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Regional Files, Wash. D. C. .002
Miyamoto

Letter from Nash to Fryer
May 21, 1942

"As you undoubtedly know, Mr. Ralph Merritt, one of the best known and most prominent men in the State of California, heads our citizenship committee, or the one previously appointed by Tom Clark.

As luck would have it, Mr. Merritt and I were classmates at the University of California, and when I talked at length with him two or three days ago, his strongest and most immediate recommendation was that the WRA try reassuring the county supervisors of INYO County that no financial burden would be put on their poverty stricken county because of the Japanese thrust upon them.

As things stand at present, I am informed by our legal division if a crime were committed on this Relocation Center, it would go to trial under the laws of the State of California in Independence, the County seat of Inyo County. Likewise, there would be additional burdens thrown on the coroner and the sheriff's office.

It will greatly help to straighten out public relations in this community if this assurance can be given the county some time soon.

Unsigned memo from Bob Brown to Roy Nash
September 3, 1942

Agitation by the people of the Owens Valley seems to have dropped to a minimum in the last few weeks, with the exception of a small group of people in Independence who try to stir up trouble when there is a lull. Strangely enough these - with one exception - are employees of the Department of Water and Power: Frank Krater, Lou Stull, George Lewis are all known to be "H. A. Van Norman's 'men'", E. Seail (Doc) Wolf is the fourth. He is at present the Justice of Peace in Independence, and a ne'er-do-well who has been a town gossip and alarmist for years.

This group's latest contribution to the welfare of Owens Valley is a petition, addressed to the General, thanking him for refusing the petition of the local merchants, and pointing out that the fence here is only three feet high, and that Japanese are still being allowed out of the enclosure to work at Lone Pine Station. Copies of the petition are circulating in Lone Pine, Independence, Big Pine and Bishop.

Heretofore, Bishop has sat back in a half-amused attitude at its poor relations down in the southern end of the valley and pooh-poohed at all the rumors. But now the Bishop Defense council has taken to discussing the situation because of the appearance of the petition. Someone suggested that this august body take the matter up with General DeWitt. Dr. Anderson, who is a member, promptly informed them that the General probably had seen enough petitions and not to waste time and paper. Eventually the Council agreed.

Behind the employees of the Department in Independence, of course, is H. A. Van Norman - and ranking in Mr. V's mind is the licking he took at the hands of Tom Clark and the Department of Justice at the start of this thing. It is my opinion that he will stop at nothing to throw barbs constantly into the organization.

I can't prove it, of course, but I can bring you a dozen people who will tell you the same thing including some high officials of the department if they feel free to talk.

I'm afraid that as far as our relations with the Department of Water and Power are concerned - especially on any important matter of policy that should be discussed with Los Angeles and not Independence - that the department will have to be told - not asked - to cooperate. This was the experience of Mr. Clark and the Engineer's office in the beginning, and it is still true today.

Regional Files, 103.1 - Violence Cases, Washington, D.C. (Manzanar)
Miyamoto

Incident

Memorandum from Bendetsen to Acting Regional Director, WRA
December 10, 1942

0125

Subject: Use of Cow Creek CCC Camp (Reference your RDO 12-10-42)

1. The use of Cow Creek CCC Camp near Furnace Creek, California, for the housing of certain persons of Japanese ancestry whose loyalty to the United States is conceded is not approved by this office. The foregoing disapproval is that of the undersigned and does not purport to express an opinion on the above subject on behalf of the War Department.

5 2. Despite the disapproval expressed in paragraph 1, this office will not object to the use of Cow Creek CCC Camp by the War Relocation Authority for such purposes as War Relocation Authority may deem appropriate. However, the provision for a Military Police company (or detachment) to be stationed at such Camp is one that should be subject of a request by the Director, War Relocation Authority, to the Commanding General, Ninth Service Command.

3. Prior to the removal of any persons of Japanese ancestry to Cow Creek CCC Camp it is essential that formal consent of the Commanding General, Western Defense Command and Fourth Army, be obtained to the residence of such persons within the California portion of Military Area No. 2. The consent should be evidenced by a Proclamation or a Civilian Restrictive Order. If and when it is definitely determined that Cow Creek CCC Camp is to be used, request for such consent should be made to the Commanding General.

CONFIDENTIAL

January 7, 1943

Mr. D. S. Myer
Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Myer:

This is in reply to your confidential letter of December 24th in which you ask certain questions concerning segregation of the Japanese in centers. The points in question were given thorough consideration by a committee created for this purpose composed of Acting Assistant Director Robert L. Brown, Project Attorney Robert Throckmorton, Chief of Internal Security John Gilkey, and myself.

Our conclusions are:

1. The word "disloyal" is difficult to define. Certainly there are many elements among the evacuees who are disloyal to the Administration. The term used in your second paragraph, "Wilfully obstructing the program of the Authority", is in our estimation a better term to use. We are slowly unraveling enough background material on these disloyal and disruptive elements to know who they are. This will be covered in paragraph #4.

From the standpoint of orderly operation of the center and the protection of the national interests, it is our recommendation that those Japanese whose actions within the center obstruct the program of the Authority, or break the peace, or disrupt the tranquility of the residents, be segregated.

