

Tonight's was the third of the Issei meetings, and the second which I've attended. When I arrived at 2720 about 7:45 p.m., Shirrell had already started talking, and, at the moment, Rev. Daisuke Kitagawa was translating a long introductory section. There were about 200 persons present, almost all Issei with perhaps a dozen Nisei. There was only one woman in the room, and she was a Nisei who asked a lot of questions at the latter part of the questioning period. No P.A. system was used, but I could hear the speakers quite clearly. The meeting was very quiet and orderly, and the tendency towards criticism of the administration markedly present in the previous meeting was absent tonight.

In his introductory talk, Shirrell had apparently talked of the rumor prevalent in the community today, that the whole group would be evacuated again to Arkansas. Shirrell scotched the rumor and then went on to speak of rumors on the outside, in Tulelake and Klamath Falls. He mentioned wild stories told by people on the outside of the "Japs" killing geese out on the farm, yoo-hooing young girls as the trucks passed them on the highways, of driving government trucks at high speed purposely to burn up the tires and ruin the engine, of getting all the bacon in Klamath Falls and leaving none for the people there. There was even one rumor that the evacuees were being armed and organized for military action within the center, a rumor which arose from the fact that many were climbing the butte clothed in the old army clothes handed out to the evacuees in their clothing allowance, and the fact that many carried long staffs in making their hikes.

Shirrell went on to tell of inviting a committee from Klamath Falls and from Redding to visit the project and see what actually goes on here. The consequence of this visit was an account in the Redding paper proving the falsity of many rumors that had spread about the project, and warning against further rumors against the project unless a careful investigation is carried out previously.

Mr. Shirrell continued, "I was in San Francisco last week for the first time in three months, or perhaps two and a half months, and there were such great changes in the life of the city that I could hardly recognize the place any longer. Food prices are way up, coffee costs 15¢ a cup and a person may have only one cup, breakfast costs \$1.00 and that includes the usual cereal, ham and eggs, toast, etc. Driving down Market St. I think I saw only ten men under the age of 35 years who were not in uniform. At night the driving is extremely dangerous for the blackout in that area is almost complete, one has to drive with dimmed out lights at 15 miles an hour. We have to realize that American life as a whole has been drastically changed, and your life here has been greatly changed."

"During my recent visit to the Regional Office in San Francisco, I went down to clarify the question of the clothing issue which has been in a muddle. After considerable urging on my part, I was able to gain the concession from the Regional Office that

all work clothing already issued to you will not come out of your clothing allowance, but future issues of clothing will have to come from the allowance. That includes work clothing as well. As I said previously, the clothing allowance will hereafter be paid in cash, but we are not yet ready to make the payments because of need to check over our accounts before sending in the list to San Francisco. We are hurrying that as much as possible. The allowance will pay back to July 1st."

"Pay checks for the month of August is now almost completely paid up, except for one division. September pay checks are already coming in and we hope to have them all paid up in the near future. The October pay is now being worked on at the office, and as fast as we can get them out, we'll send them to Portland. I've been happy to see that the Portland office has given us very good service, and I hope that most of our trouble with delay in getting pay checks may now be over. From now on, our hope is to pay all checks by the 15th of the following month. We may not always be able to do it, but it's a goal for which we'll strive. In order to accomplish this goal, some of the office staff in the accounting section may have to work overtime, but we'll ask for that sacrifice if necessary."

"I want you to see a very important notice which will appear in tomorrow's issue of the Tulean Dispatch. Tomorrow afternoon, the Dispatch will carry an appeal from the army for volunteers to go to the famous army school at Fort Savage, Minnesota, for those who have some knowledge of English and also of Japanese. I don't know how many Nisei will go, but I hope that a large number of those who qualify will volunteer. The army has a program for expanding that branch of the service enormously, and there is a great demand to overcome the scarcity of teachers. I am sure nothing will do more for the Japanese in America than for large numbers of qualified Nisei to volunteer for this service. We want to start immediately getting names of those who qualify so that when the army officers come here, we can turn over a list of names to them and send these men off as fast as we can. If you will go back to the people and persuade those who are qualified to volunteer, I think you will be doing a service to the Japanese here as well as to the United States."

"Yesterday, I talked to one or two of those who are interested in the Planning Board, and asked that they push the thing along as fast as they can. I am interested in the establishment of this Board as much as anyone, and I hold high hopes for its success. These men informed me that they are having a meeting of the Planning Board at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday afternoon, and although they invited me to attend their meeting, I unfortunately have had to refuse. Dr. Carson feels that I need the rest, and he has laid down the law that I must ~~not~~ stay away from my work on Saturday afternoon and Sunday. I'm not as concerned about my health as Dr. Carson is, I'm pretty tough, but he has instructed me to catch up on my sleep and rest."

"The last thing I want to talk about before I turn the meeting over to you for your questions, is the city charter which was recently completed and which has been translated into Japanese for the Issei who may want to look at it. It's been a tough job and a slow one, but I think it's ready for presentation to the people. There is to be a city-wide election in the near future for its approval or disapproval. If the charter is accepted, we shall then have a city-wide election for permanent councilmen. I don't know what arrangements are being made for the distribution of this charter to the various blocks, but there should be several copies of it in both English and Japanese in each block. Study it carefully and see what you think of it. I think it's a pretty good charter myself, but it's important that you know what's in it yourself because it's going to be the basis of the permanent council. I want everyone to look it over. The present temporary council has been in office for quite a long time, but they are getting to the point where they are anxious to have the permanent council relieve them because they can't do much until the city charter is accepted."

