community. Let me say emphatically that I have more faith than that in the strength of our American institutions. And I feel positive that they have been far more influential in molding the minds of the nisei than the transplanted institutions of Japan.

Now I want to read a quotation that may possibly have a familiar ring to a California audience:

"This organization places itself squarely on record as being absolutely opposed to the release of any Japanese, either alien or American born. We urge our Senators and Congressmen to use their influence with the national administration and the War Relocation Authority to discontinue this dangerous practice immediately, and forthwith to recall any and all Japanese who have heretofore been released for any purpose from the relocation centers... We strongly urge that all Japanese, both alien and American born, be kept in relocation centers in the interior of the United States, under the supervision and control of the Army, instead of civilian authorities, for the duration of the war."

This resolution, with not a word changed, has been endorsed by one West Coast organization after another. Not only does it ignore the constitutional questions involved in the measures advocated by it; if it were adopted into national policy, it would mean the return to civilian life and imprisonment of thousands of Japanese American boys who are fighting for democracy. It would mean the detention of many American citizens who are engaged on government assignments to gather information regarding our enemy across the Pacific. It would mean the loss of thousands of workers who are helping to produce food and materials for our fighting men.

Resolutions of a closely similar nature have been passed by many other organizations; Chambers of Commerce, posts of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, local unions of the American Federation of Labor. Almost without exception, they wholly disregard the legality of their proposals and the purposes for which the War Relocation Authority was created.

The stimulators of racial fanaticism in this section of the country have sometimes hampered the program of the War Relocation Authority, but we have always proceeded firm in the belief that the great majority of the

American people still cherish, undiminished, the principles of Justice and freedom that inspired the founding of our Nation. Our concern reaches far beyond protecting the rights of the people of Japanese ancestry. The rights of other minorities are equally at stake in what we do with these people. We cannot allow one minority to be sacrificed on the altar of wartime emotionalism without jeopardizing the rights of other minorities. The danger lies in setting a precedent that might later be extended to the denial of rights for other racial groups, religious minorities, and even political minorities. Our failure to meet the responsibility that has been placed upon us would go far toward destroying the constitutional safeguards that guarantee equal protection to all of us who live on American soil.

We are also deeply concerned about the welfare of thousands of Americans who are now prisoners of war in Japan. The quick attempt of the Japanese propagandists to offset the revelation of atrocities in the Philippines by charging us with mistreatment of Japanese aliens in America should be evidence enough that they are watching us. We dare not provide them with incidents which would assist them in justifying their brutality before the civilized world.

The most immediate concern for all of us is, of course, to win the war. We need to direct every ounce of our energy into fighting and conquering the evil forces in Japan and Germany that forced the war upon us. I do not hesitate to say that any newspaper, any organization, any individual that undertakes to deflect our attention away from the real enemies that threaten the future of our nation, by fomenting false issues and creating dissension among us, is un-American in spirit and in deed. These elements striving to identify American citizens with the Japanese enemy simply on the basis of a common racial origin are fomenting a false issue; they are creating dissension as regrettable as it is unnecessary.

When people in foreign lands read or hear about the utterances of some of our citizens and the resolutions passed by some of our prominent organizations on the Japanese minority question, one can scarcely blame them for wondering if we really mean what we say about the strength and integrity of our democracy. Make no mistake about it. Our conduct in such matters as treatment of the Japanese American minority is being watched in all parts of the globe. And we are seriously weakening our position on the battle front when we give voice to ill-advised utterances that make a mockery of our proudest traditions.

The War Relocation Authority in the execution of its responsibilities is working to preserve the principles of justice and equality guaranteed in the Constitution of our country. We are working to uphold the principles of human decency that distinguish civilization from barbarism. There are some people among us, more especially here in California and other parts of the West, whose main criticism of the War Relocation Authority is that we are striving to provide humane treatment for the people in our relocation centers, while Americans imprisoned by Japan are tortured, starved and reviled. They

accuse us of pampering and coddling because we have not allowed the brutality of the Japanese enemy to influence our policies and program. I say to them: No, we have not taken Japan as a model--thank God!

We are working to the best of our ability to avoid conditions and incidents that might encourage the Japanese enemy to inflict more suffering on Americans imprisoned by them. We are looking to the future with an earnest hope that our efforts may greatly minimize the postwar problem of readjusting our Japanese American population into normal living. There is no need for the problem to be difficult if it is handled with intelligence and courage.

I have no apologies to make for the program of the War Relocation Authority. I believe it is a sound program and that we are conducting our operations in accord with the best principles of our American heritage. Despite the opposition, we have every intention of continuing on that basis.



Sgt

THE FACTS ABOUT THE WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

An address by D. S. Myer, Director of the War Relocation Authority, before a luncheon meeting of the Los Angeles Town Hall, Los Angeles, California, January 21, 1944.

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It is often said in this section of the country that we people from the Middle West and the East do not really understand the Japanese-American problem. After living with a big part of that problem day in and day out for about a year and a half, I am perfectly willing to admit that it is tough and complicated. But I still feel that it can be solved. And I believe that under the War Relocation Authority program we have already made encouraging progress toward an ultimate solution.

Looking back over the past year and a half, I find that our operations to date have included four major accomplishments. One was the establishment and development of relocation centers where the people of Japanese descent could be quartered following the evacuation. Second was a large-scale screening process which we carried out at these centers in order to identify those people whose records indicated that they might endanger the national security. Third was the segregation program under which we concentrated the potentially dangerous individuals and those who prefer to be Japanese rather than American in one center at Tule Lake. Fourth has been the relocation in normal American communities of about 17,000 of the many thousands of evacuees who proved eligible to relocate under our regulations.

This last accomplishment is the one in which I take the greatest satisfaction and the one which is likely to prove most important from the long-range point of view. Under our relocation program, the people of Japanese descent who formerly lived in a comparatively narrow area along the West Coast are now being gradually dispersed across the remainder of the country. They are taking jobs on farms and in shops all the way from Salt Lake City to Boston, Massachusetts. They are playing a valuable role in our war production effort and many are already sinking roots in their new locations. As this process goes forward, I feel confident we are moving toward the liquidation of a most difficult minority problem.

Relocation is and always has been our major objective in WRA. It is set forth as our primary function in the Executive Order under which we operate and is reflected in the name of the agency. But it has not been our only concern by any means. Despite reports you may have heard to the contrary, we have also been deeply concerned about the national security. We have recognized all along that there is in the evacuee population a considerable minority of people who have stronger ties with Japan than with this country and who might conceivably interfere with the war effort. And in conducting our relocation program we have taken every precaution to prevent such people from doing any harm.

When we first received the evacuees at relocation centers during the summer and early fall of 1942, we had no records by which we could identify the potentially dangerous or strongly pro-Japanese individuals in the popu-

lation. We knew that in the months immediately following Pearl Harbor several hundred alien Japanese of this type had been picked up on the West Coast by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and sent to internment camps. But during the period while the evacuated people were in Army assembly centers, we were not able to carry this screening process any further. So we were faced with the problem of developing records and carrying out a screening program at the relocation centers.

The most important step in this process was a large-scale registration program which we carried out in collaboration with the Army at the relocation centers about a year ago. All adult residents of the centers were required to fill out questionnaires which provided information on topics such as education, previous employment, relatives in Japan, knowledge of the Japanese language, investments in Japan, organizational and religious affiliations, and even sports and hobbies. In addition, the citizen evacuees were asked whether they would pledge allegiance to the United States, while alien residents of the centers were called upon to promise that they would abide by the nation's laws and not interfere with the war effort.

All of this information has proved extremely useful in identifying those with pro-Japanese sympathies and those who might constitute a menace to the national safety. In addition, we have made effective use, in hundreds of cases, of information on the evacuees which we obtained from the evacuated area--from former employers, neighbors, municipal officials and others. We have consulted the files of federal intelligence agencies and have used any material that was available in those files on adult residents of the centers. We have built up our own records on the evacuees through our local police or internal security system and from other sources at the centers.

In this way we have accumulated over a period of many months a large amount of detailed information on the background and attitudes of practically all evacuees beyond the age of 17 at the relocation centers. Through the use of techniques similar to those which have been employed by the intelligence agencies over a period of years, we have been singling out those members of the evacuee population whose basic loyalties lie with Japan. We have made this comprehensive kind of check directly in connection with our relocation program. We have been granting leave permits only after consulting all available data on the individuals concerned. And we have consistently denied the privilege of leave to those whose records indicated that they were strongly pro-Japanese or might endanger the security of the Nation.

Within the past several months we have been carrying out a segregation program to separate the evacuees who are ineligible for leave in a center by themselves. We have segregated three major groups of people: (1) those who have applied for repatriation or expatriation to Japan, (2) citizen evacuees who failed to pledge allegiance to the United States during registration, and, (3) those with intelligence records or other records indicating that they might endanger the national security. In addition, we determined that immediate family relatives of people in all three groups should be accorded the privilege of living at the segregation center in order to avoid disrupting family ties.

The segregation process is now virtually completed. We still have a few hundred people at Manzanar and some of the other centers who are await-

ing transfer to Tule Lake, and who will be moved in the immediate future. But the main movements were carried out in September and October of last year. They involved the transfer of about 9,000 people--including segregants and their families--into Tule Lake from nine other centers and the removal of about an equal number of non-segregants from Tule Lake to the other centers. Approximately 6,000 people remained at Tule Lake under the segregation process.

Since November 1, the Tule Lake center has attracted a tremendous amount of public attention--more attention, perhaps, than all other WRA activities during all the months that we have been in operation. Since Tule Lake has become such a focal point in our program--at least in the public mind--I want to spend some time telling you about the center, the type of people who live there, and the events which took place there during the first few days of November.

First, let me say a few words about the population. Tule Lake is, of course, the center for disloyal evacuees. Most of the adult people there have indicated either by word or action that they prefer to be Japanese rather than American. But it is a mistake to think of the population at Tule as composed exclusively of agitators and potential saboteurs. Many of the residents are aliens of advanced years who have simply given up the struggle to become adjusted in this country and who want only to live out the rest of their days in the land of their birth. Despite their pro-Japanese leanings, very few of them, in my opinion, are actually troublesome or dangerous. Then there is also another group at the center--perhaps the largest single element in the whole population--which is made up of children and others whose records contain no evidence of disloyalty but who are living at Tule Lake merely because of family ties. These people, along with the aliens, probably constitute a majority of the total population.

At the same time, however, it is true that we now have at Tule Lake some of the most troublesome elements that were previously scattered among ten relocation centers. There are, for example, a considerable number of young American-born evacuees who have received the major part of their education in Japan and who seem to have been thoroughly indoctrinated with Japanese militaristic ideas. This group has always been particularly maladjusted at the relocation centers and is plainly out of sympathy with the United States. In addition, there are a number of young people, born and educated in this country, who have become embittered by the experiences of the past two years and have decided to cast their lot with Japan.

Shortly after the major segregation movement was completed, it became apparent that there were at Tule Lake a considerable minority of actively disloyal evacuees who were mainly interested in hindering the American war effort by interfering with the orderly processes of administration. It was further clear, as time went on, that the evacuees of this type had banded together in a tight, well-knit organization for the purpose of gaining a dominant position in the community. The tactics employed by this group were similar to those used by big city gangsters. There were threats of violence, terrorism, and all the other familiar techniques.

On October 15 a truck accident occurred at the center in which 28 farm workers were injured and one subsequently died. The dissident group immediately seized upon this incident and precipitated a complete stoppage of work on the harvesting of vegetables. Since we had a crop worth roughly half a million dollars facing imminent destruction by frost, we decided to recruit a number of evacuee farm workers from the other centers to complete the harvest work at Tule Lake.

This was the situation that prevailed at the center on November 1 when the incident occurred. The events that took place on the afternoon of that day have given rise to so many wild rumors and exaggerated statements that we have spent considerable time and effort in checking on the accuracy of all the major allegations. We have interviewed 69 eye-witnesses who were present in various parts of the center on that afternoon. We have analyzed the statements made by these witnesses, along with other evidence, and are now in position to piece together a reasonably complete story on the events that actually occurred. Several points deserve specific comment.

In the first place, the crowd which gathered around the administration building on the afternoon of November 1 was not an angry mob. It was composed of whole family groups--men, women, and even little children--and had been summoned out by an unauthorized announcement that I was going to make a speech. It is now clear that this announcement was made by members of the dissident group for the purpose of bringing a show of pressure to bear on the administration. But there is no evidence to indicate that the crowd as a whole was aware of these plans or party to them. Essentially, the crowd was an unsuspecting tool which the organized group used in making a rather dramatic bid for power.

Another point which emerges rather clearly from the results of our investigation is that the stories about evacuees carrying knives and clubs have been, to put it mildly, greatly exaggerated. Of the 69 people we interviewed, 34 made no comment regarding weapons and 30 specifically denied seeing weapons of any kind. Of the remaining five persons interviewed, two testified that they each saw one evacuee with a knife of the whittling type; two testified that they saw evacuees with short pieces of pipe; and one testified that she "thought" she saw evacuees with butcher knives.

The stories about incendiarism have even less factual basis. We have discovered no tangible evidence of such an attempt and have received no conclusive testimony that would tend to bear out the many wild allegations. Of the 69 witnesses interviewed, only 20 commented on this question and 15 of these specifically denied seeing incendiary material. Three people testified that they had seen evacuees carrying boxes, but were not able to identify the contents. Two testified that "friends had told them" about seeing evacuees carrying straw.

Admittedly the situation was tense at Tule Lake on the afternoon of November 1, and we have never had any illusions that it was not. But I do not believe any fair-minded person, after examining the evidence we have collected, would call this particular incident a riot.

The events which took place on the evening of November 4, however, were of quite a different character. On that occasion, a group of several

hundred evacuees, armed with clubs, entered the administration area in violation of an order from the Project Director and with obvious intentions of violence. In accordance with previous arrangements, we immediately called in the troops stationed outside the center and asked the Army to take over responsibility for internal administration until the community could be restored to a normal basis of operations.

