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OFFICIAL DOCUMENTATION
OF
DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

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CAR L. SPICER
RELOCATION OFFICER

3660 A. I. U. BUILDING
COLUMBUS 15, OHIO

GEOGRAPHY - ADMINISTRATION

The Columbus office was opened in the A.I.U. Tower (American Insurance Union) in April, 1943. The headquarters for the Central Ohio relocation program remained in this location until the closing of the District office on December 1, 1945.

Everett L. Dakan, Chairman of the Poultry Department, College of Agriculture, The Ohio State University, was named Relocation Officer for the Central Ohio District. He was widely known in Ohio agricultural circles and his range of acquaintance took in scores of colleges and agricultural schools in the Midwest, West, and East. He contributed regularly to the Ohio Farmer, one of the A.B.C. farm journals in the Midwest. He knew the county agricultural agents by their first names, and had at one time or another been thrown into the company of the key farm leaders of Ohio and Michigan. Bald, cheerful, and just over fifty, Dakan was explosively liberal on questions dealing with the minority groups in the population. He had a sincere and insistent urge to establish new homes for the Japanese Americans who had been removed from their West Coast homes and set down in relocation centers.

On leave of absence from the University, Mr. Dakan assumed the supervision of the Central Ohio District and took over the job of opening up the Ohio and Michigan farm labor area.

Carl L. Spicer, former university and college instructor, with two years of government experience with the National Youth Administration, The Office of Emergency Management and The War Production Board, was appointed Associate Relocation Officer to assist in the relocation activities in Central Ohio.

The office secretary, Miss Yoshiye Ogata, joined the staff in May 1943. Miss Ogata relocated from the Rowher Relocation Center and was one of the pioneer resettlers in Columbus. She developed rapidly in the mechanical position of secretary and reached out to take an active part in the education of the community by filling numerous speaking engagements in Columbus and Central Ohio. In January 1945, Miss Ogata was transferred to the Cleveland Area Office, where she entered on new duties of assisting the Information Service in preparing publications and news releases for the press and the general public.

Miss Fumiko Yoshihashi, of Gila River, succeeded Miss Ogata and remained as secretary until the office closed. Although only nineteen years of age, and with out

previous experience in a position of such responsibility, she developed amazingly fast and became one of the top-notch public relations secretaries in the Cleveland Area. Her one ambition was to help resettlers with their problems. She invited confidence, and she operated easily and pleasantly with all types of people.

In February 1945 an Associate Relocation Officer was appointed to the district. William Mackey, head of the Ohio Parole office from 1938 to 1944, joined the staff. He had a quality of sincerity and dealt with personal problems with an understanding and sympathy that was of first importance in resettlement work. He was able to render valuable service to the WRA program in Columbus, Mansfield, and Lima, Ohio. In September 1945 he resigned to go with the Methodist Conference to promote a campaign for the enlargement of a youth center on Lake Erie.

The boundaries of administrative control and field operation for the Columbus office were not rigidly marked off by Harold Fistere, the Area Relocation Supervisor. In discussions with Everett L. Dakan, Columbus, and Raymond Booth, of the Cincinnati office, it was felt that a rigid marking out of district areas would not be the best course in this early phase of the program. The whole area was unknown so far as any previous work of this kind was concerned. There was logic in the belief

that personal relationships which existed between members of the WRA staffs and individuals in communities such as Dayton, Springfield, Yellow Springs, and Wilmington should be nurtured for the benefit of the program. (The confidence based on friendship was often a very important factor in organizing interest in the resettlement program in new communities.) Many of the early employment opportunities were developed in this way. Thus when Raymond Booth of the Cincinnati office was working with the Red Star Battery officials in Dayton, the Associate Relocation Officer from Columbus was clearing away the preliminaries for the employment of Japanese Americans in the American AirCRAFT Associates, also located in Dayton. The first placement in Antioch College, Yellow Springs, was processed by the Columbus office after the original contacts and field work had been done by Everett Dakan.¹

In general the boundaries of the Central Ohio office were to include the tier of counties north and east of Dayton and a line drawn southeasterly to Portsmouth.² Toledo was to operate in the area influenced by that city. Lima, Defiance, Bowling Green, Fostoria, Findlay,

¹Correspondence and conferences with Edward A. Flynn, American AirCRAFT Associates. July 1943.

²Oral discussion in Cleveland Area office June 5, 1943, July 17, 1943.

and Norwalk were populous communities in this district. The densely populated northeastern section of the state, including the industrial cities of Youngstown, Akron, Canton, Warren, and Mansfield, were to be serviced by the Cleveland Area Office.³

On March 20, 1944, Robert Cullum was transferred to the Cleveland Area Office as Relocation Supervisor in an exchange of officers which took Harold Fistere to New York. Cullum defined boundaries for the Central Ohio District. The southern boundary was marked by the southern extremes of Darke, Miami, Clark, Fayette, Ross, Vinton, and Meigs Counties. All of the counties along the Ohio river between Portsmouth and East Liverpool were included in the district. In the north the boundaries of Paulding, Putnam, Hancock, Seneca, Richland, Ashland, Wayne, Tuscarawa, Carroll, and Jefferson divided the Toledo and Cleveland districts from the Central Ohio administrative boundaries.

This division of territory remained unchanged except for the absorption of the Toledo office in the Detroit District in April 1944, and the merging of the Columbus and Cincinnati districts in December, 1945. The work in the Toledo area continued to be handled by William Fluke, who served it by working out of the Detroit office.

³In 1943 the Area Office and the District Office were combined. Separate offices were created in 1944.

Early in the summer of 1943 it became apparent that evacuees would not come into the Central Ohio District in large numbers. The flow was to the large industrial centers such as Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Cincinnati, and St. Louis. Wartime wages, the early momentum built up by promoting these cities in the relocation centers, excitement and lure of the metropolitan centers for the Nisei, and the advantages of locating in a metropolitan center where racial differences were unimportant in the common melting pot - these were other factors, multiple reason, the play and interplay of which influenced relocation to particular communities, and those that had the most significance in Central Ohio will be discussed in subsequent pages of this report.

The pressures of work created by the unexpected developments in the Cleveland Area made it necessary to utilize the limited staff to the best advantages of the program. After April 1943 there was a constant pull on the Columbus office for emergency assignments in other districts. Everett Dakan made frequent exploratory trips and public-relations visits to the greenhouse and nursery area of northern Ohio, which centers around Painesville, Ashtabula, Lorain, and Cleveland; and to the agricultural areas around Detroit, Lansing, Ann Arbor, and Pontiac, Michigan.

The Associate Relocation officer worked three months in the Columbus district before being transferred to

other assignments.⁴

JAPANESE-AMERICAN POPULATION IN THE CENTRAL OHIO DISTRICT

Amache Relocation Center	11
Gila River	20
Heart Mountain	44
Jerome	18
Manzanar	8
Minidoka	16
Poston	46
Rohwer	16
Tule Lake	25
Hawaii	6
Voluntary Evacuees	11

TOTAL	221
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During the period from April, 1943 to December 31, 1945, 318 Japanese-Americans came to Columbus and other communities in Central Ohio. 215 are classified as

⁴Detailed to Michigan in May to assist George Graff; assigned to the Relocation Team which was sent to Tule Lake on July 27, 1943. Appointed head of Detroit Office in September, 1943. Relocation officer in Columbus, 1944 and 1945. Heart Mountain Relocation Center detail, 1945. Relocation Officer for Central Ohio and Southern Ohio, June, 1945 to February, 1946.

resettlers who came from the relocation centers and Hawaii; eleven were voluntary evacuees who left the West Coast military areas before the Army announced its policy of evacuation to assembly centers. Thirty-seven resettlers came from other communities, mainly Cleveland, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Milwaukee, Chicago, and Detroit. Twenty-eight of these were students from scattered communities in the Middle West and the East. Thirty-two service men were stationed in Columbus either attached to Fort Hayes personnel or enrolled in refresher courses at Ohio State University. Eleven evacuees came to the district on short term leave but left for other communities or returned to the center. Seven children were born to Nisei and Issei residents during the resettlement period.

Of the total number of resettlers and service men who lived in Central Ohio, 153 were males and 168 were females. There was one death - a Nisei woman who died of complications in a Columbus hospital.

According to records compiled during the period there were 18 resident Japanese-Americans in Central Ohio at the time of evacuation. These people lived in Springfield, Columbus, and Lima.

Since the lifting of the ban on Japanese-Americans' relocation in the evacuated zones, 33 have returned to

California, Washington, and Oregon. Two have returned to Hawaii. Eighty-two resettlers left Central Ohio for other communities - Chicago, Cleveland, New York, Philadelphia, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Detroit, and Salt Lake City attracted the majority of these people.

The present Japanese-American population of Central Ohio is 208 people⁵ excluding the pre-evacuation resident population.

⁵All these figures are subject to some variation because of the fluidity of this population, as well as the difficulty of keeping an accurate record of each individual in the district.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION - THE CITIZENS RESETTLEMENT
COMMITTEE

The advantages of a co-operating Citizens Committee was fully realized by the WRA staff in Columbus. Groups of local people were called upon from time to time to help with problems which needed financial support or co-operative action in the area of employment, community integration, housing, and community acceptance.

One of the first steps taken by the Columbus office was to call together group meetings to consider community acceptance and employment. In May 1943, group meetings were held with the Columbus Ministerial Association, The United States Employment Service, The "Y's", the officials of the labor unions, and various individuals in the city who represented scattered community interests.

A meeting with the Ministerial Council, the Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, and the Directors of the Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A. in June of 1943 showed a divided opinion in the Ministerial Council. Thereafter the support of the Columbus religious bodies had to be sought by individual contacts with ministers and sympathetic leaders in the congregations.

The earliest evidence of a resettlement committee taking form goes back to August, 1943. At this time the

efforts of Everett L. Dakan and Carl Spicer to interest churches and civic groups in the support of a hostel to provide temporary homes for the resettlers crystalized. A hostel committee was organized and Ralph Powell, a Professor in the Engineering College at Ohio State University, was made chairman. In a letter to members who had been invited to serve on the committee, the chairman reported an unsuccessful attempt to open a hostel.

Early this summer Mr. Spicer of the War Relocation office in Columbus talked to the University Religious Council about the urgent need for a hostel to furnish temporary housing for Japanese Americans coming from relocation centers to locate in Columbus. The University Religious Council was interested and appointed a committee to look into the possibilities.

The committee held a meeting August 27 at the Rochedale House with the students and Mr. Franzen, director of the Hostel conducted by the Baptist Home Missionary Society in Cleveland. (The Rochedale Co-op House would be vacant in September, and it was an ideal place, for it could be rented and would house 20 to 24 people.) Professor Dakan reported that the situation in the relocation centers had not developed as they had expected, and that evacuees were still coming to Columbus in small numbers. In the meantime the Rochedale students had an opportunity to continue their present arrangement for at least another quarter. It was therefore decided to defer the project for the present but to continue the committee with the following officers: Chairman, Ralph Powell; Vice-Chairman, Clyde Williams; Secretary, Robert Graves.¹

The idea of a hostel did not die with this failure. It was revived in March, 1945, when a group of citizens

¹Letter, September 1, 1943.

met at the International House to consider the feasibility of opening a temporary place for evacuees. This attempt also ended in failure because of the unwillingness of some of the members to assume a large financial outlay when it was not known just how heavy the evacuee movement into Columbus would be. (Housing in Columbus became increasingly difficult in 1945.) The meeting was adjourned with the understanding that a survey of actual need should be made.

In 1944 citizens groups representing churches, social agencies, and evacuees, planned and carried out a number of community affairs for the recreational and social welfare of the Japanese American resettlers.

A speakers' training program was instituted at the Y.W.C.A. in December 1943. Professor E. L. Dakan provided the guiding spirit for this experiment, which was partly educational and partly social in its conception. Classes met bi-monthly during January and February, and studied and analyzed prepared speeches which were given before the study group, with Mrs. Ardis Wheeler of the Y.W.C.A. assisting. The meetings created a lasting interest in several of the more mature Nisei and they formed a kind of speakers' bureau, and when called upon they spoke before church groups, clubs, and educational groups. Yoshiye Ogata, secretary of the WRA, Dr. George Kido, research chemist at the Scott Seed Company,

Marysville, and Aiko Yoshihashi, secretary of the Friends Service Committee, made many talks to citizens groups in Columbus and Central Ohio in 1944 and 1945.

Committees composed of the Friends of the Northside Friends Meeting, WRA officials, and evacuees planned a successful picnic for all the resettlers; lawn parties and social events were held at the homes of Rowena Kessler, Tom Okawara, Everett Dakan, Ralph Powell, Charles Plackman, and the International House, University center for students of all nationalities. In December of 1944 two events of the Christmas season, one held at the Y.W.C.A. and the other at the North Broadway Methodist Church brought all the Japanese-American people together. The Y.W.C.A. party was sponsored by a citizens' committee, but the plans and program were made and carried out by the Nisei, through a social committee which was selected in an informal meeting of citizens committee and resettlers.

The Christmas party at the North Broadway Methodist Church was arranged by the Northside Friends, Ralph and Maude Powell, Charles and Dorothy Blackman, and Lynn Rohrbaugh taking the lead in planning the dinner and arranging a program of folk games and Christmas carol singing.

In 1945, a successful unification of the independent groups which had been active in resettlement work was accomplished. The local welfare agencies and community

service agencies had now been drawn into a participating activities program through the continuous public relations work of the WRA staff, regional and district, and membership from these agencies were becoming acquainted with the over-all planning and work of the resettlement program.

The background of the gradual growth of a Citizens Committee in Columbus was peculiar to the local scene. When the announcement was made that a WRA office would be opened in Columbus there appeared to be a nucleus for a Citizens Resettlement Committee. But the growth of the nucleus into a functioning organism was at first conspicuous by its absence. Prominent persons who had been interested in the initial phase of evacuation fell away when actual problems of resettlement arose. This academic interest, while a constructive element for leisure exploration of racial prejudice and discrimination against minority groups, was totally valueless in meeting the day-by-day emergencies which confronted the WRA staff. Consequently much time was consumed in building up a truly functioning body which was fortified with enough Christian and human interest to engage in a continuous program of actual assistance to the resettlers.

In July, 1945 a permanent resettlement committee had emerged. The members of this committee had rendered active aid whenever called upon, and they represented a variety of community interests.² The committee was not

²See appendix for list.

formally organized and did not meet except on call to consider some special problem. Its main function during the summer of 1945 was one of advisory nature. In July, when the National Director of the WRA was in Columbus, the Committee gave a reception at the Y.W.C.A. which was very successful.

During the following months, when it was known that the War Relocation Authority would terminate its services in Columbus before the beginning of 1946, renewed emphasis was given to the importance of having the Citizens Committee assume the overall responsibility for the services to resettlers until they could be integrated into the social and economic life of the city. New members were added to the Committee, particularly representatives of the social and welfare agencies whose professional services were needed to give prompt service in cases of emergency family need. A few changes were made to fill vacancies which had occurred when members had become inactive or moved from the city.

Additional members added to the committee were Ralph Bennett, of the Family and Children's Bureau; Virginia Britton, Franklin County Relief Administration; Thomas H. Everhart, U.S.E.S.; Carl Smucker, Ohio State Welfare Board; Orville Jones, State C.I.O. Council; Paul Itaya, student; and Mickey Furuta, machinist.

The post-WRA period called for the organization of a vital resettlement committee to carry on the services which had been centered in the WRA office.³ This committee was already in existence in Columbus and it had had a great deal of experience in resettlement work, so when the office of the WRA was closed on December 1, 1945, the transition from the government to the resettlement committee was made with scarcely a ripple of concern or interruption of services.

To complete the formal organization of the Citizens Resettlement Committee, a meeting was called for November 20, 1945. The committee met in the Central Y.W.C.A., Columbus, and elected officers for the year 1945 and 1946. Miss Rowena Kessler was elected Chairman, Professor Everett L. Dakan vice-chairman, and Fumiko Yoshihashi was named secretary. A resolution pledging support to the Family and Children's Bureau, where personal services to the evacuees were to be centered, was passed. The resolution stated:

As a group of Columbus citizens interested in the welfare of Japanese Americans who have come to our city to make their homes, we join together as the Columbus Resettlement Committee for the purpose of providing such services as may not be available through regular community agencies, to assist in the co-ordination of community services to resettlers, and to support in the community the program of resettlement.

In view of the withdrawal of the federal

³Washington Relocation Division Memorandum No. 100.

War Relocation Authority from Columbus, we pledge our support to the Family and Children's Bureau which has agreed to assume the administrative responsibility for directing services to resettlers.

The Resettlement Committee assumed the over-all responsibility of co-ordinating all phases of the community services concerned with housing, health, education, welfare, recreation, counseling, employment, and public relations, with the local citizens, churches, schools, and local and national agencies which had been so successfully tied together during the administration of WRA.

On December 1, 1945 the War Relocation Authority closed its headquarters in Columbus after 31 months of continuous service. Before doing so it compiled a digest of community services which are available to all residents of Columbus and Central Ohio. Local, state, and national agencies are included in this guide, and a brief statement is made of the kind of service rendered.

