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JAPANESE-AMERICAN EVACUATION

RESETTLEMENT ON THE WEST COAST

1944-45

C-A

171



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## PACIFIC COAST

# Committee on American Principles and Fair Play

(INCORPORATED)

Headquarters: Room 203, 465 California Street, San Francisco 4

December 1st, 1944

Mrs. Ruth W. Kingman  
Executive Secretary  
2234 Telegraph Avenue  
Berkeley 4, California.

Dear Mrs. Kingman:

Herewith report of interviews at San Luis Obispo and Santa Maria. I spent only one day at the latter place but that was enough to enable me to obtain a fair impression of attitudes there and to list a considerable number of people who might be contacted for help if an issue should develop there.

Both San Luis Obispo and Santa Maria had large Japanese populations before the War. There is a great deal of truck farming in the adjacent Valleys which prior to the War was ~~handled~~ <sup>dominated</sup> by the Japanese growers and shippers. Whites and Filipinos have taken over all the ~~places~~ <sup>places</sup> formerly operated by the Japanese and under the prevailing war time prices, despite labor shortages, they are making a lot of money. So ~~as~~ long as the Whites and Filipinos can continue making money at vegetable growing they are not going to be too happy at the prospect of renewed <sup>or</sup> Japanese competition and the possibilities of conflict when the Japanese return are obvious.

There is a great deal of favorable sentiment which does not find much expression. The consensus is that there is not likely to be very much, if any, active resistance to the return of the Japanese but the latter will unquestionably have difficulty in getting back into farming because of the scarcity of land to rent and the lack of market outlets. They will have difficulty in finding housing. Both communities are adjacent to large Army Camps and at present there is probably not a vacant house or apartment in either town.

In San Luis Obispo there are three centers of support for an educational program and possible formation of a local committee. These are, first: the faculty of the California Polytechnic School; second: the Sunday Evening Forum, an active and liberal discussion group, which meets every Sunday evening in the Methodist Church; third: a small group of business and professional men.

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The Sunday Evening Forum is anxious to do more on the evacuee issue than conducting discussions. For one thing they have a mailing list of about 500 names, including all the teachers and professional people in the town and many more. They have offered to mail to their list any materials which we would send them. I suggest we take advantage of this opportunity without delay and send them for mailing 500 copies of the printed circular on the principles for which the Fair Play Committee stands (the one having the list of the Advisory Committee members on the back page) and also 500 copies of the address by President Sproul.

These materials should be sent to the Rev. Edwin Krapf 884 Pacific, San Luis Obispo.

We should keep in touch with Rev.Krapf and his group and send them additional materials for circulation.

Following are the people with whom I talked in San Luis Obispo - each one of these should have a personal letter from your office along the lines indicated in my letter of even date regarding Monterey.

JUDGE PAUL JACKSON  
Police Court - San Luis Obispo

Lawyer and Judge. Liberal. An active participant in the Sunday Evening Forum. Catholic. His point of view unexceptionable. He believes there will be no difficulty in returning the evacuees to this area. He would take a very active stand were it not for the fear of displeasing the City Council which employs him. But he would serve on a committee if one were set up.

MRS.CHAS.V.GATES  
1738 Johnson Ave.  
San Luis Obispo

-An active participant in the Sunday Evening Forum. Very liberal on the evacuee and other issues. Her husband is chairman of the Democratic County Committee and is also head of the Engineer & Firemen's Brotherhood in the city. He was out of town during my visit and therefore I didnot have an opportunity to talk with him but Mrs. Gates assured me that he shared her position on the matter and either or both would be willing to serve on a committee.



MRS. ROY S. BLAIR

521 "A"

Santa Barbara Avenue

San Luis Obispo

Secretary, Democratic County Committee. President, Sunday Evening Forum. Considerably to the left at the Sunday Evening Forum, which I attended. She took the speaker seriously to task because he spoke critically of ~~the~~ Russian Communism. She does not enjoy the confidence of the business and professional group naturally, but is somewhat of a power in her own circle.

REV. EDWIN KRAPP

Methodist Church

888 Pacific-San Luis Obispo

Rather emotional. Actively endorses liberal causes in his Church and has a following in the Church and is active in the Sunday Evening Forum which is conducted at his Church, but in the community generally is regarded as a somewhat wild liberal. He should unquestionably be on any Fair Play Committee but is hardly the man to take the leadership.

W.H. NUSS, Manager

Bank of America

San Luis Obispo

*no letter*

Terms himself a "staunch Republican". Conservative. Has great admiration for President Sproul. Said that he did not like the Japanese - did not like financial dealings with them and had closed out most of the credit extended to them before the war. The other bank in town he said is the "Japanese Bank". He thinks it would be for the best if the Japanese did not return to San Luis Obispo area but is not strongly prejudiced by any means and will not oppose their return. The more we talked the more he qualified his prejudicial statements as for example, when I asked him if his bank would again lend money to Japanese farmers he said "No" - and then added, "Not for awhile anyway." On the whole Mr. Nuss was friendly and when I left he gave me his card and asked me to get in touch with him at any time that he could be of service. I discussed with him the possible formation of a local committee and while this did not strike an enthusiastic response he was not opposed to it either. I am sure we can count on him at least not to take any prejudicial stand.



ROBERT B. GOODELL  
Publisher Telegram-Tribune  
San Luis Obispo

Mr. Goodell's paper in the past has been generally fair in its attitudes. He assured me that he personally endorsed the Fair Play Committee's point of view and felt the same way. Sometime ago he carried a lengthy contribution from one of the Professors of Polytechnic School on the subject of Civil Rights of evacuees. I imagine he will be favorably inclined to carry more of such articles and may even write an editorial or two of his own. In any event we can count on the Telegram-Tribune not to take a prejudicial stand.

EUGENE BRENDLIN  
Edna Road, San Luis Obispo

Farmer. Leases a farm purchased by a Japanese American on December 6, 1941. Apparently a large enterprise. Mr. Brendlin says the farm now has a \$25,000 mortgage and represents a total investment of \$47,000. Mr. Brendlin has pleasant relations with his landlord and said he has known a large number of Japanese, both first and second generation, and has liked them as neighbors. The second generation, he said were good citizens and he had always liked them.

He does not expect any active resistance to Japanese returning but is sure they will have a very difficult time getting back into farming; Primarily because every inch of land suitable for farming is now being operated and leases are at a premium. All the farms previously operated by the Japanese are now taken over by Whites and Filipinos, who are making good money and want to stay in the vegetable business. Further difficulty for the Japanese will be finding market outlets. There will be an attempt, Mr. Brendlin feels, by the produce growers to exclude Japanese competition.

ERNEST VOLLMER  
Real Estate and Insurance  
740 Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo

Elderly, wealthy, insurance and real estate broker. Prior to the War wrote insurance for Japanese aggregating over \$60,000 in yearly premiums according to his statement. Has been an outspoken champion of the Japanese from the beginning of the War, with the result that he has become fairly unpopular in San Luis Obispo. He regarded regaled me with many stories of his Japanese clients and it is evident that he liked them. He is second generation of German ancestry and because he was "a Jap" in the first World War, he knows how



it feels. Thinks the evacuation was a blunder and believes the Japanese should have a fair shake."

PETER BACHINO  
BACHINO AND STOCKBIRD  
740 Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo

Formerly associated with Mr.Voellmer in the insurance and real estate business and like him, is positive and outspoken in defense of the Japanese. He is second generation Italian and says if citizens of Japanese descent can have their citizenship taken away so can those of Italian extraction.

MILES OVERHOLT, Editor  
"THE INDEPENDENT"  
San Luis Obispo

With George H. Butler, Business Manager, has just purchased "The Independent" from Lloyd Tiernan, Republican politician who operated it as a one-man political journal. The new publishers intend to run it as a regular country weekly. Both men are newcomers to the community. Mr.Overholt has no convictions of his own on the Japanese but has followed along with the prejudices of the business community. Had never thought of the civil rights aspect of the matter and visibly acquired new ideas from our conversation. The Fair Play Committee approach was such a new idea to him that he wanted at once to run a story about it and asked for all the literature I could give him.

WILLIAM O'DONNELL,  
Postmaster  
San Luis Obispo

I talked with him only by telephone as we couldn't arrange a mutually agreeable appointment. His conviction is that all citizens should be treated alike, regardless of race or ancestry (very definite on that) but he feels, because of his official position, that he can't take a public stand on any matter of Government policy, such as the return of the Japanese. It would be well to write him a letter, expressing regret that I was unable to see him while in SLO, expressing appreciation for his point of view which is the same as ours, and otherwise explaining the Fair Play Committee program.



✓  
RICHARD L. WILLETT,  
688 Ida St. SLO

Director Santa Rosa Street USO and  
Member County Board of Supervisors

An old resident of SLO and a man of considerable influence. Extremely interested in the Japanese problem and in race relations generally. A thoughtful and kindly man with no prejudicial attitudes whatever, but cautious and afraid of making a misstep. He is the man to take the lead in forming a local committee but he will come to it slowly and by degrees. We should keep in touch with him and encourage him but it will be important not to give him cause for alarm. He asked for a list of the persons I talked with in SLO and said he would talk further with them about forming a committee. Immediately, he is going to attempt to arrange for showings of the WRA film before several local groups.

JUDGE RAY B. LYON, Superior Court  
San Luis Obispo County

*no letter*  
I had an appointment with Judge Lyon at the end of my last day in SLO and when, unexpectedly, he could not keep it, it was not possible to see him. Several people, including Willett, had urged me to see the Judge, saying that he was a fair minded man and interested in the problem. He should have a letter expressing regret that I was unable to see him while in SLO and outlining the Fair Play Committee's position, in general, and specifically with respect to local communities.

*no letter*  
MR. and MRS. DAVID COOK, 623 Caudill Street, San Luis Obispo  
MR. ROBERT E. KENNEDY, California Polytechnic School  
MR. RALPH DILTS, California Polytechnic  
MR. HARRY K. WOLF, California Polytechnic  
MR. H. PALAIS, California Polytechnic

*no letter*  
The five foregoing are all members of the faculty at California Polytechnic, liberal, aware of the issues in respect to the American-Japanese. They are ~~at least a possible~~ nucleus for a local committee. Mr. Cook and Mr. Kennedy are ~~particularly~~ particularly strong. The former and his wife are friends; the latter sometime ago wrote a lengthy article published in the Telegram-Tribune on civil rights in respect to the evacuees, and would like to do more. These men should definitely be encouraged.

*the most promising*



GEORGE COUPER, Chief of Public Relations,  
Bureau of Agricultural Education  
California Polytechnic School

*no letter*  
Interested in and understands the problem - has  
no prejudices but doesn't feel strongly on the subject.  
A brief note acknowledging his interest and helpfulness  
is advised but nothing more is necessary.

SANTA MARIA

The relationships between Japanese and Whites in the Santa Maria area would make a fascinating case study in race relations. Before the War, the Japanese were a large element in the population and on the whole were well accepted. Many were prominent and wealthy. The Chamber of Commerce solicited their membership; the Fair Association staged a Japanese Day at the annual Fair; most of the Service Clubs had Japanese members; Japanese students were popular in the schools where they captured a disproportionate share of the academic honors. Japanese contributed liberally to all civic causes. Anti-Japanese sentiment has developed entirely since the evacuation and as far as I was able to tell, it does not go very deep, notwithstanding a good deal of agitation. The anti-Japanese agitation is fomented and organized chiefly by two men - Robert E. Easton and his attorney, C.D. Preisker. Easton is a wealthy, retired business man and has taken on the Japanese issue as a hobby. Currently, he is attempting to organize an economic boycott of returning evacuees, to sign up landowners and business men not to lease land or houses to or hire Japanese.

Following are persons with whom I talked in Santa Maria:

REV. A.A. HEIST  
Methodist Church

A fighting liberal pastor, almost the only man in Santa Maria who has dared to defend the evacuees but he has battled boldly and without reservation. He has made a lot of enemies and has been the target of scurrilous personal vindictiveness. The local Service Clubs have excluded him from membership; the newspaper has editorialized against him; his enemies have tried in many ways to get his Church taken away from him but have thus far been unsuccessful. He goes, of course, much farther than does the Fair Play Committee - condemns the evacuation and calls for the return of the evacuees as soon as possible. He hammers away at the subject from the pulpit and in print - publishes "The Church Call" - a semi-monthly "Organ of Social Evangelism" devoted in large part to the evacuees, and also the "Bulletin of the First Methodist Church" which likewise contains many articles on the subject. The "Call" goes to a mailing list of about 500; of



the "Bulletin" dated April 30, 1944, some 4500 copies were circulated.

Rev. Heist is convinced that there has been a great change of sentiment in Santa Maria toward the evacuees during the last six months. Personal attacks on him have almost ceased, he says, and the more scurrilous attacks have stopped entirely. Several weeks ago two evacuees returned for a visit to look after their property. They stopped at the best Hotel in town, visited many former acquaintances, and received a cordial reception everywhere. Rev. Heist believes there will be little resistance to the gradual return of evacuees, especially if those who were prominent and well known in the community can be the first to return. Those who do not own their own homes will find it almost impossible to find places to live, due to the housing shortage. The farmers who depended on leased land will have a hard time finding land to lease now.

M.B.O'BRIEN  
GUADALUPE

✓  
Grower, shipper and packing house operator in Guadalupe. Another outspoken defender of the Santa Maria Valley Japanese. According to Rev. Heist this man opposed the "steal" of Japanese owned packing houses by the White packing interests with the result that he became extremely unpopular with the latter. He is nevertheless a well to do grower and business man and commands much respect in the Guadalupe Valley. markedly He corroborates Rev. Heist's view that public opinion has changed. toward the evacuees during the past six months; feels that active anti-Japanese sentiment is confined to a very few people and does not take the boycott threat at all seriously. He points to the housing shortage and the land shortage as factors of principle difficulty in the resettlement of the evacuees but is sure those who own homes or farms can come back without trouble. Others will find no difficulty in finding jobs and being generally accepted in the community provided they can find places to live which will be very difficult.

Mr. O'Brien discourages the idea of forming a local committee at the present time, as he thinks that the opposition (Easton, et al) has "shot their wad" and they have nothing more to do now because they have no issue to fight. Setting up a local committee would give them an issue and start the fight all over again. His advice is to wait until some issue arises, (hoping that none will arise) and re-consider the committee at that time. I am inclined to think his



(O'Brien-cont'd)

advice is sound and should be followed. It would be advisable, however, if we can find the time to do more work in interviewing business and professional men and other in the community.

ERNEST PARMENTER

Director, USO - Santa Maria

Professional Y.M.C.A. man. His sympathies are completely on the right side with no reservations. He was very helpful in analyzing the sources and character of the opposition and suggesting people whose sympathies were on the liberal side. He feels he himself cannot take the lead in forming the local committee without leaving the USO and for the present the latter is enough of a job for him. He has to carry on an unceasing fight to get facilities for the service men on leave in Santa Maria; has at present two clubs and a dormitory but has to sleep a 100 or more service men on the floors and on the stairs every Saturday night. He corroborated the statements previously made to me about the sentiment of public opinion and it is his personal belief that a large following could be found for a local committee provided several influential business men would take the leadership in forming one.

REV. L. BANES ANDERSON

Presbyterian Church, Santa Maria

A member of the Fair Play Committee for the past two years and strongly on the right side of the issue but is not outspoken. Is confident that all the ministers in town feel the same way as he does and would join a local committee if business men took the lead.

The following are people whom I did not have an opportunity to see but who are suggested as being probably sympathetic and persons who should be contacted in the event further work is done in Santa Maria. My suggestion is that we do no further work at this time but follow the situation closely and if a local issue arises there it will be advisable to enter Santa Maria again.

HARRY TYLER Superintendent, High School and Junior College

STANLEY BRENEISER High School Teacher (Supports Heist financially)

DOROTHY CRANDALL Registrar at High School

has letters  
to these  
a follow  
page



(Mrs Kingman) San Luis Obispo-Santa Maria

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*No letter*

ETHEL POPE Dean of Girls, High School

FRED MAY Business man and President, Santa Maria Board of Education

ROBERT BRUCE Superintendent, <sup>Pacific</sup> Civic Gas & Electric Company

MR. TERWILLIGER Manager, Woodworths

MR. DONALDSON Manager, Western Auto Supply Company

MR. MALCOLM Manager, Good Year Store

MR. BLAINE Manager, Blaine Furniture Company  
(wife is a Quaker)

FATHER MURPHY Catholic Church

CLYDE DYER Manager, PG&E Sub-Station

BURT ROSENBLUM Business man

JUDGE MARION SMITH

DR. EDMUND CROWLEY, M.D. - Leader in L.D.S. Church

(the latter two persons are suggested as men of standing in the community who might be expected, if a crisis should arise, to take the lead in opposing the antis.)

Sincerely yours,

*Davis McEntire*  
Davis McEntire



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### Committee on American Principles and Fair Play

(INCORPORATED)

Headquarters: Room 203, 465 California Street, San Francisco 4

December 1st, 1944

Mrs. Ruth W. Kingman  
Executive Secretary  
2234 Telegraph Avenue  
Berkeley 4, California.

Dear Mrs. Kingman:

Last week I talked with 15 or 20 people in Monterey, Pacific Grove and Carmel, the more significant of whom are listed below. The group is probably not a representative sample of these communities because, as you know, I was looking for people who might be expected to take a stand for constitutional procedure and ~~revision~~ of the civil rights of citizen evacuees. Effort was made however, to reach people of some standing in the community. Those interviewed are undoubtedly representative of a significant section of community leadership.

I found none, with one exception, who were strongly prejudiced. Excepting this one individual they were quite prepared to see the evacuees return; all recognized that they had an unquestionable right to do so whenever military exclusion was lifted; the consensus was that these communities would probably raise no objection to the return under military sanction but everyone pointed to Salinas as a sore spot and several thought there would be danger of violence there.

The Monterey Peninsula and the Salinas Valley are about as different as two communities well could be - for all of the relationship between them they might as well be 200 miles apart as 20. The Peninsula is really one community with 3 nuclei (Monterey - Pacific Grove - Carmel) and the people regard themselves as Peninsula residents. Many people live in Carmel and work in Monterey or Pacific Grove, but Salinas is beyond the pale.

I asked everyone I talked with on the Peninsula to suggest people in Salinas and the total of result was 2 names. Nobody from Monterey knows anybody in Salinas. Peninsula people go to Salinas to catch trains and that is about the extent of their interest in that community.

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Salinas ought to be worked rather intensively. I did not go there because merely a day or two - which was all my schedule would afford - would probably not be worthwhile. But someone should go in there with enough time to meet a lot of people and work on the opposition. That town will unquestionably be one of the danger points. If George Rundquist could spare a few days I am sure it would be very well worth his while.

The following people I am told are unfavorably disposed:

JUDGE JORGENSON	-	Superior Court
EMMETT McMenamin	-	County Clerk (probably)
REV. M. L. KEMPER	-	United Presbyterian Church
BILL KENYON	-	Central Labor Committee
MRS.HOMER G. EMMONS	-	(probably)

X  
One potential trouble spot - the only one mentioned - is the fishing industry. Before the War fairly keen competition existed ~~between~~<sup>in</sup> this industry between the Sicilians and the Japanese. Now, the former have it all to themselves and they will have to get accustomed to the idea of the Japanese competition again. The rivalry between the two groups was never excessive but it might be unfortunate if the Japanese fishermen were the first to show up in the community. Aside from the Economic ~~factor~~ the usual stories have circulated about the Japanese Naval Officers, disguised as fishermen, ~~in~~ fishing boats meeting Japanese vessels at sea, etc. Many people on the Monterey peninsula, otherwise well disposed, would be nervous at seeing Japanese going fishing again off the Coast during the War. It would be advisable, I think, to pass this on to WRA and especially to Poston, where most of the Monterey fishermen were sent.

+  
A committee could readily be formed, I am sure, on the Monterey Peninsula among the people who feel strongly on the subject; but I believe, that if the contacts I have made are maintained, and these people are encouraged to continue thinking about the problem, that a number of leading business and professional men can probably be brought in later on. At the moment, the sentiment is friendly, but I do not find anyone who is willing right now to take the lead in calling a group together - that is, no one who would command the respect of the business and professional group.

Several people indicated that they thought it would be a good idea to form a committee and promised their support but no one wants to stick his head up. It will be extremely important to continue the education of these people. Your idea of writing each one a letter should certainly be carried out with no delay. In addition, each person should be placed on the mailing list; they are interested and the Committees' stuff will be read and will be talked about in the community. Those are the two things which your office can do. Locally, there are two or three stalwarts (Mr.Krogh - Mrs. Todd - Mrs. Morrow -see below) - who will continue to discuss the matter with the professional and business men.



There is good prospect, I think, of getting a local committee later on but even if that should not work out we are in a position to give some guidance to local thinking and opinion.

In your letters to the people with whom I talked may I suggest, first: that you refer to the person's conversation with me and Express the Committee's appreciation of their thoughtful approach to the problem; second: state again the basic position of the Committee with respect to civil rights, the Constitution, and ~~the~~ Military necessity; emphasizing that the important thing is not to defend the American-Japanese, but to maintain the principle that all American citizens should be treated alike when the military emergency is passed; third: re-state the approach which I have taken with local people, namely, that the problem will have to be settled in the various communities of the Pacific Coast and it will require cool and unbiased thinking; to respect the rights of American citizens is only good citizenship, but unfortunately, there are some people who have not thought the matter through in that light, who unthinkingly blame loyal citizens of Japanese ancestry for the crimes of the Imperial Japanese Government. The thinking people of every community have a responsibility to see that the facts are made known and to guide the sentiment of their community toward an intelligent and peaceful solution of the problem.