This transfer of responsibility was carried out under the terms of a long-standing agreement we have had with the War Department covering the administration of relocation centers. Essentially, that agreement provides for a division of labor between WRA and the Army. Under normal circumstances, we are responsible for all phases of internal administration, while the Army guards the exterior boundaries and checks the passes of people moving in and out. However, when a situation arises--like the incident of November 4 at Tule Lake--where a show of force is needed, the agreement provides that we can call in the troops and turn the responsibility for internal administration temporarily over to the Army authorities.

There have been three incidents in evacuee centers over the past year and a half which have been termed riots. As it happens, all of them have occurred here in the State of California. The first one took place during the summer of 1942 at the Santa Anita Assembly Center under Army jurisdiction. The second one occurred at Manzanar a year ago last December. And the third one was the incident of November 4 at Tule Lake.

The Manzanar incident of December, 1942 was similar in many ways to the recent Tule Lake disturbance. It was caused primarily by a comparatively small group of agitators and was culminated by the summoning of the troops. On that occasion we started immediately after the troops had moved in trying to get the community back on a normal basis. We rounded up the troublemakers, isolated them from the rest of the population, and eventually moved them to a special isolation center which was established first near Moab, Utah and later at Leupp, Arizona. Following the removal of these troublesome elements, Manzanar quickly became one of the most peaceful of all relocation centers and has remained so ever since. I believe you will find that the people of Owens Valley have no particular apprehensions about the center today even though there are several hundred segregants there awaiting transfer to Tule Lake.

At Tule we plan to follow roughly the same pattern which was used at Manzanar in restoring the community to an orderly basis. In this case, we are not moving the troublemakers outside the center because of transportation and other difficulties. But we are isolating the troublemakers as rapidly as they can be identified in one section of the center which has been fenced off from the rest of the community and will be guarded at all times. We have also increased our internal security staff at the center and have built a fence between the evacuee colony and the administration area. With these additional precautions, I feel confident that an orderly community can be developed at Tule Lake. I believe, as I have all along, that the majority of the people there, regardless of their national sympathies, are interested in living peaceably together and that they will cooperate toward that end with the administration.

Now that the segregation process has been virtually completed, we are redoubling our efforts to speed up the relocation of people at the nine other

centers. We are hoping that in the near future we will be able to carry this job far enough along so that it will be possible to close one and perhaps two of the relocation centers. And we also have hopes that additional closings can be made later as the relocation program moves forward.

There has been a great deal of public misunderstanding about our relocation program--about its origin, its purposes, and the reasons why we are placing so much stress upon it. Much of the adverse comment that has been made is undoubtedly motivated by patriotic intentions. But it is based, I believe, largely on fundamental misconceptions. And it is producing results which may be most unfortunate for the democratic future of the nation.

The idea of confining all people of Japanese descent in government centers has been strongly advocated by a considerable number of individuals and influential organizations on the West Coast and elsewhere. The reason most frequently advanced for such a course is that all people of Japanese ancestry, regardless of where they were born and raised, are basically disloyal to the United States and sympathetic with the aims of militaristic Japan. I heartily disagree with that contention. A great deal is being said about loyalty in connection with Japanese-Americans these days and much of the comment, in my opinion, represents the loosest and most dangerous kind of talk. Of course, there is no way of guaranteeing the loyalty of a person of Japanese descent, or, for that matter, of anyone else. There is no way of entering into the innermost recesses of a person's mind and fathoming his most fundamental attachments and convictions. The most that you can do is to judge a person's loyalty on the basis of the attitudes which he expresses by word or action.

On such a basis, I believe there is ample evidence to disprove once and for all the notion that no person of Japanese ancestry can be loyal to the United States. There are in the Army of the United States today about 9,000 soldiers of Japanese descent nearly half of whom volunteered for service. One unit, known as the 100th Infantry Battalion and made up exclusively of second generation Japanese-Americans, is now in action on the Italian front and has already won the highest praise for its bravery in combat and its skill in the handling of weapons. Another unit, which includes several hundred men who volunteered for service from relocation centers, is in training at Camp Shelby, Mississippi in preparation for active duty overseas.

The behavior of these men both in volunteering and in actual combat provides striking evidence, it seems to me, where their real loyalty lies. But if further proof is needed, let me read a few excerpts from letters recently written by some of these men who are in the armed forces upholding and defending our democratic form of government. This first one was written from Camp Shelby by a young man who volunteered for service from the Heart Mountain Relocation Center in Wyoming. Writing to his parents who are still at the center, he says:

"The future welfare of you and all of us who hope to remain in this land rests almost entirely on how the 100th, now in action as the vanguard for the American 5th Army in Italy, and the 442nd do in battle. We have got everything to gain by

doing our utmost in battle, nothing to lose. We have a chance to prove to all who doubt our loyalty and sincerity to this nation that we too are Americans and therefore entitled to live as Americans in the truest sense of the word."

This next one was written by a sergeant at the front to the commandant of his training camp at home. He says:

"I am now waiting for the zero hour. This is the opportunity I have been waiting for ever since that fateful day of December 7, 1941. How can any red-blooded American forget that day! We must and will, under the protection of Almighty God... win over the enemy and once more bring peace to this troubled world, so that those who gave their lives shall not have died in vain. I hope I can live up to the expectations of you and my friends. And believe me I will!"

Much the same attitude is expressed in the statement made by a young doctor of Japanese ancestry who is a Captain with the 100th Battalion in Italy. Talking to a war correspondent at an advanced field dressing station, he said:

"The Japanese in the Pearl Harbor attack hurt us worse than anyone. They did really a dirty job on all the Japanese people living in the United States. We pay and will go on paying a terrible price for the sins of those Japanese. They made us lose the faith and trust of the American people. Now we men of Japanese blood in the United States Army are trying to win back that faith and confidence of America. We are more than willing, we are eager to fight the Germans, too. But it is not against the Germans that we hold our primary grudge. It is against the Japanese Imperial Army, Navy, and Air Force."

In the face of evidence like this, it is extremely difficult for not to understand how any reasonable person can advocate the mass confinement of all persons of Japanese descent simply on the grounds of race.

Within the last few hours a specific announcement has been made by the Secretary of War concerning military service for Americans of Japanese descent. As you may know, Japanese-American boys have not been inducted into the armed forces through the usual Selective Service procedure since February, 1942. Volunteers have been accepted during the past year, but there has been no involuntary induction. The Secretary of War has just announced that, effective immediately, Americans of Japanese ancestry will be inducted into the United States Army through the Selective Service system. A list of those acceptable for service has been prepared and the men on the list will have their cases reviewed by their local boards; they will be reclassified and called up for induction as their individual turns come. It is expected that the men inducted in this way will be added to the 100th Battalion or the 442nd Combat Team and it is possible that other Nisei units will be formed.

In determining to accept involuntary inductees, the Army gives recognition to the excellent record of the Nisei already in service. But even

more significant is the fact that a minority group of Americans have had restored to them individually the opportunity of fulfilling one of the highest obligations of their citizenship. It means much to the Nisei. It means even more to American democracy.

I spoke earlier of fundamental misconceptions. One of them which seems to persist, particularly in this section of the country, is the notion that the government originally planned a mass detention of the evacuees and that the WRA relocation program represents a sharp reversal of previous government policy. I want to deny this emphatically. As evidence to the contrary, let me remind you that for nearly one month after the original evacuation order was first announced, the people of Japanese ancestry were freely permitted by the Western Defense Command to leave the coastal area and resettle inland on their own initiative. It was only after this voluntary movement had given rise to difficulties that the controlled plan of evacuation and movement into government centers was put into effect. As the War Department has frequently pointed out, the sole aim of the evacuation was to move the people of Japanese descent from a sensitive military area and not to put them under lock and key.

Another highly important aspect of this question which is being overlooked by many of those who urge mass detention is the repercussions that such a step would have from a legal and constitutional standpoint. So far, the Supreme Court of the United States has not ruled on the constitutional validity either of evacuation or of detention in government centers. The Hirabayashi case which was decided last June merely upheld the constitutional validity of the curfew orders imposed by the Western Defense Command at the time of evacuation. The decision in that case was unanimous, but it is significant that Mr. Justice Murphy remarked, "This goes to the very brink of constitutional power." Moreover, practically all lawyers are agreed that the Constitution provides no basis for a mass detention program involving American citizens. This point was strongly emphasized recently by Attorney General Biddle when he testified before congressional committees regarding the implications of the Tule Lake incident. It was also brought out in a recent Circuit Court decision on the case of Miss Mitsuye Endo. Miss Endo, who was an evacuee resident of Tule Lake in the period before it became a segregation center, had applied for a writ of habeas corpus under the provisions of the Constitution for release from the relocation center. The court denied Miss Endo's application but did so solely on the grounds that WRA has a relocation program under which Miss Endo might have applied for leave from the center without going through the courts. If we had no such procedures and were engaged in a mass internment program, the decision might well have been different.

I do not mean to imply merely that mass confinement of the evacuees would present some rather complicated legal problems. It would do that, but its ultimate significance is much greater. It would mean striking at the very heart of the constitutional safeguards which now protect every last one of us against arbitrary governmental action. And it would mean a serious retreat from the principles of freedom and justice on which this nation was founded and which it is now fighting to defend. If we single out one minority element of our population and confine all its members purely on the grounds of race, we will be forfeiting our right to be regarded and even to regard ourselves as a truly democratic nation.

During the year and a half I have spent in my present job, I have learned a great deal about the Japanese-American problem in this country. And most of my knowledge, I assure you, has been gained the hard way. I have learned, among other things, that there are in this section of the country and elsewhere, many influential people and organizations who will go to almost any length to reduce people born in the United States of Japanese ancestry to the status of second-class citizens. In recent weeks and months, these individuals and organizations have been carrying on a persistent and vigorous campaign of race hatred. One prominent newspaper chain which has played a central role in this effort has been especially guilty of bad faith and un-American tactics. The writers and editors of this organization have seized upon every opportunity to distort the facts and create widespread public fears and animosities toward the people in relocation centers. They have succeeded in creating the impression that WRA is deliberately turning spies and saboteurs loose upon the nation, that armed evacuees are pouring into California in defiance of military regulations, and that people at the relocation centers are being better fed than the average American family. There is not one shred of truth in any of these allegations.

Regardless of the stories which you may have read, we in the War Relocation Authority are just as anxious as any Americans to see the militarism of Japan crushed and wiped from the face of the earth. And so, I might add, are many thousands of the people in relocation centers. But we do feel that the war should not be waged on American soil and that manifestations of unreasoning hatred toward the Japanese-Americans are not a necessary part of our efforts to defeat the empire of Japan. In fact, it seems entirely plain to me that those who are deliberately stirring up feeling against the evacuees are doing a serious disservice to the national war effort. They are providing the enemy with propaganda material to be used in convincing other Oriental nations that the United States is conducting a racial war. They are fomenting hatreds and fears at a time when united action and cool concentration on the immediate job are more vitally needed than ever before in our history. They are creating an impression of national dissension and disunity that must be a stimulating tonic to the morale of the Axis nations. If the same amount of energy and ingenuity that have been expended on these campaigns of racial hatred had been channeled against the real enemy, I feel sure we would be much nearer than we are now to the day of final victory.

I am generally optimistic about ultimate solution of the Japanese-American problem. In the heat of current emotions on this issue, it may help to restore perspective if we remember that the people of Japanese ancestry in this country represent, after all, only a tiny fragment of our total population--about one-tenth of one percent. Most of the ties which this group now has with the culture of Japan are through the older generation of aliens. As these people gradually die off and as the younger generation born and educated in this country grows to maturity, the situation will change rapidly. I also feel that the relocation program is a most important step toward ultimate solution. As the people of Japanese descent who formerly lived in this section are dispersed throughout hundreds of communities in the Middle West and the East, settling as individual families or in small groups here and there, I feel certain that they can and will be integrated

into the economy of the nation.

But I am deeply disturbed about the growing trend toward racial thinking and discrimination toward minority groups which seems to be developing under the stresses and strains of the war. Democracy is never an easy form of government. Even in peace time, it can be made to operate successfully only if the people have the necessary energy, ingenuity and especially courage to make it work. It took courage to establish this democratic nation out of ours and it has taken courage to build it up to its present high status. Now more than ever before, courage is needed, not only in our national leaders, but among our total population, if we are to emerge from this conflict without impairing and sacrificing some of our most cherished traditions and principles.

This is particularly true in connection with the Japanese-American problem. Because of the nature of the enemy in Japan, there is a natural tendency to substitute emotion for clear thinking and hatred for understanding in our efforts to deal with our own people of Japanese descent. Persecution of minority groups, I have always felt, stems largely from fear. And fear unquestionably is the underlying cause for much of the current agitation on this issue--fear of economic competition and fear of a group that is not fully understood.

In this connection, I would like to read a few excerpts from a magazine article recently written by a resident of this State.

~~"What frightens the host today is not the recurring race~~ riots, the economic pressures on 'minorities', the internment of Americans of darker-skinned ancestry whose loyalty to the ideology of white supremacy is doubted, nor even the whole scope and viciousness of the recent growth of race hatreds and the insidious beginning of propagandism for a white alliance for 'self-protection'--not these so much as the white man's sudden consciousness of his own fear of other races of which these are but manifestations. I can see no hope for any 'minority' group, nor even for democracy itself, in the existence of this fear.

"People who are afraid are cruel, vicious, furtive, dangerous; they are dishonest, malicious, vindictive; they destroy the things of which they are afraid, or are destroyed by them. The host who is afraid, hearing a noise in his kitchen, tiptoes down the back stairs and blows out the brains of an ice-box raiding guest whom he thinks is a burglar; the policeman who is afraid shoots the manacled prisoner who bends to tie his shoe lace; the industrialist who is afraid hires thugs and murderers to fight unionists; the capitalist who is afraid sabotages public welfare; the politician who is afraid attacks leaders of weakly supported causes to hide his own compromises; the statesman who is afraid endeavors to isolate his nation; and the government head who is afraid fails in the execution of laws, both national and international.