The Family and Children's Bureau, a community chest agency, with headquarters at 141 North Front Street, Columbus, Ohio, assumed the administrative detail and became the central referral point for all kinds of personalized services. The Director, Ralph Bennett, is a member of the Resettlement Committee.

All resident Japanese Americans in Central Ohio and members of the Resettlement Committee, as well as functioning local, state, and national agencies have been supplied with the guide to community services.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION, COMMUNITY ACCEPTANCE, CHURCHES,
LAY ORGANIZATIONS

In the spring and summer of 1943 much of the background for the future development of the War Relocation Authority resettlement program in Ohio and Michigan was laid.

Informal area conferences, held in the Cleveland Area office, brought together the Relocation officers from the districts. Fred Ross of the Cleveland District office, Raymond Boothe of the Cincinnati District, William Fluke of Toledo, Everett Dakan and Carl Spicer of Columbus, and George Graff of Detroit represented the Relocation personnel which gathered for the conference discussions which were characterized by enthusiasm and free and open exchange of ideas on all the phases of the fast-moving program.

Harold Fistere, Relocation Supervisor, provided the leadership which made the meetings uniquely interesting. He was a youthful man, on the noon-day side of middle-age, and he radiated a cheerful democratic spirit which was felt and appreciated by all his associates. He had a warm personality which worked its way into conference meetings and broke down barriers. Passionately democratic, he insisted on ideas being put on the table and

thoroughly examined. Capable of sudden outbursts of emotion and youthful enthusasms, he kept a conference "on its toes." His mannerisms were a natural part of him and he was like an actor whose art and personality had blended to a degree of finished workmanship.

Sometimes these meetings were attended by Washington staff members. Tom Holland and Donald Sabin attended the first informal conference which was held in June, 1943. They were currently informed on national tendencies and had made the rounds of the Relocation Centers; they brought a great deal of information and understanding to the conference.

Almost everything was discussed in these meetings: public sentiment, relations with the relocation centers, employment, housing, the press, techniques for reaching the residents of the centers and interesting them in relocation, metropolitan advantages vs. smaller urban centers and towns, evacuee psychology and attitudes, and methods of opening up smaller communities for resettlement of a small number of evacuees.¹

Community acceptance and the development of small cities and towns for the relocation of Issei and Nisei were of special meaning to the Central Ohio District office.

¹The idea of dispersal had gained favor to avoid the concentration of large numbers of Japanese-Americans in "Little Tokyos" such as had existed on the West Coast.

There were scores of prosperous urban communities in the district - towns and cities with diversified industries. The district also supported many Christian colleges and several large universities, and it was the center of the state's agricultural activities. The fact that the state capitol was located in Columbus did not cloud the hopes that in some of these communities in Central Ohio there would be a welcome for the evacuees. We knew there would be a sharp conflict between those who wanted fair play for fellow Americans and those who believed that "... all Japs are alike and they ought to stay in the Relocation Centers."²

The only way to find out what the community reaction was likely to be was to put the thinking into action. The Cleveland conference of July 17, 1943, adopted a suggestion for enlisting the support of the Protestant ministers in Ohio. The Central Ohio office was commissioned to draft a letter and present it for review at the next conference. On October 15, the Cleveland conference approved the letter, which is cited in its final form:

Twenty-eight thousand four hundred and nine children need homes. These are the American citizens of Japanese descent who were evacuated from their homes on the West Coast. We are appealing to you for help. Here is what we would like you to do.

(1) Write or call upon the nearest War Relocation Authority office whose addresses are on the reverse side. He will help you get in touch with an interested family - this will not be easy. Transplanting people is always difficult; that is why we need your help.

(2) Find the head of the family a job where he can make a living. Find a house for the family to live in. Help them adjust to their new homes. Show them they are wanted in America.

(3) Use the material we are sending you as reference for study and discussion with your adult and youth groups. There is a job of education and democracy to be done.

(4) If some of these people have already come to your community, will you not have them on your mind and heart? Help them with their problems.

This letter calls for action. Is it too much to ask when Americans are in need of help?

Cordially,

Relocation Supervisor

There was a great amount of confidence among the WRA staff members that interest in the problem of Japanese-Americans could be gotten to the smaller communities through the channels of the church. The letter which was intended to sound out the congregations did not bring many inquiries. However, the amount of education which resulted was considerable. Many ministers discussed the evacuation in group meetings and study groups. A few of the churches wrote for literature and asked for assistance in scheduling a speaker for Sunday School or study classes. The Presbyterian Church, Delaware RFD, the Presbyterian Church of Wooster, and St. Paul Evangelical Church of New Bremen, Ohio, communicated with the WRA office and offered assistance in establishing new

homes in the community for the Japanese-Americans. On the whole, the results were disappointing.⁴

These experiences led to a re-examination of methods for enlisting more active support from the churches. Obviously there was a great deal of work to be done. The WRA personnel, never adequate to man all the various types of administrative, public relations, housing, employment, counseling, and reports for the Cleveland Area and Washington, undertook to work directly with the ministers. The relocation officers made direct contacts and carried the program to as many individual ministers as possible, considering the limited staff. A specific means of helping was outlined and gradually, as the program grew older and experience weighed more heavily, the Relocation Office developed a somewhat successful liaison with church organizations.

A great deal of favorable public relations and direct assistance came out of this program, which included appointment of ministers or church leaders to Community Resettlement Committees, acquainting the ministers and church groups with new developments in the program, supplying them with literature and pamphlets, sending the names of new arrivals to the ministers, contributing to church programs by supplying speakers, assisting in planning and giving church parties, requesting

⁴Approximately four thousand letters were mailed. Cf. WRA files and records.

church assistance in finding housing and accumulating used furniture for resettlers who needed a start, co-operating with churches in building lines of communication between center residents and church membership, and promoting employment possibilities such as secretarial positions and caretaker jobs with the church or through the church business men.

Of the Protestant churches in Columbus, the following made major contributions to the success of the resettlement program:

Rev. Harry G. Ford	Tenth Avenue Baptist Church
Rev. Robert A. Byler	Maple Grove Methodist Church
Dr. Harold Lancaster	King Avenue Methodist Church
Dr. C. M. Coulter	North Broadway Methodist Church
Rev. G. Lackland	Indianola Methodist Church
Dr. Boynton Merrill	Congregational Christian Church
Dr. Roy A. Burkhart	First Community Church
Rev. Robert W. Fay	Trinity Episcopal Church
Rev. Francis Ricker	First Unitarian Church
Rev. Almo Thorp	St. Stephens Episcopal Church
Milton Coleman	Friends Church, West Columbus
Dr. W. H. Thompson	Ohio Council of Churches

In the communities in Central Ohio the most active supporters of the program were:

Rev. Dale A. Fiers	Disciples of Christ, Newark
Rev. Russell W. Shepherd	First Presbyterian, Zanesville
Rev. Roland Carter	Methodist Church, Zanesville
Harold F. Jensen	United Presbyterian, Mt. Perry
Rev. Joseph A. Howell	Congregational Church, Radnor
Rev. James Wyler	Federated Church, North Jackson
Rev. E.J.A. St. Louis	Grace Methodist, Lima
Rev. U.L. Mackey	United Church, Wooster

Protestant organization of a non-sectarian nature helped in the social and religious orientation of Japanese-American resettlers. Foremost was the Friends Service

Committee. Its director, Jack Cavanaugh, employed Aiko Yoshihashi as office secretary in June, 1943. The Cavanaughs extended the hospitality of their home to resettlers until they could obtain housing.

Mrs. Lorenzo Fish, an aggressive leader and President of the Federation of Church Women, Columbus, was an active supporter of the program and a member of the Columbus Resettlement Committee. The War Relocation Authority did not make as much of her leadership as it should have done. This was one of the public contacts that should have been promoted constantly with work of one kind or another. The fact that it was not done must rest in the responsibility of the Columbus office.

Major George Cruikshank of the Salvation Army, 594 South High Street, opened the Social Service Center to Japanese-Americans, and extended the services of trucks for emergency use in moving furniture. When the Columbus hostel was opened in August 1945, the Salvation Army contributed most of the reconditioned furniture at a very low cost, and transported donated furniture from other parts of the city to the hostel.

The Y.W.C.A. and the Y.M.C.A. in Columbus were among the first of the lay religious organizations to extend a welcome to the Nisei. Terry Yemoto, one of the first girls to come to the city, was employed by the Y.W.C.A. She worked as a secretary and as an instructor

in handicraft arts. Alice Takauchi worked part-time at the "Y", serving as desk clerk during the evening hours. She was employed regularly by the State C.I.O. office in the Hartman Building. The Y.M.C.A. employed two Nisei girls as secretaries and typists. Housing was made available to some of the early comers. The Ohio State University Y.M.C.A., which was directed by Cecil Thomas, has employed two Nisei girls as office secretary and one is now holding that position. Other employers and benefactors in the early days of resettlement in Central Ohio were: The Ohio Council of Churches, Capital University, Otterbein College, the Lutheran Printing Press, and the Wooster Y.W.C.A. These institutions employed Nisei girls as secretaries, office clerks, and typists.

The Columbus Council of Churches, with headquarters in the Central Y.M.C.A., was organized in the spring of 1945. It came into the picture too late to assist materially with the work of resettlement. Its Executive Secretary, Rev. Donald Timerman, has expressed his interest in the post-WRA period and has become a member of the Columbus Resettlement Committee.

The North End Friends Meeting and individual members of the Meeting, have from the very early days of evacuation shown a truly Christian spirit in meeting the challenge to Christian democracy which was presented by the army's evacuation of the West Coast Japanese

population. Nisei, Issei, and Kibei, all came within the meaning of their human and charitable works. Their contributions in time and material resources is beyond estimate. Professor Charles Blackman, Dorothy Blackman, Professor Ralph Powell, Maud Powell, Cecil Thomas, Helen Winnemore, Emily Tinsley, Jack Cavanaugh, and Lynn Rohrbaugh gave generously of their time in helping the evacuees to realize a measure of security and happiness in their new homes. Specifically they furnished temporary lodging, surveyed the city for living quarters, introduced newcomers to other resettlers, invited small groups to their homes for informal get-togethers, channeled employment opportunities and tips on housing to the WRA office, sponsored a Columbus hostel, and were always in the vanguard of community thinking in challenging Unchristian and undemocratic activities. The contributions of the Friends of Columbus have been many, and because of the fundamentally Christian source from which they came, they are not finished.

On the whole, the church reflected the confused thinking of the membership. Sharp and conflicting opinions cut across the congregations. The intense nationalistic feeling that has been common to the dissenting protestant church was present. Too little was known about the American-born children of Japanese immigrants. They were generally classed with the enemy

across the Pacific. Sections of the Midwest were still insulated from any foreign influence, protected even from the history of our own American-born citizens, by the press as represented by the Chicago Tribune, the Hearst papers, and their followers. Ministers and groups within some of the denominations worked hard to bring the true meaning of the evacuation to their congregations. They pointed out that it was questionably constitutional, inhuman, undemocratic, and based upon racial prejudice. These ministers, aided by thousands of sincere church people, accomplished much in clearing the paths for the journey back to American life for thousands of Nisei and their parents.

Mrs. Rose Sugarman, Director of the Schonthal Center, 555 East Rich Street, organized interest among the Jewish people of Columbus. At the outset of the program she cooperated with the WRA office in a project to bring a resettler to the city and give her employment in the handicraft department of the Schonthal Center. She assisted in public relations work with the Jewish lay organizations by arranging a special program for the Associate Relocation Officer to meet with the Columbus Club for Jewish Women. The meeting, which was held at the Athletic Club in June, 1943, resulted in the disseminating of information to a very intelligent audience, one which was conscious of the problems of the Japanese-Americans.

The Catholic interest in the resettlement program in

Central Ohio was centered mainly in the Bishop of the Central Ohio Diocese. The Catholic Church was concerned with the charitable and religious administration to Japanese-Americans who were members of the Roman Catholic faith.

St. Rita's Hospital, Lima; Sister Eorentine of Mt. Carmel Hospital, Columbus; St. Mary's of the Springs College, and the Catholic Women's League of Columbus were helpful in the resettlement of five Japanese-Americans in Lima and Columbus.

PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE
COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION - EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

It was the opinion of WRA personnel that the numerous communities in Central Ohio which supported Christian denominational colleges offered more initial advantages and opportunities than some of the industrial and agricultural localities. The background of these college communities reflected more unprejudiced feeling because of the sprinkling of educators in the community and the experience of the townspeople who had had some social or business connections with Japanese-American students or Japanese Nationalist students in pre-war days.

The colleges, and especially those that had no Army or Navy training programs, were educational sources which were open to the Nisei youth whose education had been interrupted by the evacuation, and the senior members of the center high schools, who were beginning to finish pre-college work in December of 1942. Many of these youth - in fact the majority - needed the help of local churches, scholarship foundations, and people who would direct them to sources of part-time employment. Evacuation had taken a heavy toll in family incomes. Great losses had been suffered in leaving or selling homes and business. The adults of working age in the centers were paid from \$12 to \$16 a month for labor on one of the many projects. So few families had the means to send their children to college.

Colleges in Ohio accepted Japanese-American students as early as the autumn of 1942. In 1942 and 1943, over fifty Nisei boys and girls had enrolled in Oberlin, Wooster, Ohio Wesleyan, Dennison, Muskingum, and Otterbein Colleges.

The task of exploring the college communities for educational and relocation opportunities was assumed by the Columbus WRA office. In July 1943, Professor E. L. Dakan addressed letters to the leading denominational colleges in central Ohio.¹ In this letter he called on the presidents of the colleges to assist in building resettlement committees of "public-spirited business men, representatives of the Ministerial Association, and the college, to assist in finding new homes for Japanese-Americans."²

There was a prompt reaction from the colleges. All expressed an interest in the work of the WRA. Added encouragement came from Ohio Wesleyan, Wooster, Antioch, and Otterbein, where resettlement committees were formed or suggestions made for the membership of the committee.

Some educators were confused. President Tulloss of Wittenberg College wrote to Professor Dakan on August 5

¹Ohio Wesleyan University, Dennison University, Wittenberg College, Otterbein College, Antioch College, and Wooster University.

²Reprinted from a letter of July 27 addressed to Dr. Herbert J. Burgstaler, President of Ohio Wesleyan University.

that it was "the judgment of the Presidential Committee that the proximity to Wright and Patterson Fields and the large amount of defense industry in Springfield makes it unwise to encourage the placing of Japanese families in Springfield or of inviting Japanese-Americans to enroll at Wittenberg College. To this Dakan responded in a letter dated September 9, 1943:

May I say that I believe there are certain facts which the committee has apparently overlooked which I should like, in this letter, to call to your attention.

The United States Government, through its regularly constituted agencies which include the Army, Navy, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the War Relocation Authority, is aware that it is essential to protect all war industries not only from persons of Japanese descent, but from German, Italian, Irish, or any other race or breed of man who might hinder our war effort. The government would not be engaged in this enterprise if the relocation of these people constituted a danger to our internal security.³

This confusion was not confined to Wittenberg College; it was shared by other institutions in the state. Long negotiations were conducted by WRA officials with Ohio State University, Ohio University, and Western Reserve University.⁴ The Japanese-American Relocation Student Council, Philadelphia, carried the major burden of opening the doors of colleges. In 1942 and 1943 several hundred Nisei youth had enrolled in the smaller

³Letter, E.L. Dakan to President Tulloss, Sept. 9, 1943.

⁴The Cleveland Press, Sept. 16, 1944. "Western Reserve Lifts Ban on Nisei."

colleges throughout the land. But this was not the whole story. The great universities, particularly the land grant colleges of the Middle West and large institutions with heavy endowments, had "war contracts" which were defined as secret and confidential by Army and Navy Intelligence departments. Restricted action had been placed upon the enrollment of Japanese-American students. Thus the American-born Nisei found themselves caught between the invitations of co-operating local citizens and the military branch of the government which sought to restrict enrollment on the grounds that if unrestricted enrollment were permitted it might imperil military contracts and research in the laboratories.

This dualism was bewildering to many thinking people. They could not understand why American-born citizens were denied the same privileges as other youth. In the years of 1942-45, Ohio State University had students from every state in the Union and from foreign countries. Exchange students from the Latin American countries, where fascism had spread its political poison in schools and in public and private life, were enrolled in the University and pursued their studies without apparent interruption or discomforting supervision from the War Department. But this is a topic to which we shall return after looking at the results that came from the missionary work in the college and University communities.

Mr. Dakan's letter stimulated interest in Delaware, Ohio and a meeting of the Ministerial Associated invited him to address the group on the problem of the "Up-rooted Japanese-Americans." The meeting was held in October 1943 and resulted in organized support for the adjustment and integration of Nisei college youth and a family into the community life. In March of 1944, Ed Takahashi came from Poston, Arizona, and after a few days in Central Ohio he met Lynn Rohrbaugh, who operated a small printing business in his home and who owned a farm which was run down.⁵ He employed Ed to remodel the house and work about the farm, building up the fences, improving the land by planting grass crops, and taking care of the machinery in the printing room. Ed was to receive \$100 a month, farm products such as meat, eggs, vegetables, and fruit, and he was to repair and make habitable the old farm house for his living quarters. Julia Takahashi, Ed's wife, waited until school was over at the Poston Relocation Center before joining Ed in Ohio. In July she brought the family of six children. Four of them were of school age and the oldest was fourteen years old. When Julia arrived she faced heart-breaking hardships. The well to supply the water had not been drilled; the plumbing for piping water into the house had not been put in because of lack of

⁵The Rohrbaugh farm was located four miles from Delaware.

priority; the electricity was held up - again for priority reasons. As the summer wore on, however, improvements were made and by fall the house was made liveable.

