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C

KEY TO INITIALS

AHL	Dr. A. H. Leighton
EHS	Dr. E. H. Spicer
RBS	Mrs. Rosamond B. Spicer
TY	Mr. Toshio Yatsushiro
TS	Mr. Tom Sasaki

via John Evans;

Mr. Evans reports that there is great instability at present in connection with the offices of Block Manager. By instability, he means that there are many resignations on the part of the managers and a good deal of discussion indicating uncertainty among themselves concerning their place in the community. There are probably a number of causes for this situation. One factor according to Mr. Evans lies in an announcement which he made to the effect there would probably be sometime in the near future a kind of Civil Service examination for all Block Managers. Another factor lies in the recent institution of the council. The Block Managers have of course been appointive officials with, therefore, a definite responsibility to the administration as well as to the community. The Council as an elective body differs from the Block Manager group in its relationship to the community. There is probably, as Mr. Evans believes, a period at present, during which the community is attempting to adjust its attitudes toward the two types of officials. Possibly the prestige of the Block Managers has declined in view of the rise of elective officials. At any rate resignations are taking place. A conflict in connection with the two types of office has been noted, namely, that the people have in some cases refused to release a popular Block Manager from office so that he might become a candidate ^{for} of the Council Representative, the people evidently not wishing to lose a good man from an office, the value of which they already know and recognize.

Mr. Evans reports that he is surprised in regard to the ages of the newly elected Council Members. The average age is about thirty which places them fairly near the top of age limit of the Nisei Group. Mr. Evans had thought at first that the Council Members would probably average much younger. He is pleased to find this greater degree of maturity among them.

(EHS)

Water was off in Poston One for most of the morning and most of the afternoon. This affected the whole camp rendering coolers useless and causing people actually to suffer slightly for scarcity of drinking water. However, by 6:30 P. M. water was on and Mr. Gelvin reported that there would be no more trouble with the water system.

(EHS)

8-14-42

Via Block Manager of 214 and a Councilman of 212 who is also an optometrist:

The following is in substance part of the conversation I overheard in the Block Manager's office of 214. For simplicity sake, I will here designate the Block Manager as Mr. A and the Councilman as Mr. B:

MR. A: As far as I can determine, the present situation can be boiled down to two main issues. That is, either we vote for council representatives or against it altogether. If we do not vote for representatives, we will not be represented in the Poston City Council and as a result will only get the left-overs after Camps 1 and 3 take the best of everything.

MR. B: If the Isseis refuse to comply with the regulations set forth by the W R A, they should do so under protest. I believe ^{the} only solution to the problem would be to have ^{only} the Niseis ~~only~~ vote and elect their temporary councilmen. In this way, we would still be represented and this also leaves a channel open for possible future changes which I am quite sure are bound to come. Should we fail to nominate our choices and elect our council members at the coming election, we would be placing ourselves at the ^{mercy} ~~Niseis~~ of Camps 1 and 3 as you have already stated.

I think that the few Isseis who were making the most kick last night (Pre-Temporary Council Meeting held on Thursday, August 13th) were only thinking of their own selfish, personal desires to enhance their social prestige rather than the best interest of the people. They were not thinking in terms of the welfare of the women and children. It is my belief that the only reason that they made such a fuss was that they were afraid that they would be left out of the picture altogether.

MR. A: I believe the majority of the blocks will nominate their candidates by tomorrow. Here is one thing I can't understand about the Isseis. Why don't they stop kicking about this business about representing ^{now} and raising a stint about farming conditions. ^{Why} don't they refuse to work under the

hot sun without proper equipments, government issued clothing and proper transportation facilities. Why should they try to break down this whole community structure. I ^{do} did not think anything of the fellows would take the dishes and furniture in their homes and break and throw them around. That is exactly what they are trying to do when they oppose the W R A regulations. The two main interest the people have uppermost in their minds today is the problem of food and medical attention. As long as these two things are satisfactory, I know the people will not kick.

From this point on the conversation changed to other topics so I took my leave.

PERSONAL COMMENTS:

Since the councilman from 21⁴ had such definite views and ideas on the subject, why did he not present them at the council meeting? Being present at that council meeting, I can definitely say that that councilman did not utter a single word.

In regard to that particular council meeting, that is, Thursday, August 13th, I noticed that all the Niseis kept quiet permitting the Isseis to dominate the entire meeting. Since the Niseis have equal or should have equal speaking privileges in that council, I feel that they failed in their responsibilities to their particular blocks. Everyone isn't going to agree with you all the time, neither are they going to agree with everyone all the time or even part of the time. It is therefore my belief that there is no harm in presenting one's personal views. I would like to see the Niseis present a little more backbone and stick to their opinions whatever it may be and not back down ~~on the situation~~ when the situation becomes unfavorable. To date, I have not noticed or heard Niseis speak their convictions aside from a few of the leaders.

Another very obvious thing which stuck me in that meeting was the lack of

of proper parliamentary procedure. In this case, perhaps the capabilities of the Chairman ^{were} ~~was~~ limited. He was able to call for a motion, discussion, vote, whether a motion was passed or not in English but had to call upon an interpreter each time to translate. If a chairman can translate English to Japanese and vice versa, I think much of this difficulty can be wired out. I noticed also that many persons, both Isseis and Niseis, auditing the meeting did not have any respect for the Chairman or the two legal advisors sitting next to him; namely, Mr. Saburo Kido and Mr. John Maeno, as evidenced by the cat-calls and cries of "throw them out". Of course it is easy to see that the Isseis do not conduct their meetings in the conventional parliamentary system which the Niseis adhere to. The only possible solution to the problem, that is in my opinion, is to devise some method which will be suitable to both groups. There is no reason why the two groups cannot get together. ^{Cooperation.} ~~Groups~~ in this matter together with a better method of interpretation would alleviate this present condition, thus permitting more business to be accomplished in the same period of time instead of the prolonged meeting conducted on August 13th which lasted until 2:00 a.m.

(KE)

Today, while at the Administration building, I heard from one of the timekeepers that the Block Manager of 209 had resigned or was intending to resign from his position. Sensing a possible story, I dropped in to see him at 5:00 p.m. at his apartment to get the details first hand.

Dr. Tatsumi (chiropractor) Block Manager 209.

"I resigned from my position yesterday (August 17) because I was offered a job in my profession. Our office will be the previous office occupied by the clinic. There is no other reason for my resignation except this.

- "The meeting being held in this block tonight is for the specific purpose of appointing my successor.

"It is the radical element of this camp which has been causing all the trouble. At the last Pre-Temporary Council meeting (August 13), those four speakers from the Issei council who openly attacked the nisei leaders in their speeches were unfair and very discourteous. Their conduct was ungentlemanly. They are a part of the radical group of which I am speaking about.

"At our block meeting, I warned the people to think a little more deeply and carefully before passing final judgment or whether they should or should not vote in the forthcoming September election. To this they cried, "Are you working for the best interest of the isseis or are you working for the government?" This was accompanied by cries to resign. However, I told them that if I were walking with any one of them and saw that he was going to step into a hole in the road, I would as a gentleman and out of common courtesy warn him of his danger.

"If there is one bad orange in a box of oranges, it will in time cause others to rot. Regardless of how much paper we may use to wrap up that one bad orange, its influence if kept in that box would be devastating. This is precisely the situation in regard to the radical element which exists in this camp

today. I think the best policy is to remove these ^{few} ~~five~~ radicals and especially their leaders to some other camp where they would not know any people and where their efforts to exert their influence will be ineffective. They say they are working for the common interest of the people. They speak of cooperation but they are really disrupting this community by their actions.

"I was really surprised and taken aback by the attitude Mr. Tachibana displayed at the council meetings. His actions hardly befitted those of an educator and a leader. I was really disappointed; more so when he tried to change the minds of the people of the various blocks after they had already voted. I thought it was a ^{VERY} ~~low~~ thing to do.

"The furor at Block 213 can be attributed to the influence of this radical element. This fellow in the recreation department who was formerly a teacher is no doubt responsible in this case."

(KE)

September 11, 1942

GENERAL BLOCK MEETING OF 209

The meeting was called specifically for the purpose of giving the Block Manager's report, the Treasurer's report and especially the report of the Block Council representative on the first Temporary Community Council meeting held on Monday September 7. The Council representative is Harry Iwashige, the Block Manager Albert Ikeda. Both Niseis.

The meeting was scheduled for 8:30 P.M. but only 16 members have shown upon by 9 o'clock. Of this number 4 were Niseis and the other 12 Isseis.