The following are the more significant persons with whom I talked on the Monterey Peninsula:

✓  
MRS. DWIGHT MORROW, Jr.  
Carmel Valley

Socially prominent - liberal - interested in race relations - active in the Monterey Inter-Racial Committee. Her point of view is solidly on the liberal side - she is interested in the evacuees not only from the standpoint of civil rights but also in aiding those returning to find places to live and jobs. She is, however, rather timid about expressing her point of view or assuming leadership because she has been in California only three years and fears that the older residents would resent advice from newcomers. Nevertheless, Mrs. Morrow and the two people next mentioned are the solid nuclei for any program which might be developed on the Monterey Peninsula. We should keep in touch with her regularly and give her every encouragement to do more.



✓  
MRS. MARIAN TODD

Carmel

Head of Monterey Peninsula Community Chest - with offices in Monterey - solidly liberal and well respected in the community because of her capable management of the Community Chest. On close personal terms with Mrs.Morrow - Believes wholeheartedly that a committee should be formed and at once and that it should go to work to produce statements from the County Board of Supervisors and other public officials. She has many contacts in the community and will use them. If a committee were once established we could count on her to supply a lot of the driving force.

✓  
R. T. KROGH  
1107 Franklin  
Monterey

Principal of Monterey Adult School and Chairman of Inter-Racial Committee of Monterey. A convinced and solid liberal - deeply interested in race relations. With Mrs. Morrow arranged to bring Carey McWilliams in to address a public meeting on the subject of American-Japanese. Supported by the Inter-Racial Committee this meeting was attended by approximately 600 people and McWilliam's remarks were very well received. Many questions were asked but not one was of a heckling character, According to Krogh and Mrs.Morrow. The Inter-Racial Committee will continue its activities in respect to the Japanese but Krogh believes it would be highly ~~undesirable~~ to form a separate group devoted to the single issue of civil rights which having thus limited and "safer" aims than the Inter-Racial Committee, might attract the support of business and professional men who now regard the Inter-Racial Committee with some anxiety. Mr.Krogh will continue to discuss the possibility of a local Fair Play Committee or equivalent, with the business and professional men with whom I talked. A copy of my letter to him is enclosed.

✓  
FRED WORKMAN  
Sinex & Municipal Streets  
Pacific Grove

Proprietor of an Auto Court and Store on the 17 mile Drive. An elderly, gentle business man. Well informed. Solidly liberal and a man of considerable intellectual sophistication but not aggressive. A member of the American Civil Liberties Union. He takes the long view and is not greatly concerned about the immediate situation of the American-Japanese which he likens to that of the German-Americans in the First World War, - there is bound



(Workman-continued)

to be trouble while War lasts but "time is the ~~Great~~ Zealer." Mr.Workman would be a valuable member of any committee but is not the man to take the initiative to form one.

NILES PEASE

"Pease the Druggist"

Lighthouse Ave-Pacific Grove

Business man and landlord. Strongly interested. Alive to the civil rights issues involved. He had been thinking of getting a Nisei couple of his acquaintance to return and live in part of his house and do maintenance-gardening work for their rent. He is sufficiently interested to do some work later on; at present he is deeply involved in another "civil rights" battle - a battle against "dictatorial, unconstitutional" administration of OPA Rent Control - this will keep him busy at least until Christmas, but in that time he expects to have OPA beaten down and would be ready to swing into action in behalf of a local Fair Play Committee. He thinks that a Peninsula committee should center in Monterey because that is where most of the Japanese population resided prior to the War and that is the main center of business activity on the Peninsula. He is quite sure that if a committee were initiated at Monterey he could bring in a contingent of business men from Pacific Grove.

R.H.PARTRIDGE

President, First National Bank  
Pacific Grove

Conservative - racist point of view but moderate. Regards himself as a thinking person. He is head of the Fair Play Committee and is impressed by the big names ~~as~~ such ~~men~~ as President Sproul, Wilbur, Millikan, Lundberg, etc., who are back of the Committee and feels there really must be something to its point of view. Furthermore, he himself is very strongly for the Constitution. But, he has himself taken a very different approach, believing that the Constitution ought to be amended in order that unassimilable racial groups could be removed from the country. He wanted to know if the men of the Fair Play Committee had given any study to the possibility or desirability of amending the constitution for that purpose. All of this was expressed very moderately and although Mr.Partridge's viewpoint is very different from my own it was possible to discuss the matter with him.

My judgment is that, impressed by the big names and feeling a personal responsibility as a thinking man, and a leader of the community, he would at least give long and serious



(R.H.Partridge-continued)

consideration to joining a committee if one should be formed.

JOHN MARTIN

Hudson, Martin & Ferzante, Attorneys  
Monterey

Young man - son of Carmel Martin, ranking member of this law firm. A very pleasant young man - has no prejudices against the Japanese but is ~~definitely~~ accustomed to following leadership rather than supplying it. He agreed there could be no question as to the right of citizen evacuees to return whenever the Army lifted the military ban. He further agreed on the duty of lawyers to support the civil rights of all citizens. He was non-committal on the formation of a committee but there is no doubt that if his father favored one he would join in with enthusiasm.

PERRY REEL

Manager, J.C.Penny Co.  
Monterey

President, Monterey Chamber of Commerce.

One of the leading business men of Monterey. He has visibly been educated to an understanding of the rights of Japanese-American citizens. He attended the Carey McWilliams lecture and was favorably impressed.

Later Art Godfrey of the Friends Service Committee called on him and so I was the third favorable influence to bear upon his thinking in a period of less than two weeks. He is definitely on the Pro side. He pictures himself as a man of strong conviction and willing to stand up for what he believes is right. THIS is right and he feels he should stand up for it. However, he is sensitive to the risks involved. He pointed out to me that he operated a semi-public institution and doubted that he could afford to stand forth alone but he said if a group of business men would stand out in defense of the rights of American citizens he would have no hesitation in going along. He suggested that Carmel Martin was the logical man in the community to take the lead in forming such a group.



CARMEL MARTIN, SR.

~~Partner~~ -Hudson, Martin & Ferzante, Attorneys  
Monterey

Elderly - most distinguished lawyer on the Monterey Peninsula - he is an intelligent and well informed man and there is no question of either his understanding or his sympathies in the present instance. However, he inclines to caution on forming a committee which he feels is not opportune at the present time. Public opinion, he says, is calming down and it should be allowed to calm down some more before a committee is formed. Monterey, Pacific Grove and Carmel, he says, will receive back the evacuees without difficulty but Salinas is a trouble spot and if a committee were to be formed he feels it would only antagonize the Salinas group.

We should keep in touch with him and encourage him to continue thinking about the problem.

✓  
W.M.O'DONNELL

Manager, Editor Monterey Peninsula Herald  
Monterey

A very warm hearted human person. After hearing my story, announced that he himself went much farther than the Fair Play Committee as he not only supported the Civil Rights of all citizens but he definitely liked the Japanese-Americans. He thought they were excellent citizen - that it was a mistake that they were evacuated and that they should be allowed to return as soon as possible. He doesn't feel entirely independent to express his point of view in his newspaper, partly because he does not own the newspaper - ~~and because~~ the owner is at present serving overseas with the Armed Forces and partly because of the attitude of some of his advertisers. He asked me in particular to go to see W.R.Holman, owner of a Department Store in Pacific Grove which is an important advertiser and the owner is strongly anti-Japanese.

Mr.O'Donnell will never lend his paper to an anti-Japanese campaign and he will go just as far as he dares on the other side. He gave, for example, an excellent coverage of Carey McWilliam's lecture. This is an important channel in reaching the people of Monterey Peninsula and we will do well to provide Mr.O'Donnell with all the material he can use. He should be on the mailing list for everything and we should bear him in mind for any story of particular significance for his area.

Concerning the formation of a Fair Play Committee Mr. O'Donnell felt that for the time being at least it was better not to agitate the question. He said that public



opinion was softening and that the best strategy was to let it soften still more before forming a committee, if at all. A committee he felt would challenge the opposition, and would start controversy again.

✓  
HUGH S. DORMODY, M.D.  
Monterey Hospital  
Monterey

Prominent physician. Active in Rotary - Past District Governor of Rotary. Dr. Dormody is easily the most thoughtful and best informed man on the Japanese-Americans and the issues involved of anyone I met on the peninsula - and perhaps the least inclined to do anything about it.

The Fair Play committee, he says, has no program as far as he can tell because it is merely asking people to be good citizens and everyone is expected to be a good citizen. He dismisses Hearst and the various groups fomenting anti-Japanese agitation as "contemptible" meriting no respect or consideration whatever, and he further believes that they have no influence. The most important bearing of the Japanese-American question he believes, is on the International relations of the United States in the Pacific Basin. He is aware of how the Japanese Government has used the treatment of Japanese-Americans in the United States for propaganda in the Orient and he believes if any evacuees returning to California are mobbed and killed it will have a disastrous reaction on the standing of the United States authority in the Pacific and the Orient. But all of Dr. Carmody's thinking, advanced as it is, is strictly ivory tower.

We should, however, keep in touch with him. Perhaps in a crisis he might be willing to come forth. It is even possible that he might be persuaded to initiate some discussion in Rotary Clubs - although I doubt it.

I talked with him for nearly two hours and had a hard time getting away - so there is certainly no lack of interest on his part and there is a chance that it might occur to him to go beyond just talking about the problem and condemning the antis.

✓  
VERNON HURD-Manager  
Holman's Department Store  
Pacific Grove

I saw Mr. Hurd and Mr. Holman (below) - at the request of Mr. O'Donnell. Holman is retired from active management of the store which he has turned over entirely to Mr. Hurd. The latter is a young, aggressive business man. He said it was his point of view that the first and second generations



of Japanese in this country are likely to be loyal to Japan in a crisis - but his faith in that point of view has been somewhat shaken by the military record of the Japanese-Americans - and was further shaken by the arguments which I advanced and by the important names which he saw on the literature of the Fair Play Committee. He is a reasonable man and believes the problem is one which should be discussed and talked of in the Service Clubs and elsewhere. He asked for all the literature I could give him and promised to call the matter to the attention of the Rotary Club members and also before a young business men's group to which he belongs, and would try to get some discussion started.

W.R. HOLMAN  
Pacific Grove

NOTE: DO NOT WRITE TO THIS MAN

*to letter*

Mr. Holman is the retired owner of the largest Department Store on the Monterey Peninsula. On the Japanese question he is a psychopath. It was not possible to talk with him and after I had introduced the subject he launched at once into a furious monologue in which he recited all the scandalous charges and stories about the American-Japanese and I do not think he missed one of them.

There is no particular reason that I could discover why he should be so extremely prejudiced as he has never been in competition with Japanese and has never know very many of them but he is as rabid on the subject as anyone I have met.

Mrs. Todd and Mrs. Morrow tell me that he is generally regarded in the community as somewhat "off-center" and has no influence or following. Notwithstanding his wealth, he serves on no committees and is given no part in civic activities. No one, according to my informants, takes him seriously.

Unfortunately, Mr. O'Donnell takes him seriously because his store is one of O'Donnell's largest advertisers. We can count on Mr. Holman's using any opportunity which comes his way to advance his anti-Japanese views but so far as I could learn his views will command little or no respect on the Monterey Peninsula, although they are, perhaps, congenial to the Salinas group.

Sincerely yours,

*Davis McEntire*  
Davis McEntire

c.c. L. I. Hawes



December 1st, 1944

Mr. R.T.Krogh  
1107 Franklin  
Monterey  
California.

Dear Mr.Krogh:

I talked with the following people  
in the Monterey Peninsula:

Mrs. Dwight Morrow, Jr.  
Fred Workman  
R.H.Partridge  
Perry Reel  
W.M.O'Donnell  
Vernon Hurd

Mrs. Marion Todd  
Niles Pease  
John Martin  
John Martin, Sr.  
Dr. Hugh S. Dormody  
W.R.Holman

With the exception of Mr.Holman, all of the foregoing  
were friendly and some of them were definitely inclined  
toward forming a local Fair Play Committee.

Carmel Martin and O'Donnell however, felt that it was  
better not to agitate the question. They said that  
public opinion was softening toward the evacuees and the  
best thing to do was to let it soften. They feared that  
forming a committee at this time would only serve to  
relight the fires of controversy. There is undoubtedly  
much to be said for that point of view, especially, if  
sentiment is as they say, changing in the right direction.  
As long as there occurs no "incident or crisis" the Fair  
Play Committee is not necessarily advocating the immediate  
formation of local committees but it does feel that it is  
highly desirable for individuals and groups in the local  
communities to be in readiness to come out on the right  
side in case any issue arises and to declare their  
support for the Army and for allowing evacuees to return  
whenever the Army says they may.

If you have an opportunity to discuss the matter casually  
with any of those with whom I talked we should appreciate  
it if you would do so with the thought of keeping the  
matter before their attention.

In addition to the public opinion problem there is the  
matter of aiding the returning evacuees to find places  
to live and jobs. As you suggested this is probably not a  
problem in which a local Fair Play Committee would be



(R.T.Krogh)

page 2-

interested but we definitely welcome the interest of the Inter-Racial Committee.

We should be greatly indebted to you if you could inform us from time to time concerning developments on the Monterey Peninsula.

If there is anything further that we could do I am sure some one could arrange a return visit after the first of the year.

Thank you for your help and trusting we may be able to continue working together, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Davis McEntire

P.S. I am sending a copy of this letter to Mrs. Morrow and to Mrs. Todd.



Tule Lake  
Feb. 19, 1945

CONFIDENTIAL

HOOD RIVER (Feb. 16)

Linville and I drove down to Hood River where he had evacuee property business to transact, and we decided we both could get some general information of value by talking to various people acquainted with the local scene. I was identified simply as being from the Washington office, function unmentioned. Sometimes it is a good thing I have a name people usually garble, To some it sounded like Sawyer, to others Sherwood, to others Seaway and Sherman, but I noticed that the D.A. and John Nohr, the leading local lawyer took my name down, a careful practice common to lawyers and newspapermen, I guess.

We picked up copies of the Hood River ads at the Hood River News. We missed the editor, Hall, on several tries during the day, but we heard from various sources that he was not popular with the Legion for his condemnation of the name erasures and occasional defense of the evacuees. Naturally, he cannot refuse the Legion ads, since he is not the publisher, but it is noteworthy that most or all the Legion anti-Japanese printing jobs, such as reprints of the ads they are distributing and the pamphlet statement about Hood River Japanese, have gone to the other paper, the Sun.

Travis of the Sun told us all the work was being paid for by the Legion, and the writing is done by Legion people, but it includes material plagiarized from the usual basic sources of misinformation. One would think from the pamphlet that Hood River is full of Shinto temples. Travis seemed a pleasant young man, badly informed but interested in new information. He said he knew "good Japs" but how was it that many of them must have known about Pearl Harbor in advance and "you would think one of them would have said something about it." I asked him (we were pretty amicable by that time) whether he knew about D-Day in advance, which he should have as an American fully informed in advance of American military operations. He finally agreed it was unlikely that the Japanese military would entrust the Pearl Harbor plans to hundreds of Issei and Nisei in Hood River. Here, as at the News and in talking to various residents, Linville and I made casual reference to the fact a Nisei reportedly from Hood River had died of wounds on Leyte. Travis, by the way, had checked and claimed there was no evidence he was from Hood River. Anyway, we spread the Oregonian AP story about it around wherever we went. We did the same for the Collier's editorial about H.R., as reported in the Oregonian.

One of our stops was to see District Attorney Wyers. He assured Linville he would enforce the law to the limit against any who attacked returnees. He said that two youngsters who had broken into an unoccupied evacuee farmhouse had been caught, "scared stiff," and been given suspended sentences. In view of their ages, 14 and 12, I said to Wyers they should not of course receive press attention, but would there be any objection to his giving the local papers an item without names, stating that law officers had caught and the court given suspended sentences, because of extreme youth, to two boys who burglarized evacuee property? May be it would deter those hoodlums he had told us might have



something more serious in mind? "Oh, I don't want any publicity," the D.A. said loftily. He handsomely suggested we give it to the papers. Linville said it wasn't a WRA function, but later I suggested to him privately that he might mention it to the News editor on his weekly trip to Hood River next time. It probably will be too late then, of course.

In any event, Wyers claimed there was no one who would advise evacuees to come back. Under questioning (who is D.A. at Hood River, anyway!) he admitted that if they did come back, even against the understandable advice of their friends, their friends would support them. He personally believes it would be best for the evacuees and everyone if they did not return. He, of course, saw no economic motive in the campaign to keep them away. His own advice to Eddington, he said, was to restore the names to the memorial and couple it with an "excoriating blast against the Japa."

John Mohr, a local lawyer with whom Linville has a great deal of evacuee property business, thought the local situation was bad for evacuees but there was some local support for them. He said that Ralph (?) Hayes, a local farmer who had defended them, had been extremely unpopular because of it.

Out near Parkdale we saw Hayes, a great big ruddy-faced chunk of a man who said slowly he "always spoke his mind." I believed him too. He has long been a friend of the evacuees, and practically raised one family after it was orphaned. He was worried about returnees, however, thinking they should not come back for awhile. But he agreed with Linville that the Legion crowd did not mean them to stay away during the war, but always, and that the fight would have to be made whenever they came back. He will help all who return, at any time. He told us that many of those signing the Shoemaker petition did it to avoid an argument, not from any desire to support the Legion strongly.

The News had carried an editorial that day, about a San Francisco man writing to S.F. papers that Hood River apples should be boycotted. The News couldn't see the connection between the Legion erasures and a boycott on local apples. Underlying it was the fear, which we ran into here and there, that such a thing might come to pass. If it ever did, the responsible people in town would quiet the Legion crowd in a hurry. Now there is no harm to them from is going on, and no incentive to stop it.

Hood River valley is getting rich on fruit crops. I heard of a number of cases in which orchards bought one year, had been paid for in full out of the net profits of one or two years. There is hope among many that the evacuees will sell. A farmer named Merz, a school teacher until the fruit money prompted him to borrow enough to buy evacuee acreage, wants to buy much bigger evacuee acreage than he now has. Linville explained the bidding procedure on a tract offered for sale, and then asked him how he felt about evacuees returning. Merz knew of a few good ones, but when he taught school he couldn't help noting things that made him feel later they knew about Pearl Harbor, etc., etc. A lot of local feeling against them, and better if they didn't come back. He might have been rational once, but now Merz has an economic incentive to rationalize against and maybe act against the return of evacuees.

There was a complicated session with a farmer named Miller, who has been operating lands leased from an evacuee for two years, getting three quarters



of the net profit, after throwing everything including the kitchen sink into his estimate of costs reducing the net profit. He denies now what an audit taken of his own figures shows, that he owes some hundreds of dollars to the evacuee owner from his first year's operation. (The second year brought him 75 per cent of about \$29,000 net profit, I believe). The audit was made at Linville's request by Mr. Guille, a local auditor. Two hours after seeing Miller we say Guille and he said suddenly "I don't want any more Jap business." He doesn't want to work on audits of returns from their property, and he wanted to buy back the audit he had given Linville. Apparently he is afraid he might have to go into court if the evacuee sues for the profits due him, and have to support his own audit. Dirty work at Hood River, if I ever saw any.

### Conclusion:

I have spent this much space (and bad typing) on Hood River because I think there is a pattern here more dangerous to relocation to the coast than men shooting into windows. You can get enforcement officials to arrest and prosecute hoodlums, but there is no legal action possible against those who run intimidating ads and conduct a legal, organized campaign to force evacuees to sell out. There is the danger too that if successful in Hood River, the technique will spread to Gresham and other places. If it is to be defeated it should be defeated at Hood River where there is a nationwide public stigma producing a local effect even now. The Legion erasures was a local blunder. The land selling campaign is the real thing, the strategy that would be coming off better if the Legion had not put its foot into it with the business about the names.

In my opinion there should be a triple action taken against Hood River. There should be an overhead campaign of publicity, through getting the Hood River ads and the campaign to the attention of a few leading newspapers, Colliers, a few columnists possibly. That will put Hood River back in the spotlight again as a place still deserving of nationwide censure. It would bring the responsible people to an awareness that lasting damage might be done to their community (which has fruit to sell and tourists to attract after the war). Linville should get more opportunity to go to Hood River and buck up the opposition to the Legion, and give them ammunition on the Nisei in the Pacific, on everything being written about Hood River, about Issei and Nisei being accepted elsewhere. Third, every effort should be made to keep evacuees, by persuasion, from selling Hood River holdings, and if possible, get them to go back, although they may not do so until the spearhead of the local opposition is broken by the first two types of action.

Linville reports that five Hood River evacuee farms are up for sale, all starting before the campaign, I believe, and four from Tule Lake. Three of the four involve renunciators. The fourth talked to Lowry, Tule Lake evacuee property officer whom I saw today. This farmer and I are going to get together. He wants to sell for \$25,000. Lowry thinks I can and should persuade him to at least postpone action. The farmer, who has a brother who fought in Europe and is now in the Pacific, feels Hood River will always be hostile. I'll do what I can.