Throughout this difficult period the Presbyterian Church helped with Christian good fellowship and all the Takahashi's attended the church. When Ed moved to a fruit farm six miles from his first home he continued to attend the Presbyterian Church. Members of the church were old friends, and when in November 1945 the writer saw Julia helping to prepare the turkey dinner that was to be given in the little church, he could not help but think that this family had realized some happiness in its search for a new home. Certainly some of the anguish of relocation days was gone.

The collective effort of a handful of people in Delaware made it possible for the Takahashi family to take root in the community and to find there a sense of belonging and a welcome in the everyday life of the community.

Nine Nisei students have enrolled in Ohio Wesleyan University since the fall of 1942; one of the first, George Unemura, Minidoka Relocation Center, was elected president of the Senior Class for 1946.⁶

Another example will illustrate the help which

⁶The Columbus Dispatch, November 27, 1945.

flowed from the solidarity of community leadership when that leadership enlisted the co-operation of the church and school. In a letter to Everett Dakan, Charles F. Wishart, President of Wooster College, Wooster, Ohio, wrote:

I think I would suggest the following as members of the committee which you describe in your letter of July 27.

John D. Overhold; Dr. R. M. Bethke, Ohio Experiment Station; Dr. Mary Z. Johnson, Wooster College; and Guy Richard, Secretary of the Board of Trade.⁷

Through these community leaders and others who became interested, directly or indirectly from their activities, ten Nisei students have attended college at Wooster. The Y.W.C.A. selected a Nisei girl as office secretary.

Dr. Francis S. Howlett of the United States Agricultural Experiment Station, Wooster, accepted the applications of many Nisei boys who had specialized or worked in the field of agronomy. The office of the War Relocation Authority brought experienced men to his attention and the Experiment Station employed three young men in the work of experimental grain adaptation to soils and climate, and in the productivity of greenhouse soils. William Yamazaki, formerly of Berkeley,

⁷August 3, 1943.

California and Topaz Relocation Center, was employed in February 1944 and with his wife, Sue, and their young son they became permanent residents of the Wooster community.

Tony Takashima, who had taken post-graduate work at Lincoln, Nebraska, was employed in June of 1944 as chemist and has conducted research in greenhouse soils for the Experiment Station. Tony helped to bring other resettlers to the Wooster area through his constant interest in the resettlement program.

In May of 1945, Yoshie Hata, a young man from Heart Mountain Relocation Center, accepted a position with the Agricultural Experiment Station. He ran soil tests in the greenhouse area of northern Ohio and carried on statistical research at Wooster. His family, including a sister and his mother, moved to Ohio in July, 1945.

Community acceptance in Wooster was favorable because there were a few influential people in the college and the town who helped the Japanese-Americans to adjust. Housing was found through the co-operative efforts of friends. The students of Wooster College encountered few disagreeable experiences. They were socially accepted by the student body and found a rounded experience in the college and in the circle of student friends.

A recognized Professor of Mathematics at Denison University, Dr. H. Kato, Issei, remained in his position

throughout the war. He was subject to the wartime restriction on the movement and travel of aliens, and so remained quietly in the little village of Granville. Wherever possible he rendered what help he could give to the resettlement program. Mos Hoshide and his wife relocated from the Minidoka Relocation Center in May, 1943 through the hospitality of Dr. Kato. Hoshide was a jeweler and watch repairman before evacuation in Seattle, Washington. After moving to Granville he worked in his home repairing watches for local jewelers. He was not successful in opening his own shop because of local feeling. In the fall of 1945 he returned to his former home in Seattle, Washington.

Many Nisei students attended Denison University during 1943-1945 school terms. Their social life, although circumscribed by the provincial narrowness of the village, was full and satisfactory in the company of student friends and the campus activities of the student body.

Otterbein College, located in Westerville, Ohio, a village north of Columbus, was one of the first schools to admit Nisei students. The President, Dr. Rufus Howe, helped the WRA to organize a small resettlement committee. There was some prejudice in Westerville when the first Nisei students enrolled in January, 1943. It showed itself in the business section and localized in spots like the barber shops. President Howe offset this

influence by his public relations work with the leaders of the community. He spoke before groups and conversed effectively with fellow-members of luncheon clubs. He had the support of F.O. Clements, a retired engineer, who had been one of the pioneer research men with General Motors Research Laboratory. In 1944 Mr. Clements employed Zennosuke Uchimoto of Gila River, as gardener and Mrs. Uchimoto as housekeeper at his home in Westerville. The Uchimos have one daughter in Wisconsin and a daughter, Laura, who lives with them in Westerville. Laura is a senior in the local high school and has become completely integrated into the community. Her high school activities program is broad; she is a member of the school orchestra, girls' glee club, debating team, and the "Y."

Other college communities where students are enrolled and where acceptance has been won after a period of education in the backwaters of the community business and residential sections are Heidelberg College at Tiffin; Wilmington College, Wilmington; Muskingum College at New Concord; Bluffton College, Bluffton; and Ohio University (a state-supported school) at Athens.

The support of the Christian colleges was an important aid in the relocation and education of many Nisei. The table below illustrates the significance of these college communities in resettlement in Central Ohio.

RESETTLEMENT IN CENTRAL OHIO COMMUNITIES
OUTSIDE THE COLUMBUS DISTRICT, 1943-1945

	Total Resettlement Figures	Evacuee Population As of Jan. 1 1946
Athens-Ohio University	2	0
Bellefontaine	4	0
Bluffton-Bluffton College	3	1
Covington	1	0
Delaware, Ohio Wesleyan	19	14
Gambier, Kenyon College	3	1
Granville, Denison Univ.	11	6
Greenville	1	0
Lima	15	1
Mansfield	10	4
Marysville	3	0
Milford Center	4	0
Mount Vernon	12	12
Newark	2	0
New Concord-Muskingum College	8	5
Springfield, R.F.D.	4	4
Tiffin-Heidelberg College	3	0
Westerville, Otterbein College	10	7
Wilmington, Wilmington College	2	1
Wooster, Wooster College	18	12

EMPLOYMENT, COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION, COMMUNITY ADJUSTMENT,
AND HOUSING IN SPRINGFIELD, ZANESVILLE, NEWARK, MANSFIELD,
AND LIMA.

Outside Columbus there were other cities in Central Ohio which indicated possible resettlement opportunities. Mansfield and Lima had large industries as well as many small and diversified activities. Wages were high and labor scarce. Newark, Zanesville, Springfield, and Marion were looked upon as likely communities where a limited relocation program might be undertaken. These latter communities were not so highly industrialized as Lima and Mansfield, wages were lower, and the past history reflected more conservative a tone than either Lima or Mansfield. They did, however, have war industries and War Manpower reports listed them in the second and third categories of critical manpower needs.¹

It was useless to circularize these communities in order to get complete coverage, because it had been demonstrated in the publicity work of 1943, to farmers and ministers, that the returns were out of all proportion to the time spent on the preparation and mailing of the material.²

The Central Ohio office, therefore, undertook to

¹Labor Reports of the War Manpower Commission, December, 1944.

²See the topics titled "Churches," "Agriculture."

explore these communities by direct personal surveys.³

A thorough investigation was made of community sentiment, labor needs, housing, church responsiveness, employer and labor attitudes, and co-operation of county, state, and federal agencies. In short, interviews were held with the most likely individuals who might (collectively) give a fair estimate of the opportunities for successful resettlement.

Springfield, Ohio, the first community to be surveyed, proved to be a dud. Employers and ministers were only mildly interested in the labor supply and need of the resettlers to find new homes for relocation. Other leaders in the community were of the opinion that there was no labor shortage in the community.⁴ Some were apprehensive of the racial problem. During the 1920's, Springfield had been the scene of a race riot between the Negroes

³This survey was conducted in February and March, 1945. The Relocation Officers of the Columbus district had made many trips to these communities, but owing to the pressure of work and the necessity of being in the Columbus office, had not spent sufficient time in the communities to evaluate their resettlement possibilities. When William Mackey was appointed Associate Relocation Officer in February, 1945, the staff was sufficiently reinforced to undertake additional assignments which required painstaking work and a great deal of time.

⁴The Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, Superintendent of the Public Schools, President of Wittenberg College, The County Agricultural Agent, the head of the United States Employment Service, and the Director of F.P.H.A.

In the Spring of 1943, Professor E.L. Dakan had worked with the county agricultural agent in presenting the availability of Japanese-American labor for farm employment. The country agricultural board at that

and whites, and community spokesmen thought that the introduction of Japanese-Americans into the community might revive the racial disturbances. It appeared that the underlying fear in Springfield was a renewal of the racial troubles, which twenty years before had resulted in the calling in of the National Guard to quell the disorders.

Newark and Zanesville, medium-sized cities, were visited following the unsuccessful effort in Springfield. In Newark, Donald Shaeffer of the Owens Fiber Glass, W.T. Ennor and L.C. Acklin of the Aluminum Company of America, Ferber Marshall of the Ferris Rubber Company, and H.L. Maddocks of the Maddocks Construction Engineers were interviewed for employment possibilities. John H. Gilbert of the War Manpower Commission was also interviewed. We received no employment offers from these contacts except a promise from the Aluminum Company of America that Japanese-Americans would be interviewed for office positions and laboratory jobs. H. L. Maddocks of the Maddocks Construction Company wanted a couple to work on his farm estate and offered \$50 a month for their services.

Palmer Jones, the County Agricultural Agent, had cooperated with the Columbus Office. In 1944 he had notified

4(Cont.)

time had passed a resolution against the employment of Japanese in Clark County agriculture. This feeling had spread to Champaign and Madison Counties, and the Relocation program made no successful resettlement in this area.

all the fruit, grain, and dairy farmers that Japanese-American labor was available. During that season we placed one evacuee on a general farm near Granville. The boy who was placed was a Kibei. He worked for James Slayter, an executive of the Owens-Fiber Glass Company.⁵ He was a steady worker and learned general farming very fast. His employer was fully satisfied and was sorry to see him drafted in August, 1944.

During our visit to Newark in February, 1945, Palmer Jones was again helpful. He personally conferred with Sally Jones, a wealthy farm owner and nationally known breeder about the employment of a family on her estate.⁶ On February 14, 1945, he wrote to the Columbus Office after a preliminary survey of farm needs. His letter throws some light on the difficulties that were encountered in finding homes and employment for Japanese-Americans on Ohio farms.

Dear Mr. Spicer:

We have been investigating the possibility of placing Japanese-American families on farms in Licking County, and find about 80% of the people objecting to the idea. For this reason we are not at present taking an aggressive attitude in encouraging the placement of any Japanese families. We will, however, inform those persons desperate for help of the possibilities and point out that if they are interested

⁵The evacuee received \$50 a month and room and board. He became quite well known in the community because of his personal habits of cleanliness.

⁶Housing accommodations were a Number One consideration

we will be glad to put them in touch with War Relocation authorities to work out a prospective placement of a Japanese-American family.

One such farmer is J.F. and H.H. Walker, Woodbine Farms, Box 226, Gambier, Ohio. Mr. Walker would be interested in hiring a Japanese-American family. He has a tenant house with electricity, furnishes four hundred pounds of pork, fuel, flour, one acre of garden, 1/2 gallon of milk, and will pay prevailing or better wages. The nature of the work is varied. He has heavy machinery, such as combine, pick-up baler, etc., beef cattle, purebred sheep, and orcharding.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) Palmer Jones
County Agricultural Agent⁷

Again on February 16, Palmer Jones wrote to us that he had arranged for a meeting of the County Farm Labor Committee to discuss seasonal labor requirements and the feasibility of using Japanese-Americans.⁸ This meeting was held on February 26, in the Licking County Courthouse, Newark. The Relocation Officer spoke to about fifty grain, dairy, and fruit farmers. The only interested farmer was J.F. Walker, and the relationships established with him during the meeting resulted in a future relocation arrangement for the resettlement of two families of twelve persons.⁹ In March, a general

of Relocation Officers in interesting evacuee families in farm labor. The most promising combination of employment and acceptable housing from the viewpoint of the evacuee was generally found on the country estate. Tenant houses were kept in good state of repair and were modern or semi-modern.

⁷Palmer Jones to Carl L. Spicer, February 14, 1945.

⁸Palmer Jones to Carl L. Spicer, February 16, 1945.

⁹December, 1945.

farmer, Mr. W. S. Fisk of RFD #1, Newark, placed an employment offer with the Columbus WRA office. The wages were good - \$100 a month with farm produce and housing. But the housing was poor. It was a log cabin, one hundred or more years old. There was no water. Two evacuees were interested in the place but when they saw the tenant house they lost all interest in the offer.

The Rev. Dale A. Fiers of the Disciples of Christ Church, Newark, helped to promote the resettlement program in the community. He attempted to enlist the support of his congregation in providing employment and housing for a family. The church needed a care-taker, and he placed an offer with the WRA office. The employment offer was circularized to all the relocation centers but there were no acceptances.

Zanesville, Ohio, a pottery town, which had received some stimulation from the migration of war plants as sub-production or assembly centers, was surveyed in February.

Ernest Snell, Manager of the United States Employment Service, was intelligent on the subject of Japanese-American resettlement, but was noncommittal on the reaction of the employer and labor representatives to resettlement of Japanese-American labor. There was need for labor in the pottery industry, the National Battery

Company, the Timken Roller Bearing Company, and the glass factory. Wages, which were fixed by the War Labor Board, were low. The jobs which were open paid 60¢ - 65¢ per hour for males and 50¢ per hour for women.

The farm needs were limited to a few possibilities on fruit farms and specialized turkey and poultry farms. William Bembower, Acting County Agent, assisted the Relocation Officers by referring two offers to the Columbus WRA office. These offers were channeled through the Farm Emergency Labor Office, Ohio State University.¹⁰

Conferences were held with Larry Hess, Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce; Ernest Snell, War Manpower official; William Bembower, Acting County Agricultural Agent; E.J. Schwitzer, Superintendent of Timken Roller Bearing Company; E.R. Windish, President of the Roseville Pottery, Inc.; Frank Black of the National Battery Company; Perry Wilson, Y.M.C.A. Teen-Age Club Secretary; Gertrude Stanley, Secretary of the Y.W.C.A.; Mrs. Urula Benson, Director of the Benson Nursing Home; Rev. Roland Carter, Methodist Church; and Rev. Russell Shepherd of the First Presbyterian Church.

The work in Zanesville did not result in the relocation of any Japanese-American families, but favorable public relations were built up with the Y.W.C.A. and a continuing interest in the program was centered in Miss Gertrude

¹⁰Charles M. Johnston, Rt.#3, Zanesville, Ohio; and Frisby Brothers, turkey growers of Cumberland, Ohio.

Stanley.¹¹ Through her efforts a strong inter-racial council was formed and an active program adopted for the 1945-46 winter season. The War Relocation Authority was given the opening engagement on this program and the reception of the council members was sincere and enthusiastic.¹²

A few miles from Zanesville, the little village of New Concord nurtures the old Presbyterian College, Muskingum, and to the east the Veterans Hospital for the treatment of the wounded is located in the Muskingum hills. Many Nisei students have enrolled in Muskingum College. It was one of the first schools in Ohio to accept Japanese-Americans. The Veterans' Hospital had cares for Nisei boys wounded in the European zone. The Zanesville Y.W.C.A. had taken a personal interest in the boys and girls from Muskingum, and has extended its hospitality to Nisei who came into the city.

Mansfield, Ohio, presented one of the best localities for resettlement activities. The community was progressive in caring for the welfare of its citizens. The schools were modern and enjoyed good administration and well-trained

¹¹The WRA office received one offer from Zanesville. It came from the Benson Nursing Home in 1944. Although widely publicized in the centers, there was no interest from the evacuees. The offer included employment for four people, mother, father, and two girls of working age to act as nurses. The salary was \$200 with a modern apartment and food.

¹²November 15, 1945.

teachers. Wages were high and the unions and management got along. There was a great deal of community pride and progressive leadership in public affairs.

Its industrial history was steady and all through the '30's wages remained high and there were relatively few unemployed.¹³ Its industrial strength was due to the numerous home factories which had been successfully developed by and held in the ownership of local capital. The Ohio Brass Company, the Tappan Stove Company, The Barnes Manufacturing Company, and the Ideal Electric Manufacturing Company were local industries with financial strength and national recognition of the products. The Westinghouse Electric Company and the Mansfield Tire and Rubber Company represented outside interests.

