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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
GILA RIVER PROJECT
RIVERS, ARIZONA

July 3, 1944

Mr. B. F. Runyan
Acting Project Director
Gila River Project, W.R.A.
Rivers, Arizona

Dear Mr. Runyan:

I forward a Community Analysis report entitled Some Observations on Relocation. While the main facts are known to us, it is possible in that the observations of a trained and intelligent evacuee will assist us to understand the problems which face the relocating individual. As noted in the text, the report is that of Tek Sakurai, former research assistant, with the exception of a few preliminary remarks.

Yours sincerely,

G. Gordon Brown
Community Analyst

Approved: _____
Hugo W. Wolter

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
GILA RIVER PROJECT
RIVERS, ARIZONA

July 1, 1944

SOME OBSERVATIONS ON RELOCATION

This report did not turn out to be what was originally intended. Early in December, 1943, Takeshi Sakurai, Research Assistant of the Community Analysis Section, was selected to attend a YMCA conference. It was arranged that he make some inquiries into the Stevens Hotel offer, then a matter of interest at Gila, and follow up when in Chicago. On his return, which was to be after a month's absence, he was to write a general account of the Stevens Hotel employment, and to record such other observations on relocation as he was able to make.

Part of this plan was carried out. In the early days of December, inquiries were made concerning the Stevens Hotel offer, and brief case studies made of those who planned to avail themselves of it. Sakurai reached Chicago on December 30, 1943, and made some observations on relocation in general and on the Stevens Hotel in particular. He left Chicago on December 26. His short-term leave was extended, and he did not return to Chicago until early in February. He stayed there several days, and made further observations. He returned to Gila on February 17.

It was decided that a general report be written, with his notes appended. This plan was delayed because he was asked to assist the Relocation Division part of his time. Consequently, he had done no more than put his notes in order when he received a sudden job offer and went out on indefinite leave on March 14.

His notes are here submitted as he felt them with only brief comment. They fall into two parts: (1) the Stevens Hotel plan and (2) observations on relocated evacuees. Though some months have elapsed since the observations were made, and although conditions and policies may have been slightly modified since then, it is believed that they are still worth study.

(1) The Stevens Hotel offers and evacuee reactions to it, illustrate several points. First, there is the desire for security. Only when seasonal leave was offered did the Stevens Hotel jobs arouse a general interest. At the center, the hesitations and changes of mind are indicative of the hopes and fears which exist. The role of relocation officers is shown to be important, as their advice and intervention were of significance in the decisions made by many, and they had much to do with changing, for the better, the terms of the offer. The case notes indicate the small degree of experience many evacuees had had to prepare them for the kind of job they were taking. In some cases their fears, hopes and hesitations were recorded.

Sakurai's notes on the reactions to the job emphasize several points. The relocators were unprepared for the actual state of affairs. Some of them were profoundly disappointed. It is probable that the isolation of center life has made them unready to face reality, and too much is expected. Others accepted the situation with all its limitations. A few stayed on the job; others used it as a base from which to obtain other employment. The reaction, in brief, is mixed, and indicates the varying degrees of readiness to face "outside".

(2) The observations on relocation in general are probably of greater significance than the observations on the Stevens Hotel. This is true both of employment and of assimilation in general.

There is no general satisfaction with the jobs obtained; on the other hand, a few are very well satisfied. This may be partly a matter of individual luck, but it is also, in some cases, a matter of willingness to accept reality. An appreciable number of evacuees live in the hope of getting precisely the kind of job they want. When this does not turn out to be true their disappointment turns them against relocation. And this disappointment is reflected in their letters home. This in turn, further discourages relocation.

The notes on general assimilation show two extremes. At one end of the scale, there are the eight boys who live together, who save no money, and who make no attempt to mix with other groups of people. At the other extreme is the 18 year old boy from Tule Lake who, through the YMCA, participates with Caucasians in many activities. However, of those observed, the majority have become only partly assimilated. Some live only for the moment, enjoying to the extreme their new-found freedom from the restraints of

center life and of family discipline. Some have made adjustments which, while satisfactory within limits are, nevertheless, limited. Thus the problems of relocation; ~~do not~~ end when the individual is relocated and employed; they continue until he has entered into satisfactory relationship with the community. In many cases this will be a matters of years.

OBSERVATIONS
AND CASE STUDIES

Part I

Notes Made at Gila

December 2, 1943
By Tek Sakurai

Relocation:

RE: Stevens Hotel

The Stevens Hotel, Chicago Illinois which was formerly used by the United States Army for soldiers was returned to its owners. It is now opened for limited business until it is staffed with employees. Thru the WRA the management is requesting 300 workers from the 9 relocation centers for various positions.

The offer of employment was made attractive by allowing people to leave on a seasonal if they so desired, with transportation provided by the management to and from Chicago. The result was an immediate response of about 25 persons to the offer, as of yesterday morning. Nine persons from one block in Canal signed due to the effort of an evacuee directly connected with the Outside Employment there, a resident of the block. These people signed with an intention of leaving within a week.

The offer gave the salaries of the various positions included 2 meals and 'costs' for rooms. (for some positions). The relocation officer felt that the amount of the cost should be checked. 'Costs' as received by teletype turned out to be \$1.50 per day. This amount, the relocation officer here regarded as unreasonable as some of the positions only offered 65.00 and two meals. If a person was unable to find permanent quarters and take rooms in the hotel, he would pay out 45.00 for a room and 2 meals in a month's time. The evening before the departure of the first group the relocation officer here discouraged them due to unfavorable costs. Some did not sign as it was necessary for those leaving on a seasonal basis to provide initial transportation for which they are to be reimbursed. By means of a telegram 'costs' were reduced to 75¢ per day and 3 meals. Due to their indecision most of those scheduled to leave on December 2 cancelled. The next group was scheduled for Tuesday December 7. The waiting period caused some 19 cancellations, all of which were in Canal community. These cancellations were due to the fact that these people were not definite regarding plans for relocation. One group of 5 had planned to go together. One boy in that group decided the opportunities were not great as he had thought in a hurried decision. The 4 day wait convinced him that it was not good enough for relocation. As a result 5 cancelled. 5 others, who had signed originally were discouraged by friends in the same period. Two girls who had cancelled decided that

They would be willing to take a chance and have gone out on a seasonal basis.

In checking some of the group at random by means of a glance thru their leave section folders and by interviews, the types of persons who left for the Stevens Hotel are indicated. In general they are a group without a special skill and are not willing to take a chance. Out of 14 persons, 5 were not on seasonal leave for agricultural work. Only two of these, have signed up for indefinite leave. Two others stated that they are not willing to go out on an indefinite leave even tho they had liked the freedom of life outside of a relocation center. From the check of the group, there is an indication that there are others who are not willing to take a chance on an indefinite leave but they may be willing on a seasonal one. For those who have no special skill, such a job will give them opportunity for learning a trade during their spare time. For others it will enable them to leave the center which would have been difficult for them as they are unskilled and skeptical about job possibilities.

It is interesting to note that the wave of interest regarding the job offer passed quickly. The notice was posted on the bulletin boards about December 1. The discouragement due to nominal 'cost', even tho it was only temporary, was enough to stop the numbers who accepted the offer.

By the time the new 'costs' figures were given, there was little or no response. More job offers should be definite enough to show what the employer has to offer the evacuee. The evacuee who wishes to relocate is not willing to take a chance. In addition to the above a short sketch upon some of individuals who accepted the job offers from this project are included.

Individual Notes

Male, Block 34, Age 30

From: Los Angeles, California

Job offer: Dishwasher

Leave: Originally signed for seasonal leave, by changed to indefinite.

Was out on Seasonal leave to Colorado in summer 1943.

Was out on seasonal leave to Idaho in the fall of 1943.

Job Experience: Retail Produce

Job Preference:

1. Defense
2. Agricultural
3. Poultryman.

Relocation Preference:

1. New York.
2. Chicago
3. Denver.

Education: High School graduate.

In an interview with this person he stated that he had no special skill but would like to relocate. Altho he was discouraged by friends from going to Colorado to work in the sugar beet fields, he stated that he must try it before he would really know what it is like. In August he returned from Colorado a sick man. The work had been too strenuous. Following his return and a brief rest, he signed up for potato harvest in Idaho. In the short period, he returned with a better outlook upon relocation. He was enthusiastic about life outside of a relocation center. Formerly he would not relocate permanently as his only skill was in retailing produce which he did not desire to follow. The Stevens Hotel offer has given him an opportunity the Chicago area for other opportunities. He had originally signed for seasonal leave, he is intending to remain in the new area rather than return to camp.

Male, Block 66, Age 20

From: Brentwood, California

Job offer: Busboy

Leave: Seasonal

Job experience: Ranch hand

Job preference:

Physical Education Instructor
Sporting goods salesman
Farm hand

Relocation Preference:
Chicago.

Male, Block 47, Age 18

From: Guadalupe, California

Job offer: Busboy

Leave: Seasonal

Job Experience: Swamper (WRA)

Job Preference: None

Education: 2½ years of High School

Male, Block 57, Age 18

From Guadalupe, California

Job offer: Yardman

Leave: Seasonal

Job experience: None

Job Preference: Defense work
Farm

Relocation preference:
Chicago
Utah
Colorado

Education:
High School

Female, Block 22, Age 27
From: Kingsburg, California
Job offer: Food checker
Leave: Seasonal Leave
Job experience: Farm
Fruit Cannery.
Model Ship Building

Job Preference:

Candy Factory
Defense Work
Domestic

Relocation Preference:

Iowa
Illinois
New Jersey

Education: High School Graduate

A brother is a dentist at the community hospital in this center.

The family wants to relocate to Brighton, Colorado.

This girl was one who had cancelled but on second thought decided to go as her friend was also going.

Female, Block 21, Age 20
From: Fowler, California
Job offer: Glass and Dish Girl
Leave: Seasonal
Job Experience: Family Farm
Job Preference: Domestic
Relocation Preference: Illinois
Cleveland, Ohio
New York
Minneapolis

Education: High School Graduate

Desires to leave before Christmas and attend sewing school.

Male, Block 52, Age 25
From Santa Maria, California

Job offer: Busboy

Leave Indefinite

Has been on a seasonal leave to Montana---1943

Job Experience:

Farm hand

Vegetable Packer

Job Preference: None

Education: High School Graduate

Female, Block 39, Age 21
From: Pasadena, California
Job offer Maid and cleaner
Leave: Seasonal
Job Experience: Domestic
YMCA

Job Preference: Painting
Sign Fainting
Domestic
Model ship building

Relocation Preference:
Chicago

Education: High School graduate

A sister has relocated in Chicago, she had wanted to leave for Chicago about the middle of November without a job.

Male, Block 59, Age 27
From Pasadena, California
Job offer: Busboy
Leave: Seasonal
Job Experience:
 Commercial fishing
 Retail Produce
 YMCA

Job Preference:
 Nursery work

Education High School graduate

Relocation Preference:
 Midwest or East

This is the only person who is married in the group. In a previous interview with his wife she stated that he had wanted to leave about 2 weeks prior without a job to seek a permanent place of resettlement for her and the child. The job offer with this Hotel gave him an opportunity to leave.

Male, Block 61, Age 61

From:

Job Offer: Busboy

Leave: Seasonal

Was in Idadho for potato harvest season

Job Experience: Importer

Job preference None stated but wants to look around for
relocation opportunities

Education: High School in Japan
2 years high school in United States.

Male, Block 39, Age 21

From: Guadalupe, California

Job offer. Yardman

Leave: Seasonal

Job Experience: none

Preference: Defense work
Office work
Domestic

Education: Junior College

Father and mother are in Japan

Male, Block 64, Age 17

From Compton, California

Job offer: Busboy

Leave: Seasonal

Job Experience: Farm hand

Job Preference: Domestic
Busboy

Relocation Preference:
Chicago
Missouri
Michigan

Education High School incomplete

Male, Block 6, Age 29

From: Vallejo, California

Job offer: Laundry worker wash man

Leave: seasonal

Job experience: Laundry business

Job Preference: Laundry business

Relocation preference
Reno, Nevada

Education: Junior College graduate

Foster father is interned.
Reno, Nevada is his birth place
He is single but has 3 dependents.