"There's about an hour and a half yet in which I can answer questions, so if you have anything to ask, I'll try to answer it for you."

Question (Nisei): What is the WRA policy on resettlement?

Shirrell: So far the only policy is to get the families within relocation centers at present resettled outside the Western Defense Command as fast as possible. As Mr. Myer told you, we are working in an effort to find placement and acceptance in other parts of the country. This policy applied to the Issei and Kibei as well as to the Nisei. Of course, each applicant for resettlement will have to clear with the Army, the FBI, and the WRA. He need not have a job at the other end as long as he has enough to prevent himself from becoming a public charge. Anyone at any time may return to the relocation centers if he wants to, and anyone outside may go to the relocation centers for the first time if he wants to.

Mr. Ikeda: I want to ask you a question on the same point. About those who came back from Japan since August 1940 when the assets of Japanese firms were frozen, can they be resettled under the same policy?

Shirrell: I don't know the answer to that question. The army has the last word on that and we haven't received any regulations on the question. All we can do is to send in the applications for resettlement to the Army, and if they clear the application, we're ready to go ahead with the resettlement program on our end. Now, we're going to be very careful about this relocation program, about whom we send out from the centers, and I can tell you that not everyone who makes an application is going to be accepted. There are two reasons for this. Especially in the case of the first groups of persons who go out, it's important that we select out those who are likely to make a favorable impression on the outside for, in a

sense, these people will be ambassadors for the Japanese evacuees, others of whom ~~any~~ want to get out later. If these persons are able to ~~go~~ out and gain acceptance in the community to which they go, then there's possibility of finding further jobs and helping others to get out of the relocation centers. But if some irresponsible persons get out and cause some trouble, one kind or another, then there's a danger that the whole program of relocation will break down. That's why we're keeping records of all kinds to try to get some idea of who deserves to go out and does not. We have the files now being compiled by the Merit System, we have records of those who get into trouble with the wardens, we have several types of record of the kind that will give us some picture of who will adjust favorably and who will not. As for the question which you raise, I suggest that anyone in that category who wishes to resettle should make an application so that we can turn it over to the army for their consideration.

Question: About the first part of September, an announcement appeared in the DISPATCH that anyone who had business in the restricted military area and wished to go there for three days to clear the matter up could go provided he made an application and paid for the transportation cost of himself and his escort. On two occasions I went to the office to ~~make~~ an application, but on both instances I was refused and told that I could not go. I should like to know what is the present status of the regulation?

Shirrell: Anyone desiring to return to military area ^{no. 1} must send in an application to the army, and he has to state definite reasons why he must go out himself. With references to these reasons for getting out, you must show evidence that you and you alone can tend to this business, and that it cannot be handled by anyone else who may act as your agent on the outside. If you make an application to us at the office, this application is then sent to the local WRA office of Property Custodian of which there are several located in places like Los Angeles, San Francisco, Sacramento, Portland, Seattle and so on. When this office has looked over your application and considered your problem, and they see that they cannot themselves handle the problem for you, the application is turned over to the army with the recommendation of that office. These permits are rather difficult to get, and there's no assurance that anyone making an application can get the permit. But I suggest you drop in at the legal aid office and make an application.

Question: (Nisei) There has been much discussion among the Issei as to whether or not there will be any possibility of going back to our former homes. I wonder what your personal opinion is on this question?

Shirrell: I think anybody's guess is as good as mine on that question. I personally think that it depends primarily on the future course of the war. If the war is long and bitter, and many persons are killed, and there are many in the communities

where you were who lose those who were close to them, then I am afraid that the bitterness will be deep-seated and Japanese may not be able to go back to places where they were gathered in large numbers. On the other hand, if the war is short and there is relatively little loss of life, then things may not be so bad and you may be able to return to your former homes. I don't think any final answer can be given to your question, but I think it will depend on the course of the war.

Question: (Same Nisei) At the time of evacuation, many of us left property hoping that we would some day be able to return to it. Now, it seems that the Midwesterners and others who are crowding the cities of the Pacific Coast are getting in and displacing us where we vacated. Would you suggest that we sell our property, or what would you suggest?

Shirrell: I think this is as good a time as any to sell property. During a period of war, it is generally the case that property value rises especially in industrial centers, and I think one can get unusual values at present which he cannot get at the end of the war. To illustrate, I own some property in San Francisco which I couldn't sell prior to the outbreak of war even if I wanted to. Recently, however, I have had two offers from Real estate offices asking if I wouldn't care to sell and offering fair prices for the lot, but now I don't want to sell because I'm getting a fairly decent income from them and I wouldn't know where to invest the money even if I sold it. If you can get a good price on your property, I think this is as good a time as any to sell, for property values are pretty high now."

"When the war ends, we can't take 5,000 Sacramento people in this project down to some ~~park~~ park in Sacramento, herd them together there, and then say to the city, "Well, here are your children. We've had them for a time, and now you can have them back." I think you can see that we can't do that, and a lot of people who formerly lived there won't be able to go back. On the whole, I personally don't favor the practice of absentee landlord, especially in your case. You can't tend to the business adequately from a distance, unless you have someone you can trust on the other end. You can't go back to see that your property is all right. My suggestion would be that you should sell your property if you can at a decent price. However, I'm not widely experienced in business and my advice may not ~~the~~ be the best. But you asked for it, so I've given it to you."