Japanese-Americans had resettled in Mansfield in 1943 and 1944. Two of these early resettlers had gone on to New York, but Tokuki Furuta lived in Mansfield until drafted into the U.S. Armed Forces. He had come down from Cleveland and secured a job in a cigar store. Community reception had been good. Chick sexers spent two months of each year in Mansfield, and enjoyed friendly relations with the employers and townspeople.

Housing was difficult in Mansfield but not as tight as in other communities, such as Lima and Columbus. The

¹³From oral conversations with the Executive Secretary of the Community War Chest, the Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, and the Treasurer of the C.I.O. County Committee.

surveys by the WRA showed some apartments in the hotels, rooms in private homes, and a number of tenant and servants' quarters on estates and farm-estates.

It was possible to make a careful study of the cross-section of Mansfield community because of the public-relations which had been built up in the community years before by William Mackey, Associate Relocation Officer. He had served as chaplain at the Boys Reformatory and he had many friends among the business and professional men of the city.

Conferences were held with the following industrial and business leaders in the community:

Roger Black, President	The Ohio Brass Company
Mrs. Jane Williams, Ex. Secy.	Mansfield Community Fund
Charles E. Payne, Mgr.	Stuhldreher's Floral Co.
Otis Sowash	Sowash Cleaning Co.
Robert Mahler, Mgr.	Commercial Motor Freight
John Routzen, Secretary	Chamber of Commerce
Dwight McCullough, Vice Pres.	Barnes Manufacturing Co.
William Locke, Mayor	City of Mansfield
George L. Draffton, Mgr.	The Ohio Brass Company
A. J. Goldsmith	Clothing Store
Glen Vinson, President	Ideal Electric Mfg. Co.
Reese Mills, Asst. Vice Pres.	Westinghouse Mfg. Co.
Frank Berkie, Personnel Mgr.	Mansfield Tire & Rubber Co.

The historical background and the aims of the WRA program were discussed with the secretaries of the Y, the leading clergymen, officials of the C.I.O., the Superintendent of Schools, the County Agricultural Agent, the War Manpower Director, and many small business men and subcontracting machine tool plants. The editor of the Mansfield Journal was interviewed and agreed to co-operate in the resettlement program.

At this late day in resettlement, the District WRA offices were primarily interested in the placement of Issei and family groups. A special effort was made in Mansfield to find opportunities on the many estates on the outskirts of the city, and in the hotels where housing was furnished. Two employment offers resulted from this survey. Employment offers were received from Glenn Vinson, Ideal Electric Manufacturing Company, for a couple to work in his home. Earl Bates, Manager of the Fairview Hotel, worked out a plan to employ all the members of a family; the parents were to take charge of cooking and cleaning, the boys to hop bells, and the girls of working age were to operate the elevators.¹⁴

The Mansfield Metal Products Company, The Barnes Manufacturing Company, and the Commercial Motor Freight, Inc. opened employment to Nisei and Issei applicants at wages ranging from 60¢ an hour for unskilled labor to 85¢ and \$1.00 an hour for experienced mechanics and machinists.¹⁵

The survey of the Richland County farm employment situation was co-ordinated with the work of George B. Ganyard, County Agricultural Agent. The type of farming practiced was general farming and dairying. Grain

¹⁴The wages offered by Glenn Vinson were too low to attract a couple. The offer was originally \$65 a month and later was raised to \$75.

¹⁵All these offers were channeled to the employment offices in the relocation centers. Inquiries from Issei about the hotel job were received but several attempts to place a family there ended without success.

production supplied 30% of the local income. Two large potato farms and three orchards in the county had no openings for Japanese-Americans.

In the nursery and greenhouse industry a placement was made with the Stuhldreher Floral Company, Mansfield. Roy Teraishi of the Heart Mountain Relocation Center was employed for rose growing. In June, 1945, Roy came to Mansfield with his wife, Fusae, and their two children, Ben, four years, and June, one year, of age. The Teraishi family made their home in a remodeled apartment which was owned by the Floral company. Their experience in Mansfield has been a happy one, and Roy has proved a steady and dependable worker.

The War Relocation Authority in Columbus maintained a close liaison with the Mansfield community through the office of Jane Williams, Executive Secretary of the Community Fund. Her friendly and co-operative spirit has helped immensely in preparing the community for Japanese-American resettlement. A letter written to William Mackey is broad in insight and understanding.¹⁶

I am tremendously interested in the project taking root here in Mansfield because I believe the smaller communities have need to demonstrate their real Americanism as well as the large cities, and real Americanism begins with putting democracy into action.

¹⁶Jane Williams to William Mackey, February 19, 1945.

Resettlement plans for Lima, particularly for family groups, was a matter of lengthy deliberation on the part of the Columbus office staff. Both Mr. Spicer and Mr. Mackey had a first-hand knowledge of the community from previous lengthy residence there. Moreover earlier attempts of Japanese-Americans to resettle there were met with adverse pressures and active resistance. In the spring of 1943, Calvin Seraa and his young wife had gone there from the Cleveland Relocation office and were employed by Howard Fletcher. Calvin was employed as gardener on Mr. Fletcher's estate. A threatened boycott of the Lima Storage Battery Company, owned by Fletcher caused the eventual departure of Calvin from Lima. He came to Columbus and secured a job on the estate of a local physician.¹⁷

¹⁷Related to Carl Spicer and William Mackey by William Fletcher. Cf. correspondence in the Cleveland Area office addressed to Harold Fistere.

Another unsuccessful resettlement attempt was made by Tom Schoonover, a philanthropist and local capitalist. He employed a very talented young Nisei couple to manage a farm in the Lima rural area. After eight months of unsuccessful attempts to adjust to the rural community, the young couple moved to an eastern city.

William Ishida, a graduate of a western university, resettled in Lima in 1943 and made a success with the Ohio Woolen Mills.

There was a critical manpower shortage in Lima. It was the result of tremendous wartime expansion of the Lima Locomotive Works, makers of tanks; the Westinghouse Electric Company; and The Ohio Steel Foundry; plus the partial breakdown in community services. "... lack of housing and general inadequacy of community facilities, including recreation, feeding facilities for Negroes, transportation, schools, child care, health service, and sanitation..."¹⁸ were the words of the Federal Council report.

The housing situation was critical. The city was jammed with whites from the southern states and drifting labor from other sections of the country. There had been a large movement of southern Negroes and their families to Lima, to work in the Ohio Steel Foundry. Many of the Negroes were crowded into flimsy trailer camps on the city's outskirts. There was a rawness about the city and a tenseness in the submarginal living sections.

Teachers, public health workers, and concerned community leaders were powerless to improve the situation. In one school the attendance reflected the planting season in the Kentucky mountains. The children just didn't go and the parents backed them up. As one teacher put it, "You can imagine the problems we face."

¹⁸Report of the Federal Council, February, 1945.

The same detailed study was made in Lima as had been made in Mansfield. Employment offers were received from the Lima Woolen Mills for twelve Nisei girls as spinners and weavers. The starting wage was 55¢ per hour. After five weeks training the girls were to be advanced to 77¢ an hour. The plant was modern and equipped with new machinery. The work was light and clean. The workers in the mill were organized under the C.I.O. Textile Union, and the Union accepted Japanese-Americans on the same basis as any other workers.¹⁹

The Merchants' Forwarding Company employed George Hirota, Harry Ikegami, and Minoru Hamada from the Poston Relocation Center. These men were automobile mechanics and earned 90¢ an hour beginning wage, with time-and-a-half for overtime (over 40 hours a week) and periodic increases in wages. Jimmie Nemoto from Heart Mountain was employed with the same company but he was a tire builder and left his job to come to Columbus. The three mechanics worked in Lima for a brief time and then went on to Chicago.

Other employment offers were received from the Memorial Park Cemetery, and from Jervis and Zeller, Architects. St. Rita's Hospital employed Henry Teshima as a pharmacist.

¹⁹Confirming letter, William R. Reiser, Lima Woolen Mills, to Carl L. Spicer, March 21, 1945.

A conference with the Ohio Steel Foundry officials brought no results. Following a discussion with R. A. Settlemire, personnel manager, we received the following letter:

Gentlemen:

After discussing this with Mr. Dudley, he definitely states that we are not interested in any respect. It would just be a matter of waste of time to discuss it further²⁰

Because of the unsettled temper of the community, the Relocation office from Columbus requested a small group of people to act as a resettlement committee advisory council. The council was composed of Judge Raymond Smith, Probate Judge, Allen County; Mildred Phillips, Business Secretary of the Y.W.C.A.; Betty Collins, case supervisor, Aid to Dependent Children; and Rev. E.J.A. St. Louis, pastor of the Grace Methodist Church.

On December 21, when this paper is being written, the Lima community had one resettler. Fifteen evacuees had lived in the community during the period May, 1943 to December, 1945. Four had returned to California; three had gone to New York City, four to Chicago, and four had moved to Columbus.

The most successful resettlement venture was made by William Ishida. He came from the Gila River Relocation

²⁰Letter, R. A. Settlemire, March 9, 1945.

Center and made his way in his job with the Lima Woolen Mills and in the community. He spoke to many groups - church and civic - and when he left for Fresno in November, 1945, he counted many close friends among all types of people in Lima.

Henry Teshima, mentioned earlier as pharmacist at St. Rita's Hospital, is still in Lima. (A resident family, the head of which was proprietor of Jacque's Restaurant, and who died after the outbreak of the war, has not been included in this population summary.)

EMPLOYMENT

Employment was the first concern of the Japanese-American resettler. His exile in the relocation centers and the fears of prejudice which might be encountered on the outside were conditioning factors in all the later efforts to relocate himself and his family. From official and unofficial sources he gathered a mountain of information - facts and myths, mingled in the volume of reports, letters, government releases, and countless other bits of information which flowed into the centers.

Letters from friends were the most persuasive items to come to the attention of center residents.

Booming industrial centers such as Chicago, Cleveland, and Detroit, attracted large numbers of Nisei soon after the exodus from the centers began, and there was a natural pulling power once these resettlers had become situated and began writing back to the centers. Smaller cities were not so popular. Columbus was one of these medium-sized cities which had no initial advantages except that it was a nice place to live.

The WRA office took what seemed to be the most promising steps to secure suitable employment for resettlers in the city. Successively in May, June, and July of 1943 the staff conferred with War Manpower officials (U.S.E.S.), the Governor, C.I.O. and A.F. of L. heads, managers and superintendents of factories, hospitals, professional and

commercial business houses, Chamber of Commerce officials, and employers in general.

Wade Hammond, Director of the U.S.E.S. in May, 1943, was helpful during these early months. His support was indicated by the appointment of Mary Ishakawa as comptometer operator in the statistical department of the WMC, a position which she held until the spring of 1945. She was accepted by her fellow employees, but other qualified office workers who later applied were not employed. Ed Broughton, employment officer for Ohio (WMC) attributed this to the influence of a few prejudiced department heads and desk workers. The most outspoken was the assistant employment manager for Columbus.

Since the U.S.E.S. was a clearing house for all labor hired in war industry, the establishment of good relations between WRA and U.S.E.S. was one of the desirable aims of the local office.

From the point of view of the Relocation Officer, the WMC was a governmental agency engaged in the crucial task of recruiting manpower for the work of war production. The referral and recognition of the rights of Japanese-Americans to earn a living in gainful employment was in line with the function of the WMC-USES. It therefore became a policy to cultivate good relations with the top and bottom of the USES personnel. The Relocation

Officer came to know the referral personnel behind the counter, and got an idea of the attitudes of the average employee. Carl Zartman, in charge of the placement of handicapped workers and assigned the job of interviewing Japanese-Americans, looked upon their referral as the toughest assignment of all. Miss Tinker, in charge of all female referrals, was objective and successful in making placements in several offices and homes.

The Director of the Columbia Area of the WMC, Ralph Gabelé, encouraged the WRA to develop its employment service to resettlers to the point where all employment activities could be handled by the WRA itself. As he explained it, war department restrictions, and the necessity of maintaining controls and regulations for the stabilization of labor, and the upgrading of Negroes (a racial issue which had come to the fore in several of the major war plants) had added considerably to the burden of WMC-USES responsibilities. In other words, ours was a minor problem and we ought to be able to handle it with the resources we could command. It did not matter that immigrants were subject to all the controls of the WMC and when engaged in essential industry, they were subject to the labor stabilization program. Thus, with minimum co-operation from the U.S.E.S., WRA built up its job referral service to a point where all resettlers secured jobs and none were idle who were able and willing to work.

In February 1945, the need for reviewing the developments, which came thick and fast in December and January and which looked ahead to the closing of the relocation centers and the resettlement of the remaining population in various sections of the country, with the WMC-USES officials was realized. Robert Cullum, Relocation Supervisor, conferred with Carl Keenan, WMC Director for Ohio (succeeding Wade Hammond, who became deputy director) and out of this discussion came a proposal to provide in-service training for USES personnel.

In August, Cullum and the Relocation Officers of the Cincinnati and Columbus districts held conferences with all the department heads of the USES. The issues were bared and fruitful discussions resulted. Improvement in referral service in both Cincinnati and Columbus was achieved. The end of the war brought improved relations. Earl Duncan, Manager of the USES, had returned from the army with an intimate knowledge of the Nisei 442nd Combat Team. His understanding of the Japanese-American problem was quickly transmitted to others who worked with him.

Since October, 1945, a noticeable change has been reflected in the services of the USES TO Japanese-Americans. The applicants for jobs, unemployment insurance, and counseling have been serviced in a normal way. The furtive

kind of concern which was often felt has given way to a more open and friendly exchange of information between interviewers and applicants. "One swallow doesn't make a summer" but the overnight falling-away of psychological barriers, present all through the war period, is a good promise for the future.

Political considerations barred the open support of Ohio's Chief Executives in the WRA employment program. Without records, it is impossible to relate the "backstage" policies which grew out of the WRA resettlement program in Ohio. Everett Dakan has given an account of the conference held with John Bricker, the Governor, in his report, which is attached. Governor Lausche was never seen in formal conference despite attempts of the Relocation Supervisor and the local Relocation office to arrange such a meeting. In July, when the Relocation officer, after two weeks of contacting the Governor's outer office, talked with Lausche over the telephone on another matter, the governor introduced the subject of employment and indicated that it was not possible to employ Japanese-Americans because of the "job seekers" in Ohio who were waiting for the openings in state departments.

Tailoring of jobs (fitting a job to a specific applicant rather than the reverse) was common in Columbus. So many of the applicants who wrote in from the centers

wanted a job which fit their preconceived notions. Finding such a place often consumed a disproportionate amount of time, and was wasteful, particularly inasmuch as applicants often refused the place when they arrived. The only value it had beyond such successful placements as were made by teletyping and writing to the centers, was the information which went out to employers about the program. This kind of placement was abolished in the metropolitan centers like Cleveland and Detroit, where a backlog of employment openings covered most fields, but in Columbus it was one of the principal methods of bringing employer and employee together.

Many job offers were never filled because there were no "takers" in the centers. To overcome the disadvantage of being a low-wage district, the Columbus office employed a highly personalized placement procedure and follow-ups were made on all placements. Descriptive pamphlets were written in co-operation with the Reports Officer of the Cleveland Area office. The work of Godfrey Frankel, Reports Officer, was exceptionally good - his pamphlet on Opportunities for Issei in Central Ohio was well received in the relocation centers and created a great deal of interest among center residents (1945).

In May, June, and July, 1943, a city-wide canvassing of factories and business concerns by informational letters, telephone, personal visitations, and direct

referrals to employers, opened up several employment opportunities for resettlers. The best results came from a letter which was circularized to all plants and businesses which were associated with the Chamber of Commerce. Delmar Starkey, Secretary of that organization, assisted in the survey by making accessible their complete mailing list, and by running an article in the news sheet which was put out by the Chamber of Commerce publicity department. Scores of interested employers called the WRA office, but as was so often the case, only a few were interested to the point of employing Japanese-Americans. The Weinman Pump Company, a non-union war plant; the David Davey Meat Packing Company; and the Lennox Furnace Company sent employment offers. The Weinman Pump Company sent employment offers which were accepted by Meyo Okawara as office receptionist and Frank Minata as lathe operator. This concern liked Japanese-American employees and jobs were always available in their machine shop.

Visitation by the Relocation officer to plants and talks with personnel managers opened other opportunities. The Felber Biscuit Company, The War Manpower Commission, The American Education Press, Grant Hospital, Scott Seed Company, Baker Art Gallery, Columbus Consumers Co-op, and after January, 1944, practically all other fields, were opened in this manner. The Felber Biscuit Company,

despite low wages, became a popular place for Japanese-Americans. Richard Kanazawa, a young man from Manzanar Relocation Center, was the first Nisei to be employed. When there three months, he was advanced to a supervisory job, in charge of the maintenance of plant equipment. Many others, Nisei and Issei, followed and there were no reports of discriminatory action on the part of management or fellow employees.

Domestic offers were plentiful. Wages averaged \$14 a week. During the first year of WRA many Nisei girls took employment in homes. Sisters, Grace and Helen Kobayshi, were the first to resettle and take domestic employment. Grace has now entered nurses' training at Grant Hospital and Helen was married to Frank Murata and moved to Omaha, Nebraska in the fall of 1943. The excellent work done and the reputations earned by Nisei girls in Columbus homes was one of the finest factors contributing to the acceptance of Japanese-Americans and in group adjustment to the community. Nori Hasiko, employed by a surgeon, was the most successful of domestic employees. She made a career of her job, and when in June she returned to California, she was offered \$2400 a year to remain with her employer. She was companion to the children, secretary if need be, and a competent manager .

