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21 HISTORY OF POSTON *Weekly Summary*

5-6-43

Week ending May 6

Weekly summary by EHS

Cross Ref.: LRB, Police Dept., Camouflage, Permanent Self-Govt., Recreation, CE.

The tractor crew in the Agriculture Department struck apparently in protest over the removal of their foreman. The strike was taken up by the LRB and Mr. Fukuda acted as spokesman. It appeared that the tractor crew struck because of the removal of the foreman from his job at the recommendation of the LRB. During the week the matter of the strike was under consideration between the LRB and the Agriculture Department. The LRB insisted on the removal of the tractor crew foreman who went to work elsewhere in the Agriculture Department.

In the latrines in various blocks a notice was posted with the title "SOMETHING ROTTEN IN DENMARK". The notice said that "just because one man with a \$19 salary is removed from office it doesn't mean that the social problem of gambling is going to be ended." It was evident that this notice referred to Mr. Shigekawa, Police Chief, who resigned. It was reported that Mr. Shigekawa was extremely angry over the posting of this notice. In this connection reports from many blocks indicated great satisfaction over the resignation of Shigekawa and expression of satisfaction over the temporary appointment of Jumbo Ota as Police Chief. It was said that Jumbo is a very good man who will be absolutely honest in the execution of his duties. The feeling was general that the EB and the IAB has been responsible for the removing of Shigekawa although no definite statement came from those sources. Members of the EB vigorously denied in private having been responsible for the notice posted in the latrines.

*Postive Postive*

On Monday the LRB voted to allow camouflage workers to keep all the money they make during the period while they are working on small size nets. This decision was made in response to camouflage workers' request that they be allowed to keep all the money they made because they couldn't make over about \$1.75 a day working on small sized nets. One member of the LRB, Joe Nakai, voted against the decision. He maintained that it would immediately raise a lot of problems particularly in connection with the Parker warehouse workers who would also be expected to request that they be allowed to keep all the money they make and there would be no contribution to the Trust Fund.

It was announced that Administrative Instruction 34 had been revised to permit Isseis to hold elective office. There were reports <sup>from Issei</sup> that Isseis are very cocky over this development saying that they have forced WRA to their point of view.

Boy's Day on May 5th was celebrated in many of the blocks. Banners with carp symbols on them were displayed by a number of families in several of the blocks. "Manju" was made in many of the mess halls and were served especially for dinner on May 5th. Also squid was served for the first time since the beginning of the camp as well as tofu and other Japanese delicacies and there was a general feeling of satisfaction resulting from the serving of these foods.

There was continued speculation concerning the condition of the CE. There were rumors that large quantities of stocks from the store have been stolen by members of the CE staff. There were rumors that certain individuals would be called on the carpet and that some action would be taken <sup>soon</sup> in regard to the mishandling of goods.

## ISAMU NOGUCHI ON THE NISEI

I talked a moment with Isamu Noguchi in the hall way of Administration 3. Noguchi: Do you think you will stay around? (I found that the background of this remark was a discussion which Noguchi, Miss Tsuchiyama, and the Kunitanis had had the night before in which Noguchi and the Kunitanis predicted that I would last only a couple of more months in Poston. They having felt from the talk which I gave before the teachers on Friday, that I was not very pleased with the general set-up. This was from Miss Tsuchiyama who told me that she had not gained that impression at all.)

E.H.S.: Oh, I guess I am here for the duration. Sometimes I like it and sometimes I don't. Noguchi: Well, that's the way with me. I go up and down. The only thing that keeps you here is what is in your mind. Everything outside of it just makes you want to get away as quickly as you can. It's what's in you mind that keeps you here. E.H.S.: I guess I still have some adjusting to do. Do you feel that you are adjusted to the situation now? Noguchi: Oh, yes, I am adjusted as far as I will ever be. I understand a lot of things now. I understand the Issei. I have got them figured out and they are all right, but I never will understand the Nisei. I don't like the Nisei and it seems to me that they haven't got anything cultural. I don't mean it in the sense as an anthropologist, but in my sense. They haven't got anything cultural either from America or Japan. They have just the least desirable traits of the two peoples. Perhaps I don't want to understand them and that's why I don't. I wonder if you couldn't have a second generation people who had

10-6-42

the best of the old and the new cultures. Anyway these Nisei get me. I  
don't understand them.