Mr. Aoki: At the last meeting you said that the policy of the WRA is to relocate the Nisei as fast as you can get them out. Those remarks set me to thinking, why would it not be possible for the Nisei not to relocate far from this center, but rather for the WRA to lease the farm land for their private development. If the Nisei were permitted to do this, they would find far greater incentive in working on the farm, they would be able to save something for their post-war resettlement, and they would be in a position to offer work opportunities to other Japanese. My idea is, why can't the WRA arrange to allow the farm to be operated as the canteen is by Japanese?

Shirrell: I don't know about that. There are many problems involved in trying to establish something like that. But one thing we talked about at San Francisco was regarding next years plan for the farm project. I've been worried about the farm all year, but we did pretty well, I think, considering the handicaps under which we operated. Our idea for next year was to plant seeds on our farm for distribution to other farmers. As you know, there is a very great shortage of seeds in the United States today, seeds for crops such as sugar beets, cabbage, lettuce, etc. We are planning to split up the farms in small lots, say of thirty or forty acres each, and letting small groups farm them in the way they want to. We hope that this may offer more incentive than under the present system. We shall keep separate accounts for each plot that is farmed, and we shall be able to show how each group of workers is progressing. I'm afraid it's impossible to change the present wage rate of \$12, \$16, and \$19, but I think this system may increase personal interest in farm work. I had thought, when I left, that this idea was entirely original with usehere, but when I arrived in San Francisco, I was pleasantly surprised to learn that Mr. Zimmern and Mr. Cozzens of the Regional Office had been thinking along very similar lines. I was extremely happy to know that our ideas coincided.

As for leasing the farms, there are many obstacles in the way of such a program, and I fear it may be difficult to get.

Mr. Aoki: My idea was, why can't we run the farm as we run the canteen.

Mr. Shirrell: When Mr. Myer was here, he declared that he was trying to push such an idea through, and it still remains a definite possibility, but there are numerous legal and other difficulties standing in the way, and I can't say whether the thing will succeed.

Question: I'd like to ask a similar question. Why can't we run the farm on a cooperative basis?

Shirrell: That's exactly what I've been talking about. The WRA has been trying to clarify the possibility of getting its productive projects under some form of a producer's cooperative, but as I've said, there are numerous difficulties that stand in the way. In the first place, we're not sure that a government agency can legally sanction a producer's cooperative. Furthermore, Congress would have to pass upon the idea. The whole thing is still a possibility, but I can't promise you that we'll get it.

Mitoma: A good many of us left our belongings in government warehouses when we left under evacuation. I placed an application for some of my baggage which was stored in federal storage several months ago, but I still haven't heard anything of it. Can you tell us what has happened to that baggage? Also, is it possible to get storage space in the local warehouses if one feels he hasn't enough room for it at home?

Shirrell: I was surprised when I learned at the last meeting we held here, I think it was, that some of the baggage stored in federal warehouses, especially those in Oregon and Washington, had not yet arrived. I checked on it immediately with Mr. Fryer and also with the local offices of property custodians in Seattle and Portland. I was informed very recently that one carload had been sent out from Portland and two carloads from Seattle. (Warehouseman in the audience declares that the first shipment from Oregon had arrived today.) When I asked the reason for the delay, I was told that the Portland and Seattle offices had not wanted to mix the baggage with stuff going to Minidoka, and they had held up the shipment until now. I think you should be getting most of your things very soon.

If there is anything you wish to store in the warehouses, we'll find the room to store it for you. If there isn't enough room in the present warehouses, we'll just have to build more warehouses.

Question: What happened to the books in Japanese language which were taken up at Pinedale by the WCCA?

Shirrell: That is one of the greatest mystery to me. I've called San Francisco about it half a dozen times, and I've been promised them each time, but nothing seems to happen. I'll call again to find out what has happened.

Question: There are some 300 to 400 workers out on the farm at present. With winter drawing near, the vegetable may be frozen at any time and there may not be any farm work soon in any event. What will happen to farm workers when the harvest season is over? Will they be given some other kind of work?

Shirrell: There are going to be certain months this winter when there won't be so much work for the people here. That's why I've asked that the farm crew and construction crew put in overtime hours as much as they can so that they will have some extra work hours piled up for the winter months when work is slack. Some people here will be without work during the winter months. However, in the administrative instruction #27, there is provision for unemployment compensation. This compensation will ~~not~~ be available to any able bodied person who desires to work, but for whom we can't find work. The compensation will not afford you quite as much as if you were on regular wages, but it will be something.

Question: According to the international law determined at the Geneva Conference, I understand it is said that we must be moved in six months, and from this understanding has arisen the various rumors that we will be moved again to some other relocation center. Will you kindly clarify this law. Does it apply only to non-citizens, or does it apply as well to citizens.

