

Wax, Rosalie Hankey,
2:3

Tule Lake fieldnotes, Apr 1944, pp 1-28

NB., Readers must not disclose identity of individual evacuees

Restricted until 2008. Permission of the Director necessary

83/115
c

APRIL 12, 1944

On arriving at the Administration Building I found an atmosphere of unease and apprehension. Robertson's secretary, Mrs. Johnson, remarked that I had come just in time.

The first person to whom I talked at any length was Mr. Huycke, head of the CAS (Community Activities Section) who asked me what I knew of George Yamashiro. I told him very little and then listened to his troubles. It seems that Mr. Yamashiro had approached Huycke with the proposition that the CAS and the Tule Seinen dan get together. Huycke had not particularly objected to this but feared that the Seinen dan might attempt to dominate all Community Activities. During the period that Yamashiro had worked for the CAS in Tule, he had been very domineering and wished to run the whole show, resenting the suggestions of the other two members of the chief planning board, especially one, a girl. Mr. Huycke intimated that this was a Kibei trait. When Huycke appeared reluctant to take in the Seinen dan, Yamashiro, according to Huycke's account, threatened that the Seinen dan might take all the community activities away from the CAS. Huycke appeared ill at ease, nervous and worried. He said that WRA didn't appreciate the difficulties under which he was laboring: attempting to handle the recreation of a town of 18,000 people. No one else in a city that size would be expected to handle such a job alone.

TALK WITH ROBERTSON

Robertson was greatly concerned over the present camp situation. He said he had been debating whether to telegraph me. I asked for details.

A group (of segregants) wrote to the Spanish Embassy and the Department of Interior asking what they thought about further segregation. The matter was referred back to the camp officials. Permission was given this group by the Administration (Harry Black)(1) to find out the colony reaction to further segregation. They went about it by circulating a memorandum through the colony asking the people who wanted to be segregated and return to Japan on the first boat to sign here. It was circulated last week, ending Saturday the 8th. It was apparently an opposition group that passed the petition around. Kataoka told me that the group was composed to super-super-patriotic people who didn't have enough sense to know when they were well off.

Some people had suggested that the colony was right on the verge of another incident. Others said they didn't think anything would happen.(2)

Several other things are tending to start up. There is a rumor that the stockade people are being moved away. Some (Robertson thought four) were moved out yesterday; they were Issei sent to Santa Fe. There is a rumor now that the rest will be moved. Some say there'll be a blow up on account of that. They are still urging the release of everybody there. I find the whole colony very tense.

Mrs. Matsuda is behind this movement for further segregation.

[1. Mr. Best had left the project on official business and Mr. Black was functioning as Project Director in his absence.]

[2. For a detailed description of these events see Thomas and Nishimoto (1946:230-5,306-7). It is interesting that a "segregation within the camp" was discussed at a meeting of the Advisory Board and the Coordinating Committee on February 3. Mr. Akitsuki reported that the majority of the Japanese divisional heads was in favor of "segregation within the camp, the good from the bad." (See fieldnotes, February, p.22.)]

April 12, 1944

2
Tule Lake Fieldnotes

Rosalie Hankey Wax

The Coordinating Committee resigned last Saturday (the 8th). They have not agreed that they will continue until another representative body is prepared to take their place. (Robertson said that the Administration had taken no steps to initiate this action. Permission is still awaited from Washington.)

Best is not here. He won't be back till the end of the month. And the present feeling among the Administration is that there will be no further segregation.

There were over 5,000 names on this petition.

Opler came in at this moment. He seemed very depressed and despondent. He remarked that some people were trying to pin the resignation of the Co-ordinating Committee to the fact that the men were taken to Santa Fe. As the discussion went on to the sad state of that body, Opler remarked that he wanted the Administration to take the weight off the Co-ordinating Committee's shoulders.