Employment summaries, giving wages, type of work, and a description of the community, were gotten up monthly

and incorporated into an area Job Bulletin, which was sent to all the relocation centers. These bulletins were valuable aids in resettlement.

The assignment of Relocation officers to centers to cultivate a better working relationship between district offices and relocation center staffs was occasionally done. The results were good, especially for the smaller offices, because of the tendency of areas to be thought of in terms of such cities as Cleveland, Chicago, and New York. The Relocation officers in the centers needed knowledge of district staff members to do a good job of educating center residents to outside employment possibilities. The writer was assigned to Tule Lake in July, 1943 and to Heart Mountain in April, 1945. The results were among the most heartening of all work accomplished in thirty-two months of service.

But one case of discrimination was reported in Columbus. Terry Yemoto was employed by A. Gundersheimer, Manager of the Fashion Clothing Company. She went to work in the alteration department and encountered prejudice. The manager of the department, a middle-aged woman, asked for her removal, but Gundersheimer refused. He interviewed Terry and assured her he would support her against any move to force her out. The situation, however, was uncomfortable and Terry voluntarily resigned. Several months later, the woman who had caused her resignation came to her and apologized for her actions.

Other department stores did not accept Japanese-American applications. Public relations work was conducted with the F. & R. Lazarus Company, and while the Manager of Employment was favorable, he cleared for policy before making a decision with officials higher up. The directing heads of the organization decided against cooperation with the War Relocation Authority.

Labor unions did not play a conspicuous part in resettlement work in Central Ohio. The area is not highly unionized and the WRA did not run into labor resistance in plants where Japanese-Americans were employed. In all cases where management opened unionized plants to Japanese-Americans, their acceptance into the unions followed. The C.I.O. rendered invaluable assistance to the program. A conference with George DeNucci, C.I.O. Regional Director in May, 1943, swung his influence and support to the program. Ted Silvey, Secretary of the Ohio C.I.O., in a conference with Carl L. Spicer, looked upon the resettlement as a challenge to the progressive leadership in labor and emphasized his beliefs by employing Alice Takeuchi as office secretary to the State C.I.O. office.

The American Federation of Labor was passively interested in Japanese-American relocation but did not respond to requests for active endorsement of the program.

EMPLOYMENT

Company	Male	Female	Type of Work
American Education Press	1	1	Clerical, Artist.
Buckeye Parking Corporation	1	-	Laborer
Allis-Chalmers Mfg. Co.	-	1	Secretarial
Columbus Consumers Co-op	1	0	Managerial
Columbus Coated Fabric	-	2	Labor, Machine
American Friends Service Com.	-	2	Secretarial, Clerical
Arlington Beauty Shop	-	2	Beautician
Adjutant General, Depot	-	2	Labor
Baker Art Gallery	1	-	Photographer
American Blower Corporation	1	0	Labor
Children's Hospital	0	2	Laboratory Technicians
DeSantis Bros. Nursery	3	0	Rose growers
Duchess Beauty Salon	0	2	Beautician
David Davey Meat Packing	1	0	Labor
Firestone Retread Shop	1	0	Tire builder
Felber Biscuit Co.	5	4	Machinists Oven helpers
Columbus Plastics, Inc.	0	2	Labor
Family & Children's Bureau	0	1	Secretary
Franklin Life Insurance Co.	0	1	Secretary
Gilbert Shoe Co.	0	1	Clerical
International Stacey Corp.	1	0	Trucker
War Food Administration	0	1	Secretarial
Goodrich Tire Company	1	0	Recapper

Company	Male	Female	Type of Work
Indianola Methodist Church	0	1	Secretarial
National Carloading Corp'n.	2	0	Loader, Checker
Grant Hospital	0	1	Nurse
Lutheran Book Concern	0	1	Clerical
Tucker Orchid Nursery	4	4	Nursery work
Olentangy Village	2	0	Maintenance
Ohio State University	3	2	Agronomy, Library, Secretarial
Ohio State University Y.M.C.A.	0	2	Secretarial
Central Y.M.C.A.	0	2	Secretarial
Franklin University	1	0	Instructor
Capital University	0	1	Laboratory Asst.
Schiff's Shoe Co.	0	1	Clerical
Y.W.C.A.	0	2	Switchboard, instructor.
Rembrandt Studios	0	1	Retoucher
George Gibson	2	0	Bean sprout culture
Penn. R.R. Freight	1	0	Freight Handler
Weinman Pump Co.	1	7	Secretarial, machinists
C.I.O. State Council	0	1	Secretarial
Ohio Council of Churches	0	1	Secretarial
War Relocation Authority	0	2	Secretarial
War Manpower Commission	0	1	Secretarial

Company	Male	Female	Type of Work
Long's Book Store	1	1	Clerical
Hennick's Restaurant	1	0	Clerical
Isaly Restaurant	0	1	Clerical
McClure Nesbitt Motor Co.	2	0	Mechanics
Southern Hotel	1	0	Kitchen helper
Brown Dry Cleaning	1	0	Presser
Lang's Dry Cleaning	1	0	Spotter
Fashion Clothing Co.	0	1	Dress alterer
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture	1	1	Economics, Clerical
Domestics, single and couples	15	46	Housework, gardeners, chauffeurs

Farm Employment

The Central Ohio district did not prove a success-area for the development of agricultural opportunities. Information published in farm journals and agricultural papers, co-operative undertakings with the Emergency Farm Labor Office (directed by Guy Dowdy and his Assistant Pat Henry), and direct contacts which were made with the County Agricultural Agents were the principal methods used to interest farmers in the employment of Japanese American labor. Everett Dakan and Carl Spicer made numerous calls on farm leaders and talked before many meetings in rural communities. The WRA office followed up every promising lead and made periodic trips into the field to talk with farmers. A limited number of opportunities were developed. The sum results of our labors was the placement of five families in the district. Mickey Furuta was employed by Cone Howard, Union County. Ed Takahashi located in Delaware County. Minor Kobayashi accepted a share proposition in Licking County, and four Nisei youth were employed on farms near Newark, Greenville, and Wooster.¹

Some good offers were developed by Everett Dakan in 1943 but the wages, which never exceeded 50¢ per hour, did not attract resettlers. The demand for seasonal

¹This figure does not include four families who were placed on the estate of Mrs. O.M. Tucker, owner of the Tucker Nurseries. Everett Dakan and Professor Lowry of the Horticulture Department of Ohio State University made these placements possible.

workers which had been favorable in Michigan did not materialize in Ohio until March 1945. By that time the short term leave had been abolished.

The low wages, generally poor housing, unfavorable climate for former West Coast farmers, one-crop season, and inexperience of evacuees in dry farming were disadvantages. Rural isolation was another. Economic fear of competition by the resident farmers and prejudice ingrained from long indoctrination of misleading information about our Japanese-American population were other unfavorable factors. The war added to the difficulties of breaking down the resisting barriers of rural conservatism.

The report of Everett L. Dakan takes into consideration the experiences in WRA work with the agricultural communities. (See attached.)

Pamphlets on Michigan and Ohio Farming were written by Carl L. Spicer in co-operation with the WRA Area Reports Officer.

BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENT

Central Ohio did not produce any successful business ventures. One partnership was operated by George Gibson, a Columbus business man, and George Kakiuchi, a resettler from Rohwer. It was a small business - bean-sprout culture - and was conducted successfully until the partnership was dissolved because of a misunderstanding between the partners. Evacuees from Poston, Rohwer, Chicago, and New York came to Columbus to survey possible farm sites, but after investigation in the vicinity of Celeryville, Kenton, and Wooster (vegetable country) they decided against purchase or lease of land. One farmer, Ed Takahashi, applied for a loan through the Delaware County Farm Security Administration but his application did not show adequate earnings on the load investment and he was asked to submit a revised plan. (There was no question of discrimination involved.)

The community resources which were available to other interested persons who sought assistance in business were open to Japanese-Americans, The Columbus Chamber of Commerce, Better Business Bureau, Legal Aid Counsel, private business and investment brokers, and state and city counseling and information bureaus were sources of business data and advisory counsel. The Federal bureaus and agencies, of course, were valuable points of contact for prospective business men. Tom Sasihara, Cleveland Area office, spent

two days in Columbus (July, 1945) gathering data on business opportunities and municipal, state, and federal regulatory agencies for licensing, tax, and rationing regulations. Mr. Sasihara was not of the opinion that Columbus offered favorable business opportunities to resettlers except in a limited area - mainly restaurant and possibly vegetable growing.

A business arrangement was entered into by J. A. Walker, a fruit and vegetable farmer of Mt. Vernon, Ohio and Minor Kobayashi of Tule Lake Relocation Center in November, 1945. That contract stipulated a fifty-fifty share on fruit and vegetable production. Advance credit for seed and cultivation was guaranteed by the owner.

COMMUNITY ADJUSTMENT

The cultural heritage of the Japanese-Americans was a mixture of the old world and the new. The Nisei had advanced beyond the threshold of new world customs, but many of the first generation Japanese-Americans were closer to the culture of Japan. Integration in California had been slow, especially in the communities where the Japanese settlements had remained a cohesive unit. The dispersal and later resettlement in Midwestern communities of small numbers gradually introduced problems of community adjustment. The need for a satisfying social environment and the orientation to the social and business ethics of strange communities was a problem common to any national group, but it was particularly hard for the Japanese-Americans, faced as they were with the problems of getting acceptance in communities where little was known of their past history and traditions and where abnormal emotional patterns had arisen because of the war.

Early in the program, the War Relocation Authority recognized the importance of informing leaders in social, business, labor, farm, educational, religious, welfare, law enforcement, and press areas of the Japanese-American resettlement program. Through these efforts, together with the educational program of the Washington WRA and the exemplary attitude of the resettlers themselves, a great deal of influential community support was built up. The Middle West, however, in the broad sweep of events showed

a friendly and receptive attitude toward the Japanese-Americans. In the metropolitan centers the adjustment of resettlers was surprisingly good. Few incidents marred the relationships of the resettlers and their city neighbors and fellow workers. Settling down into the social life was a slower process.

Community adjustment in Central Ohio was aided by the fine co-operation of the resettlers. Some of the pioneers among them were called upon by churches and civic groups to tell the story of evacuation and relocation, and all through the period 1943-45 they responded to invitations to speak or participate in public meetings. In Columbus alone, more than forty talks were given by Tom Okawara, Yoshiye Ogata, Mary Ishakawa, Dr. George Kido, Eiko Yoshihashi, and Heize Oshima. These talks were supplemented by meetings and talks by WRA staff members and members of the Resettlement Committee. Helen Gerhardt talked before many women's clubs and church groups in Columbus, Lancaster, Circleville, and Canal Winchester.

The film, "A Challenge to Democracy," was shown before large audiences in the Columbus Y.W.C.A., Y.M.C.A., Ohio State University, the schools of Perry County, and the inter-racial council of Zanesville. A public-relations program was being planned to show this documentary film in other towns and cities when the government announced the closing of WRA offices in Columbus and Cincinnati.

The adjustment of Japanese-American youth in the schools and colleges was rapid. North High, Bexley, Grandview, Aquinas, and University High Schools in Columbus enrolled Nisei youth without question. George Hinoke of the University High School established lasting friends in the classroom and on the athletic field. John Nishi, Bexley High, and Jimmie Osuga of Aquinas, made good records in class and extra-curricular activities. Children in elementary schools did not encounter prejudice - on the contrary they were received with warm friendliness by the teachers and students. Rural schools were no exception. Oftentimes they became the subject of too much attention. The boys and girls of school age had few problems of adjustment in their school environment other than those common to all youth.

The Nisei who were employed found their social life more circumscribed. The churches and the Y.W.C.A. took a special interest in these young people. The Unitarian Church, the Friends North End Meeting, the Broadway Methodist Church, the Tenth Avenue Baptist Church, and Westminster Foundation (Ohio State University) gave parties, young peoples' meetings, and religious ceremonies in which Nisei participated.

The Y.W.C.A. was the center of planned programs for the adjustment and integration of resettlers. In 1943 the Nisei girls who were employed in domestic and office work were invited into the Girls Business Club.

In the same year a special class of Nisei was organized to study speech. Meetings of the Issei and Nisei in Columbus were held in the "Y" in December 1944, July and December, 1945. These meetings brought the resettlers together for a talk by the national director, and for recreational and social diversion. The theatre, music, lectures, and sports programs of the city were enjoyed by the Nisei. Informal gatherings at International House and at the homes of resettlers, friends, and neighbors helped in adjustment.

Tom Okawara, a voluntary resettler from Fresno, California, was a valuable aid in co-ordinating affairs of the Issei and Nisei with the Caucasian churches, civic groups, and business men. He was an accepted leader and his home was a Mecca for the Columbus resettlers. He gave counsel in business and helped to find homes for newcomers into the community. He spoke for the settlers before inter-racial groups and in churches. For a time he was connected with Franklin University (Y.M.C.A.) and advanced the cause of Japanese-Americans through his association with downtown civic leaders.

The following letter is quoted as giving impressions of an evacuee about resettlement which are illustrative of phases of community adjustment:

There are fifty evacuees fast becoming loyal Columbusans. We boarded trains back to America less than five months ago with an audacious front, quaking heart and stomach squeamish with fear. As the wheels of the train clipped the

miles away from the relocation centers, the wall of self-consciousness and indignation diminished and crumbled away. Every gesture of consideration on our part brought favorable responses from others on the train. To them we were first a fellow traveler sharing as best we could the insufferable traveling conditions of a nation at war.

If we were a bit different in appearance, so much to our credit - it made us interesting. "Tell me," they said after they had been told what we had left behind. Gingerly we told of life in camp, citing the instances of adjustment which had rather amazed us at first. . . .

We didn't have to scratch deep under Columbus soot-coated exterior to find that there were things and people in Columbus that warmed this evacuee's heart. Immediate associates did their darndest to expose us to the best that the city had to offer.

Newspapers have taken a very liberal and open-minded stand here. Some very good editorials have been published, as have been several feature stories, with cuts.

We have now passed from the tourist into a resident stage. We share an apartment with three other girls. Wartime conditions have uprooted them from their normal haunts, so, we find, we have much in common. Freda is a girl from Oklahoma; Betty, a blond Georgian who shares quarters with her, reminisces of Georgia just as we do of pre-war California. We know now, better than we ever did before in our lives, that we belong . . . to a work-a-day world full of average people contributing and sharing in the benefits, as well as the sacrifices, demanded of every American during the war.¹

The Division of Social Administration (Department of Social Welfare) and the county welfare agencies

¹Letter, fall 1943. Writer's name withheld on request.

co-operated with the WRA office in assisting in family welfare needs and emergencies after relocation. Robert Canary, Assistant Chief of the Ohio State Welfare Board, took a very considerate attitude on the subject of resettlement assistance. Because of the small resettler population in Central Ohio the Welfare Department was not called upon in many emergencies. Our first emergency was in 1943 when Frank Fukuda received medical assistance from a Columbus physician. Ill health made it necessary for Fukuda to return to the relocation center. The Department of Welfare was asked to honor the debt, but due to the retroactive action, the Social Security Board, Washington, ruled that it could not be paid. (This debt was cleared by the Columbus resettlers by co-operative action.

In 1944 the Marion County Welfare Department assisted with the burial expenses of Mildred Kakeuchi, who had died of complications in a Columbus hospital. In 1945 resettlement funds were granted to George, Kathleen, and Rosie Ogura for transportation to Salt Lake City. Other emergency funds were granted to families who were in need of temporary financial assistance in Franklin County. Delaware county approved a plan for the long-time assistance of a member of Ed Takahashi's family.

The Family and Children's Bureau, a war chest agency, was helpful in counseling. Much use was made of the Legal Aid Clinic, located at Ohio State University.

Resettlers were referred there for advice on legal matters and for referral to competent lawyers. Resettlers who purchased homes also received assistance from the Clinic.

The Columbus Council for Democracy, representing 1500 prominent citizens from all national and social groups, and which sponsors community plans and programs for better racial understanding and tolerance, was active on behalf of the resettlers. The President, Ray Reinert, personally investigated one case of prejudice on Oak Street, where the Fugikawa family was the object of threats by a fanatical woman. The incident was quickly settled. Charges of unfair practices, of wage discrimination, or prejudice on the part of employees or employers can in the future be referred to the Council.

Other agencies to assist in direct co-operation with the WRA were:

Community Fund of Columbus and Franklin County
Franklin County Relief Administration
American Red Cross
Columbus Board of Education
The Parent-Teachers Association

In 1944 and 1945 the Ohio Welfare Department allotted space to the War Relocation Authority for a display of photographs and materials at the State meetings held at the Deshler-Wallick Hotel. In December, 1945, the State Parent Teachers Association included the display arranged by the WRA Area Reports Officer in its array of illustrative material at the meeting in the Deshler.