Shirrell: The law says that people in such centers as these must be removed six months after the end of warfare. It doesn't mean

that another relocation takes place six months after evacuation. As for the question about its application to the citizens, that is a tough one. No, it wouldn't apply to the citizens. The reason for the application of this international law in this project is that after the outbreak of war, Japan instructed the United States through the intermediary office of the Spanish ambassador that Japan considers the relocation centers a prison camp. The United States has never regarded these centers as a prison camp, but as long as Japan has so regarded them, we have to comply with the international regulations referring to prison camps for fear that a failure to comply might bring about retaliation. Hence, we've leaned over backwards to meet the letter of the international law, and we've been fair in our treatment of those in the centers, not that we wouldn't have given fair treatment anyway. However, the application of international law does create special conditions for the alien Japanese, for by that law we cannot employ citizens of a foreign nation with which we are at war for involuntary service in the manufacture or production of materials aiding our war effort. Hence, we can't permit Issei to work in the tent factory, or the furniture factory. We are not inclined to think of this as an internment camp, you know where the internment camps are, but Japan has so regarded these relocation centers and we've tried to comply with the international law.

Question: This is only a small request. On a cold morning like today's, people are likely to slip on the porch when the frost is thick on the wood. Not all people have porches. Lots of persons have been stealing lumber, and even sending their children out to steal lumber. This is not good for the morals of children. In view of the need for a porch, and the corruption of children's morals that comes from stealing, is it possible for the WRA to provide lumber for the building of porches.

Shirrell: I know this is a serious problem. But it is impossible to get any lumber at all now. If we do any construction that exceeds \$200 for the cost of lumber, labor, and everything, we must get clearance from the WPB. I can tell you there's no hope of getting lumber for porches, much as they are needed.

Mitoma: When will we get our clothing allowance?

Shirrell: As soon as possible. We have to compute the allowance to each family, and there's been some delay due to the recent change in policy about clothing allowances. However, it won't take as long as before to recompute the allowance.

Question: If there is such a shortage of lumber that the WRA can't any for building, how was it that Mr. Smith was able to get lumber for the proposed movie theater?

Shirrell: Let's not have any misunderstanding about that. We weren't trying to choke a movie theater down your throat. The reason Mr. Smith was able to get the lumber was because he bought it three days before the deadline. He ordered it immediately be-

cause he saw the deadline coming. Since the greazing of lumber, it's impossible to get any except through the clearance of the WPB. The lumber is now being returned.

Question: Why wasn't the lumber bought for use here by the WRA? Couldn't the WRA have bought from Mr. Smith?

Shirrell: We can't buy the lumber because we didn't pay much for it out of community enterprises. It was bought on credit and has to be returned to the people from whom Mr. Smith got the contract. However, we are trying to arrange for the transfer of the contract to the WRA for maintenance work. But the lumber is now frozen so I don't know what arrangements can be made.

Shirrell: (at the end of the meeting) Now, let me thank you for your attendance, and for your very friendly attitude in considering the problems with which we are commonly faced. I have long felt the need for some means whereby we could gain a better understanding of each other, and I think these meetings are one way in which to bring about that better understanding. I am unable to meet with you on Friday nights every time because so many things are likely to happen on that evening; I wonder if Thursday nights are satisfactory for you. If it is, then we shall meet again two weeks from tonight on Thursday night. (Applause to indicate approval.)

On the way home, I heard some men commenting about the translation. Said one old fellow, "Rev. Kitagawa is pretty hard to follow. He talks so fast it's sometimes hard to catch what he's saying." Actually, it had seemed to me that Kitagawa had been very clear. In fact, his translations are a marvel for detailed accuracy. It seems that he recalls Shirrell's speech, even after five to ten minutes of talking on Shirrell's part, without missing a single important sentence or phrase. The man has one of the most remarkable memories I've ever heard.

Another comment: "The shortage of things on the outside, the problems of running a community like this---unless one hears about them, it's pretty hard to know what difficulties there are, isn't it. These are things we should hear." The fellow who was talking was apparently impressed by Shirrell's talk ~~of the evening~~ and was realizing how little he knew of the detailed problems involved in the situation.

"He's certainly got a good head on him." This, I am sure, was said of Shirrell. Those who attend these meetings are getting a favorable impression of the project director, and it's a pity more don't attend. Shirrell is impressive, for he seems to have thought about every problem in some way or another. What is really impressive about him, and what most people do not know, is that Shirrell concerns himself with the personal difficulties of

almost anyone who comes to him with a legitimate problem. He takes personal pains to see that any demand that ought to be met is met, and he'll call San Francisco a dozen times if he has to in order to see that the matter is taken care of.

This was one of the most favorable meetings I've yet attended as far as community morale goes. But the limited number which Shirrell's talk reached is the thing which stands as a major barrier. Over a long period, the attitude prevalent in the leaders present tonight will filter down to the masses of the people, but that takes time. And there are problems pregnant in some of the remarks made tonight. What's to happen to the farm and construction workers during the winter, for unemployment compensation won't be adequate for their needs. And what of the question of induction into the army? The Issei clearly are opposed to the idea. For the present, however, things are quiet in the community.

7:45
Meeting was held at 2720. When Harno and I arrived about 7:30, the place was pretty full already, but by 8:00 there must have been 350 persons present almost all of Issei men with perhaps half dozen Issei women and as many more Nisei. Mr. Shirrell arrived about 7:45 and due to the lack of an interpreter, presumably Mr. Tsuda was to interpret, Rev. Daisuke Kitagawa was asked to interpret. Most of the audience had the appearance of farm people, but clothing is deceiving here and it's difficult to tell. A P.A. system was set up for the speaker.

Mr. Shirrell: I'm sorry I'm late tonight, but just as I was leaving someone stopped to talk business to me and I was delayed. Reverend Kitagawa will do the translating for me tonight.