Male, Block 5, Age 45

From

Job offer: Dishwasher

Leave: Seasonal

Was on seasonal leave to Colorado

Job experience: Farm hand

Job preference: Farm

This person is unable to understand or speak English

He is single and without dependents.

Male, Block 51, Age 17

From Compton, California

Job offer: Busboy

Leave: Seasonal

Was on seasonal leave to Idaho

Job experience: Farm hand

Job preference: Restaurant
Retail Produce

Relocation Preference: Chicago
Denver
Salt Lake City

Education: High School not completed.

Male, Block 33, Age 21

From Los Angeles, California

Job offer: Dishwasher

Leave Seasonal

Was out on a seasonal leave to Idaho Fall 1943

Job Experience

Student

Farm hand

Job preference:

None.

Relocation Preference

Not particular

Eastern Seaboard

Education: 2 years of UCLA

Pre-Engineering major

In a previous interview he stated that he did not desire to relocate on such a job as dishwashing. However he is willing to go out on a seasonal leave and look around. According to his statements upon his return from Idaho, he stated that life outside the relocation center is preferable. Regarding his reluctance in taking indefinite leave the major thing is that he is undecided about what to do. He had planned to take up engineering and had two years of pre-requisites only to find that his interests were not in that direction. He could not find any other interest to change to further education. Under the circumstance he was not willing to tie himself to a life of seeking one job after another. Rather than that he prefers to take a seasonal leave and return to the center upon completion of the 6 month's period. He did state that if opportunities were great enough in the Chicago and he might change his leave to an indefinite one.

Male, Block 60, Age 19

From Pasadena, California

Job offer: Busboy

Leave: Seasonal

Job Experience: None

Job Preference:

Kitchen work
Baker

Relocation preference: Chicago

Education:

High School graduate
Brother had relocated in Cleveland, Ohio

Male, Block 40, Age 22

From Guadalupe, California

Job offer: Busboy

Leave seasonal

Job experience: Farm hand
Vegetable Packer
Swamper

Job preference: None

Relocation Preference: None

Education: High School graduate

From his relocation interview notes it states that he would like to find possibilities for relocating the family. It also states that he plans to wait until Spring. This interview took place 10-28-43

Male, Block 34, Age 27

From: Los Angeles, California

Job offer: Dishwasher

Leave: Seasonal

Was on a seasonal leave to Idaho in the fall of this year.

Job experience: Retail Producer
Gardener
Farm hand

Job Preferences:
Defense work
Gardener
Farm hand

Relocation Preference:
California

Education: High School graduate (Industrial course)

A sister has resided in Detroit.

This person in an interview stated that he was not very sure of possibilities in relocation. Also the relocation interview indicates that he would like to return to California.

OBSERVATIONS
AND CASE STUDIES

Part II

Observations on
Stevens Hotel Employees
Chicago, February 1944

March 6, 1944

On my first visit to Chicago in December I had wanted to see a friend of mine whose attitude towards much of life was quite pessimistic. I was told that since his arrival on the Stevens Hotel offer, he had been suffering from a cold. Due to no set hour of meeting, I was unable to see him.

In February I managed to see him at his room. Since they had left temporary quarters in the hotel, three of them had roomed together at an apartment on the westside. There, they were bothered by bedbugs. When one of the Eboys left for Detroit, the two others decided on housing near the hotel. This person took a room at the YMCA Hotel which is only a block away from the Stevens. When I inquired about how he was getting along, he stated that wages were good but atmosphere was not too good. From him, I also learned the story of the employment methods.

Upon their arrival in Chicago, the boys reported at the Stevens to see a Mr. Burke who was in charge of the hiring. He stated that he had not made a request for any workers! The boys went to the WRA office and thru that office, they were given temporary housing at the Stevens at 75¢ per day with board until it was able to use them. Some were employed at 55¢ per hour. The future possibilities of the offer looked dark. They were all very much disappointed. However, after the first few weeks they were assigned to jobs they had requested. This person obtained a position with 2 other friends as bus boys. The amount stipulated on the job offer was lower than the amount paid to the boys. They were more than satisfied with the wage scale, however, they were none too happy.

The reason for the above were as follows. (1) The waiters are Europeans who speak an unintelligible English which the bus boys must interpret correctly or be blamed for making errors publicly before the guests. (2) The guests have not treated them cordially. Some of the guests make remarks which are quite humiliating. (3) The work is not what they really want to do.

March 6, 1944

Upon my arrival in Chicago I was met by one of the employees at the Stevens Hotel. This was in December of 1943. He had been there only a short time but was quite disgruntled regarding his job. He stated that upon arrival in Chicago the hotel management was not ready to use or house them. After preliminary difficulties, they were housed in the hotel and some of the new recruits received work at 55¢ per hour. He stated that he had signed for work as a dishwasher. No such position seemed forthcoming. Housing in the hotel was only temporary and the workers were charged 75¢ per day for it. After a short period this man decided that he no longer wished to remain with the hotel and changed to a defense job where he remained for two months and moved out to try his luck in Detroit. It was necessary for him to return to Chicago as he had not obtain clearance from his former job. He is now at work in another defense factory.

On my second visit to Chicago I was able to see some one else employed at the Hotel. At that time (February 7) he stated the positions paid a higher rate than that offered in the original offer. However the employee relationships were not too cordial. His position was that of a busboy, he was required to take orders from European Waiters who were difficult to understand.

March 6, 1944

In speaking to a girl who had signed to go to Stevens Hotel and cancelled due to the efforts of one of the evacuees in the Relocation Divison, she stated that from recent letters from her girl friends who are employed at the Stevens Hotel she wished that she had left the center on the seasonal to Chicago. Questioning of her results in the fact that she is quite disappointed in herself and does not want to discuss the job any furhter.

March 6, 1944

In my stay at the YMCA Hotel, I tried to visit the employees at the Stevens. I was refused entrance to the service entrance of the hotel. I did not make an attempt to use the regular entrance.

At the WRA office where I spoke to several workers, the blame of the inadequacies caused on the employment was placed upon those who signed up. The story as related to me was that for a long time the Stevens Hotel offer was open. No one would sign up for it as the wage scale was low.

When the offer was made more attractive by offering 5 month's seasonal leave there was a sudden onrush of workers which neither Stevens nor the Chicago WRA could handle adequately. The result was a temporary mix-up.

m March 6, 1944

Stevens Hotel:

When the Stevens Hotel offer was made attractive by the Chicago office by adding seasonal leave, many people in this center wanted to sign up. The bottom of the offer stated that a nominal sum would be charged for temporary housing and board. The acting relocation officer inquired about the 'costs'. It proved to be too high in comparison to wages offered. The result was that the relocation division discouraged many from accepting the job offer. Later the 'costs' were reduced to a more reasonable amount. The first letters from those who left on the Hotel offer indicated much disappointment. Several, who had signed but cancelled, remarked that they were glad they didn't go. After their early disappointment which was due to inadequate handling, it has now ironed out to be quite well-paying work.

A second call was made by the hotel for recruitment but no attention was given to it by the Relocation Division in this center as the early reports from Chicago were unsatisfactory.

Tendency for those who are not too sure of possibilities to sign up for this type of offer.

As the result of my brief study of the Stevens Hotel offer the following things were observed.

There is eagerness on the part of center residents to take a job where there is some form of security. In this case the security was the fact that if the conditions in their new area were not to their liking they could always return.

There is need for more definite contact between the center and WRA office. While I was in Chicago, members of the Chicago office stated that many of the relocators never reported to their office. Since no set system of having the relocators report to the office was set up in Chicago, there was lack of direct contact.

Letters from evacuees who have relocated are numerous in their first few days when pangs of nostalgia and loneliness and disappointments make them feel that there must be someone to whom they can write to. The usual tendency is that as soon as they are satisfactorily adjusted, they no longer write home regarding their adjustment.

That for the best possible employment, the relocator should make the trip to his destination before making any commitments with employers. Personal interviews and the fact that the relocator has a chance to see what the employer has to sell and vice versa is important.

On my second visit to Chicago, about six weeks following the first I managed to speak to one of the employees who left from this center. He was quite well-adjusted and had gotten over the feeling of early disappointments. Wage rate was higher than originally offered and the scale was higher than that of other employees in that field.

OBSERVATIONS
AND CASE STUDIES

Part III

Observations on Employment,
Adjustment and assimilation
Chicago
December 1943 and
February 1944

December 20- 1943

Male 27

Formerly from Long Beach, California

Jerome Relocation Center

Employed by YMCA Hotel 826 So. Wabash, Chicago, Illinois

Position: Supervisor of stock

Chicago, according to this person, is a city which he likes very much. Altho there are many relocated Japanese-Americans he states that it is difficult to see many of them as they are scattered anywhere from the South shore north to Evanston and west into Oak Park and other suburbs.

He, himself lived with seven others in a large house in an exclusive section of South Shore. Altho the distance is considerable, he is able to commute by means of fast electric trains.

In his opinion, more evacuees should make an attempt to relocate. Rather than making a commitment before leaving the center, they should come out and seek jobs after they arrive. Many of the WRA jobs are not worth taking. There are jobs of all types but one cannot expect to get to the top immediately. Actually one does not necessarily have to get a job in his own line to earn a decent living. Generally, he stated that \$35 per week was about average earning of the Nisei in the Chicago area.

He was quite enthusiastic about the management of the hotel which employed him. He stated that they are very pleasant to work for.

December 20, 1943

2 Female.

Employee-Y.M.C.A. Visual Education Department. Both girls were former residents of Gila. They, according to Mr. Sorenson the man in charge of the Chicago branch of the National Council Y.M.C.A. stated had not been accepted by the employees when they first received their jobs. It took six months to break down prejudices. Now, this Mr. Sorenson believes that they are very well liked by the employees in that department. (14)

One of the girls seemed to be cynical about the whole situation. She was apparently sorry that she had left the Center. Her disappointment seemed quite strong as she asked if it were possible for her to return to Gila to stay. The other girl seemed to like the city and its life better than center life. Neither girls would say much. It seemed apparent that wages are not high, but the atmosphere seemed nice. One girl had a friend who left for Stevens Hotel on Indefinite Leave who quit the hotel and took some other job due to the discrepancies on the offer.

December 21, 1948

On this Tuesday noon I went into a popular restaurant chain the Triangle restaurant in the Loop or Downtown section and found food inexpensive and appetizing. It was 12:00 noon at the peak of the rush hour. Service was good. There was no discrimination and there wasn't even a second look by those who sat next to me. The people are not curious or catty.

There are many restaurants in the city of Chicago, far more than downtown Los Angeles in comparison. At rush hours it seemed that there was better service than pre-war Los Angeles. Your choices of types of restaurant are many and varied.

December 21, 1943

Male 18, from Tule Lake

This young boy, a graduate of high school is employed in the Visual Education Department as a shipping clerk, For his age he is very earnest and clear-cut youngster. He states that he is residing at one of the YMCA Association. However where a number of young boys are staying. His older brother who is 19 is attending the YMCA College in Chicago and lives with him.

These boys are fortunate in being a member of the Association house as they participate in group activities with the Caucasians. He states that they participated in football and are now playing basketball on the Association House's Team.

His brother is taking Liberal Arts course with the university and acts as locker boy part of the time at the Y. He intends to further his education soon. He plans two years of his education at the YMCA College and then specialize in forestry. His parents are now residents of Heart Mt. Wyoming, the parents were transferred; he relocated to the position with the YMCA.

December 21, 1943

Female 20
Employed in WRA office.

In a brief conversation with her it seems that she was not too happy. The fact that her sister was also in Chicago and both of them were together was the only comfort she had. She stated that she had not made many friends and that usually the day's schedule was to go to work and then go home to their place and she'd see a lot of her sister but only her.