"....Fear may easily become the greatest tragedy of this historic period. For the eventual peace of the world and the continuation of progress depend upon the white man's ability to live in equality, integrity, and courage in a civilization where he is outnumbered by peoples of other races. It is imperative that he be unafraid. For if, because of his fear, he finds himself unable to live as a neighbor and equal competitor with other races, there will be no peace and little progress."

Whether we like it or not, our handling of racial minority problems is not strictly a domestic issue. The actions we take and the attitudes we express will have and are having repercussions all around the globe. In our program, for example, we have had to keep constantly in mind the fact that we are dealing with Japanese nationals, in part, and that our treatment of these people might well affect the reciprocal treatment accorded to American soldiers and civilians in the hands of the Japanese. Shortly after the outbreak of war, the government of the United States and the government of Japan agreed through neutral diplomatic channels to meet certain specified standards in the treatment of each other's nationals who are interned or temporarily detained in government camps. These standards are set forth in the International Convention which was signed at Geneva, Switzerland by a number of governments in 1929. They originally intended to apply to prisoners of war. But, by mutual agreement, the governments of this country and of Japan have extended the applicable provisions to civilian nationals. Shortly after the Tule Lake incident the Japanese government broke off negotiations looking toward an exchange of nationals until the Spanish consular representatives could investigate the conditions in relocation centers. I am confident that the Spanish will find conditions in the centers generally satisfactory and that they will eventually report this fact to Tokyo. But this development does point up the very grave international implications of our program.

The War Relocation Authority has been accused of conducting a "social experiment" in its relocation program. On behalf of my own staff, I want to say that we are not quite sure what our critics mean when they use that phrase. We have always felt that we are merely trying to do a complex and rather thankless job in the most practical way we can and at the same time in harmony with the best principles of our democratic past. We have had to consider at all times that we are dealing with about 70,000 American citizens who cannot be deprived of their rights and privileges without due process of law. We have had to keep in mind the provisions of the Geneva Convention and the possibilities of retaliatory action against our people in Japanese hands. But the one principle, above all other, which has guided our actions and molded our thinking is the belief that there is a place in this melting pot nation of ours for all the people of good will and democratic faith who are now within our borders regardless of their racial antecedents. That is the bedrock principle on which we are conducting our program in the War Relocation Authority and which, as Director of WRA I will fight to defend.



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THE RELOCATION PROGRAM

An address by Dillon S. Myer, Director of the War Relocation Authority, delivered before a meeting of State Commanders and State Adjutants of the American Legion in Indianapolis, Indiana, November 16, 1943.

I welcome this opportunity to meet with you here today and tell you about some of our problems and policies in the War Relocation Authority. Like practically all Americans, I have always had a great deal of respect for the American Legion and for the principles on which it was founded. Of course, I have been disturbed by many of the resolutions regarding our program that have emanated from your national organization and from some state departments and local posts over the past fifteen months. But I have felt all along that what we needed more than anything else was to get together for a frank exchange of views. So I am encouraged by the fact that you have invited me to this meeting. It gives me an opportunity to talk with you about a problem of interest to every section of the country. And it proves what I have felt for some time now -- that a great many of you are sincerely interested in getting at the facts about the relocation program and in forming your judgments on the basis of full and accurate information.

To get this whole problem in proper perspective, let me go back and review briefly some of the background and early history of our program. The War Relocation Authority was established by Executive Order of the President about a year and a half ago -- in March of 1942. At that time, the Army on the West Coast was preparing one of the biggest population moves this government has ever undertaken. In the interest of military security, it was calling upon about 115,000 people of Japanese ancestry -- both American citizens and aliens -- to move from their homes. The Army's primary concern was to remove all such people as quickly as possible from a highly sensitive military area along the West Coast. At the same time, however, the government recognized that it owed the evacuees an obligation to help them in getting re-established. And that is where WRA came into the picture. We were set up, as the name of the agency indicates, to relieve the Army of the burdensome and essentially non-military task of helping the evacuated people in relocation.

Even before the War Relocation Authority was established, the Army had made a start on this problem by asking the people of Japanese ancestry to move voluntarily away from the coastal area and resettle in inland communities. By the time we came into the picture, however, this voluntary movement had begun to create serious difficulties particularly in the intermountain states. It was becoming increasingly apparent that we could not have thousands of

people moving indiscriminately across the country under wartime conditions without throwing the economy of local areas badly out of gear and without arousing a lot of public apprehension. Toward the end of March the Army and WRA jointly decided to stop all further voluntary migration so that the evacuation might be carried out thereafter on a controlled and orderly basis. This decision was put into effect by the so-called "freeze" order which was issued by the Commanding General of the Western Defense Command on March 27, 1942.

Almost immediately thereafter the War Relocation Authority began a search for sites where barrack-type communities could be established. By the early part of June we had finally selected eight sites of this kind in more or less isolated localities -- six in the western states and two in the delta section of Arkansas. Meanwhile, we had taken over one of the assembly centers which the Army had established for temporary housing of the evacuees at Manzanar, California, and we had worked out an agreement with the Indian Service for management of another center which was constructed very early in the game near Parker, Arizona. This meant a total of 10 barrack cities or relocation center for about 110,000 people of Japanese descent. The movement of these people from their homes into the Army's temporary assembly centers and later into relocation centers was started toward the end of March, 1942 and was completed in the early part of November.

While this movement was going forward, we began working out some of our basic policies. We had to start practically from scratch. The job that lay ahead of us was wholly without precedent in the history of the United States government. There were no guide posts we could follow and no previous governmental experience from which we could benefit. But by August of last year we had accumulated enough experience of our own so that we were able to lay down a broad framework of guiding principles and operating procedures.

One of our major objectives was to take every possible precaution for protection of the wartime security of the nation. Almost immediately after the outbreak of war, the Federal Bureau of Investigation rounded up several hundred Japanese aliens on the West Coast who were suspected of subversive intentions. During the period while the evacuated people were in assembly centers, it was not possible to carry out this screening process any further. But as soon as we began receiving the evacuees in relocation centers, we immediately started building up comprehensive records on the people 17 years old and older. We checked into their background before evacuation and we accumulated extensive information on their behavior at the relocation centers. In a large number of cases we wrote back to former employers, to local officials and to neighbors in the evacuated area. Our internal security or police division in

each center kept careful records on all people who attempted to stir up trouble or endanger the peace of the community. Our Employment Division maintained a file of current information on work performances. In fact, almost every branch of the center administration contributed toward the building up of a well documented case history on the individual residents.

Then in February and March of this year we collaborated with the Army in conducting a large registration program to round out the screening process. Questionnaires were developed both for citizens and aliens. These questionnaires were worked out in close cooperation with the Army and Navy and were designed to bring out basic information on background and attitudes which these agencies had found useful in dealing with the people of Japanese descent over a period of years. They asked for information on topics such as education, previous employment, knowledge of the Japanese language, number of relatives in Japan, investments and other business ties with Japan, travel to Japan, religious and organizational affiliations, and even sports and hobbies. But the most crucial question was Number 28. As presented to the citizen evacuees, this question asked whether they would state unqualified allegiance to the United States. Since the alien evacuees are aliens in large measure because our laws do not permit their naturalization, they could not answer such a question in the affirmative without becoming virtually "men without a country". The question was re-phrased for these people and they were asked whether they would abide by the Nation's laws and refrain from interfering with the War effort. The registration included all evacuees at the centers 17 years or over. We are still registering the younger residents as they reach the age of 17.

As the registration forms were completed, they were sent in from the relocation centers to the Washington office. Under an agreement with the Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation assumes responsibility for providing us with any information available in the files of the intelligence agencies on each evacuee who is registered. In carrying out this responsibility, the FBI has checked its files for us with great care. Thus we are building up a comprehensive docket on each adult evacuee which is readily available at the relocation center and which provides us with a good indication of basic loyalties.

A considerable number of people in this country seem to feel that there is no way of determining the loyalty of a person of Japanese ancestry. This is a point of view which we in the War Relocation Authority have never shared. We recognize, of course, that there is no absolute way of guaranteeing the loyalty of a Japanese American or -- for that matter -- of anyone else. But we do feel that it is possible, by employing techniques which the

intelligence agencies have used effectively, to make a determination that is wholly adequate for the purpose of protecting the national security. And I might add that we are not the only branch of the government which has this feeling. Both the Army and Navy quite obviously are confident of their ability to determine the loyalty of Japanese Americans within practical limits because these agencies are using large numbers in combat service and in other important lines of work. There is a battalion of American boys of Japanese descent from Hawaii which has recently distinguished itself in action on the Italian front. There is a combat team made up wholly of Japanese-American volunteers both from the mainland of the United States and from the Hawaiian Islands which is now in training at Camp Shelby, Mississippi.

Nevertheless, we have recognized from the very beginning that there was in the evacuated population a minority which had stronger ties with Japan than with the United States and which might conceivably interfere with the war effort. There are some among the aliens who have maintained persistent contact with their native land and who have made frequent visits there for business or cultural purposes. There are several thousand young American citizens who have received practically all their education in Japan and who have been affiliated with pro-Japanese organizations in this country. Many of this latter group have doubtless been imbued with the Japanese militaristic spirit while others probably returned to this country for the purpose of avoiding service in the Japanese Army. Because we have realized that there were such people in relocation centers, we have taken particular pains to build up a record on the background and attitudes of adult residents. From the very start, we have been denying the privilege of leave in all cases where records have indicated that the evacuee might endanger the national security. And within the past few months, we have carried out a segregation program to separate such people from the bulk of the evacuee population.

Under the procedures we established, all persons who requested repatriation or expatriation to Japan were designated for segregation. In addition, the segregants have included (1) those who failed to answer Question 28 during registration with an unqualified affirmative; (2) those with intelligence records or other records which indicated that they might interfere with the war effort; and (3) immediate family relatives of persons in the groups already mentioned. As most of you doubtless know at this time, Tule Lake in northern California was designated as the segregation center. The main movement of segregants into Tule Lake and of non-segregants from Tule Lake to other centers took place during September and October. But there are still about 1,900 people at the Menzanar Center in California awaiting transfer to Tule Lake as soon as housing to accommodate them is completed. And there are around a thousand other people at the various centers who will probably be designated for

segregation as the leave clearance hearings are concluded. We expect that the entire process will be finished about the first of the year and that we will ultimately have a population in the neighborhood of 18,000 people at Tule Lake.

I am sure that many of you would like to learn more about the events that have taken place at Tule Lake during the past several weeks. The story is so complicated that I do not want to take up time to discuss it in this talk. But I have brought along several copies of a prepared statement on the incident and will be glad to make them available after I finish my remarks. At the same time I will also try to provide answers for any specific questions which you'd want to ask.

Once the segregation process is completed, the people remaining in our nine other relocation centers will be those who have stood up under the most careful type of scrutiny and proved themselves to be eligible for leave whether they be American citizens or law abiding aliens. Our policies governing the administration of these centers will be pretty much what they have been all along. We have been providing the essentials of living -- food, housing, medical care, and education for the children -- and we have utilized voluntary evacuee labor to the fullest possible extent in order to hold down the costs of operation. Evacuees who work at the centers receive small cash allowances for the purchase of incidental items and special allowances for the purchase of family clothing. The feeding program is carried out strictly in accordance with all rationing regulations and is limited to a maximum cost of 45¢ per person per day or about 15 cents per meal.

At all centers except Tule Lake, we also provide the evacuee residents with an opportunity to set up their own community government and to formulate rules and regulations for the community welfare within certain limits. At each center there is a police force headed by several non-Japanese officers and staffed mainly by evacuees. The exterior boundaries of each center are guarded by a detachment of military police who can be called within the center whenever a show of force is necessary for the preservation of order. Aside from Tule Lake, which is a rather special case, we have had to call in the troops on only one occasion. The only other aspect of relocation center management that I need to mention here is the business enterprises which the evacuees themselves have set up on a cooperative basis to sell goods and services to the residents.

But our primary aim is not to manage relocation centers. These centers have often been confused with internment camps which are managed by the Department of Justice for the detention of enemy aliens suspected of subversive activities or intentions. Actually the relocation centers were established for a wholly different purpose -- primarily to provide places where the evacuees could be

quartered while we were developing an orderly program of relocation in normal communities. Even before the centers were fully constructed and populated we started making efforts to reduce their population by encouraging properly qualified evacuees to return as quickly as possible to private life. That is our principal policy and the one that has been most widely debated pro and con. Consequently I want to discuss this policy with you, telling you how we go about putting it into effect and why we feel it is a sound course from the standpoint of the national welfare.

First of all, I should explain that the relocation policy does not apply to the segregation center of Tule Lake. The residents of that center have been separated from the other evacuees because of evidence that they might endanger the national security. They will not be eligible for leave while the war is going on. But now that segregation is virtually completed, we are redoubling our efforts to relocate the people from the other centers in normal communities.

We started out on our relocation efforts rather slowly and cautiously in the late summer of 1942. Throughout the fall and winter, as we gained additional experience on the job, we gradually geared up our machinery to handle a larger program. One thing we had to do was set up a field organization to check community sentiment in areas where the evacuees are relocating and to serve as a point of contact between employers in need of workers and evacuees at the centers. Such an organization was established in the early months of this year and is now functioning in 40-odd communities throughout the middle west, the intermountain states and the East. Then we also had the job of classifying the evacuated people according to their previous employment experience and their basic skills.

It would be possible, of course, for us to adopt a passive attitude toward relocation merely permitting the people to leave the centers without actively encouraging and aiding them in the process. But after we had been on the job only a few months we began to realize with increasing clarity that relocation centers are not desirable institutions and that it is far better, in terms of both immediate and long-range national interest to restore the evacuated people as quickly as possible to life in ordinary communities.

To begin with, we realize that the cost of maintaining the entire evacuee population in relocation centers would mean an unnecessarily heavy drain on the taxpayers of the country. We set up our work programs at the relocation centers in such a way that the evacuees could contribute through voluntary work to their own support. And we have maintained that policy consistently from the very start. But even so, the expense of keeping 100,000 people in government centers and providing them with the essentials of life is a heavy one. I am sure all of you will agree with us that it

should not be encouraged if there is any feasible alternative.