There's only one thing I want to say tonight, and then you can do the talking and asking questions. I would rather hear you talk, I want to know more about you. Perhaps some of you saw the editorial in tonight's Tulean Dispatch, although I understand that very few people read the Dispatch, but those of you who read the editorial saw there certain statements made by President Robert Sproul of the University of California asking the people of the United States for racial tolerance of minority peoples in our midst. He is a powerful weapon. I knew Bob Sproul when he was a student at the University of California, he was in a class just ahead of me, and knowing Bob I am sure he is one of the staunchest friends the Japanese evacuees have. He's a man of unusual ability and capacity, and he always says what he thinks. During evacuation, I don't think any man stood up more strongly for the Japanese people on the West Coast than he did. When a great leader speaks for the Japanese, we've got to uphold his position in this project by permitting nothing in our behavior to cast a bad light upon the relocation centers.

We here are especially responsible in the matter of public relations. Our project is the only one with a farm. Of course, Manzanar has a farm of about 300 acres, and some of the others have a few hundred acres under cultivation, but none of the others produce anywhere as near as much as we produce. Nothing has caused more misunderstanding around here than the farm. First of all, our farm produces for our project here. Due to the fact that we use Japanese on the farm, and Japan holds us to the agreement of the Geneva Conference whereby enemy aliens may not be used for the production of military needs, we cannot sell the farm products here to the army quartermaster. But we are selling on the open market. There is a great shortage of farm products and there is especially a lack of vegetables since the Japanese were evacuated from the Pacific Coast. Nothing would help the relations of people in the relocation centers and the rest of the nation, than the fact that our project is self supporting. As long as strikes, slow downs and agitation occur among you, people on the outside are bound to hear of them and get a poor impression of you. It is extremely important that we do nothing here that will further complicate our relations with the outside.

(Reverend Kitagawa who had been translating was suddenly called to the hospital to attend a patient. A request for a translator was again sent out, but no one responded immediately. Mr. Obayashi then offered his service.)

Shirrell: Are there any questions that you wish to ask me? For the sake of the Nisei, who are your children; and their future and education, I would like to have you express yourselves so that we may arrive at a better understanding of our situation.

Isami Questioner: I am a Japanese and not knowing how to express myself in English, I should like to express myself in my native tongue. We have been placed here in this camp under the same condition as prisoners of war. As captives, I presume that we cannot ask for too much, yet there is a certain request I wish to make in the hope that something might be done about it. A few weeks ago when the people of this community heard that Dr. Harada might be removed, a petition was passed around in the various blocks requesting the WRA to keep him here. Now it seems that our petition has not been heard and that not only Dr. Harada but three other doctors are to be removed. What I should like to know is why is it necessary to remove all these doctors when it appears that we do not have enough doctors in the first place?

Shirrell: (Mr. Obayashi, in translating, failed to catch the essential point of the questioner as to why the petition concerning Dr. Harada was being disregarded.) There are only 80 doctors among the evacuees to serve a population of over 100,000. You can see that it is quite a problem to distribute those 80 doctors in such a way that the number of doctors will be equitable to all the communities. The matter of shifting doctors lies squarely on the shoulders of Dr. Thompson in San Francisco, and I can tell you that I wouldn't take his job of allocating the doctors for anything. It's a mighty tough job trying to get the right number of doctors and the right ones in the right places when there aren't enough doctors to go around. Due to wartime conditions, it is impossible to get Caucasian doctors, for every available physician is being taken into military medical service. Dr. Thompson has had to plan to redistribute the doctors so that each project will have a certain number of specialists. We are losing four doctors, they leave tomorrow, but, actually, we won't be losers because we're going to get five doctors in the exchange which is more than we've had. Two women doctors are coming, one a specialist in obstetrics, and the other a specialist in child care. We are getting a very fine surgeon from the Fresno center, a man of whom a friend of mine has written most highly. Dr. Baba is coming from Santa Anita.

If all the doctors were to object to transfers, it would be impossible to work out the problem. We're not forcing the doctors to go anywhere. Pullmans are being provided for them and their family, and they're going to be well received at the other end. Unless these transfers can be made, there won't be a possibility of getting the right persons here.

Question: I understand that some people have been paid their July wages, but others have not been paid. (Mr. Shirrell: You mean the August pay. Questioner: No, the July pay.) I went down to the administration office to see whether I could get my pay or not, but I was told that I would have to wait for the pay. However, I still haven't been paid, and I'm wondering what can be done about it. (Shirrell couldn't understand this since he'd understood that all July pay had been made.)

Question: I am another of those who hasn't received his July pay. Several carpenters have not received their July pay yet. We went to the pay office the day our pay was to come out, but there was a long line two or three blocks long. People were massed together as if they were hogs being fed at a pen. Since we feared getting trampled, we went home. Later when we asked for our pay, however, those payments were not forthcoming. Why does this situation exist?

Shirrell: If you did not get paid at the pay office, your pay money was held at the office until the end of the month. However, at the end of the month it's necessary to balance the books and so we must send all the uncalled for cash back to the San Francisco office. However, the matter can still be straightened out and if you will give me your names at the end of the meeting, I shall be glad to look into the matter personally.