The general talk of the gathered group was that the people here were more interested in the fishing, fixing their fishing paraphernalia and talking about the size of the catch than to attend meetings. Of the 16 members who had shown up by this time, the 4 Niseis were the Councilmen, the Block Manager, the Clerk and the Custodian. Finally it became necessary for the Block Manager to go out and round up the members. A little while later the Block Manager came back to report.

Block Manager: The people will not attend this meeting because they say that it has no meaning. They say that unless results can be obtained by holding such a meeting, or if a guarantee to that effect can be made, they will attend such a meeting. They also stated that those who are attending probably think that there is some meaning to the meetings; therefore, why don't you get their opinions. I told them that this meeting was called for a purpose and that was to announce the Treasurer's report and also the Councilmen's report. Perhaps I shouldn't have mentioned that the Council report was going to be given tonight. I want those of you who have gathered here tonight to decide whether or not to have block meetings.

(3 more Niseis enters making it 7 Niseis and 12 Isseis)

(The following was given to me on the side by the Clerk)

Clerk: Mr. M. and Mr. A. will not cooperate at all because they don't wish to have a Council. The majority of this block is opposed to have Councilmen's report back. They also claim that even the

Block meetings are useless. Prior to this, when we had our Block Meeting to decide on whether to nominate Council representative or not, many of the people didn't want to come in if the Block intended to nominate candidates. When they were assured that nomination of candidate would not be held, they all came in and participated in the meeting.

Block Manager: Since their stand is that they will not attend because such a meeting has no meaning, I told them to come to the meeting and express their opinions as to why a block meeting is useless or had no meaning. In spite of this they are stubborn and firmly stated that they will not attend. We cannot use force to make them come to the meetings. I really want to find out what real reason or motive they have for not cooperating with the rest of the block. If they are not satisfied with me as a Block Manager, I will gladly resign my position to anyone they may wish to choose. Since they do not give me reason, I cannot tell what is really in their minds.

Voice: I should think that since this Council has been elected and since all the other blocks are holding meetings, why don't these people who are apposing this, cooperate like a man and not be childish in their action.

Voice: The main reason for their apposition must be that they strongly appose the Council.

Custodian: I think we shouldn't have stated that the Councilmen's report would be given tonight. This, I believe, is the reason why they are staying away.

Block Manager: Since the noise has subsided, shall we proceed with the Treasurer's report? That is if those of you who are present agree to such a procedure.

(The noise here referred to the hammering and scrapping produced in the process of laying linoliums on the floor by the workers.)

General approval of those present.

The Treasurer's report given by the Block Manager followed by the Block Manager's meeting report of August 28.

At this point I dismiss myself from the meeting for I had gained the general impression or attitude of the people of this Block. At a future date I intend to interview some of the leaders of the majority opposition group. I have already gained permission from one of the leaders to interview him.

September 12, 1942

Via Mr. I. Father of Councilmen of Block 209

This block is divided into two factions. The majority of the people of this block still firmly base their argument on no vote, no council. There are four or five leaders in that group. Three of them are Mr. M., Mr. A., and Mr. Y. It is for this reason that the attendance at the meeting last night was so poor. After that meeting, my son told me that he intended to resign because he didn't have the full support of the block, but I discouraged him in this respect and told him that this was the critical period and this was the time and place to show how much fortitude and wise judgement he possessed. At this important period some sort of an understanding must necessarily be reached in order to keep this block moving. I really don't see why those fellows won't cooperate. It is really for their own benefit as well as for the welfare of the entire block.

Via John Evans:

About the first of September, the Block Managers are to receive an examination which will be analogous to a Civil Service examination and on successful completion, will receive a permanent appointment. The examination will consist in some simple questions of biographical type, age, education, types of working experience and responsibilities, etc. Also, as is customary in Civil Service examinations, they will have to produce some letters of recommendations - in this case, from block members. The Block Managers are getting somewhat jittery at the prospects. Some of them do not like the idea of a permanent appointment and are thinking again of trying to be elected to the Council. Others are scared by the thought of the examination. I asked John Evans how they liked the talk I gave on August 15th (see under meetings of this date) and he replied that they were very enthusiastic, particularly to the idea of the coming councilors. He said that he had a lot of trouble with the Isseis being perfectionistic about the translations of the notices from English to Japanese. He said in one case that he had four different people, all of whom spoke good Japanese, go over the translation and then ok'd it and then when he posted the notice, he was deluged by complaints from the Isseis that the translation was incorrect. On going into the matter carefully, he couldn't discover that the meaning was any different from the English but that it was a question of form, concerning which there seemed to be many different opinions.

In general, the meetings in which he has attended in which there are a large number of Isseis, there is a tendency to spend the first hour and half discussing abstract meanings before getting down to business and this seems to exhaust and annoy the Niseis. For instance, in a meeting to take up the "duties and privileges" of Issei, a great deal of time was spent in discussing what duty and privilege meant, not as applied to this situation in Poston but what duty and privilege meant in general.

8-25-42

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Mr. Evans says that there are Iasseis on the Council at Manzanar and this happened as a result of an error.

As a result of a suggestion from Mr. Evans, the Block Managers are starting to keep a log in each block.

(AHL)

Poston City Council:

This is a request by the undersigned persons for the fundamental equipment and medicines necessary for any hospital, large or small. This request is an aftermath of the untimely death of a young mother who we think would still be with us if the Poston General Hospital had the following equipment and medicines:

Equipment:

1. Blood Bank
2. Pulmotor
3. More Blood Pressure Apparatus
4. Steam for Sterilizing
5. Auxiliary lighting system in the hospital for emergencies. (Electricity generated by gas engine or storage batteries.)
6. Incubator for premature babies
7. More flashlights and batteries
8. Wasserman test equipment
9. More sheets, bedding and beds
10. More than one well for emergency water
11. More fundamental equipment for Dental Clinic
12. One car for Doctors from each camp that is comfortable for the patients.
13. Better food for Doctors, patients and expectant mothers
14. An Out-Patient building with X-ray, Laboratory and Dental Clinic

Medicines:

1. Intravenous Sedation
2. Blood Plasma

We know that the Doctors, nurses, interns, etc. here in Poston are capable and willing to do everything within their power and skill to see that people of Poston who number approximately 18,000 are kept healthy and strong. But without equipment and medicines, why not have witch-doctors?

The death mentioned above was that of Mrs. Mizue Umeda, 46-14-D, on Wednesday, August 26, 1942.

We, the undersigned, are not blaming anyone for this death or other previous deaths in Poston, but we are only trying to prevent other deaths from lack of equipment and medicine.

Respectfully yours,

(Signed)

Richard Umeda
Robert Kinoshita
Bill Tanaka
Jack Y. Nakazawa
Hiroshi Nakashima
Geo. Nagano
Joe Kanda
Hiroshi Amano

Kaero Sumida
Mrs. Grace N. Nishioka
Aijiro Takahashi
Frank T. Tanaka
Grace Morioka
Ken Y. Kono
Charles Tambara

(AHL)

JOHN KATANO--Block 3
Block Council

The block council consists of 16 members, seven Nisei and 9 Issei. When Mr. Katano was appointed block manager he said he was asked to organize a block council. He gave the people a free hand, he says, and told them to do what they wanted. He has sometimes acted as chairman since, but not always. The meetings are conducted in both Japanese and English.

ACTIONS

Organized a food committee in July and this committee went to Mr. Best to report the complaints of the people of the block, but they got no satisfaction through this committee.

No council action has ever been taken according to Mr. Katano on gardening, however, land has been practically all spaded up and planted.

MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSIONS WITH MR. KATANO CONCERNING COUNCIL,
BLOCK COUNCILS, ETC.

He says this block council has never done much of anything. They get together and they talk over things, but the only thing they ever elected was the food committee. They put the chef on that and they went and saw Mr. Best.

The way he sees it there should not be any trouble between the councilmen and the block managers. As he sees it the council is to be legislative and the block manager administrative. That's all there is to it. The Council can pass laws. The block managers are sort of messenger boys for the administration. The council-

men don't have to be messenger boys like that. I think it will work out all right, but I hear that some of the fellows are jealous. Figure they want to be the whole in the block or something like that, but they'll get over it. We just go on doing what the administration says, but what gets me sometimes is that they make promises and then they don't come through with them. Once Mr. Evans made the promise that the floors would be fixed up and that there would be ceilings put in the apartments and all those things. Well, now this morning at the block manager meeting they said there wouldn't be any linoleum for the floors and they didn't know anything about the other improvements. Now I am afraid to tell the people that because they have already been promised these things. To me it seems that if the administration would just tell us they couldn't do something we could go ahead maybe and do it up ourselves. I think that's the way all the people in our block feel. The trouble is that they make promises and we get to expect things, but they don't go through with it. That's the way it is on all this housing.