2. There were a number of individuals in Manzanar agitating for disloyalty and wilfully obstructing the program of the Authority prior to the incident of December 6. Many of these are now in custody. Lists of these people now in custody are attached. Since the disturbance such activity has stopped. However, we believe that as time progresses other individuals will come to the fore and their names will be sent to you from time to time.

3. If the policy of segregation is carried out, it will have a salutary effect in Manzanar if it is done judiciously. There must be no mistake in those segregated. There must be no martyrs created. The majority of the people here we feel sure, because they wish to live in peace, would like to see all those who disrupt the peace removed.

We do not believe that removal of these individuals would result in retaliatory acts against certain center residents or in disorderly demonstrations. If it did, the internal security force is not at present equipped to cope with such a development. Mobs and riots cannot be controlled by the Japanese police force. Neither can they be controlled by a small caucasian force. In this respect the military is now the only force available on the project to preserve order.

4. If segregation were decided upon we would recommend the removal both of certain groups and categories within the center and certain individuals. At Manzanar we believe one great source of difficulty lies in a portion of the kibeï who are strongly anti-administration and anti-American. Specifically, we feel they are young men who have lived in Japan for five years or more, who are single, who may have identified themselves with a "gang", who do not live with their parents, who speak little or no English, who have returned to the United States since 1936, or who have applied for repatriation. These should be thoroughly investigated and removed in most instances.

At Manzanar we also have approximately 500 bachelor issei who are grouped together in two blocks. Most of these men have no ties to hold them to America. We feel sure that they are behind much of the pro-Japanese sentiment in the center. These should be segregated. There are more bachelors scattered throughout the center but in nearly every instance these men have become a part of the community life. They have attached themselves to families and children within their blocks and as near as we can discover are not openly disloyal or disruptive. It is our opinion that these should not be segregated as a group.

All those who have applied for repatriation should be segregated.

Besides these categories there are a number of individuals who appear as troublemakers, who in our estimation should be removed along with the others. Joe Kurihara, the leader of the mob of December 6th, was such an individual. Although Kurihara was a bachelor, an American citizen, a member of the American Legion, fought in the last war and was wounded, yet he was outspoken against the United States, would tell officials to their faces that he hoped Japan would win the war and intended to cause as much trouble as he could for any administration that was a party to depriving him of his American citizenship. There are undoubtedly a number of individuals in this center who feel as Mr. Kurihara felt and it is our opinion that they will appear as time progresses in the ordinary functioning of this center. When they appear there should be another center to which they could be transferred where all residents think the same way.

There has been considerable discussion in our committee, between staff members and with Mr. Fryer on the advisability of having two camps to which we might send people segregated

from this center. One place might be for those who were merely pro-Japanese and not particularly vicious, another place for a few individuals who were known as trouble makers, outspoken Japanese patriots and others who may have committed acts of vandalism. It is our final conclusion that two removal camps would be unnecessary. Men who have actually committed a crime could be taken care of by the courts.

All other people would fall into the category of those who were obstructing the program of the Authority.

In addition to those to be segregated for disloyal and disruptive activities, it is our feeling that at Manzanar, at least, there is a group of Japanese who are out of their element geographically and because of this are very unhappy. We speak of those people here who are from Bainbridge Island in Washington. They number 275. All of their friends and relatives from other portions of Washington and Oregon are at Minidoka. At Manzanar they have lived apart from the other Japanese and have been quite outspoken in their dislike of them. We feel that they should be removed to Minidoka and as a matter of National policy it would be well to review to see that people from one geographical area are relocated in like geographical areas.

5. Evidence and records of charges of disloyalty and disruptive activity at Manzanar have been forwarded to Washington to the attention of the Director by Project Attorney Throckmorton.

It should be borne in mind that prior to this time we were instructed not to have an intelligence service on the project. We kept no records of individuals who were trouble makers, outside of police records of offenders who had been arrested. The reports office went to some pains not to include specific names in reports. The FBI which has done all of the investigation work at the project does not have records which are available to us.

It is our opinion that if we went to trial with any of these people in custody we could not get qualified Japanese witnesses. A few of our caucasian personnel might testify. All evidence has been derived from interviews with suspects, staff members, and a few Japanese.

There is urgent necessity for an efficient intelligence system within the center in our estimation. Such a system could be a part of the regular office of reports, augmented by the social welfare section and the internal police. Regular information channeled through these departments could be combined and sifted by an individual or by several individuals sitting as a committee. Pertinent information needed for the segregation of disturbing elements could then be obtained.

R. P. Merritt, Jan. 7, 1943

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6. The selection of a segregation committee from the staff on projects is, of course, a matter of individual selection. Individuals should be those who have had a wide background of experience in human relations and in living; they must be wise, just, and of mature judgment. Normally, these individuals would be found among the heads of divisions and sections on the project. The selection of these men should be a duty of the Project Director.

7. If the program of segregation is carried out with dignity and authority based on sound reasoning, we believe that we will get a great deal of help from the thoughtful leaders of this community. The evacuees must be made to understand that this is their problem as much or more than it is one belonging to the Federal Government.

8. We strongly recommend the removal of families with those who are segregated. It is the humanitarian thing to do; it will be an aid to the legal aspect of relocation in that it will be more a relocation than internment; and it will not leave families in the center to become martyrs or to be source of trouble to the administration.

9. We feel that those removed to a separate center because they were disloyal or disturbing elements should not receive any of the benefits given to evacuees generally. A procedure should be established which would safeguard these people from mistakes of segregating committees but they should be denied all special privileges.