(EHS)

## POSTON ARTS FIELD DISCUSSED

PRESS BULLETIN

Nov. 13, 1942, Fri.

VOL. VII NO.4

Isamu Noguchi, sculptor, who has been here since the first days of the Community's growth, left Thurs. night enroute to New York City on a month's "furlough".

Said Mr. Noguchi to the Press, "I have every expectation of coming back here in a month, unless some unforeseen development keeps me out. Until then, I wish to say 'Sayonara for a while' to all my friends in Poston.

"We begin to see that in spite of the drawbacks in lack of equipment and material there are possibilities here, in certain fields at least, greater than that which is now possible on the outside, such for example in study and art," Mr. Noguchi continued. "The very limitations here have driven the people to seek materials in the distant hills for iron-wood, petrified wood, mesquite, and so forth. The recent exhibitions of the Fairs at 1 and 3 have opened the eyes of many people that we already have been here in Poston the basis of handicraft and a folk art.

"There is already talk of arranging for exhibitions of our productions on the outside. The next phase of development will probably be the use of clay, of which there is an unlimited quantity in the surrounding foothills. I would urge all interested to apply themselves to this with the idea that as soon as the ceramic and chinaware development which will supply our kitchens with more attractive dinnerware, and eventually be a source of income from the outside," Mr. Noguchi concluded.

9-21-42

At Ted Haas's desk this morning Chairman Ishimaru of the Community Council said, "We are going to have a new election of Issei. Those Issei block representatives who came to the last meeting won't do. Some of those fellows, believe me, are really radical. I have heard them get up and say things in block council meetings about the rights of Issei here and I told them myself I wouldn't even discuss it with them. Those fellows are really radical. I think maybe with the new election they won't be elected. In the new election there will be one from the block, 36 Issei. But according to our system there will only be 9 who will meet as an advisory board with the council. The others along with the alternates will be distributed among the existing council committees. Otherwise they wouldn't have anything to do, but if they are on the committee they will be satisfied because they can work with them. (EHS)

Interview with Skuy  
Smanusa A. B  
9/21/42

I think this new Issei Advisory Board will be a good thing. The Issei have the idea that we are just kids ; that we haven't had any experience and don't know what to do about government, but now with the Issei Advisory Board they will sit in all our meetings and we'll see what we can do and they can go back to their blocks and tell the people that we aren't acting just like kids. I think it's a mighty good idea."

## ISSEI ATTITUDES

The block manager of Block 43 showed me over the garden plots which had been planted in his block. As he did so he said: All these Issei in this block are disgusted with the Agricultural Department. They have said to me, "Why don't we get 20 acres or so to each block out here in the fire breaks and plant them up with vegetables and work them by individual families. We don't want this big agricultural project that everybody talks about." All the Issei in the block talk that way and I know how it is with them. They want to work in individual family groups or maybe they would work in block groups, but not any larger.

It used to be in this block that the Issei would ask for all kinds of things all the time. Now it is changed. Now they don't ask for anything any more. They know they can't get them until they just go ahead and forget about them.

(EHS)

10-11-42

via Mits Kunitani:

Mits: There certainly are a lot of things that the people are doing here which aren't in line with what they were doing before. Maybe some people would call it Americanization. For instance, there are a lot of Issei using forks and spoons to eat with who didn't use them before. You don't see any chop sticks around. I imagine a lot of them would prefer chop sticks. They say Mr. Best ordered a bunch, but they never have come. And then there's the matter of baths. They say in our block that they are going to build a tank to take their daily bath in. You know the kind the Japanese like. You take a shower first to take the dirt off and then everybody, men and women alike, get into a big tank of warm water and just lie in there submerged up to the neck. That's the way they do it in Japan with a fire underneath the tank. They say they are really going to do it in our block. They are going to build a concrete tank or something like that and have their baths the way they like them, but up to now they haven't been able to have the kind of baths they want. (EHS)

via Ann Kunitani:

Isn't the language that these Nisei use atrocious? Why it's just terrible and think of the children listening to it in the classrooms. It isn't just getting the plurals, verbs, and nouns wrong, but they don't know how to use prepositions either. I really feel sorry for the children as they are going to have to learn English from some of these people, that is, from some of these Nisei who are teaching. That's one of the reasons that so many of the parents are antagonistic to the Nisei school teachers. They think they won't be able to teach the children properly when it comes to speaking English. (EHS)

10-11-42

via Ann Kunitani:

There's one of the Nisei teachers who goes around all the time with a Japanese-English dictionary and carry it everywhere he goes and says that he regards this stay in Poston as a chance to really learn Japanese now.