Wyer

Observations in Connection with a Visit to the  
WATSONVILLE - SALINAS - MONTEREY AREA

by Gordon K. Chapman

Having recently visited the Monterey Bay Area, I would still characterize public opinion as being fairly favorable at Monterey, indifferent at Watsonville, and quite antagonistic at Salinas. In any case, it has become a grave question as to whether evacuees should be encouraged to return to this area, in view of certain considerations which I shall now present:

I. SALINAS

In Salinas I conferred with the ministers, representative Filipinos, and some business men. As is well known, Salinas has a long background of antagonism to the Japanese, and this has been greatly enhanced by the fact that a local National Guard unit was at Bataan, and with the return of some of these individuals local antipathy has greatly increased.

Judging from the statements of prominent business men, the grower-shippers are committed to a policy of discouraging future Japanese participation in agricultural industry in the Salinas Valley. The claim is made that the Japanese are not needed, and that they are undesirable. It is asserted that they were disinclined to cooperate in policies which were calculated to further the interests of the growers; for instance, when it was agreed that lettuce below a certain size should not be harvested in the interest of price control and so forth, the Japanese continued to harvest small sizes and undersell. The executive secretary of the Chamber of Commerce stated that while there had been Japanese members, they were disinclined to pay the fee for regular membership, and <sup>yet</sup> wanted regular privileges at associate member ~~rates~~, and so on, and so on.

It is asserted that the local census indicated that ninety-five percent of the community were opposed, and that the only ones who were in favor of Japanese return "were people who were not concerned with the welfare of the community." It is still being charged in Salinas that while there may be some loyal ones, generally speaking they are disloyal; that the Army Intelligence has found it most difficult to find and recruit loyal Japanese; that it is a well-known fact that there was considerable Japanese sabotage and espionage in the Salinas Valley; and generally speaking, local people accept the findings of the Dies Committee and the Committee of the California State Senate.

When the Japanese-American soldiers were at Fort Ord, it was necessary for them to be very circumspect in visiting Salinas, and to keep pretty close to the U.S.O. Prominent individuals even took exception to their wearing of service ribbons, on the ground that they were putting on airs, "wearing decorations conspicuously which American soldiers kept out of sight." One of our local pastors in Salinas stated that he had arranged for a reception for Nisei soldiers at Fort Ord, but many in his congregation took exception to this, and his people were very much divided.

The WRA relocation officer for this area, Mr. Theodore Lewis, emphasized the fact that he had conferred with law-enforcement officials and was assured of cooperation. The secretary of the Chamber of Commerce also assured me that there would be no overt acts of violence; the people had been warned to refrain lest there be retaliation in the Far East, and he did not look for these acts. But it does appear that returning Japanese would be treated with coolness, if not discourtesy, in many cases. In fact, just before I arrived



a local department store had refused to serve a Japanese. As one prominent resident said, "We just don't want the Japs back." Local law-enforcement officials have apparently been quite indifferent to their responsibilities when it comes to the protection of Japanese property, and as the Y.M.C.A. director stated, they even consider the local Japanese church property as a proper sphere for pilfering activities.

Having conferred with the Japanese now at Poston who were formerly residents of this area, the writer can state that very few have any intention of returning to Salinas; and although quite a number indicated that they would be glad to do so if assured of community acceptance, they stated that it would not suffice to simply guarantee that they would not be attacked. They would not seriously consider returning unless the responsible members of the community would treat them in favorable fashion. As one prominent member of the former Japanese community of Salinas wrote: "The people from the Monterey Bay Area cannot look to that region as a possible place of relocation because of the situation which prevails there. In other regions at least the church groups have come out to advocate fair play even in the face of opposition; but such has not been the case in Watsonville, Salinas, and Monterey. This is significant, as these were among the largest communities in California. It seems to me, then, that to the former residents of that area relocation means going to some other place. Persons conducting business in such towns would find it most difficult to go back. This is not only because of local antipathy, but economic and housing problems will be almost insolvable."

The WRA representative in Salinas has mainly concentrated on the problem of local protection, and has done little or nothing by way of trying to influence public opinion. The local pastors confessed that it had not been advisable for them to engage in much activity of an educational nature from their pulpits, but they were prepared to sponsor a union community meeting where outside speakers would be given an opportunity to present the issues at stake and undertake to give local people a more intelligent and just attitude toward the Japanese. The secretary of the local Chamber of Commerce is also willing to try to arrange a small meeting of business and agricultural leaders of his community to talk over the whole question with several leading individuals from the outside who know the facts and who are in a position to speak intelligently on the Japanese-American question.

The writer is committed to accept these two invitations in case they are finally confirmed, but would like to be accompanied by one or two others, preferably laymen.



## II. WATSONVILLE

A very good meeting was arranged in Watsonville, with both pastors and some laymen present. As the local WRA man had not met with these individuals, or with the church group, the writer invited him to attend and introduced him to this group. It was decided to put the following items on the agenda for a meeting later this month:

1. Organization of a local committee to include representatives of all interested churches and agencies as well as prominent citizens.
2. To hold a local mass meeting with a view to bringing the facts before the Christian community; in other words, it was felt that this would help to educate the section of the community from which most cooperation could be expected.
3. Discuss the question of integration of returnees into church and community
4. Organize a committee to look after inter-racial problems.
5. To provide ministers and others in the community with the best factual material.
6. One church is considering the employment of a qualified Nisei assistant to help with young people's work, the feeling being that this would not only be good for the Watsonville people, but would also encourage returnees.

Interviews were also held with some of the prominent leaders of the community who were outside the circle of church influence. The man who is said to be the leading real estate agent, with interests as far away as Monterey, stated that while he had many Japanese friends he was advising them to relocate elsewhere, for although they would doubtless not suffer physical violence, and would be accorded the privileges provided by our laws such as schools and other public institutions, their children would have to submit to a great deal of persecution and unfriendliness.

Mr. H. K. Sakata, who was perhaps the most prominent member of the pre-evacuation community and one of the big agricultural operators, has been in Watsonville for some weeks, and has had several unpleasant experiences. On one occasion he was driven out of a grocery store. On another he was attacked by a half-drunken man who wanted to know why Japan had attacked America and took offense when Sakata said that he did not know, but that he had members of his family in the American army. A local packer refused to discuss business with Mr. Sakata on any terms. Mr. Sakata's wife had some difficulty in securing a room in the hospital because of initial opposition, but this was overcome because it turned out that Mr. Sakata was one of the stockholders in the hospital. When his wife required blood transfusions, blood was given by the local Chinese pastor and a Salvation Army worker, both of whom were severely criticized by certain residents of Watsonville. One individual stated that he would no longer support the Salvation Army because of this act.

It was stated in Watsonville that there had been a disposition to refrain from discussing the Japanese return for fear that it would cause local disunity. Mr. Sakata, however, thinks that while it would be inadvisable for Japanese to return in any number for several years, ultimately it will be possible for them to return there and engage in agriculture and certain types of business. He seems to be advising his friends to postpone return.



In both Salinas and Watsonville it was stated that there was no special need for Japanese labor, and local people did not seem to be conscious of any serious inter-racial problems. Thus it was felt that if the Japanese returned it might contribute to strife between the Filipinos and Japanese, thereby creating a problem which was not then existent.

There seemed to be some disposition in both places to welcome the help of outside individuals who were thoroughly posted, and who were prepared to discuss the question in a dispassionate manner. However, serious exception was taken to the fact that the young man who previously visited the community and interviewed various important personages was ~~known as~~ <sup>known as</sup> as a pacifist and <sup>known just as a</sup> starry-eyed idealist who was symbolic of the kind of people who befriend the Japanese."

If after due consideration it seems best to further cultivate these communities in the interest of the possible return of some Japanese, the fact should be faced that after all the growers and shippers are united in their opposition, and that a great many people who in their own hearts might be cooperative are fearful of taking a stand lest they put their own economic position in jeopardy. One packer said he was perfectly willing to employ Japanese, but if he should do so he would be boycotted and his other workers would leave. A study should therefore be made of the whole background of the agricultural industry in the Salinas Valley, and the effort be made to find some way of bringing pressure to bear on the growers and packers. In other words, the opposition would appear to be mainly economic.

### III. MONTEREY

As intimated above, Monterey is more favorable than Salinas or Watsonville, and thus doubtless a larger number will return, at least initially, to the Peninsula. In fact, public sentiment regarding the former fishermen is quite favorable, and if Coast Guard restrictions were lifted it is possible that some could return to fishing there. In the meantime, I was given to understand that several had been invited to become members of the crews of Italian fishing boats. Monterey seems to be the only community where the WRA representative has had something to do with <sup>some of</sup> the members of the community and with the organization of a local committee.

~ leading



*Wyr*  
OBSERVATIONS IN THE KINGS COUNTY - TULARE COUNTY AREA

While in Kings County and Tulare County I had the privilege of conferring not only with pastors of various denominations and church members, but also with a number of men and women of affairs, including county sheriffs, chiefs of police, bankers, farmers, businessmen, leaders in the Chambers of Commerce, and so on.

Judging from the statements of these leading members of the various communities, it would appear that public sentiment is very much divided in this area, with respect to the return of the Japanese. As the sheriff of Kings County stated, newspapers like the Fresno "Bee" are doing all they can to keep public sentiment inflamed against the Japanese by printing everything they can lay their hands on which is likely to discredit the evacuees and even disparage the services of Japanese-American soldiers. Great reliance is placed on many of the old bits of misinformation which were being broadcast prior to evacuation; for example, the statement of Governor Warren, then Attorney General, that not one individual of Japanese descent had furnished the authorities with information concerning Japanese who were capable or guilty of subversive activities; the idea that all Japanese are inscrutable and it is practically impossible to determine their loyalty by ordinary procedures; and even the notion that Japan is the one nation which is clearly sub-human and therefore it is not to be expected that the Japanese should receive the same treatment as do those of German ancestry, and so forth.

The secretary of the Chamber of Commerce stated publicly that if it was true that the military authorities had reopened the Coast for the return of loyal persons of Japanese descent, then why was it that the military authorities were apparently so disinclined to issue statements which would tend to reassure public opinion regarding these individuals; and why was the War Department silent in the face of frequent suggestions, both printed and verbal, that returning veterans from the Pacific Area would certainly attack returnees, and put them to death when the opportunity was afforded.

Again and again I was informed that public sentiment in many places would take a favorable turn if some able Army spokesman would visit the communities in question and make statements calculated to allay the fears and <sup>correct the false assumptions</sup> of the general populace. With the War Department silent, the wildest stories are being passed around; for example that the Bataan heroes now passing through Honolulu killed nine persons of Japanese descent, and would do the same thing in California. Thus the most humane thing, according to this story, would be to keep the Japanese in relocation centers so that they would be protected from the returning veterans who would be bound to take vengeance upon the Japanese militarists by slaying those of Japanese descent in this country. Obviously, the Army authorities are the only ones who can put a stop to that kind of thing, and should do so, as after all it is a serious reflection against the moral integrity of Army men to charge that they would be so lacking in discrimination as to kill innocent persons of Japanese descent in this country because of the deeds of Japanese militarists in the Far East.

Owing to the shortage of skilled farm laborers - for example tractor drivers and so on - in this area, the effort is being made to persuade the farmers to accept the services of German prisoners of war. However, some of the leading farmers would prefer to secure the services of qualified Japanese returnees whom they know and who have the skills which are needed. The fact of the matter is that some of the farmers are quite reluctant to utilize German prisoner labor, especially when it seems that they have to work in units of twenty men, with guards rather insufficient in number. However, on the other hand, there are many who might boycott farmers who employ Japanese in this way.



The fact of the matter is that the boycott seems to be the weapon which the anti-Japanese interests are developing. Farmers and packers and market men have already been informed that if they employ Japanese or market Japanese fruit and vegetables they will be boycotted. Thus the boycott is not only directed at the Japanese, some of whom have already been refused service in stores, but also against the Caucasians who cooperate with them in any way. In the Salinas Valley area, for example, where law-enforcement officials discounted the possibility of attacks on Japanese and gave assurance that they will be protected, at the same time stated that they will not be accepted by the community, and must expect to be treated with coyness and discourtesy, and in most cases will suffer from a partial boycott at least. As this kind of thing is directed against the supply of foodstuffs in wartime, it would appear that the military authorities might give a word of caution in this connection also.

It was obvious that education in the facts is greatly needed, for many are completely misinformed concerning the Japanese, and assume that the authorities are permitting individuals to return who are disloyal. In fact it seems to be taken for granted by many that most persons of Japanese race have Japanese citizenship and are loyal to Japan. Several prominent individuals charged that OWI was greatly at fault because it publicized stories which were calculated to cause distrust of persons of Japanese descent, while at the same time refraining from giving publicity to stories which were calculated to help people to discriminate between the acts of the militarist and those of our law-abiding Japanese in the United States.

Judging from my observations in various areas, it would appear that the WRA is not doing much in the way of public relations or fostering of a favorable public sentiment, and with only private agencies or individuals working in this field, the impression is given that the Government agencies are discreetly silent because there is little that can be said on behalf of the Japanese in the United States.

Arrangements were made to meet with church people and some of the prominent leaders of Visalia at a later meeting, and with the leaders of the Lindsay community at a future date. At this stage there are few who desire to take any initiative on behalf of the Japanese returnees, and thus it would appear that further cultivation will be necessary.

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One of the members of the Army Appeal Board which conducted hearings at Poston in questioning a Japanese from the Watsonville area spoke as follows: "Will you tell me what good reason there is for permitting you to return to California when the Japs in the Philippines and elsewhere have been committing atrocities against Americans?" The Japanese, a minister by profession, gained the impression that the Army was quite antagonistic towards the return of evacuees.

When I was asked to appear before the State Senate Committee, one of the Senators asserted that he knew for a fact the Military authorities did not want the Japs back on the Coast, but that their hand had been forced by WRA which had the backing of the White House. Thus, in opposing the return and urging that evacuees be kept in the centers for the duration of the War, they were really doing the cause of final victory a service. Another senator claimed that hearings up and down the State indicated that 95% of the people of California were opposed to the return. This same figure was used at Salinas.



MEMORANDUM ON PERSONAL CALLS MADE IN WASHINGTON - GEORGE E. RUNDQUIST

Yakima and Wapato - Murray Stebbins was with me on all calls in these communities unless otherwise noted. He can report on names. I'll note the individuals.

Filipino farmer; head of Filipino community, lives between Yakima and Wapato. Stebbins had already established a friendly relationship with this man and was cordially welcomed as "Murray." We visited in the home. I merely pointed out the anti-Filipino prejudice in the valley prior to the war. The similarity in prejudice to that expressed against Japanese, and that the people who were trying to use the Filipinos to join in action to prevent the return of the evacuees, were the same people who had led in un-American and un-democratic activities against the Filipinos. Also that Mr. Gonzalez of Stockton, the director of the "Filipino Community in the Western States," had sought the support of the Churches and the Fair-Play Committee in obtaining a square deal for Filipinos in America. This Filipino farmer understands the situation and will do all that he can to hold his people in check.

Mortician, Wapato, President of the Wapato Chamber of Commerce; Cautious, knew many evacuees, had gone to school with them. He spent an hour with him giving him background and facts which he might use in conversations with his neighbors. He will not assume any leadership on behalf of returnees until convinced it is safe to do so, but he can help, and I believe will, to re-enforce and encourage the friendly people in Wapato.

Automobile dealer, Wapato; Outspoken in support of evacuees.

Presbyterian minister, Wapato; Definitely not a leader. Concerned as a Christian minister; doesn't know what to do, how to do, and timid. When it is safe and the community accepts the fact that evacuees are returning might be helpful.

Woman, proprietor of Wapato hardware store; has been outspoken in expressing her concern for evacuees from the time of evacuation.

Proprietor of Newspaper, Wapato; Greeted Stebbins as "Ray," has not been too cordial in his newspaper, but is beginning to switch his attitudes in keeping with what he senses is a change for more tolerance in the community.

The Kondo family, Wapato.

Lawyer, Yakima. Head of local group or committee to aid evacuees.

Mr. Potwys, Yakima, Editor of two daily newspapers; seen last fall. I understand that after my visit he wrote a friendly editorial and his papers have been friendlier and support right of evacuees to return.

The Yakima Council of Churches; Met with the ministers last fall. A good group with excellent leadership, can be counted on to aid in every way, if helped to understand what is needed. Their Secretary of the YMCA is President of the Council of Churches.



White River and Puyallup Valleys. Problem is finding leadership to tie people together. Fournier looks like best bet to call people together.

Fournier, Kent, publisher of newspaper. O. K.

Elmer Sanford, Kent, President of Kiwanis Club, Firestone Tires and Texaco gasoline distributor. On the fence, inclined to topple on side of decency, but will not expose himself. Needs a few shots in the spine to stiffen his backbone.

J. A. Oliver, Manager of National Bank of Washington, Kent. Is known to be friendly to evacuees.

Crosby, manager of other bank at Kent; is also friendly, but along with Oliver would prefer not to assume any leadership in behalf of evacuees.

W. D. Edmundsen, Kent, Superintendent of Schools. Will see that returning evacuee students are treated fairly. Should be primed now and then to re-enforce his courage with facts.

Rev. Moore, Kent, Episcopal rector; would join with others in support of fair play.

Rev. Earl McAbee, Methodist minister, Kent; has been trying to help create better attitudes and understanding. Ablest minister in Kent-Auburn district.

Ivan Unbedacht, Kent, large farmer. Friendly towards evacuees. Will join with others in support of evacuees. Is substantial citizen, but cautious.

Charles E. Fisher, Kent, operates auction barn. Threatened to sue Pearl Harbor League for slander if League made any public remarks concerning him. Is respected in the community, friendly toward evacuees.

Ben Smith, Kent, Smith Bros. Dairy, President of Pearl Harbor League. I am inclined to believe he is uneasy and is beginning to find his sponsorship of the League distasteful and unpopular with decent people. I have been told that he got excited when he thought an evacuee might overbid him on a piece of state property which he leases from the State. Also it is suspected that he had political ambitions and sought popular support by attacking the Japanese. I assumed that he was a law-abiding and loyal American, who probably was reacting emotionally to a situation about which he was not fully informed. I spoke of the forces interested in creating disunity and suggested that he be very careful that he was not being used as a front by some of these forces, and then went on to discuss our responsibility as patriotic Americans to support the Constitution and the Army which had authorized the return of the evacuees. He seemed to understand what I was talking about.

William B. Leber, Kent, Power machinery. Active agitator and leading figure in Pearl Harbor League. Neither reason nor logic would impress this man, so I decided to point out that with his name and German background, his motives were suspect and that he really was on the spot. The fact that he had three or four sons of military age deferred from military service was interesting, particularly since so many Nisei were fighting for his freedom and that he should be very careful not to incite violence.



He raised the usual stupid questions which hardly required any answer. I am inclined to believe that he may become more cautious and go underground as he realizes that it isn't smart for him to expose himself. In my opinion he is a thorough-going Nazi or Fascist, with ambitions to be a gaulieter. He is a glib talker and could be dangerous. He should be watched and worked on constantly. He is easily discredited. His patriotism should be challenged openly, especially since the only Japanese families which have returned to Kent and Auburn have boys in the service. I asked if he had been in the Army in the last war, but it seems that he was too valuable then, he had a wife and couldn't leave her.

#### Auburn

The Rev. Kinch, Methodist Church has been transferred to Tacoma since my visit with him last fall and two weeks ago. You know about Arthur C. Ballard, Mrs. C. W. Paterson, Albert Shaughnessy and Mrs. Lynn Brannen, who are friendly. I didn't see them.

Other names given me of people who might be friendly are John Bennett, President of the Auburn Bank; Davis Witten, publisher of the local paper; Mr. Taylor of the Taylor LaMarr Mortuary; John Beirlein, men's haberdasher and member of State Legislature; Mr. McGlenn, dry goods merchant, President of Kiwanis Club, active Methodist lay leader; and Mr. Spenger, insurance man.

Unfriendly persons who might be called upon are a Mr. Westban, manager of refrigerator and cold storage plant on East Main and K Streets; Frank Polmer, ice cream manufacturer, who was a tenant in the Hikedas' home and resents their return; and, of course, Dr. Sutherland.

#### Sumner

Dr. Marmaduke Dodsworth, pastor of Methodist Church and former missionary in the Far East. Timid, fearful of the anti-bias of some of the members of his church. Will not stick his neck out until assured it is safe to do so.

Howard Schrenghorst, insurance man; has removed all anti-Jap signs as they were placed in his window. Has many evacuee friends, but is timid. Likes to believe that he is a working Christian, but will do nothing openly to help evacuees re-establish themselves.