One of the things, I guess, you noticed is the difference in the ages of the block managers and the councilmen. All the councilmen are younger. The average age of the block managers is 31 and the average age of the councilmen is 29. One of the troubles around here is the Issei don't get a chance to do things and yet they have the best ideas. They have had all the experience and they know what the right things are to do, but they don't get any chance. When we had that municipal planning

board there were Issei working on that and we were all set to have Issei as well as Nisei on the municipal council and that order of W.R.A. came through and it was a big disappointment to find that the Issei would not be able to hold office. Now in this community there are millionaires or near millionaires some who really know something about business, but they are Issei; they are older men and they haven't come forward. So you get a young fellow like Fred Ota running the Community Enterprises, who admits he never had a business of his own and doesn't know anything about it while a man here who's worth a million dollars and had a big place of his own doesn't do anything. That's the way it is. Those fellows who came in first, the volunteers they call them young fellows. The reason they came first was that they didn't have any responsibilities. The responsible people had to stay and settle up their affairs before they could leave. The volunteers didn't have anything to settle up and they came and they are department heads. They are everything. It's a bad thing. I guess maybe the Census on occupation they made will make it so that a change could be made and put the right people in the right places. That's really what we need. Now, Dr. Leighton made a speech to the block managers once, I remember, last month. Now, that speech was really the same old stuff that we have been getting from Mr. Head, Mr. Beatty, and all the others. They were just saying, "Well, now put your shoulders to the wheel and we'll all come out of this bad situation". That's right, but it takes more than that. You got to put the right man in the right

places and you can't do that until the Issei get their places. Mr. Evans told us the other day that he had a place in his heart for certain blocks because those blocks came early as volunteers and went through "hell" during those first days. We know that, but that's no reason for keeping all those young fellows who never had any responsibility in the high places. They tell me that there are five times as many people working in recreation as there are in subjugation. Well, now, that's no way. The subjugation is important and there should be more men working in that, but people go to work on recreation because they are looking for easy jobs. They're not thinking about which is more important.

We once asked Mr. James if he wouldn't make the Press Bulletin bigger so that there could be expressions of the people in it. He has a big plan for it, but he hasn't gotten around to making the Press Bulletin much bigger. But with these new councilmen, about the only way ^{we} got to check up on them and make them work would be to have a newspaper we could write to so that we could criticize what they do. We need a big paper so that the people can write things into it.

Dr. Provinse was talking to us about going out under the new W.R.A. policy. He was pointing out to us that it might not be a bed of roses if we could go out. Believe me if I got any chance to go I'd go right now. I have children and I don't want them to grow up here. Why if they spent a couple or more years here they'll probably be afraid when they see a white man again. It's too narrow. I don't want them to grow up this way and you can bet I'd take a chance if I got it.

Yes, we have a gardener for this block. Fact is we have four. They report to me and to the landscape committee and they sort of keep the block fixed up and they got a lot of this ground ready for planting although they didn't have to. They are working about a half-day. That's all the work there is for them now. They don't work long, but they do the job right. Yes, the night watchman reports to me, the block manager. He doesn't have anything to do with the police department. He is under me not under them.

We raised money. We had a collection for coolers for the kitchen. We raised a hundred dollars; just got it the other day. We had another collection once, but didn't really assess the people, but the money came in and we got flashlights for the night watchman. It's possible to ^{do} that. People have a little money. I think we could solve some of the other problems that way if the administration would just tell us what we couldn't do.

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(EHS)

BLOCK 31 - BLOCK COUNCIL

via Miss Tsuchiyama:

I asked Miss Tsuchiyama about the nature of her Block Council. She is from Block 31. She said that she feels that it is not very important in the life of the people. She has attended a couple of the meetings and never found more than 10 or fifteen persons. She thinks that probably one person from each family is supposed to attend the meeting. When she has attended, they have always been all Issei over sixty years of age. At the last meeting they called for volunteers to work the land of the block to prepare it for planting. This planting was not carried out by any regular committee and she doesn't believe that regular committee work has ever been carried on by the block council. The block manager is chairman of the council. He is a Nisei who has^{no} difficulty both with Japanese and with English. He participates in the meeting by means of an interpreter. Thus both English and Japanese are used in the council meetings. The meetings are called approximately every two weeks, but they also may be called for special pruposes.

(EHS)

B

BLOCK 28 KITCHEN + Council

The residents of Block 28 since August have been complaining to the blockmanager about the food conditions in the kitchen. The residents' complaints were:

1. Not enough food being served--

- a. Those who worked outside and whose appetite was comparatively heavier than those who did not work at all complained that they were denied second helpings even though the food was bad; they (the working people) were saying that it's better to go to sleep with a full stomach than to go hungry.

2. Too much Japanese food or our style of cooking--

- a. We have noted that in other kitchens they were serving other styles of food such as American dishes, salads, and dessert, whereas, this kitchen 28 served only Japanese dishes for lunch and supper every day, consisting of rice and cooked vegetables with meat and no salads or dessert. We, the Nisei, have been brought up the American way eating mostly American style of dishes. A few have been brought up in the Japanese manner.

On September 8, the Nisei of Block 28 took the matter to the municipal councilman and demanded action and to replace the chief cook with a capable chef who will meet the demands

of the Nisei.

The councilman took the matter in his own hands and received the approval of the residents. He, with the help of the block council are selecting a chef. The blockmanager has no jurisdiction or authority in the kitchen.

(JF)

Via John G. Evans:

No new arrivals in Poston

(AHL)

Via John G. Evans:

1 baby born

(AHL)

From this date on, data on the following subjects will be
filed in appropriate folders:

1. Sociological Journal
2. Meetings
3. Religion
4. Agriculture
5. Mixed marriages
6. Out group relations
7. Girls' clubs
8. Education
9. Council
10. Block managers
11. Recreation

(AHL)

Mr. Tak Tashima, Research worker, entered the Bureau of
Sociological Research today.

(AHL)

TAKEO MOMITA -- Block 39

FORM OF BLOCK COUNCIL

The block council has just been re-organized. The former consisted of men both Nisei and Issei appointed by the previous blockmanager. The chairman of it was Mr. Momita who is now blockmanager. The block council according to Mr. Okamoto and Mr. Momita never formed any committees and never did anything as a group. Mr. Momita was elected chairman of the Council and he, acting as an individual, roused interest in planting vegetables and called for volunteers to do the work. The blockmanager let his own work go and paid no attention to the block council. He disappeared one day and began to work with the Adobe Project. The blockmanager work was left undone and finally Mr. Momita was drafted by Tomo Ito for the job of blockmanager which he now holds on permanent appointment.

Last night he began the re-organization of the block council. He called the people of the block together and told them to pick out one man from each barracks, each man necessarily being a head of the family. Thus the new block council will consist of 14 men, all heads of families. Several of these will undoubtedly be Nisei because there are a number of Nisei heads of families from the Watsonville group of the block. However, Mr. Momita thinks that a great majority will be Issei.

Momita also suggested to the women that they organize a Women's Club which would get support from the block council and "talk about things which they wouldn't care to discuss with the men, for instance, what to do about the children." Momita thinks that they are concerned about the children keeping late hours and he is going to suggest to him that a curfew be constituted

for younger children so that one's next door neighbor's children won't be setting an example to one's own by staying out late at night.

The previous blockmanager was not able to speak Japanese and consequently when meetings were held both Japanese and English were used. Momita himself speaks Japanese fairly well and believes that meetings will be conducted in Japanese because it is impossible to get anything done if they use an interpreter or if they use both Japanese and English.

MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION

This block consists primarily of people from the Imperial Valley, from all the towns in the valley including Brawley, Westmoreland, El Centro, Holtville, and others. Momita is from El Centro and is an Issei, but came to this country when he was only a few years old and has never been back to Japan. "These people are about as uncooperative as any we could find. They live scattered around the valley, but they did have some association with each other, but there was a difference between northern people and the southern people. There was both the Buddhist and the Christian churches in Brawley and the same in El Centro and they went to those. There were also two farmer's associations, one for the northern people and one for the southern people. They are always fighting among each other or at least talking and they never do anything together. About the only thing that is organized by the block is a girls' baseball team and boys' baseball team. Then the women have a quiet sewing circle that they go to, but the men don't have anything. Some of the Issei just gather in front of the bachelors' apartment and talk all night, just a bull session. They never get anywhere, but they talk a lot. These people don't dance. I guess you would say the Imperial Valley people never learned how to

dance. Just a few of the younger one's even know how, as they never have block dances.

"There are about seven families from Watsonville. They occupy one barrack and they are about all Nisei.

"The Issei here are just too old to care about anything. They figure they don't have any future and they don't care what happens. They are tired out mentally and physically and don't care if they just sit around the rest of their lives. I have a block carpenter, a gardener, and a watchman. They report to me and usually have plenty to do around the block. One of the things I have just started is a suggestion box. I don't call it a complaint box because anybody can get up and complain. But in each of the latrines I have set up a box with a slit at the top and the people can put their suggestions in those boxes. I haven't looked at them yet, but I am going to collect the suggestions for the next block council meeting, and present them to all the people.

"I am a member of the International Service Committee of the Red Cross. We have a full chapter here which is on an equality with the Yuma chapter. Usually there is just one chapter to a county, but there has been a special exception in the case of us and we are the first Japanese group that has ever been granted a full chapter of Red Cross. I will have charge of getting letters and telegrams from people here to Japan through Geneva. They are very anxious to get word to relatives in Japan to let them know how things are and that they are still alive, but there are certain regulations that have to be met in any of those communications and I will have to look through all the letters that go out of here to see that they meet the requirements. That's going to be a lot of work.

"When Dr. Schnur was here he asked me to be business manager of the hospital. He said he needed somebody badly to do the job and I told him I was half-lame and didn't want the job and he said he would come and get me, but he never did this.

"In El Centro I had a drugstore; I am a registered pharmacist and had about 60% American trade, the rest was colored people and miscellaneous others. They elected me to Rotary there, but I refused because I didn't have the money, but that shows that I was accepted and then I was on the executive board of the El Centro Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Okamoto here calls me an optimist and I call him a pessimist. I say that there's some hop, but he thinks there isn't any. I know when I was out I had to take a lot of snubs, but you have to learn to do that and I was working towards better relations all the time. Once for the County Fair in Imperial I got people started on having what they call "Japan Night" at the fair. The Chamber of Commerce helped organize it and the Japanese cooperated some. It turned out to be a big affair and there were more people on that night than any other night. That's the sort of thing you have to do to create good will. Just before evacuation I tried to get a lot of the Imperial Valley Japanese together to go out to form an agricultural colony in Colorado, Broad Acres Farm which was owned by Mr. Ingersoll. I worked on that very hard. I worked with Mr. Fryer of W.R.A. We were going to buy that land for \$13 an acre and it looked as if it was going through, but the army found that there was a munitions dump seventeen miles away and so they refused permission for any Japanese to settle there.

We thought for a while that maybe we would be going out a couple of weeks after we got to Poston. I have all kinds of household goods packed up in boxes down at the Buddhist Church in El Centro. I had my name and Colorado written on them. I stored my car down in El Centro and some of the others stored their trucks there. I told them not to sell their farm machinery; that they would be using it soon at Broad Acres Farm. Well, the whole thing got stepped on and so now we are not going out.

I am sort of tired of the whole business, but I am thinking of starting another colony about the first of the year so that we could get out in time for planting. I know a deputy sheriff who knows the new governor of Texas, Corky Stevens. There may be some land in Uvalde County, Texas where we can go. For a while we thought there was a place in the Rio Grande Valley, but the army said it was too close to the border. I think we ought to try to get out now instead of waiting until after the war because it is going to be hard to make a start and you keep on spending money without any income coming in. I have spent \$300 since we have been here because the kids have to have candy, ice cream, and toys and I have a few kids."

(Two young men came in at this time and shook hands with Momita, one of them introducing himself as "the brother of Yoshie". Momita said, "Oh, you're over in Block 27. You came in with the Oceanside gang." The young man said, "Yes, we are trying to fix some tractors, but you can't do anything. Then there's too much red tape; you have to get things signed; things in a dozen places and you don't know who has to sign them and

when you do sign them they don't have the tools. That's the way it is all the time. No chance of getting anything done.")

Mr. Momita pointed to a young man who was passing by and said, "Do you see that fellow over there? Well, he was in the Navy just after the last war; enlisted and was mustered out as First-Class seaman. He volunteered at the beginning of this war, but they didn't take him and believe me he was bitter.

"We don't have any trouble to speak of in this block, but the people certainly don't work together. (I asked him why.) Well, I don't know. That's just the way Imperial Valley people are, but you have to remember that they are the real pioneers of Imperial Valley. They are some of the first ones who came in and they really worked the land up. I tried to get the J.A.C.L. to have an annual celebration honoring the Japanese pioneers of Imperial Valley. It seemed that it would be a good thing to have a celebration like that calling attention to what they did down there. It would make people have respect for them and feel better, but the J.A.C.L. never did anything about it. They always were a spineless bunch, just the way they fell down on the job of trying to stop the evacuation. They didn't do anything on that."

"I mentioned the fact that Albert was from Brawley and asked Momita if he knew him. Momita said, "Oh, you mean that guy. He went down to Camp III, didn't he as block manager supervisor?

The people who knew him around here always wondered about that. They said, "Well, if that guy is going to be supervisor what is this place coming to?" They say all the time that it looks as if anybody who can "shoot the bull" can get a good job and of course that's the main trouble in this place. Fellows who never had any experience before they came are in the various departments and they don't know the business and so people don't want to work for them. They won't cooperate with them. That's the way they are talking about Fred Ota who never even saw a retail business before he came here and now they call him a general manager."

(EHS)

111 B
9-12-42

BLOCK - 26

Subject: Nisei reaction towards attending meetings--

George, 27 years, (just a resident) said, that it was impossible to attend the various meetings because--

1. He doesn't understand Japanese language very well, which he is very ashamed of, he also stated, that the meeting was conducted in Japanese because most of the Issei attended and very few Nisei or none at all were present. The Issei will bring up problems and suggestions, which is unimportant to the Nisei and the Issei would talk for hours on one problem, getting "nowhere fast," which is very boring and monotonous to the Nisei.

The Nisei of Block 26 suggested to the block manager and also to the municipal councilman to have Nisei meetings separately from the Issei. In this way a Nisei can bring problems which interest him the most. The Nisei are modernized instead of old fashioned. The ways of thinking are all together different.

(J.F.)

BLOCK 26

Subject: Block Council

1. Block council organized June 10, 1942

- a. The block council was appointed by residents of each respective barracks - one each from family barracks and two from the mens dormitory.

There are 3 Issei and 5 Nisei block councilmen.

- b. The block council selected two Issei and two Nisei to act as advisors within the block council.

- 1. The duties of the advisors are to take all complaints of block residents to the block council who in turn consults the block manager to call a meeting. The municipal councilman act as chairman and block manager as co-chairman. All major problems are discussed at this time. General meeting of residents are called in accordance with the problems involved.

2. Activities

- a. Plans for a childrens playground and overhead shelter completed July 15, 1942.

- 1. The residents of Block 26 called the attention of the block council, to make a shelter for the childrens to play in, due to the heat. The block council and block

manager asked for the cooperation and help from the residents to get trees and shade brush to make the shelter, to which the residents boast that it's the biggest and best shelter in Poston I.

b. To reduce the number of residents in the block, which has 296 at the present time.

1. Reason for reduction--

a. Other blocks has fewer number of persons, living in the block or approximately 250 average. If there are less people to feed, each and everyone will share better than what he is getting now. The cooks will have a chance to cook better things, and it was also pointed out, that it would take less time.

(J.F.)