She had hoped to find some kind of social life. (I'm sorry to say that even if she is a very nice girl she was not an attractive girl. This is a problem as the young fellows would seek the nicer-looking girls.) In answer to my query about the employees in the office, she stated that she had not made friends among those who were employed in the office.

December 21, 1943

A Visit to the Rooms of 8 Bachelors.

In visiting a Japanese-American in every case they have taken rooms at the top of 3 flights of stairs. This one is no exception.

The boys live on a cooperative basis, with the chores divided among them. They have a kitchenette and 3 room. In two rooms there is one double-bed each. In the last two double beds. The boys sleep two to each bed. The type of work each one did varied considerably. Wages too varied. One of the boys had not completed high school. Another was attending college. The atmosphere of the place was like that of a dormitory or fraternity. Most of these boys were irresponsible and had not saved anything to the present time. One, a college graduate and now employed as a accountant, is married and has a wife and child remaining in a relocation center. He does not participate in the poker games at which considerable amounts change hands. At one of them the winner was ahead by \$200.00 in the period of an evening.

There is no interest in finding or seeking better forms of amusement. They have lived in Chicago for some months but their knowledge of Chicago consist of the Loop section the subway and elevated, the theaters and not much more. They are not interested in bettering their position in society.

They are so content within themselves that no attempt is made to seek new friends, or old friends who are residences of other parts of the city. The excuse is that it is too inconvenient and time taking.

December 22, 1943

Male 28
Evacuee From Jerome Relocation Center.
Graduate of University in Economics.

Is now employed at a Spring factory doing defense work as a punch press operator. He is a member of the United Automobile Worker's Union. In the past 10 months he has risen from the position of an unskilled laborer thru to that of a titled skilled worker. Under the preliminary stages the wages were 70¢ per hour for unskilled work. To rise out of the unskilled to an apprenticeship requires 60 days at a specialized task. Some of the evacuee have not had the opportunity to work as full 60 days on one machine and therefore have not advanced in position. In the usual case, seniority is the basis for promotions. However due to the fact that this fellow worked in the night swing shift, there was a smaller number at work and the need and the consideration of his foreman allowed him to gain his 6 days period on the punch press. As the result, he became an apprentice which, following a certain period of time allowed him to become a full-fledged skilled operator of a machine. His wage is now 1.00 per hour on 48 hour per week basis. The usual period required for a man to receive skill rating requires approximately 2 years.

There are only three evacuees employed in this plant. It is difficult to obtain releases in this type of work; however, he is contemplating such a move as he feels that he is not working in the right line.

Accounting offers have come up from time to time paying approximately 35.00 week but due to the fact that he can earn over 50.00 per week he is reluctant to change.

December 22, 1943

As An Observer;

The YMCA Hotel still remains the chief meeting place of the Nisei. There are approximately 125 residing in the Hotel. Only a few can be seen in the lobby at a time. Many of them do not look as if they are having the best of social life. Some are able to contact friends. Others do not seem to have friends and have a lost expression.

December 23, 1943

I was fortunate in being invited to supper at an apartment of two girls, sisters who had relocated from Gila. One is employed at the WRA office, the other is employed as a secretary to an executive of the Shotwell candy concern.

Their apartment is comfortable and there is a feeling of being resettled in comparison to that of the average Nisei fellow who has come to Chicago.

The girl who is employed at the WRA office states that she is not satisfied with her position there. It is an all round clerk typist position which she states is not as good as jobs she held previous to evacuation. It is true however, that she is learning new techniques so she intends to stick it out for a longer time. The atmosphere of the WRA office itself does not show friendliness and spirit as in some of the other private concerns. According to this girl, the head of this office frowns upon group spirit to attempt to keep up the holiday spirit. He does not believe in having the group get together and pooling small amount to set up a Christmas tree or even 10¢ pool so that they could have a grab-bag for holiday spirit.

The WRA office in Chicago is drab and dreary as the city itself.

In contrast, this girl who is a secretary at the Shotwell concern states that the spirit of the employer towards his employees is very good. He has tried to make things much nicer for every one in the concern. However he is not showing any extra favoritism to the Nisei who are employed merely upon their ancestry. He is employing and advancing them on their merits as workers. He has come to know the Nisei as earnest and hard-working, conscientious. In order that the Nisei may get ahead he has had them go to school on company's time and expense to train them properly in the office procedures. He has shown the office workers around the plant to give them an idea of how things are made in the candy line. He is not showing that Niseis are different but is doing what he would for any one who starts in the company. There is no prejudice. Merit is the basis.

During holidays, the concern is more than generous in gifts and in time off. The atmosphere between employer and employee is very pleasant.

Regarding the life of the two girls at their apartment. These girls have gotten to the point where they are resettled.

They were the first I have come across with that in evidence. However, it may be that they have immediate relatives 2 families due to marriage of sisters who reside in the vicinity and also a young brother who is going to high school in Chicago.

This is the first Christmas that they are spending away from home. Yet, they do not expect to miss much. They claim that they can feel the holiday spirit as they have purchased a Christmas tree and intend that all of the sisters will get together with their young brother and have a merry Christmas.

Their apartment is located on the North side of Chicago, away from most of the Nisei. It is a small but clean and airy apartment. The girls stated that in the beginning the manager of the apartment refused them. However, a Chinese couple had already been residents of the apartment and the manager who had not known Japanese-American had merely stated that she did not want any Nisei there. They finally managed to obtain the apartment. Later it was disclosed to the girls that the owner of the apartment was the owner of the candy concern. Now they feel quite secure.

The girls feel that they should feel that they have made a home in Chicago and make the best of it with what they have and save something for the future. In most of the girls that they meet they are disappointed as the others in many cases do not think of the future and live only for the next day.

The parents of the girls and another sister are still residents of Gila. They feel that their folks who have been farmers all their lives and have not known any other life will not be suited for the city. Nor will they be accustomed to the cold damp winter and hot muggy summers. For the present while conditions are good in the center, they feel that that place is better for their folks.

In living in Chicago, they state that they are cognizant of how much they did not appreciate life as it formerly looked previous to evacuation. Much of it was taken for granted. In reminiscing, they feel that they have led a wonderful life before evacuation and resettlement does not compare even tho they state that the opportunities for people to get ahead in jobs and positions are much finer in Chicago.

December 24, 1943

Female 20

Formerly from Santa Barbara, California was relocated from Gila to Chicago to attend American Academy of Art. She is living at a dormitory composed of people who are either students or working girls. It is sponsored by a Church group. The atmosphere in the Lodge has been more than generous in making her feel at home.

However, the problem that worries her is the fact that her two brothers are still in the center due to their negative answers to the questionnaire. Their answer they justify themselves as being a protest for the internment of their father.

Altho they are not disloyal they will not change their answers. The effect has been to cause some consternation regarding the outcome of their hearings in Gila. In the meantime she is wondering what would be the most logical thing for her to do to find a means to obtain a release for her father.

In visiting this girl it was at an apartment on the Westside of Chicago a very nice one in which 2 boys and a sister are having her as a guest. This apartment was quite comfortable one and roomy. To find the apartment required 6 months of constant search. Now they are thinking of moving to the north side as it would be nearer to school for one of the boys. In looking over the apartment on the north side they have not been successful in finding any which they consider as suitable for their needs. Most of them do not come up to the standard of the one in which they are now living.

December 25, 1943

Christmas Day.

Went to a dinner at a home of an Issei who is a minister. Present were 10 people who had relocated. Of this group, a boy and his sister were former Gilans plus myself and one other girl. The others were from Jerome and Manzanar. During the course of the dinner one of the girls a student at a small college, at Reystone Pennsylvania remarked that she is finding the atmosphere there very nice for her. In her extra curricular activities she explains to the people in the surrounding areas the plight of Nisei who are now attempting to relocate in areas other than the west coast.

Two of the people there were employed in hospital, one as a laboratory technician, the other as a student nurse. Another was a punch press operator in a defense factory, one was on her way to New York, still another was a freshman at Carleton College.

March 7, 1944
Visit Made
February 7, 1944

3 Bachelors, approximate ages, 20-22-24

These young men had rented an apartment in South Chicago. Kenwood area. Their apartment which consisted of two rooms a kitchenette and a bath was well-furnished. The cost to them was only \$11.00 per week. A sum cheaper than many of the drab rooming houses.

A friend of mine, a Lieutenant in the Medical Corps and I had gone to see these young men. They were quite domestic, as one of them served us with tea and cake. (Far better than some of the bachelors can do). They had jobs in defense plants and were quite comfortable.

The oldest one had received his 1-A classification. He was merely taking it as a matter of course as other Americans employed in his plant were also being drafted. However, the other two younger men were perturbed about the situation altho they had not been reclassified.

Their apartment was quite well taken care of and in general the young men were quite well adjusted in regards to housing and neighborhood. Shopping needs.

March 7, 1944

2 Bachelors ages approximately 26.

In a visit to a rooming house in Kenwood area of Chicago I met two young men who were staying in a rooming house where an old man had converted his home into several apartments. The landlord was an eccentric man who did not have a cordial attitude. According to the men, the landlord had caused them to miss contacts with many of their friends due to his attitude. However, the rooms were better than average and the fact that their jobs took up a large amount of time which gave them very little time to seek other places of living.

One of them was employed as a research chemist. It is just the sort of position for which he had trained. He showed his hands which were discolored with chemicals. It was just like in his undergraduate days. Such an opportunity he would not have had in California.

The other young man was employed a Clerk-bookkeeper. He was formerly assisting his father in a profitable business as a Ship Chandler. Altho he had studied International Trade and Economics the only thing available was some sort of white collar job which was similar to his previous experience.

New York

Male, Age 22

Student at Syeacuse University.

This young man is a senior in college and will complete his course in Advertising this summer. He is quite optimistic about his opportunities in that field.

During the last year he has been appearing in the New York area making speeches to the various group who are interested in Japanese American. With the speeches, he is having photographs sent to him for use by the office of Committee on Resettlement of Japanese-Americans.

When I was in Oneida, he spoke before a small group in the First Baptist Church there. He was very impressive to the audience as an eloquent speaker. To me, it seemed that the speech itself was too well prepared from a speaking standpoint and too much stress was given to the dramatic effect rather than to realistic thinking on the part of this speaker.

He was preceded by a young lady who was quite flustered as she had to speak from a rostrum. In her attempt to make comments on the life in a Relocation center, she was too general and did not hit the audience with specific information. She spoke as if she were explaining life in Poston (as where she formerly came from) to another evacuee. She did not seem to judge her audience or their knowledge of life in a center. These people were quite ignorant of the relocation centers. One woman thought that evacuees were housed in individual units, completely furnished with all plumbing, electricity and fuel plus stoves, refrigeration, etc.

My position at this meeting was merely an observer, due to the fact that I merely attended and was not a speaker. I was not approached for information regarding the centers even tho I knew I was more in a position to give information than those two who were speaking.

Housing:

The racial prejudice has been talked of by people, but it is not of the color line which is the major problem. In one case a man came in and stated that he was refused a room in 75 places. According to the story, it seemed apparent that the person complaining was trying to rationalize. The truth of the matter was that this man was unrepresentable. Anyone who was as ill-spoken and dressed shabbily as he in any color or race would have been refused. With his appearance was another undesirable factor in that he had a chip on his shoulder.

As for housing it is difficult for anyone to find a decent place. To say that it is discrimination because evacuees are of Japanese ancestry is wrong. It is a negative attitude taken by Niseis relocating. The Jews and the Negroes are discriminated against, far more than the Japanese Americans.

It is true that in the beginning many were situated on the South Side. Now there are some in the northern section and some in the better sections.

To expect to find a room anywhere in the city without difficulty is the wrong attitude. Any one who moves into Chicago will run into the same difficulty. The Niseis are not good persistent job-seekers or house-hunters. They have not the experience or background for it. Possibly the Isseis would do a better job even with the language difficulty because they have come across such situations before.

Regarding reports about discrimination in Professional lines.