Mr. Schmidt (Head of Internal Security) raised such a howl when Robertson asked for an escort for me, that I heard it through the telephone receiver eight feet away. On the strength of Schmidt's objections, Robertson approached Black, who is Acting Project Director in Best's absence, and asked that I be allowed to go into the colony unescorted. Permission was obtained and so, armed with the required paper, I approached the soldier on guard at the gate. I was passed through easily, with a couple of good-natured, humorous remarks. This showed a considerable relaxation in the Army's attitude since my last visit.

TALK WITH JOE KURIHARA

I asked Mr. Kurihara about the sentiment for further segregation, and the possibility of more trouble.

Frankly speaking, you may convey to Mr. Robertson, that if there is any trouble here, the trouble will be against the Japanese only. It will not affect the Administration in any way. No demonstration will be made. I don't know how badly it will affect the Administration. The only thing that will kill it is for the Administration to act in time to hasten the segregation of the Yes-Yes group, the American loyalists. If they don't it will come to a head. The only other way is to have the Army continually patrol the camp.

I don't want to side with anybody, but the only thing to do is to get the Yes-Yes group out, or have the Army patrol.

I heard that the members of the Co-ordinating Committee were going to resign and have the people elect persons in whom they can have confidence. If they do that, it might help. The Co-ordinating Committee and the Civic Organizations group are suspected. From our point of judgment, they are loyals.

From the standpoint of the loyals the Daihyo Sha are not representatives. But that does not hold for the rest of the people.

The Administration knows this fact (that the people consider the Co-ordinating Committee and the Civic Organizations group inu). Yet they continue to employ these people. They should know better.

The removal of the internees is not important in the segregation movement but it will cause hard feeling among the people.

The general trend of opinion of the people is: they got to get rid of, sever off the

Tule Lake Fieldnotes

head, of the men on the Co-ordinating Committee. Unless they get rid of these men, there's going to be trouble.

Especially since Easter I notice the food has improved very much. That may change the mood of the people too. (However, Mr. Kurihara agreed with me, that this lessening in tension caused by better food would be only temporary.)

I then asked Kurihara about criticism against the Daihyo Sha when conditions became difficult and painful and money scarce.

Those who suffered will naturally bear ill feeling toward the Daihyo Sha. You know how people are; they try to blame others. Those who suffered had no business to criticize the Daihyo Sha, but they did it.

The people didn't want to leave the Daihyo Sha. They were forced through lack of funds. The difference (in the vote) was so small, and many people didn't want to vote. It was simply to express opposition by not voting. In reality the number of those who wanted status quo was greater. If those who wanted to abolish status quo were greater, the majority would have expressed their opinion and voted.

(I asked how important a factor terrorism had been.)

The Administration has got to believe somebody. That (belief in terrorism) is the best way to wriggle out of the situation.

Once the Japanese lose faith in you, it'll be a very hard thing to regain it. They hold a grudge until they die. On the other hand, they will co-operate as long as they can. If they break: that's the end.

Best lost the confidence of the Japanese people. I shouldn't say this, but the other day they had a meeting and the demand is, 'Get rid of Mr. Best.' That's going to keep on.

There is the greatest tension here. But no matter what feelings may exist here today, that could be wiped out immediately if Mr. Best resigned. You can't blame Best for not staying. But if he sees he's not wanted, why does he remain? He's going to make it bad for everybody, even Ickes.

[The reader may wonder why I did not begin the interview by asking Mr. Kurihara, "What do you think of the resegregation petition?" But nine months of fieldwork in the camps had taught me to approach delicate or touchy subjects obliquely or indirectly. If then, respondents wished to discuss a topic, they were free to do so. If not, I dropped it. Issei and Kibei respondents sometimes answered a question in the same manner, quoting a Japanese proverb and letting me draw my own conclusions. But since Mr. Kurihara was a very outspoken man, it is possible that I was being too cautious.]