Mr. Sasaki and I went to the Block manager Supervisor's office where we encountered Tomo Ito. He told us that Tak Nishimoto was down at Camp III and would be there all morning working on the block managers' log with the block managers there. I introduced Mr. Sasaki and explained that he would be working on the calendar of meetings. Mr. Ito said that would be fine and that he would welcome Mr. Sasaki's help and that there were a lot of problems coming up just now such as the matter of the quad system. "I was just talking to Mr. Taylor. He told me that the paymasters have worked out a quad system of their own. They don't call them quads. They call them sections. They have them worked sometimes with three blocks to a section and sometimes six blocks to a section and I do know that we block managers, for our purposes some time ago, worked out a quad system. Then I understand that the Council has worked out another system. It looks to me as if we ought to get together on these things and iron out the difficulties so that we can have a single quad or section system whatever you want to call them." I asked him whether the paymasters had consulted the block managers before making out the section system. Mr. Ito said that they had not; that it was afterwards that it had been mentioned. "But you can easily see that it would be more difficult for the paymasters to change their system, just as Mr. Taylor was telling us, than it would be for us or anyone else. We ought to get together with the Council. We would be certainly glad to cooperate and get this thing worked out." I told him that the Council had already passed on its quad system and it was getting ready for an Issei election based on the system they had approved. Mr. Ito said that they had, therefore, better get out a memorandum

immediately and turn it over to Dr. Ishimaru before today's council meeting.

(EHS)

Tak Nishimoto in discussing the blockmanager log with Mr. Sasaki and myself said, "We have instructed the blockmanagers not to pay any attention to any meetings which is not made as an official announcement of some department. Many times there is duplication of meetings and it would be better to have every meeting okeyed by Mr. Head, Mr. Evans, or Mr. Gelvin before anyone holds it. That is why we tell the blockmanagers not to announce or pay any attention to meetings unless they are official. If you want a record of meetings maybe that would be the way to tackle it since all meetings must be official from the administration."

(EH)

via John G. Evans:

1 baby born in Poston, September 17, 1942.

(AHL)

via John G. Evans:

In Mr. J. Evans office is a letter from E. R. Fryer (signed Robert A. Petrie) and dated 9-8-42 giving a list of Santa Anita gang members sent to Poston.

(AHL)

Mr. Gene Sogioka, Artist of Poston II, entered the Bureau of Sociological Research today.

(AHL)

116b
K
116b
114. Local Council, Unit I

52
7-14-43

Regular Meeting of the Local Council by I.I.

C.R. --

- 40. Community Enterprise (distribution of Dividend funds)
- 81. Hospital (trust fund distribution)
- 100. Outgroup Relations (Spanish Consul)
- 92. WRA (new labor policy)

Chairman 'Judge' Nomura called the regular meeting of the Unit I Local Council to order at 1:45 p.m., July 14, in the Conference Room of the Administration Building. Secretary Fujii called the roll. Of the 31 designated members of the Council, only the following four were absent:

Mr. M. Nakamura, Block 17
Mr. T. Sakai, Block 18
Mr. M. Okamoto, Block 30
Mr. G. Shibata, Block 42

In addition there were present Mr. Nagai of the Executive Board, an unidentified person taking copious notes, and this observer. Since the observer was not acquainted with the various council members, he was not able to describe the seating arrangements of the council members.

The agenda for this regular meeting included:

1. Announcement of the coming of the Spanish Consul
2. Notice of Project Director Head's temporary absence
3. Letters to the Council
4. Distribution of the Trust Fund
5. Approval of the nominations for the Labor Relations Board
6. Request for control of the Community Enterprise "Dividend Fund"
7. Report of the distribution of the Trust Fund for the Hospital
8. Correction of the WRA wire in regard to new labor policy
9. Request for 100 canal workers
10. Selective Service Stars survey.

1. Announcement of the coming of the Spanish Consul. Chairman Nomura introduced Mr. Nagai of the Executive Board. Nagai said that he was asked by Mr. Nelson to give notice about the coming of the Spanish Consul "sometime next week." Since the Consul's visit will be a short one, it was thought that he would not be able to meet more than a handful of the evacuees to discuss the ^{ir} problems. It may be advisable, Nagai pointed out, to write down some of the things ~~so~~ that the memorandums can be given to the Consul. Since the Consul will not be able to meet every individual Issei with problems, Nagai stated, ~~so~~ he thought it best to pool the problems together and have representatives such as the Council members to meet as a group with the Consul.

After making this announcement and after answering many questions Nagai excused himself, although, it seemed that the procedure was not quite clear in all the Council member's [/] mind.

2. Project Director's temporary absence. Chairman Nomura read a memorandum which stated that Mr. Head was leaving the project for two or three weeks and that Mr. Gelvin will be acting Project Director during that time.

3. Letters of appreciation for funds given to the library and to the school teachers was read by the chairman. Also, a letter from Mr. John Collier, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, was read by the Chairman, which acknowledged a receipt of the petition signed by the residents of Poston requesting the continuation of Mr. Head's services as Project Director. Mr. Collier wrote that he has referred that letter to Mr. Dillon Myer.

4. Distribution of the Trust Fund. Nomura read the list showing how the Camouflage Trust Fund of \$17,863.65 was distributed. The list included:

\$5,000.00 for the hospital fund
2,360.00 for the school teachers
1,800.00 for each block at the rate of \$50. each
8,567.00 for the members of the work corps
22.50 for accounting charges (one month salary of \$19.
and clothing allowance of \$3.50)
113.00 on hand, balance

The \$8,567.00 that was distributed for the members of the work corps was given out at the rate of \$1.08 per month, the camouflage workers share going into the block funds. *(The amount stated here differs from that reported in the Chronicle. See July 15 or 16 edition)*
The Trust Fund for April was discussed and a resolution (?) designating Nomura, Fujii, and one other person as trustees of the April Trust Fund was discussed. One gentleman with a long goatee commented, that he was in favor of the resolution because the council "is different from the canteen." The resolution was passed.

5. Appointments for the Labor Relations Board of Fukuda, Nakai, and Yanai, by Chairman Nakachi was approved by an "aye" vote. It was unanimous with no discussion.

6. Request for control of the Community Enterprise "Dividend Fund." Chairman Nomura stated that "until the last Community Council, we have had money given to us from the profits of the Community Enterprise to be distributed among the Community Activities Section. This money was spent for the "shibais," for the library, for the recreation department and other activities. But now, since the canteen is issuing cash dividends to those who save their cash receipts, no money has been coming to the Council to be distributed to the Community Activities.

"Now everybody doesn't save ^{his} ~~their~~ cash receipts he gets at the canteen, so there must be some money left over in this "dividend fund" which the canteen is just "hanging on" to. I would like to hear what you members think about this. Should we have control over this fund that is left over after the people who save their cash receipts get their dividends? This fund, the council can distribute for the Community Activities as before."

A MEMBER: "I suggest that Ray Ono look into this matter."

RAY ONO (member of the Community Enterprise Committee): "I don't think any negotiations are necessary. All the Council has to do is to pass a resolution requesting the left-over funds."

This started discussions all over the room about the needs of the children for recreational equipments and the justification of the Council's intents on the basis that "after all, that money the Canteen is holding, belongs to the community and we represent the community." Somehow, the discussion soon drifted to the cooking school and Nakai, Nomura, Fujii, Ono, and the whiskered man were inextricably involved. The latter asked if Fujii paid for his wedding cake made at the cooking school. Fujii said that he didn't pay anything, but he reluctantly admitted that he gave a "donation." Nakai defends him by saying that these donations are on the up-and-up because everyone that gives a donation is recorded, including the address of the giver and the amount he gives. The whiskered gentlemen said that Nakai was "right" and furthermore, the cooking school has \$500. in its fund coming from these donations. The school is hoping to buy a \$1,000 mixing machine. Ono brings the discussion back to the main motion by saying: "Let's get back to the canteen business."

CHAIRMAN: "Probably, it would be a good idea to get up a committee to talk to the Board of Directors (of the canteen)."

Discussion continues on the question of where to meet. The Cooperative Congress is mentioned and Nomura suggests that a committee go see the cooperative congress before seeing the Board of Directors because the former meets this Saturday and because "the congress are made of members of your block and therefore easier to see than the Board of Directors." In another corner someone comments that if something isn't done about his surplus fund in the canteen, "it's going to be like the old canteen and you won't know where the money disappears."

Finally the formal motion was made and passed stating that the Council requests the surplus "Dividend Fund" so that it may be made available to the Community Activities as had been done in the past. *(Canteen committee)*
The Chairman appointed a committee to negotiate the terms.

7. Report of the distribution the Trust Fund for the hospital.

George Kurata
~~Frank Fukuda~~, chairman of the Hospital committee made the report.