An even more important reason why we have placed so much emphasis on immediate relocation is the nation-wide manpower shortage. We realized from the beginning that the evacuated people represent a significant reservoir of energies and skills which is badly needed in our war production effort. At the start, we made rather elaborate plans for a work program at each relocation center. We had plans for manufacturing enterprises through which citizen evacuees could produce goods needed in the war effort; plans for extensive development of raw land through clearing, irrigation, drainage; and plans for large-scale agricultural production. But before we had received more than half the evacuee population at the centers, we were forced to recognize that this was a cumbersome method of utilizing evacuee energies and skills and that it was fraught with many difficulties. It meant starting from scratch and gradually building up work opportunities over a period of months. It necessitated acquiring equipment and facilities that were badly needed in other sectors of the national economy and in the war effort. It involved production and sale of manufactured goods and foodstuffs in competition with established private producers. Everything considered, it seemed quite clear that the evacuees could make a quicker and more effective contribution to our wartime production needs by returning as quickly as possible to private employment.

But aside from these wholly practical considerations, there is another even more significant reason for trying to depopulate the relocation centers. I realize that one of the primary aims of the American Legion is to foster Americanization. That has also been one of the major objectives of our program. There are many ways to define Americanism but I have always felt that it is a quality which we absorb quite naturally by living in a thoroughly American environment. It is as President Roosevelt has stated, "a matter of the mind and heart; Americanism is not, and never was, a matter of race or ancestry." We have made every effort to create an Americanizing atmosphere in the relocation centers. We have established the curriculum for our schools with particularly heavy emphasis on the history of American traditions and American institutions. We have taught these subjects in adult education classes and have stressed them in connection with public discussion forums. But despite all our efforts, we have not succeeded -- and I am afraid we never can succeed -- in duplicating the atmosphere that prevails in a normal American community. The influences that operate every day and every week to make us a distinctive people on the face of the globe cannot be reproduced within an atmosphere of restriction -- an atmosphere which makes a mockery of our American traditions. Relocation centers are and probably always will be essentially outside the mainstream of our national life.

I subscribe whole-heartedly to the principles on which the

American Legion was founded and to the creed which is printed on the back of all your membership cards, and which sums up forcefully and succinctly the major tenets of your organization. This creed is a sound guide for every good American:

"For God and country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes; to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred per cent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our association in the great war; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and Nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness."

With these principles in mind, I feel sure that all of you will make every effort to see this problem from all angles before coming to any final judgments.

There are a great many people in this country who feel that all persons of Japanese ancestry should be confined under heavy guard for the duration of the war. I want to say right here and now that I consider such a proposal fundamentally un-American. It is contrary to the constitution of the United States and to the basic precepts of the American Legion. It violates our most precious guarantees of freedom and justice. If we single out one minority element of our population such as this one and categorically confine all members of the group simply on the grounds of race, I believe we are embarking on a dangerous course. Once we start moving in that direction, the whole structure of constitutional safeguards that now protects every last one of us against arbitrary governmental action will be weakened and impaired. In the last analysis, it would mean that we had found the democratic method of handling a minority problem too difficult, too complex, and that we had adopted the easy course followed by the dictator nations.

Since the earliest days of WRA, our problem has been complicated by the fact that we are dealing with a mixed population. Approximately two-thirds of the evacuees were born in this country and are thus American citizens under our constitution. The overwhelming majority of this citizen group have spent their entire lives here and have received all their education in our schools. Seventy-two percent of these citizens have never seen Japan. The remaining one-third of the population consists mainly of the older people who were born in Japan and were not eligible to become "

naturalized under our laws. Most of them have lived here for 20 years and even longer, have established families here and have no desire to return to Japan.

But the real point that I want to make is that we have had to deal with both citizens and aliens at every step in our program. Because we do have citizens in relocation centers, we have had to be unusually careful in denying indefinite leave and in transferring people to the segregation center. So far the Supreme Court has not handed down an opinion on the constitutional validity of detaining American citizens. But lawyers are pretty well agreed that it can be done even in wartime only on the basis of rather strong evidence that the detainee is a potential threat to the national security. Consequently, in developing our leave procedures we have had to walk a very narrow line between unconstitutional detention on the one hand and inadequate regard for national security on the other. I am confident that we have followed a sound middle course.

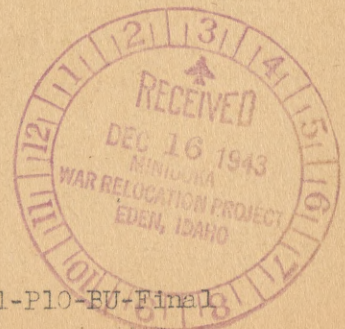
The fact that we have aliens in the relocation centers has important implications in our international wartime relations. Unfortunately, there are a great many American civilians and American soldiers in the hands of the Japanese. And if we adopt any repressive measures against Japanese nationals, the militarists of Japan undoubtedly will take retaliatory action. Because of this fact, among other reasons, we have tried all along to conduct our operation sanely and calmly so as to arouse a minimum of public emotion. But in a program such as ours, this is extremely difficult to do. Actually we have been operating in a very highly charged atmosphere ever since we started -- and I suppose we always will.

However, I think that most of you will agree that nothing is gained by an emotional approach to this problem and that a great deal can be lost. Quite aside from the dangers of retaliatory action, it is also true that the Japanese have been watching this program for propaganda purposes. They have been picking up inflammatory remarks made by some of our citizens and using them to convince other oriental peoples that the United States is conducting a racial war.

In conclusion, I want to remind you once again that there is a battalion of soldiers of Japanese ancestry in action under General Clark at the present time. There is a combat team, also composed of Japanese Americans, some of whom have recently asked to be sent into action against the Army of Japan. Knowing the background of the American Legion and the way you fought to gain citizenship for the veterans of our first world war regardless of ancestry, I am wholly confident that you will open your membership to those boys who are now wearing the uniform of our country in the current war for survival.

We have tried in the War Relocation Authority to conduct our

program at all times in accordance with certain basic principles which we feel are essential in a democratic approach to the problem. We believe that loyalty cannot flourish in an atmosphere of suspicion and discrimination; grows and sustains itself only when given a chance. We recognize that the foremost task before the people of this country is to win the war. We feel that this means concentrating on fighting the enemy rather than fighting among ourselves, and using all our available manpower where it will do the most good. We have confidence in the ability of the armed forces to wage the war and in the ability of the authorized intelligence agencies to give proper surveillance to all suspected or potential enemies within our country. Finally we have faith in the American way of life and in the melting pot tradition on which this nation has developed. We believe that there is opportunity here for all people of democratic faith and that the United States has benefitted and will benefit by providing such opportunities for all its citizens without regard for race or ancestry.



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THE DAWN OF A NEW DAY

An address by

Justice James H. Wolfe of the Supreme Court of Utah to
the Residents of Topaz Relocation Center March 10th, 1945

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May I offer congratulations to the new officials of the Community Council. I hope they may carry on with the success of their predecessors. The people of the center are deserving of the highest praise for the competent management of their internal affairs and in their cooperation with the administration in the preservation of law and order. It is almost unbelievable that a whole people could be uprooted from their homes, from their businesses, suffer interruption to their family life, come to an entirely strange place, a place of isolation and many discomforts, and yet for a period of over two years have no serious outbreak of disorder. It speaks well for your restraint, your patience, your courage, your citizenship. I offer my congratulations to you and to the War Relocation Authority administration. You have adopted a democratic form of government in your community. You have kept alive democratic principles among yourselves. The experience you have acquired here will make you better able to take your part as citizens when you leave the center. We know that the centers are to be closed by January 2nd, 1946. You are all very much concerned about it. It means that once again you are to be taken out of the life you have grown accustomed to; that you will be separated from the new friends you have made in the Center and placed again in new surroundings or must readjust to old ones. You are all concerned about the future and about what is to happen to you. Many of the problems of the councilmen will revolve about this business of resettlement and your worries concerning the same. It will devolve upon them not only to advise and counsel with each individual family as to its special problems in this resettlement but to call forth the courage which past experience has shown you possess so that you may adjust yourselves to the new life with the fortitude and the spirit of pioneers. I do not minimize what lies ahead. I see it in the light of the background of the very unfortunate experiences which you have suffered during the last three years. Torn from your homes and your communities--in many cases with ruthless suddenness; separated from your life-long friends, parted from your property accumulated by hard and diligent labor over the years, you were taken to a strange country, placed behind wire inclosures in close living quarters without the customary conveniences modern life affords. Now when you are settled down into this life, which does afford a haven, you are called on again to move out into a world not always or altogether friendly and again adjust your lives. Pioneering is for younger and adventurous people. Those of us who have reached or passed middle age crave security and some comfort and repose in the remaining years of our lives. I touch on these matters not to recall unpleasant memories--it is better that they be pushed to the background--nor to magnify the uncertainties that lie ahead, but to show that I understand in part at least some of the trials which you have experienced and the present state of your minds.

I do not represent the War Relocation Authority. I am not a representative of the Federal Government. I am a judge and as a judge I am supposed to see all sides of a question. And it is in the capacity of a judge that I must see both your side and that of the War Relocation Authority. We can all admit that life in the centers at its best, even under a director as considerate and understanding as has been Mr. Hoffman and his able staff, is not a normal life. It was only meant to be temporary. But you expected that you would have this security at least for the duration. The lifting of the west coast mass exclusion order changed all that. I am sure that the War Relocation Authority arrived at this policy only after the most serious consideration of all the factors. Whether or not the decision to close at the time specified is wise or not I shall not discuss. It must be accepted as a fact. That you would leave the Centers some time was a certainty. There are good reasons why this exodus should not be too long delayed. As said before the life is not a normal one. You have been a most industrious and orderly people. This evidenced by the fact that the crime record of the Japanese segment of our population has been per capita the lowest in the country. You have been proud and self reliant. Three years in the Centers has had an adverse effect on some of these splendid qualities. I speak frankly. Some of you have developed habits of comparative indolence--perhaps you have become discouraged and partly lost your grip. These can be regained.

Then there are the young children--those under eighteen. Life for them under the best of conditions in the Centers is abnormal. They must be re-integrated in the stream of American life. I know what many of you are thinking--that while we are at war with Japan these children will not be kindly received in the schools where the great majority of children are Caucasian,--and that is better that they live here in confinement among those who understand and are kindly. I do not minimize that possibility. When my children were quite young they spent a winter in California. I remember how the little Japanese-American children played with the Caucasian children with no visible slights or discriminations. I want to see that day return.

Steps will be taken to ease the way. The teachers should tell their pupils that their little Japanese-American playmates will be returning and that they must bear in mind that the people of Japanese blood in this country have had no more to do with bringing on war with Japan than they had in bringing on the California earthquakes. I do not think you will encounter among children the taunts nor among adults any where near the affronts you anticipate. People of good-will are working to prepare the way. And this leads me into the second point. Director Myer told the residents of Heart Mountain Center that after travelling much around the country especially in California, he had concluded that never had there been so much understanding of our Japanese-Americans. People had been content theretofore to be indifferent and take their opinions second hand from others as to your character. The record of the bravery of your sons has been published in every paper across the length and breadth of this land. And other things are gradually making themselves felt. Three years ago we heard that the Japanese people, both Issei and Nisei, could not be trusted; that they were a secretive and sinister people. Well as far as I know there has not been a case of sabotage or espionage traceable to people of Japanese blood in this country. There have been instances of sedition--that is

advising others not to obey the draft but no cases of sabotage. Your patience, orderliness and cooperation in the face of mistreatment and abuse have won over many of those who formerly were suspicious. You have met insults with gentility; abuse with kindness and exploitation with forbearance. This turning of the other cheek has paid dividends in a way you had not anticipated. I know it will be no bed of roses for there are still the Hearst papers, the Sons of the Golden West, some of the American Legion Posts and the Lechners, spreading hate and poison. But the good will groups such as the Committee on American Principles and Fair Play and the churches are now going into action. This enthusiasm and readiness to help should be taken advantage of while at its height. I am convinced that much of the opposition is not racial. It is economic. Some of the small Caucasian-American businessmen and farmers have a fear of the industry, the tenacity and the intelligence which you have displayed. These people, who still fear the economic competition of 130,000 people in a population of over 130,000,000 will try to discourage you from coming out of the Centers. They will bluff; they will try to instill fear; they will use more subtle means. Some will, pretending to give you friendly advice, counsel you to remain in the Center. And many who are your friends, hearing of some untoward events or repeating rumors perhaps purposely circulated will likewise advise you to stay away. I understand that some 1,500 Japanese-Americans have already returned to California. There will be some bluster but I think the cases of violence will be very few. A small group wants to keep you in the Centers because it hopes to get legislation passed to deport all people of Japanese blood. It will not succeed but do not play into its hands by remaining congregated in the Centers. Mr. Myer thinks that if there is a substantial exodus in 60 days the bluffing will be over and you will be again accepted into your former communities. Well, the way to find out is for the more intrepid spirits among you to go back to your property in California and try it out. Especially those who own farms should go back to them. This is about the planting season and the time when fruit trees are thinking of blossoming. There may be here and there disposition for those who occupy your properties to refuse to vacate and you may have to resort to legal action to get them out. Each family may have its individual problems. But the War Relocation Authority will stand by to assist. The local offices of the War Relocation Authority are prepared to cooperate with local welfare agencies to help solve the specific problems as they arise. If those who have some property and some financial means will lead the way, the War Relocation Authority will be able to get some authentic clinical experience and better chart its course and adapt its policy to that experience. The pattern will then be made for the great mass which will gradually follow.

Mr. Masaru Narahara, Chairman of the All Center Conference at the open session, made three general divisions of the residents of the Centers. First: Those who have financial means and who are planning to leave. There may be a few who have the means but who have such inertia against change that they hesitate to leave. They should be easy to persuade because there is no alternative.