Croyden (Nifty) Garrett, newspaper publisher and real estate dealer. Vocal, intolerant, irascible, cocky little Santam, who makes up in noise for his lack of physical stature. Anti most everything. Has a good time being "against." He is 76 years old, unfortunately apparently in good health, who will continue for his remaining years to be "agin" Japs, Negros, Mexicans and Filipinos. Admits he is illogical and intolerant and enjoys being so. When he spoke for the Lord, I checked him and he admitted that he couldn't. He thought, though, that God had made a mistake in creating other than the white race. When I raised a question about his kind of Americanism, he admitted that maybe he wasn't a good American, that he was going to continue to agitate to keep out the Japs, that he wouldn't sell land to Filipinos and etc. Although



people around Sumner make excuses for "Nifty" and kind of laugh him off when speaking of him, they fear his sharp, vitriolic tongue and are afraid to tangle with him. The only way I know of that we can deal with this little rooster is to laugh at him in public and ridicule his intolerance and the dangers he seeks to create. I don't believe that he can stand being laughed at or ridiculed. Fighting him with facts is foolish or picking on him personally would not be as effective as making fun of him. He is dangerous only as we treat him seriously.

I have not seen these others - I understand that they are friendly: Ros Goslin, operator of gas station opposite Post Office; E. P. Andrews, editor of Sumner News Index; and Floyd Snyder, manager of Power & Light Co.

#### Puyallup

Rev. Harry Coats, Methodist minister. Talks friendly. We didn't have enough time with him to form an opinion about his performance.

Rev. George Dunlop, Presbyterian minister, is the strongest and most courageous of all the people we called upon. His position is known in the community, he is highly respected, is a member of the Kiwanis Club, and is not labelled as a radical or crack-pot. If a committee was to be organized he would be my choice for chairman, because he appears to have qualities of leadership and would be safe.

Harold Shaw, Publisher of Puyallup paper, is aware of issues involved in anti-evacuee agitation, feels he cannot publicly take a stand in behalf of their rights as he has only owned the paper for three years and is getting established. Was a former Hearst reporter and hates all that Hearst stands for, but is fearful of economic pressures. He is not sure of his position.

Edson Case, Lawyer; minimizes difficulty of returnees, will go with the wind. Is not anti, but is anti-federal administration.

#### Tacoma

I met with a sub-committee on minority peoples' problems of the Tacoma Community and Chest Council. The chairman is Rev. Loyal Vickers, Secretary of the Tacoma Council of Churches. This is a new committee just getting under way. Travelers Aid, Family Service Society, YWCA and other community organizations are represented on the committee. They are concerned with problems of returning evacuees. Mr. Vickers and I called upon the Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, who seems to be O.K. and talks a good Constitution. He said that no one had approached him and inquired, "What do we do about the Japs?" He will appoint a representative of the Chamber to sit with the Committee. We had lunch with Chief of Police Ross and Commissioner of Public Safety Langseth. Ross will sit with the committee. Ralph Chaplain, who until a week or so ago edited a labor paper, met with us and will sit in. Roderick Olzendam, an editor of the Readers' Digest, former public relations and



personnel director of Weyerhaeuser Lumber interests will join the committee if invited. J. Cliff Haley of the Brown & Haley Candy Co., who employs a Nisei in his plant, will sit in with the committee. The key people in the local committee at present are Vickers, Miss Bennett of the YWCA, Mrs. Dietrich, Secretary of the Community Council, and Dr. Harold B. Long, Presbyterian minister. I believe this committee, as they learn more about the problem, particularly if you would meet with them to give guidance, will be really helpful. Delano, I understand, has been invited to sit with the Committee as a member but has not been able to attend the last two meetings. I think it is very important that he should attend all of their meetings so that the committee becomes acquainted with him. My suggestion is that he invite you to attend the next few meetings with him. Your presence will do much to stimulate action and also help Delano to gain more confidence. I made suggestions about including labor and certain business men to membership in the committee whom we did not have time to visit. Ward Estey, Vice President of the National Bank of Washington; Reno Outland, President of Puget Sound Bank; E. W. Eisenhower, lawyer, brother of General Ike and Milton Eisenhower, and representatives of the School Board, etc.

Seabeck, Wash.

Conference of the Washington Council of Churches - about 150 church leaders in attendance. I addressed the group and seem to have aroused some active interest. Also met with the race relations committee of the Council. The people at the conference took away a lot of literature re evacuees. One result of my attendance at the conference has been several invitations to speak at Churches and meetings.

I have agreed to speak at the Longview Community Church Sunday, July 15.

I will suggest to Miss Gertrude Apel of the Washington Council of Churches that she refer requests for speakers to you.

George E. Rundquist



[WRA]

March 26, 1945

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. E. H. Spicer

From: Katharine Luomala

Subject: EXPLORATORY STUDY OF CALIFORNIA ATTITUDES ABOUT THE RETURN OF  
THE JAPANESE

## INTRODUCTION

### I. Purpose of the Study

To learn something about West Coast attitudes and problems connected with the return of the Japanese in the period immediately following the rescinding of the exclusion ban, two Community Analysts, who had previous experience in sampling public opinion, were assigned to do intensive interviewing in selected communities in Washington, Oregon, and California. One Analyst was in California from December 5, 1944, to February 13, 1945. The other was in Washington and Oregon from around January 10 to March 15.

### II. California Localities Studied

This summary report deals only with California and primarily with the San Joaquin and Sacramento Valleys (Central Valley). Of the ten counties comprising Sacramento Valley, interviews were taken in Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo, and Yuba Counties. Of the eight San Joaquin Valley counties, the following six were surveyed: San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Fresno, Tulare, and Kern. Also obtained were reports on some other Central Valley counties and references to other parts of California. The Central Valley counties surveyed were selected because they were pre-evacuation population centers of the Japanese.

Because San Francisco was used as headquarters, the interviewer also informally acquired attitudinal data in the Bay Area. Southern California, which with the Bay Area and the Central Valley constitute the three major pre-evacuation centers of the Japanese, was not visited.

As the result of time and travel limitations, the interviewer usually worked in the county seat even though it did not always coincide with the Japanese population center of the county. Central Valley towns officially surveyed were: Sacramento, Woodland, Yuba City, Marysville; Stockton, Modesto, Merced, Fresno, Visalia, and Bakersfield.

### III. Selection of Respondents

Since a cross-section of the population cannot be obtained in a scouting study, the interviewer tried to select respondents who because of having many feelers in the community were in a position



to report on and evaluate attitudes in their county. Over 60 persons were formally interviewed in the Central Valley. Interviews tended to run at least an hour but almost all were longer. In addition, many people, as well as some evacuee scouts, were informally contacted. Within limits of time, the interviewer also tried to collect as much available background data as possible from newspapers, Chambers of Commerce, and similar sources.

#### IV. Questionnaire

Though a formal questionnaire was prepared, the interviewer had little use for it. The introduction accompanied by showing a WRA identification card was usually sufficient to start and keep people talking. The usual introduction was: "I'm from the War Relocation Authority and talk to community leaders up and down the coast as to what problems in the way of housing, jobs, sentiment and the like are expected to develop in each community as the Japanese start coming back."

#### SUMMARY OF MAJOR FINDINGS

1. The return of the Japanese is but one of California's many wartime problems.

The population has increased in precisely those areas where Japanese concentrated before evacuation and where it is expected they will return. Towns have mushroomed and big-city problems have been dumped into the laps of small town people. Not all the great emotion evoked by rescission was due to anti-Japanese feeling. Some of it resulted from blowing off steam over getting one more unsolved problem.

2. Trouble was expected only from an irresponsible minority.

Though the majority of people are unfavorable to rescission, ~~they~~ <sup>said</sup> respondents expected illegal resistance, mostly terrorism, from only a few people drawn from such categories as drunks, crackpots, relatives of Bataan heroes, evicted tenants, Filipinos, hoodlums of any race, high school students inflamed by parents, and 4-F's.

3. Organized opposition groups seem rare in the Central Valley.

Yolo, Colusa, and Solano Counties have been organized by Assemblyman Lloyd Lowrey (author of Lowrey Act to get evacuee farm equipment?). Other counties do not seem to have publicly known groups specifically organized against evacuees.

The interviewer found it unjust to categorize any known namable group of people or town as anti-Japanese. Friendly people among the Filipinos, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Visalians asked the interviewer for help in reaching negative fellow members (their recommendations were passed on to Pat Frayne).



4. Attempts to organize economic boycotts have fallen flat except in small, isolated communities.

Conservative business leaders have pointed out to hotheads that only a 100% boycott is effective, that in areas near a metropolitan shopping district or with many towns it is impossible to boycott without spiting oneself. Winters (Yolo County) which signed up to a 100% boycott is small and isolated; individuals were high-pressured to sign.

Opponents, outside the crackpot minority described above, have had legal advice as to how far they can go in fighting the return: without running afoul of the law.

5. Attitudes of individual friends and opponents are in a rapid state of change, the general direction being toward meeting on a common middle ground.

a. At first, friendly people rejoiced over rescission as a victory, while conservative, negative people in the public eye modified their opposition like good losers to fall into step behind Governor Earl Warren, Superintendent of Schools Dexter, President Sproul, and Dean Deutsch, whose words outweighed those of the Army and national figures in their influence on California attitudes.

b. Later, as practical problems like housing, responsibility for protection, and giving advice to evacuees began to loom up, the line between friends and opponents blurred even more. They began to meet on a middle ground and say,

"Evacuation was a mistake, but since it happened and people are in the camps, maybe it would be best for them not to come back just yet, maybe not for a couple of months or until after the war."

Concern for evacuees became the new angle. Opponents quickly seized and worked it. Evacuee scouts and letters describing their resistance to resettlement further confused friends who already were feeling sunk at finding the Yamamotos a house and worried about bad reception. They began to take the opposition line and to criticize WRA heartlessness.

The outlines of a pressure bloc to keep WRA and the centers in existence indefinitely and to demand that WRA assume more and more responsibility for resettlement gradually took shape. Each week of interviewing saw the outlines get a little sharper.

Former opponents, now disguised as humanitarian friends of the evacuees, had another angle, which troubled old-time friends also echoed. Some people want to forget the anti-Japanese hysteria in California before evacuation, and since the Army



has said evacuation was necessary for military reasons, these people use this statement to hold the national government responsible for all California resettlement problems. "You are responsible for their not having homes now, for their having to go on relief, etc., so you build them houses and foot the relief bill."

At the time of rescission, scarcely a respondent, however intimately associated with the process of evacuation, appreciated the financial losses of the evacuees or that center life might have changed them. They thought of the evacuees returning slightly embittered ("but not as much as WE would have been after the same experience") to the identical place in the community they had left. Devoted friends heard from scouts how old and disabled the Watanabes had become in the center, "How could they start the nursery over again? How can anyone think of the Watanabes on relief? Why the younger daughter can't even explain the word to them because she doesn't know enough Japanese and they don't want to understand either. How can WRA force them to leave? The Government did this to the Watanabes, so why doesn't it keep a center open for an old people's home?"

6. The amount of evacuee communication with California is enormous.

Nearly every respondent had been consulted by scouts or letters or by Caucasian friends of evacuees about the best course of action. Every respondent mentioned other people similarly consulted.

Some evacuees have been writing back ever since they left whether they received an answer or not. Their letters have been carefully read. The interviewer was impressed by the effectiveness of these letters in creating awareness of another point of view, if not actual sympathy, among conservative and discreet townspeople who now put in a calming word of good sense with hometown hotheads. As stated above some hometowners adopt the evacuee point of view presented in these letters. It probably enters into their advice to other evacuee consultants.

7. Every county visited has a number of people of good will; in every county visited except Tulare County they are either formally organized under a name to help evacuees or they work so closely together that only an organizational name is lacking. This contrasts with the rarity of publicly known opposition organizations in the Central Valley. Of course, some opponents work through organizations already established for other purposes, but so do the friends. The latter, however, have in addition special organizations to aid evacuees.



How well organized and determined people of good will are can be judged from their having got together at the Inter-racial Conference in San Francisco in January to work out plans to aid returning evacuees. (The interviewer believes that in a year of many great victories and important conferences, this was one of the outstanding in its implications for the future of the United States and the least appreciated.)

Besides the organized people of good will, every community has people who object to being organized. Usually they are conservative, politically shrewd, and influential town leaders who hold a wet finger up to the wind before they make a move. Until the wind is right, they work behind the scenes and get people who are just to the left or right out of difficulties their enthusiasm has got them into. They avoid being linked with some of the evacuee-supporting organizations in their hometown because many were originally set up, and are often chairmanned, by the "town radical". They work for compromise, stabilization, and prevention of any change in the status quo until it can be done without risk. They have great pride in their personal prestige, exclusiveness, and influence. If they do organize, it is an informal coterie of persons like themselves; they might agree to call themselves the "Governor's Committee" or the "Mayor's Committee." They believe "the less said the better" about evacuee return and say, "Let these things (any race problem) work themselves out; don't stir them up, the police can handle it or I'll just speak to the person leading the troublemaking."

The organized friends start an argument at the flicker of an eyelash and believe "the more publicity the better"; some have taken plenty of beating in the last three years; a few can't take any more through risks to their job, social position, or spirits and drop out of the fray. On the other hand, an occasional conservative reaches the boiling point and jumps into the fight with both hands.

8. The tide had not yet turned in California in February so that all the friends of evacuees could speak out.

Many people therefore want the WRA (or the Army or the "government") to take a more forceful stand for the evacuees so that their California friends can feel secure enough to employ them or speak up in their defense.

Of incalculable importance though often forgotten is civic pride or hometown loyalty and how strong community pressures are on the individual. Just asking hometowners to tell you how they see the return of the Japanese in terms of their



community and its problems creates rapport. Negatively used, civic pride leads to suppression of differences and the fear of people through danger of job loss or social ostracism to speak up for evacuee friends. Positively used, civic pride is an unforgettable demonstration of Democracy at work in what Washington likes to call the "grass roots" of America. Marysville had a burst of it when the President of the Chamber of Commerce got mad at being misquoted all over the United States as anti-Japanese and started in to clean up the firebrands, declaring that Vigilantism was Hitlerism (and would give Marysville a bad name) and that if Constitutional rights were denied the evacuees, one group after another would lose their rights as in Germany. One is frequently struck how much the battle is between long existent factions in the community. This is one more problem on which to take sides.

✓  
The argument of Constitutional rights is perhaps the most effective argument of all from a public relations point of view. People who "just don't like the Japs" or never knew any are fighting for these rights, while cautious friends of evacuees can fight for them indirectly by concentrating on the Constitution. There are people who say, "Change the Constitution; it was written before the Japs came here," or "For the last 12 years no one in the U. S. has had Constitutional rights," but these people are a minority, though strong.

9. Counties differ as to how near they are to the turn of the tide.

Tulare County seems the farthest away because the forces of resistance are in the saddle and the goodwill people have not even begun to work together. The latter say, "The time isn't ripe." It took far less lawlessness in other counties than has already occurred in Tulare to anger conservative citizens to fight back for American principles, regardless of their feeling about Japanese. Each county has its own boiling point which it seems to have to reach before people start saying generally, "Well, I don't want to see them back either, but things are going too far around here to my taste."

10. The energy of the goodwill groups who have faithfully worked ever since evacuation has not been fully utilized by WRA.

The opportunity presented at the Interracial Conference was not fully utilized. WRA could work itself out of existence sooner and, negatively, prevent the rising demand for WRA to extend its existence and assume more responsibilities by giving these groups some dynamic encouragement, explaining WRA's present policy to them, and telling concretely how to pass on to evacuees helpful advice, offers of jobs and housing, etc. Just to say "Let WRA know" as was done at the conference when over and over at different times friends asked, "What should I do if--" is unsatisfactory and frustrating.



Already some of this goodwill energy has been dissipated in a negative direction. It is like after Pearl Harbor when America was ready to do anything to help but the government was not quick enough to capitalize on this energy with suggestions for things that really would help. Leadership is needed, and many respondents definitely feel that WRA should supply it.

These goodwill groups can prevent new Little Tokyos ("Japtown" is the current term) and Little Tokyo orientation. Their eagerness to smooth the path of evacuees is a force to achieve better integration in the community than before evacuation. Evacuees would do well to accept invitations for community participation extended by friendly persons.

It would hasten the center-closing program as well as do the United States a great service to guide these goodwill groups in their efforts to re-integrate evacuees. A job too short-sightedly done now may mean that the job may need to be done again in later years. WRA may feel that other minority groups are not its concern, but they are to people in California communities. To some of these people a good job on the evacuees is a step forward to help solve other problems. Many Californians talk about how what they do now will affect what goes on at the peace table. The San Francisco News has already tied in the evacuee return with the San Francisco World Security Conference.

11. The Central Valley people, friends or opponents, seem to read every word the McClatchy paper in their area prints about the evacuees.

They weigh the amount of space given to pro or con views to determine the direction of the tide. They count the number of pro and con letters sent to the editor and write answering letters. The McClatchy papers, certainly receive letters from a pretty good cross-section of the people; how representative their selection for publication is, I do not know. The Sacramento Bee, the Modesto Bee, and the Fresno Bee are acknowledged to be accurate in what they print in their news stories about the question, which make friendly people all the more determined to try to change its editorial policy and that of adverse letter writers.

The Stockton Record, a daily, prints few letters but tends to take a cautious but rather unfriendly tone in editorial comment--the interviewer met an individual who helps determine policy and selects the letters. The Bakersfield Californian, a daily, has a columnist who writes about soldiers of all races; he is highly respected by both goodwill groups. The L. A. Examiner takes the place of the McClatchy papers in anti-evacuee editorial policy.



12. Old familiar facts still need to be repeated over and over.

Friends who have spearheaded the campaign for evacuee return would often say apologetically and hesitantly near the end of an interview, "There's something that's always bothered me. Did Japanese really signal from the hills to the submarine at Santa Barbara? Did they get in the middle of the road so officers couldn't get to Pearl Harbor? What about the local man with maps of all the county power stations whom the FBI picked up?"

13. Some people on the middle ground distinguish sharply between the old people (Issei) and the young folks.

They say it is all right for the young people to come back, but the aliens, never. The publicity about Nisei soldiers has borne fruit, but perhaps even more important in California is that people got to know Nisei as individuals through their participation in the Rotary, Merchant's Association, Scouts, 4-H, and other community activities outside the Little Tokyos.

The interviewer would ask, "Would you break up a family? These old people you don't want back are the parents of these young people." There is a last ditch resistance in accepting Japanese which will not permit the person to "know" that this relationship exists. A troubled Issei scout who had already learned of the distinction being drawn asked the interviewer, "Don't they know we raised these soldiers, sent them to school, taught them to be good citizens of the United States. Don't they know we are their parents?"

The interviewer believes it is time to begin bringing an elementary biological fact home to these people, perhaps through the medium of mentioning the parents and a little about them in descriptions of Nisei soldier accomplishments. Also, more stress should be placed on the fact that Nisei do feel they have more of a stake in the war than many Caucasians. Some people still say, "Anyone would fight back at the point of the enemy's bayonet. It's human nature."

14. The term "Nisei" is a headline word that a few interested people may recognize in reading, but do not use in conversation.

Some interested people have never noticed it. However, many friendly people want a word for the young people. They would fumble through an interview and finally say, "I don't know what to call them; I don't like to call these kids Japanese." One man said he had many times advised the young people to drop the use of the term Japanese and to refer to themselves as Americans of Japanese descent. When the interviewer suggested the term "Nisei" as having no emotional connotations, the respondent thought its use would be a good idea.



California is near enough to Hawaii to feel the effect of Hawaii's use of the term AJA or in less symbolic form, Americans of Japanese Ancestry. Hawaiian newspapers do not use the term Nisei and it is rarely used in ordinary conversation.

If a publicity campaign were developed for the parents of Nisei, the terms Issei and Nisei might be popularized through using the words in association.



Ex 3620

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PACIFIC COAST COMMITTEE ON AMERICAN PRINCIPLES AND FAIR PLAY

Southern California Branch  
875 So. Manhattan Place  
Los Angeles 5

1945

MEMORANDUM TO HOMER D. GROTTY

On Wednesday, November 28th, Mrs. Thayer, Mrs. Scotty Tsuchiya and I spent the day visiting the F.P.H.A. projects for returning Japanese at the Lomita Air Strip and at ElSegundo.

In Lomita, a city of 811, we found the women eager to share their worries with us. At that time this one particular unit of about 200 people had been without hot water for many days, and with no water at all in that unit for the last three or four days. Seeing the lines of snow white clean clothes we found upon inquiry that these women had carried them to another laundry room in another unit several blocks away, had washed there and carried them back to hang on their own clothes lines. When in complete repair there are at best, in this unit, only three sets of laundry tubs to accommodate 200 people. All water for drinking, bathing babies, scrubbing floors, etc., must be carried from this central washroom to each of their barracks, often quite a long distance.

In the washroom there is only one stationary ironing board for the use of all these women and there are no facilities for ironing in their barracks rooms. And there are approximately 300 children in school whose clothing must be kept washed and ironed.

One of the women's latrines had three toilet seats, one of which had been constantly out of repair, leaving only two which were usable. There were also five wash basins and five shower jets in a small unpartitioned corner room. On one side of the men's latrine next door the women have access to three more toilet seats and approximately the same number of shower jets.

Those mothers who must make up baby formulas daily and the sterilized baby bottles must all walk over to the kitchen of the big mess hall which is centrally located to get this task done. They try to heat water to warm the baby bottles on the small smelly oil heaters in their barrack rooms, but it is a slow process at best. Another problem with which they are trying to cope is the making up of school lunches for the children early each morning. As the children must walk approximately two miles to school which necessitates an early start.