CALL ON BILL NISHINO

I next went to my fluent informant Bill Nishino, to see how he felt about the resegregation issue. Bill is a conservative, fairly cautious fellow. His support or non-support of this proposal would have some significance. Bill was not at home. He was attending a funeral at the mess. However, he left the funeral for about 20 minutes and we discussed the resegregation matter. He then suggested that I call again on Friday to get more information on past trouble and to get a lot more of information on the present issue which Bill promised to have by then. Evidently, the matter is in process of development. Bill seemed unusually excited and tense, though his confidence in me seemed in no way decreased. When he spoke of the petition, his voice rose and took on an emotional tone.

The Petition

The Japanese statement which said that we want to live according to the Japanese way and educate our children in the Japanese manner. Therefore, it stated in the paper that anyone who wanted to be segregated, file in for a request to be segregated. It was signed in Japanese by Black. Now we receive a report from the Assistant Project Director put in the Block Manager's office that it is not authentic. We want to clarify this point. I think the signing of this petition is to the effect that we are citizens but disloyal and besides we have requested repatriation. Regardless of whether we are considered as citizens, we want the American government to look upon us as Japanese.

[Mr. Nishino's confusion and perturbation were understandable. None of us knew at this time that the persons behind the petition were circulating a Japanese mis-translation of Mr. Black's letter. This mistranslation implied that the WRA was contemplating the early development of a plan for a resegregation.]

Some of the Japanese here say, regardless of whether they have requested repatriation or expatriations, they say, even though they haven't signed applications, they are all Japanese. These are not loyal (Yes-Yes) people who say this.

There are two sides. Some people think the petition problem is tied up with status quo or against status quo. The way I see it, it's not that way. If it is tied up with status quo, I wouldn't have signed it.

Since we're in here, I want them to consider me as Japanese. We are half and half in the block (half for signing and half not signing.)

In this center, there are No-Nos, and expatriates, and also Yes-Yes. A lot of people who said Yes were sent here from other centers.

(Nishino refers here to persons who said Yes but were sent to Tule Lake because the hearing boards thought them dangerous to the internal security of the United States.)

Are we segregees or expatriates or disloyal? We want that point clarified. The majority of people want to live as Japanese. Manzanar (section) is also going to put up a petition of some sort.

Some people want to go back to our country as soon as possible. We wish to be separated from the inus; that's the main point.

Daihyo Sha's Terrorism

The Daihyo Sha was not a minority who got power by terrorism.

At this point, Bill left to have his picture taken. He returned in a few minutes and told me he had been discussing the petition with an Issei.

From the Issei's point of view we want to get the inu out.

(Bill also confided, that since I had not guessed, the name of the rumored arch-betrayer of the Daihyo Sha is Takahashi, who informed because of jealousy.)

April 12, 1944

5

Rosalie Hankey Wax

Tule Lake Fieldnotes

I paid two more calls on respondents and made appointments to see the man of the family. All told, I walked four miles this afternoon. It was snowing hard, so the hiking was most enjoyable. The people I saw were, on the whole, more taciturn and less likely to smile than the Gilans, but then I am much better known in Gila. Twice, passing groups of young boys playing ball, they called, Hello, hakujin, with good natured grins. Evidently it is most unusual for a Caucasian to walk about the outlying sections of the camp. Several times, little children called, Hello, teacher.

OPLER CALLS

Opler called on me about twenty minutes to six while I was drying out my clothes and resting my feet. He seemed discouraged and depressed, and remarked twice that he was just about ready to have Tule Lake look for a new analyst.

A man named Akashi, of bad reputation, is behind the petition. He sent a letter to Biddle which was passed on to Ikes, and then to Myer. Nobody wanted to touch it. It was then sent to the project. Best didn't want to touch it.

(Opler then asked me not to put the following into my notes.)