Sincerely,

Ralph P. Merritt
Project Director

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Manzanar Relocation Project
March 2, 1943

Mr. D. S. Myer, Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Myer:

Following my recent covering letter forwarding to you the memoranda setting forth reasons for the "No" answers by citizens on the loyalty question, I want to offer the following plan for the reversing of pressures which now are put on the citizen to say "No", and create a pressure radiating from the citizen who will be brought to say "Yes", so that his father, mother, and other members of his family, desiring family unity, may be persuaded to change their "No" answers on loyalty to an affirmative answer:

The first step is to take from citizens who deny loyalty all privileges of leave, and other privileges now accorded by the Project.

The second step is to notify the citizen who has property that if he persists in a "No" answer, his property either will be blocked by the present Authority, or will be turned over to the Alien Property Custodian as may be more appropriate. The same procedure should be followed in the case of aliens answering "No". The final action on this should not be taken until after there is time for full consideration by the persons involved.

The third step in the case of all male citizens is to induct the volunteers and restore if possible to Army service those who heretofore have been released from the Army, and then immediately reclassify all remaining evacuee eligible citizens heretofore classified by Selective Service, to the classification which the usual procedure would indicate. Those not yet classified should be immediately similarly classified. Every 1A classification should then be called by the Draft Board and steps should be taken within the Relocation Area to surround the draftee with the necessary solemnity of the occasion and present to him his opportunity for the taking of the soldier's oath. It should be definitely and completely clarified in advance that rejection of the soldier's oath will mean no discrimination or favoritism on behalf of citizens of Japanese ancestry, and persons refusing to take the oath will be dealt with by imprisonment or whatever steps are taken by the Government in the case of other citizens who similarly repudiate their citizenship.

In the meantime and until this is concluded, no opportunity should be given to citizens or others to apply for expatriation or repatriation.

This series of steps would then put the male citizen subject to draft in a position where his "No" answer will probably be changed to "Yes", and as a consequence, pressure from him will in many cases change the attitude of the family. In cases where this does not occur, we then have a definite mandate to proceed against those who are either disloyal citizens or active enemy aliens. There will undoubtedly be trouble of a serious nature when these steps are taken but such trouble must be anticipated as part of the problem which now confronts us. The Process will salvage those who are decent, loyal and courageous, and separate those toward whom this country holds no obligation for further consideration.

Very sincerely yours,

Ralph P. Merritt

CONFIDENTIAL
AIR MAIL

March 10, 1943

Mr. D. S. Myer
Director, War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
17th and Eye Streets, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Myer:

Sometimes I wonder how you really stand up under the pressure of the numerous ideas which you receive from Project Directors and all of us in the field, together with those from outsiders who know little of the actual problems involved.

Upon my return to the office I found two letters addressed to you from Director Merritt, one dated February 23 and the other dated February 27. In commenting on the letter of February 23, I realize that Mr. Merritt's comments on page 2 are very thoughtful. I further realize that it may be possible for people to be disloyal under pressure in Relocation Centers, and then again be loyal when they are released from such Centers. I have had the personal privilege during the past month to interview in excess of 100 people of Japanese ancestry, including a number of Issei, some Nisei, but the largest portion were Kibei. It is my conclusion that where a spark of loyalty for the United States originally existed that, in practically every case, it still continues; and that where a person has stated that he is disloyal to this country, the use of loyalty in his case prior to evacuation was only as a screen or a shield in order to secure the benefits, may mean to him that even though he is a citizen loyalty never existed. It is my firm belief that the statement made by Mr. Merritt is correct--that many people who have stated they are disloyal would state that they are loyal if they felt it was an opportunity for them to be relocated and to be turned free where they could do as they saw fit. To me, this type of an individual, particularly in the Kibei group, is one of the most dangerous persons we have in this country. I believe that WRA should be very careful to see that no such person is released as many of these people would gladly sacrifice their lives if they thought it was for the benefit of Japan or for the Emperor.

Drafting evacuees for agricultural labor, as referred to on page 3, to me, would be setting up another discriminatory act against evacuees and I would consider this to be a mistake. It is my further belief that many who have answered "No" to the loyalty question, if drafted, would take the oath without hesitation as they would be under more pressure at that particular time than they have been in the Center. I do not believe we should again open the question of loyalty or disloyalty. It appears to me that, with the exception of very rare cases, everyone has been given a month in which to think and that while some choices may not have been made wisely they were made

according to teachings which these young people had received and which could not be broken down for at least probably a generation. We know of aliens who have instructed their sons how to register, and I have personally overheard other aliens tell their sons that if they did not comply with the laws of the United States that they, their fathers, would disown them. The latter type of individual is the one who deserves protection. The allegiance of the other is certainly not with this country and never was.

In commenting briefly on Mr. Merritt's letter of February 27, I am still of the opinion that if those who were definitely loyal will continue to be loyal, even though they were deprived of certain rights during the past year. Mr. Merritt points out on page 2 of his letter the problem of the Terminal Island group and in the almost complete negative answer to the loyalty question. In my opinion, this problem was not brought about by their loss of property and their being removed from Terminal Island in 24 hours. A large portion of the people from Terminal Island were sent to detention camps, which proves that a large portion were aliens and loyal to Japan. Therefore, the teachings of the younger generation were those of their fathers. ~~Therefore, the~~ The question seems to be whether we should attempt to set up a community in which we can change the thinking of the individuals, such as those from Terminal Island, or whether those who are of age and who have been indoctrinated through their entire lives with the teachings that are practically wholly Japanese should have the advantage of citizenship in this country or be returned, according to their choice, to Japan. After numerous interviews, I am convinced that the older persons would rather die for Japan than be loyal to the United States.