There are no grounds for this. The state of Illinois had been non-discriminatory, also it is recognized for dentists and for the optometrists. However, pharmacist must take the state examination. This qualification is required of all men who intend to practice as pharmacist in the state of Illinois. Illinois has been less discriminatory than California.

The people in the Chicago area are not discriminatory towards the Japanese. The feeling is much better than in California. There is no comparison. For social activities the theatres, restaurants, hotels etc. are open. The Trianon and the Aragon, two popular dancing places well-known to

people from many places, are open to the Nisei.

There are many things which can be done. However, the social life of the evacuees who have relocated is nil. There are many people who are in Chicago but they do not meet. There is no special way that it is possible for them to meet. The churches have been nice. Some have gone out of their way to welcome the evacuees, but not all of them go to church. To have the evacuee become a part of the social life of the community is the difficult problem. There is a need for it as there are numbers who are not happy.

July 3, 1944

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

GILA RIVER PROJECT

Oct 43

NOTES ON THE PROBLEM OF RELOCATION

I. The General Nature of the Problem.

The problem of the relocation of evacuees is not a unitary problem but is a different set of problems for different groups. Some problems are common to all. In varying degree, every, or nearly every evacuee has fears of relocation. These fears of course, are based upon the experiences of evacuation and subsequent events. Some degree of insecurity is felt by everyone. But, that allowed for, the problems vary. For the purposes of this analysis, the two main groups to be considered are the Issei and the Nisei. Within each group there are sub-groups. Such factors as family ties and responsibilities, degree of assimilation including knowledge of English, economic resources, skills and previous experience, all these create variations. In these notes an attempt will be made to show the factors both favorable and adverse to relocation, and size of the different groups in terms of their attitudes towards relocation.

II. The Nisei--Factors Favoring Relocation.

A large number of interviews (over 100) with Nisei indicate that the majority of Nisei favor relocation and plan to relocate in the near future. The time set by themselves ranges from "as soon as possible" to such terms as "in the Spring", "as soon as good employment offers", "as soon as the family is settled" and similar statements of limited delay. Relocation is favored by a number of considerations. It is realized that life on the Project is a dead end, that the group must be reassimilated to the American community, that economic rehabilitation is necessary and possible, and that the future "outside" has possibilities while none exist "inside."

The group favoring immediate relocation is made up, for the most part, of young Nisei either unmarried or married but without children. To this may be added a relatively small number of Nisei with children and a small number of

Issei; these have either exceptional enterprise, special skills or, in a few cases capital to start new enterprises, farming or other. Appended interviews numbers 1, 2, and 3 contain samples of the statements made by members of this group.

III. The Nisei--Factors Adverse to Relocation.

While the majority of Nisei plan to relocate in the not-too-distant future, a considerable minority are either planning indefinite delay, in doubt, or opposed to relocation. A major cause for hesitation or opposition is fear.

Fears may take different forms, or be expressed in different terms. There is a general fear of segregation and discrimination. This would include fears of economic frustration, fears of failure to get housing, even fears of violence.

The news from those already relocated, while not all unfavorable, does indicate to many that while employment is possible, it is not always good employment. For those already inclined to doubt or hesitation, the bad news will always seem more significant than the good. Thus, while the economic situation of some relocated evacuees is good, many report that they can just make ends meet, or that they are unable to get ahead. Accordingly, relocation seems a doubtful venture, with advantages inconsiderable when balanced against the hazards.

There are also fears, variously expressed, of adverse or violent reactions of the communities in which the evacuees settle. Reports of actual violence are surprisingly few; but the fact that any occur is enough to confirm pre-existing doubts. More than violence, however segregation or its equivalents in residence, in social relations, in public conveyances and similar situations, is considered more than a possibility.

While employment is procurable, many fear it may not last. They fear that in the event of an economic depression, or when soldiers return from war, they will lose their jobs and be, in fact, the first discriminated against. This is a fear particularly hard to dissipate.

Finally, some fears are some obscure because more difficult of utterance. Many dread the loss of family or community ties, believing that they will not be able to replace them by equally satisfying ties in the new community.

All these fears are reinforced by adverse newspaper comments, by news of anti-evacuee resolutions, by unfavorable letters and by the unpleasant reactions in the state of Arizona.

Resentments, probably related to fears, also play their part. There are some whose resentments are not great enough to cause disloyalty, who yet feel it strongly enough to induce them to resist relocation. While the number of these is probably small, resentment may be a reinforcing factor in the attitude of those primarily motivated by fear.

An appreciable number are retarded by family ties. In addition to those who believe they cannot support wife and young children on what they may expect to earn, many have responsibilities to parents or to younger brothers and sisters. These feel that they cannot leave helpless dependents without adequate support and without the comfort of physical contiguity in the center. These familial bonds are often complex and many individuals cannot be reassured by blanket encouragement. In addition, many parents forbid or discourage adult children from relocation; and the evacuee family ties are sufficiently strong to enforce conformity to parental wishes.

Some do not consider relocation because of lack of money. They feel that the amount granted on relocation is not sufficient; there is not a sufficient margin of safety. Reduction in internal employment accentuated this consideration. A number of families previously breaking even or getting a little ahead with two or three working members, now find themselves getting behind financially.

The official procedures required of those applying for leave are adverse to relocation in a small number of significant; added to hesitations and doubts, they sometimes turn the scale.

I have given more space to adverse than to favorable factors. This may give the impression that they are the stronger. I do not believe that to be the case. The majority of Nisei who are of age and unencumbered by families will probably relocate in a matter of months. But the adverse factors will prevent or delay relocation for an appreciable minority and they will pose continuing problems for some time to come.

Interviews 4,5,6,7 and 8 illustrate the beliefs, attitudes and problems of the Nisei on this topic.

IV. The Issei.

With the majority of the Issei the case is far different. It is given as a strongly held opinion that, without a very marked changed attitude, which would, in any case, take a long time, or without a modification of government policy, the Issei will relocate only in small numbers, and will prefer to remain within the center for a long time.

The factors adverse to relocation in the case of the Nisei hold also for the Issei; but in the case of the Issei they are intensified. Their cultural handicaps are greater; many speak the language imperfectly. Living in a community of their own kind is consequently a matter of more moment to them than to the Nisei. Their fears are greater, because the outside world is stranger. But the most considerable factors are their age, their hopes of returning to California and their fear of not being able to support their family. If we are to judge by their statements the last is the consideration of greatest significance.

An appreciable proportion of the evacuees in this Project are agricultural. Some estimate that 75 % have an agricultural background. While statistics of pre-evacuation occupations do not bear this out completely, yet it is true that the majority come from rural communities and were directly or indirectly dependent upon agriculture. Of the actual farmers, many have lost their farms and none can return to them until the end of the war. Most interviews and discussions show that the majority consider it extremely difficult, if not impossible, to adopt a new occupation and, at the same time, impossible to start farming in another state without financial aid, either as a grant or as a loan.

Age is a definite bar to a new occupation. This is sometimes explicit, sometimes implicit in discussion. Some would be willing to try a new occupation, but for the belief that they could not earn enough to support their families. For the same reason they are not willing to become agricultural laborers. A considerable proportion have dependents (exact statistics have not yet been compiled since segregation) and they believe that

they can earn enough to support themselves and families only at the occupation they know best.

Thus, confining attention for the moment to farmers, relocation would mean farming in a new part of the country, with new and strange problems of soil and climate to deal with, and, for many, with little or no capital to begin with.

Their fears and doubts thus intertwine. Their age makes a new occupation difficult if not impossible; the fact that many have dependent children accentuates the fears and doubts; and the total or partial loss of capital makes farming in their belief an impossibility. The fact that many were only farm laborers before evacuation in no way lessens the force of these considerations. Many farm laborers were experts at the particular agriculture jobs they performed, and they were paid well, as agricultural wages go. At a new type of farming their special skills would be of no use, and their pay would be accordingly less.

Other occupational groups have similar opinions. Small merchants believe they would be unable to adapt to new occupations, or to make an adequate living at them. Lack of capital, and discrimination, make the old occupation impossible or hazardous.

The fears for the family are not only economic; some fear for their children's education. While the educational facilities of the project are not considered ideal, they are at least available. It is feared that in many communities, public opinion or official action will deny the schools to children of Japanese descent; so that many postpone relocation to ensure the education of their children.

The fear of future unemployment is of graver consequence to the Issei than to the Nisei. If they find themselves out of a job, with a large family, and lacking the strength and adaptability of youth, their plight would, to them, seem desperate and they fear discrimination even more than do the Nisei.

Living in a new and strange community is also a greater problem for the Issei. They are dependent upon each other not only for moral support, and for insurance against illness or other adversity, but also for community contacts. For many the language difficulty is such

that they rely upon one of their number to deal with other group in business and other transaction. Resettlement individually or by families would deprive them of such intermediaries.

A final adverse factor is the hope of returning to California. It is not often given directly as a reason, but hints are frequently dropped that indicate the hope. Accordingly, many plan to remain here until after the war, or until California is reopened to them. Here they are sure of subsistence and protection. Why face the hazards of a resettlement which may be only temporary, and which is not essential to their future well-being?

Discussions on resettlement with individuals and groups always end with specific proposals. These proposals are always that the Government make long term loans, with which a new start at an old occupation may be made. This occupation is usually assumed to be farming. However, one respected and able member of the community proposes such loans for farmers, small-business men and fathers of large families. The suggested amounts range from \$15-- to \$2000.

These proposals are frequently backed by other arguments. The need for food and the ability of the Japanese to produce it is stressed. It is also pointed out that the Government would eventually save money by making these advances. It costs over \$2000 a year to support a family of five persons in the Center. A father of five children emphasized that it cost over \$3000 a year for his family. A loan of the amounts suggested would thus be a smaller outlay than the amount which will actually be paid out with no ultimate profit and no hope of return; the implication being that the burden to the government will be much greater than a year's outlay if these people do not resettle.

Another proposal is that, for the Issei, resettlement be by group rather than by families. It realized that large groupings would excite or increase race prejudice; but it is hoped that small groups would be considered harmless. Suggestions range from ten-family groups to communities of thirty or forty families. In this way they hope to have the satisfaction and assurance of a homogenous community, and to have available representatives to deal with Caucasians.

Interviews number 9, 10, 11 and 12 illustrate the Issei attitudes on this matter.

V. Summary and Conclusions.

In this center, there are a number of people who will resettle within the next six or nine months. They consist for the most part of young Nisei, and a few Issei. There are, however, some Nisei who will not readily relocate and the majority of the Issei will constitute a problem for an appreciable length of time.

Resettlement is retarded by fears which are partly rational and partly pathological. The pathological fears though deep-seated, may be diminished by a constructive policy within the Project, aimed at restoring the confidence of the evacuees in themselves and in the American community. But the Project and the WRA can work only within limits. They cannot completely overcome the results of the adverse reports from outside, and thus they cannot completely banish the exaggerated fears of the outside world. The center offers security; "outside" means danger.

Still less can the internal policy of the Project or of the WRA remove the more rational fears of economic adversity. Belief in the impossibility of resettlement without financial aid has both a rational and a pathological basis.

The future of the relocation program is thus uncertain. The possibility of an abrupt decline in the rate of relocation must be kept in mind. While we are not yet in a position to give accurate statistics, the use of numbers, not to be taken too literally, will give an idea of the sort of thing that may take place. Of the approximate 9500 evacuees now on the project, possibly 2000 will relocate within a reasonable time. When the population is down to 7500, it may become almost stable, with relocation diminishing to a trickle. This opinion, of course, is subject to alternation if there is any radical change in WRA relocation policies.

APPENDIX
TWELVE ILLUSTRATIVE INTERVIEWS

INTERVIEW NO. 1

August 21, 1943
T. Sakurai

Relocation:

Age 21, Female, Block 32
Background: Los Angeles, 1 sister, Was enrolled in UCLA.
Plans to become a teacher of commercial subjects.
Has taken Civil Service Examination.