In Lomita there are both barracks and trailer type housing units. In the barracks rooms there is only a cot for each person with a pad or thin mattress and two or three army blankets, the light bulb in the ceiling and a small oil heater--that's all--no chair, cupboard or chest for putting away clothing. No table, mirror or floor covering of any kind. In one "home" which we visited the mother was quite concerned about the unusually large holes and cracks in the floor which made it really impossible to heat this room in which there were four cots, a small curtained-off corner for clothing and two old wooden packing boxes upturned for table use. Her thin faced nine or ten-year old daughter who must be kept absolutely ~~quiet~~ <sup>quiet</sup> and off her feet all of the time because of her heart condition, occupied one cot. Bitterly the mother and her next door neighbor reminded us of the homely but comfortable furniture which their husbands had made in the relocation centers but which they were not allowed to bring along to the projects. They said they had been assured that everything they needed would be furnished here and that these quarters would be far more comfortable than their center homes had been. They said they were told that they could have their furniture shipped to them only when they had relocated once again out of these housing projects into permanent homes.



The trailer houses while cramped and close and much smaller are, nevertheless newer, cleaner and have built-in tiny cupboards and <sup>a</sup>the small folding table with two folding chairs to each. However, they are not connected up with water and in neither the barracks <sup>or</sup> the trailers can hotplates be used. Wistfully the older folks spoke of their longing to be able to make a cup of tea between meals or a hot drink at bedtime or to heat something once in a while for a sick or ailing person.

In one over-crowded but spotlessly clean trailer home we found a slender young mother with a patient smile but tired eyes who kept saying that if she only had a hotplate she could easily feed her brood of five and their father much better food on less than \$6.00 per day which they are now spending at the mess hall. The average cost, they tell us, is about \$1.00 per day for adults--half price for tiny tots. This little family occupies two trailers for which they must pay \$ a month rent, plus a \$5.00 security deposit on each.

As we were preparing to leave we heard a rumor to the effect that a lone elderly widow of 67 had died the day before without medical attention. Immediately we proceeded to the project office to check this story. The project manager told us that a Mrs. Takahashi who had lived in <sup>a</sup>the barracks room with three other elderly widows had passed away the morning before. She had been under the weather for some time and her three old lady friends wished to call in a doctor from Lomita but she had objected. Finally, however, as her condition rapidly grew worse one of them went to the project manager and asked that a doctor be called. Unable to come immediately, the doctor sent out a nurse who was there in 20 minutes, but Mrs. Takahashi had died before she arrived.

We went to the barracks room and talked with one of the old ladies who told us essentially the same story adding that Mrs. Takahashi had steadfastly insisted that no doctor could help her because she was suffering from a long time bladder condition and knew how to take care of herself and was sure it would "pass off in a few days." Apparently she caught cold and complications set in.

In this case we found no evidence of negligence on the part of the camp director -- there could be no doubt <sup>however</sup> that the cold floors, her feeble efforts to prepare properly the special diet <sup>required</sup> in her case on the little oil heater, and the general lack of comfort, did not help her toward recovery.

Had there been a resident nurse on the project or even a visiting physician coming in occasionally, the seriousness of her illness might have been detected earlier and she might have had a fighting chance to live. After all, she was only 67. Her husband passed away October 13th in the relocation center just before they were to leave for Los Angeles and she was all alone.

At El Segundo we found mostly elderly unattached men and women, most of whom are ill, crippled, blind or bedfast. We stood by one cot where lay 86 year old Mrs. Hindo who had just been brought in from the Los Angeles Union Station where she had arrived all alone and unattended from Rohwer Center with no other Japanese on the train. She lay there sleeping the sleep of complete exhaustion. This was Wednesday and she was bound for her home in Hawaii on a ship supposed to be leaving over the week end. No luggage checks could be found in her purse and she had no change of clothing or night clothes. Since she neither spoke nor understood English, we wondered how she made her wishes known on the train, or if she simply lay in her berth unfed and uncared for on that long train trip.

In this same room a few days before we had stood beside the cot of a man of about 65 who was suffering from cancer of the stomach. In the Center he had been cared for in a hospital, but with the closing of the Center he had been re-evacuated to a



barrack room at El Segundo and with no one to care for him but his tiny wife who had been under the doctor's care for a nervous condition. She was endeavoring to keep him comfortable and since special food was not prepared in the mess hall for anyone, she was trying to buy the kind of food he ought to have and preparing it on a little oil heater beside the cot. They had been in El Segundo for several days when we first saw him, but today we learned that he had just been removed to a hospital.

In the adjoining room we found four cot beds, no chairs at all, and four old men all needing nursing care ~~or~~ attention in one way or another. One old fellow had his left leg off at the hip--the result of an accident while working on the railroad here in California. Another was almost helpless from senility and lay quietly on his cot all the time. The third one had absolutely no control of any bodily functions and could only move about as two persons held him up and he shuffled his feet along in short, jerky motions.

On the cot next to him, with not more than two or three feet of space in between, sat a sweet-faced, blue eyed, snowy-haired man of 84 who managed to keep himself neat and clean. He is the son of a Japanese father and a Swedish mother. He was born in New York City and never lived in Japan, and is a veteran of the Spanish-American War. With no chairs (at that time) he, like the others, must either lie down on his cot all day or just sit on the edge with no support for his tired old back. Someone brings him his food. He has no clothing at all other than the thin blue cotton pajama suit which he had on and white cloth bedroom slippers. He was evacuated from Sawtelle Veterans' Home and is hoping to be returned there soon.

In another long barracks building we found twenty some cots on which sat or lay elderly men who each pay \$10.00 per month for a cot and an initial security deposit of \$5.00. This single long one-room barracks brings in \$200.00 or more rent, plus \$100.00 in deposits which will be returned unless an Army blanket is lost or ruined in some way or if some harm comes to one of the cots or mattresses.

All alone in another tiny room a middle-aged blind man sat hour after hour on the edge of his cot before the open door, his sightless eyes lifted toward the sky, his hands quietly folded in his lap.

The camp proper is divided by a paved thoroughfare which each old person, no matter how slow, how bent or helpless, and each child must cross ~~each~~ three times a day if he eats at the mess hall. At the time of our visit there had not yet been put up any stop or slow-up signs to protect them from the speeding cars and trucks, which turn off here to avoid the heavy traffic of the main highway running beside the camp. The mess hall itself, a former roadside inn, is much more cheerful than those in the other projects.

In a stucco house nearby with toilet and bath facilities we found some of our most helpless old people, up in ~~their~~ <sup>by</sup> ~~eighty~~ years or bedridden. One couple in their eighties who had first come to Lomita had been transferred over here - the wife is totally blind, completely helpless, and with no control of her bodily functions. She must be cared for like her husband just like a baby.

In another room we found Mrs. Fujii, a very bad arthritis case whom we had also met in Lomita and who must be cared for constantly by her husband, although she moves around a bit on crutches.

In the larger living room we found a number of cots, one occupied by an elderly white haired mother whose <sup>lower</sup> limbs seem paralyzed. She was injured in a fall in Bowher Center and does not walk at all. She and her husband ~~brought her~~, daughter and son-in-law, with three grand-children, are expecting to sail for Hawaii on the boat



leaving over the week-end,--back home in time for Christmas they said! A resident nurse, warm-hearted and sympathetic was just going on the job that day and a small but adequate first-aid room with medical and nursing supplies was being fitted out under the sponsorship of the American Friends Service Committee.

Fifty-eight unattached, elderly men, most of them needing medical attention and nursing care, were due to arrive at ElSegundo on Monday, December 3d--the residue from Rohwer. It is expected that 200 or more will be housed at ElSegundo soon.

We were told that Hillcrest Sanitarium has approved the dismissal of a sizable number of patients who cannot leave because there is no place for them to go. These men cannot do full-time hard work but most of them are able to do some sort of part time work at least and so assist in their own support.

From our careful observations in these two camps it would seem that several things need serious consideration:

1. The question of continued funds for relief after the WRA is out of the picture.
2. Relocation job placement interviewers on the project. The expense of going to and fro between the projects and the WRA offices is prohibitive for many.
3. Chairs - chairs - chairs and more chairs in every housing projectX.
4. The use of hotplates in barracks and trailer homes, especially for mothers with young babes and for old and bedfast people.
5. Special diets for those who need them, prepared at the mess hall.
6. Slow-down or stop signs to protect those crossing the highway from their barracks to the mess hall at ElSegundo.
7. Last, but perhaps most important, resident nurses in every project and a visiting doctor on regular days - and perhaps a clinic.

Should one school child bring home measles, whooping cough, or scarlet fever, especially to Lomita, the situation could sky-rocket to epidemic proportions in no time, and under the comfortless, almost primitive living conditions into which this final evacuation has forced these people, much unnecessary suffering and many deaths could result. At best, no one, however husky, can be "comfortably ill" in these camping out project quarters.

We sincerely believe that the War Relocation Authority still ~~have~~ has a terrific on-going responsibility for this, their own burden of dislocated humanity, for many months--nay years to come--how can they slide out from under?

Respectfully submitted,

*Mrs. Gracia D. Booth*

Mrs. Gracia D. Booth, Executive Sec., So. Calif. Branch

Mrs. Maynard Force Thayer, Chairman, Pasadena FairPlay Committee



PACIFIC COAST COMMITTEE ON  
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THE RETURN OF THE NISEI:  
Basic Reasons and  
Arguments of Those Who Oppose It

Paul E. Langpaap  
Summer, 1944



Everyone from the man on the street to the academician is aware of the problems that have arisen to confront the American peoples with the evacuation, segregation and relocation of the Japanese people living in this country at the outbreak of the present war. True, not all know, or wish to know the factors of the case, but all bear opinions which are reflected into and form the public reaction upon the eventual return of the Japanese citizenry to their former places of living and working, and the manner with which the returning people will be received. The number of problems in this field are tremendous but for the purpose of this paper the scope is narrowed down to the question, What are the arguments which are presented against the return of the foreign and natural born Japanese into California, and what are the basic reasons behind them?

Before developing the thesis it is necessary to review generally certain historical factors. As an immigrant group the Japanese were rather late in coming to the United States. The major portion arrived in this country between the years 1900 to 1910, and were for the most part, single men. Consequently, they were married rather late in life and only after sufficient numbers of Japanese women had been allowed into the country. It was not until 1920 that the second generation or Nisei began to appear within the group. At present, the average age of the Issei group



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would be around (fifty-four) years while the average age of the Nisei would be around twenty-three or four. This is important for it shows that the group from which the potential leaders are expected to rise is still too immature to gain the complete confidence of their own racial group or that of the white Americans.

The number of Japanese in this country in the pre-Pearl Harbor period amounted to 126,947 people, 112,353 living in the three west coast states. According to the FINAL REPORT OF THE JAPANESE EVACUATION FROM THE WEST COAST, 1942, prepared by the Western Defense Command, the number of Japanese in California at the time of Pearl Harbor was approximately 93,500, of which 54,600 were living along "a strip of coast line varying from eight miles in the north to twenty miles in width in and around the San Francisco bay area, including San Francisco, in Los Angeles and its environs, and in San Diego." 1. It can be seen that as a racial group the Japanese did not spread out but tended to clump together. This geographic characteristic is carried over into the occupational field; 43% were gainfully employed in agriculture, especially the production of fresh vegetables and fruits for the urban markets, and 26% in the wholesale and retail trade distributing the native grown produce.

In order to draw the background more fully a few war dates need be rehearsed. Pearl Harbor was attacked on December

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1. Final Report of the Japanese Evacuation From the West Coast, 1942. p.35.



7, 1941; Guam was taken on December 13; Hongkong fell on the 24th, Manila on January 2nd. and Singapore in February. The California coast near Santa Barbara was shelled by a submarine on February 23, 1942. The drive for the East Indies and Australia was on. Yet, with exceptions at Stockton and Gilroy, there was no general public demonstration. It was not long, however, before certain newspapers began singing a song of danger and public opinion began developing. On February 19, 1942 the Presidential Executive Order No.9066 authorized the creation of military areas from which "any and all persons" may be excluded. This authority was delegated to General John L.Dewitt who on March 2nd. proclaimed the establishment of Military Areas Nos. 1. and 2.. On March 27th. all persons of Japanese ancestry were prohibited from leaving these areas. Executive Order No.9102 issued on March 18th. created the War Relocation Authority whose purpose it was to assist in the transfer of the Japanese citizenry to the temporary relocation centers. Ten had been set up. By November 110,000 Japanese had been transferred and logged. According to its announced purpose the W.R.A. has relocated about 19,000 Japanese by March of this year into areas where they may carry on as private citizens in occupations for which they have been trained or had experience. Those relocated from the camps have largely been the Nisei and have entered communities outside the Pacific slope. Now, the question arises as to the attitude of the people in California regarding the relocation of Japanese-



Americans within that state. What are the arguments against such a move?

The arguments that have been offered opposing the return of the Nisei have been the same arguments that had been shouted up demanding their evacuation. These have not changed but the surrounding military circumstances have. This transition has swept the only possible stable foundation from under the antagonists. What remains in way of opposing arguments stems from the basic controversies of race and economics. The military aspect had only acted as a camouflage.

The arguments presented for the evacuation of the Japanese in California fall generally into three classes; military, racial, and cultural. The first among the military group is the all inclusive and indefinable argument.. "as a matter of military necessity." It is based, when one recalls the war activity of the first few months of 1942, upon the assumption that the West Coast was in imminent danger of invasion. Undoubtedly, the risk was serious and General DeWitt had to act upon the basis of possibilities as well as probabilities. Carey McWilliams in his WHAT ABOUT OUR JAPANESE-AMERICANS? published by the Public Affairs Committee remarked, "General DeWitt must have been haunted by the specters of Admiral Kimmel and General Short, who had been charged with neglect of duty in Hawaii. Yet after making all of these allowances, it is now apparent that the conclusions drawn by General DeWitt



were not justified by the evidence."<sup>1</sup> Hindsight is a good deal wiser for the experience and perspective it gains and Mr. McWilliams has good grounds for saying what he has. However, in the light of the problems that faced the military at the time, it would appear that the argument itself, though vague, was fairly valid. It is easy to read the General's final report in the light of an apologia since it was not released until January of this year but in reading the testimonies and interviews presented in the Fourth Interim Report of the Select Committee Investigating National Defense Migration, 77th. Congress, May 1942, one is struck by the fact that the argument of "military necessity" was the only one that the opposers to the evacuation did not refute. In fact, there were strong indications that if the evacuation were to be based upon this matter solely there would be general agreement.

"Proximity to military installations and vital war industries."

The then Attorney-General of the state, Earl Warren stated before the Tolson Committee that the "distribution of the Japanese population appears to manifest something more than a coincidence."<sup>2</sup>

The Army report offers maps showing the distribution of the Japanese its characteristic clustering about the major cities of

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1. p.7

2. Fourth Interim Report of the Select Committee Investigating National Defense Migration, p.140



San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego. Admittedly these are the vital spots on the California coast and are engaged with the production of war materials. But the "coincidence" of which Warren spoke is not based upon the fact that these are industrial production areas but in the fact that they are the largest population centers. Tying that with the fact that the Japanese are primarily interested in raising truck produce for consumption within these metropolitan areas, they have to have their farms within relatively short distances from these areas in order to retail their wares. The determinant is not the industrial or strategic factor but the economic and agricultural one.

"Danger of fifth column, sabotage, and espionage." In the Final Report, General DeWitt stresses the danger of sabotage and espionage. The only explanation for this factor being in the Report is that the Army investigations relied too heavily upon the rising press and popular cry for evacuation. The Roberts Report itself is silent on the matter of sabotage and refers only to espionage. <sup>in Hawaii only</sup> This was already published before any of the military areas had been set up by DeWitt and appears to have <sup>been</sup> overlooked both by him and the general public. Those that have been arrested for espionage activities in behalf of Japan or for being unregistered agents of Japan have been native-born white Americans.<sup>1.</sup>

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1. For names see McWilliams, Carey: "What About Our Japanese-Americans?" published by the Public Affairs Committee, p.8.



Of the signalling at Pearl Harbor, the Office of War Information has revealed that the persons who did the actual work were Nazi agents. Yet, despite the public statements of J. Edgar Hoover, Colonel Kendall Fielder, and Honolulu Chief of Police Gabrielson that no acts of espionage and sabotage have been traced to any Japanese either on the continent or in Hawaii, the popular fear fanned by the adverse press continued to believe and urge the evacuation on this basis.

The fourth and last argument under this heading was the charge that the Nisei gave no information to intelligence officers concerning subversive elements within their own ranks. This has been very loosely charged by numerous civilians and by some Western Defense officers even in the light of several statements appearing in national magazines. An anonymous intelligence officer wrote in Harper's Magazine for October, 1942:

Many of the nisei voluntarily contributed valuable anti-subversive information to this (the naval intelligence) and other governmental agencies. The Japanese consular staff, the Central Japanese Association and others known to have been sympathetic to the Japanese cause did not themselves trust the nisei.

Galen Fisher quoted a letter sent to him on August 10, 1942 by an intelligence officer wherein he said, "I personally know at least fifteen intelligence officers who have received continual aid from the group of loyal and patriotic nisei attached to each, and have in consequence been of great service to the



United States in obtaining information regarding disloyal and suspicious Japanese. There are innumerable cases I could give you."<sup>1</sup>

Section E.-Attitudes on Removal of the Fourth Interim Report amply backs the statements given above in several of the testimonies rendered by Japanese-Americans in Oregon. These statements showed that the Japanese had been active for quite some time before December 7th, watching for subversive elements within their communities. One Japanese remarked that the activities not only included watching their racial group but the whites as well. Still in all, the public continued to hawl for the evacuation.

The arguments characterized by racial discrimination do not pretend to cloak the real reason with a sheen of military necessity. Perhaps the strongest has been made by General DeWitt before the House naval affairs sub-committee on April 13, 1943; "It makes no difference whether the Japanese is theoretically a citizen. He is still a Japanese. Giving him a scrap of paper won't change him. I don't care what they do with the Japs so long as they don't send them back here. A Jap is a Jap."<sup>2</sup> Just as meaningful but not quite as blatant was the statement by Verne Smith, Chief of Police in Alameda; he remarked that there was "no

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1. Fisher, Galen: "Untruths About Japanese-Americans," The Christian Century, 60:937-9, August 18, 1943.
2. Fisher, Galen: "Our Two Japanese-American Policies," The Christian Century, August 25, 1943, p.961



particular meeting ground for the oriental and occidental mind."<sup>1</sup>. These statements and others offered by Earl Warren and S.W.Spangler, Vice-president of the Seattle First National Bank before the Tolan Committee definitely reveal one of the basic reasons for the request of the evacuation. General DeWitt would not be too surprised, but perhaps the other gentlemen would, to hear that their words say in essence that behind every pair of slant eyes there is the diabolic scheming of the inferior oriental mind, you just can't trust them!

"While it may be argued," states Miller Freeman, publisher in Seattle, Washington, "that many American born Japanese are loyal to the United States there are sufficient numbers who are proven to be assisting Japan's war effort to warrant such action not only in the Nation's interest but for the protection of the Japanese themselves."<sup>2</sup>. So we have the idea of "protective custody" and its corollary, vigilantism. General DeWitt, too, remarked that he had acted to protect the west-coast Japanese from mob violence. However, he noted that the reports of the attacks against them, upon investigation, "either were unverified or were found to be cumulative."<sup>3</sup>. Actually there had been no instances of attack or general mob violence. There were two reported instances, one, a fight that had occurred between Filipinos and the local

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1. Fourth Interim Report; Section E., p.141.

2. Ibid.

3. McWilliams, Carey: "What About Our Japanese-Americans?" Public Affairs Committee, p.18.



Japanese in Stockton three weeks after Pearl Harbor, and second, on New Years Day 1942 when some unknown persons had fired several shots at a Japanese in Gilroy. These apparently formed the basis of the argument for "protective custody" because there had been no evidence from Hawaii to show that such was needed. Indeed, experienced observers of the domestic scene as well as newspapers remarked that there had been a lack of general mob violence. While the above arguments do not pretend to cover all the variations on the racial theme, sufficient has been offered to illustrate that racism forms a part of the basis problem in the evacuation.

The third group of arguments fall into that which the writer has chosen to call the cultural group. This group, though it received space in the Tolson Report, has not appeared to have been of as much importance as the two preceding groups in the public's mind in demanding the evacuation. It does form a real part of the latter one. The fact that there were religious differences and practices came to the Committee's attention. The Japanese language schools and newspapers came in for comment but how potent a factor in the popular mind cannot be judged. Immediately after Pearl Harbor most of the newspapers came out in English knowing that they would be attacked as subversive if copy continued in the native tongue. More commonly recognized and criticized was the practice of sending American-born Japanese back to Japan for their education. This particular group, the Kibei, depending upon their age at the time, have returned pretty thoroughly indoctrinated



according to the Nipponese tradition. One writer claimed that the returning Kibei were more Japanese than the Issei. The accident of dual citizenship seems to have disturbed the white Americans more than it has the Nisei against whom it has been commonly charged as just another element in their generally subversive character. The condition rises from the historical blunder that the national government committed in preventing the Issei from becoming citizens. For the most part the Nisei do not bother themselves about this fact, simply disregard it and affirm their heritage as Americans. (Writer seems to be ignorant of Japan's law of Dec. 1924 on this subject. By it, only nisei registered by parents at Jap. Consulate before 15 days old, have dual citizenship. L.M.F.)