Kurata
Fukuda stated that doctors, dentists, pharmacists, optometrists, one X-ray technician, one laboratory technician, registered nurses, one mortician, two chiropractors, and the superintendent of sanitation will receive a special bonus (varying from \$75 to \$150 each) from the Trust Fund. The rest, \$5,000 fund is to be distributed equally among the hospital workers. In addition there was a revolving fund of \$5,000 set up by the contributions from Unit II and III of \$2,500 each. This revolving fund is to be used, (a) to buy professional magazines, books, and supplies; (b) to purchase instruments, uniforms and shoes, of hospital workers; (c) to make special facilities such as benches and tables

for the convalescing patients; (d) to provide for improvements of the nurse's and doctor's quarters; (e) to purchase special medicine and supplies; and (f) to provide fund to meet any emergency needs. All these things, ^{Kurata} ~~Fukuda~~ pointed out, was to be done with the use of the revolving fund "over and above what the WRA budget does not provide."

As ^{Kurata} ~~Fukuda~~ discussed these minute details, in spite of his dramatic stage personality, many of the members seemed bored with it all.

8. Correction of the WRA wire in regard to new labor policy.

Chairman Nomura announced that a mistake was found in the wire that came from Washington in regard to changes in labor supply in Poston. A representative from Washington, D.C., Davis McIntire, Assistant Chief of the WRA Employment Division who was visiting here pointed out the mistake. The corrected figures stated that Poston was entitled to 5,600 workers of which 200 are to be employed in the Community Enterprises, leaving actually 5,400 for Poston. Of the 5,400, 15% or 810 are classed in the \$19 a month group. In addition to the 5,400, there is a emergency labor supply of 540, or the 10% of the total labor pool to be used in pinches such as in harvesting time. In this discussion, Nomura makes a comparison with Minidoka which, according to him, claimed that they are tired of playing around in cutting down the labor supply 10% each month, so they are cutting it down all in one big lump of 30%.

Another member pitched in by stating that the cut in labor from 4,200 to 3,600 is being done at Gila, in spite of the 1,000 acres that they have to farm. Talking about Gila, Nomura added that we were lucky in Poston, because we had our Camouflage Trust Fund distributed, whereas Gila has not as yet.

9. Request for 100 Canal Workers. One of the members, presumably a member of Council's agricultural committee, stated that there was an urgent need for 100 more workers at the canal irrigation. If in case anyone was going to lose his job because of the cut in employed people in each department, he suggested that this canal project be looked into. This Council member stated that about 50 people were employed on the irrigation project.

10. Selective Service Survey. It was decided at a previous meeting to display a Service flay in Mr. Head's office representing the total number of nisei soldiers whose families reside in Poston. The incom-pleted tally of the number by each block is attached to this minutes.

With this the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m., but the council member remained in caucus to discuss further the coming of the Spanish Consul.

Somebody asked Nomura a question about the fishing license. The Chairman said that they will be sold in the near future. He explained that these licenses, for Isseis, will be good for use only on the project, while for the Niseis, the license will be good anywhere in the state of Arizona. Nomura said that a special trapping concession have been given to the residents with this license.

To continue with the caucus, Nomura left the meeting to get Nagai to explain further and help plan the details of the arrival of the Spanish Consul. Nagai came in quietly a few minutes after Nomura left. He didn't sit at the head table, but sat down in the front seat as inconspicuous as possible. He faced the front of the room just as the rest of the Council member were doing. ~~He kept quite until one of the members were doing.~~ He kept quiet until one of the members specifically called him and asked him a question.

Evidently, it wasn't clear to a few members why the Consul was coming and so Nagai explained the "Niseis are citizens of this country and have the privilege of taking their complaints directly to the U.S. government, but the Isseis are different. They must direct their complaints to the Japanese government. The Spanish Consul is here to provide us Isseis with this channel of communication."

It is noticed that Nagai doesn't try to suggest what action these council members should take. They ask him questions and he answers them and no more.

It came to the question of what to ask the Consul. Someone suggested asking about what can be done for these needy families, because "Nihonjins don't like to go to the Social Welfare and ask for funds" and furthermore, what they get is too little, or they don't get it at all.

Vice-chairman Okamoto (who was now presiding in the absence of Nomura) suggested the Consul take up the threat of segregation of the loyal and disloyal in the camps. Immediate reaction started and the general sentiments seemed to be that this question was "too big of a request and nothing could be done about it." Besides, "the Japanese government knows all about it, anyhow."

Discussion was brought around to the point of selecting a five man committee to be responsible of gathering the requests and problems from all the blocks and presenting them to the Consul. It was decided that this committee be thought of as a independent group from the council because the council represents citizens and aliens alike. "Niseis should keep out of such things as this" so that it will not be construed as their being disloyal to the U.S." (See Poston Chronicle, July 16, 1943)

One member suggested that the Executive Board (as represented by such persons as Mr. Nagai) handle this business instead of the 5-man committee. However, Nagai immediately squelched this by saying that if he participated in this, it will reflect on Mr. Nelson. "It is better for things like this to come from the people," Nagai said.

Okamoto appointed the ^{five men} ~~5-man~~, all Issei committed. They are Messrs. Onishi, Kushiya, Matsumoto, and Kawasaki. Okamoto was expected to be an ex-officio member of this committee.

The final agreement in this business was for all the Council member to bring in their written requests and problems for the Consul by Friday morning, July 16, and the 5-man committee will meet at 10:00 a.m. that morning to review these written memorandums.

The Caucus was brought to a close at 3:45 p.m.

Incompleted table showing the number of Niseis in the Armed Forces from each block.*

<u>Block</u>	<u>No. Soldiers</u>	<u>Block</u>	<u>No. Soldiers</u>
2	5	28	
3		30	
4	6	31	
5	9	32	8
6	10	35	9
11	7	36	
12		37	12
13	10	38	5
14		39	10
15		42	7
16		43	8
17		44	2
18	8	45	
19	13	46	8
21		53	5
22		54	12
26		59	17
17		60	5

* These without any figures in the "No. of Soldiers" columns have not been reported by the Council member.

CITY MANAGEMENT 3/
RECORDS - BLOCK MANAGERS
IMPORTANT EVENTS

- 1C August 11, 1942.....Each six blocks to be called "Roku"
- Sept. 1, 1942.....New Block Managers from Roku III
introduced
- Sept. 5, 1942.....Burge announce no BM Supervisor for
present
- Sept. 8, 1942.....BM meetings to be called twice weekly
Tom Sakamoto elected Chairman of Ex Comm
Camouflage Project definite
Block 324 to be School Block
- Sept. 23, 1942.....2BM repres. elected for Coop Organization
- Sept. 29, 1942.....Resignation of John Yamamoto and Ichiro
Okada accepted.
Tom Sakamoto and Sam Fujita accepted
as Supervisor and Assistant respectively
- October 2, 1942.....Ichiro Okada and Ben Furuta new Block
Managers
- October 6, 1942.....Ibara resignation
- October 9, 1942.....Dave Seki new Block Manager
- *Sept. 28, 1942.....Daily Strength Report and Daily Log
officially started

INFORMAL CONVERSATION WITH T.S. *js
BLOCK MANAGERS PROBLEMS,

The block managers here have the blocks under control because they are efficient and cooperative with the people of their respective blocks. Unlike block managers of other units they are more strict in that they enforce all the administrative instructions; for example, the ironing regulations. We have had some difficulty in the enforcement but we have put the rule into effect whereas in Unit I and II they have not been very strict about it. One of the greatest problems of the Block Managers^{is} with the kitchen. When the camp just opened there was much friction with the kitchen. Mr. Best that the kitchen and the block managers were two entirely different bodies independent of each other. Others also believed that the kitchen was independent and whenever the block manager approached the kitchen tried to kick him out. The kitchen passes the problem it has upon the block manager and tried to have him settle it; but the block managers have no one to fall back on. For example, as the kitchen has difficulty in receiving supplies from the Steward's Office they ask the block manager; but when he gives the to the kitchen the block residents complain because their shares have been given to the kitchen and they are short. When the block manager tries to satisfy one the other is dissatisfied and thus he faces the white wall most of the time.

Since Mr. Snelson entered the Project, he has stressed the fact that the kitchen and the block managers must cooperate for the harmony of the respective blocks. The other day I was invited to the Chefs' meeting. The chefs expressed their appreciation of the block managers' efforts to cooperate with them. It is up to the block manager and the kitchen to create the harmony in the block with the cooperation of the people.

Most of the block managers have been resigning for the reason that they have had enough of the complaints and the unappreciateness of some of the people.

BLOCK MANAGERS PROBLEMS, ETC.