The second group who want to establish themselves and their families but because of economic losses, age, dependency, are fearful of losing the little they saved. This group, I understand, is the largest. I shall treat of them in a moment. Third: A smaller group who because of age, destitution, sickness

and fear, desire to stay at the Centers. Let us consider this third group first: I was asked at the open session of the All Center Conference who had the responsibility for the people at the Centers. As one man's opinion I can answer it in no uncertain terms. It was the United States government which tore the families up by their roots and settled them in centers--whether wisely or not need not now be considered. Unanswerably it is the moral responsibility of the government as far as possible to repair the damages. I say "moral responsibility" for I doubt that the sovereign can be legally required to pay damages. When a great city area is burning it sometimes becomes necessary to blow up city blocks to keep the fire from spreading. The people thus damaged have no legal claim for damages. It is a social emergency. Likewise, where, for reasons of national security, it becomes necessary to take military measures the government has no legal responsibility. But our government which has, through diplomatic channels, insisted on the Mexican government paying reparations for the confiscation of the property of our nationals would not be in a very good logical position if it refused to compensate at least partially for what amounts in many cases to confiscation of the property of its own nationals or residents. In many cases there is little difference in the result whether property is taken from the man or a man from his property. In either case it will oftentimes amount to confiscation. I rather expect that when we gain our peacetime perspective, there will be a legitimate demand for a commission to investigate and appraise losses and for an appropriation to cover legitimate claims. But whether or not you have a basis for the hope of ultimate reparations, it cannot be available now. The War Relocation Authority as a government agency senses the government's obligation to stand by you during this period of transition. All its facilities will be at your service. In spite of war our people are not generally inhumane. Local welfare agencies, owing to war prosperity, have the lightest case loads in their history. They stand ready to help in the social adjustment problems of the evacuees. That is not charity. That is aid which you are entitled to. I do not think, therefore, that the real problems lie in the care of the third group.

The real problems lie in resettling the second group. They have the will but not the means. The Social Security Board has funds to be used in resettlement. I am not clear as to how much or under what conditions it can be used. That can be ascertained. Those of you who have your own land will find the banks anxious to loan at cheap rates. In localities where you successfully farmed or carried on business where they know you personally and your industrious habits, you may be able to borrow on your own personal unsecured notes or by renewing membership in the local agricultural or horticultural associations, part of whose business it is to finance such operations. I hear in this connection that some of the banks in the farming sections of California are eager to get back their old customers. They know your record for honest business dealings. Then too there is the Farm Security Administration and the Federal Farm Credit Bureau. Here again I am not clear as to the conditions and terms under which they operate. I should think it well to set up a committee of your bright young men and women to procure all the information possible. There should be an Information Bureau set up at each Center to gather and give out accurate and unprejudicial information. Be sure that it is not colored. Stories coming in from all directions from those who have gone out must be carefully appraised as to source and accuracy so as to determine their

weight and truthfulness. Those who do not have land or who will find it too late to plant can find work on the farms. There is a cry for farm labor. Those who are going to farm in a new community should, perhaps, before they buy or lease, first work as farm laborers, in order to gain information as to weather and soil conditions, fair prices of land and the type of the community in order to avoid serious mistakes. Those of you who are business men with a background of experience and proven business success know that money now is cheap; that banks and investors are looking for places to invest their money. And there is a great demand for services. Those for instance who can set up in the cleaning and dyeing business will have all they can do. Jobs of every kind are more plentiful than workers. Those who go first will have the pick of opportunities, and in the big cities of the east there is little or no hostility to those of Japanese blood who have been residents of the United States before the war. Where you have sons not in the army or daughters they can help and you may be able to bring about some mutual pooling of resources among yourselves.

There should be created in certain rural or urban centers some facilities for investigating business possibilities and locations to serve those who have no homes to return to or who want to settle in new localities. The War Relocation Authority will probably set up new machinery in various places as the need becomes apparent. Thirty-six thousand of your people, residents of different Centers have left. They have mostly gone east, not west. They should form nuclei of local committees working in connection with local War Relocation Authority agents and local welfare bureaus to do the scouting for business and agricultural opportunities and obtain housing facilities, etc. Many of these difficulties must have been considered by the War Relocation Authority before it made its decision to close. Unfortunately, I had only an hour with Mr. Myer and had no time to go into details with him. I imagine the staff of the War Relocation Authority has visualized many of the problems you must solve and is prepared not only to advise but to give concrete assistance. I think it might not be the best thing in the long run for too many of you to congregate on the west coast. This is a big country. You are only about 130,000. In the large cities of the east there has been little or no antagonism. It is there where many of these 36,000 of your people have gone.

In the above I have tried somewhat to visualize your difficulties because even if I were able I would not like to indulge in that sort of eloquence which leaves everyone with a grand feeling but which, when it evaporates, makes him wonder what those beautiful things were that the speaker said. You are a practical and resourceful people. You need not eloquence but practical common sense advice. You are also a courageous people. It will not do for you to succumb to the psychology of fear. While the government owes a duty to assist you in resettlement you owe a corresponding obligation to do all you can to cooperate and help yourselves. There is a principle of contract law which holds that when one person has been damaged by reason of the fact that another has violated a contract with him, he must do everything reasonable to lessen or mitigate the damages. For instance, if you had a contract to furnish a hotel with perishable fruit and when you attempted to deliver, the hotel refused to accept, you could not let the fruit spoil and collect the full contract price but you would have to do everything reasonable to dispose of the fruit elsewhere and then collect for the difference between the price you sold it for and what the hotel agreed to pay. By the same reasoning, while the government, having

disrupted your lives, owes you at least the moral duty of resettling you, you must do every reasonable thing to help yourselves. So the task of your councilmen may be one not so much of block administration but of organizing you for meeting these problems of resettlement and above all of changing your attitude of mind from one of despair to one of new hope and courage. Try to look on this new phase of your life as one more new and interesting adventure.

The chief difficulty that faces you may be within yourselves. Many of you think of your home, your business, your life before exclusion. You recall your flowers, your gardens, your security. You remember with bitterness the days of the exclusion. It is natural that you should feel bitterness at times, but most of you, I think, will realize that the past belongs to the past. You will not let this feeling darken your vision. With the same courage with which you faced life here in the center you will face a new life in the communities where you will relocate. In the past your record for industry and decent living made a place for you in your communities. You can do it again. Every one of you, or your parents, at one time had a choice of standing with the old or facing the new. Only the brave, only those who loved adventure left their parents, their families, their homes in Japan to come to this strange land across the sea. Hardship, struggle, prejudice were here for them. Such things are not new to your people, but the spirit is in you to succeed.

You will do what you must do. By all pulling together, by mutual aid and self-help, together with the facilities offered by the government I am sure you will succeed and then will look back on this chapter of your lives, as something you would not want to repeat but as something which furnished you with many interesting experiences. Life itself is an adventure. Do not fear it. If you show the same kind of courage your boys are exhibiting in this war there will be little chance of failure. I have sat on boards for the Alien Enemy Unit and for the War Relocation Authority. I know something of the way you feel and of your problems. I shall do what I can to help. I say take courage--go forth--regain your former spirit of independence and self-reliance--once again let your lives flow in the normal current of American life, and in this endeavor I am with you with all my heart and shall do what I can to assist your cause.

SPEECH GIVEN BY LIEUTENANT ROGER W. SMITH, UNITED STATES ARMY

At the very outset I would like to tell you why I am standing before you tonight. Although my views are those of the War Department, I was not forced to come here. I am here at my own free will. Because I welcomed the opportunity. Let me explain to you briefly just what I mean.

When we heard of these West Coast acts of terrorism against the families of the men in our outfit while we were overseas, and the disgraceful incidents of veteran's organization refusing to accept returning veterans, we were really burned up. I asked for this job and I got it. So gentlemen, I stand before you tonight first because I have an honest conviction of the true Americanism of these men, and second, because I am convinced that these intolerances and prejudices towards race minorities present a real threat to our constitution and to the things for which we fought.

I hardly know where to start heaping praises on these men. During all the phases of our training and in combat, and in all departments of soldiering the Japanese American soldiers of the 442nd Combat Team have either stood on par with other comparable units, or stood head and shoulders above them. Verification of this statement can be found in many sources. Some of the more important of these sources are as follows. First, by examination of the efficiency and training records established while at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. Second, by examination of actual combat records in Italy and in France. And third, and probably the most important one to be reckoned with is what other combat units with whom these men fought alongside of in Europe, have to say about the Four Four Two.

It will not be necessary to dwell at too great a length on our training period. The challenge to excel was ever present from start to finish. To either a lesser or to a greater degree each man knew the Four Four Two was a segregated unit, marked for intensive observation by the War Department and by the public. Here was the opportunity to prove to a prejudiced West Coast minority, yet a minority that was a beginning to carry some weight, that the Japanese Americans were at least as good as any other group of American soldiers. And ~~to~~ prove it they did with flying colors, by either coming up to or by surpassing all military and physical standards of training. So much for our training period. And now we come to our combat record.

Once again the same challenge we had in training was present as we prepared to go into combat; the challenge to prove to everyone that we were as good as if not better than any other combat unit. In addition to this an added incentive to excel was present. The 100th Battalion, composed of Japanese Americans, which had preceded us some seven or eight months into combat, had achieved an outstanding record. Here was a standard for us to parallel or to surpass. The 442nd Combat Team did just that. Before the end of the first concerted effort by the combat team as a unit, the new units had learned the hard way as all new units do. By the time we reached Pisa the successes of the 442nd had paralleled those of the 100th. From that time on the two units were integrated into one fighting unit of regimental strength. Suffice it to say at this time the long hard push from Grosseta to Pisa was studded with stories of outstanding unit and individual performances.

Shortly after Pisa, higher headquarters withdrew the 442nd

from the Italian front and we were sent to eastern France in the Alsace-Lorraine region where the fighting was very heavy. Once again we had a learning process to go through, although the outfit by now could be called one of seasoned veterans. We had been fighting in rocky mountainous country. Now we had to fight in a heavily wooded country. Here once again the outfit learned and learned rapidly in what was probably the ruggedest fighting we encountered. Even though fighting through mountainous country in Italy was tough, the heavily wooded areas in France where a man could not see ten feet ahead were tougher. In addition to this we had extremely miserable weather with which to contend. It is here in France that many stories of outstanding individual and group performances are recorded. I mention only two of these group performances at this time.

The first concerns the many times told story of the rescue by the 442nd Infantry of the "Lost Battalion of World War II" -- a battalion from the 36th Texas Division. It is just merely another story of dogged determination to get the job done, to get to and rescue a battalion that had been cut off from the larger unit. Shortly before this action took place I was hit by shrapnel, so I was not actually present at the rescue. However, I do know that this rescue was effected under extremely adverse conditions of weather, loss of sleep by the men and the fact that the 442nd had been in the lines some 20 days without a rest. Needless to say in getting this job done, we suffered extremely heavy casualties. To make this a little clearer, I might add that the number of casualties we suffered was greater than the number of men we rescued.

The next outstanding unit action concerns two platoons

assigned to do a special job and gives me an opportunity to throw out my chest, since I was the platoon leader of one of these two platoons. The place was near Bruyeres, France. The situation was as follows -- the two forward companies of our 2nd Battalion had gone so fast that they had by-passed quite a few elements of Germans. This left what is know as a "pocket of resistance", that was causing considerable trouble with the supply lines and with the reserve elements of the 2nd Battalion. At this time the reserve company of the 2nd Battalion, F Company, ~~and~~^{had} its' hands full and could only spare one platoon to clean out this pocket. This was not enough men to do the job. So a platoon from the 3rd Battalion was borrowed to assist in the clean up, the 2nd Platoon of Company L, my platoon. It would be quite difficult for me to paint you a picture of the action that ensued, so to use a baseball expression, I'll just give you the box score. A conservative estimate of one hundred Germans killed, wounded or captured, and the majority of these one hundred Germans WERE NOT captured. Our losses -- three casualties between the two platoons, no one killed. At this time each of our platoons consisted of about 25 men. Of course I realize the grace of God must have been with us and that the coordination with Lieutenant Brown's F Company platoon worked out remarkably well. But the thing that made this action so successful was the aggressiveness of the men, the determination to close with the enemy and get the job done. I would hardly know where to pay any individual tribute for that day's work. Every man was in the fight giving his all.

Earlier in my talk I said that the men in the 442nd either stood on par with or stood head and shoulders above other comparable

combat units. To substantiate this I have described briefly our training and our combat records. If you will recall, I spoke of the appraisals of the Japanese American soldiers by other units whom we fought alongside of, as being probably the most important thing to be reckoned with. Let me clarify this statement simply by saying -- ask any old soldier or officer of the 34th, 36th, 3rd, 45th Divisions, or any other outfit that we have fought alongside of in France or in Italy, what they think of the Japanese American soldiers. Their praises and high regard for the Four Four Two never cease. This to me in the last analysis is the real criterion as to the Americanism of the Japanese American soldier, the high appraisal by the other units of Caucasian soldiers with whom they fought. A word to the wise I believe would be in order at this time. It wouldn't seem advisable to make any remark to the effect that, "a Jap is a Jap" regardless of where he is born. You might just be talking to a veteran who fought alongside the Four Four Two in Italy or in France. To use the quotes of another, "It's Not the Slant of a Man's Eyes That Count, But the Slant of the Heart."

And now, I bring you to what is probably the most amazing thing regarding these men's performance in combat. It is the way they have gone forth into battle and gotten the job done, while at the same time overcoming a terrific mental stress and strain imposed upon them, that no other group of soldiers has had to contend with. I refer to the anti-Japanese American sentiment, the internment and intimidation of their families, the thought of "What are we fighting for and what do we have to come home to?", the refusal to accept returning veterans into veterans organizations and many other things of this nature. Gentlemen, this is not Americanism.

This is not what we've been fighting for. We must take our hats off to these men who fought so gallantly under such a psychological handicap.

