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INTEREST & SENTIMENTS IN POSTON I

5/6 to 6/3

6/7/43. TS

INTRODUCTION

An attempt will be made in this report to give an over-all picture of the sentiments in camp I, as well as a short discussion of each of the subjects which we considered significant.

By means of a graph, the relationship of sentiments to each other will be shown as to degree of interest, satisfaction, dissatisfaction and the trend throughout the month.

Part I.

(Plate I & II)

Outgroup relations headed the list in interest. The tremendous amount of unfavorable publicity given in the various newspapers during the first part of the month gave the residents "something to talk about" and caused them to look to the next day's paper for more. This move to make once again the Japanese scapegoats, seemed to be brought about primarily by the reported execution of the American Fliers. Towards the end of the month, the interest in Poston fell off as the news reports decreased; and those published were slightly more favorable. Much satisfaction was felt by the favorable report of the Tule Lake Project and the transference of Lt. General De Witt to another post and the rumor that the West Coast Command would be taken over by General Emmons of Hawaii.

The unfavorable outgroup feeling also brought a rise in interest in resettlement. Those contemplating resettlement postponed it until further news of outside conditions were given. Towards the latter part of the month, better job opportunities were being offered; and President Roosevelt issued a proclamation that the War Industries should hire anyone regardless of race or creed. The sentiments and interest began taking a routine form as shown in the frequent questions, "Are you planning to leave? Have you got a good job offer yet?"

The dissatisfactions in regard to health during the early part of the month were due to rumors that the doctors were going to leave. At the beginning, the community leaders were the ones primarily interested, and made the residents aware of the acute issue. The Trust Fund was voted on, and a large share was given over to the hospital staff for their disposal. A mark of appreciation was shown by the volunteering of the residents to dress the hospital with paint. Another source of satisfaction came with the beginning of a series of public health films that were shown at the weekly movie.

Food throughout the month has been very satisfactory. Chicken, though in small amounts, squids for the isseis, and general all-around good cookery has done much to satisfy one of the physical needs.

Housing has been more or less balanced in satisfaction-dissatisfaction throughout the month. This is accounted for by the fact that

although some parts of camp have received, and have put in linoleum, other parts of camp have not. The North end of camp has found their latrines working satisfactorily, but the south end has not. Screens for doors have been issued, but they are to be put on the doors now attached to the apartments and people are reluctant to cut holes in their doors.

With dissatisfactions being predominant towards the Selective Service during the first of the month largely due to delay in departure, the interest and satisfactions increased as the volunteers were definitely on their way during the week of May 6 to 13. However, as only a few of them went, those not leaving, as well as friends and families were dissatisfied. At the end of the month we see that the interest has died down except for that created by those returning on furloughs.

Interest in Politics rose as the weeks went by. It was climaxed with an election of the permanent council, in which the isseis participated and won offices. This, especially, was received very favorably, as indicated in the outcome of the election in which 15 niseis and 16 isseis were elected. Four niseis later dropped from the council because of disinterest due to the fact that they were thinking of re-settlement. This seems very significant in the function and development of the council in the near future.

The attitudes toward the members of the appointed personnel has been favorable. It is felt by the community leaders that this is primarily the result of the settling down of the residents of the community. This rise in the amount of dissatisfaction during the week May 13-20 is due to the announcement of the departure of Miss Findley for Hawaii and the rumor that Mr. Head was also going to leave. The latter especially found interest, and dissatisfaction to such an extent that petitions were passed among the residents to have Mr. Head remain.

Although there was no direct interest in Camouflage, the community was interested in the Trust Fund, to which the workers contributed 35% of their gross earnings. The voting on its distribution was discussed in each block during the middle of the month, and found satisfaction in its settlement.

Interest in Labor Relations rose sharply with the tractor drivers' walkout and meetings in several of the quads to clarify the administration's, as well as the evacuees' position in maintaining the life of the community.

The gambling situation was felt to be on the road to control with the resignation of the Police Chief and the acceptance of the position by "Jumbo" Ota, the former night captain. An anonymous writer also volunteered to make the residents aware of the problem by posting a notice "Something Rotten in Denmark" in public places.

The manpower problem is still felt, but is being worked out by a program of volunteer workers for various projects. This is indicated in the last graph of the sentiment on the school construction. Volunteers from each designated section are to work on particular days

until the school is completed.

Interest in the Community Enterprise was limited. The running out of matches and other small items; and high prices charged at the canteens have continually brought dissatisfaction. The change-over to Co-ops brought only passive interest as the Cooperative Congress members went from door to door to collect the subscriptions.

In the field of amusement, we find both the isseis and niseis pleased with the situation. Although many of the normal forms of entertainment found on the outside are lacking, they are able to spend their times at the shibais, movies, baseball games, dances, etc.

Religion is a source of satisfaction to most people, however, it is felt that the contemplated splitting of the Poston Union Buddhist Church into the different sects is causing dissatisfaction to both those who want the split, and those who do not want it.

Part II.