(EHS)

10-13-42

*Personalities*

via Richard Nishimoto:

In his introduction to his staff meeting report Mr. Nishimoto mentioned the following points: The Issei, for at least two years before the evacuation, were worried about international affairs and the relations between Japan and the United States. They could clearly see war developing and were very much worried about their own status and what it would be. As war came closer they followed the radio and the newspapers with great intensity. This was an extreme contrast with the Nisei who went along quite oblivious of international events. When evacuation came, there were incidents such as the following: A Nisei leader of the J.A.C.L. in Los Angeles, in Little Tokyo, went around saying, "Why aren't all these Isseis rounded up and sent off where they won't be dangerous to the country?" This was the sort of thing that lead to the Issei calling the Nisei "traitors". Their point of view was that the Nisei should be speaking in the following manner: "Don't round up the old folks. Don't treat them badly. They are harmless. If you have to lock up someone, then lock up us Nisei." That would have been behavior with true "filial piety" and there would have been no feeling that the Nisei were traitors. After the Japanese came to the Relocation Centers, the Issei felt that the Nisei should now realize that they were all in the same "boat" together. Their point of view was as follows: "Japs are Japs and why don't you Nisei get wise to it". The point back of this is, of course, that the Issei were pointing out that the Nisei even though they were citizens had been treated just like the Issei and that, therefore, their lot should be thrown in with the latter.

(EHS)

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W. Wake Leek

WH

Miss Spier

Dec. 23, 1942

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Driving back from Salls with me, WH talkdd as follows:

When I was about 17 my father thought I ought to have something to do, didn't like to see me doing nothing. He was doctor and he had a lot of bills outstanding. He ~~xxx~~ told me to go ahead and collect what I could on them, not gouge anybody, but get something. That was when we were in Arkansas, before we moved to Oklahoma. My father was in the army awhile in the last war and was in a camp in Oklahoma. He liked it and always tried to get back there. Well, I went around to collect for him. Inside of a couple of weeks, I had about fifteen cows or more and my father had to buy a farm to put them on. We just kept on stocking that farm up. I got all kinds of things. Apples, wagons, more stock. I kind of liked that and my father always said he was satisfied with what I did.

Coming through Texas once a couple of years ago, I stopped off in a little town and got to talking with a fellow. Before I knew it, I had decided to buy a herd of cows he had. I bought them right there before we went on. Inside of a couple of days after I got back, I had sold most of them and made my money back. It left me a few to sell for a profit. (WH was talking easily, reminiscing, and it seemed to me with more gusto than usual. These were evidently pleasant memories. He was telling the last story while we were driving around Glendale, looking for a real estate office. When we had come to the town, he had asked me to drive to the square because he thought he wanted to look the town over. As we drove in he said, "I've got a notion to buy some land in this town. It's the best land in the Salt River Valley, I've heard. I'd

S.J.

Dec. 27, 1942

like to buy a few acres! He said he liked the square with all its trees and suggested that we look around for a real estate office. I drove around. He spotted two real estate offices and had me stop while he wrote down the names and addresses.) I'll write to these fellows and see what there is for sale around here. Nice land. I'd have to get it on the north side of the highway, that would be out of the restricted zone. I could bring some Japanese down here and put them to work on it. There's a bunch of them would like to do it. Some from right around this region. I better write to the bank, too.

(EHS)

J. G. P. S. 94  
Dec. 29, 1942

When RN had finished telling me details of the econ. losses of Japanese before evacuation, etc., he said, 'Now you can understand what I mean when I say I am loyal to both Japan and the U.S. That's what I am. If anything came up where I had to make a decision between th two, I would commit suicide. But I lean in one direction. Can you understand this? A year ago, I was not quite this way. Now I am more on the Japanese side than before. But I was going that way for a long time. I hated Japan when I left there. I hated her. Evacuation finished what was going on with me. If my girls were babies, I would indoctrinate them for Japanese and go back to Japan as soon as I could. Now I know they will stay here. I feel that I am obligated to U.S. for some things. My girls grew up here. They have to be Americans. But I know what I am now. I am enemy alien in here. (EHS asked if he planned to go back to Japan. He said that he did not. He knew he has to stay here, too. He is too old.) (N.B. RN has been stressing the theme for the past couple of dyys of there being nothing more in life for isseis. It should also be noted that yesterday EHS mentioned the fact to him that THH had heard an avacuee say that he was loyal to both Japan and the U.S. and THH had expressed great surprise and lack of understanding of such a sentiment. RN had said at the time that that sentiment is the key to the whole culture of Poston.)