At this time, I would like to mention a few personal names and incidents that happened within my company and within my platoon. And at the same time I want to make apologies for omitting many outstanding personal exploits. I am sure you realize that due to the haziness of many incidents, regarding the time and the place and in view of the numerous outstanding performances I could not mention them all. Starting closest to home and working back I mention my platoon sergeant, Technical Sergeant Dick Otsubo. Throughout training and throughout combat he continually displayed the highest qualities of a soldier and of a leader. This was particularly true when he had charge of the platoon during my two week period of hospitalization in eastern France. On the strength of the fine and courageous leadership he displayed during that period he was recommended for a field commission. Two days before he was to have received this commission he was killed near Sospel, France, by an artillery shell as we were moving up to relieve another unit. The next man I'd like to tell you about was Sergeant Otsubo's successor, Technical Sergeant Albert Nakama, a man that was always grinning even in the face of death. Sergeant Nakama started out as my platoon runner but it was apparent from the start that he was capable of a more responsible job of leadership. However, don't get the idea that a platoon runner's job is not one of responsibility. A man who can convey messages accurately and who can find his way around in the heat of battle, is a mighty wonderful person to have, and I had just such a man in Staff

Sergeant Masa Okamura who is probably now Technical Sergeant Okamura, having taken over Sergeant Nakama's job when he was sent home under Army's discharge point system. I would like also to pay tribute to Staff Sergeant Ray Murata who acted as a scout and an outstanding one throughout most of the Italian and French campaigns. You might be interested to know just what the duties of a scout are in combat. A scout probably has the most dangerous and disagreeable job in the infantry. By this I mean he is always out in the front of his unit, sometimes creeping, sometimes crawling but always searching for the enemy. Naturally he is going to be the first man to be fired upon. Aggressiveness and plenty of guts at all times are the pre-requisites of a good scout. Quite often it is the sole job of a scout to draw enemy fire thereby making him disclose his position. I repeat Sergeant Murata did an outstanding job as a scout throughout most of the French and Italian campaigns. I could go on indefinitely telling you stories such as this.

Up to this point I have spoken only of the Japanese-American soldiers in the European theater of operations. This is because my experiences have been with them. Let me now give you a few facts regarding the Japanese-American soldiers in the South Pacific. And you may rest assured that what I have to say is authoritative. There have been from three to five thousand Japanese-American soldiers in the South Pacific, scattered throughout various outfits and doing various jobs, most of which were very hazardous. For reasons of military security, it has not been possible for the War Department to release many stories on their activities, such as these stories on the 442nd. Nevertheless the work they have done in getting enemy information and in persuading large numbers of

Japanese to surrender, has shortened the Pacific war immeasurably. In addition to this, they have continually been subjected to the possibility of being shot by our own men.

I would now like to read you at this time some excerpts from a talk by Major-General Bissell, Assistant Chief of Staff, at Fort Snelling, Minnesota where Japanese-Americans are trained in Army intelligence work:

"In outlining the work of the graduates in the past, General Bissell told on his recent tours to the battle fronts throughout the world and of his conversations with such leaders as General MacArthur who testified to the 'indispensability of the Nisei under combat conditions in the Pacific.'

'From captured Jap documents they have gleaned valuable information that permitted our forces to go on to victory with the saving of many hundreds of lives,' General Bissell reported field commanders as saying.

'They have gone into caves to persuade hiding Japs to come out and they brought out a great many captives. But some of these School graduates never came out. And others followed them knowing that they too might be killed.'

General Bissell declared that 'the record of all Nisei in American armed forces is 'a record of which every American can be proud .' He told the School's students that if anyone ever questioned their loyalty to America they shouldn't even bother to answer them back.

'All America will soon know of the intense loyalty of the Japanese-American soldiers who are serving and will serve their country in the defeat of her enemies and the establishment of world peace,' General Bissell emphasized.

And here is one last item which is indeed very interesting:

'The Nisei of this school will be absolutely essential to the successful occupation of Japan and to the winning of the peace,' General Bissell said emphatically. 'just as the former graduates served as the vital connecting link between Allied soldiers and the Japanese in combat,' General Bissell explained, 'the Nisei will serve as the language bridge between the Allied occupation forces and the 80,000,000 people of Japan.'

We thought we closed a deal when we finished the war on both fronts, but this is rather debatable when some of the things for which we fought are being attacked back here at home. If we permit

these intolerances and prejudices to continue towards our race minorities, we are establishing a precedent which is a real threat to our Constitution and to the Bill of Rights. Because remember this, we are all a member of one minority group or another. In other words, then no one will be exempt from oppression by the majority.

In conclusion let my words be simple and short -- With This Magnificent Record ~~of~~ the Japanese-American Soldiers Have Made, Who Can Say These Men Are Not Americans? If These Men Can Do What They Did In Winning the Peace, How Can There Be Prejudice Against Them? Gentlemen, Here Is A Challenge of Americanism Directed Towards You. It Is Not Enough For You To Merely Accept This Situation Mentally, But Rather To Go Forth And Preach The Gospel. In Other Words, It Is Up To You To Carry The Ball From Here On In. This Is The Real Challenge Of Democracy.

STATEMENT BY MAJOR GENERAL H. C. PRATT
Commanding General of the Western Defense Command
July 30, 1945

<u>"ARMY HAS SOLE RESPONSIBILITY</u>)	Re WRA ---
<u>IN RETURN OF EVACUEES TO WEST COAST"</u>)	Regarding
"There exists no legal authority)	Return of
for anyone to restrict the movements of)	Japanese-
an individual within the United States)	Americans
because of economic, social, or other)	
similar reasons")	

* * * * *

Following is the full text of General Pratt's statement:

"It has become increasingly apparent that an erroneous impression is being conveyed to the public as to the responsibilities of the various agencies concerned with the return of persons of Japanese ancestry to the West Coast States. This situation is evidenced by 'Letters to the Editors', news items, radio releases, public statements, etc., which not only distort the facts but sometimes contain misstatements. In this connection it should be noted, however, that all responsible editorial comment has been based upon the facts as they exist.

"In view of the above, I feel that a statement by me with reference to this matter is called for.

"As Commanding General, Western Defense Command, and pursuant to Presidential Executive Order, I have the responsibility of determining which individuals of Japanese ancestry may or may not be permitted to return to the designated exclusion zone of the Western Defense Command. In making this determination, I am governed solely by military

considerations and by none other, for there exists no legal authority for anyone to restrict the movements of an individual within the United States because of economic, social, or other similar reasons.

"In executing this responsibility, I have access to the records of the various intelligence agencies of the Government and am assisted by a large staff of experienced personnel. I feel, therefore, that I am able to determine which individuals may prove potentially dangerous to the military security of the West Coast and such individuals are not allowed to return. Possibly, although I doubt it, certain individuals may possess information against persons of Japanese ancestry which I do not have. If such is the case, it is a patriotic duty to convey that information to me, and I will welcome such assistance.

"The War Relocation Authority was created to assist in the proper relocation of those persons of Japanese ancestry who were required to leave their homes. The formation of this Authority was a result of the recognition on the part of our Government of its obligation to alleviate the hardships imposed upon many thousands of our citizens merely because of the accident of birth. The War Relocation Authority has no authority or responsibility whatever in determining which individuals will be allowed to return to the exclusion zone of the Western Defense Command, nor does this agency attempt to exercise this authority or assume this responsibility. It is repeated -- this authority and this responsibility is that of the Commanding General, Western Defense Command."

-----The End-----

FUTURE RELEASE

Please Note Date

Department of the Interior
War Relocation Authority
Washington, D.C.

For Release Upon Delivery
on Monday, October 2, 1944
at 2:00 p.m., PWT

RACISM AND REASON

An Address to be delivered by Dillon S. Myer,
Director of the War Relocation Authority at an
interfaith meeting sponsored by the Pacific
Coast Committee on American Principles and Fair
Play, at Los Angeles, California, on October 2,
1944.

RACISM AND REASON

There is a special meaning in the opportunity you have given me to meet with you tonight. I see in your invitation your determination and confidence that the problem of the Japanese and Japanese Americans in this country must and shall be settled through processes of reason and in a Christian spirit.

You refute a misconception rather widely held elsewhere in the country, that the people on the West Coast all react toward persons with Japanese faces with blind, unreasoning hatred. Some people in the Pacific states unfortunately are victims of their own bigotry on this question, but there are many citizens out here, like yourselves, who have been standing up for the same just and democratic treatment of the Japanese minority that should be accorded to all minorities.

It has been easy for the racists to claim to represent a majority point of view on the evacuee question. The War Relocation Authority program has always been peculiarly subject to emotional distortion by these people. Because the WRA is dealing with people of Japanese descent, many American citizens who are rightfully indignant about the barbarism and treachery of the Imperial Japanese have found it difficult to approach the problems of WRA thoughtfully and judiciously. They have tended to identify the people in relocation centers with the real enemy across the Pacific. They have accepted without question a great many lies and half truths about the relocation centers that have been spread across the country by malicious men with malicious motives. Some have even demanded that American citizens of Japanese ancestry born and raised in this country be treated, as a group, like prisoners of war.

But in the past several months the temper of public opinion on this issue has been changing-- rapidly and unmistakably. People who were completely unaware of the Japanese American problem a year ago have begun to express themselves on this subject in rather caustic language, directed not against the Japanese Americans but at the race mongers who insult the Nation's good sense with their fantastic charges and who throw fair play overboard by their ruthless hounding of a helpless minority group. Some public officials who once demanded wholesale confinement of all persons of Japanese descent have begun to realize with the President that Americanism is not a matter of race or ancestry but a matter of the mind and heart. Some private organizations which formerly advocated total exclusion and mass deportation of Japanese Americans have softened and modified their attitudes.

Naturally this shift in public thinking is profoundly encouraging to me. But I take no personal credit for it, and I claim none for the War Relocation Authority. The change has been brought about, I am convinced, primarily by the magnificent combat record of Japanese American boys in the uniform of the United States Army. Since the early part of this year, these boys have written in blood and steel a record that compels all of us to think a little harder and more deeply than ever before about the real meaning of America. They have found their way up the peninsula of Italy, usually in the very forefront of the action, taking desperate chances, wiping out machine gun nests, harassing the enemy from all sides, driving him relentlessly back toward the Alps.

The outfit I am speaking of here is the far-famed 100th Infantry Battalion made up of Japanese American boys from the Hawaiian Islands. Some of them are men who were stationed at Pearl Harbor at the time of the Japanese attack on December 7. A few of them had close family relatives who were killed by the bombs made in Tokyo---bombs made perhaps from American scrap metal. When these boys first arrived in the United States for preliminary training at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, they immediately impressed their commanding officers with their eagerness to become good soldiers, their willingness to absorb the toughest physical grind, and their alertness in performing their military tasks. Later on, they were moved to Camp Shelby, Mississippi, where they continued to maintain the same excellent record in final pre-combat training. Then, in August of last year, they had their first contact with the enemy in the area around the beachhead at Salerno. From there they stormed against the German defenses along the Volturno and Rapido Rivers, crossed these two streams, and spent 40 days in the front lines at Cassino. Later they were transferred to the tight little beachhead at Anzio, and finally took part in the break-through to Rome.

Throughout all this action, the boys of the 100th Battalion displayed the same qualities of good American soldiership they had shown in their pre-combat training. Time and again, members of the unit were singled out for especially dangerous missions and cited by their commanding officers for unusual bravery in action. Not once did a member of this Battalion go AWOL; the nearest approach was the case of two wounded boys who left the base hospital prematurely and hitch-hiked up to the front to join their comrades. As the War Department has pointed out, this is AWOL in reverse, and with a vengeance.

The normal strength of the 100th Battalion is about 1,000 men. But of course there have been replacements so that the total number of troops who have served with the unit is in the neighborhood of 1300. This is a fairly small contingent when you realize that the Japanese American boys in this group have now received a total of more than 1,000 Purple Hearts, 44 Silver Stars, 31 Bronze Stars, nine Distinguished Service Crosses, and three Legion of Merit Medals. Within the past few weeks the entire Battalion has received a Presidential citation from Lieut. Gen. Mark Clark for "outstanding performance of duty in action, on June 26 and 27, at Belvedere and Sassetta in Italy." In the closing words of his citation, General Clark said--and I quote--"The fortitude and intrepidity displayed by the officers and men of the 100th Infantry Battalion reflect the finest traditions of the Army of the United States."

In newspapers here you may have read recently of an instance of such fortitude and sacrifice, the death of Lieutenant Kei Tanahashi of Los Angeles, who fought with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. Lieutenant Tanahashi died near Castellina, Italy, the War Department reported, because after being wounded he refused medical attention until every other wounded soldier of his platoon was given first aid and evacuated to a safe place. Army doctors said he might have lived if he had permitted himself to be treated earlier and evacuated with the first group of wounded. The Lieutenant, known for his activities in Boy Scout work, and earlier popular as a student at UCLA, was evacuated to a relocation center with his parents. They still live at our Heart Mountain center, while his widow, whom he married a week before going overseas, resides in Cleveland.

The 100th Battalion is now part of a larger fighting unit, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. The 442nd, which comprises thousands of Nisei from the mainland, including a number who once were evacuees or who have families in the relocation centers, has begun to make an enviable record in its own right. The War Department announced recently that members of a reconnaissance patrol of this Japanese American unit are believed to have been the first Allied troops to reach the historic city of Pisa. There is an aspect of this incident which symbolizes the United Nations in microcosm. Those Japanese American boys who went forward into Pisa were officered by a naturalized Canadian and an American of French extraction. Some people in these parts who think that as old settlers they have a priority on patriotism, should think that one over.

Recognition of the Japanese American soldier is not confined by any means to the War Department, the commanding generals and the official citations. The ordinary doughboys who have been in action alongside these troops---, the men of English, Irish, Italian, and all other ancestries who have seen them going into battle---are even more eloquent in their praise than the official communiques. One of them, convalescing at a military hospital in North Carolina, recently wrote to Time Magazine. "I just came from Italy," his letter reads in part, "where I was assigned to the Japanese 100th Infantry Battalion. I never in my life saw more of a true American than they are... Ask anyone who has seen them in action against the Jerry (to) tell you about them. They'll tell you that when they have them on their flanks, they are sure of security in that section..." And then he concluded, addressing his remarks to the people who have been villifying the Japanese Americans here in the United States. "They, my friends," he wrote, "are not the little 'yellow bellies', you are."