(Plate III-A)

The graph illustrating the trend of the interest and sentiment illustrated the high level of total interest in all the subjects we have plotted during the first part of the month. This was in a great measure due to Outgroup Relations and Resettlement. As general interest fell, the dissatisfaction tended to fall most. There is a steady rise in satisfaction brought on by the increase in satisfactions in food, health, politics, camouflage, and religion. For the period 5/6 to 6/3, the level of satisfaction is somewhat even.

Part III.

(Plate III-B)

The sum total of the dissatisfaction for the period is slightly more than that of satisfaction. If a chart for Amusement had been begun at the beginning of this period, it is my guess that it would be reversed. As it is, this seems to indicate that in spite of outside pressure, the camp is in itself, without any unusual surface evidence of conflict, and frustration.

Part IV.

(Plate III-C)

The greatest amount of interest, as indicated in the graph is in Outgroup Relations and Resettlement. Then Health, Food, Housing, Etc., things that make for the feeling of security to the individual and community are of interest. When the community is well-satisfied, these interest remains at a "passive" level, but immediately they are threatened with insecurity, interested in these are heightened.

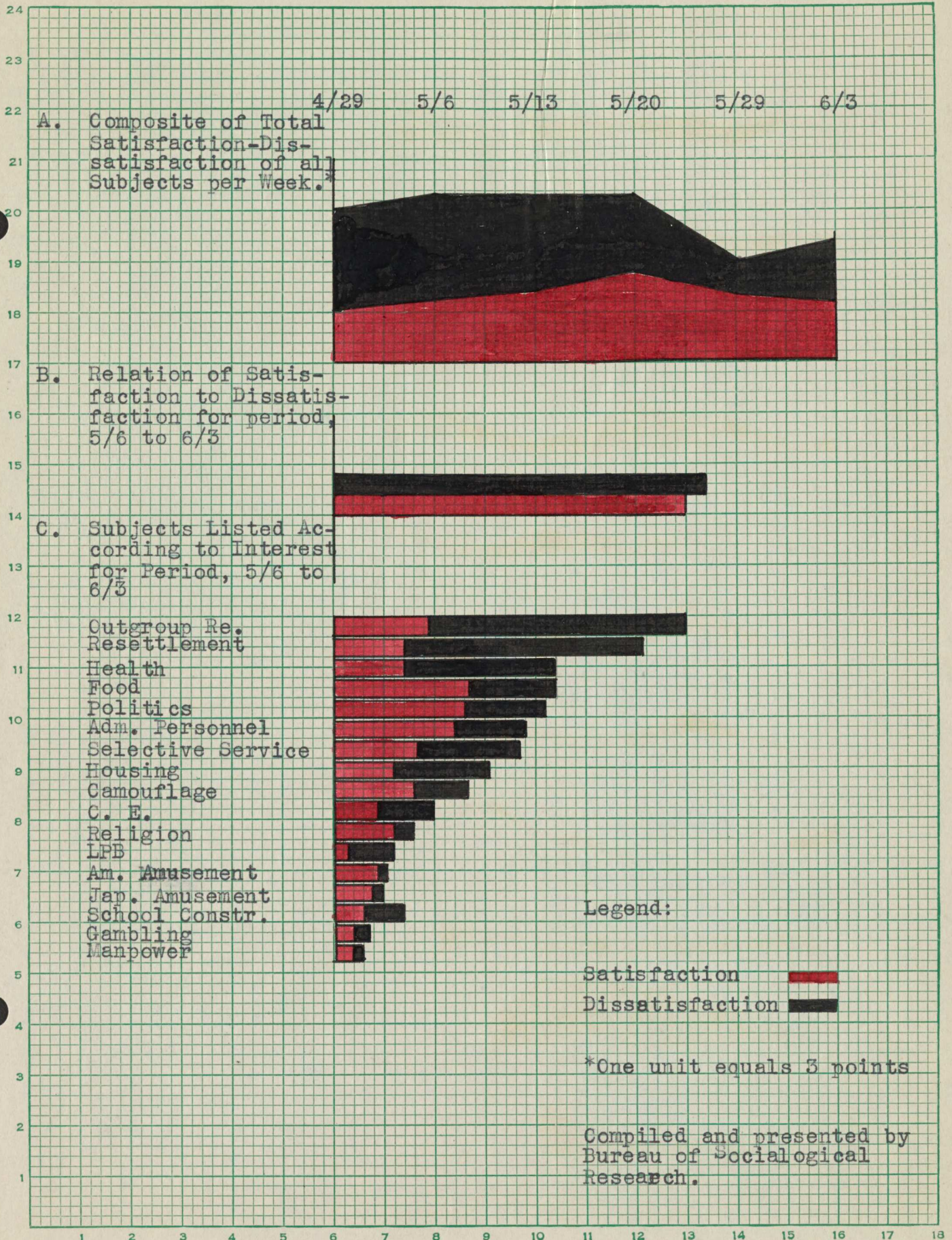
Conclusion