Now, tonight we received a large bundle of checks from the Portland office and we shall start paying the crews right away tomorrow. Checks are now coming in directly from Portland where the U. S. Treasury has an office, and I was surprised at the quickness with which they sent us our wages as soon as we turned in our accounts. We hope to get the September pay off as soon as possible. I think community enterprises had better get some money in from the local bank first thing in the morning. I'll tell Kendall Smith or Sumio Miyamoto to take care of that.

Question: For the second time, I wish to raise the question about Dr. Harada since in the previous translation of the question it seems that the point was missed. Mr. Shirrell declares that Dr. Thompson has the final word concerning the transfer of doctors, and that he has nothing to do about it. Several weeks ago, however, a petition with a long list of the majority of names in this community was sent to him requesting that Dr. Harada be permitted to remain here with us. We have been asking for things ever since we arrived here and nothing has been heard by the administration, but when is our voice to be heard? Are we always to be the helpless pawns of the government's will? Dr. Harada is one whom we have known in our midst for a long time, and we have always loved him from the sole of our hearts. Dr. Harada is one whom we trust and love as one of our own sons, and nothing would grieve us more than to see him transferred. As you know, most sicknesses are sicknesses of the mind primarily, and sicknesses of the body only latterly. For the treatment of such ailment, one requires a doctor who has long been one's friend and whom one can trust. If there is any way in which the present order for the transfer of Dr. Harada can be altered, we would be grateful to have him kept here.

Shirrell: I sent those petitions concerning Dr. Harada to Dr. Thompson. However, Dr. Thompson told me that he received 6,000 similar petitions for a doctor down at Manzanar, and 3,000 names on a petition from another center. Dr. Thompson specifically requested, however, that the matter be left alone strictly in his hands, and I think you can understand the necessity of it when he is dealing with the distribution of many doctors. The job is a headache. Dr. Harada is going to Utah, and as some of you know the Tanforan people are there out in a desert where the closest place of any size as large as Klamath Falls is 150 miles away. Delta is a town close by, but it's no bigger than Tulalake. The people out in Utah need the doctors and we can't deny them our doctors if Dr. Thompson sees fit to send some of ours there. We have to think in terms of all the Japanese in the relocation centers, we can't be selfish. I don't want to see Dr. Harada, Dr. Iki, Dr. Uryama, or any of the other doctors go any more than you do. I could ask as a special favor that Dr. Harada be permitted to stay here, but that would tie Dr. Thompson's hands, which I don't want to do. In place of Dr. Iki and Dr. Harada, we are getting Dr. Hashiba, a well known surgeon from Fresno Valley. Some of you no doubt have heard of Dr. Hashiba, and know him. He is said to be one of the finest surgeons in that area, and we are going to be fortunate to have him here. You may not like Dr. Hashiba as well as you've liked Dr. Harada, you can't be expected to like him as well until you've had a chance to get acquainted with him. But in time I think you will find that Dr. Hashiba is a capable doctor and I'm sure you will learn to trust him as you've trusted Dr. Harada in the past.

Question: (Rev. Kitagawa had returned in the mean time and was again interpreting. The following question came from the same smooth spoken speaker who had raised the persistent question about Dr. Harada.) Concerning the recent vote on the theater project, I should like to know by what reasoning you arrived at the decision that all persons over 16 years of age might vote. In our mind, a youngster of only 16 is scarcely out of the cradle, has not even begun to reach his manhood, and can't be expected to have a responsible view of important problems placed before him. He generally has not even finished high school, and can't be expected to think clearly on his own.

Shirrell: Until the city charter is accepted, the only instruction which I have on elections is the one sent me from the Washington office. According to their instruction, any person who is eligible for the work corp, which means anyone over 16 years of age, is permitted to participate in elections. That was the only instruction which I had. Now in the new city charter the age for voters is specified at 18 years, and those holding offices must be over 25 years. If that charter is accepted by you, 18 years will then be the minimum age for anyone participating in an election.

Question: My understanding is that several blocks have already received their clothing allowance. How is that further distribu-

tion of these clothing issues are not being made?

Shirrell: I think six blocks have already been paid off their clothing allowance. Several days ago, however, when we wired to San Francisco for further instructions, they replied to hold up the present plan because they had an entirely new plan up. They also told us that instructions would follow shortly. Last night I received a long wire from them giving us information on the new plan. According to this new plan of clothing issue, we now are to pay you in cash instead of scrip, and I think there will be some increase in the amount of payment. Previous payments were to begin with the month of August, but according to the new instruction you will get payment for July as well. Of course, those who have already received their allowance for the month of August will not get any more cash.

Question: Will the outdoor worker's clothing issue be deducted from the clothing allowance?

Shirrell: We received a telegram on that. Last night I told you "Yes", but I shouldn't have said that because it isn't entirely clear. The rest of my staff interpret the wire to mean "No". We have wired back for a clearance of the interpretation, and we should know very soon what the correct answer is. For the present, my answer is that we don't know.

Question: My wife has been ill for quite some time since arriving here with muscular ailments of her body. The doctor has informed us that her sickness is due to the hardness of the army cots, and has informed us that we should get a steel cot for her with springs. However, I have hitherto been unable to get such a steel cot for I am informed that there are no more of them. Can something be done for her.

Shirrell: There are no more steel cots being made for the people of America. They just aren't to be had. However, doctors have been instructed to provide steel cots for patients and it can be arranged for you to get a steel cot for your wife. Please see me after the meeting about it.