Another one wrote directly from the front lines in Italy to the Secretary of the Interior after reading about some of the worst examples of discrimination against people of Japanese ancestry that have occurred recently. "May I suggest," he asked, "that you send all those narrow-minded, bigoted un-Americans over here to relieve the 100th Infantry Battalion of the 34th Division?" The Secretary's reply was terse and to the point. He wrote: "Thank you for your letter. It is quite apparent that you know what you are fighting for."

The boys who wrote these two letters are apparently not at all unique. Within the past few weeks I had an opportunity to talk with an Army captain just back from special service in the Italian theater. Almost everywhere he went, he tells me, he found admiration for the exploits of the 100th Battalion and bitterness about the shameful and misguided actions that are being perpetrated against people of Japanese descent on some sections of the home front. The feeling he encountered seemed to be almost unanimously one of burning resentment against people who are persecuting loyal Japanese Americans in the press and through direct economic action.

One incident, in particular, that aroused the ire of our soldiers in Italy and elsewhere was the event that took place a few months ago in Great Meadows, New Jersey. It centered around the farm of a man named Ed Kowalick who tried to hire five evacuees of Japanese descent from one of our WRA

relocation centers to help him produce the food that is so vitally needed in our drive against the Axis. Before the incident was over, one of Kowalick's barns had been burned down, his family had been threatened, and he had become almost a social outcast in his own community. But, without going into any further comment, let me quote from the letter of a junior officer in Italy with an Irish American name:

"It is two years and a couple of days since I left the states with a whole hatful of company on the war's leeching business. During the ten-minute breaks in Africa and Italy we have devoted a lot of effort to trying to realize in the imagination what life is like at home....

"Today a magazine (Time, April 24) comes to the beachhead and... tells a story, and these pleasant images become hideous and confused. According to the story five Japanese, including one Frank Kitagawa, are sent to Great Meadows, N.J. from an Arizona relocation center to help Ed Kowalick run his 600-acre farm...Ed Kowalick's neighbors mount a blind patriotism against this five-man Oriental menace within their gates...A building on Kowalick's farm is burned; and Kowalick, being one man, is forced to send the offenders away. This is, as I said, a little thing. Nobody killed, nobody maimed. To show they hold no hard feelings, the farmers present Ed Kowalick with a box of cigars, and the incident is closed....

"It is the schoolhouse, I think, that sticks in my craw. Presumably the small fry of Great Meadows are taught in this school-house: study algebra; and Archimedes' principle; and nouns; and learn that Lincoln called them "the last best hope of earth..." This is the schoolhouse where hundreds met to hunt down five, who had committed the crime of discarding their ancestry for the ties of a new country.

"There are crosses with Japanese names in the American cemeteries in the bitter Italian hills. These men are worthy to bear arms; how then are they not worthy to grow tomatoes?

"Since I began, a score of shells have dolloped into the vicinity. They threaten my life, for which I have a high regard, but not the things that give my life sustenance. Now I feel that these things are threatened and I do not know where to go to find a clean picture of my country. It is not the matter of Great Meadows alone. Lord knows, that is only the latest and one of the least striking of the items on a long list. Somewhere in the confusion is the central matter of what is true and what is not true about our national life.

"This is a very personal matter, like love or good beer or dying, and I should like someone to give me an answer."

There are indeed crosses with Japanese names in the bitter Italian hills---dozens upon dozens of them. Some of them mark the graves of boys whose parents are living today in WRA relocation centers. Just recently memorial services have been held at two of these centers for the boys who have fallen on the Italian front. And in the months that lie ahead, I am sure that the relocation centers, like all American communities, will find their honor rolls and their lists of Gold Star mothers steadily increasing.

Today there are well over 10,000 American men of Japanese descent in the uniform of the Army of the United States. Many hundreds of them are boys who were evacuated with their families from the West Coast two years ago and who have lived in WRA centers. Others come from the Hawaiian Islands and from various points on the mainland of the United States. They are serving not only on the Italian front against the Nazis, but in Burma, China, and the far Pacific Islands against the fanatical hordes from the main Japanese islands. One of the Caucasian soldiers with Merrill's Marauders in the China-Burma-India theater recently paid high tribute to the Japanese American boys fighting with that redoubtable organization. "Every Marauder," he wrote, "knows these boys by name even if they don't know ours---this is due to the courage and bravery shown by them. One of our platoons owe their lives to Sergeant Hank G. who translated Jap orders...foolishly yelled to the effect that they were attempting a flanking movement. Hank---we call him Horizontal Hank because he's been pinned down so many times by Jap Machine gun fire---guided the machine gun fire on our side which killed every Jap on that side. The boys who fought alongside of Hank agree that they have never seen a more calm, cool, and collected man under fire---he was always so eager to be where he could be of the most use and effectiveness and that was most always the hot spot...And yet while the other boys boast of the number of Japs they got he doesn't talk very much about the three he has to his account. He usually changes the subject by saying, 'Honorable ancestors much regret meeting Merrill's Marauders.' I hope I haven't given the impression that I'm trying to glorify him. Many of the boys and myself especially, never knew a Japanese American or what one was like---now we know and the Marauders want you to know that they are backing the Nisei 100 percent. It makes the boys and myself raging mad to read about movements against Japanese Americans by those 4-F'ers back home. We would dare them to say things like they have in front of us." This boy and the other men of Merrill's Marauders, quite obviously, do not have the difficulty experienced by so many of our Home Front Commandos in distinguishing between the Japanese enemy and loyal Americans of Japanese descent.

Recently I was pleased to learn that a Japanese American soldier who formerly lived at the Manzanar Relocation Center has become a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. This man is Sergeant Karl G. Yoneda, who is now fighting in Burma and who in 1936 was on the picket line when longshoremen and Chinese picketed shipments of scrap and oil to Japan. Men who know and worked with him have described him in these words, and I quote, as "a long time fighter against Japanese imperialism and fascism of any kind." To my way of thinking, that makes Sergeant Yoneda more American by far than the people who shipped that scrap and oil to Japan.

If bigots had reasoning processes, one could easily prove to them that their proposals to exclude the evacuees from the West Coast permanently are not really based on suspicions of disloyalty, but solely on racial prejudices. You could start by asking whether the Japanese Americans fighting in Italy or the Pacific are disloyal, and whether the families of these boys, including families who have received "killed in action" telegrams, are disloyal. It would be a cold-blooded bigot indeed who would dare to make such a charge. And if they are not disloyal, as you and I certainly know they are not, then these servicemen and their families should have the right to return to the West Coast whenever the blanket military prohibition against return of evacuees is

lifted. Once the bigot admits that much, and he certainly hates to, he has admitted a large scale exception to his crude dogma that, "The Only Good Jap is a Dead Jap." He either must admit that loyalty of the evacuees is the real yardstick, or he must retreat to his previously prejudiced position.

Sometimes I believe that if the race-baiting extremists in California were able to override the many residents of this state who differ with them on the question of the evacuees, the logical outcome would be some kind of secession from the Union. Mentally, this minority has seceded from the rest of the nation by preaching unAmerican methods of handling the Japanese in this country, both citizens and law-abiding aliens. Newspapers throughout the country, including some on the West Coast, have differed with these advocates of second class citizenship, or harsher treatment, for Americans of Japanese descent. I would like to cite some recent examples.

The New York TIMES declared:

"Their names are: Masaki Fujikawa, Shinci Nakamine, Denis Masato Hashimoto Grover Kazutomi Nagaji, Kenji Kato, Tsugiyasu Tomas, all killed in action against their country's enemy...Other Americans of Japanese descent have fought for our flag in the Pacific and in Burma, taking risks, because of their race, over and beyond those assumed by white soldiers...Letters from other American soldiers received in this office have proclaimed the loyalty and devotion of these men.

"What this proves is a fact encouraging for Japanese-Americans, for the country of which they are citizens and for the long prospect ahead. There is nothing in the Japanese blood, or in any racial blood, that makes men ignorant and brutal. Education and environment turn the scales one way or the other. A whole generation in Japan and Germany has gone to waste and worse than waste. Under decent governments, in a decent society, in a decently organized world, the coming generations may be reclaimed. The war must be won by destruction, but the peace will be kept only by education."

The San Francisco CHRONICLE said:

"The Army has awarded Bronze Star medals for meritorious action on Saipan to four California boys, coming from Marysville, Stockton, San Jose, and Los Angel. These young men showed their American fighting spirit by volunteering for a job that took them, in that region, into particular danger. Their names are Honda, Nakanishi, Natsui and Sakamoto."

The Washington POST said:

"If the exclusion [from the West Coast] is based on nothing more than racial hostility, then it raises an ugly threat to the fundamental principles of American life. It bears, as Mr. Justice Murphy pointed out elsewhere in his opinion on the curfew case, 'a melancholy resemblance to the treatment accorded members of the Jewish race in Germany and in other parts of Europe.' If the freedom of citizens can be restricted because of the spelling of their names, then none of us can claim more than a temporary and illusory hold upon freedom."

An editorial in the Santa Ana (California) REGISTER stated:

"Real democracy, Christianity and Americanism means that people must live

a dangerous life. They must have faith in other people and be willing to take risks. We should have been willing to take the risk that possibly a few Japanese might have caused a disturbance.

"But since we have made a serious mistake, the sooner we correct it the better. There is no excuse whatever now for keeping the Japanese in detention camps. They are entitled to the same protection by the government as every other citizen, no matter what race or color."

The San Francisco NEWS said editorially, in commenting on a test case:

"The News believes the orderly procedure of a court trial is a far better way to test the question of returning loyal Japanese to the Coast than is the action of organizations like the American Legion and the Native Sons."

The Charlotte North Carolina NEWS declared:

"It was last spring that a young Marine, a Guadalcanal veteran, returned to this country and found vicious discrimination against Americans of Japanese ancestry in California -- and in a nationally-circulated letter accused the California Department of the American Legion of actually sponsoring the movement.

"We rejoice in the increasingly distinguished battle records of these troops, and consider their deeds under fire sufficient answer to irresponsible critics and idle talk of the prejudiced. Response in battle, after all, is the final evidence, and adequate testimony to the loyalty of these men to the American ideal -- regardless of their stakes in this country's future."

John W. Vandercook, nationally known NBC commentator, in a recent broadcast pointed out how the racist give Tokyo ammunition for propagandizing the Orient. He said:

"Astoundingly bad Americans have driven harmless, American-born Japanese laborers from their communities, simply because they belonged to another race. In short, we have persistently provided the Jap propagandists with deadly ammunition. We have not thought how that ammunition can be and is being turned against us, and how just as surely as the sun rises, it is costing American lives. To hate one enemy more than the other largely because one belongs to a different race of human-kind, is to lose, hopelessly, one's own moral position...Thinking like that is far more appropriate on the Axis side of the line than it is on ours. It becomes a matter of the very highest priority, as we are approaching far greater battles with the Japs than the one which took place on Saipan. It becomes, therefore, a matter of the very highest priority for us to devise some means as we have in Europe, of reaching the minds of the Jap army in such a way as to convince them that we are what the overwhelming majority of us really are - decent and honorable human beings -- even to our enemies..."

Mr. Vandercook said further in his broadcast:

"Our best propaganda weapon against the Japs would be the truthful report of how the Japanese-Americans in the Hawaiian islands in wartime still go on living loyal tranquil useful lives. It would be a still better weapon - I venture to wager it would save many, many American lives -- if we could honestly report to Japan that the loyal Japanese citizens who are still held in relocation camps

on the United States mainland, were to now be returned to their communities as normal citizens, and that their white neighbors, were receiving them with the ordinary decency which every American of any race should accord to any fellow American of every other race."

H. V. Kaltenborn, noted radio commentator, in a letter to the Rev. Allen Heist and his church, the First Methodist church of Santa Maria, wrote these words:

"It is the people of California who unhappily are primarily responsible for the unfair treatment that has been accorded to American citizens whose only crime is that they were born of Japanese parents. I am very happy to know that some of the good Christians of California are speaking out for truth and justice."

These examples, and I could give you many more if time and your patience permitted, make it plain that by and large the country is hostile toward the minority of extremists who seek to keep the home fires of hatred burning against the Japanese Americans. When confronted with such evidence that they are a minority, these race-baiters libel many thousands of decent Americans on the West Coast by employing their threadbare thesis that, "We residents of the West Coast understand the Japanese problem, and the rest of the country does not."

Those on the Pacific coast who have not wished to let their silence place them in the company of the racists, have challenged the right of the extremist group to speak for anyone but other racists. With every such challenge, the spirit of decent tolerance grows stronger. It is extremely encouraging to note that every time the extremists seek to run riot, public opinion counterpunches and rocks them back on their heels. The Great Meadows incident which I mentioned earlier, was a notable example. Editorials and soldier letters condemned the entire occurrence. LIFE magazine reported this outrageous happening and one result was that many fairminded persons from all over the country wrote to George Yamamoto, one of the five farmer evacuees, urging him not to lose heart. Some enclosed money, which he turned over to the American Red Cross. Now these evacuees are working within 50 miles of Great Meadows. They are well liked and have been able to perform useful work in farming without interference from anyone.

It is also obvious that the race baiters do not as they claim, "understand" the problem of Americans of Japanese ancestry. If they did they would never propose to bar them from the economic life of the West Coast, or to exclude them entirely from these states, or even to ship them back to Japan. Theirs is the counsel of people who fear the future, who preach defeatism, who say that we can only plan for hard times ahead and too few jobs and opportunities to be divided among the Anglo-Saxons, let alone the Japanese. It is a good thing that most people disagree with them and are determined that we shall have jobs and opportunities for all, regardless of race, creed or color.