I believe that in Mr. Bennett's report of February 27, on page 2, item 2 head "ProJapanese Sentiment," most of the Kibei group or those who have lived under the same type of influence are willing without any hesitation to state that they are disloyal to this country. I realize that the registration has placed before you a serious problem and that the word "segregation" has been loosely used without giving serious thought as to how such a problem could be coped with. In many of the Centers it is my belief that you will find that registration has brought about a type of segregation within the Center that is going to cause a great deal more difficulty for Project Directors than existed prior to the registration period. The disloyal Kibei are fairly well marked and rather easily located through registration records. The older Issei bachelors are still a factor in disrupting project activities; and while the repatriates have not in the past caused any trouble openly, it is my firm belief that they have been well organized and have worked behind the scenes and used every method possible to hinder a large portion of the WRA

Segregation, R. B. Cozzens

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program. Such a physical separation of all groups mentioned would be practically impossible as many families would naturally be involved. On the other hand, you may find it feasible to make some shifts as soon as figures are available in one of the divided Centers and use one of the 5,000 units for disloyal Kibei, old bachelors, and other disloyal persons. This would be the most simple procedure on segregation that I can think of if we were forced to do it and would certainly eliminate a large portion of the disagreeable element from Center operation.

I hope some of my comments may be of value to you.

Very truly yours,

/s/ R. B. Cozzens

R. B. Cozzens
Field Assistant Director

CONFIDENTIAL

Enclosure No. 29946

June 18, 1943

Mr. Ralph P. Merritt,
Project Director,
Manzanar, Calif.

Dear Mr. Merritt:

For the last three days I've been having one of the most discouraging experiences possible for anyone who might expect wisdom or courage or statesmanship from our elected representatives. I managed to get permission to attend the hearings of the Dies sub-committee in Los Angeles. I kept my mouth closed and my eyes and ears open, and I took copious notes with the intention of passing what information I picked up on to you. I'll suggest some things that it might be wise for you to pass along to Mr. Myer. They intend to call him in Washington and one or two items it might be well to anticipate. A lot of this stuff you've read in the papers of the last few days, but regardless, I'll mention things that seemed significant in the order in which witnesses appeared.

First let me say a word about the general setting. The whole thing of course was staged from the word go. Only the press was admitted and everything was done for the benefit of the press. I got in by virtue of being a student collecting material for a thesis (which I am doing). The Time, Examiner, News, U.P., A.P., and a Pasadena paper all had reporters there. There were two or three investigators, some of Tom Clark's men from the Dept. of Justice, the Chief Investigator—a young southerner, James Steadman, and the three committee members, i.e., John Costello, Chairman, who continually attempted to refute the arguments of the few pro-Nisei or pro WRA witnesses. He is as fitted to be chairman of an impartial investigating body on this matter as Wm. Randolph Hearst would be. His mind is made up. He seems to be very nice personally, but in a suave way, he makes it quite clear that he's anti WRA administration; he's anti allowing any Japanese back on the Coast (including soldiers), and he will probably be in favor of keeping them locked up for the duration if the pressures aren't too great from the other side. He in no way tried to cover his feelings. He aired them readily. Another member of the committee was Karl Mundt of So. Dakota. My impression was that he is a wise guy politician, without too much character, probably easily moved by pressure, with a white superiority attitude. He generally went right along with Costello. The only spot of light, and it wasn't too bright, came from Congressman Eberharter of Pittsburg, Penn.; he kept insisting that he and the committee came into this investigation with an open mind. He seemed fair. Eberharter would be no crusader, but he seemed to have a reasonable approach; as I say, he insisted several times he did not have any predispositions. He was the fairest member in spite of the fact that he dozed off a couple of times while Mayor Bowron testified.

Another thing; during the three days I was there the committee did not invite one witness who was pro WRA or pro Nisei. Every witness the Committee invited was anti. The only pro people who testified were those that asked the committee for permission to come and testify. In each case when a pro man got in the chair the committee counsel took great pains to try to establish that the witness was subversive. i.e. a pacifist, a Socialist, or a Communist. They tried to indulge in character assassination before they even let the man say a word. When one of them objected

and asked who was being investigated, he or the Japanese, they explained it by saying that when a man came to them to testify that they had to find out what kind of a man he was and what organizations he belonged to so that the committee could properly evaluate his testimony.

Before I go into what the witnesses brought to light, let me say that the committee is particularly interested in the following items, and WRA representatives (Mr. Myer) should be well prepared on these points with documentary evidence when they are called to testify:

1. They charge that the loyal Japanese in the camps are not being protected from the disloyal element and WRA is not able to furnish this protection. The pro-Japan element is getting the upper hand or taking control of the centers.

2. They charge that little segregation is taking place between loyal and disloyal and they add that when it does take place the loyal ones are removed to positions of inconvenience and disadvantage instead of the disloyal ones. (Here, of course, they cite our Death Valley group.)