HOUSING

The average person never became conscious of the housing shortage until the veterans began to return and raise their voices loud enough for Congress to hear the ominous rumblings in communities everywhere. The War Relocation Authority had this problem from the moment it opened its doors. Some communities were worse off than others. In Ohio, Columbus, Dayton, Lima, and Massillon were the most severely hit in the early stages of the war. Later on, Cincinnati, Toledo, and Cleveland developed critical housing problems.

The history of housing falls into two stages. The first stage represents the period from April 1943 to July 1944, when the majority of resettlers were single men and women - young people who left the centers and came to the Midwest to find employment and new homes. The second stage saw an increase in family groups coming to join other members in the community or entire families relocating for the first time. The latter movement of families raised more difficult housing problems, and it coincided with the tightening situation in all sections of the country.

Housing for single people, young men and women, never presented too difficult a problem to the WRA in

Columbus. Through national and local agreements the co-operation of the "Y" organizations was secured. Temporary living quarters were obtainable for single persons, and unexpected arrivals could always find overnight accommodations in one of the "Y" hotels or in one of the many hotels of the city.

Industrial and professional jobs did not attract a great number of resettlers to Columbus. The wage scale was low and particularly discouraging when compared to the wages paid in cities like Cleveland, Chicago, Detroit, and Toledo. Domestic employment offered more equitable returns, and quite a few single girls found employment in homes where housing problems were automatically solved. Issei and Nisei couples with no children and those with a small family were frequently placed in homes where a combination of domestic work and gardening or chauffeuring was wanted. Often times such employment carried separate living quarters for the family. Approximately one hundred and thirty of the resettlers who came to Columbus and Central Ohio found housing in connection with employment. Of this number, twenty-one were family groups, comprising 70 adults and children, while 60 were young men and women who lived with their employer.

Community support was gradually built up to help with housing problems that presented emergency problems.

The most consistent service was centered in the International House, a dormitory for foreign students which was sponsored by the Ohio State University. Professor Robert Gerhard and his wife, Helen, were resident house-father and mother. They had returned to the States in 1942 from Japan, where they had been for many years teachers in North Japan College. Interned at the beginning of the war they were among the last refugees to secure passage on the Gripsholm. International House under the management of Mr. and Mrs. Gerhard became a warm and hospitable center for Nisei students and young couples in the University district. Nisei male students, upon their arrival in Columbus, were often "put up" until permanent rooms could be found, and five of the boys secured permanent quarters at the House. The residence became one of the gathering places in Columbus for Japanese American resettlers. Informal parties and just visiting and conversational groups helped immeasurably in the social orientation and integration of many Nisei.

The volunteer services of local citizens was an extremely important factor in housing single persons for temporary periods. Dorothy and Charles Blackman, Maude and Ralph Powell, Everett L. Dakan, Mrs. Carl Spicer, Tom Okawara, John Nakagawa, Eiko Yoshihashi, Mr. and Mrs. George Gibson, Rowena Kessler, and Yoshiye Ogata were often host and hostess to young people who had not yet

found permanent living quarters.

All the methods suggested by the Washington office - house-to-house survey, emphasizing employment in connection with housing needs, survey of suburban real-estate operators, ads in newspapers, letters to churches, service clubs, and individuals, caretaker jobs in apartment buildings, tagging the mailman and moving vans, and the like - all these methods were tried with varying degrees of success. The telephone in the WRA office, the leg work of the Relocation officers, the persistent efforts of resettlers and friends of the Japanese Americans, secured practically all of the housing for resettlement.

National and local organizations, set up to assist in housing problems, did not noticeably affect the numbers who wanted shelter. The War Housing Authority and the Metropolitan Housing Agency were solicited to help in securing housing for the families of Nisei soldiers and resettlers. These organizations, either because of depressing load or indifference, were unable to help.

The Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority represented the only government housing project in the city. Permanent housing for low income groups was available in two centers, namely, Lincoln Park South and Riverside Homes Project.

After a great deal of public relations work with the Director of War Housing, City Hall, and Russell Taylor,

Director of the Metropolitan Housing Authority, the Relocation officer was invited to confer with the Administrative Council of the Metropolitan Housing Authority.¹ The result was the passing by oral vote of the Council of a resolution which would permit three Japanese-American families to apply for housing units in the Riverside Homes Project, located on West Rich Street. Although the Relocation Officer protested the limitation by quota as being discriminatory and selective, the Council overrode the protest and the resolution stood as passed. Two families were subsequently referred to the Manager of the Riverside project, but some technicality always arose to keep the people from becoming tenants.²

In February, 1945, the Director of the War Housing Authority, John Blackford, informed the WRA office that housing turnover had fallen to 1/2 of 1% in the Columbus area and that under such conditions the office could render no assistance to immigrant Japanese-American families. This office, which closed in April 1945, referred two vacancies to the WRA office during its official existence.

Co-op houses in the Ohio State University district assisted three Nisei by taking them into membership. Massa Yamomoto, a discharged veteran, and Paul Itaya,

¹May, 1945

²The Hinoke and Furuta families. Both had sons or brothers in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Cincinnati, Ohio, became Co-op students at the Robhdale Co-op Center, 1979 Iuka Avenue; and Ray Kitayama of Indianapolis was taken into the Stadium Club, where meals and room were secured for \$90 a quarter (three months.) Other Nisei students (girls) applied for dormitory space in Canfield Hall and were accepted.

The difficulties of finding housing for large family groups was sometimes overcome by resettler purchase of homes. Jimmie Numoto of Heart Mountain purchased a large double on Indianola Avenue. Tom Okawara brought a single frame near the University and when he relocated to the evacuated zone, sold to Tak Sumeda, a serviceman who moved his family from Poston, Arizona. Frank Iroshima, a Keebe and a serviceman, stationed at Fort Hayes, purchased a double on Lazelle Street. Half of this double was converted into a Hostel in August 1945. The North End Friends Meeting sponsored the Hostel and the furnishing were supplied by donations and funds given for the purpose to the Relocation Officers, Carl L. Spicer and William Mackey. From its opening date, August 25, 1945 to January 1, 1946, the Hostel accommodated 26 resettlers, 10 of whom were adults and 16 children.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Ohio State University, Columbus, was one of our major problems. It is a land-grant college, supported by the tax-payers of Ohio. When evacuation was announced the doors of the University were closed to Nisei citizens. The action was taken by the President of the University with the approval of the Committee of Deans of all the colleges. The reason for this action, as told to Everett Dakan and National Director Dillon Meyer, by the President, Howard Bevis, was based on the government's policy of excluding Japanese-Americans from West Coast institutions.¹ It was argued that the government had imposed restrictions on these people and the University was following the precedent set by the federal government. The University officials indicated that the restrictive policy of the University could not be changed until the government had lifted the ban and cleared the Japanese-American people.

The beginning of the winter 1943 saw the rising interest of Japanese-American students in the centers as expressed in numbers of boys and girls applying for admission to midwestern universities.² Applications were

¹Everett L. Dakan, personal notes.

²The number of applications received at Ohio State in 1942-45 is not known but various professors have estimated the total to have exceeded two hundred.

sent to the registrar at Ohio State University; in view of the lack of positive action, it is assumed they died there. There is no record of evacuees having been enrolled as students in the fall of 1942 and winter and spring quarters of 1943.

The office of the War Relocation Authority was not notified by center WRA school officials or residents when the students sent in their applications for enrollment.³ All attempts on the part of Relocation officers to secure any information from the University Registrar or the Vice-President, Bland F. Stradley, were futile. In 1944 Relocation officials clarified this situation to some extent by requesting student advisors in the relocation centers to notify the WRA office when an application was made to the University. The local WRA office in Columbus also established good relationships with the Japanese Student Relocation Council in Philadelphia and benefited from the news notes that went into that committee's monthly news release to all the relocation centers. We were somewhat successful in promoting the idea that the experience of the local office would be of assistance in presenting the credentials of the applicant to the University officials. We also advised students to come personally to Columbus to register, rather than to write to the university

³The non-evacuated Japanese-Americans and the voluntary evacuees seemed to get more consideration than those who had been evacuated from the West Coast in the spring of 1942.

As might be expected, there was considerable looseness in the university's policy. The restrictive measure did not blanket all Nisei students. A Japanese-American student was admitted in the fall of 1942. This student, Enid Okawara, was accepted in the School of Social Administration. Enid was from Fresno, California. Her father, Tom Okawara, had been a recognized criminal lawyer in that city. The family voluntarily evacuated from the Fresno area and came to Columbus so that Enid could continue her education. They purchased a home on Neil Avenue and resided in Columbus until June, 1945, when the family returned to Fresno. Kenny Okawara, a younger brother of Enid, attended North High School and upon graduation enrolled in Ohio State University. In 1944 he was drafted into the Armed Forces and entered the paratroop branch of service.

Although Enid was admitted to the University, she was denied the privilege of taking laboratory courses. During 1944 she worked part-time in the University Library. She was graduated in December, 1944.

In the spring of 1944, the relocation office interviewed Vice-President Harvey H. Davis on two occasions, and Vice-President Bland Stradley. The two officials held to the University policy and would offer no easement of the University's stand.

In May, the Relocation Officer visited a number of

professors and instructors on the campus and sought to get their assistance in forming a committee to review the question of admission with the President. Among the people interviewed were Louis Raths, of the American Federation of Teachers; Alan Griffin, President of the Federation of Teachers and member of the American Association of University Professors; and Margaret Willis, instructor in the University High School.

In June, a committee composed of Edgar Dale, Louis Raths, Margaret Willis, and Beth Linbach met with the President. Miss Willis writes of that meeting:

... the meeting was illuminating but not particularly encouraging. I asked whether the P.S.Q.'s did not represent an official government clearance. The answer was that "We are investigating that."

Mr. Stradley told us that it was the policy of the University to admit "a few Americans of Japanese ancestry" and that he had admitted one the day before. He would not give us any idea of the basis of selection.

It is my personal opinion that reactionary forces have been applying pressure behind the scenes and that the only way to counter it is by similar pressures, applied with discretion but with a veiled but unmistakable firmness.⁴

The approach of the Fall Quarter of 1944 found no noticeable change in the attitude of the University officials. In August the Relocation Supervisor of the Great Lakes Area visited the University and in the company of the Relocation Officer interviewed Vice-Presidents Davis

⁴Letter, Margaret Willis to Carl L. Spicer, June 1, 1944.

and Stradley, with the purpose of getting a modification of the University's policy. During the interview both Davis and Stradley stated the policy of the University, which is summed up in Mr. Robert Cullum's letter to the officials on his return to Cleveland:

Mr. Spicer and I both were glad for the opportunity to discuss with you and Dr. Stradley the matter of admission of students of Japanese ancestry to Ohio State University. We appreciate your frankness in outlining the position of the University. Since this matter may be discussed further with military authorities and with the Director of WRA, I wish to take this opportunity to confirm the primary points of our discussion.

The considered policy of Ohio State University calls for a few Nisei admissions for the autumn term; in general, it is to limit severely but not to prohibit matriculation of students of Japanese ancestry.

Under no circumstances will persons of Japanese ancestry be permitted to attend laboratory courses. This will apply even though the individual is an American citizen who has been honorably discharged from the United States Military Service. Reference is made to Masaaki Yamamoto, honorably discharged veteran, who has been in attendance at Ohio State during the past year.

These policies are based on two primary considerations: first, the matter of security for projects of the armed forces functioning on the Ohio State campus, and second, the adopted administrative policy of the University.

We mutually agreed to the propriety of requesting an review by the Provost Marshall General's Office of the present need for such restrictions on your campus. (Clearance by the Provost Marshall General's Office is the recognized method of clearance of Nisei, for all restricted educational institutions, whether the source of concern is the Army, Navy, Air Force, or other special organization.)

The concern of the University with regard to attendance of Japanese ancestry goes beyond that of the PMGO; the policy of the University to limit Nisei enrollment to a few is primarily the result of an administrative decision.

The University Administration feels that Americans of Japanese ancestry who want to enroll for university credit can secure their education in other college or universities if they are not accepted for enrollment in Ohio State, and consequently no hardship is placed upon Nisei desiring higher education.

Please let me know at your earliest convenience if this summary is in any way inaccurate in the statement of your policies.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Robert M. Cullum
Relocation Supervisor

There was no response to this letter. On September 11, Masaaki Yamamoto, the discharged veteran, requested the assistance of the WRA office in getting a relaxation of the University's policy in excluding Japanese-Americans from laboratory classes. Masaaki was a "pre-medic" and unless he could secure the necessary required credit in laboratory science he would be unable to enroll in the School of Medicine. If he transferred to another school he would have been penalized by the loss of credits.

Masaaki's case was carried to Lieutenant Colonel Duke at Fort Hayes, who was on the Governor's Commission which worked with Ohio State University on the vocational training of discharged veterans. Lt.Col. Duke said he

would present the case to the University, and on September 20 he called and informed the WRA office that Masaaki would be admitted into laboratory classes; he added that Vice-President Stradley would make the arrangements.

Akiko Shiotani of Gila River was enrolled in the Autumn Quarter, after a committee of interested professors, including H. Gordon Hullfish and Harold Alberty, had taken her case to the President.

On September 8, 1944, the Cleveland Regional Office informed the Columbus district office "that the War Department has removed requirement of PMGO clearance of persons of Japanese ancestry attending or employed by educational institutions important to the war effort. Students to be accepted at all schools on same basis as any others. No further action will be taken on cases pending. Consult army security officer if question arises."⁵

This action of the War Department removed all restrictions on Nisei youth. The information was transmitted to Bland L. Stradley on September 23, 1944.

In January, 1945, a definite liberalized attitude was beginning to develop in the University. Mr. Ronald B. Thompson, who had been appointed Registrar and University Examiner, wrote to the Columbus Relocation Office that the whole matter had been taken up with the University

⁵Teletype, September 8, 1944.

faculty, and that the meeting was interpreted as a vote of confidence in a more liberal policy. He further stated that several students had been admitted for the Winter Quarter.⁶

Since January, 1945, the Registrar has co-operated in every possible way to secure the enrollment of Japanese-American students in the University. The enlightened and fair-minded attitude has attracted students from all parts of the country.⁷ A check of the enrollment in December, 1945, shows 20 Nisei students attending the Arts, Commerce, Engineering, Education, Medical, and Agricultural Colleges at the University. Two have come from Hawaii, while others have enrolled from Cleveland, Cincinnati, Columbus, and Akron. Three have come from Poston Relocation Center, two are enrolled from Heart Mountain, one from Gila River Relocation Center, and one from Minidoka Relocation Center, the latter being a transfer from Indianapolis. In December, 1945, Miss Fumiko Yoshihashi became the first Nisei to be employed by The Ohio State University.⁸

⁶Letter, Ronald B. Thompson to Carl Spicer, Jan. 12, 1945.

⁷Before coming to Ohio State University, Ronald B. Thompson had been Registrar at the University of Idaho. He had known many Nisei students in that University, where the enrollment exceeded one hundred.

⁸Miss Yoshihashi was appointed an office secretary in the Department of Education.

RESETTLEMENT COMMITTEE
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Mr. Ralph Bennett
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141 North Front Street
Columbus, Ohio.

Prof. and Mrs. Charles Blackman
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Mr. Paul Itaya
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Mr. Orville Jones
State C.I.O.
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Miss Rowena Kessler**
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Mr. John Kavanaugh
Am. Friends Service Comm.
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Prof. and Mrs. Ralph Powell
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Mr. Wayne Putnam
State Social Security Board
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Miss Irene Riley
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Mr. Lynn Rogrbaugh
Cooperative Recreation
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Mr. Carl Smucker
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** Chairman

RESETTLEMENT COMMITTEE

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Mr. Tony Takashima
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Rev. Donald Timerman
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Mrs. Emily Tinsley
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Ohio State University
Columbus 10, Ohio.

Miss Eiko Yoshihashi
2614 Indianola Avenue
Columbus, Ohio.

Miss Fumiko Yoshihashi*
2614 Indianola Avenue
Columbus, Ohio.

* Secretary

Historical Sketch

E. L. Dakan
November 21, 1945

The War Relocation Authority in Columbus, Ohio 1943

The War Relocation Authority opened its office in Columbus, Ohio in late March, 1943. This sketch will be a personal account of my activities and my personal opinions and reactions from the opening of the office until the middle of March in 1944, and my subsequent connection with the Authority as a consultant WOC until June, 1945, when I again undertook active assignment in Cleveland as Relocation Officer, finally terminating my connection with WRA on August 31, 1945.

It is my intention in this report to use case histories wherever possible to illustrate my point, rather than to attempt to follow a chronological order of events. The reader of this report should bear in mind that usually case histories have the weakness of implying that they are exceptional cases rather than typical. In some instances, this is bound to be true, but I shall attempt to avoid it as much as possible.

The major part of this report will deal with the public relations and attitudes in central Ohio, particularly Columbus. As everyone associated with the organization at that time knows, the great question in the minds of all the workers was that of community acceptance of evacuees. We had been instructed to investigate the acceptance of

evacuees in every community and almost in every job within the community, before the evacuees were permitted to resettle. A further handicap in those beginning days was the policy laid down for the Relocation Officers that our job was to put the employer in contact with the prospective employees in the Center. Looking back on that policy now, it seems that it could never have existed. As I dictate this statement I am a little uncertain in my own mind that I may not be imagining the thing. Such a policy could only have been possible with an organization that was attempting to do a job, but was itself afraid that its program would backfire--a policy, which to put it mildly, lacked courage and certainly lacked conviction. To be sure this statement is to use a former college term, "Monday morning quarterbacking." It is easy to see defects from this distance.