Is definitely planning to enter college, and has already been approved by the Student Relocation and was accepted for entrance to a teacher's college in Michigan. In the meantime she has been planning to obtain a position as secretary or stenographer in order that she may keep up with her line of work. Part-time work will aid her in meeting expenses while attending college.

An older sister is in her senior year at a university in the Midwest finishing her course in pharmacy. Her parents are not, as yet planning relocation, but are willing to go out if they can receive full assurance of adequate living standards and assurance of safety from harm. And if the older daughter can obtain suitable position in some hospital pharmaceutical department.

INTERVIEW NO. 2

August 21, 1943
T. Sakurai

Relocation:

Block 30, Male, 25 years.
Married: 1 child, Stockton hometown.

Up to the time of evacuation, helped in family grocery store. Has one brother in the Army. The family ran the store in a group. After graduation from high school, I became a notary and I performed dual duties as a clerk in the store and as a notary public.

At the present time he has realized that he had no skills, no special interest. The effect has been a retardation of his relocation plan. He has also considered his parents. He does not want to leave them alone in camp with the younger children but according to a Caucasian, he has been influenced in the following way: that family consideration should not be a major factor. If you are going to consider that, you'd better go back or go to the place where such ideas are thought to be best.

Now he is working steps towards relocating immediately. He states that because he has no special skills or abilities, he must go without any job. He is attempting to obtain a hospitality invitation as the best method whereby he would be able to rent a portion of someone's residence. He is not contemplating relocation by means of the hostel plan as the long waiting list would prolong his stay in camp.

In regards to his folks he find that they are becoming more and more tired of remaining in camp and are contemplating relocation beginning with spring of next year. Cold weather would or might endanger health of father. The chief reason for this has been that the younger children are not receiving adequate education in the relocation center.

INTERVIEW NO. 3

August 25, 1943
T. Sakurai

Relocation:

Block 10, Approx. Age 20, Female
Formerly from Fowler, California near Fresno (Central California) Previous to evacuation her contacts were with Caucasians more than Japanese Americans. Since evacuation she has come to know her people better.

She has been planning relocation for some time. Fear and uncertainty have kept her from taking a more aggressive attitude towards relocation. Her line of work is secretarial. In the beginning, her desire to relocate were directed towards some office work as a stenographer or secretary. But as reports from the outside indicated that housing was difficult to find and that cost of living had risen so much that it was necessary to reconsider the plan of relocating. At the present time she is still willing to go out of the center, but in the capacity of a domestic worker. When asked, if she had any previous experience, she stated that she had. She seems to be able to take a domestic job. However, she did indicate that it was only a means for her to be assured a place to stay and be able to eat.

Her parents are not in favor of her relocating unless she has a definite job confirmation previous to leaving the center. She is not contemplating a hostel invitation.

As for locale, she indicated that her preference was New England. She is not in favor of the long train trip due to uncertainties of war time travel conditions. Here, she was hesitant about relocating in such a distant part of the country due to the fact that she had heard rumors stories which were not favorable. She would prefer making the trip with someone else. Although she had little contact with Japanese previous to evacuation, she now feels that she would like to have others of her kind with her when or where she relocated. No matter how many new friends she may make, she feels that she would like to have one or two Japanese Americans friends whom she can visit.

She feels that if she prolongs her stay in camp it will not help her, although she states that she has learned much about the Japanese people.

INTERVIEW NO. 4

August 26, 1943
T. Sakurai

Relocation:

Block 46, Female, Age 22
Parent's age: Father 63, Mother 50.

Three children, she is the oldest, a girl-the next is a boy-19 years and youngest girl 17. The responsibilities of the home have been placed upon the eldest child. She has managed to handle all contacts with Caucasians pertaining to father's business as farmer. Father did not drive, therefore, she was a chauffeur as well. The brother was young and could not drive.

More than that he, being the only son, was the most privileged person in the family, he was catered to by the family, all his needs were met. Today, as residents in a relocation center, at 19, he is still incapable of handling the affairs of the family. He has been kept unaware of the problems which have been met by the older sister. Even under the present conditions he is still spending his money freely, without restraints.

The younger sister has just graduated from high school and as yet, is incapable of handling business affairs of the family according to the older sister.

Under the circumstances she feels that she cannot relocate.

Another point is that she has not acquired a special skill. Although she had wanted to attend some school after graduation from high school she was unable to do so due to the fact that her father needed her help.

Because she has no special skill, she is afraid that she will not be able to support her folks. Her father is now at an age where it would be difficult for him to start anew. There is a possibility that her brother who is 19 will be drafted soon so she feels that the responsibility of taking care of her parents will be upon her shoulders for some-time to come.

Her feelings regarding the general subject of evacuation, Prior to evacuation her farm was taken over by the Government.

for an army encampment due to its close proximity to government land. She still feels bitter as no remuneration was given or any indication that the government will pay for the damage done to her crops at the time the land was taken over.

Her brother answered "no" to 27 and 28 but has now changed and is about ready to contemplate volunteering for the Army.

INTERVIEW NO. 5

August 19, 1943
T. Sakurai

Relocation:

Block 65, Male, Age 23
University of California graduate in Business Administration.
Has one other brother, a recent graduate of High School,

This person was formerly in charge of applications to a hostel in Chicago. As a result of his work, he found that very few persons who have gone out on hostel invitations has special skills and ability warranting such action. In general, these people were relocating merely to get out of the center.

At first, he was reluctant to discuss his plans but his reluctance was due to several factors.

He plans to send his younger brother to a school. Being an oldest son and already a university graduate, he believes that his brother should be given a chance to relocate at some school first.

He is uncertain regarding relocations plans because he feels that he had not taken up the right course in college. As a graduate of university in Banking & Finance, he has come to the realization that his interest is not in that line.

Unless a definite, promising and favorable job comes up, he will not consider relocation. But apparently the positions offered by the WRA offices are not suitable to him.

By the beginning of next year, he believes that better opportunities will be available as the question of segregation will be of the past.

INTERVIEW NO. 6

September 3, 1943
T. Sakurai

Relocation:

Block 58, Male, Age 40
American citizen, born in Hawaii

Formerly a resident of Pasadena, California where he was in partnership with brother and brother-in-law in floriculture, specializing in carnations and chrysanthemums. Instead of raising these merely for the purpose of marketing cut flowers, this group had considerable space set aside for a continuous flower show where their best flowers were on display. From these flowers, next year's cuttings were sold for future delivery. To uphold their quality one of the partners took a trip to Japan for new varieties. Others were developed on their own. At the time of evacuation these people had become quite established and has begun to make a name for themselves. Plans for expansion of their operations by means of a tour to acquaint garden clubs and people interested in flowers and to show motion pictures and still slides had been contemplated. Besides the flower raising these people had bought the property and built their residences upon it.

His background indicated that he is reluctant to relocate. His first thought is to return to California and go back to his work. He states that in raising flowers there is more than just to make money. When a new variety is created or placed on the market there is a creative satisfaction in attaining successful propagation.

To start anew elsewhere in the United States would be difficult as weather conditions were ideal in California. Movement to the middle west would mean changes in soil and climatic conditions. It would mean the necessity of

using artificial means of heating in the winter which is difficult now with the fuel shortage which will be more acute in the winter months.

The evacuee property section urges him to sell equipment and automobile and then relocates. He feels that this is not helping relocation. If we were able to bring cars sight of a neighbor's car next to his barrack loaded ready to relocate would cause others to follow suit. The sale of the car now, may mean that the person relocating would have to buy another upon relocation, so why not let him drive out?

As for equipment in California, personal or real, the majority of the evacuees are wondering what is, or has happened to it.

Letters from Pasadena area are disheartening. One of the homes used for private storage was burned to the ground on the third attempt. Another was burned without a trade of its contents. These homes held the personal properties of more than one family! Also many people who have placed their personal property in storage with the government have not found all of their belongings in the shipments to relocation. In some cases such property were damaged beyond repair. The clause in the application for government storage states that if the government so chooses, it may terminate its agreement to hold the property in storage for the evacuee on 10 day notice. Also the Federal Reserve Men who were taking applications for government storage in some cases stated that it would be best not to place in government storage due to the long wait and because it is indefinite as to delivery.

He now feels that people in the relocation center would relocate more if they were allowed to return to California to make a check upon their stored property. In many cases to ship their necessary furnishings to their new homes and to see what property they have has been properly taken care of; where there is a mixture of necessary and unnecessary property; to divide it and send the necessary items to the new locale and remainder be placed in government storage. If the WRA could take such a policy the program of relocation would be speeded up and it would be on a permanent basis.

The amount that the government issues as grant money is insufficient to meet needs of a family group. It is difficult to take a family of 4 (size of his family) out on the amount that is allowed per family. It would be even more so in cases of larger families as the maximum

amount of this grant per family remains the same. The WRA should be more generous in their grants as the savings per individual resulting from relocation is far greater than the amount of the individual grant. In many cases there is a definite need for that money before they can contemplate relocation.

For the Isseis it is difficult for them to relocate due to language handicap. In their early days it was possible for them to take almost any job, but now they are old and they will not accept menial jobs as many of them have been in business on their own for many years. Regarding the language difficulty, because they are now old, they are not inclined to start on a new life, as they do not have the drive they had in their youth and feel more conscious of their language handicap because of the war.

For these older people it would be better in the WRA would set up means for grouping several families and relocating the group so that they may be dependent upon each other in solving relocation program.

Altho no definite step has been taken regarding forced relocation he believes that conditions in camp and every move made at present is towards making life unbearable within the center.

INTERVIEW NO. 7

September 7, 1943
T. Sakurai

Relocation:

Block 59, Age 21, Male
Graduate of Pasadena Junior College
Major--Business

This person has no father, the family consists of mother and 3 brothers of which he is the oldest. He formerly answered no to questions 27 and 28. However, he has changed his answers. From the interview he indicated the reason for his answering no was that his family has enough in Japan to allow a comfortable living according to Japanese standards. At present, he is planning to relocate somewhere in the Eastern part of the United States. His preference is for a large city such as New York or Washington where he would not be conspicuous as a Japanese-American. He feels that

that large numbers in a small community would increase race prejudice against Japanese American. His youngest brother just graduated from High School and is now in need of further education. In order that he may continue his schooling it would be necessary for this person or his brother to relocate in order to be nearby to take care of the youngest brother. One of the boys must remain to take care of the mother.

Although he contemplates relocation his real intention is to Beel aroundn and wait. To make his decisions regarding where he shall reside is difficult now. At the end of the war when things are more settled he will make his choice, whether to remain here or go to Japan for his permanent residence.

INTERVIEW NO. 8

October 25, 1943
G. Brown

Relocation:

Nisei, 25, former beet and beet seed farmer. Now unit supervisor on farm. Had to sell a farm worth \$10000 for \$2000. on evacuation. Unmarried.

He planned to relocate on a farm near Minneapolis on a 50-50 share basis; the owner to provide seed and equipment and to underwrite grocery bills. The evacuee was to provide the labor. The arrangements were not made in time for this year's planting, so the plan was abandoned. He would consider doing the same thing next year, if arrangements were made in time. He would take his own labor force with him, also on a share basis. I gather that his abilities are sufficiently respected and he would have no difficulty in recruiting labor. He apparently does not reconsider relocating on any other basis. From various remarks, I gather he is in no hurry to relocate but will wait for a really good opportunity.

INTERVIEW NO. 9

September 18, 1943

S. Oguchi

Relocation:

Block 32, Age 45, Feamel, housewife, an Issei
Block 36, Age 44, Female, housewife, an Issei
Block 36, Age 60, Female, housewife, an Issei
Three women as a group.

Women have fear in camp life and we are not enjoying daily life. But if asked why don't you resettle, we feel like we are getting old and do not like to take chances either. In our minds there is much confusion and we hear many rumors; for instance; worry on the bus, train and outside sentiment, about jobs and in case of sickness, etc. if we intend to go out.