Question: Concerning the Planning Board, I should like to inquire what authority it has. Even if it is an elected body, it does not seem provided with any definite authority. And what is the purpose
of the technical staff.

Shirrell: I didn't want to suggest the Planning Board myself, although I have long been in favor of it. If the idea of the Planning Board had come from my office, you might not have wanted it for fear that we were trying to put something over on you. I am glad, however, that the move did come from your part and that it will soon be in operation. As for the power of the Planning Board, I know that I will listen to its advice and weigh it in the consideration of any problem, and I am sure the Council would likewise listen to the Planning Board. After all, the councilmen are your sons, and I don't think they would turn their backs to a group

that represents their own parents. The technical staff is merely a fact-finding group that gathers the data whereby the Planning Board may make its decisions. They are paid by the WRA to be sure, but their appointment is strictly by the group on the Planning Board, and if you don't like them you can fire them as you want. If they are of the type that cause trouble by getting their nose too much into other people's business, they probably won't be the type of persons ~~will~~ you will want on the technical staff.

Question: Until now, the furniture factory has been closed due to the presence of a supervisor whose presence we didn't want, but now that we have another man, the construction crew is willing to go ahead with the building of the factory! Now, I understand that the WRA cannot hire Issei labor in the furniture factory as long as equipment is being made for the use of the military, but as long as school furniture is being made, as it is said will be done, why cannot the Issei have jobs there as well as anyone else.

Shirrell: As long as the factory is making school furniture, there is nothing to prevent the Issei from working in the furniture factory. However, the next contract we are going to get will be for the making of equipment for the Army quartermaster. Likewise the tent factory which we hope we can have soon will also make equipment strictly for the army quartermaster. I personally have no objection to the Issei working in the furniture factory, nor does the Army, but Japan has chosen to interpret the Issei in this country as citizens of their government whose use in the production of military equipment would be a violation of the Geneva agreement. Hence, we can't use the Issei in making anything for the military unless it is a service voluntarily rendered. Since all the contracts after the first one will be for the army quartermaster, I decided that it would be less disruptive to use Nisei instead of Issei from the beginning. Another thing, we have in mind a program of vocational education for the young people so that during their stay here they may acquire some skill which will be of use on the outside. The furniture factory seems just the place for this sort of thing and we should like to utilize young workers as much as possible that will give them experience in a line of work that they can later apply. But we shall have furniture construction among the construction crew separate from the furniture factory, and in this work we shall have openings for the Issei.

Question: About evacuee's Property, is the WRA doing anything to protect them on the outside?

Shirrell: The WRA has definitely taken over the responsibility of looking after the evacuee property. We have offices in various local areas from which the Japanese have been evacuated, and inspectors are there so that we have a means of finding the condition of any of your property if you're worried about it, or if you want

any business transaction carried out in connection with them. If you have any problem with reference to your property on the outside that you'd like to have settled, go the legal aid staff or the Project Attorney and they will give you all the information you want and will send your name into the particular office that can handle the problem for you.

Question: I should like to ask a fundamental question, as to whether these relocation centers were set up for the Issei or for the Nisei. Looking around the community, we find that the Nisei have all the best positions in the work corps, and they are the ones given the responsibility of running this community. Please, answer my question.

Shirrell: The only answer to that question which I can give is, we have been given the job of taking care of 100,000 evacuees in relocation centers. We are making no distinction between the Issei and the Nisei, we treat you all as one group. Those who are here are here because the army sent you here, but you are not considered disloyal to the United States. If you were, you would be in an internment camp, not a relocation center. We wish to treat you as one group of citizens.

In connection with the question which has been brought up, however, I should like to point out that there seems to exist ~~more~~ as much prejudice among your own group as there is of whites against the Japanese. Everyday, I hear all kinds of prejudices expressed in your own group. The Issei don't like the Nisei, the Nisei don't like the Issei, the Kibei don't like anybody but themselves, the Californians don't like the people from the north, and the Washingtonians don't like people from California and Oregon. It took me fully two months to get the distinction between Issei, Nisei, and Kibei. I'm sorry I ever learned the difference; and I probably wouldn't have learned them if you hadn't used the words. We have to have cooperation in this community, and as long as you retain your prejudices, things aren't going to work.

Question: I came here to Tule Lake directly from my home community and arrived on June 1st. Before leaving, I left all my baggage with the federal storage hoping to have them shipped down, and later sent in a request for their transfer here. I think it is now fully three months since I put in the application for the transfer of ~~my~~ my baggage yet I have not heard of it yet. When are we going to get the things in federal storage down here?

Shirrell: I have been inquiring about some of the property in federal storage which has not yet arrived. I sent out a letter only a few days ago to check on these matters. It seems that those which are still missing are the ones from Washington and Oregon, but I hope to get information about them very soon.

Question: Why is it that we ~~in~~ Issei do not have the privilege of holding office in the council if, as Mr. Shirrell says, we are all to be treated as American citizens?

Shirrell: I asked that question of Dillon Myer when he was here recently. His answer was that the WRA in order to get approval from Congress had to put in the clause permitting only citizens of the United States to hold office. The Army and public opinion were likewise factors that had to be contended with. There are many on the outside who do not understand the Japanese, and think that all of you are devils and saboteurs. For the sake of public relations it was necessary to keep offices open only to citizens of the United States.