3. They charge that evacuees are being released too rapidly for relocation without a proper check on them. The implication being that WRA is releasing potential or actual saboteurs. The Honorable Mr. Bowron complained that WRA hasn't once referred to him or other sections of the city administration, and he said several people formerly employed by the city have been released.

4. And finally they charge that WRA centers are being ineffectively run. They claim the administrators don't know anything about the Japanese. They rail at "social workers" who pamper the evacuees. They rant about all the foodstuffs in the centers and give out the impression that there is great waste and great oversupply. Costello said he wants evacuees to be well fed but he doesn't want waste or unreasonable food stocks.

5. They would charge, if Costello, et al, thought they could get away with it, that the Nisei and all Japanese are so much different from Caucasians (Italians and Germans included) that they aren't understood and can't be trusted and hence they should all be kept in custody for the duration. No relocation. (They won't go this far unless it looks like they can get away with it.)

I sorta think the whole thing might boil down to nothing in Washington. According to Costello, they aren't going to recommend any legislation. He told me in the hallway that they probably would just make recommendations to Mr. Myer. Maybe they just wanted to raise a furor in the Coast papers and keep the evacuees scared away and scare everybody else out of the idea of letting them come back to the Coast.

MAYOR FLETCHER BOWRON

Bowron brought confidential files from the L.A. Police Dept. concerning Patrick Okura, a former L. A. City employee. The worst that was said about was: 1. His father is an interned alien. 2. He was a dual citizen. Okura claimed expatriation but didn't show documentary proof. 3. He had visited Japan. 4. He was on reexpatriation list from Japanese Government, but he refused repatriation at Santa Anita. 5. He has interned friends. 6. JACL officer. 7. Relatives in Japan. 8. Although Christian, he was married in a Buddhist Temple. All this added up apparently makes Bowron think Okura is dangerous. Bowron was piqued because he had not been consulted before

Okura was released. The committee was quite interested in knowing how Okura got from the Santa Anita Assembly Center out into the world without going through a relocation center. He is now at Boy's Town.

Bowron on Miya Kikuchi of Manzanar and her speaking tour: You know about this. Bowron said she was well educated, attractive and charming and spread Japanese propaganda in a subtle way. He wrote to Richard Hood of FBI to watch her at the time. He says, "Why she should be released is very hard for those of us who worked so hard to bring about evacuation to understand."

Bowron on Manzanar: he said he was active in getting the Japs out of L.A.--a dangerous situation. Headed conferences. Worked with Warren and Clark and conferred with DeWitt. He says, "I hope we were somewhat helpful in DeWitt's making his courageous and immediate decision." "Because of my interest in getting the Japs out, I was put in a somewhat embarrassing position when it was suggested that a relocation Center be placed at Manzanar. I accompanied Tom Clark to a meeting of the Water and Power Comm. and urged an O.K. on the site upon Clark's assurance that it would be a temporary assembly center only." "Manzanar is close to the water supply for 1 1/2 million people and while there has been no report of anything that would endanger the water supply, there is nevertheless that possibility." "While we want to be helpful, Manzanar has outworn its welcome." "If it is possible to move them, please do so--but rather than see them relocated we will keep them in Manzanar." Bowron said not to let them come back to Calif. and not to release them. "We had assumed that they were there for keeps and we were surprised to learn that they are being released."

Bowron introduced a copy of the WRA pamphlet entitled, "Relocating a People". Committee made it an exhibit and wanted to know how come this was printed by the U. S. Govt. Printing Office.

WITNESS AL COHN

(Member of L.A. Police Commission & Former Collector of Customs)

Cohn quotes L.A. Police Capt. Rasmussen as saying Okura (now at Boy's Town) is the most dangerous Jap in America today.

Cohn said Japanese were law-abiding group and there still is an opportunity to make good Americans out of a great majority of them. He notes the Boy Scout incident at Manzanar (that one got around--see this issue of "Free World" magazine).

When there is trouble in the camps instead of getting the bad ones, they take out the loyal ones. He says they aren't able to protect the loyal ones or those who want to be loyal. He cites Manzanar.

Costello says it's like taking the burglarized victim and allowing the burglar to go free.

Cohn says, "put people who know the Japanese in charge instead of welfare workers." He mentioned Capt. Zacharias of Naval Intelligence. WPA officials did better job in early stages than WRA does now. Turn the situation over to the Navy.

WITNESSES REV. EIDSATH, REV. ALLAN HUNTER, GLEN SMILEY, NORMAN TAYLOR, KIRBY PAGE, AND ALAN HANNEBOLD

Costello says during testimony of Eidsath, "You feel as we do that the army authority had the right to move the Japanese from the Pacific Coast."

Costello also says, "The Germans and Italians are entirely different than the Japanese. Japanese are unemotional, etc. The white races are expressive. Orientals, including the Chinese, mask their real feelings."

Congressman Eberharter asks if they are dangerous on the coast, why aren't they dangerous inland.