The most tangible evidence of widespread public acceptance of the Japanese Americans in most American communities is the progress made in relocating more than 30,000 evacuees who have left the relocation centers on indefinite leave. On the average, 425 persons a week bid goodbye to the restricted life of the centers and take up new jobs and new lives on the outside. In Detroit and Philadelphia, Des Moines and Savannah, Georgia, in Madison, Wisconsin, and Kansas City, in the big cities, the small towns, and farming areas, Japanese and Japanese Americans have gone to work. In the overwhelming majority of cases they have found themselves welcomed by the men and women working with them and by their neighbors. You will

find the evacuees worshipping in the churches, their children studying and playing with other American children in the schools. These transplanted people engage in community activities, buy war bonds, see their sons leave for the Army, carry on their war jobs. They become part of the normal American way of life once more.

Many of these evacuees, and some of those who will follow them from the centers in the months to come, will never return to the West Coast. They will settle down in communities new to the Issei and Nisei and there make their contribution to American agriculture and industry. Their contribution will be welcomed for among most Americans there is no real fear of the Japanese community in this country, and by that token there is no hatred of it. Evacuees who have relocated have been accepted and have continued the education in American living that the West Coast evacuation interrupted and life in the relocation centers retarded. For make no mistake about it, we in the WRA do not delude ourselves that we can do very much to make residents of the relocation centers part of the national American community. That is the job you can do best, when the military prohibition against their return is lifted and some of these people gradually return to live and work with you. You must recreate the proper social climate for growing Americans.

For becoming an American is a growing process. It takes patience, wisdom and tolerance to become an American in the full sense of the word. A man acts with goodwill toward his neighbors, makes sacrifices for his country, does the things that he believes help all races, creeds and groups to work together and make this a strong nation. He dies at the Biblical threescore years and ten, still busy becoming a better American. Does his son inherit all that through the accident of birth? Not at all. The son is only a potential American and he has to start all over to do what his father did, maybe better, before he can lay claim to the same proud title of American.

This conception is disturbing to the racists. It means that in the struggle to become a good citizen the child born of an old New England family, and the Nisei youngster born in a relocation center, start out even. The New England child may get later advantages, but at the outset they both have the same notion of Americanism--exactly none at all. It is a creed they learn by practice in action.

I think you and I and almost everyone want both those youngsters to have the same chance to grow into defenders of this land. If we relocate the evacuees successfully, with the help of hundreds of communities throughout the country, I feel certain that this war-born problem can be solved in a satisfactory manner and in complete accord with our democratic precepts. The people of Japanese descent can start once more to develop and mature in a truly American environment. And the Nation as a whole can take pride in the fact that, despite the physical upheavals and the emotional strains of global war, we have not lost our national conscience. Despite all the clamor of the race-baiters and their tawdry appeals to fear and hatred, the fundamental decency that characterizes the great majority of Americans is still very much alive. It will, I am confident, assert itself with increasing force and effectiveness in the days that lie ahead.

EN 2

Department of the Interior
War Relocation Authority
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San Francisco 5, California

The following editorial from The Washington Post of July 13, 1944, analyzes the issues involved in singling out only those Japanese and Japanese-Americans living on the west coast for evacuation, relocation and continued exclusion from their homes.

EXCLUSION TEST

"No one, we think, will seriously contend today that the west coast of the United States is in imminent danger of invasion. Yet some 70,000 American citizens, who were evacuated from their homes in that area because they happened to be of Japanese descent, are still forbidden to return, by military decree, on the pretext that a danger of invasion exists. A case testing the validity of this continued exclusion has at last been brought in the Superior Court of the State of California. All Americans, we believe, ought to know the facts in this case and ought to ponder its implications for their own freedom.

"One of the plaintiffs, an American citizen of Japanese ancestry, is a woman named Shizuko Shiramizu. She happens to be widowed. Her husband, Koyoshi Shiramizu, also an American citizen, was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds incurred in service with the United States Army in Italy and subsequently died from these wounds. Two of her brothers are now serving in the armed forces of the United States. Mrs. Shiramizu herself has been carefully investigated by the War Relocation Authority and has been adjudged completely loyal to this country. She has been tried by no court and has committed no offense, save that her name has an odd sound and is spelled in a peculiar, foreign way.

"Mrs. Shiramizu would like to go home. Home, in her case, happens to be California, where she was born and lived all her life (until she was evacuated) and earned her living and was married. This attachment to the neighborhood of her birth and her marriage seems neither unnatural nor unAmerican. But the commanding general of the Western Defense Command says that her presence in California -- or the presence of any persons with names like hers -- would endanger the security of the United States. He has acknowledged an improvement in the military situation on the west coast by canceling all the dimout restrictive orders which were once in force. Still, he does not feel that he can safely permit Mrs. Shiramizu to return to her husband's house.

"It is one of the functions of the courts of the United States to protect Americans against arbitrary acts of this kind by military officers. We hope, therefore, that Mrs. Shiramizu will be given her day in court and that the real issues of this case will be studied and assessed. A year ago, the Supreme Court upheld an order by the commanding general of the Western Defense Command imposing a curfew on all persons of Japanese descent. In doing so, however, it made clear that it justified a racial discrimination of this sort only on the ground of an emergency situation

and an urgent national danger. 'Except under conditions of great emergency,' said Mr. Justice Murphy, 'a regulation of this kind applicable solely to citizens of a particular racial extraction would not be regarded as in accord with the requirement of due process of law contained in the fifth amendment . . . When the danger is past, the restrictions imposed on them should be promptly removed and their freedom of action fully restored.'

"From this and from other opinions written by his colleagues in the same case, it appears patent that the Supreme Court would not countenance the continued exclusion of Japanese-Americans from the west coast in the absence of any real and present danger. If the exclusion is based on nothing more than racial hostility, then it raises an ugly threat to the fundamental principles of American life. It bears, as Mr. Justice Murphy pointed out elsewhere in his opinion on the curfew case, 'a melancholy resemblance to the treatment accorded members of the Jewish race in Germany and in other parts of Europe.' If the freedom of citizens can be restricted because of the spelling of their names, then none of us can claim more than a temporary and illusory hold upon freedom.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
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RELEASE MAY 7 AND THEREAFTER

(In his column in the Pacific Citizen, Salt Lake City, Evacuee Bill Hosokawa, now a reporter on the Des Moines Register, tells a story of his cousin, Sgt. Ken Omura, who died in the Pacific war against Japan. Omura was an Alaskan cannery worker, a member of the Alaskan Cannery Workers Union, CIO).

BY BILL HOSOKAWA

SALT LAKE CITY, May 6--The telegram was short and simple, like most important messages.

It read: "The secretary of war asks that I assure you of his deep sympathy in the loss of your cousin, Technician Third Grade, Ken Omura. Report received states that he died nineteen March in New Guinea as a result of drowning. Letter follows." It was signed: "Ulio the adjutant general."

We have not learned yet the circumstances of his death. He may have been swept overboard in a tropical storm. He might have been torpedoed, although that sounds remote. Possibly he was out swimming to escape the heat and somehow lost his life.

In that case it was a tragic, futile death. We say futile, so far as he himself was concerned, because he wanted desperately to see the war won. He would not have hesitated to give his life in action if need be. But too, he wanted to live and come home to the things he was fighting for.

We write about Ken Omura today not because of blood kinship. We write because Ken was a nisei, and his story is of interest to nisei. We write because his reactions, his outlook, his dreams were so typical of the nisei G.I.

But he volunteered for special service, and that was his chance for the Japanese tongue was still familiar. Late in 1942 he went overseas.

Last Christmas Eve Ken got his orders. He wrote: "The old man called a few of us in to his office, grasped our hands firmly, gazed straight into our almond eyes, and said: "Good luck. God bless you all. Do your best, gentlemen." Though puzzled and confused we gave him a snappy salute, returned to our tasks, and waited in suspense until 1430 hours, when we were informed of our departure time, destination unknown."

Soon afterward he wrote of spending a month on a lonely south sea island, then moving up to New Guinea where he picked up a yellowish tint from having to take atabrine pills. "Everyone is buzzing about an 18 months overseas limitation law. If I'm lucky, I may be home by next Christmas, but I'm not counting on it too much."

His last letters carried this paragraph:

"I'm enjoying this life. Undoubtedly I will be having a lot of fun and excitement. The Japs definitely are on the run. It may be much sooner than we anticipate before this whole mess is cleared up. I may be seeing you before long. I've got my fingers crossed."

The promised War Department letter has come, but it has shed no light on the circumstances of the death. Perhaps there is a letter on its way from one of his buddies, to tell us of Ken's last struggle. And perhaps we will never know how he died. These are the fortunes of war.

But we do know that Ken would not have wanted us to mourn. He died, whether directly or indirectly, engaged in a war to the finish against the country in which he gained much of his education. He died as an American soldier, in the defense of noble ideals.

It is not easy to write of death. Death has become almost commonplace in a world where suffering, cruelty, savagery and hate are now part and parcel of life. But, still, when death strikes close to one, the unchanging heartache is still there, and the loss of one life among many becomes a poignant tragedy instead of a statistic.

Ken left a job unfinished. If he shrank from death, it was more in the knowledge that there was so much left to be done than in the fear of death itself.

It is for us who remain to see that the unfinished tasks are completed. It is the least we can do.

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WASHINGTON D C
JULY 27, 1948

DUNCAN MILES POSTER

FOLLOWING IS PROJECT PRESS RELEASE NO. 247, FOR PUBLICATION IN PROJECT NEWSPAPERS. SECRETARY CLINTON ANDERSON OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE DECLARES THAT REFUSAL OF SEATTLE PRODUCE MERCHANTS TO DEAL IN PRODUCE GROWN BY JAPANESE AMERICANS ARE "UNJUSTIFIED DISCRIMINATION" WHICH MUST BE CORRECTED.

THE SECRETARY, NEWLY APPOINTED BY PRESIDENT TRUMAN, SENT THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM ON JULY 14 TO MR. ADWIN, SECRETARY OF THE NORTHWEST PRODUCE ASSOCIATION AT SEATTLE.

"THIS DEPARTMENT IS RECEIVING NUMEROUS PROTESTS AGAINST THE REFUSAL OF SEATTLE PRODUCE FIRMS TO HANDLE PRODUCE GROWN BY JAPANESE AMERICANS. IN VIEW OF PRESENT FOOD SITUATION, WE BELIEVE SUCH DISCRIMINATION CANNOT BE JUSTIFIED AND URGE YOUR COOPERATION IN CORRECTING SITUATION."

THE DEPARTMENT HAS SENT COPIES OF THIS WIRE TO ALL ITS OFFICES ON THE WEST COAST, ADVISING THEM THAT ITS ACTION IS TO BE REGARDED AS A POLICY STATEMENT FROM THE CABINET HEAD.

PENDING SETTLEMENT OF THE SEATTLE MARKETING DIFFICULTIES, THE WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY IS AIDING EVACUEE GROWERS WHO HAVE RETURNED TO THE SEATTLE AREA TO MARKET THEIR PRODUCE THROUGH TO OTHER CHANNELS.

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MILLS
FROM ACTION

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
226 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago 6, Illinois

CA-136
6/11/45

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

All Project Newspapers

Some 500 to 600 man hours of volunteer labor on the part of 50 Issei and Nisei resettlers and their Caucasian friends have gone in recent months into making attractive and livable a Kansas City Hostel, which will open formally with a celebration and a blessing on June 17, Francis O'Malley, Relocation Officer for the Kansas City District has announced.

With the building and funds donated by the Methodist Fellowship Foundation, the newly decorated former parsonage, will be sponsored as a Hostel and social center for resettlers by cooperating Protestant, Jewish and Catholic groups, Mr. O'Malley said.

"We were most fortunate in obtaining Dr. George Nagamoto, formerly of Los Angeles and Granada, as Director of the Hostel," Mr. O'Malley said. Dr. Nagamoto, one of the most prominent orthodontists in the country, is a professor at the Kansas City Dental College, where former graduate students of his are in charge of the college. Dr. Nagamoto is seriously concerned with the relocation problems of Issei, being himself an Issei, and he wants to help those who choose to find homes for themselves in the Midwest to adjust successfully to a normal life again.

"People's hearts are much warmer to us Japanese-Americans here in the Midwest than they ever were in California," Dr. Nagamoto has said. "And friends mean more than money to us, or should, after what we have experienced."

Dr. Nagamoto has returned to Granada to bring his wife and child to Kansas City. Temporarily, Mrs. Nagamoto will serve as dietitian at the Hostel. A son, Kenneth, is a soldier in training at Fort Snelling.

The Kansas City Hostel will provide 30 beds for evacuees. The fine old residence had fallen into a bad state of neglect, Mr. O'Malley said, and volunteer workers spent evenings, Sundays and every spare moment they could find in making it clean and habitable for prospective resettlers. The Hostel has been washed, painted, papered and plastered from top to bottom on the inside, and decorating will be done to the outside of the building shortly.

Dr. Nagamoto has tentatively planned a social schedule for Kansas City resettlers with the Hostel serving as their social and cultural center. Dr. Nagamoto plans to feature one Saturday night in each month for recreation purposes, a second Saturday night for Issei and Nisei business and professional men, a third Saturday night for literary gatherings, and a fourth Saturday night for Issei socials. He plans to have special dinners for the Japanese-American students in Kansas City who have difficulty in finding good Oriental foods in local restaurants, and parties on every holiday for old and young.

Evacuees will be charged one dollar per day at the Hostel for room and board while unemployed. Children under 12 will be charged half-rates. When a resettler becomes employed, he will be charged \$1.50 per day for room and board and for each member of his family over 12 years of age. Evacuees are expected to help with the chores, as the Hostel must be operated on a limited budget.

Relocation Advisers are invited to give evacuees on their way to Kansas City, Missouri, the following instructions on getting to the Hostel: Arrive at Union Station, board the Independence Avenue bus (Bus #41) and ride about four miles (approximately 20 minutes) to Independence and Prospect Avenue. Get off the bus at Prospect Avenue, walk back about one block to find the Hostel at 2411 Independence Avenue. The Hostel is right next door to the Independence Avenue Methodist Church. Reservations should be made in advance whenever possible.

Although the Kansas City Hostel will not be formally opened until June 17, the Hostel is ready for occupancy now, and anyone wishing to stay there should get in touch with Francis O'Malley, Relocation Officer, 1510 Fidelity Building, Kansas City 6, Missouri.

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