RN: If you are loyal to Japan that means that you hope for Japanese success in the war. You do not want her to be crushed. For Japan to be in a weak condition at the end of the war will not help any Japanese in the U.S. For her to be

Dec. 29, 1942

strong might have good results. Japanese here already know that if she is not strong in relation to the U.S., the U.S. can go on treating Japanese as she has in the past. It is not certain that a strong Japan would help, but it is more likely to be beneficial than a weak Japan.

There are a few nisei here who feel that they are helping in the U.S. war effort in keeping the issei in custody. Provinse's reply to the Gila petition plays into their hands. It makes the issei in custody of the nisei. RN is inclined to think that the issei should refrain from voting; they should not vote to put their custodians in office. The only solution here is for nisei to decide questions of nisei issues and issei questions of issei issues. That would be ideal, but there is the complication of the children.

RN came into the Bureau for the express purpose of neutralizing TT, so that she would not hurt the issei, if she happened to be an FBI agent or something similar. "Look what I did. Dr. Leighton tried to help her when she was cracking up. Then you tried to help her. I come along and I keep her from going to pieces. And now she is neutralized. Swell, huh?"

The real power in Poston is still and will continue to be the issei behind the nisei council. The nisei are scared to death.

Haas is on the wrong track in sticking to the WRA rulings. RN expects THH, VK, JP, and NJ to be called on the carpet pretty soon.

(TT interposed during the discussion of Japanese loyalty that Japanese child training is not so narrow as American. The elementary school books use A. Lincoln as an illustration of sticking to a cause, Washington on honesty.) (EHS)

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Head, Wade  
K

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Jan. 15, 1943

Wade Head told me this afternoon that he had had several meetings with the CEC lately and had told them that what they need to do in the present situation is to get a vote of confidence from the nisei council. "I told them they need to do that so that the staff will accept them more." He thinks that this will not only help the CEC in their relations with the Caucasian staff, but that it will also help the nisei council to work out a means of cooperation with the issei groups in camp.

Head said that Nagai and another member of the CEC came to him privately recently and said that they had become convinced that certain members of the CEC were not the "right kind" of persons to hold their offices. They mentioned Okamoto and wondered if it wouldn't be possible for Head himself to remove him from the CEC. Head told them they would have to work that out among themselves.

(EHS)

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94  
Jan. 16, 1943

Cult  
94  
I talked over with RN some notes I had made on the content of the attitudes of himself and similar issei. One point I had jotted down was "They feel they have nothing to gain in the U.S. except possibly through a Japanese victory." RN immediately said, "That is attitude at present, but I look for it to change. You see how smooth the ~~xxxxix~~ CEC resignation issue was fixed. That is sign. There will be change in that attitude in Poston."

I suggested that many issei feel that one of the few things left them, after their economic ruin, is to uphold their pride in themselves, by not submitting to 'nisei custody'. RN replied quickly, "I wouldn't say it is pride. It is just that they have never done that before. The nisei never ran things for them before. That is pretty much a cultural thing. They say, 'Well, they're trying to put new thing over on us. They cant get away with that.' They just aren't used to it. Maybe there is little pride in it, but it's more their culture."

I suggested that the issei are classifying the nisei with the Caucasians. RN said, "No, only few of them like the Kunitanis. (He hesitated and then said) Well, I didnt intend to talk about this, but the issei are saying they will take the nisei along with them. Like in that kibel meeting when they talked about jeopardizing th nisei. It is all Japanese together idea. And so many juu nisei are going that way. You hear them point to the planes that are flying over Poston. They say, 'Those damn planes cant do anything. The Japs will shoot them down as soon as they get over there.' That is the

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way they are talking now."