The most powerful cultural influence bearing upon the evacuation of the Japanese-Americans was the white press. The fact that there was an interval of approximately six weeks between the attack on Pearl Harbor and the emergence of any concerted demand for the evacuation of persons of Japanese ancestry is significant. It strongly suggests that this period was being used by professional anti-Orientalists, such as the Hearst press, in preparing to exert organized pressure on the government and military authorities. That the agitation for removal was carefully engineered is implied in an editorial in the San Francisco CHRONICLE of February 6, 1942; "The supposed 'hysteria' over enemy aliens and their descendants scarcely exists among the people themselves, but the excitement is visible almost entirely in political and journalistic quarters....They are seeking to capitalize on a supposed



excitement of others which is mostly a figment of their own imaginations."<sup>1</sup>. Just what this "hysteria" amounted to, no one but the Hearst papers, and such "patriotic" organizations as the California American Legion, the Native Sons of the Golden West, the Eagles and the Americanism Educational League under the direction of the notorious John R. Lechner, were able to find out. Such observers as Chester Rowell, Dr. Eric Bellquist of the University of California, Selden Menefee, and reporters of Time, Life, and Fortune had not been able to discern any such disturbance. Dr. Bellquist stated as much when he testified before the Tolan Committee. Actually, and despite the shock of the attack on Pearl Harbor there was no hysteria on the West Coast among the citizenry until the race-baiting newspapers and organizations had gathered their forces and began whipping up the popular mind six weeks later.

These then, have been the major arguments and influences that effected the evacuation of the Japanese-Americans from the Pacific Coast. As was stated at the outset, these arguments have been retained and for the most part form the opposition reasoning against the return of the Japanese. However, two changes have taken place that show the remaining arguments to be what they rightly are. The first change is in the military field. The threat of invasion has long since disappeared from the West Coast.

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1. Douglass, Truman B., "70,000 American Refugees Made in U.S.A." Citizens Committee for Resettlement of the Congregational Christian Committee for Work with Japanese Evacuees, p.4.



The area once called "a theatre of operations" has now been defined by the military as a "defense command." The war in the South Pacific has been turned from a threat to Australia to a direct threat to Japan, Guam has been retaken, and the drive upon the Philippines appears imminent. There have been increasing indications showing that the Army would like to be relieved of the responsibility of maintaining the state of "military necessity." It can very well be that the Army forbids the evacuees from returning less for military reasons than because of strong California pressures and threats.

Consequent to the military development, changes have resulted in the legal aspect of the evacuation of the Japanese-Americans. The constitutionality of such a movement has not entered into the discussion of this paper so far. It is sufficient, here, to say that a review of the evacuation question is coming before the United States Supreme Court soon. Indications are abroad that foretell its being declared unconstitutional. Whatever the status regarding the evacuation and detention, there can be no doubt concerning the right and privilege of the evacuees to return to their former homes. For any community or state to cause the enactment of laws restricting this privilege is to do so knowing that it is overtly unconstitutional.

It is apparent then, that the military arguments, formerly so prominent, are now only secondary in importance. What remains as the basis for the opposition to the Japanese-Americans is due



to economic and racial factors.

The agricultural interests in California, such as the Associated Farmers and the California Grange have consistently claimed that the Japanese must stay out, "or else." The Hearst newspapers as well as the American Legion and the Sons and Daughters of the Golden West have offered considerable support. The San Francisco CHRONICLE under a United Press dateline from Sacramento on August 18th, states that "George Sehlmeier, master of the California State Grange, said today he would ask a conference of Western State Grange Masters at Portland, Ore., to support California in opposing the resettlement of Japanese in the West." Sehlmeier went on to say that the Japanese were buying land at "premium prices." Presumably the land in question is farming land.

A statement considerably more forward and truthful than Sehlmeier's is found in the Fourth Interim Report when a representative of the Associated Produce Dealers and Brokers of Los Angeles said, "I have talked to many wholesale growers of vegetables for the local market who have either gone out of business in the past ten years or greatly reduced their operations due to Japanese competition of a type which they could not meet and who are willing to plant increased acreage especially for the local market if they have any assurance they would not meet the competition of the ~~competition of the~~ Japanese family."<sup>1</sup>.

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1. Fourth Interim Report, Section E., p.145.



The statistics concerning the Japanese engaged in agriculture in the three western states of California, Oregon and Washington are rather enlightening. There are 22,027 Japanese owning 6,118 farms totalling 258,074 acres ( average farm 42.2 acres) at the grand cost of \$72,600,000. <sup>1.</sup> Against these figures one finds that the total number of farms, white and non-white owned, amounts to 276,173 in number with a total of 63,694,000 acres ( average farm 230.6 acres) and a grand cost of \$3,236,000,000. In terms of percentages, of the total 2.2% of the farms are owned by Japanese with only 0.4% of the total acreage and with a value of 2.9% of the total evaluation, yet in California alone, the Japanese produce 38% of the truck vegetables! <sup>2.</sup>

The writer cannot personally conclude that the present outcry against the return of the Nisei has any other basis than the years-old contempt toward an alien minority toward whom the whites have given nothing but the worst. Couple with this, the stinging competition in agriculture. The records of legislation and press have reflected and shown the growth of this antagonism over a long period of years. The war came along and turned an old antagonism into a new fear and made possible what certain

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1. Final Report of the Japanese Evacuation From the West Coast, 1942, Tables 67 and 68, pp.407 and 408
2. Ibid, p.35.



groups in California have clearly wanted for decades....to get rid of the minority! The time has come when the Japanese must return to their homes, legally they cannot be stopped, religiously they must be received as equals. The reaction on the part of the opposition will be interesting to note, the outcome, perhaps tragic.



N I S E I   U . S . A .

The signal today reads full speed ahead for the resettlement of loyal evacuees of Japanese ancestry. The stress today is on individual relocation, so that evacuee manpower will be available to help avert the growing shortage of trained, skilled workmen in industries vital to the successful prosecution of the war.

One of the question marks faced by the WRA's present program of work relocation is the attitude of organized labor, or that wing of it represented by the American Federation of labor. Already in some intermountain states, there have been isolated instances of union discrimination against evacuee workers, discrimination resulting in most instances from misinformation on evacuation and the evacuee, although it is true that many old-line AFI unions still draw the "color-line" against non-Caucasian workers.

The trade union movement is a dynamic force for the extension of democratic practices in American. Evacuee Americans remember that, in the midst of wolf-cries for restrictions against Japanese Americans, the California AFL smashed an attempt of one of its locals to railroad a resolution which would have placed the state organization behind the movement to revoke the citizenship of all American-born Japanese. And the nisei will not soon forget the California State CIO's stirring argument for justice for American-born Japanese, delivered by its state secretary before the Tolan committee.

Historically, since the arrival of the first Japanese laborers to a frontier American crying for additional manpower, organized labor has had, in effect a "japanese problem." The first recorded act of violence committed against the Japanese immigrant worker by an organized group occurred in 1890, when 15 Japanese cobblers, employed in a San Francisco shoe factory, were attacked by members of the shoemakers' union and forced to quit their jobs. Since that day in 1890 these immigrant Japanese and their descendants have always been on the fringes of the labor movement.

The Tolan Committee's interim report notes that California's first legislative recognition of the presence of Japanese immigrants was given legislative in 1901, when the State Legislature passed a resolution asking congress to protect native labor by restricting Japanese immigration. It was during this period that AFL unions, whose membership was at that time restricted to workmen in the skilled trades, wrote special anti-Oriental clauses into their constitutions. Some of these anti-Oriental provisions are being applied even today.

In the infant years of the twentieth century, powerful western employer groups encouraged the recruiting of Orientals, especially Japanese, and the impact of this fresh, eager supply of human energy upon the western labor market served to antagonize native white labor. Coast labor interpreted the arrival of the boat loads of Japanese immigrants as a definite



threat to their future security and organized into strong units to resist this new and alien force. The roots of that antagonism were threaded firmly and deeply in California and have never been eradicated.

Employer utilization of labor in racial units, the resistance encountered from white labor organizations, the lack of a common language and a variety of other factors combined to separate the Japanese group in the organized workers. The Japanese operated independently as a racial group in the agricultural industry, in which the majority were employed. The LaFollette Committee pointed out that, like the Chinese, the Japanese followed the practice of organizing themselves into gangs under the direction of a boss or contractor, "providing their own food and housing at work, and living apart from the employer, the regular white labor force and the migratory white laborer." These practices drove a wedge between native white group and the Japanese immigrant a division which a later generation of American-born Japanese would find difficult to bridge.

The Japanese worker in California has left an indelible mark upon the employment conditions in the state's agricultural industry. The La Follette Committee reported that the Japanese were influential in bringing about a payment of wages from a daily to a piece-rate basis. The Japanese avoided time rates and insisted on payment for piece work because of their ability to excel in the "stoop" work characteristic of the principal operations in the intensively cultivated crops that grow on or near the ground.

"Gradually, the differential between wages of white and Oriental labor disappeared or become unsubstantial. Working first at lower wages than the whites, the Japanese succeeded in increasing their wages during the decade 1900 to 1910," the Senate Committee reported. After 1910, it was stated that they operated on the same basis as whites.

The Japanese workers incurred the enmity of many of the same agricultural interestes which had first welcomed their arrival when they began to use collective bargaining techniques to improve their arrival economic position. Many of labor's present defense mechanisms, familiar now in contemporary American, were first used on the west coast by the Japanese agricultural workers. A modified version of the sit-down, the organized slow-down and other means of protest were developed by these farm laborers.

The organization of these racial "unions" by the immigrant workers although tending to better their general standard of living, nevertheless became a factor which has retarded the social assimilation of the Japanese group on the west coast. Employer groups, in many instances, encouraged the organization of the workers on a racial basis and pitted race against



race in the competitive labor market. Japanese workers would be brought in to break a strike of a non-Japanese group, while a strike of Japanese laborers was often broken by non-Japanese. In later years the Mexican, the Filipino and the native white American from the dust bowl states were to be similarly exploited.

One instance of cooperative section between Japanese and other organized workers occurred in 1919 in Seattle during that city's short-lived general strike. The Japanese Federation of Trade Unions in Seattle although barred from the AFL, declared their common interest with their fellow workers in the issues at stake and voted to join the strike

The advent of the CIO in the middle thirties accelerated the organization of many workers of Japanese ancestry in the national trade union. Notably in the organization of cannery workers, the CIO met opposition from Japanese labor contractors who had developed a vested interest in the profits accruing from their role as middlemen in the Labor market.

Because of their old-line policy against non-Caucasians, many AFL unions, such as the teamsters, chartered special "Jap Crow" locals for workers of Oriental ancestry who were given the doubtful privilege of paying dues and receiving few of the benefits of membership. Many of the skilled trades, still dominated by AFL union holding sacred the ghost of Comperism and the concept that the trade union is a protective agency for native white workers only, have been and are still virtually closed to non-Caucasians.

The problem of union discrimination has been raised in western areas where evacuees have been relocated. Although this discrimination is not widespread, it has been effective in closing certain industries to the evacuees, although shortages of workers may exist in those industries. Much of this discrimination stems from a misunderstanding of the evacuee and of the circumstances which resulted in evacuation.

The trade union movement in general has been a force which has won a greater share in democracy for the great mass of the American people. The advent of the CIO with its policy of equal rights, "regardless of race, creed or color," had a healthy effect in breaking down many artificial restrictions based on race. The evacuees look to the trade union for fair paly in the industries and trades in which theymay be relocated.



# REPORT OF SURVEY ON WEST COAST

April 19 to May 24, 1945

Conducted by Rev. John M. Yamazaki, under the auspices  
of the National Council of the Protestant Episcopal Church

## P R E P A R A T I O N

(Preliminary Survey)

Prior to my leaving Chicago for the West Coast I conducted a survey among 500 evacuees to find out how many of our Church members with whom I have been keeping contact during the evacuation and resettlement period intend to return to the West Coast. I sent out letters printed in both English and Japanese languages, inclosing self-addressed postcards for answers to the questionnaires.

I received 100 answers before I left Chicago on April 19th. It was interesting and very helpful to find out the intentions of those evacuees who have resettled in the area east of the Rocky Mountains and those who are still remaining in the various Relocation Centers which have to be closed by the end of the year. I can safely regard the result of this survey as a fair estimate of intentions of a cross section of the evacuees in regard to their remaining in the Mid-western and Eastern Resettled areas or returning to the West Coast.

### Answers to the Questionnaires

1. So far as I know at the present I <u>do not</u> expect to return to the West Coast	37
2. I expect to go back to the West Coast	
A. Immediately	1
B. In the near future	15
C. After the war	9
	25
3. Indefinite, but may go back	
A. If there is a good job offer	9
B. If conditions become better	17
C. If my folks go back	7
	33
4. No choice either in the East or West accepting any place favorable to me	5
	<u>100</u>

A breakdown of these answers show that:

37 will definitely stay in the Midwest or East;

25 will return either immediately, in the near future, or after the war;

38 or the remaining number have qualified their intentions by stating that they will return

9 if there is a good job

17 if conditions become better

7 if my folks return

5 resettle wherever acceptable.



From these figures it can be said that 37% will stay in the Midwest and East and 25% will probably return to the West Coast. The remaining number, or 38%, will go where the winds blow. This last group has given conditional answers, with the desire to return. Therefore, if I state in my report of the West Coast Survey that the situation of the West Coast is "favorable", it should be understood that I mean it is favorable for these 38% of the evacuees who are indefinite at the present time about their return. It will mean a 'go sign'. On the other hand, 'unfavorable' would mean that it is unfavorable to these indefinite 38% as well as to even the 25% who have made up their minds to return.

I left Chicago for my one month survey trip to the West Coast. My main task was to determine how favorable the conditions on the West Coast are for the return of the evacuees.

#### I T I N E R A R Y

April 19	Left Chicago on Santa Fe
" 22	Arrived in Pasadena, California
" 23-May 9	Survey of Southern California
April 23	Reached Los Angeles
" 24)	
25)	Attended the Conference of Protestant Western Commission
26)	held at the Y.M.C.A., Los Angeles
April 27-May 3	Orange County - Santa Ana, Talbert, Stanton, Fullerton, Buena Vista
	Los Angeles County - Pasadena, Monrovia, Azusa, Pomona, Whittier, Montebello, West Los Angeles
	City of Los Angeles
May 4	Conference at Bishop Stevens' office
May 4-5	Riverside County, Riverside, Arlington, San Bernardino
May 6-7	City of Los Angeles (cont'd)
May 8	Attended the Consecration Service of the new Bishop of Panama Canal Zone, held at St. Paul's Cathedral, Los Angeles. Addressed the meeting of Woman's Auxiliary of the Diocese in the afternoon in the Cathedral
May 8-9	Pasadena and Los Angeles
May 10-12	San Francisco, Oakland and Berkeley
May 13	Portland, Oregon
May 14	Seattle, Washington
May 15-16	Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota
May 21	Arrived in Chicago, left for Cincinnati
May 21-23	Cincinnati
May 24	Back to Chicago



## S U R V E Y

There are three important factors which may determine the possibility and advisability for the Evacuees to return to their former homes on the West Coast, namely:

1. Housing problem;
2. Job situation
3. Local sentiment regarding the Japanese Americans.

Since my arrival in Southern California on April 22nd, I endeavored to find out in my survey as accurately as possible by direct contact, interviewing the following groups or individuals:

1. Japanese Americans who have already returned to the West Coast.
2. Neighbors of Japanese American Returnees
3. Neighbors of former Japanese American residents or farmers
4. Church leaders, including ministers and laymen, church groups, Church Federations, YMCA, YWCA, American Friends' Service, Committee on Fair Play and American Principles, school teachers, etc.
5. My American friends.
6. War Relocation officers and public officials.
7. My own experiences.

I have taken from my survey notes some of the visits and experiences which describe the varied conditions in the many localities covered in my trip.

### Santa Ana, Orange County, Calif.

Visited Mr. Nissuke Nitta, a farmer who returned to his former farms in February, 1945 with his family. His return was published nation-wide since his former friends and neighbors welcomed his family warmly, filling his refrigerator with nice things and inviting his children to parties, etc. However, my interview with him revealed the other side of the story. A few days after his return, he was visited by someone in that area who advised him to leave the place immediately as the vigilante committee were ready to come after him in a couple of hours. Mr. Nitta, thereupon, telephoned the Los Angeles War Relocation Office and within two hours the local police and sheriff's office received orders from the District Attorney of the State, in Sacramento, to investigate and protect the returned persons of Japanese ancestry. This order was carried out swiftly to the amazement of both the "Anti-Neighbors" and Mr. Nitta himself. Thereafter there has been no trouble and he is shipping carloads of asparagus every day without being molested by anyone. He employs Mexican laborers and Caucasian truck drivers. He has a son in the US Army.

Mr. and Mrs. S. Kanno, who returned to Talbert, Orange County, has started farming on his own ranch. Mr. Kanno has some hostile neighbors and upon his return he found that his former tenant vacated without notice, stripping everything, electric range, washing machine, and even the linoleum from the floor. He is not discouraged. His son is also in the service of the US Army. He does not complain about his loss, but he said that he was happy to be able to come back to his own home in California.

In Santa Ana City, I visited Mr. Van Norman, the Area WRA Office. It happened that he was invited to the Layman's Meeting of the Episcopal Church that night to talk about the War Relocation program. Mr. Van Norman thought it might be helpful to the cause for me to go with him to meeting and tell something about resettlement.



However, after contacting the Rector of the Church, a friend of mine, I was advised by him that it was unwise for me to be in the meeting though the President of the League gladly consented to invite me to the meeting. There is something in it. Perhaps the air in the district was not so favorable for the Japanese Americans. I understood rather that it was totally not my business to do public relation work in this matter. It is far better done by Caucasian Americans. So I left there gracefully. Later Mr. Van Norman took me to Buena Vista, one of the towns regarded as a hot spot in the County. Saw two houses supposedly belonging to Japanese which were burnt down when some hoodlums hearing of the return of the evacuees set fire to them. Rumor was that by mistake one of the houses burnt by hoodlums was a Caucasian neighbor's house instead.

Rumor was that the hoodlums burnt a Caucasian neighbor's house instead of a "Jap-house" by mistake. We visited both places. The neighbors of the wrong burnt house denied the story and said the fire simply broke out by short circuit. But the other house was definitely burnt down as a warning to the Japanese Americans who were planning to return to that locality. We found on the window of stores printed signs with the following words:

"No Japs Wanted in California

They are treacherous wherever they were born

Citizens' Emergency Committee of Gardena, California."

It so happened that as we were passing the front of a restaurant which had the No-Jap sign on the window, we were very hungry as it was past noon. We went into that restaurant to eat. The waitress served us nice meals, chatted with us and we ate heartily and came out. The neighbors of former Japanese farmers of this area whom we interviewed that afternoon were very nice and talked freely with us, but when asked if they considered the Japanese coming back to their localities, they said they themselves had no objections but added certainly "If I were you I wouldn't come back now." When asked what time is proper for these people to come back, they said, "Well, by the end of this year or after the war is over." Evidently these neighbors do not have any objection but they are afraid what certain other people would say against them if they show friendliness to "Japs."

In Santa Ana I saw some other Japanese Americans who have returned. Among the many problems, there is one presented to me of one Nisei girl who was employed by the Board of Education of the County. She was suddenly discharged though she was liked by everybody in the office. She is a Miss Rose Yoshida. Some influential person is said to be behind the scene in this situation.

#### Monrovia, California

Visited Mr. Shinoda who owns a large nursery farm. He also owns farms in San Lorenzo, in Northern California. Mr. Shinoda is a member of the Free Methodist Church. His brother, the Rev. M. Nishimura of Berkeley, California, is a well known Free Methodist minister. Mrs. Shinoda was a former member of the Episcopal Church in Hawaii. There was an incident in the morning which we visited. The plate window of his flower shop in town was smashed by stones thrown by some hoodlums. However, the window was insured and the Insurance Company is after the hoodlums and Mr. Shinoda paid no attention to the incident and is carrying on his business as well as growing flowers. His son is in the U.S. Army.



Riverside, California

Rev. Dr. H. C. Smith met me at the bus station, took me to Mr. and Mrs. Hirata, members of St. Mary's, who recently returned to their farm in Arlington. Several families have returned to Riverside District and happily re-established themselves. There I learned that Mrs. Hirata's brother-in-law was killed in action in the last campaign in Italy on April 18th but her brother Masatatsu, a graduate of U of C, Berkeley, who has been serving under General McArthur in the Pacific was promoted to Second Lieutenant over there.

Azusa, California

Mr. and Mrs. Nakata, who have a remarkable record of having their seven sons in the US Army and one of their sons recently seriously wounded in the latest Italian Campaign, have returned to their former farm land in Azusa. They were met with a wholehearted welcome from the neighbors and former friends who are bringing nice things to them and visiting them frequently. Mrs. Nakata has been an invalid and was carried on the wheel chair but was certainly glad that she was able to come back to Azusa. They are Christians and I offered prayer for them and for their sons in the service of the country.