It is possible to see by the graphs that there are two types of interests. Those that arise within the community more or less spontaneously, and those that are brought about by some either from outside or from above. Food, Housing, Recreation, Community Enterprise belong to the former category, while Outgroup Relations, Resettlement, Politics, School Construction might be classified under the latter. The former is indicative of camp stability. This is evidenced by the fact that in spite of the great amount of dissatisfactions brought about by the Outgroup Relations and Resettlement, there were no indications of a demonstration, and an overt expression of anxiety of the residents in regards their position in camp. Had it not been for the unfavorable publicity, there would have been much more satisfaction than otherwise. This is indicated by the graph (Plate III-A). When interest in Outgroup Relations and Resettlement fell, the Satisfactions remained almost constant.

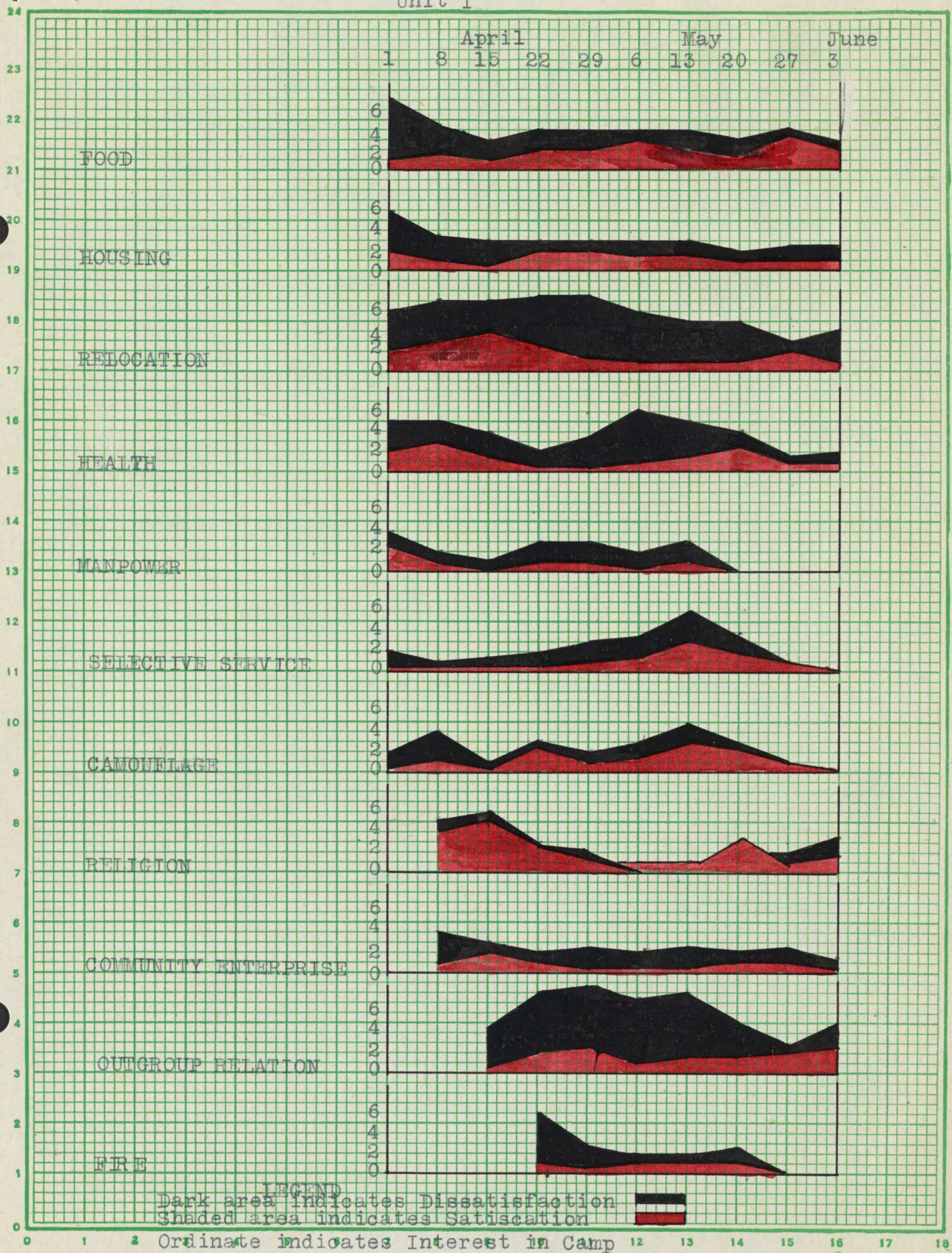
It is very likely that we are not adequately tapping issei sentiments. There are indications that among them considerable dissatisfaction might be found in regard to resettlement--to which they are opposed and to being forced to grow their own food instead of having it produced in toto by the government.

SENTIMENT CHART FOR PERIOD
5-6 to 6-3

Plate III



SENTIMENT CHART Unit I



SENTIMENT CHART Unit I