Such an unpleasant atmosphere may be unavoidable as the result of the war to some extent. But it is a proven fact that we lived in this continent so long and raised our children as American citizens, so there will be no such ideas and desire that we will be harmful to this country in any way.

Yet we are under uneasy pressure, we have such fear that we don't know our future. Such feeling detains us to go out. To go out to total strangers' community as employees at our age is really painful. We can't ask too much, but feel like there might be some better way. One half of our population had their own business, so it is very painful to return to the life of employees at an advanced age.

We hear that to make a living outside for a family of four, it costs about \$6.00 a day. It is difficult to earn that much for us. If the Government would provide ten acres of land for each family and let us do the farming, I think we could make a living for ourselves.

INTERVIEW NO. 10

September 9, 1943
S. Oguchi

Relocation:

Block 31, Age 28, Female, Housewife, A Nisei

My fear is regarding my two boys who are five years old and seven years old. If we resettled, will they be able to get along well with other children in a new community where we will be a total strangers.

INTERVIEW NO. 11

September 8, 1943
S. Oguchi

Relocation;

A farm supervisor, age 30, Nisei, farmer.

I have a desire to relocate but as I am not familiar about outside conditions I am not ready to resettle now. I want to go back to California, where I know the conditions; but for Middle West I have no knowledge. There, the farming season is short, that is a disadvantage. I have young growing children and I wonder whether I am able to support the family.

INTERVIEW NO. 12

October 18, 1943
G. Brown

Relocation:

Issei, 46, Graduate of U. of California, formerly
produce merchant.

Family: wife and five children.

He stated that the most pressing and insistent of problems was how people were to get along after the war; specially how to make a living. With his family, he cannot consider relocating now; now opening has presented itself which would give a sufficient income. He pointed out that his family costs WRA over \$3000 a year; with only part of that, he could relocate, either at farming or in a small business. He spoke at great length, but added no new points, except that he is keenly aware that race discrimination will always be a handicap to the Japanese, even after the war.

October 18, 1943

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
GILA RIVER PROJECT
RIVERS, ARIZONA
COMMUNITY ANALYSIS SECTION

March 28, 1945

Notes on Relocated Issei

The following notes are extracts from a letter written by Mr. Seichi Oguchi. Mr. Oguchi was research assistant in this section for one year. In July 1944 he went to Chicago. There, after some initial difficulties, he secured a large vacant house and made it into a 51 room apartment. The WRA sent people to him, and all apartments are full, all tenants being former evacuees. The six brief case studies are made of people who are his tenants,

- (1) Mr. & Mrs. T----used to live in Seattle before the war and were in the dry cleaning business. The family consists of seven. The man is over 60, his wife is about 55. A son is a student in Michigan University; two young daughters are attending local high school and grammar school respectively. One grown up daughter and a son are with Mr. and Mrs. T, four altogether; they are working in a candy factory. They are making about \$600 a month. They occupy a four room apartment and are paying \$12 a week. They probably save about $\frac{1}{2}$ what they get.
- (2) Mr. E. has two daughters: one is in a local high school and the other is working. They came from Rivers last June. He is about 52 years old. He started to work in a toy factory at 60¢ per hour; as his experience increased so did his efficiency and he is making 90¢ per hour. He does extra over time work, so he is paid more than \$60 per week. He was a gardener in Pasadena before he went to the camp.
- (3) Mr. and Mrs. A. came from a small town near Seattle. He was a photographer. The man is about 60 and his wife is about 52 or something like that. Their son and relatives came here first and they came later. First the man and his wife went to work in a cafeteria as he knows something about cooking and the wife as dish washer. Then they changed to work in a candy factory as chief cook and helper. I think they are making about \$80 a wwk both together.
- (4) Mr and Mrs W came from Pasadena. They were in the nursery business. Mr W is about 60 years old and Mrs W is about 48 years. They have two daughters, one daughter is in an Eastern College and her sister is attending a business College in Chicago. Mr and Mrs W are working in a toy factory and I think they are making about \$8 a day each. Mr W was not accustomed to work for any one and as he was not physically strong, I think it was a hard work for him to fit in. But I think they are getting on all right now.
- (5) Mr and Mrs T came from Washington state. He was work-

ing ina railroad. Mr T is about 60 years old and Mrs T is about 50. Their son came here first, secured an apartment and called the family. They have a daughter also. Mrs. T is working at home. She may earn about 50¢ per hour, making some novelty articles. Mr T is working in a candy factory and their daughter is working somewhere else.

(6) Now I may give another case. Mrs Y has three children, one boy and two daughters, 12, 10, and 8. People in the center may wonder how she can get by. She is a kibel and working in a garment factory as a dress maker. I think she is making about \$8 or \$9 a day. She is paying \$12 a week for the apartment and seems getting all right.

Other guests in the house are practically all Nisei families and unless they have small children both husband and wife are working. We have 51 rooms and 25 units, in day time most people are out except few mothers and children.

Relocation is hard for some of Issels but where they come out there are many ways to get by. For instance it was hard for me for the first several months but that period is past and I feel like it was better that we came out.

The people who stay in our apartments are doing well and average evacuees may not come to that point but most people are engaged in some sort of occupation and unless they are physically upset they are getting along all right.

To get jobs is much easier than we expected. But to get a satisfactory house or apartment for the families is a more difficult problem. However by asking friends to watch for and making contact with the housing department of the WRA, there is some way to secure living quarters. Whether the place is satisfactory or not depends on chance a great deal. As there is a ceiling price, some are living in an apartment much better than others at the same price.

One thing we don't like about Chicago is that we have to live in doors so much with closed windows on account of the weather. This is not only Chicago but with all Eastern states so I think we have to stand it.

The very good point is that there is not much racial discrimination even at times as this. Except in the Newspaper, we do not even feel that there is a war. On the street, in the streetcar and other public places, we do not feel discrimination. This is probably on account of the city is large and consists of every race and particularly a great portion of the population consists of new comers of other countries.

None of this kind of information is particularly new, but it may be useful to add it to other available relocation information. Mr Oguchi's brief comments on his own adjustment are also worth noting.

File
Kila

Excerpt from Letter dated March 3, 1945, to Mr. Myer from
Douglas Mitsuhashi, 63 - 1 - C, Gila River

The intent of both the Army and the War Relocation Authority is excellent, and well may it be said that their intentions are above reproach. But the entire program of relocation as announced and now effected by the War Relocation Authority and approved by the Military required vast and drastic revision. The plan upon which the War Relocation Authority through the sanction of the Army has decided upon this gigantic program of relocating more than 60,000 evacuees from eight remaining relocation centers is based upon a false and materialistic premise which seeks merely to relocate but not care for the consequences to follow. In earlier relocation, many Niseis (citizens of Japanese descent) with education left the center in droves because of better opportunities outside to which they were easily able to adjust themselves. The remaining evacuees, however, are on the whole of a different class. Many of them are Isseis (Nationals of Japan) who have difficulty speaking English or are incapable of expressing themselves well enough. To relocate these remaining evacuees with assurance of assistance under the Resettlement Assistance Program will be a very difficult matter since any assistance to be given under the RAP is only temporary. In my opinion assistance to be given should be of a permanent nature. It should last and must be really good since those who are relocating have but one purpose in their minds, that of becoming citizens of one country only and that country is the United States. In going out of these centers they impliedly renounce all allegiance to their former government, and, therefore, are not interested any longer in returning to their native land. By choice they have unqualifiedly decided on giving their loyalty to the United States and to that end serve the nation when its needs are greatest.

But I believe the War Relocation Authority and the Army err when they believe that for mere cash assistance they are able to relocate the remaining evacuees. I suggest, therefore, to correct the errors of the past, that citizenship be conferred upon every loyal Japanese of alien descent who are desirous of relocating and who are willing to help with the war effort. It appears to me that the plan as now arranged is to put the cart before the horse. By all means citizenship should be conferred, so that if the evacuees do relocate, they do so as American citizens, not foreigners.

If Congress can by legislation grant a disloyal American of Japanese descent to renounce his citizenship, would it not only be fair to grant citizenship to those who appreciate it and cherish it? There are many in our centers whose sons and daughters are serving in the armed forces of the nation. They would have appreciated citizenship from their early arrival in this country if by Congressional Act

they were not deprived of the privilege of gaining citizenship by naturalization. These evacuees are Americans in fact; they constitute a part of the great American population and will continue to be so. Greater harm cannot befall Americans if they fail to treat them as their own, for, I am sure, Americans generations later will speak of how their ancestors had mistreated their ancestors.

To grant citizenship is the highest and noblest contribution which I believe can be conferred on those who desire to relocate. While lack of funds may have its deterrent effects, I consider it to be secondary to the matter of granting citizenship. I believe, therefore, that citizenship should be conferred on the alien evacuees of these various centers, and I am sure that the program of relocation will take its own course.

I believe also that this would alter any move which the Japanese government may have as a reprisal for ill treatment of their nationals in this country, since there would be no nationals left.

Do you not believe, therefore, that citizenship is an essential pre-requisite to relocation? Couldn't Congress enact a statute conferring citizenship on all alien evacuees who desire relocation and who are willing to help with the war effort? Wouldn't this be more significant than a mere cash grant or promise of assistance under the Resettlement Assistance Program? Do you not believe that in these abnormal times, when the nation is at war, relocation without citizenship would be like sending out an ill-equipped soldier to fight in the field of battle? Would it not serve to cast a lie to the ever-growing foreign propaganda that Japanese aliens are ill-treated in relocation centers but reherald and reestablish instead the slogan that Americanism is not a matter of race, color or creed but that it is a matter of the mind and heart?

Sincerely yours,

s/

Douglas Mitsuhashi
63 - 1 - C

Gila River

ARMY REGISTRATION SUMMARY

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Brought by
Mr. Bennett
Pr. Dwyer
John Stoner
only way

The United States Army registration for Japanese American evacuees seventeen years and over at the Gila River Relocation Center commenced on February 8, 1943. In collaboration with the Army representatives Captain Norman R. Thompson and three non-commissioned officers, certain members of the staff delegated by the project director made preparations for the handling of the registration. For a period of five days an intensive program of education was initiated to acquaint the old and the young about the importance and meaning of this event.

One of our initial steps was to determine from the leaders of the nisei, kibe and issei groups their attitude towards the program and at the same time find out if there were any objections in the community at large towards it. Although citizens of military age were scheduled as the first registrants, it was felt that the attendant problems should be brought to the attention of the elders as well as those immediately affected. During this period systematic schedules of meetings were effected throughout both communities. Captain Thompson took the initiative in clarifying the purpose of his mission, insisting at all times that his primary objective as the Army's emissary was to conduct the registration in the light of instructions from his headquarters rather than being on a tour to recruit volunteers.

Gatherings were held in mess halls, churches, recreation halls and outdoor amphitheatres. It became possible for every person affected to become cognizant of the mission that the Army representatives were on. After details had been fully explained by either the captain or the project director any unturned question could be answered by merely presenting written requests. Controversial questions dealing with the broader problems of citizenship were carefully avoided and all emphasis was placed on the opportunities for reassertion of the Japanese Americans of their loyalty.

When meetings were conducted in the English language, the tone of the questions submitted was an honest desire to explore the meaning of the registration, however, in many cases where the Japanese language was used for assemblies of principally isseis or kibeis it afforded the interrogator an opportunity to vent his spleen against the handling of the Japanese question in general. Why should the young men volunteer in the face of memories of a face losing evacuation? Would not the volunteers be sent to various parts of the Pacific to face perhaps their own brothers and uncles in combat? Could they expect to receive unbiased treatment from all commanders some of whom might be tempted to have them commanded out as suicide squads? Why were the volunteers to be placed in separate units and therefore actually become another "Jim Crow" regiment? Why were they put on the spot by this call for volunteering when other American citizens were subject to draft?

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
COMMUNITY ANALYSIS SECTION

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As these queries came to the fore and seemed to be focused on the benefits attendant to this plan for recruitment the portentous questions 27 and 28 lay almost untouched in the background, little suspected by the Army men and members of the WRA staff as being the dynamic questions which were to upset all predictions.