San Bernardino, California

Here returned Japanese American school children were boycotted by an ice cream shop which stands in front of the Public School. Upon hearing the incident, the principal of the school went to talk with the shopkeeper and threatened to let all school children boycott the shop unless he sells to Japanese American children of the school. However, this shopkeeper told her that it was not he who boycotts these children, but a member of the school board who was running for re-election. The motive was obvious but there was nothing to be done in such a case.

Montebello, California

Formerly many well-to-do Japanese nursery men had thriving business in Montebello and worked very closely with the business people of the community. Today it is one of the "hot spots" for the evacuees to return to. Boycott by a big California Nursery Association is a main contributing factor. Flowers and plants are being sold at three times the pre-war prices and certainly they do not want Japanese Americans to come back. However, Mr. Uyematsu, owner of the Star Nursery came back. His son is operating it and I saw him and five large trucks with full loads of blossomed plants ready for market somewhere unknown. All his employees are Caucasians. The elder Mr. M. Uyematsu stays away from this place and is keeping another farm of his own in Sierra Madra.

West Los Angeles, California (formerly called Sawtelle)

There are twenty Japanese gardeners who have returned to Sawtelle and each of them has an income of \$250 a month and they say that there are more jobs of this kind than they can handle and expect more gardeners to come back.

Los Angeles, "Uptown District", California

Some eight families comprising thirty individuals have returned to this district where the St. Mary's Episcopal Church served the residents from 1907 to the day of evacuation. Most of the returnees are Episcopalians. All were fortunate



families who were able to get back their own homes without resorting to the nasty "eviction" proceeding. Practically all who have returned have become gardeners except three persons who were able to find employment of their own choice, two of whom are typists, and one a mechanic. Others had to become gardeners. One former pharmacist, Mr. Leo Ishikawa, who owned a drug store in the district, returned from Gila, Arizona in February with his family. He could not find a place to open the store or get a job as a pharmacist and he pays daily visits to the US Employment Office without success. He told me that he had to turn to being a gardener. Likewise, Mr. S. Mayeda, who was in the fish business also had to become a gardener. Likewise, Mr. Robert Tashima, former shipper of Produce Market, is now working as a gardener. These gardeners are making about \$250 a month or more, and they now think that it is a good job and will keep on with it until such times as they are able to engage in their own line of business. There are also the experienced gardeners who have returned to their former employers. The children were reinstituted in the public schools and are attending church school of their former mission, now under a different set-up, St. Mary's the Virgin, under Rev. Fr. George L. Pratt.

### Los Angeles in General

There are 750 Japanese Americans who have returned to the Los Angeles area, of which 450 are living in L.A. City proper. However, there is no chance for former Japanese market people to come back to their old line of profitable business in the product market (the 9th and 7th street Vegetable and Fruit Markets) which were dominated by Japanese shippers and farmers for many years were no longer open for them. The A F of L Union refuses to take in Japanese Americans, and the market of controlling big interest are not ready to admit the right of the evacuees to return now to their main business which they had to abandon and leave at the mercy as they obeyed the orders for evacuation. Rev. K. Unoura, former pastor of the Christian Church (Disciples) is very pessimistic in his outlook. He saw the market develop to one of the greatest industries. He built his Church in the center of the market people. Those of his returned members cannot find jobs. With the market gone, the center of Japanese American economic life in Southern California is gone. It will take a long time before they will be able to handle the farmers produce even though farmers may come back in numbers.

There is no organized "Anti-Group" in Los Angeles City and those who have returned say they were treated well. In fact I myself never met a single incident or unpleasant thing. I went to various restaurants and shops downtown and I felt no discrimination at all. My former butcher greeted me as I went into his store. He grasped my hand with both his hands. Filipino people who are living near St. Mary's were very friendly. In fact three of the Filipino boys who used to attend my church school are continuing to come to church and one of them is a Crucifer. The last Sunday before I left Los Angeles I saw in the Church three Filipino and two Japanese American boys being initiated into the Knights of Sir Galahad during the morning service.

There is an acute, rather an impossible housing problem existing in the West Coast everywhere. Particularly is this true of Los Angeles. Even if the job offers become plentiful and sentiment against the return improve with better understanding of the Nisei status, this housing problem will be a severe check to their return to the West Coast. The WRA told me that the "eviction" process when served by the returnee has not caused any repercussion, still since those who were evicted had in turn no place to go, it made it a very tough problem for the returnee to tackle. Suppose the former owners of the houses and farms could come back - what about those who have sold their homes and farms and those who do not have their real property in the West Coast? There does not seem to be even a slight chance for their return.



The hostels will serve as temporary quarters for the returnees, but they cannot give a permanent solution to the housing situation.

In Pasadena, the former Japanese Union Church is used for a hostel, under the joint management of the Friends Service, the Presbyterian and Congregational Boards. Reception in Pasadena has been very good. Many people of Pasadena have united in the support of this project. A strong church element is backing this venture in welcoming the evacuees.

In Los Angeles there are three hostels, one large Christian hostel and two smaller hostels sponsored by the Buddhist Church. The Christian hostel is a former language school sponsored jointly by the Presbyterian and Friends Service Committee. I stayed at this hostel two nights. It has a capacity of persons. The hostel was so full that on the third night I had to find housing elsewhere.

I saw one Nisei girl in the Los Angeles WRA Office quite desperate as she said, "I will starve pretty soon as I have not been able to find a job since my return to Los Angeles. I will soon become a beggar."

While I was in Los Angeles, the joyous V-E Day finally came. I had special reason to greet the day for I expected that with Allied Victory my own son, James, surely would be liberated from the German Prison Camp. That was a day of thanksgiving for me for the Allied Victory over the Axis, military power and for the freedom of my son. However, with the termination of the European warfare, the whole might of this country will now be turned to the war against Japan. However, many people on the West Coast who can rise above their own feelings and prejudices understand the Nisei's heart and soul and the peculiar position they have been placed in. In fact there are the organizations such as the Fair Play Committee, church people and many others who are trying to help the public to understand Japanese Americans. Yet on the other hand, there are many economic interest groups that will use powerful economic and political weapons to keep down this unfortunate minority group. Only those persons of courage and fortitude with a firm belief in their ability, together with an unwavering faith in the fairness of the majority of the American people, can dare to venture back to their former homes on the West Coast.

I shall not discourage the evacuees to come back, neither will I encourage them to come back. It may be that ultimately, if not immediately, twenty or twenty-five percent of the evacuated people may come back as a consequence of the Government policy of closing all the centers by the end of this year. I do not know how long it will be before they are able to return. But if only twenty percent of former Japanese American population should come back, there should not be much alarm for the West Coast people. Many who have returned have their sons in the service of the Armed Forces of the US. And that is the reason, I think, many have courage to come back for they have trust in the American people and in the American principle of Freedom and Justice.

At the Service of Consecration of New Bishop of Canal Zone and the Service of V-E Day in Los Angeles

On May 8th, there was held in St. Paul's Cathedral, Los Angeles, the Service of Consecration of the Very Rev. Reginald Heber Gooden, son of Suffragan Bishop Robert B. Gooden, as the Bishop of Canal Zone. It was also Thanksgiving Service of V-E Day. The Cathedral was filled to capacity - 16 Bishops and 160 Clergymen and many representatives from the Church Federation and the Universities marched in the procession of the Church. I was very happy that after three years of my sojourn to



various states, I was able to come back once again to my own Diocese and attend this memorable service and march with my old Clergy friends of the Diocese in the Procession. The most significant thing in this Service, from the standpoint of Resettlement of Japanese Americans in the United States, was that those 16 Bishops who took part in the Service were almost all those who have been keenly interested, and in whose Dioceses Evacuees were so much helped by these Bishops. All know that the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, the Most Rev. St. George Tucker who came from New York for the Occasion as the Chief Consecrator, did so much in helping Evacuees both in Relocation Centers and in the area of resettlement East of the Rocky Mountains, as the past President of the Federal Council of Churches of United States and the Presiding Bishop of the National Council of the Episcopal Church for the past three years. Of other Bishops there, Bishop Mitchel of Arizona, into whose Diocese most of St. Mary's congregation from Los Angeles went with my son, Rev. J.H.M. and lived in Gila and Poston Relocation Centers (it so happened that I went to the Diocese of Arkansas where his brother Bishop Bland Mitchel gave us great help in Jerome and Rohwer Relocation Centers); Bishop Rhea of Idaho where Minidoka Center is situated; Bishop Moulton of Salt Lake in whose Diocese is Topaz Center; Bishop Keeler of Minnesota where many resettlers and Japanese American soldiers more than two thousand strong are stationed in Fort Snelling; Bishop Charles S. Reifsnider, specially appointed as the Bishop for Japanese Americans in war time, and in charge of all Relocation Centers; and other Bishops of the Pacific Coast - Venerable Retired Bishop Parsons of California; Bishop Morgan Block, Present Bishop of California; Bishop Sanford and Bishop Walters of San Joaquin; and my own Bishops - Bishop W. Bertrand Stevens and Suffragan Bishop Robert B. Gooden of Los Angeles. All those Bishops had direct contact with the Evacuees and gave great assistance to them. The National Council of Episcopal Church has carried on the splendid work of helping in this national problem of Relocation and Resettlement of persons of Japanese ancestry under the very capable and sympathetic executive, the Rev. Dr. George A. Wieland, Director of Home Department of the National Council of the Episcopal Church. In fact I am making this survey in the West Coast under the auspice of Dr. Wieland. I had little time to express my thanks to those Bishops who were present in the Service.

In the afternoon of the same day, after the Consecration Service, a Mass meeting of the Woman's Auxiliary of the Diocese was held in St. Paul's Cathedral. After the Presiding Bishop Tucker gave greetings I was invited by Mrs. Scott Quintin, the President, to give an account of evacuation and resettlement of Japanese Americans which I did and appreciated very much the privilege. After the meeting I was greeted by many of my old friends - both Clergy and laymen and the members of the Woman's Auxiliary.

#### Warm Reception given by the Church People

Upon my arrival in Pasadena I was met by Bishop and Mrs. Reifsnider at the Railroad station and was entertained at their new home over night. Mrs. Thomas Fleming Jr. who had done so much for St. Mary's with her late husband gave me a welcome dinner that evening. The following day, Miss Anne Patton, a Board member of the National Council of Episcopal Church and sister of General George Patton of the Third Army invited me for a delicious luncheon with Miss Rebekha Hibbard and Mrs. Scott Quintin, the past and present Presidents of the Woman's Auxiliary of the Diocese, respectively, and Bishop and Mrs. Reifsnider, as guests. Mrs. Quintin later in the afternoon drove me to the home of Father Douglas Stuart where I was given a nice room during my stay in Los Angeles. In Los Angeles, Bishop Stevens and Bishop Gooden, Clergy and Lay friends gave me a warm welcome. I was entertained at various times at dinners and teas.



Dr. W. Charlmer Francis, Mrs. Catheryn Davis, Mrs. W. F. Stockton, Mr. and Mrs. Adam Baker, Miss Nellie Oliver, Miss Damber, Dr. Edwin Lewis, Rev. J. Donnel and a few other Clergy friends. Miss Edith Knapp who helped St. Mary's so much for many years with Mr. and Mrs. David Allison, noted architect who designed St. Mary's Church, gave me a nice dinner of welcome. Mrs. Thomas Fleming, Jr. gave me a farewell dinner with Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Barrett at the "Athenium" of California Institute of Technology, Pasadena. Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Booth, W.R.A. of Los Angeles District and other W.R.A. officers, Messrs. Van Norman, Ash, Walker Gumble and Mr. Paul G. Robertson gave me various assistances in my survey of Southern California.

#### San Francisco and Oakland, California

I left Los Angeles on May 10th. Visited San Francisco and the Bay Region. Saw Bishop Block, Dean Shires and other friends. Miss Harriet Yarrow who worked with me in the Chicago United Ministry, now working in the Friends Service Center in the former Japanese YWCA, kindly took me to many places. In Oakland I saw Rev. John Yamashita already back from Evanston, Illinois who started the Methodist Hostel. There I observed a marvelous thing done by Christian people. The church building was converted to a Hostel to house the returnees. New wall paper was hung, floors were painted, beds were arranged, curtains were hung on every window, and kitchen tables, chairs and utensils were brought in. Ladies' quarters upstairs and men's bedrooms downstairs were neatly furnished and ready to receive guests. This grand work was done by volunteer church groups of all denominations: First Baptist Women's Group, First Congregational Church of Berkeley, Winthrop Group, Trinity Church Youth Group, Inter-Racial Group, North Brae Methodist Club, and YMCA came on different days and washed windows, scrubbed floors, painted woodwork, and put linoleum on the floor. Already 450 Japanese Americans have returned and are happily resettled in the Bay Region. The University of California has already more than 20 students back and they were given part-time jobs in the school to help their finances.

In San Francisco Mr. Fred Ross, WRA Officer of the Bay Area, told me that in this area, contrary to Los Angeles where the CIO is receiving Japanese Americans to its membership, the A F of L has taken the initiative and have voted to let Japanese Americans join the Cleaners and Dyers Union and welcomed them to resume their former work in the City. The Presbyterian Church opened its church building for the use of the Hostel and the Methodists will soon be back there. Bishop Block will call back Rev. Joe Tsukamoto at the proper time to do "Integration Work" with the Cathedral as the center. Saw Dr. Gordon Chapman, Executive Secretary of the Western Commission. He told me of the agreement by the Commission that West Coast Christian program will be that of Integration, the same as it is being carried on in the Mid-West and East with a very few exceptional cases. The Denomination Boards will not have the Japanese churches organized as racial churches. However, there are certain ministers who insist on the necessity of having such racial churches on the ground that Buddhist groups are going to organize their own churches. I hope all Christian churches would abide in the agreement they have committed themselves to.

#### Portland, Oregon

In Portland, Oregon, Bishop Dagwell graciously met me at the station upon my arrival. He took me to his residence and after luncheon and conference took me to see a returned Episcopal member and for a visit to some other returnees who operate hostels in the city. He has an integration program for the returning Japanese American church people there.



Seattle, Washington

In Seattle, Washington, Bishop Huston received me cordially. I had a very profitable conference which familiarized me with the Seattle situation. Several church members have returned and I was entertained at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Yoshida who took me around the city. At the WRA Office, Mr. Harold Fistere, former of the New York Office, who has done a very efficient job in his area for opening very difficult places for the returnees, was out on his visit to the Hood River District which has received so much publicity for its Anti-Evacuee practices, such as erasing the Nisei Veterans Names from the Honor Roll, etc. However, by the untiring efforts of Mr. Fistere and his staff officers, to my amazement, there are today 18 Japanese American families who returned to their farms there. They are now growing asparagus and shipping it to the market through the Growers Association. These 18 families represent a total of 70 individuals. This, I think, is amazing news to the public. Even in Kent, Washington, where there was an Episcopal Mission until evacuation and now reputed as one of the hot spots in the North-West, one Mr. Ikuta and his family came back and started farming. Kent has boycotted Japanese Americans with "Not to sell and to buy." Ikuta dared to come back in spite of strong opposition. As expected, he was visited by a man who told him to get out of the place and threatened that some 50 Filipino boys were sharpening knives to come to cut his throat. Ikuta notified the WRA and immediately sheriffs and FBI agents appeared on the scene and caught the man who threatened Ikuta and quizzed him. When this man could not give facts and there was not much truth in what he told Ikuta, the authorities told him that if anything should happen in the district against returning Japanese Americans they would come back and he would be first man to be seized. Ikuta has not had trouble since.

In this area Messrs. George L. Townsend and E. Brice Steiding of WRA Office, Seattle, gave me valuable assistance. Housing problem is as acute as anywhere else. Jobs for Nisei are almost impossible to get except some low paying ones. Many people are of the opinion that these returnees are entitled to fair treatment as rightful Americans, yet they may face many, many hardships.

Spokane, Washington

Rev. Joe Tsukamoto, former Vicar of S.F. Christ Church met me at the station. I visited with him several returned church members, mostly former members of St. Peters, Seattle, now resettled in Spokane. Joe Tsukamoto has his center in the downtown office building where I gave a talk to 60 resettlers who gathered there for the Evening Service to hear me. There is a strong Methodist Church with Rev. Mr. Goto as Pastor. Since the resettlement movement was started, population of Japanese Americans increased from 300 to 1500, including 500 who work on the railroad. I missed Bishop Cross as he went to Seattle for celebration of Bishop Huston's twentieth anniversary of Consecration as the Bishop of Olympia.

Minneapolis, Minnesota

In Minneapolis, where I arrived on May 17th, I was met by Rev. Dai Kitagawa and had three busy days there, including a visit to Carleton College and address at the Minneapolis Hostel on the evening of the 18th; attending Graduation Exercises of Fort Snelling Language School where the husband of our St. Mary's member, Sgt. Dick Furukawa, received a gold watch as an award for the best soldier of the Graduating Class and T/5 George Suzuki, another member, received an award as the second best soldier of the Graduating Class. Saw many of our old St. Mary's boys at Fort Snelling. On the 20th, being my 31st Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood, I was glad that I was invited to Fort Snelling to celebrate the Holy Communion at 8:00 a.m. in the old Fort Chapel. Sixty officers and soliders came to attend the service.



Most of the soldiers had gone for furlough as the term ended on Saturday. Col. and Mrs. Cook and Major Paul Rusch were the committee for the occasion and I sincerely appreciated the privilege given to me. At 11:30 a.m. service at St. Mark's Cathedral, Minneapolis, Dean Deems kindly extended an invitation to me to assist in the Service. The Dean Alden Kelley happened to be the preacher for the day. Father Dai and myself assisted in administering the Holy Communion. At 1:00 p.m. there was a Baptismal Service for three children of former St. Mary's members. Father Dai baptized the twin children of Cpl. Iida and I baptized by special request a child of Sgt. and Mrs. Arthur Ito. Sgt. Ito is now fighting in the Pacific with the US Army. At 4:00 p.m. I gave a short greeting at the evening service conducted by Father Kitagawa at the Home for the Aged in St. Paul. Then at 5:30 p.m. gave a talk at the Resettlers Meeting which was held in the YWCA. I received on the same day good news from the War Department that my son Lt. James Yamazaki was liberated from a prison camp in Germany and is now with the US Army, is well and will be sent back to the States before long. It was a very nice Anniversary Day altogether. I left Minneapolis on Sunday by night train, arrived in Chicago Monday morning, May 21st. Took train for Cincinnati in the afternoon and came back to Chicago again on the 24th with Mrs. Yamazaki who had been staying with John and Margaret and grandson, Mark William.

#### SUMMARY OF MY SURVEY

- Housing shortage in the West Coast will prevent many who desire to go back to their old homes. Those who own their homes may be able to find some means to get them back with amicable and slow process.
- Difficulty in finding suitable jobs will equally be a check for the returnees.
- Farmers may be able to get back to their own farms even though there are intimidations and sporadic violence against them. So far, about 30 such terrorisms have been reported in California and in other West Coast areas, but each time authorities have acted quickly to prevent further spread of organized violence. The shameful decision on the Doi Case in Auburn, Calif. was much regretted.
- Since the Government is going to close the relocation centers by the end of this year and 55,000 or more who are still living in those centers must get out and go somewhere it is inevitable that a certain number of the evacuees have to return to the West Coast.
- Although those who own their own properties are bound to return, at the same time I would like to point out to the people that there are many, many places east of the Rocky Mountains to go to and resettle where they will be received with understanding if they have initiative to assimilate themselves to the community life there.
- As to the sentiment against Japanese Americans, we cannot argue and reason with certain people in war time. Now that the war is being carried on with full force against Japan, we must realize the various implications of war hysteria. With grace and patience we must continue to do our good work. However, the economic interest groups who take advantage of a critical world situation merely for their own selfish gains rather than for national interest continue to present to the nation an unnecessary and costly problem. This is something which the Church and the nation must check.
- I conclude this hastily made report from my brief notes. After giving more thought to the entire trip and survey I may have to rewrite it. However, may I jot down one closing story of my trip.

On my return trip from Spokane to Minneapolis, a United States Navy Lieutenant had the upper berth of the Pullman section of which I had the lower. He had just come back from the Pacific theater of the war against Japan. He was a most refined gentleman, although fresh from the bitter wars he had gone through. He was so friendly and kind that I enjoyed his company immensely. At our parting he gave me a souvenir which he brought home from the Phillipines. Would you say that the returning soldiers and sailors feel bitter at the Japanese Americans who are a part of America and as such have been loyal to the US and whose sons and brothers are fighting for her as faithfully as US soldiers? I would say an emphatic NO to this. I may have over confidence in this matter, but I am glad I have confidence in America and American people.