Question: If it is the case that you want to help preserve public opinion and wish to make the community comparable to that on the outside by permitting only those who are citizens to participate in it, how is it that Issei are permitted to vote, though they are not citizens, but are not permitted to hold office?

Shirrell: It is true that you do not have the privilege to hold office and I regret that the situation exists. As I have said, this is a matter which Congress decided and we have no power over the situation, but we did gain the right to vote for the Issei. I think this is a gain for the Japanese immigrants.

Question: We are grateful to the WRA for gaining the privilege to vote for us (sarcasm), but what is the value of the right to vote unless the councilmen represent our opinions. Why was it that on the theater issue, 32 blocks voted against the construction of the theater and yet the council themselves decided that the theater should be built. This was in direct opposition to the wishes of the people. In fact, one man in the council is said to have got up and declared that there is no need to take every matter back to the blocks for consideration of the block people, the Issei. How is the Issei voice to be heard if it is not represented in the council?

Shirrell: In the new city charter you will find certain methods outlined whereby any councilman whom you do not want can be removed by you. There is the referendum by which a block can decide that if they do not find their councilman representing their wishes as they desire it, the councilman can be recalled and another one who will represent your wishes can be put in his place.

Question: I understand these meetings to be for the purpose of bringing cooperation between the administration and the Issei; is that correct? (Shirrell nods affirmation) Now, there is a belief among the Issei that you have stool pigeons in the community who are checking on the activities of the Issei, and looking for agitators. I don't know if this is true or not, but if it is true, then you are going to have a hard time getting any cooperation from the Issei. Will you tell us if there are any such stool pigeons?

Shirrell: The WRA has no one in the community here acting as its stool pigeons. The wardens are the ones looking after the internal

security of the people; they are the only policing representatives of the WRA. It is true that the FBI and the Army and Navy Intelligence do call out certain persons from the community to ask them questions, but that is their business and I do not interfere with their work. I sometimes wish that I did have some investigators, but as far as the WRA is concerned, it is not their policy to have stool pigeons in the community. That work is restricted to the other agencies which I have mentioned.

Question: According to the Presidential Proclamation of Oct. 10, There was a removal of the regulation making the Western Defense Command a military area, and this applies to the Italian and German aliens. How is it that this ruling does not apply to the American-born Japanese who are citizens of this country? Perhaps we Issei who are alien Japanese cannot expect leniency in the matter of regulations imposed on us, but it seems a gross injustice that Nisei who have citizenship are not permitted as much right as others who are enemy aliens. I feel that the future of the Nisei is the most important question for us, and while we Issei being citizens of Japan cannot claim any rights in the present circumstance, I should like to see the Nisei relocated as fast as possible in places where they can make their future. I must say that I think this whole evacuation program was one of the greatest errors ever conceived.

Shirrell: I agree with every word the speaker has said heartily. As a governmental official, I should perhaps not make such statements, but I do agree with the speaker. However, these rulings about the area in which persons may or may not move about are army regulations, and I nor the WRA can do anything about them. In lieu of the freedom which the Army alone can grant, the next plan we have to offer is the program of relocation which the WRA is instituting. As fast as we can, we hope to move out of these centers, not only the Nisei, but also the Kibei and Issei to areas where they may find favorable opportunity of livelihood. For the success of this program, however, we need your cooperation, for unless we can keep public opinion in favor of the evacuees and their relocation, we cannot hope to succeed. As long as the people on the outside hear only favorable reports of your conduct in the relocation centers, they can have no fear of seeking your aid in the production for the war effort. We do not have control over the determination of military regulations, but we offer in lieu of unrestricted freedom, our plan of relocation.

Question: (An old gentleman arose to ask a question. He asked two specific questions, but they were both questions which had been asked before, and, strangely enough, he asked them almost in the same way as before. He inquired, Is this relocation project for the Issei or for the Nisei, and, second, why should youngsters of only sixteen years of age be permitted to vote in the referendum. Rev. Kitagawa dismissed both questions by declaring that they had been answered. The old fellow must have been in his mental senility.)

Question: I arrived here early in July and at the time of arrival

were promised lumber, but we haven't received any lumber yet. We haven't even had enough lumber to make chairs and tables, but with the winter coming on, we should like to have enough lumber to make porches for ourselves.

Shirrell: I don't think there has been any subject that has been up for more frequent discussion than the lumber question. Let's get this straight. We promised you lumber for partitions, but no more than that. The lumber for partitions are coming in and we're going to get them out to you as fast as we can. Those blocks which got here first and hoarded all the lumber will, of course, not get any more, but others who haven't anything will have the first opportunity of getting some lumber. I thought our project was the only one with a lumber problem, but it seems that there's plenty of lumber difficulty everywhere.

Shirrell: I must go now, but I should like to ask a question of you this time. Are you interested in having meetings of this kind to talk over our mutual problems? Perhaps it won't be possible for me to meet with you every week, but suppose we were to meet about every two weeks just as we did tonight. Does that appeal to you? (In reply everyone clapped their hands to indicate approval. The meeting adjourned.)

On the way home, Harno and I tried to pick up the Issei conversation. Most people seemed most concerned about just one statement which Shirrell had made, that he didn't know whether the outdoor clothing issue would be taken out of the clothing allowance or not, but that he thought it would be. All the favorable answers on all other points which Shirrell might have announced were drowned in this single point which the people couldn't understand. They thought that Shirrell had again betrayed them.