When the last persons had been registered, we realized that too much emphasis had been placed on pacifying those who were disturbed about the question of volunteering, while if the matter of attempting to show the beneficial results of enlistments had been soft pedaled and the problem of determining loyalty had been stressed more it would appear that we would have emphasized the main objective. At no time before the actual registration did we have an inkling of a large proportion of negative answers we would be confronted with. Leaders and laymen simply did not intimate the possibilities.

During this time thirty select interviewers were trained in registration techniques and were familiarized with all the forms to be used. These young women were given instructions by our senior administrative assistant who had newly returned from conferences in Washington with the WRA and War Department personnel as well as the captain. Several of those chosen were fluent in both American and Japanese languages so as not to embarrass the kibei or issei whose language difficulties were known.

It was determined that the registrants would be called in by blocks rather than in alphabetical order and therefore every block had knowledge several days in advance of the approximate day when their residents were required to report. As calm retrospect now comes into view, perhaps, this was an error in that the dissident element thereby had time to converge their forces within specific blocks that were eligible for immediate call. A call for registrants by blocks was purely a method of expediency with us.

Each community had its own registration set-up and was housed in a central mess hall. On one side of the hall the interviewers completed all the forms whereupon the registrant was directed to a reviewer who directed them to the army sergeants set apart in semi-enclosed booths. A member of the appointed personnel directed the registration activities of the hall at all times. This representative had been properly instructed in the manner in which the Army wished the registration to be conducted.

All of the interviewers to begin with were evacuees. It was shocking when we noted the tally of the initial day's registering. It was disclosed that out of 173 registrants 107 had signed "no" to question 27 and 52 to question 28. At first these representatives declared that a negative answer to 27 was almost as damning to their citizenship

-3-
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rights as a like answer to 28 unless the registrant could show by former declarations that he was a conscientious objector. However, at no time were these men instructed to deal in coercion or threaten as to confinements or loss of rights but rather to inform as to the seriousness that these answers might be considered in the light of the fact that this country was at war. Those who were scheduled for the first four days were given one hour with the interviewer and the Army representative so it cannot be said that anyone was hurried through the procedure.

Even during these initial days, it was apparent that the registrants had been expertly schooled in giving their answers because they appeared at the sergeant's booth in a tense assertive mood showing little regard for the explanations given. They spoke of the loss of citizenship rights, the loss of face when they were quizzed but only a few listened to a reasonable evaluation of the whole program. As the days progressed, it seemed smart for them to come in with such ready answers. Every individual who passed through these booths were told that an affirmative answer to either question was in no way a commitment to volunteer but only an assertion of their loyalty. However, it was apparent that undermining influences had strongly pointed out the reverse.

After four days of registering the negative answers were recorded in such large ratio to the totals that the director decided to withhold future call-ins for at least three days and therefore, during the 12th, 13th and 14th of February the leaders of the loyal group were called in for further counseling. Small compact teams were dispersed into every block to acquaint the people with the true significance of the program and additional mass meetings were called for the benefit of those who needed more interpretations. At this time, the project attorney was also asked to give an opinion about the significance of the registration. His construction of the meaning and effect of questions Number 27 and 28 were written and disseminated throughout every block of each community. He pointed out that question 27 was definitely not a question to determine if the registrant would volunteer but rather than an affirmative answer to it would indicate that he was neither a conscientious objector nor one who would defy, violate or evade the Selective Service Law. In reference to question 28, he pointed out that the question merely sought to determine an affirmation of loyalty on the part of the registrant.

Also During this lull period evidences of coercion, threatenings and interference against the leaders of the recalcitrant and disloyal groups were compiled and submitted to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. On February 16th which was the following day after registration had recommenced, the agents of the FBI rounded up 15 coercive leaders and dispatched them to the Lordsburg Interment Camp. We also sent 13 nisei and kibel to the Moab Camp in Utah. Insurmountable evidences of subversive acts principally in regards to the functioning of the registration were compiled against these individuals before they were taken out. The dockets of those shipped to Moab were sent to the Washington Office.

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Although the tenseness caused by this dissident group was largely dissipated during the ensuing days, it was apparent that the die had been cast. The percentage of the negative answers continued in approximately the same ratio and the only windfall caused by taking this disloyal group out of the project was a greater sense of security for those who did not want to be molested or threatened because of their affirmative answers.

The registration of the male citizens in the military age group was finished on February 25th. All those who had given negative answers to either questions were called in at least once and in a number of cases they were called in several times for the purpose of reconsidering their answers. One hundred seventy of those who answered "no" to 27 and "yes" to 28 changed their answers to the affirmative, while only 21 who had given negative answers to both questions changed them both to "yes". When the final shipment of Form DSS 304A's had been mailed to Washington, the count of those who had maintained their negative answer to question 28 stood at 879.

The females were called in next in this age group and although 244 registered "no" to question 28, there was considerable interest in volunteering for the WAACS tentative to its being opened to the Japanese American women. No signs of any type of demonstrations or tenseness of feelings were evident during this phase of the registration nor did there seem to be any unrest when the aliens registered. At this center the substitute question 28 read as follows: "Will you swear to abide by the laws of the United States and to take no action which would in any way interfere with the war effort of the United States?" It is noteworthy to remember that several wished to answer the original question in the affirmative rather than use the substitute question and out of 4,624 aliens only 2 answered negatively and four failed to answer at all.

Out of the whole population 17 refused to come in to register after repeated requests.

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A resume of the total registration is herewith presented:

EXHIBIT A-

TOTAL REGISTRATION 9,609

Total Number Male & Female Citizens	4,982
Total Loyalty (Male & Female Citizens)	3,859
Total Aliens (Male & Female)	4,627
Total Sympathy "Yes" (Male & Female Aliens)	4,622

A. M E N

1. Male Citizens Military Age	2,488
a. Number answering "Yes"	1,580
b. Number of volunteers	104
c. Applications for Commissions	12
d. Applications for Merchant Marines	6
e. Applications for Interpreters' School	2
2. Male Citizens <u>Over</u> Military Age	100
a. Number answering "Yes"	83
3. Male Aliens	2,750
a. Number answering "Yes"	2,748
	5

B. W O M E N

1. Female Citizens	2,394
a. Number answering "Yes"	2,150
b. Volunteering for WAACS & ANC or willingness to	894
2. Female Aliens	1,877
a. Number answering "Yes"	1,874
b. Unanswered	3

EXHIBIT B-

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ALIEN FEMALE (1,877)

3 unanswered (physically or mentally handicapped)

1,874

CITIZEN FEMALE (2,394)

244 No's to questions 27 & 28

52 kibeis

894 Yes' to questions 27 & 28

1,256 No's to ques. 27 and Yes' to ques. 28

ALIEN MALE (2,750)

1 unanswered (mentally handicapped)

1 No to ques. 28 (Alien question)

2,748 Yes' to question 28

CITIZEN MALE (s. 588)

879 No's to questions 27 and 28

99 kibeis

46 No's to ques. 27 and Yes' to ques. 28

1,663 Yes' to ques. 27 & 28

In closing we would like to present three short synopsis of the registration composed by the administration, Captain Thompson and an anonymous Nisei wherein an attempt is made to ascertain the reasons for the large ratio of negative answers among the citizens of military age:

COPY

Report of War Relocation Staff Members on Loyalty Questions.

Motivating factors behind negative answers to question No. 28, generally falls into four categories which are listed below in what we consider their relevant importance:

1. PROTEST

This negation is a formal protest against the removal from their homes on the west coast to assembly centers and there to relocation centers which has resulted in loss of property, loss of social standing, loss of livelihood and loss of face because of being classed in same group as enemy aliens, evacuation not forced on other races such as Germans and Italians by special removal and discrimination against Japanese American soldiers during last 15 months by their releases and change in draft classification. They are protesting that this registration does not guarantee full citizenship status and protection after the war.

2. PRO-JAPANESE SENTIMENT

Although most of those whose answers are negative to question No. 28 are of the Kibei group or who have close relatives living in Japan, there are others of the Nisei who feel an attachment to Japan and the Emperor because of the instruction and association with their parents or friends. Many of the Nisei feel that their hurts sustained during evacuation and since are too deep not to place such blame directly on the United States Government and the same time they think more kindly toward Japan assuming without reasonable grounds that no other country would have treated citizenship on the same basis save countries such as Germany. Oftentimes we feel that a considerable number of Kibei and Nisei are riding two horses, playing the possibilities of eventual defeats of either this country and Japan, hoping to ride the crests of victory with the winner. So much of this pro-Japanese feeling is generated with the notion that this government will not do much about such disloyalty, at least not order them back to Japan permanently.

3. FEAR

Fear is being engendered by certain individuals among those registering to the extent that their lives as well as their immediate families are in danger by affirmative answers. This is evidenced by veiled threats

COPY

and also those coming out in the open. Mothers are often told that if their sons either answer yes or have intentions to volunteer that the lives of the whole family cannot be safeguarded. If a Japanese boy leaves for the army he often feels a certain fear that his parents or immediate family may not be as well protected as they might be. This fear too is attached to the possibility of volunteers not having been treated as well as other citizens in the army; that the special combat units may be sent into action by officers with little regard to the understanding of the Japanese American situation. Also there seems to be deep rooted feeling that public sentiment will not keep pace with all efforts and actions for distinguishment by this combat unit and that the public will feel more kindly toward them after the war. In other words that this is a trap to entice the young men into service with no strong feeling on the part of the War Relocation Authority or the Army to take steps to enlighten the American people as to the actual efforts made by the Japanese Americans in this war effort.

4. OTHER INFLUENCES

Due to tradition the eldest son of a family feels complete responsibility for the parents and because of this feeling does not want to break family ties and leave the family parent unless there is a definite understanding that they will be cared for while he is away and allowed to remain in the United States after the war.

Arguments that "yes" answered to question No. 27 means immediate induction or at least availability for Army Service. Answering "no" to this question has been argumentatively interpreted as immediate necessity for repatriation in order to avoid military service.

Feeling by some persons that they do not want to fight for any country under such circumstances and that doing so makes them plain slackers.

Reasons for disloyalty registrations as interpreted by Captain Norman Thompson who personally interviewed over 700 of the Japanese American citizens who have foresworn their allegiance to the United States. The majority of them are Kibei.

Approx. Their reasons:

- 5% 1. Do not believe that public opinion in the United States will ever permit the assimilation of ~~Japanese~~ Orientals.

COPY

Approx.

Their reasons:

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 15% | 2. Pacifist groups does not want to bear arms for either the United States, Japan, or any other country. This group left Japan to avoid war service against China. |
| 10% | 3. Believe Japan will win the war. |
| 20% | 4. Elder sons with parents in Japan, or whose parents wish to return there, are bound by family tradition to provide for their parents and be governed by their wishes regardless of their own age or martial responsibilities. Parents first and country second. |
| 10% | 5. Fear of losing inheritance rights to property in Japan. |
| 10% | 6. Those who believe they will escape the United States draft and be permitted to remain here after the war on the same basis as issei have always enjoyed. |
| 10% | 7. Those who suspect that this registration is all a bluff and that no action will ever be taken to intern, draft, or deport them. |
| 10% | 8. Nisei who are soreheads over evacuation; segregation in the Army (special combat group). Their attitude: to hell with everything. |
| 10% | 9. Nisei whose parents or relatives are now held in internment camps and whom they believe are guiltless. Their attitude: take my parents out of jail and I will volunteer right now and fight to the finish. |

100%

Report on Loyalty Question from an Anonymous Nisei:

Through my personal observation of evacuee residents including present military registrants and their parents, during past two weeks, I listed below some of the reasons which seem to be the motive in answering negatively to the question 28 of the military registration:

1. Mass evacuation of nisei and extremely keen feeling against the treatment which these nisei received since the outbreak of war.

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2. Classification of American born Japanese in class 4, under selective service law.
3. Calling citizens of Japanese ancestry as saboteurs, fifth columnists, etc. and constant appearance of newspaper articles on above charges without a single proof, particularly during first few months following Pearl Harbor attack.
4. Non-effectiveness of citizenship rights of nisei in the United States.