When Kirby Page got on the stand, it was almost a farce. The committee counsel turned it into an investigation of Kirby Page before he let Mr. Page testify. Then Costello took over and indulged in a long examination of Page's views on pacifism, all of which had nothing to do with the WRA or the evacuees, but which was designed to make Page look bad in the record before he testified. There follow some of the beside-the-point questions they asked him before they allowed him to testify:

1. Were you ever editor of the "World Tomorrow"?
2. Did you ever belong to the Socialist Party?
3. Did you ever contribute to the Garland Fund?
4. Do you belong to the Fellowship of Reconciliation?
5. Are you a Pacifist?
6. Do you know Robert Morss Lovett (a Govt. employee the Dies Committee just got fired.)
7. Do you know Rose Schneiderman?
8. Again: Did you ever contribute to the Garland Fund for aiding Chinese Communists?
9. Did you ever contribute to the Commonwealth College in Arkansas?
10. Do you approve of what they teach there?
11. Do you belong to the American League against War and Fascism?
12. Have you ever visited Russia?
13. How many anti-war organizations have you been connected with?
14. If you were a member of Congress, how would you have voted on Dec. 8?
15. What would you do if you were of draft age?
16. Do you belong to the American Civil Liberties Union?
17. Do you belong to the Natl. Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People?
18. Do you approve of its leadership?

19. Do you know Dillon Myer?

20. Do you know Frank Herring Smith?

They actually asked him all those questions and more. He handled himself beautifully--made them look silly. Finally, when there was almost no time left, they let him testify. His testimony was good. He cited two American legal principles: 1. A man is assumed innocent till proven guilty. 2. When a person is proven guilty, he alone shall be ~~punish~~ punished. He went on to point out that the current treatment of the Japanese violates both these principles.

The other men in this group were given time for brief testimony. They were all O.K. Except the committee took pains to discredit each one through-~~out~~ his pacifist connections. The committee counsel even introduced a photo-static copy of an F.O.R. pamphlet into the record.

WITNESS THOMAS COVETT

(Professional investigator, fresh from the Tenney Committee).

He was at Manzanar on May 10 and 11.

He says he quotes from evidence and data furnished by Mr. Merritt. They make the following things part of the record as consecutive exhibits:

1. Population of Manzanar: 9143.
2. Repatriation list: 399 names.
3. Question 28 and revised form. Committee consul says the original form was rejected by some of the Japs and the revised form gave Manzanar abetter record.
4. Forms WRA--126,154, 304A, and 165.
5. Monthly cost of food on Form 375 says \$154, 461. 72 stores on hand. This is just food to service 9143 evacuees.
6. Requisition for May 5 to Mira Loma Quartermaster Depot. Investi-
gation said that no one on the project knew whether WRA paid
wholesale or retail prices buying through the quartermaster.

Investigator read a lot of figures but he wasn't sure how long a period they covered. Cong. Mundt and Eberharter said the figures weren't significant unless they knew for/long. (how)

They want to know how much per person per day food cost is?

Two figures were given: .3537 and .43765.

They got all mixed up about the figures.

Finally they came to meat. The requisition, the investigator said, shows that Manzanar gets 10,000 lbs. of beef per week to feed 9143. That is beef alone; they get other meats as well. Japs, they say, get meat before civilians because they buy through the army.

Costello says the Japs get the same type of food the army does.

Mundt says, "That news should be beamed to Tokio; maybe they will treat our boys better."

7. Menus for week of May 8. Mundt asks, "Any record of midnight snacks?" No butter is served, investigator says.

8. Copy of a letter written by Bob Brown to Dillon Myer dated May 8, 1943 concerning an inventory of rationed and unrationed goods dollar value and lbs.

Eberharter wants to know the total of rationed foods on hand and their point value.

Investigator says \$58,419.82 worth of processed foods equals 458,461 points for 9143 persons. Plus, he says, 637,449 point value of meats, fats, and butter. They figure 50 points per person for processed foods and 75 pts. per person for meats, fats, and butter equals 125 points per person for month of April at Manzanar.

Eberharter wants to know what the evacuees get per month in terms of points and what civilians get. They agree to write Mr. Merritt.

9. WRA Admin. Inst. No. 85 "Trail and Punishment of Offenders."
10. Copy of Police Report of May 10, 1943, covering day shift, swing shift, and night shift.
11. Manual of Internal Security at Manzanar and Traffic Regulations.
12. List of Field Workers of Community Welfare Staff.
13. Manzanar Jr. and Senior High School Course of Study.
14. Brief Occupational Background of Dept. Heads.
15. Clubs and Organized Groups, including ages, sponsors, etc.
16. List of churches and church sponsored groups.

Eberharter wanted to know how many Buddhists, Christians, etc.

17. Copy of questions and answers with Senator Chandler concerning water rates, i.e., p 5 of Chandler report. Water and electricity. Excessive. \$35 per acre.

Mundt: Who signed the lease? Did Myer? What ^{are} the terms of the lease?

Investigator says no one knows about the lease on the project; it is in WRA confidential files in Washington.

Mundt says, "This committee shall endeavor to turn the spotlight of public opinion on those confidential files in Washington."

Mostello says, "Is the charge for electricity considered in part as compensation for the ground?"

Mundt directs the Chief Investigator to find out from the City of L.A. how much they have received from the WRA for Manzanar.

Steadman reads from the Chandler interview with Mr. Merritt page 12.

The committee members keep harping that the FBI doesn't check evacuees before they relocate.

Witness J. W. Buzzell, representing A. F. of L. Labor Council.

The same old anti-refrains. Agrees with DeWitt's statement "A Jap's a Jap."