I suggested that there is a feeling that the Caucasians cannot be trusted to take care of any but the simpler animal interests of the issei. RN said, "It is not exactly distrust. They don't feel that way. But you look at me. We issei have two personalities always. We can go around, like myself, and gain the confidence of Caucasians. We can behave so they like and trust us. But we know always we can go only so far. There is a line we never go beyond with them. There are always certain things that if we tell them, the Caucasians will exaggerate, talk about pro-Axis, and misinterpret. So on one side of our personalities, we keep our mouths tightly sealed. Only back in the blocks we can talk like ourselves and freely. It was same way in California. Those people have always had their mouths tightly sealed."

RN said he wanted to clarify a recent statement about his going back to Japan. His feeling now is that if Japan loses, he will have to go back right away, because he is able to write and speak in public pretty well in Japanese. He will have the obligation to see to it that no movement like the Nazi movement gets a chance to spring up in Japan. "Because that would mean another war soon, and I don't want to see that. If Japan loses it will be chaos because the liberal movements have been suppressed so strongly there. The people will have to be handled very intelligently, or it will be just another Nazi Germany and another war very soon. I got to stop that. But if Japan don't lose the war, then I got to stay here for ten years until my girls grow up. They can't go to Japan and my nisei wife can't go either. That's my conflict, see? (EHS)

11/14  
Jan. 26, 1943 5

Mich Kunitani was given the task by VK of Talking to high school classes on re-relocation. He spoke to Miss Peterson's core class first on Jan 25. She was delighted with the result, saying that at first it was "like a dash of cold water." But after she thought it over, it seemed very good. She said that he had told the students that they had better begin to think for themselves, that their "parents would be dead in a few years" and that they had their own problems to think of. *and that they could never go back to California.* She thought it gave ~~their~~ students something to shoot at to be told how they should plan to leave the camps and get jobs on the outside.

Mrs. Felsted talked for some time with me about Mich's speech to her junior core class. She hadn't liked it in general, but thought maybe I could tell her whether it would have a bad effect. "Why, he told them not to respect their teachers. At least that's how they could take it. He said that some of the teachers didn't have anything to teach and they had better realize it. Now I didn't like that. But maybe he was just talking about the evacuee teachers. Do you think that's what he meant. Goodness knows, we have a hard enough time with those students anyway, without anybody ideas in their heads. But maybe he was just thinking of the evacuee teachers. I guess that's what he meant. ... And he annoyed me. You know, I've told them again and again not to put their feet on the seats. Well, Mr. Kunitani just sat their on the table and stretched his feet out on the seat in front and got it all dirty. I could see some of them laughing when he did that. And I've told them so often..... He said some things that I've been trying

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to tell them all along. He said you have to stand up for yourselves. You cant let your parents tell you what to do. I've said that so often. He pointed out how different they are from their parents. He said, 'You like to go to movies, you dont like this old what do you call it stuff they have at that stage up there.' That's what he told them and it was so true, I thought. They ought to get away from their parents' apron strings..... But he said so many things that will give them the wrong attitudes. He said that they shouldn't feel inferior when they go out. He said they should think they are as good as anyone, a Caucasian or anybody else. Now isn't that just the wrong idea to give them when they go out. You know what kind of places they will be in. The people on the outside wont like it if they act like that. That's just what gets the negroes in wrong. I've seen how they act smart and it's the smart ones who always get into rouble. I dont think he should have said that."

I went and asked Mich what he had been saying to the high school students. He laughed and said, "It's great fun. I've been really giving it them. You know you've got to tell them. I mean they've got to make their own dcisions. I've been telling them they better get ready to go out whether their parents like it or not. They're not going to be in a concentration all their lives." ( I indicated that a teacher had been a little worried about insubordination as a result of his talk.) He said, "Well, you know it's true. Some of those teachers dont know anything. I mean they're dumb, you know. Those kids have to take things into their own hands, if they want to learn anything in some of those classes." (EHS)