It most of those people who are not working and staying the block all day that complain about this and that. This group is the women and the old Isseis who have nothing to do but to complain all day. The others who are working do not say much in the way of petty complaints and such. Today I have only two or three old time Block Managers working. It is one of the most ungrateful jobs that one can have; you try to please the people and you are criticized for this and that. Ironing in the barracks is hazardous and I tried to prohibit this but the people did not understand this and complained and violated the regulation. Through the block managers efforts the ironing in the barracks have been strictly observed. Before this success the block managers themselves had to be convinced that the regulation would be very beneficial to the people before the observation of this regulation was sold to the people. Now, we have gained the cooperation of the people on this matter.

Among the block managers there has been good cooperation, especially after the overnight get together we had ^{at} the Colorado River. Before this "Blow-Out", the block managers were very formal at the meetings and did not express their opinions as freely as I would have liked them to; but after the party there was a great difference among them. They expressed their opinions freely and gave suggestions when they had good ones. They were very fraternal and since they had worked together very well. I believe I will hold another similar affair when I believe that new members should be in need of such.

31 BLOCK MANAGERS

May 26, 1943

FILES - BLOCK MANAGER SUPERVISOR

MANPOWER, MERIT RATING BOARD, BLOCK MANAGER SUPERVISOR

May 25, 1943

Mr. Morris Burge
Administrator, Unit 3
Colorado River Relocation Center
Poston, Arizona

The job as a Block Manager Supervisor is not an easy one; however, the broad minded attitude of our Supervisor and his industriousness had made it possible to make the functioning of Camp 3 Block Manager system the most efficient body in Poston, as you can well see by our comparison to that of other Units. This credit we owe largely to our Supervisor for his ability and his ingenuity.

He has tried all available means to get for us, the Block Managers' staffs, an "A" rating from the Merit Rating Board of Poston 3, but his efforts temporarily seemed to be in vain; therefore, feeling that he was responsible for not being able to get his demands fulfilled, he placed the full burden of responsibility upon his shoulders and sent in his resignation.

We, the Block Managers' staffs, feel that he alone was not responsible for this failure. On the contrary, his efforts were indirectly repaid when the Merit Rating Board consented to give their full recommendation after our Committee had appealed for reconsideration.

Therefore, we the undersigned of the Block Managers' staffs, hereby request the Poston 3 Administrator to ask Mr. Tom Sakamoto to continue as our Block Manager Supervisor.

May 5, 1943

S

Block Managers here are different from those of the other two units in that the local men try to serve the blocks in all ways, even as far as to go out of their way for the sake of the people. Of course it seems ridiculous to work so much for mere \$16 or \$19 but the Block Managers try to serve the people in always possible.

In Unit I the Supervisor and his assistants just have to sit around and make eyesat the secretaries and wait for the outcome of the efforts of the Executive Board since the latter is the clearing house for suggestions and complaints and has direct contact with Mr. Head.

Because of the different system in Unit III the duties of the Block Managers are numerous and the Block Carpenters and the Block Gardeners are highly essential in the blocks. Since the top soil was not removed to make ditches in the blocks here in Unit III as it was in the other two units, the block gardeners have been busy making victory gardens between the barracks and harvesting them for the block mess hall tables. To keep the grounds level was the local idea so that they can raise vegetable and it has been very successful, whereas the large scale farming has been expending much but has produced nothing to date.

The Block Carpenters having been doing what the Construction workers should do in the blocks have been kept very busy also.

Many of the Block Managers are getting tired of their positions due to difficulties with the kitchens. Though there is a Steward's

5/5/43

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Office which is responsible in supplying the kitchens with necessary goods, the kitchens have always turned to the block managers for them for the reason that it is easier to get them from latter. The block managers do not have anything do with the kitchen and have no right to say anything of the kitchen, but when it comes to supplies its the block managers. Also on the average the blocks have spent about \$50 to \$70 out of their block funds for the use of the kitchen to buy what they need. This money, all these money, spent should have come from the government.

Many of the Block Managers are resigning on account of the kitchen problem. They have stood enough of it; they are only human beings and could stand only so much. G.K. is resigning because the kitchen take for granted that the block manager is the supplyman and he had stood enough to date. (Last case: a kitchen worker having received a hose from the Steward's Office found it to be unusable. He approached the block manager and asked him to replace it or have it replaced. When the latter told him to see the S.D. about the matter, he threw the hose out. This was the final straw for G.K.)

(from BLK MGR SURVER)

APRIL 29, 1943

S

(Interviews with the Assistant Block Manager Supervisor and Ex-Block Manager from 308 expressed similar sentiments as the Councilman from 330.)

Interviewee: A resident of the Block 329 (Issei)

It would be a very good idea if it is possible to have the Evacuees run the Center to a greater extent. As it is today, they rely too much on the Caucasians and are not working to capacity. If they, the department heads and others, are given greater responsibility I believe there would be more effort on their part and greater efficiency.

I do not worry about the outcome of such a set-up as I believe that under forced circumstances, the Isseis and the Niseis would work together with cooperation.

In such an organization the Merit Rating Board would take an active part in trying to classify the workers with impartiality so they may receive what they deserve. The Trust Fund should be continued since it is already established.

Also there would have to be a strong Council which is representative of the people so that they may elect men who are accepted by the people into the important positions. The Niseis should hold these positions since they are the source of manpower and not the Isseis, but latter could act as advisors. These heads should be responsible to their committees in the Council.

APRIL 29, 1943

Interviewee: Issei Advisor of Block 329

Though I do not know all the men I believe that at the present, they seem to represent the people fairly well.

Harvey Iwata is a very capable man and may be said to be a model for the Niseis. As I do not know anyone too well, it is difficult for me to say what type of men they are, but through short acquaintance I have learned them to be good men, willing to serve the community. They may not be the truly the best men, but they seem to satisfy the majority of the people. Mr. Shirazawa is a good example. Though they failed the Issei Advisors and the Councilmen requested his return to the Chairmanship of the Issei Advisors as he was very valuable to the body.

Mr. Wumino is very quiet, modest and able. I was surprised to see him taking the initiative to wash the dishes after a meeting held in one of the mess halls. They are the type of men who receive the respect of the people. Though I do not know the others too well, I am sure that at present they seem to represent the majority of the people.

APRIL 29, 1943

Interviewee: Ex-Councilwoman of Block 329

On the whole, the Merit Rating Board has level-headed men.


Mr. Shirozawa is probably the smartest Issei in Camp. He came from Japan when he was only sixteen, attended two years of high school then entered the University of California. He has a sharp mind and is able to speak Japanese and English very fluently.

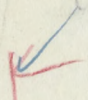
Harvey Iwata is a swell fellow. He knows how to handle the Council skillfully; he is the best chairman if there was anyone. All these men are level-headed and understanding.

Jimmy Takashima is a good fellow but he is a bachelor and has not gone through the hardships of the others, so it is somewhat difficult for him to understand some of the problems. On the whole I believe that they well represent the Community.

30. CITY MANAGEMENT
INTERVIEWS - JS
OPINIONS ON THE MEN OF THE M.R.B.

APRIL 29, 1943


S

 Interviewee: Block Manager 329

I do not know much about the Merit Rating Board and the members, but as a whole they seem to represent the people fairly well. These men must have a feeling to serve the community and not serve for their own gain. Men who have had experience in serving the people should be appropriate for such a position. I believe most of the people agree with me since these men are charmen of their respective fields and have been successful.

BLOCK MANAGERS

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11-5-42 1

From this date on, the Press Bulletin clippings has been stopped because of the secretary's time being needed for other work.

(AHL)

DATE: September 25, 1942
TIME: 2:00 P.M.
PLACE: Press Bulletin Office
SUBJECT: Election of Temporary Council Representatives

(K.E.: In order to speed up the interviews and in order to get better results from them, I have found that it was better to have in mind about three or four questions. I have found that it was better to ask questions of this sort when I interviewed the teen-age group. The following are the questions I have asked in the various interviews, and the answers received will be written in the order that the questions were asked.)

1. Did you vote for Council Representative?
2. Do you know where and when the election was held?
3. Do you know who the candidates were in your block?
4. Who is your councilmen?
5. What characteristics or capability inferred to in your voting?

VIA: G.N. Cartoonist Press Bulletin, Age 19, Residence Block 209.

(K.E.: Answers to question listed above and in above order.)

1. No, I didn't vote.
2. I didn't know when or where.
3. No I don't know.
4. No. I am one of those guys who don't take part in anything. I haven't got around in bothering about those things.