What a blind hypocrite this "labor leader" was who said ordinarily he, as a labor leader, is very zealous for civil liberties, but this was different. He had a new angle. He said he knew the Nisei before the war and lots of them were Communists. He said the Nisei, even though they don't have loyalty toward Japan are equally dangerous for another reason. i.e. their Communist tendencies.

He said the labor movement is absolutely opposed to allowing the Japanese freedom of movement anywhere in the U. S. and opposed to allowing any of them to return to the Coast.

Costello: "The opposition of the AFL is not based upon labor competition,

Buzzell: "No. Just national security. I'd as soon turn prisoners from Tunisia loose as Japanese."

WITNESS EARL A. BEST

This is the ex-steward from Poston and the ex-associate steward from Heart Mt. He hates Heart Mt. You've heard this story. He spilled it to the Denver Post. It's gist is all in the June 17 L.A. Times in case you missed it. It doesn't concern Manzanar.

A case of a war veteran from Dunkirk, lost a son in Africa, doesn't like Japanese, disgruntled WRA employee telling horror stories, some probably real, many undoubtedly fancied--all reflecting on WRA. Now Best is working at Shannon's Drive-In in L. A. as a dinner cook.

His stories concern waste of food, stealing food, trading for liquor, hiding food, pampering Japanese, treachery of Japanese, inefficiency of WRA officials, etc. drunkenness, oversupply of food, no check on evacuees.

Best resigned "because he didn't believe in taking orders from a Jap."

Mundt: "Send for Denver Post Articles and put them in the record.

Best charged that WRA shipped food out so Denver Post reporter wouldn't see it.

Best says a Sam Nagata runs Heart Mt. He gives orders to Miss Virgil Payne, the Social Worker, and she gives them to Mr. Guy

E#111
Enclosure #29946
-7-

Steadman reads from the Cb

Robertson, the Director.

The committee men go after Judo in a big way. (Better anticipate this.)

After Denver Post articles Best says he was contacted by Duncan Mills and Malcolm Fitz of WRA and they said they were surprised to learn these things of Heart Mt. They said they might have expected it at Tule Lake where things are worse than Ht. Mt.

Best charges they pad the census and thus get away with 45¢ per day per person.

WITNESS A.L. WIRIN 9for American Civil Liberties Union)-together with DR. CLINTON TAFT, DR. E.R. RYLAND, AND MR. JEROME W. MACNAIR

Wirin's presentation was excellent.

First Steadman tried to smear him without much success.

He based his remarks on opposition to the treatment of a racial group discriminated against on the racial basis alone. Sets bad precedent. Is contrary to our constitutional guarantees of citizenship.

(nisei)

Quotes War Dept. re: enlistments. "We know you're loyal and we want you." Quotes F.D.R., "Americanism is not and never was a matter of race; rather it is a matter of mind and heart."

Evacuation was not based on military necessity but race prejudice.

He cites DeWitt's statement. Pressure groups. No evacuation in Hawaii: a. danger greater there. b. Japanese population greater there.

At this point Costello chimes in with his views. Hawaii and Coast different. DeWitt not subject to pressure, look he didn't allow horse racing in Calif. and he got plenty of pressure for that.

Wirin: DeWitt doesn't yield to direct pressure. However, prejudice is a state of mind and DeWitt adopted a current, generated state of mind in Calif. based on false rumors.

Costello says 195 interned Japanese were released and returned to Poston. He acts alarmed at this as if they were all saboteurs.

Wirin quotes Prof. Bellquist in the Tolan Committee Reports.

Wirin: loyal and innocent should not all be punished together. Cardinal principal of democratic way of life is that the innocent should be protected.

Costello: you don't look on this as a penal action?

Wirin: there are certain people in our community who want to perpetuate these centers as penal institutions. Ours was the first democratic country in the world to do this. See record of England and her enemy aliens. No detention Canada. ACLU favors return of loyal evacuees to coast, if they want to come, on an equal basis. ACLU proposes that some govt. group, possibly the Dies Committee, should explore the organizations along the West Coast which fanned up race prejudice, particularly those with an economic interest. Groups which have shown race prejudice should be exposed. Govt. should be on the side of innocent people, against vigilantism and lawlessness rather than deprive an individual of his rights because lawlessness might occur.

Costello repeats those old scare stories about the pre Pearl Harbor loyal ones who turned out to be Japanese agents. He does not say who or what they did. He says that no sabotage at all indicates complete control by Japan. When the land invasion comes sabotage would break forth. Costello says Japan didn't trust her people in Hawaii enough to tell them about the Pearl Harbor attack because it might have leaked out and the attack would have been spoiled, but when land invasion comes, that's different. Then they will tell them.

Wirin says ACLU accepts the standards for loyalty of the army itself.

Costello says admittedly there are a lot of loyal Japs.

A.L. Wirin, as counsel for the J.A.C.L.? Quotes creed of J.A.C.L. Quotes Barrows, Deutsch, Sproul, and Wilbur from Tolan Comm. Report. Accord Nisei citizen his rights, not giving him anything. Urges equal treatment with Italians and Germans. Wirin went on to point out the viciousness and unconstitutionality of the Arizona Statute directed against the evacuees and prohibiting anyone in the State from doing any kind of business, even personal services, with evacuees.