Some of the reasons why this policy was followed and seemed justified can be illustrated by recalling experiences of those very early days. A few of these will be enumerated.

Mr. John Barringer, head of the Feeds and Fertilizer Division, Ohio Department of Agriculture, had made inquiry regarding the possibility of employing a biological chemist, a person who had had experience in vitamin analysis. I had in my files the name and the address of such a qualified person, and wrote Mr. Barringer and suggested that he get in touch with the evacuee, who was at that time in one of the Centers. Correspondence for this is in the WRA files, so names and addresses are omitted here.

In a short time after this letter was written, Governor John Bricker, wrote me that he wanted no more such referrals to any state department.

A copy of the letter from Governor Bricker follows together with my answer.

STATE OF OHIO
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COLUMBUS

JOHN W. BRICKER
Governor

April
Fourteenth,
1943.

Mr. E. L. Dakan,
Relocation Officer,
War Relocation Authority,
A. I. U. Building
Columbus, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Dakan:

We do not want any more recommendations such as the one about which you wrote Mr. John W. Baringer, Chief of the Division of Plant Industry, on April 5th. Please let me know if you have made any other such recommendations to any department of state government at once.

Yours very truly,

(s) John W. Bricker

JWB:bh

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3500 A. I. U. Building

Columbus, Ohio

April 16, 1943

Governor John W. Bricker
State of Ohio
Columbus, Ohio

Dear Governor Bricker:

I am enclosing all communications between the War Relocation Authority office and state employees. A word about these letters may help you understand them.

Letter A was addressed to a number of people who are interested in the problem discussed in the letter. The first name, Mr. Ray Wiseman, is employed in the Department of Markets. This letter is general in nature, and does not recommend anyone for a position.

Letter B addressed to Wilson Ishida suggests that he have his brother talk to Dr. Joseph Gourley regarding a job of mowing grass on the campus at the Ohio Experiment Station. I am this morning writing a letter to Dr. Gourley telling him about your letter.

Letter C and D are duplicates, in which I ask these men to let me know of any jobs available for George S. Kido.

Letter D is the material sent to Dr. DeLong and Dr. Hauser referred to in C and D. Mr. Kido does not ask for a state job.

Letter E is the one about which you wrote me. Please observe this is not a recommendation. It is merely a reference.

I shall do my very best to prevent communication between the War Relocation Authority and state employees.

I am very anxious to have a talk with you about our program. I have asked your secretary, Mrs. Henry, to arrange a meeting at your convenience.

Very truly yours,

E. L. Dakan
Relocation Officer

ELD:gl

- 5 -

An appointment was made with Governor Bricker to discuss with him our program soon after the episode referred to above occurred. The Governor, in that meeting, was outspoken and stated that if it were possible and the solution of the Japanese problem in America were left up to him, he would send every Japanese back to Japan. When it was pointed out that some 70,000 of these people were born in this country, he recognized that there would be some difficulty in deporting them, but still insisted that that would be a happy solution if it were possible!

Some months later when Mr. Dillon Myer was in Columbus, an appointment was made with the Governor, and together we went over with him again the program of WRA at this conference, he was less certain, I think, of himself. Certainly less outspoken, and while he gave no encouragement, he did give us the impression it was not his intention to make any public statement that would injure our program.

It might be recalled in this connection that in my first interview with the Governor, he made reference to having had dinner with a family in Westerville, Ohio by the name of Clements, who had a "Jap" houseboy. This young man waited on the table during the meal and the Governor made reference to the fear of the guests during this meal.

A further statement on this connection would be interesting. The young man in question was a graduate of the University of California with a degree in Engineering. I was instrumental in getting him a job in Dayton, Ohio. I have never yet had an opportunity to tell the Clements about this incident. I am sure they would be hesitant to believe

it, because they have since that time employed other Nisei and Issei, and would be incapable of understanding the attitude of their guests on that occasion. I made another visit to Governor Bricker's office during the early days in the hope that I might convince him that there were certain state institutions that would benefit from employing technically trained evacuees. He promised at that time to have a meeting of his cabinet, put the question to them and leave it to their decision, and that he would not insist upon his own attitude being followed. I was not invited to this meeting. It would be very difficult for me to imagine Governor Bricker's Cabinet at that time taking any stand contrary to the known belief and sentiment of the Governor, who it must be remembered, was approaching a National election, especially a national nomination in which his friends, to say the least, were promoting him as a candidate for the Republican nomination for President of the United States.

I believe Governor Bricker denied during these months that he was a candidate. Everyone, of course, understood this was due to bashfulness on his part and not a lack of desire.

The final episode, so far as our work was concerned, in which the Governor played a part was at the national meeting of Governors, which was held at Columbus the summer of 1943. The policy of the Governor's backers was that he would be the host, completely non-partisan (within the limits of sound Republicanism); the result was that Governor Dewey, who was not playing the part of a shrinking violet, stole the show during the early days of the Conference. Governor Warren of California, another

candidate (he hoped), stole the show in the latter days of the Conference. These two men were played up in local papers and papers throughout the state. The climax, so far as WRA was concerned, came when Governor Warren made his address before the governors of all of the states. The address was devoted to a justification of his administration in evacuating the Japanese from the West Coast, to the accusations and insinuations that were at that time common among West Coast politicians. Apparently the Governor was riding the crest of the wave--that looked like good politics. What he said, of course, was front page headlines, newspaper copy, and made our program in Columbus much more difficult. It would not have been the case had the meeting and the speech, let us say, been made in Kansas City or even in Chicago.

The American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars, both held state meetings in Columbus early in 1943 and as was expected, passed the usual resolutions opposing relocation. The newspaper accounts gave summaries of the resolutions and once more our public relations in Columbus were faced with headlines. As far as I know, no action was taken by local legionnaires, as such, or Legion Posts in opposition to our work.

The influence of such opposition is subtle, insidious--its effect cannot be measured. It influences the thinking of the people without their knowing it. It causes the employers to question whether the workmen would accept the Japanese as co-workers, and it arouses suspicion and in many cases confirms set beliefs already half-held by the uninformed.

The Ohio State University refused to admit students until Masao

Yamamoto, a discharged veteran, made application; and even in his case, a ruling was held over his head preventing him from taking any science courses or being admitted to any university laboratories. In the beginning this ruling even applied to some of the harmless biological laboratories. It meant that even this one student, a veteran, was unable to take a course in engineering.

A later report submitted to the Faculty Council showed that over 300 American born Japanese students had applied for admission to Ohio State University during the early years of evacuation. If even a fraction of these had been admitted, it would have been a great impetus to relocation in Columbus. Unlike the University of Michigan, which employed several hundred and made Ann Arbor one of the little Tokyos of the Midwest, Ohio State University was never willing to employ any person of Japanese ancestry. A good illustration of this is the case history of Dr. George Kido.

Dr. Kido received his Ph. D. Degree from the University of California; he was given an opportunity to work for the Scott Seed Company of Marysville, Ohio, a nationally known distributor of farm seeds and lawn seeds. It was the desire of this company to establish a fellowship at Ohio State University in the Department of Agronomy, and have Dr. Kido in charge of the research work, which they proposed to pay for. This type of research is an accepted and much sought after activity of the Ohio State University. A special department has been established to handle it. This department is known as the Ohio State Research Foundation. It is

headed by Dr. A. R. Olpin. Dr. Olpin spent some time in Japan in his youth as a missionary. He knew the Japanese first hand, their virtues and their vices. He was objective in his sympathy and understanding. The Department of Agronomy was anxious to have the project established at the University and cooperate with me, as Relocation Officer, in presenting Dr. Kido's case, and that of the Scott Seed Company to the University. To make a long story short, the University refused to allow the project to be established with Dr. Kido in charge.

The President of the University, however, did give his consent to allow Dr. Kido to use the University Library. He was not too sure that this was wise, but I think hesitated to take a stand against such an obviously harmless concession.

Dr. Kido lived in Columbus for several months. He was paid by the Scott Seed Company for doing library research. He was sent on a tour through the East where he visited agricultural colleges, DuPont Research laboratory, and the U. S. Department of Agriculture. He later moved to Marysville, Ohio, where he conducted what I have been told was a very successful research project.

It would be wrong to imply that all was well after Dr. Kido went to Marysville. This case history cannot be complete therefore, without saying that Marysville, the small rural town northwest of Columbus, was unhappy to have Dr. Kido and his very charming wife move into their midst. At least one barber refused to cut George's hair. George refused to talk about the discrimination in Marysville, but that it existed is evidenced

from the fact that both he and the Scott Seed Company terminated the project in the summer of 1945. In spite of the favorable results which he had secured, and the sympathy of the management of Scott Seed Company, it was impossible for him to continue his residence in Marysville under what seemed increasingly hostile environment.

Today Dr. Kido is at the University of Wisconsin where he is doing research for an industrial concern. At the end of a year, he will move to St. Louis, Michigan, where the manufacturing concern is located. It will be interesting to see if St. Louis, Michigan and the University of Wisconsin experience turns out similar to the Marysville - Ohio State University experience. Dr. Kido and his wife are not too sure about the future.

This recital of the experience at Ohio State University would be incomplete without saying that others who endeavored to employ Japanese Americans met with similar refusal on the part of the administration. Like many tales of woe, however, this one has a happy ending. The University now accepts Nisei students without an inquisition. They have recently employed a secretary. During the past year, there has been at least one employed in the Green house. The outlook around Ohio State University for Nisei is, I should say, as good as any place I know of, now that the war is over, and WRA is going out of existence. There are a lot of faculty people who are tolerant and willing to help minority groups regardless of their nationality.

The private schools of Ohio, the denominational schools, of which

there are a great number, were with one exception open to Nisei students. This exception was Wittenberg at Springfield, Ohio. I don't have correspondence between myself and the president of this college, but it should be included here as an example of unusual behavior on the part of a church school (in this case, a Lutheran school) although I have no reason to believe that this denomination of German origin took action because of its origin rather than because of the community of the group of individuals who constitute its governing board. No better illustration of a demonstration of Christian principles and a backbone to stand by these principles can be found than the stand taken by schools such as Ohio Wesleyan, Otterbein, Heidelberg, Oberlin, and many others. Local opposition by American Legion groups and patriots developed in the towns where these schools were located did not, as far as I know, intimidate the administration of the school.

These Nisei students did much perhaps to spread good will among middlewestern people as any other group.

A Japanese boy was elected president of his class at Oberlin, and George Mamura has been elected president of his class at Ohio Wesleyan.

The attitude of the labor unions in Columbus, Ohio has been typical. The American Federation of Labor has been neutral or non-cooperative. The C. I. O. on the other hand, has expressed interest right from the beginning. Mr. Ted Silva was one of the early visitors as was Mr. DeNuccia; they offered their help in case we ran into discrimination from any of their unions and, more important, they employed Alice Takeuchi as secretary.

This young lady has since moved to San Francisco as an employee of the San Francisco C. I. O.

It was not labor opposition nor was it opposition on the part of employers which made relocation difficult in Columbus. The biggest obstacle from the beginning was low wages. To illustrate this point, Ellen and Lois Itanaga came to Columbus from a relocation center and were employed by the Felber Biscuit Company at \$.45 per hour. This was the maximum which the firm at that time could pay for the work they were doing. Their brother went to Cleveland and was employed by the U-Drive-It Company. In order for the three Itanagas to get together, the brother came to Columbus to investigate a job offer by the same company he worked for in Cleveland, the U-Drive-It Company. The wage paid in Columbus was \$.20 an hour less than the wage paid for the same work in Cleveland. Investigation showed that rents were just as high, the living costs in general were just as high. The outcome of this was that Ellen and Lois went to Cleveland to live with their brother. They went to work in a bakery at \$.60 per hour doing essentially the same thing they were doing in Columbus for \$.45. You may repeat this experience over and over. Most folks who came to Columbus moved on when they saw the wages. Most of them never even came to Columbus because the job offers were for low wages.

So far this narrative has not been a cheerful one. It has described the cloud and not the silver lining. There was a silver lining--and it is my intention now to point it out. I was invited early to address a regional convention of Y. M. C. A. secretaries. The Y. M. C. A. made

every effort to supply housing for the young men coming to Columbus. Several of them lived in the "Y" during their entire stay in the city. It still has one resident who came here early in 1943. The Y. M. C. A. also made an effort to employ a swimming teacher, but we were unable to find a qualified person for this position.

The Columbus Y. W. C. A. is, in my opinion, the one outstanding organization so far as its efforts to help with relocation is concerned. They have been especially helpful during the past year in furnishing a place for recreation, a place for meetings, and a home for girls whenever rooms were available.

One of the projects which the Y. W. C. A. sponsored was a class in Public Speaking for Nisei who were being invited by various churches and organizations to address their membership. They later sent out a notice to all such organizations that speakers were available. In this way, a great deal of good was accomplished by having the folks, even in surrounding small towns such as Plain City, come in direct contact with at least one Japanese American.

Miss Ogata, secretary of the WRA office was the most popular speaker and addressed perhaps as many as twenty groups. Aiko Nishi, Eiko Yoshihashi, Lily Saito, Alice Takeuchi, Enid Okiwara, and George Kido and others were invited to address groups in Central Ohio. A complete roster of such was not kept, nor was it reported to the WRA office.

In the early spring of 1944, Miss Ogata, Mr. Boothe, and myself

participated in an inter-racial meeting held at Antioch College. The outstanding panel of the conference, in fact, was one in which Mr. Boothe presided and in which we participated--the subject being "The problems of Relocation and the Japanese Americans."

Various individual ministers in Columbus and in central Ohio were cooperative. I addressed the ministerial associations and groups from time to time, but the result as far as actual relocation was concerned was disappointing. A dinner was held with the ministers of Columbus at the Y. W. C. A. early in our efforts at relocation and so far as I know results from this meeting were negative.

The Indianola Methodist Church later hired Mimi Asikuri as secretary. Dr. Merrill of the First Congregational Church asked us to secure a secretary for him. This effort resulted in Alice Takeuchi coming from Rehwer to accept the position. Before she arrived, however, the Board of Deacons refused Dr. Merrill's request. As a result, Alice took a job with the C. I. O. Figure out where religion begins and ends from that case history if you can.

From the standpoint of farm relocation, the efforts in Ohio were fruitless. The best results secured in this connection were from a circular letter sent to various greenhouse operators in the state. This letter brought many responses and resulted in resettlement throughout the state. No great number were ever located in this field in Ohio due largely to lack of housing.

I met with individuals and in groups large numbers of farmers. I answered questions about Japanese Americans, their treachery, their

loyalty, their low standard of living, and an endless number of others which had somehow filtered into the minds of our rural population.

All such questions, of course, could be answered and individuals could be convinced, but it was like "sowing dragons' teeth," where one was killed, a thousand sprang up in its place. Nothing in the whole field of relocation causes as much frustration in this relocation officer's life as this experience with farmers. Unless it could be stated that the same frustration resulted from his experience with the Ohio State University, which should have known better!

That it was possible to change people's minds can best be illustrated by the following correspondence from Mr. Botkins, whose home is in Plain City. This correspondence resulted from a circular letter which I mailed out to all greenhouse owners and operators in Ohio. It was what we referred to in our inner circles as the "hat-in-hand" letter. A copy of this follows:

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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

TELEPHONE: Main 6685

3320 A.I.U. Building
Columbus, Ohio
July 29, 1943

Mr. Greenhouse Man

Dear Sir:

What would you say if a man rang your doorbell tomorrow morning and asked for work? Would you think the war was over? Would you listen to his story?

Here I stand at your door--hat in hand. I want a job for men, whom your government has said are "ok"--help them find a home in Ohio.

These men are now living as the guests of your Uncle Sam in the ten Relocation Centers, mostly in Southwestern sections of the United States.

They want to re-establish themselves for the duration as useful citizens. Their removal from the Pacific Coast was deemed advisable in the days when invasion was a likelihood. The same government that moved them is today finding them new jobs and new homes!

Fifteen thousand or more of these men and women have already been hired in every conceivable kind of job--as farmers, nurserymen, florists, machinists, secretaries, and what have you. They are in Kansas, Iowa, Michigan, Ohio and practically every other Mid-Western state.

There are a number of experienced GREENHOUSE workmen available. We should like to have you tell us about your needs, about the living conditions in your community, about the availability of houses for families, as well as for single men. If you would like to make inquiry from someone in this part of the country, write to the GREENING NURSERY at Monroe, Michigan; and to Mr. Weiss of the MOUNT CLEMENS GREENHOUSE COMPANY at Mount Clemens, Michigan. They are now employing several people of Japanese ancestry in their businesses.

Ohio people are true Americans--they have accepted these Americans of Japanese ancestry in the spirit of democracy. We were a little doubtful in the beginning. That time is past. Today, many of them are employed in Cleveland, Cincinnati, Toledo, Dayton, Columbus, and on farms and in small cities.