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W. Wade Head

Wm. Spence

Jan. 29, 1943

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WH called me into his office and asked me what I thought about Hass and VK ('since you see a good deal of them'). He went on to say that he was sorry he had placed the camouflage net project in VK's hands. 'I didn't know the evacuees were so much against him. They don't like him. I think he got that thing into the mess it's in.' I agreed that he is generally unpopular with the evacuees. WH: 'Do you think he's on the level? Some of these things he does makes me wonder. He's supposed to have the job of getting work going here; that's a hard job, but he's got so many irons in the fire, he doesn't attend to it. Take this recreation hall business. I think it's a good thing for the Caucasians to get organized, don't you? But when it comes to trying to run the administration, I don't like that. He's making trouble on the recreation hall. I don't think he's dealing straight, or something. I think TH let's it be known that he and VK don't agree with the adm. Now that's a bad thing. That's the worst thing that could happen, when they get to thinking that out there. (I said that VK has a background of labor organization and is always thinking in terms of getting groups organized to negotiate with each other.) WH: Yes, that's what he's doing all right. He wants to negotiate this and that and the other. Always getting meetings and negotiating. Maybe I don't understand that sort of thing, maybe I should understand it. But all I want to know is whether he's on the level. Some of the evacuees are thinking maybe he isn't. (I said I thought he was honest and that one of his troubles is too direct talking and arguing with the evacuees. They accuse him of trying to put things

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over on them by sheer force of voice and manner. They don't like his platform presence and public speaking manner. These have been intimated to me by TT and RN and Smoot Katow and Andy Sugimoto.) WH recalled that I had said earlier that Frank Kuwahara (under VK's generalship probably) had kept back the fact from the people that the camouflage project would come here anyway regardless of how people had voted. I suggested that that was a political manipulation rather than dishonest dealing; it had been kept back from the block managers, not the council. I suggested that this was characteristic of VK's methods. WH thought there was a difference, then said, 'But if there is double dealing, I'm afraid it's affecting the attitudes of the evacuees' towards me. I think they're getting so they don't trust me.' (I said that I was quite sure that WH's popularity has not been affected by the camouflage dealings.)

N.B. It is interesting to note that both VK and WH are both at present accusing each other of bad faith and double dealing. WH thinks that VK is undermining the adm. with the evacuees and trying to split the Caucasian staff. VK thinks that WH is telling the staff one thing, the evacuees another. They are completely out of touch.

(EHS)

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Feb. 3, 1943  
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JLFB

RN came in this morning to my office reading a Los Angeles Times. He spoke in a loud voice and came in aggressively, even though I was in conference with a young nisei who was considering coming into the Bureau as a cartoonist. RN sat down and said, "SURE LOOKS GOOD. NEWS FROM SOLOMONS." THEN HE PROCEEDED TO BURY HIMSELF IN THE PAPER A WHILE. ONCE WHILE THE NISEI WAS STILL PRESENT HE READ AN EXCERPT FROM A STATEMENT BY TOJO SAYING THAT JAPAN HAD NO DESIGNS ON NORTH OR SOUTH AMERICA, THAT JAPAN NOW SINCE HER EXPANSION SOUTHWESTWARD INTO THE PACIFIC IS A HAVE NATION AND IS RICHER THAN EITHER BRITAIN OR THE U.S. "COMMITMENT TO THE WORLD THIS TIME. PRETTY DEFINITE," WAS RN'S COMMENT.

AFTER THE NISEI LEFT, RN TALKED FOR SOME TIME WITH ME. IT CAME IN FOR A TIME AND WAS PRESENT DURING SOME OF THE TALK. RN'S FIRST STATEMENT AFTER THE NISEI LEFT WAS THAT HE HAD TO COME SOMEWHERE TO BLOW OFF HIS STEAM. "I WAS TRYING TO READ THIS MORNING. GOT HADDER AND HADDER THINKING ABOUT CAMP II. COULDN'T CONCENTRATE. THOUGHT I WOULD GO AND BLOW OFF TO JOHN EVANS, BUT DECIDED TO BLOW OFF HERE. I GUESS LOTS A PEOPLE FEELING THE WAY I AM, DONT YOU THINK? I'M PRO-AXIS THIS MORNING. THAT'S WHAT IT DOES TO ME. THEY TAKE GUYS OUT THAT WAY JUST LIKE THE BRITISH COLONIAL ADMINISTRATION. MAKES ME LAUGH. COLLIER COMES HERE AND TALKS ABOUT GETTING READY FOR COLONIAL ADMINISTRATION. AND THEN THEY DO LIKE THE BRITISH--- SAME THING. READ PROVINSE'S ARTICLE IN APPLIED ANTHROPOLOGY. REMEMBER HE SAYS THE ADMINISTRATION ON THE NAVAHO RESERVATION NEVER LISTEN TO THE ONES WHO OPPOSE THEIR POLICY. SAME THING. THROW EM OUT. THOSE DAMN BASTARDS IN CAMP II, HAVEN'T THEY GOT MORE SENSE. ALL THEY NEED TO DO WITH GUY LIKE TACHIBANA IS GIVE HIM BIG JOB. HE JUST LOOKING FOR PRESTIGE. GIVE HIM BIG JOB WITH NOTHING TO DO AND EVERYTHING BE ALLRIGHT. IT WAS ALLRIGHT, WASN'T IT, WHEN HE HAD A JOB. GOT WORSE, DIDN'T IT, WHEN HE DIDN'T HAVE ANY JOB.