Opler thinks that Best turned the petition over to Harry Black to save his own skin and possibly to discredit Black. He may have said, Here, Harry, you do something about this and I'll stand behind you. Then he lit out for Washington, letting Black holding the bag. He doesn't want anything to break while he's on the project and he's not coming back until this blows over.

Akashi was known even before evacuation to be a wild and wooly sort who yelled about Japanese ideals.

I am worried about Akitsuki. I feel he's been taking it for the Administration. I wish you'd convey that message from me to him. (Opler wanted me to tell Mr. Akitsuki to resign. But, in fact, I suggested to Akitsuki that he might resign when I visited the project three weeks ago.)

Takahashi is advisor to the Co-ordinating Committee. The Co-ordinating Committee got sore over Black's action and resigned. Neither I nor the Coordinating Committee were consulted about it.

Yamashiro

I think Yamashiro's attempt to tie in the Seinen dan with the CAS is because of the job need - to get his Johnnys on the payroll. His Seinen dan has been launched, I don't think very successfully. It's been a failure. There is also talk in the colony that he used pressure, talking about the extensive support that he had.

After it was launched, he came back and told me of his success. I heard from Huycke that he tried to get his post back in Community Activities. I think it (Seinin dan) hasn't been such a beautiful success and he wants to get back to the CAS.

Opler took a gloomy farewell and I finished drying my clothes.

TALK WITH ROBERTSON

I called on Mr. Robertson in the evening to discuss the situation. He was concerned but not afraid. He wished Best would return, not because he personally was afraid to face the situation, but because it was Best's job. He hoped that the trouble would hold off till Best's return, but Best was being very vague about coming back, and might stay away until the end of the month or longer. Very few remarks flattering to the Project Director were made during this talk with Robertson and his wife. Robertson disapproved of Best's suspicious absence, of his constant use of inu, and the closely tied-in policy of refusing to have any open contacts with people in the colony. He also remarked during the evening, that he, Robertson, was being just as closely watched by Best as were the Kibei boys.

Black gave them permission to take the census and then said, WRA could not make such a promise. The petition said, 'those who wished to take the first boat back.' (1)

Civic Organization Group

The Civic Organizations Group is a group to iron out small problems in the colony, a buffer for the Administration. They are to take care of small administration problems which shouldn't be brought up to the Administration. They are on the payroll and are headed by loyal Americans. Mayeda used to be the head.

Army Relinquishes Control

In January, some very significant fact, something beyond the breaking of the status-quo, started the beginning of relaxation. There was a very definite object to withdrawing the orders. They were from above, not from here. But, although officially it was done in one fell swoop - the Army is not yet completely withdrawn. They're still manning the gates.(2)

Takahashi

Takahashi was connected with the second funeral group. The group does not appear to have been large.

Resistance Cases

The resistance cases must make up their minds. By 'Yes Yes', the people mean those sent here because they made trouble in their centers and were sent here because they were dangerous to the internal security of the U.S.

Leave clearance hearings for the resistance cases were started today.

Informers

As long as the staff can't understand the colony, they are going to use informers.

[1. Neither Mr. Robertson nor I were aware at this time that Mr. Black was trying to cope with some very shrewd and not particularly scrupulous persons. For a detailed account of these events, see Thomas and Nishimoto (1946:230-5).]

[2. Dr. Opler explained this series of events much more clearly on April 14. See p. 16.]

APRIL 13, 1944CALL ON MRS. MATSUDA

I had expected that this would be the kind of polite but guarded visit I paid on Mrs. Matsuda last month. But today she was a changed woman who seemed unable to stop talking.

She was ill in bed with a cold and began to pour out an account of her treatment by Internal Security. When she noticed that I was not taking notes, she suggested that I write down what she had to say.(1) According to her account, she has been interviewed by Internal Security and subjected to bullying many times.