Won't you please let me hear from you?

Yours truly,

(s) Everett L. Dakan

THE PLAIN CITY GREENHOUSES
W. A. Botkin, Proprietor

Pansies and Delphiniums Our Specialty

Plain City, Ohio

Aug. 4, 1943

Mr. Everett L. Dakan,
3320 A. I. U. Building,
Columbus, Ohio.

Dear Sir:

Yours of July 29th at hand regarding Jap Labor, we sure need help but not that bad, we have given up two of our expert planters, two of my sons, one daughter, and I should be a good American and employ the enemy.

If I were a good American citizen as you must think you are I certainly would feel very low in taking good hard earned U. S. Money for a job of the kind you hold, to offer insults to Americans who are trying hard to help win the War in the effort on the Home Front. You did not have the nerve to come to my door with hat in hand looking for a job of the Yellow rascals, you know the history behind these fellows as well as I or better, they cannot be trusted. There are a few exceptions of loyal American Born Japs, but why did they contribute to the China War and educate their sons and Daughters in our colleges then return them to Japan to get further education in Japanese.

I wonder if our boys captured on Batan are being fed Ice Cream and Apple Pie. As American there sure are a lot of softies.

I can only look upon your letter as an insult to Americans.

Yours sincerely

(s) W. A. Botkins

3320 A. I. U. Building
Columbus 15, Ohio

August 20, 1943

Mr. W. A. Botkin
THE PLAIN CITY GREENHOUSES
Plain City, Ohio

Dear Mr. Botkin:

I have looked at your letter daily since it arrived. I have read it over several times. I have delayed answering it because I just don't know what to say. I cannot bring myself to fight with my brother whether he be a resident of Plain City, Ohio, or of a Japanese War Relocation Authority camp. There are too many misunderstandings in this world now, and I hope never to be guilty of adding any more misunderstandings.

I am sure that you must know that I do not feel that I am a disloyal American. I have lived in Ohio a long time. I am sure that you must realize that I do not consciously think of my work as being detrimental to you or to our sons who are in the service. I am sure, too, that you will admit at least my sincerity in my efforts to relocate the loyal Japanese American citizens.

That is about as far as I can go in answering your letter--there is a lot more to be said, of course. There is voluminous literature written on the subject, there have been innumerable congressional hearings, these have been printed and are available for the asking. It would please me greatly to furnish you with this material if you would care to have it.

There has been much confusion and many things have appeared in the papers which have been proven false. Many rumours have been spread which upon investigation of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Army and Navy Intelligence have been proved untrue and malicious. It would take a long time for you and I to go over all of these. You probably would not have the patience and I probably would fail in my efforts.

I should like, in closing, to assure you of one thing, that so far as I am capable, I shall never insult an American regardless of his color, race, creed, or religion!

Yours very truly,

Everett L. Dakan
Relocation Officer

eld/o

THE PLAIN CITY GREENHOUSES
W. A. Botkin, Proprietor

Pansies and Delphiniums Our Specialty

Plain City, Ohio

Aug. 27, 1943

Mr. Everett L. Dakan,
Columbus,
Ohio.

Dear Sir:

Yours of the 20th at hand, since I wrote you I have read many articles regarding the situation of the American Born Japs, one in particular written by a American Born Jap Woman, her article entitled, "My Face is My Only Crime" which appeared in Liberty, I read this with an open mind and must confess I have an entirely different view than when I first wrote you, there are many who are as good Americans as any of us. Yet after taking a pole of my own, in my community, I would hardly dare to employ one of them. My own family are divided on the subject.

It is very strange both your letters would arrive when our hearts were heaviest.

Mr. Dakan please accept my apology for writing you as I did, it was fortunate for both of us that you did not come in person instead of by letter but as the old saying goes, "A wise man will change his mind but a fool never does."

With kindest regards and best of wishes in your work, I am,

Yours sincerely,

(s) W. A. Botkin

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3320 A. I. U. Building
Columbus 15, Ohio

September 14, 1943

Mr. W. A. Botkin
THE PLAIN CITY GREENHOUSE
Plain City, Ohio

Dear Mr. Botkin:

I certainly appreciated your letter. It confirms a belief that I have always held--that you can't classify a man just because he gets mad occasionally. I have a temper like a buzz saw; I understand other people who have similar reactions.

Some day perhaps our paths will cross in a pleasant mood--let us hope so. In the meantime, for you, your sons, your daughter, and your wife; please accept my best wishes.

Yours very truly,

Everett L. Dakan
Relocation Officer

eld/o

One man's mind was changed but you will observe that neither his family or his community were convinced. Another case of dragons' teeth.

One of the reasons for failure of relocation to farms in Ohio in addition to prejudice and fear and ignorance mentioned above was the lack of adequate housing. Ohio tenant houses are notoriously poor in most cases. It is an unusual farm that has a modern tenant house or even a semi-modern one. It was this that caused the scandal of the bath-tub, which broke on December 6, 1943. The day before the Pearl Harbor anniversary and during the hearings of the Dies Sub-Committee in Washington. It is unnecessary at this point to quote the article in Midwest Frontiers, which was responsible for this outburst of political indignation. It would seem logical to record here my own personal reaction to this personal episode, and I shall do so without attempting to go into detail.

My first knowledge that the story was to break was on Saturday, December 4, when a call from Washington made inquiry regarding the probably source from which the newspaper in Washington that was going to break the story had come. A call or two to Michigan was fruitless in locating the exact source of this information, and while this commentator now has his suspicions and his theories, it would be unwise to record these.

The telephone from that time until 3:00 A. M. Monday was constantly ringing, so by the time the story appears in the newspapers on Monday morning, and by the time the radio commentators began talking about it,

I was more than prepared to answer any questions which might be embarrassing to WRA or to myself. Newspapers were not too interested in what I had to say anyway. The local papers did run a front page interview with me, together with some terrible pictures. They were objective, friendly and unbiased in their reporting.

(It might be well to say at this point that we had fine cooperation from all three Columbus newspapers from the day the office opened until it closed. They reported, as might be expected, the incidents played up by the Dies Committee, but their editorials, their columnists, and their reporters, as well as their feature writers, gave us a fair and unbiased coverage of everything that went on in Columbus and central Ohio.)

It was obvious to anyone who had kept apace of the activities of Congress, the Dies Committee, the growing opposition to the Administration, that E. L. Dakan just happened to be in the line of fire. I might have been seriously hurt. Fortunately, most of the shots went around me. The attitude of the University administration in this was certainly above suspicion. The President, the Dean and the Board of Trustees looked at it pretty much as stated above, and advised against taking it too seriously.

As near as I can describe the reaction of my associates on the Faculty of the University, it could best be expressed by "That's Dakan all right." One newspaper reporter came to the campus and interviewed some of the faculty members. There were some praises, some nice words, but one man was quoted as saying, "Dakan is a fire-brand." I wish I knew

who that was, because fire-brand is one terminology that I don't like applied as being descriptive of either my ideas or my temperament. The reaction of my associates indicated they were having a good deal of fun, but none of them seemed to take it very seriously and not a few remembered that I had been in hot water before--hotter, in fact, than this!

The relocatees took it pretty much as a joke, and I think got some satisfaction out of seeing a WRA officer on the spot. They would have been more than human had they not.

The attitude of the Ohio Farm Bureau and the Ohio State Grange to this episode was interesting. Neither of these organizations were quoted in any newspaper dispatch. The reason for this was that Mr. Fichter, Master of the Ohio Grange, and Mr. Lincoln, Secretary of the Ohio Farm Bureau, were considerate enough to get in touch with me before they would make a statement. They found out the facts after I had read them the entire article, and apparently if any statement was made, it was not quoted.

It would have been wise if some of the deans of agriculture might have taken a similar action, instead of allowing themselves to be quoted about a quotation from an article--the quotation having been lifted out of the text.

I don't believe this episode influenced relocation. I am an associate editor of the Ohio Farmer. My picture appears in every issue. One feature article about Japanese relocation was written by me and is attached.

There is reason to believe that most of the 250,000 Ohio Farmer

readers knew that I was engaged in the relocation of Japanese Americans in Ohio, and yet but two letters were received by the Ohio Farmer office regarding this episode. One of these was a crackpot and I have forgotten what the other was. Neither was considered important.

The Michigan Farmer, a part of the same chain as the Ohio Farmer owned by Senator Capper, went to town editorially on the bath-tub scandal. There again we have no evidence that the farmers of Michigan were greatly concerned. It may be that farmers do not read daily papers; it is possible that they did not hear the radio commentators discuss this subject and it is just barely possible that they shrugged their shoulders and figuratively said, "So what?"

One agricultural leader, Mr. Fichter, Master of the Ohio State Grange, remarked when I read the article to him over the phone on Sunday night, December 5, that what I said was the truth and there need be no concern about any revolt on the part of the farmers--that most farmers knew that their property was not modern and did not like it. And that my explanation that there was a shortage of material was an adequate one.

I should not want to leave the impression that I think the article was blame-less. I think that E. L. Dakan pulled a bonner. I think that Mr. Weis pulled a boner. I think that everyone who passed on this article pulled a boner. The statement criticised was a smart aleck, flippant one. The fact that it happens to be my style does not justify the statement being used in the kind of publication Midwest Frontiers was intended to be. The article which I prepared for the Ohio Farmer is a sober, cold

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blooded, heartless affair, but is safe and sound. It was cleared by Editor Kelsey with Harold Fistere, and Fistere reported that Kelsey made this remark about the article. "What have you done to Dakan? This does not sound like him?"

It is possible that this remark by Kelsey is responsible for the carelessness on Harold's part in not censoring my writing more carefully. Fistere was not disposed to spoil anyone's style. Events proved he had more confidence in my judgment than was warranted. I don't believe this statement would have gotten by Editor Kelsey either. He goes through my stuff with a fine-toothed comb. He has never yet changed the essential meaning of an article, but he has kept phrases and sentences out of my writing which would embarrass the Ohio Farmer! He does not care too much about me!

A final word in passing of the thoughtfulness of Dillon Myer. On Monday, December 6, just before the office closed, he called me from Washington. He had been before the Dies Committee most of the day. He had to deny responsibility for the article. He called to explain why and wanted to tell me himself before I read it in the paper. His statement later appeared in the paper and was in my opinion a good and fair one.

One more person who might be quoted here is Dean Cunningham of the College of Agriculture--who sent the following telegram to the newspaper in Washington, D. C. in reply to an insistent demand from the paper. Nice words these, and it helped soothe my injured pride and feelings.

Anyone interested in what congressmen and representatives had to

say might find their remarks properly recorded in the Congressional Record. "Extension" of remarks appeared for several days after December 6, perhaps for as long as three weeks. Poems were read into the Record that were honeys. I don't recall all of these in detail, but it is my belief that few of these were complimentary to this writer or to WRA.

So far as I know the final newspaper episode appeared in the Chicago Sun on December 19, 1943 under the by-line of Carrol Kilpatrick. It was a front page story carrying my picture and reporting that investigation showed that I was a registered Republican. The reporter said he had asked several Republicans who had previously taken a not altogether friendly attitude for comments but he was unable to quote any of them.

For a bit of humor I refer to Ollie James of the Cincinnati Enquirer. It would be unfortunate if his writing on this subject were lost to posterity; and for a more serious analysis, a full page editorial in the Saturday Review of Literature on or about December 15.

Their point of departure was to compare the serious problems of the world which Congress might be discussing with this not serious problem which they were discussing.

Farm relocation in Michigan went better right from the start than in Ohio. The president of Michigan State College, Mr. J. A. Hannah, was for many years poultry extension specialist. We were old friends dating back to the days when he was a student, and we occasionally attended opera in Chicago instead of going to the burlesque show as most of our associates did. This is not intended to pat either Hannah or myself on the back, but

merely to point out a community of interest.

Early in our program I asked him to call a meeting of interested people. This group met in his office and was representative of almost every segment of the field of agricultural leadership. It resulted in a committee driving to Rohwer and Jerome, Arkansas. Professor Cardinell, together with a representative of the vegetable growers made this trip and spent a couple of weeks interviewing prospective employees. From this beginning there has developed a permanent group of resettlers in the area north of Detroit.

One of the sad mistakes WRA made at that time was not hastily employing Cardinell and putting him in Mr. Love's office. Mr. Love, at that time and up to now, headed the Emergency Farm Labor program in the state and was anxious to have a relocation officer in his office. It was an opportunity which never presented itself again. It is not my intention here to blame anyone in WRA for not being able to see ahead as well as I can see backwards.

This concludes my swan song, and I should like to point out that, in my opinion, all relocation officers have over-emphasized the community acceptance of the Japanese American resettlers. What we all did was to run from prejudice. We did not fight it or oppose it or, in my opinion, did we do much to change its course. If an employer or a labor union said "No," we were prone to let it end there and found another employer and another group of employees who said, "All right." The tendency was to play up these favorable situations and to play down the unfavorable.

This was good for relocation--it was good, I believe, in the long run for the morale of the resettlers themselves. It would be very bad, however, to leave the general impression or even a small segment of impression, that because we found friends and sponsors in Columbus, that there were not a great many more who opposed and whose indifference hindered our efforts. This was true with housing. To illustrate, I spent several days trying to find a house for Grace and Tadashi Imada, who had been employed by Bakers Art Gallery, an old respected firm owned by a righteous and kind man who wanted not only to have his photograph shop operate during the war but wanted also to help in relocation. I kept no record of the number of apartments and houses which together, Mrs. Imada and I visited--perhaps ten in all, and everyone of them could have been rented by me if Mrs. Imada had not been along and been the prospective tenant, and Mrs. Imada was a very beautiful young woman!

A similar experience could be cited by the case of Johnny Nakagawa, who was employed by Mr. LeVeque, one of the large contractors and promoters and owners of real estate in Columbus. Johnny was employed as a repairman, and Mr. LeVeque started to repair an apartment for him. When the neighbors and other tenants found out that the inhabitant would be Japanese, Mr. LeVeque was forced to withdraw his offer to furnish a place for Johnny to live. A little courage by Mr. LeVeque might have solved the problem, but that lack of courage was typical of Columbus except by a few brave souls, mostly church people and mostly members of the Friends.

Nothing has been said in this narrative so far regarding the

establishment of a hostel in Columbus during the first year of WRA operations. We came so near to doing this and it would have made so much difference in my opinion that it is worthwhile to record here the facts.

The University Religious Council composed of ministers in the University community met with both Mr. Spicer and myself and discussed the need of a hostel. This was brought to a head after Mr. Spicer left to go to Detroit.

The Roachdale Cooperative House had reached the point where it would have to close because of lack of students. This information came to us and a meeting was held with a committee representative of the ministerial council. We invited Mr. Max Franzen down from the Cleveland Hostel to meet with the group at the cooperative house and went into the matter quite thoroughly. Mr. Franzen reported that the Baptist Foreign Mission was willing to help but had asked him to ascertain the following information:

Could the Hostel be operated without a loss? Were there enough people coming to Columbus to keep the Hostel filled? Were the opportunities in Columbus for employment adequate to justify anticipated increase in resettlement? When I attempted to answer these questions it was always necessary to qualify my statement, because no definite affirmative answer could be given. None of the churches in the University community were in a position to support the hostel financially. None of the ministers could make commitment to that effect. The meeting closed with the understanding that a decision would be made in the next day or two.

Then a unfortunate turn of events broke so far as the Cooperative House was concerned. The boys were given assurance the next day by the Army officers on the campus that they would release enough boys to fill the house. I am not sure that this word "release" is the correct one, but it is essentially so. One of the boys called on me at the WRA office and with-drew their offer to rent us the house. Thus ended a near miss! The fact remains, however, that determination, foresight and a little more courage, and we would have had a hostel.

Another attempt was made to rent a large, vacant parsonage on Fifth Avenue. I met with the deacons of the church and believe it or not, these good souls were unwilling to rent the parsonage to be used as a Japanese Hostel, or even as a residence or home for families. Their minister was heart-broken and has, I believe, left this church.

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If the United States Government is interested in my recommendations for the future, it would be to never again attempt the relocation of people on the basis of race or creed or color, but rather on the basis of individual guilt. It would have been much cheaper in the long run from the standpoint of dollars and cents to have had hearings and screened the individuals. This, I have been informed, had been done with great numbers in England. There is nothing original that I can say. I have heard every idea thrashed over time after time by men both in the government service and by private citizens. This episode is a blot on our escutcheon, which we can never hope to erase. WRA was always a hydra-headed animal. It held innocent people in virtual concentration camps. It acted as welfare agent for those who tried and wanted to resettle. It never had enough money to compensate the evacuees for their losses. It required evacuees to report their whereabouts. It spent endless hours hunting jobs, finding houses, adjusting family difficulties. It was the instrument by which families were separated and homes broken up. It was in fact a monster called upon to do a monstrous deed. Under the conditions which the employees of WRA worked, I think they did a most remarkable job. I doubt whether any other group of government employees had more cause for frustration, more cause for heartbreaks, or greater cause for loss of temper, loss of patience and in many cases, loss of dignity than the employees of WRA.