VIA: T.O. Press Bulletin, Age 16, Residence Block 209.

1. No.
2. No.
3. No.
4. I don't know. I think it is Dave Toda. I believe he was the one elected out of the four who were running for Council. At least I think that was it at one of the block meeting I had attended.

(K.E.: This person is thinking of the previous Pre-Temporary Council representative. He is not informed of the present set up.)

VIA: Y.K. Press Bulletin, Age 16, Residence Block 209.

1. Hell No!
2. Nope.
3. No.
4. Nope.

VOICE: Don't you guys read the Press Bulletin?

Y.K.: I don't read the Press Bulletin.

K.E.: Do you think the person elected to the council was capable?

Y.K.: Who was elected?

September 2, 1942

Via Block 209 Mrs. Ikeda (Nisei)
Block Manager's wife

I voted for that certain candidate because I believe that he is capable of holding the position. Once he makes up his mind that that which he thought best is right and the other wrong, he will stick by his conviction. I think this candidate is fully capable of representing this block for both the Issei and Nisei's point of views. The candidates were not well known prior to the election. I really don't know the speaking ability of the candidate I voted for.

There are instances where in which the parents have scolded their childrens for signing petitions. The influence of the parents is strongly felt by the children. It is for this reason that the voting in this block was so poor. The majority of the older folks are strongly against voting.

At the various meetings I have attended, it seems to me that the Issei are the ones who are failing to cooperate with the Niseis. At the meetings conducted by the Issei, I have never been able to follow their line of procedure, that is, it seems that they are always out of order and talking around in circles, instead of definitely coming to the point. It seems that most of the time they are up in the air. They have been blaming the Nisei and the JACL for being placed in these camps. It is their belief that we the Niseis are responsible for the present imprisonment.

I have spoken to many girls on this problem of attending meetings and I have also asked them why they didn't speak out in the meetings. The girls say that they cannot express their opinions at the meetings because their parents will severely reprimand them at home. It seems that the old Japanese convention that the women should be seen and not heard and the situation existing in the United States prior to the passage of Women Suffrage admendment in 1916, is still a very strong factor here.

September 2, 1942

Via Dr. Tatsumi (Block 209)
43 years old, Nisei

Of the two candidates, I believe we have elected the one who is most capable of doing the best job. He is a graduate of the University of California. He has sufficient knowledge and a good background for such a position. Even though he is inexperienced, give him a chance. He has all the capabilities which can be developed as time goes on. He knows he is going to have a tough time. If he thought he couldn't possibly do justice to the work, he would have turned in his resignation long ago.

I was approached but I refused to run because I have seen cases on the outside where doctors tried to mix politics and practice. Either one or the other was eventually neglected. I find that it is the best policy to stick to just one thing so I sidetracked the issue.

We have hard weather before us. Have you ever been to Point Lobos, Carmel, or the 17 Miles Drive? If you have you will have noticed the weather beaten cypress trees. They are crooked and stumped, yet they are beautiful. This is exactly how we should meet our problems.

In our block, we didn't have many promising candidates. Of the two candidates, the college graduate is most capable. Of course, if we had elected a man merely because he spoke a great deal but whose thoughts didn't make any sense and didn't carry any weight, it would have been foolish. If a hunter went dove hunting blind folded, he would merely waste innumerable bullets merely because a man speaks voluab^{ly} does not necessarily mean that everything he says makes any sense. Have you heard the story of the cockeyed boy and a normal eyed boy^{who} went dove hunting? The normal eyed boy was shooting at a dove but wasted many bullets without hitting ~~at~~ it. The cockeyed boy thereupon said, "Let me shoot, perhaps I can do better than you." The normal eyed boy gave him the gun. The cockeyed boy held the gun aiming in every which way and shooting all the while. Accidentally, one of the shots brought the dove down. The cockeyed boy said, "Look I have done better than you." The normal eyed boy answered, "Sure, after you shot the tree all to pieces."

The councilmen we have elected may be inexperienced, but his knowledge and background should pull him through the hard spots. This experience will do him good. He can put his education into good use. I feel he is broad minded enough to present the Issei's ideas and

opinions as well as Nisei's point of view satisfactorily. We made a very bad error at the beginning when the Pre-Temporary Council was organized. We should have collaborated with some of the clear thinking broad minded Issei leaders. If we had, perhaps this present situation would not have arisen. All that we can do at the present time is to work as much as possible for the Issei rights. If we can show them that we are behind them and that we are working for their best interest, I think this problem can be gradually ironed out.

I believe that the best method is to form an advisory council of Issei in the blocks to advise the Nisei councilmen, thus making his work much easier. I feel that regardless how the Issei feel at the present moment, they will cooperate on problems which may arise from time to time if it is for the best interest of this block. By doing our best, we can gradually break down this present barrier and gain the confidence of the Issei. Until such a time, we will have to work doubly hard to make this end. This necessarily means that this newly elected councilmen will have to work twice as hard in order that we the Nisei might gain the Issei's confidence.

September 3, 1942

BLOCK 209:

Miss H.S. (17) Kitchen Help

I forgot all about it. I was too busy with softball practice.

Miss S.S. (18) Kitchen Help

I forgot all about the election. I didn't even know I was supposed to vote.

September 9, 1942

BLOCK 211:

Mrs. T.S. (29) Kitchen Help

I just didn't think about the election. Nobody reminded me. I was busy working in the kitchen and didn't think about it till after 2 o'clock. I intended to vote. I didn't mean to be rude.

Mrs. E.K. (39) Kitchen Help

I didn't know what the people were voting for. I didn't attend any of the meetings and my husband doesn't tell me anything. Since my neighbors urged me to go to the polls so that Mr. L.T. would not be elected I cast my ballot for the candidate who won. I was in so much of a hurry, I had my apron on and a neighbor's baby in my arms.

September 5, 1942

BLOCK 211:

Mr. J.M. (24) Assistant Block Manager.

Since the block's stand was for no vote no council, and since the administration would not recognize such a stand, it became necessary to elect council representative. Out of the four candidates nominated, I feel that the one I voted for was most capable.

Mr. J.S. (21) Apiarist

I voted for this candidate because he is a man who really goes after a thing and on top of that he makes good use of his common sense.

September 4, 1942

BLOCK 211:

Mr. C.Y. (25) Assistant Chief - Fire Dept.

I didn't vote because I wasn't interested.
The guys railroaded me in as nominee.
Council hell. I've got enough headaches
at the Fire Dept.

Miss H.K. (17) Kitchen Help

I didn't vote because I didn't know anything
about it.

Mrs. M.K. (48)

I didn't vote because I leave such matters
to my husband. I believe he voted for Mr.
B.S. In Japan, only the men participate.

Mr. Y.I. (29) Carpenter

I didn't vote because I still stand for
no vote no council. I didn't see any use.

Mr. K.H. (30) Carpenter

I was working and forgot all about the election.

Mr. T.J.T. (27) Custodian

I didn't vote because I don't like the idea
of unique representation. I think it is very
unfair to the Isseis. I refused to vote.

Miss Y.T. (16)

I didn't vote. I didn't know anything about
it. Why didn't somebody tell me these things.
Where do you get such information?

September 3, 1942

BLOCK 211:

Miss M.Y. (16) Kitchen Help

Vote for what? I didn't even know about it.
Why doesn't somebody tell me these things.

Miss C.H. (17) Kitchen Help

I didn't know about it. I don't know anything about what the election was being held for. What's a council?

Miss Y.K. (19) Dietician

I didn't know about the election until the last minute. Anyway, the fellow I voted for is a good guy. He's the most capable of the four candidates. C.I. is too quiet. I don't think he has any backfire.

Miss F.S. (24) Secretary - Recreation

The candidate I voted for won the election. I think he is able to work for the best interests of the block. I don't know if I voted wisely or not but I think he will work for the Isseis and the Niseis.

DATE: August 26, 1942
TIME: 1:30 P.M.
PLACE: On the road next to Kitchen 211.
SUBJECT: Council
VIA: C.Y. Assistant Fire Chief of Poston 2, Age 25,
Residence Block 211, also known as a lone ranger due
to his every day habiliment which consist of a ranger's
hat, britches and high-top shoes.

C.H.: As far as I am concerned, the Council can go jump in the
lake. I don't see why the Isseis should kick so much
about the Council. If they guaranteed me a good place
to sleep in and good food, I'll be satisfied. If they
can't give me both of them, I can be satisfied with
either one or the other.