It was so surprising to this observer that feelings as above were so high during past two weeks since the start of the registration. I do not know whether such feeling was the expression of their original feeling deeply rooted in their hearts or the result of influence by others than themselves. Such feeling is so keen that some of the niseis do not see the opposite view such as necessity of mass evacuation, or the benefit to them in future of their expression of loyalty which will act as disapproval of alleged disloyalty.

5. Some nisei lost their confidence in their future as American citizens in the United States, presuming that they will always be under handicap, socially, racially as well as under the restriction of civil rights.
6. Their willingness to give up the citizenship and accompany their parents and go to Japan where they feel their opportunities are plentiful than in the United States.
7. Through the influence of their parents who still have such feeling that disobeying to the emperor of Japan means act of disapproval of ancestry worship. They feel that they have done terrible offense of their eternal teaching of ancestry worship. That words in question 28 relating to emperor of Japan, seem to have annoyed them very much and that feeling must have influenced even nisei.
8. Keen feeling against white Americans transplanted in their hearts since the war because of expression of American public through newspapers and radios, of extreme hatred of Japanese. This feeling must have been stimulated by mass concentration of Japanese in camp.
9. Misunderstanding on the part of some registrants that answering yes on question 27 means agreement to ~~serve~~ serve in the armed force of the United States even other than regular draft which might mean voluntary enlistment. Mr. Terry's instruction was not accepted as authorized instruction.

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They further misunderstood that forming of Japanese combat duties and therefore, answering yes means immediate or future result of death.

10. Concentration of these nisei is this war-emergency period of war, in such as enemy alien concentration camps, resulted in their less conscious of duty, patriotism, heroism, to the nation at war neither to America nor to Japan (General breakdown).
11. Their present condition drove them into despair. Some people do not think deeply.
12. Lack of guiding principle in the community. Former leaders of community are now in internment camps. They were responsible in making and forming constructive public opinion. It is unfortunate that most of them are taken away since the outbreak of the war. I feel that America made the greatest mistake in not making a thorough investigation of their characters and degree of their so called "dangerous enemy aliens". Their presence in the community would have been great advantage to the United States.
13. Minds of younger registrants are premature and entirely dependent upon parents for their future.
14. Older nisei with family are afraid of being taken away from family.
15. Some feel very keenly the possible feeling of Americans toward Japanese in this country and therefore, they feel that their future in America is absolutely shut out.

From
Paul Terry,
27 Feb 43

PROGRAM
for
TOWN MEETINGS ON THE REGISTRATION OF NISEI
in the
U. S. ARMY

February 19, 1943
9:00 A.M.
1:00 P.M.

February 20, 1943
9:00 A.M.

1. Opening Remarks Masao Satow
2. Statements Made by Volunteers Shozi Oniki
George Saito
3. Captain Fairchild - "Interpretation of Answers to
Question #27"
4. Paul J. Terry - "Observations on Nisei Registration
in U. S. Army"
5. James G. Lindley - "Meaning of Answers to Question
#28"

From
Paul Terry
27 Feb 43

"OBSERVATIONS ON NISEI REGISTRATION
IN THE U. S. ARMY"

~~Trans - close~~

This is close to talk actually delivered
having been transcribed from short hand notes taken at the
meeting.
- FLS

Talk Presented Before

JAPANESE AMERICANS

at

Amache, Colorado

ON

+ 20th

FEBRUARY 19th, 1943

BY

Paul J. Terry
Superintendent of Education

OBSERVATIONS ON NISEI REGISTRATION
IN THE U. S. ARMY

I think this is the golden opportunity for the Nisei to really show his worth--to show that you have the stuff in you. I have heard a lot of talk about what the boys think about going into the Army and they came to one conclusion; and that was pretty bad. (Story about Army--"nothing to worry about".) Volunteering means you are willing to do that.

I am going to talk from the standpoint of what the average American thinks. I think, generally speaking, people on the outside will look at this situation somewhat the way I want to describe it.

In the first place, let us see that our perspective is focused. I saw a fellow walk up in the front of a post. He couldn't see anything because the post was in the way. You have to back away to get the right perspective. Let me call your attention to this fact.

We can talk about the injustice of the evacuation movement and what it means in the post-war world--it is important without a doubt. But this war is not being fought around the problem of what treatment is being accorded Japanese Americans. To the average American this situation has not even come to his attention. He may not even know about it. If he does, he may be somewhat concerned. The fundamental reason for fighting this war is not that you have not been given a fair deal. After all, only 1/10 of 1% of the population of the U.S. are Americans of Japanese descent. That is a pretty low percentage. From the standpoint of man-power, this Japanese American combat unit isn't going to make a difference between the success and failure of our war effort. Let's not under-emphasize that. After all, in a 5-million man army, this combat unit would be only 1/1000th of the total man-power. That is pretty low, isn't it? Let's back up and see where we sit. It is important to do this. In the total scheme of the thing it is relatively insignificant from that standpoint.

Raymond A. Waser, one of the finest friends the Japanese Americans have, has done a lot for the total program. In an article entitled "A Minor Note on Minorities" he made two interesting statements. He says the difference between totalitarianism and democracy is this: while both rest on majority rule, the democracies respect the rights of minorities. However, he speaks critically of the attitudes of many minority groups: (1) Our minority groups are too touchy and lack a sense of balance. They see a skeleton in every closet. "What is the Army going to do now?" (2) Most of them see only their own problem and fail to recognize the other minority problems and

majority problems. Let us back up and get the right perspective. The Army gave you the opportunity to volunteer into the armed service of the U. S. before they drafted you. Out of all fairness, the Army gives you this opportunity. Some say, "Why don't you draft us?" "Why do we have to volunteer?" If the tables had been reversed, you would have raised a lot of noise and said, "Why don't you give us a chance to volunteer?" You will have to grant that this is a fair method.

I have here a telegram directed to Captain Fairchild from Colonel Scobey, Washington, D. C. who is in charge of this enlistment program, which states:

"The question that has arisen most frequently is quote Why is a separate unit being formed and will the combat team fight in the same battle with Caucasian troops unquote The secretary of war has directed that the following reply be brought to the attention of all Japanese Americans within your center Quote It is only because the war department desires to aid the loyal Japanese Americans that a separate unit is being formed stop Millions of people are not familiar with the Japanese Americans stop By forming an all Japanese American Combat team on a voluntary basis the American people will be presented with incontrovertible fact that these are Loyal Japanese Americans who are willing to fight for their United States stop If the voluntary were spread through the army their enlistment would attract little attention but the formation of an all Japanese American Combat team composed entirely of volunteers will help tremendously to convince those who oppose the Japanese Americans stop It is hoped that the Japanese American combat team will fight with and as a part of a Caucasian force stop The War Department has faith in the loyal Japanese Americans stop This is a splendid opportunity to demonstrate to the American people and to the War Department that Japanese Americans have faith in America stop The success of the program and the voluntary feature or induction will be a great step forward in the rehabilitation plans for Japanese Americans Unquote".

May I call to your attention this very important fact. There were and are many people in the U.S. who think every this is too much of a concession to Americans of Japanese ancestry.

This point I think is the crux of the situation. This is the first step in the rehabilitation of Nisei or Americans of Japanese ancestry into the normal stream of American life. This is the first step! But notice--you don't take the second step until the first step is completed. It is utterly ridiculous to attempt to bargain with your government by skipping the first step and granting the second step. This is it! You don't have

to wait to take the golden opportunity! Let's take it up now! And not miss the boat! This is the thing you have asked for. This is comparable to the other minority groups in the first World War. The Germans were given an opportunity to profess their loyalty. So far, Japanese Americans haven't been in America long enough to prove that you are a fundamental unit in American culture. You have to prove this to the American people. The government has given you an opportunity. You have to convince millions of Americans that this is the real stuff out of which you are made. What you do determines what they think.

We have talked a lot about relocation, defense plants, jobs in agriculture. Sure that's swell! That is wonderful! But even that will be closed if you don't come through on this. This is the first step! The other things will be closed to you, in my humble opinion, if you don't come through! This is a personal responsibility and you have to accept it.

As you know, 300% more Nisei said they would not swear allegiance to the U.S. than volunteered for the armed service! 3 to 1 ratio in the wrong direction! That's dynamite! If it gets out, we are stuck and will have to build a fence five miles high around this camp! That is a tremendous reflection upon your loyalty.

What would the average American say if he knew this? In the first place, he would say, "That justifies the total evacuation program!" You haven't a leg to stand on. As we say, you are "mowed" down! You will say, "We didn't have a fair chance!" Could these figures and your attitude justify the total program?

He will say, "The Nisei are a picked group." Is that right? "Yes. Nisei are born and raised in the U.S. They are the younger group." We have faith in them--and then the Nisei turned us down 3 to 1! If this is true about the Nisei, what about the average population?

"I thought you said something about their being loyal to the U.S.? The foundation of the War Relocation Authority is that they are loyal citizens and have the same rights to freedom as other citizens. Is that the argument you use?" "Yes." "What do the figures say?" The total public relations program closes to the ground!

Now this whole program of being able to volunteer into the armed service of the U.S. has been strongly sponsored by the War Relocation Authority. Finally it is here! The War Department has accepted! The Army has accepted! We have everyone corralled! We owe an obligation to them. I understand that this young group--the Nisei--comprises two-thirds of the Japanese American population. They are the group who attended the best colleges and universities, the best schools in the land! That is the group that turned you down! Our doors were

opened wide to them! They turned you down! What about the rest of them?

You know we have gone through a long ordeal--Senate Committees, War Production Board, and other agencies, in order to justify the expenditure of a third of a million dollars for educational facilities. "They have gone to universities where we have millions invested! And what do they do?"

Another thing being said. "Will you please tell me what your college-age students are doing at the center?" "We try to have worthwhile work for them. Many are going on to college." "But my son had to leave college to go into the Army! My neighbor's son did the same thing. Our boys are having to go into the Army. These people are allowed freedom to continue their education!"

They say, "What evidence can you point to--something you can show--that these people have assimilated the ideals of American democracy in which we are all interested?" They talk about it--yes! But what have they done!

(Story: Farmer's son who graduated from college but couldn't even stack hay.)

Now they attend the finest schools, colleges and universities! See the implication!

They say, "Sure, they are fine people. They are ready to receive, always on the receiving end, but what do they do about it, if anything!" "Japanese Americans believe in cooperation?" "Yes, Yes."

Many remarks have been made about the 4C classification. Answers have been given to that several times from this platform. If you volunteer your classification will be changed. You know that! You also know why new classifications for Japanese Americans could not be made. These reasons are all legitimate. You can say, "We have been abused! We are not going to volunteer! We are not going to join the Army! We have been kicked around!"

(Story: Child who was spanked by his father said, "I'll show you--I won't eat my dinner!")

Now this responsibility is yours and nobody else's! You have to live with your answer, and your children and your children's children will live with the decision you make now. It is a momentous moment! You dare not pass it up!

While there has been no overt action made against the U.S. by Americans of Japanese ancestry, at the same time what outstanding effort has been given. "Oh, yes", we say, "we have cooperated with the evacuation movement!" That's true, but it is a passive cooperation. You are willing to fight for your rights as

citizens of the U.S. but how many have personally and individually shown that they are willing to accept some of the obligations of citizenship that go along with it? It is a two-sided proposition! We have a lot of talk about it. All kinds of comments have been given. Where is the action? What are you going to do about it!

"Some people use words to express thought, some use words to hide thought, and some use words instead of thought."

Now you can concentrate on the undesirable aspects of evacuation and the classification until you lose sight of the main objectives.

Story: (The easiest way to catch a monkey is to place a peanut in a jar, etc.)

Stand on your rights! You say that you will have to be reclassified before you volunteer. Keep your hand on the peanut, but don't forget your hand is still inside the jar! Here is your chance! I think you will come through!