June 1944

SOLDIER AND CIVILIAN NISEI AND  
GOVERNMENT POLICY TODAY AND TOMORROW

1. The heroic conduct of the Nisei in the 100th Battalion in Italy, and of the Nisei serving in the Pacific area has won special recognition from the War Department and public. The 1000 men in the 100th Battalion have made a record of awards of 3 Distinguished Service Crosses, 21 Bronze stars, 36 Silver stars and 900 Purple Hearts.
2. The War Department in January 1944, showed its confidence in the general loyalty of the Nisei by restoring their eligibility to the selective service draft.
3. The speech of Sgt. Ben Kuroki, of Ploesti bombing fame, before the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco on February 4, 1944, received a tremendous ovation. His later broadcast over NBC was equally well received.
4. The War Department has for some months been allowing Nisei men in the armed forces to visit the West Coast on furlough, and none of them have suffered violence or serious trouble at the hands of white residents.
5. No proven cases of espionage or sabotage have been recorded on the part of the 21,000 evacuees released for resettlement, nor against any of the 20,000 unevacuated persons of Japanese extraction living beyond the Sierras.
6. The transfer of the War Relocation Authority to the Department of the Interior, and Secretary Ickes' staunch defense of its record have apparently weakened the attacks upon the WRA. Secretary Ickes has emphasized the constitutional rights of American citizens of Japanese ancestry.
7. All cases involving actual or possible disloyalty (except cases of Japanese interned aliens) have been disposed of by sending persons concerned to Tule Lake. The active trouble makers in that center are being held in a specified area separate from the remaining 18,000, who are showing an orderly and cooperative spirit.
8. The Farm Security Administration has recently announced that it will make farm loans to Nisei evacuees who relocate on the same basis as to any other citizen. Their lack of funds is one of the chief obstacles to resettling some 60,000 evacuees still in the Relocation Centers.
9. No Court decision has yet been made to determine the constitutionality or unconstitutionality of ordinances adopted by some West Coast Boards of Supervisors, shortly after Pearl Harbor, in an attempt to prevent any eventual return of farmers of Japanese ancestry to the evacuated area.
10. Attorney General Biddle, in reply to inquiries by the House Committee on Immigration as to his opinion of proposed legislation wrote February 8, 1944:  
"On the basis of exhaustive investigations conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, I have found that internal security required the internment of fewer than 2,000 Japanese aliens in the continental United States, and I am informed that



only about 700 Japanese aliens have been interned by the commanding general in the Territory of Hawaii.....A large proportion of the Japanese aliens in this country are law-abiding and loyal to the United States. They came here many years ago, in accordance with our laws and have raised families composed of citizens of the United States. Compulsory deportation of all Japanese nationals at the termination of hostilities appears to me to be objectionable.....Moreover, exile, which is what the deportation of such (citizens of Japanese ancestry) would constitute, is entirely foreign to our constitutional history. I do not know of any way in which the exile of citizens of the United States can be reconciled with the principles for which we are fighting this war."

11. Secretary Stimson's statement of January 1943, that "It is the inherent right of every faithful citizen, regardless of ancestry, to bear arms in the nation's battle", was amplified by the California State Commander of the American Legion, on February 15, 1944 in these words:

"Numerous persons of Japanese ancestry are now serving with the armed forces of our country on the battle fronts, and according to all reports, are serving valiantly and well..... Every person good enough to fight for us is entitled to our respect and equal protection under our constitution."

12. Admiral Nimitz declared last June at the University of California that all danger of an invasion in force of the West Coast had passed although he and General Emmons have recently stated that nuisance raids were still to be expected. The "military necessity" arising from danger of invasion was the reason given by the Army for the policy of exclusion of all persons of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast.

The Army's judgment in 1942 that military necessity required evacuation was generally accepted upon the West Coast. If it be a fact that such military necessity no longer exists, and if the War Department will state that fact now, such statement will go a long way to remove apprehensions aroused by the action taken by the Army in 1942, and will thus remove one of the chief obstacles to the restoration of the constitutional rights of the evacuees. An authoritative and definite statement on the subject by the Department of War will enable the large number of Californians who are interested in these constitutional rights to assert and defend them without danger of being met with the argument, whether made in good or bad faith, that they are not supporting the department of the government which is best informed on questions of national security and which originally ordered evacuation on that ground.

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Pacific Coast Committee on American Principles and Fair Play

2234 Telegraph Ave.  
Berkeley 4, Calif.

465 California St.  
San Francisco, Calif.



May 1943

WAR DEPARTMENT VIEWS ON JAPANESE RETURNING TO PACIFIC COAST

(Letter from Assistant Secretary of War John J. McCloy to William G. Merchant, President of the Down Town Association of San Francisco)

"The Secretary of War has asked me to acknowledge your letter to him of May 26, on the question of the return of certain Japanese evacuees to the West Coast. This will also acknowledge your letter to General Marshall on the same subject.

"In view of your expressions I feel it only fair to give you some information as to the War Department's policies in regard to the people of Japanese descent in California and elsewhere on the West Coast.

"The War Department participated in and is responsible for the decision to move the Japanese descended people of the West Coast on military grounds and the suggestion that the views of the department and of General DeWitt are at variance on any important particulars is entirely false. The War Department is aware that many of the evacuees, both citizens and aliens, are disloyal and in some instances even potentially dangerous.

"On the other hand, it is just as clear even after the experiences they have gone through that many of these people are entirely loyal to the United States. These people are still going through a rather severe test of their loyalty, and steps are being taken which should give us far greater information on this subject than we have ever had in the past.

"It seems entirely unnecessary and unjust to retain loyal citizens and others in restrictive custody when they could do their part toward the war effort.

"The War Department policy, therefore, is to afford to loyal Japanese every opportunity to make their contribution. This they have asked for, and it is not proposed, when they have demonstrated loyalty and adherence to this country, to prohibit them from doing their part.

"In line with this policy, the War Department on January 28 announced its plan to organize a Japanese American unit for combat service. The personnel of this unit are all volunteers, and each individual has been carefully scrutinized as to loyalty and cleared for service in the Army.

"I think they will prove to be a real military asset to the country. Once they have taken the oath of a soldier and have been placed in uniform, these soldiers are to be accorded the privileges extended to any other soldiers in the Army. This includes the privilege of returning on furlough to any part of the United States he desires.

(over)



"Certainly your organization would not feel that these people who have volunteered to face the enemy in battle should not be accorded this privilege and opportunity.

"There are very few individuals who will be covered by such regulations but the Army in any case must and will afford its soldiers equal treatment. Such steps have been taken after consideration by the Army and in the light of advice from many officers who are entirely familiar with the Japanese, their language and their country.

"I am no expert on Japanese matters, but I am in a position where, from time to time, I see absolutely unmistakable evidence of loyalty to this country and hatred for the Japanese military system on the part of many of those of Japanese descent in this country. Such loyalty has been evidenced in many cases in the face of physical beatings and other duress.

"The department is aware of the attitude of many people on the West Coast; the danger to the Japanese themselves, etc., which might result from a sudden letting down of the bars, but the War Department is merely charged with the military security of the country. The relocation of the Japanese is a social and national problem and only to the extent that it really affects our military security does the War Department presume to express any opinions on the subject.

"It is my hope that organizations similar to yours will give careful thought to the problem and lend their efforts to a sensible and fair solution of it. California and the other Western Defense states must certainly share in the solution.

"While the War Department does support a recognition of the loyalty of many Japanese Americans, it retains its prime consideration for the security of not only our coasts but of all expeditionary forces. There is no immediate plan to return for residence on the coast of any large number of evacuees. There are certain mixed marriage cases that after proper screening probably will be handled on an individual basis with a view of correcting an unneccessary separation of man and wife.

"There may be certain other steps taken to alleviate hardships in individual cases or to recognize the full responsibility of the country to a soldier in uniform, but this is all for the moment we are considering so far as reintroduction of Japanese American citizens into the Western Defense Command is concerned.

"I hope these facts will give you an understanding of the War Department's attitude in the matter and will afford to you an opportunity to explore the matter further if you so desire."



Special trains are scheduled as follows:

One train load will depart on Sept. 5, with the Central Valley of California as its destination.

One train load will depart on September 12 for the San Diego and Los Angeles districts.

One train load will depart on September 19, for the Watsonville-Salinas districts.

One train load will depart on September 26 with special cars to be sent to various parts of California depending upon the point of origin of the people concerned.

At the present time, the families in camps 2 & 3 are being reviewed and train lists are being prepared to send all families back to the communities where they lived prior to evacuation.

There will undoubtedly be some families who do not wish to return there and they will have an opportunity to choose another destination within certain time limits. Each family will be officially notified as far in advance of their departure as possible. Upon receipt of such notification they should report to the relocation office where assistance will be given them in working out the problems of departure.

It is exceedingly important that the Relocation advisors be able to give individual attention to each family in completing their relocation plans. Therefore, all residents of camps 2 & 3 are urged not to postpone their departure until the special train movements, but to go immediately to the Relocation offices in order to make maximum use of the time available.

At the same time, as the special train loads are being organized on the projects, the Relocation offices in the different districts in California will be notified of the number of people arriving and the problems which each family has. Thus the communities with their organizations and facilities will be mobilized to assist in the care of the arriving families. This will be done in order to avert difficult housing situations and hardships, which might possibly result to the families moving if advanced preparation was not made. Persons desiring to go to destinations other than their point of origin, may do so. Residents are particularly urged to seriously consider the opportunities offered by the Wilson plantation in Arkansas and other opportunities in various parts of the country and make a decision at the earliest possible date. Special cars and buses bound for all parts of the country will continue to accommodate departing families.

D. Mills

Poston

August 6, 1945



# ROUTING SLIP

TO

Mrs. Raymond Booth

FOR

APPROVAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	YOUR INFORMATION
REPLY, PLEASE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NECESSARY ATTENTION
SEE ME, PLEASE	<input type="checkbox"/>	RETURNED AS REQUESTED
YOUR SIGNATURE	<input type="checkbox"/>	INVESTIGATE AND REPORT
NOTE AND FILE	<input type="checkbox"/>	IMMEDIATE ACTION DESIRED
NOTE AND RETURN	<input type="checkbox"/>	READ AND DESTROY
YOUR COMMENTS	<input type="checkbox"/>	PREPARE FOR ME
MORE DETAILS	<input type="checkbox"/>	DRAFT OF SUGGESTED REPLY
ADVISE, PLEASE	<input type="checkbox"/>	INITIAL AND FORWARD

REMARKS:

Mrs. Tynell requested that this list of hostels containing the approximate capacity of each be sent to you.

DATE

FROM

11/16/45

W R A

By B. Walden



August 7, 1945

The assistant advisors will not include on these special trains any families who are dependent, for whom satisfactory arrangements have not been made; neither will families who have an excludee or detainee member be included.

In the event that a family does not respond to the project directors memo within three days it must be assumed that the family will return to their place of legal residence. The assistant advisor will proceed as follows:

- a) Contact the appropriate property office to arrange for the delivery of ten boxes to the family.
- b) Notify the Internal Security section who will escort the family head to the relocation office, where the assistant advisor will explain to him that if he does not apply for assistance the family will be considered eligible for only a transportation grant to their place of legal residence. Persons designated for departure on Sept. 5, shall be given until August 18 to choose their destination.

Persons designated for departure on Sept. 12, shall be given until August 25 to choose their destination.

Persons designated for departure on Sept. 19, shall be given until Sept. 1, to choose their destination.

Persons designated for departure on Sept. 24, shall be given until Sept. 11, to chose their destination.

Mr. Carter,  
Relocation Officer



WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
1031 South Broadway  
Los Angeles 15, California

SERVICES FOR NEW ARRIVALS IN LOS ANGELES

Hostels in Los Angeles Area

A tangible expression of hospitality for the evacuees returning to the Los Angeles Area is evidenced in the number of hostels opened since February, 1945. Schools, churches, private homes and institutions have been converted into temporary housing centers by church groups, individuals and evacuee property owners living in the district. WRA has given close cooperation, when needed and requested, to the hostel sponsors in making available essential equipment (beds, mattresses, blankets, etc.) on a loan basis.

Hostel sponsors and directors have formed an association which meets regularly to discuss common purposes and plans affecting the welfare of guests and efficient administration.

Plan of Operation

The inexpensive accommodations and numerous services available at the hostels are made possible because of a cooperative work plan. Each guest is expected to share in the work by taking care of his own room, helping to care for dormitories, washing dishes, doing laundry and preparing meals. It is estimated that if each guest spends an average of thirty to forty minutes a day in helping, the work of the hostel can be carried out without undue hardship on any individual.

Cost

Uniform rates have been established by members of the hostel association for each person as follows:

For first ten days	\$1.00
After ten days	1.50
Children	.50
Employed persons	2.00

When meal service is not furnished by the hostel, rates are:

First ten days	.50
After ten days	.75
Employed persons	1.00

Each guest is asked to bring his own sheets, pillowcases and towels. A charge of twenty-five cents is made for those who find it impossible to bring their own sheets.



### Ration Points

Ration points for food will be collected in proportion to the number of days a guest stays in the hostel. Ration books should be obtained in the center whether for Terminal Departure or Short Term Pass.

### Length of Stay in Hostels

This is determined by the real needs of guests in investigating and securing employment and housing, and, attending to other matters of business. Consideration for those who are on the hostel waiting list should limit the stay of guests to a minimum period. Single persons should plan to secure accommodations at hotels or rooming houses if financially able to do so, as soon as employment is secured.

### Reservations

Requests for hostel accommodations should be sent directly to hostels rather than through the WRA district offices. Requests should be received at the hostel at least one week in advance of departure from the center in order that hostel directors may confirm or refuse reservations by letter or telegram. If sent on shorter notice, the answer may be by telegram collect. Efforts will be made to find space at other hostels in the event that the hostel addressed is full.

### Hospitality Committee

A committee, organized by the Congregational Conference and civic groups, will meet special buses and trains when advance notice has been sent by the Project Director to the WRA office in Los Angeles. The committee does not provide transportation but taxis and public carriers are available to local destinations. In the event of emergencies or very late arrivals, the Travelers Aid Office in bus and railroad stations should be contacted. The Station Master or police officers will be helpful in obtaining information or other services.

### Hostels and Other Rooming Accommodations

Attached is a list of hostels now in operation in the Los Angeles area. Names of other hostels will be sent as soon as opening dates are announced. Also attached is a partial list of hotels and furnished rooms available to persons of Japanese ancestry. This does not mean a recommendation by WRA, but is merely a partial list made for the information and convenience of new arrivals.



# HOSTEL DIRECTORY Los Angeles Area

9/27/45

Approx.  
Capacity

Telephone

- (35) Baptist Hostel.....1201 E. First St., L. A. ~~No Phone~~ *AN-12846*  
Sponsor L.A. Baptist -  
City Missionary  
Director Mr. S. Amano  
Public Transp. N Car to P Car off at Mission
- (30) Baptist Hostel.....2923 E. 2nd St., L. A. ~~No Phone~~ *AN-12061*  
Sponsor L.A. Baptist -  
City Missionary  
Director Mr. S. Amano  
Public Transp. N Car to P Car off at Evergreen
- (38) Beloit Hostel .....2138 S. Beloit Ave., W.L.A. AR 9-3978  
Sponsor Church of New Life  
Director Rev. T. Iwanaga  
Public Transp. N Car to P Car to Olympic Bus - or - Bay City or Santa Monica Bus to Sawtelle Blvd.
- (35) Buddhist Hostel....1336 W. 36th Place, L.A. PA 9313  
Sponsor Buddhist Committee in L.A.  
Directors Rev. J. Goldwater  
Rev. & Mrs. K. Imamura  
Public Transp. N Car to J Car off at Normandio
- (18) Christian Hostel...827 E. 21st St., L. A. No Phone  
Sponsor Local So. Cal. Christ. Missionary Soc.  
Director Rev. K. Unoura  
Public Transp. N Car to S Car off at 21st St.
- (12) El Monte Hostel....321 S. Meeker St., El Monte No Phone  
Sponsor Methodist Church  
Director Rev. Jotaro Yokoi  
Public Transp. P.E. Bus to El Monte
- (12) East Adams Hostel..711 E. Adams St., L.A. PR 7-9402  
Sponsor East Adams Hostel Committee  
Director Mr. T. H. Abe  
Public Transp. N Car to S Car off at Adams
- (100) Evergreen Hostel...506 N. Evergreen Ave., L. A. AN 5373 - AN 0252  
Sponsors Presbyterian Church  
Am. Friends Service Committee  
Directors Miss Esther Rhoads  
Rev. S. Kowta  
Public Transp. B Car North bound to end of line



Approx.  
Capacity

9/27/45

Telephone

- (20) Fourth Street Hostel...459 E. Fourth St., L.A. MI 3004  
Sponsor Fourth St. Hostel  
Committee  
Director Mr. K. Shimada  
Public Transp. N Car to F Car -  
off at San Pedro
- (70) Gardena Hostel.....1425 W. 166th St., Gardena No Phone  
Sponsor Gardena Buddhist Church  
Directors Rev. T. Miura  
Mr. S. Kishima  
Public Transp. Bus at 1014 S. Hill to  
Gardena
- (30) Holiness Church Hostel.1777 W. 35th Place, L.A. RO 2425  
Sponsor Holiness Church  
Director Rev. George Yahiro  
Public Transp. N Car to J Car off at  
St. Andrews
- (75) Koyasan Temple.....342 E. First St., L. A. MU 2407  
Sponsor Koyasan Betsuin  
Directors Rev. Ryosho Sogabe  
Rev. S. Yasui  
Public Transp. N Car to P Car - off at  
San Pedro
- (90) Methodist Hostel.....3500 S. Normandie, L.A. RA 9238 - RO 8470  
Sponsor Methodist Church  
Directors Dr. Wendell Miller  
Rev. Yamaka  
Public Transp. N Car to J Car - off  
at Normandie
- (30) Nichiren Hostel.....2800 E. Third St., L.A. AN 2-7886  
Sponsor Nichiren Buddhist Church  
Director Rev. J. Ishihara  
Public Transp. N Car to F Car - off at  
Saratoga
- (70) Nishi Hongwanji Hostel.119 N. Central Ave., L.A. MA 5657  
Sponsor Nishi Hongwanji Buddhist  
Church  
Director Mr. M. Sakamoto  
Public Transp. N Car to P Car - off at  
Alameda
- (12) Pasadena Hostel.....301 Kensington Place, SY 2-1790  
Pasadena SY 2-1812  
Sponsor American Friends  
Serv. Committee SY 2-9625  
Directors Miss Sarah Field  
Miss Kate Fanning  
Public Transp. Pasadena Short Line -  
P.E. Station



Approx.  
Capacity

9/27/45

Telephone

- (20) Unitarian Hostel...2936 W. Eighth St., L.A.  
Sponsor First Unitarian Church  
Director Mr. J. Kobayashi  
Public Transp. N Car Westbound to Vermont  
EX 1356
- (75) Venice Hostel.....12448 Braddock Drive, Venice SANTA MONICA  
Sponsor Free Methodist Church  
Directors Rev. & Mrs. Clyde J. Burnett  
Public Transp. Venice Car to Centinella -  
Culver City or Del Ray Bus  
at 4th and Olive  
7-2037
- (35) Zenshuji Hostel 123 So. Hewitt St., L. A.  
Sponsor Hokubeizan Zenshuji  
Director Mr. Frank Kuwahara  
Public Transp. N Car to P Car - off at  
Alameda  
No Phone
- (75) Higashi Hongwanji  
Hostel.....118 N. Mott St., L. A.  
Sponsor Higashi Hongwanji Church  
Director Rev. K. Izuhara  
Public Transp. N Car to P Car - off at  
Mott Street  
~~No Phone~~ AN-5580

Transportation, as indicated above, is available directly  
from the Los Angeles Union Station.



11/1/45

Approx.  
CapacityTelephone

- (30) First Street Hostel, 318 $\frac{1}{2}$  E. First St. No Phone  
 Sponsor 1st St. Hostel Comm.  
 Director Mrs. Kaneko  
 Transportation N Car to P Car off  
 at San Pedro
- (50) San Fernando Hostel, 1335 Woodworth No Phone  
 Sponsor San Fernando Host. Comm.  
 Director Mr. & Miss Maruyama  
 Public Transp. San Fernando bus  
 6th and Main
- (25) East Washington Hostel, 517 E. Washington PR 7-9357  
 Sponsor E. Washington Host. Comm.  
 Director Mrs. Fujiami-Mr. Ikeda  
 Transportation N Car to H Car off at  
 Washington
- (125) Toyo Hostel, 233 $\frac{1}{2}$  E. First Street MA 3323  
 Sponsor Toyo Hostel Committee  
 Director Mr. & Mrs. Yamahiro  
 Public Transp. N Car to P Car off at  
 San Pedro
- (50) Montebello Hostel, 1113 S. Maple Ave., No Phone  
 Montebello  
 Sponsor Rio Hondo Institution  
 Director Mr. Johnny Naydo  
 Public Transp. N Car to R Car to end of  
 line. Take Montebello Bus.
- (30) Glendale Hostel, 317 South Palmer St., No Phone  
 Glendale  
 Sponsor Mikuni Christian Church  
 Director Rev. Seiya Sakai  
 Public Transp. San Fernando Bus from  
 6th & Main. Off at Palmer.
- (30) Miyako Hostel, 258 East First Street No Phone  
 Sponsor Miyako Hostel Committee  
 Directors Mrs. Iwaki and Mr. Ishikawa  
 Public Transp. N Car to P Car off at  
 San Pedro.
- (40) Santa Monica Hostel, 1824 - 16th St., No Phone  
 Santa Monica  
 Sponsor Free Methodist Church  
 Director Rev. and Mrs. Burnett  
 Public Transp. Santa Monica Bus 5th &  
 Hill
- (30) West Los Angeles Hostel, 1913 Purdue St., No Phone  
 West Los Angeles  
 Sponsor L.A. Mission Board & Ext. Serv.  
 Director Rev. Kuwano  
 Public Transp. N Car to P Car to end of line.  
 Then take W. Los Angeles bus.