FEB. 3, 1943

THOSE DAMN BASTARDS LIKE CRAWFORD DONT KNOW HOW TO DO IT. I GUESS I GO OVER TO SEE JOHN EVANS AND BLOW OFF LIKE THIS. SURPRISE HIM, WOULDN'T IT. HE WOULD SAY, 'GEE, I DIDN'T KNOW THERE WAS ANY FEELING LIKE THIS AROUND.' AND IT WOULD SURPRISE HIM COMING FROM ME. HE THINKS I'M A LIBERAL. .... CAMEOVER HERE TO FIND OUT WHERE RENELL ISLAND IS. DISPATCH FROM JAPAN SAYS FIGHTING THERE, NOT IN GUADALCANAL. RENELL IS 125 MILES SOUTH OF GUADALCANAL. THAT LOOKS GOOD TO ME. EVEN IF SPLIT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN U.S. AND JAPANESE REPORTS, MAKE IT 50 MILES SOUTH OF GUADALCANAL. THAT'S GOOD. DIFFERENT, ISN'T IT? FROM WHAT WE GET FROM THE GVI.

"YOU'VE HEARD OF 47 RONIN DIDN'T YOU? THEY WAITED SEVEN YEARS. WE CAN WAIT. I GUESS EVERY GUY IN CAMP OVER 35 KNOWS ABOUT THE 47 RONIN. THEY'RE GONNA WAIT. THIS KIND OF THING DRIVE IT ALL UNDER. HELL, THEY TALK ABOUT NAZI ATROCITIES IN OCCUPIED COUNTRIES. WHAT WE GOT HERE? SAME THING. WHY DONT THEY ADMIT WE CANT HAVE ANY DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT HERE. DISAGREE WITH THE ADM. AND GET YOUR NECK CUT OFF. SAME THING IN NAZI OCCUPIED COUNTRIES. I'M FEELING LIKE IT WAS IN ABOUT AUGUST. I WAS BEGINNING TO FEEL THAT THERE WAS GUYS AROUND THINKING LIKE I WAS. I'M GOING AROUND NOW LOOKING FOR SENTIMENT TO CRYSTALLIZE. GUYS ARE BEGINNING TO FEEL FRUSTRATED AND MAD BY THIS THING.

"IT'S QUESTION OF SOCIAL SANCTION VS. LEGAL SANCTION. THEY PUT ON THE LEGAL SANCTION. IGNORE THE SOCIAL SANCTION. THEY TOOK TACHIBANA OUT. THEY DONT HAVE NOBODY DOWN THERE NOW TO KEEP THE 47 RONIN QUIET. (EHS ASKED HOW STRONG THE 'PLAIN HOODLUM' ELEMENT IS IN II) IT VARIES. THEY COME INTO IT BECAUSE THEY WANT JUST PLAIN ACTION. PRO-JAPANESE APPEAL SOMETIMES, SOMETIMES PERSONAL FRUSTRATIONS.

(EHS)

Nishimoto, R.N.

Jan. 10, 1943

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RN had been at Tami's house giving her the latest. He dropped in to see me a moment, sat down and talked. He has been busy during the week, neutralizing the ~~kibei~~ kibei organizations and watching "Mizushima's dirty politics" as he tries to unseat the CEC. Rn seemed calmer than usual, altho TT said later that he had been unusually jittery with her.