Now that I've outlined some of the things that occurred, I realize that you undoubtedly know about all of them, but still there might be one or two points herein that you should know about and one or two things you might think should be passed on to Mr. Myer, who should be well prepared. The Committee definitely intends to call him.

The committee now goes to Poston for a day or two and then on to Washington. They are taking the L. A. Examiner correspondent along to Poston and the Hearst press will probably try to make a field day out of that.

My evaluation in summary fashion would be that the Dies Committee, as usual, has its collective mind made up. It will probably go, in its recommendations, just as far as it can. For that reason it is important that the viewpoints of sane, intelligent, democratic people and organizations get into the record. Men

who cannot be castigated because they are pacifists or political left wingers should testify and get their statements into the record. The committee will not invite this type of man to appear. They must request of the committee an opportunity to appear. Some of those who might testify would be:

1. Delegate Sam King from Hawaii.
2. Respected churchmen of various denominations from New York and Washington.--not Pacifists.
3. Labor leaders who represent the CIO and AFL.
4. Possibly the Chinese Ambassador re. Nisei.
5. Possibly Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt.
6. J. Edgar Hoover or Attorney General Biddle.
7. Somebody from the War Dept. i.e. Col. Scobey, etc. McCloy.
8. Business men.
9. Anthropologists of repute who can speak on race culture.
10. Secretary Ickes.
11. Pearl Buck
12. Louis Adamie

(9. Ruth Benedict)

In brief, men of reputation who cannot be maligned by the committee should ask to be heard and should make their views part of the Dies committee record and testimony. Men who value the rights of citizenship and who appreciate the significance of this thing will take the trouble. I am writing Geroge Rundquist of the Committee To Aid In the Resettlement of Japanese Americans, in New York and asking him to get busy and round up some of the above mentioned people, and others, and get them to ask to be heard when the Dies Committee holds its hearings in Washington. The proper viewpoint can't be left to the religious pacifists and the ACLU: they don't carry enough weight by themselves.

I think its very important to get the right staff into the record. I further see an opportunity to help Mr. Myer and to put on a big show for Mr. Dies right in his own parlor, even without an invitation from him.

I'm to be inducted into the army on Tuesday, after which I get a two week furlough, so I'll probably be in Los Angeles till about July 6. I miss Manzanar already.

Cordially

/s/ Charles
Charles K. Ferguson

This last might sound a little grandiose, however an opportunity may be there to organize and gather some respectable support outside WRA that will take a stand against Mr. Dies and his playmates.

6 May

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

June 22, 1943

Mr. Dillon S. Myer, Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
17th and Eye Streets
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Myer:

The enclosed letter of June 18th is self-explanatory. The writer of it, who was in charge of Adult Education in Manzanar, left a few days ago to be inducted into the Army and has usefully spent his intervening time, without any coaching or request from us, in being as helpful as is possible to you.

Very sincerely yours,

/s/ Ralph P. Merritt
Ralph P. Merritt
Project Director

Enc. 29946

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Regional Files 103, Wash. D.C.
Miyamoto

Teletype from Roy Nash to Fryer
July 19, 1948

Congressman Leland Ford in Associated Press Dispatch dated 18th complained of federal employees who were fed steaks fried potatoes etc denied Japanese at adjoining tables stop This was practice under Wartime Civil Control Administration which I ended immediately on taking control and before Ford was at Manzanar stop He is repeating what I told him of previous condition not what he saw

Regional Files 103, Wash.
Miyamoto

Resolution from citizens of Lone Pine, Cal. (near Manzanar) to DeWitt
July 7, 1942

We, the undersigned representative business-men of the communities of Lone Pine and Independence, believe that you should know that we are not in accord with the editorial policies of our local newspapers wherein the same editor has taken it upon himself to assume that our towns do not want in our midst apparently under any circumstances American citizens of Japanese ancestry.

We believe such an attitude is wrong.

We are entirely well aware that in such times as these, there is naturally a certain amount of public doubt and uncertainty that must be given proper consideration. Nevertheless, we feel that this may be overcome to a considerable extent if Americans of Japanese ancestry are permitted to visit, for the purposes of pleasure and business, in the towns of Lone Pine and Independence, in restricted numbers and under proper escort.

It is our further suggestion, that until such times as the citizens of our two communities become more acclimated to these people, the numbers be restricted to perhaps a busload at any one time.

It is apparent that these internees are to be with us for a considerable length of time. It is our opinion that this initial step may be the fore-runner of creating mutual conditions of improvements in attitudes as well as further ~~maintain~~ ~~improving~~ maintaining the high morale of the internees by granting them privileges of occasionally coming into our communities.

Assuring you of our genuine appreciation for your favorable consideration in this matter, we remain

Very truly yours,

Lone Pine Lumber & Supply Co.
By R. R. Henderson (signed)

Lone Pine Drug Store
By W. E. McLean (signed)

Joseph's Department Store
By I. B. Joseph (signed)

Mt. Whitney Drug Store
By Ben B. Baker (signed)

Sprouse-Reitz Company
By Arthur Ray (signed)

J. C. Penney Co.
By Frank White (signed)

Safeway Stores
By Earl Lehman (signed)

Bank of America
By C. McArthur (signed)

Hopkins Hardware
By J. B. Hopkins (signed)

Desert Holly Sweet Shoppe
By Eva Graves (signed)

(Etc., signed in a similar manner by 18 business men of Lone Pine in total.)