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Surv

RN: Isn't there a lot of literature on the disintegration of culture? ((I told him about Pitt\*Rivers 'Clash of Cultures') Well, you know, that's what has been happening here. The WRA interference has been disintegrating our culture. (I wondered about ways of re-integrating it.) Rn said that he did not know how except by "avoiding great amounts of frustrations. Isn't that what disintegrates a culture? People get frustrated. They don't learn their culture in a year. But they are supposed to forget it and learn a new one in less than a year. It was not interference like that in California. They were left alone. The core of the rehabilitation program must take this into consideration. (He went on about the present political maneuvers, pointing out how petty they are and saying that these are the minor disturbances after the real big one. 'Of not much significance.') (I asked what he thought the origins of the cut-throat politics might be --- a culture pattern also?) That is a culture pattern, too. Prefectures, the Kawashimas of such and such a prefecture and the Tanakas of another. That is the way it was in Japan and in California. It is the same now---prefectures, cliques, just provincialism. Small time stuff.

RN went on to talk about Japanese culture patterns.

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He said that one is quite evident here, namely, men working from behind the scenes with stooges. The way RN himself is working, the way all the powerful men here are working, the yushi. It is characteristically Japanese. "Did you ever hear of Tayamo Mitsu, the head of the Black Dragon Society. He runs everything in Japan, all ~~the~~ the present political scene is dominated by him. For him there are no factions, he sees everyone. He stays behind. This is the Japanese way. (NB TT has said several times that she thinks RN is modelling his actions after his conception of Tayamo.) It is also like writing. There is a pattern. I am happy to give you all the information I have been giving. I do not want credit for it. That is a Japanese way. The Americans always <sup>want</sup> to publish it under their own names. I am happy without that. There are many here who are willing to give out that way. They would tell you everything about Japanese in California. They would not want their names on it.

RN: It is an important fact that no nisei arguments have any weight with issei. That is, as in the case of TT trying to swing her issei adviser on the Spanish consul proposal. I told her to use arguments about bad effect on nisei. It had no effect. I knew it would have no effect. Takahashi is an issei. Only issei arguments can move them. Always.

RN expressed concern that he might be asked to be IA of 45 if Mizushima is thrust upward in the present political shifts. I asked how he would refuse, when asked. He said that he would have to make a speech saying that his point of view is pro-Japanese, too pro-Japanese for him to be able to work with the administration. That is the only kind of argument

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that would get him off. This is similar to the reasons given for Block 45 putting nisei block managers in after the strike. The block decided that the issei in the block were too pro-Japanese to be able to work with the administration.

When the Issei advisers try to drag the nisei council  
attempt to  
into the present attempt to oust the CEC, Nomura is all primed to get up and say that it is not nisei ~~business~~ business. Hence they should have nothing to do with it. (There is indication that for the past several days RN has been working with Nomura getting him as an ally. ~~RN~~ RN wants to see ~~M~~ Mizushima rise as far as he can, to chairman of the CEC, then get a big fall. He says that M. deserves this because of the way he has been using RN's efforts "for the good of the community" to his own political ends.)

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via Richard Nishimoto:

In his introduction to his staff meeting report Mr. Nishimoto mentioned the following points: The Issei, for at least two years before the evacuation, were worried about international affairs and the relations between Japan and the United States. They could clearly see war developing and were very much worried about their own status and what it would be. As war came closer they followed the radio and the newspapers with great intensity. This was an extreme contrast with the Nisei who went along quite oblivious of international events. When evacuation came, there were incidents such as the following: A Nisei leader of the J.A.C.L. in Los Angeles, in Little Tokyo, went around saying, "Why aren't all these Isseis rounded up and sent off where they won't be dangerous to the country?" This was the sort of thing that lead to the Issei calling the Nisei "traitors". Their point of view was that the Nisei should be speaking in the following manner: "Don't round up the old folks. Don't treat them badly. They are harmless. If you have to lock up someone, then lock up us Nisei." That would have been behavior with true "filial piety" and there would have been no feeling that the Nisei were traitors. After the Japanese came to the Relocation Centers, the Issei felt that the Nisei should now realize that they were all in the same "boat" together. Their point of view was as follows: "Japs are Japs and why don't you Nisei get wise to it". The point back of this is, of course, that the Issei were pointing out that the Nisei even though they were citizens had been treated just like the Issei and that, therefore, their lot should be thrown in with the latter.

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