Internal Security said, 'Why don't you stay home and mind your kids? Even your own people hate you. They say you're a liar and indecent and conceited.' 'Go ahead and tell this to the damn Spanish Consulate,' said Mr. Schmidt, 'the next time he's here, I'll tell him a few things.' Schmidt, Mart, Sandburn and O'Brien were present. Suzuki and Yutura (sp?), boys in this block were there, also. I guess they thought if Japanese were there I'd be more ashamed. They were there because the boys had had an assault and battery case in this block.

Then they came after me at my house, Sandburn and O'Brien, and threatened me and my husband as being espionage agents. And I have a brother in the U.S. Army!

The Army is surely courteous to me. They came after me and Mrs. Kai in a car. (This was meant sincerely as exemplifying the difference between treatment by the Army and the W.R.A. police.)

They said they doubted the capacity of my brother in the U.S. Army. I told him, 'You're doubting your own Army's intelligence.'

Another time, they came on a Sunday at 10:30 and stayed till two o'clock. They wouldn't even let us go to eat. All the time they were threatening me to withdraw. They told me that for my own good, I should take a letter to Schmidt before sending it to the Spanish Consul or Mr. Robertson. I was so frightened. They said they were going to try and get me for federal offense.

I went to see Opler and Robertson. Internal Security said I should write them (I.S.) a letter saying that I'll withdraw my statements. When I saw them again, they asked me if I had written the letter. I said, 'I'm reconsidering.' Schmidt said, 'Then you lied to me.' This all happened in February.

When I went to Mr. Robertson (in the hospital), Internal Security came and took me right from the hospital and gave me a third degree. They said, 'Hereafter you'll be denied a pass to the Administration Building. They phoned Mr. Robertson two, three times while I was there accusing him of seeing me.

They sent two boys beat up worse than my brother to Santa Fe. One of the boys had eight stitches taken in his head. (Mrs. Matsuda advised me to see Dr. Kazuo Miamoto of 716B who had treated the boys, telling him she had sent me.) These boys were beaten after the incident while they were being examined.(2) One boy had a broken arm and the other had

[1. With respondents who might feel threatened, I did not take notes without asking for permission.]

[2. Several young Japanese Americans were severely injured in the warehouse brawl of November 4 (WRA, Semi-Annual Report, July 1 to December 31, 1943, p. 3). Among them was one of Mrs. Matsuda's brothers.]

April 13, 1944

8

Rosalie Hankey Wax

Tule Lake Fieldnotes

eight stitches. If these boys were sent back to the colony, it would be exposed. The two boys sent to Santa Fe were aliens, Kobayashi and Toduroge (?). The boys in the stockade write me that the Army is much more courteous (than the police).

The Resegregation Petition

(I asked Mrs. Matsuda if she could explain the resegregation petition to me. She said it would be a long story, but she would try to tell me her feelings. During the narration, she talked with assurance and authority and showed clearly that she was deeply involved in the petition movement.)

Since we came here, we call ourselves the real expatriates and repatriates seeking to go back to Japan and be with her in everything, win or lose, as her subjects. We've been denied all privileges in the U.S. We're going to go to a place where our children can become somebody.

When we came (to Tule Lake), much to our dismay we find many loyal are still here, although they put up a front of expatriation or repatriation. They did it as a means of escaping the draft or leaving the camps since Tule won't close, or because they have an opportunity to make money here where five or six people in one family can get a job, which they can't do in others centers.(1) A lot of draft evaders came here. It's nothing but a dump. They are disloyal Japanese but do not have any future thoughts about bringing up their children, but would face on either side of the fence as the war progresses.

We don't care which wins or loses! We're going to stick to Japan! We cannot raise our children overnight to become Japanese subjects. We can't do this because there are so many elements here.

Those people (the "loyal" who do not desire expatriation or repatriation) say: they (the Administration) can always withdraw it. How could we do anything in this center? Those guys (the "loyal") double-crossed us!

I then asked Mrs. Matsuda how her group could be sure, how they could distinguish between persons who in their hearts wished to return to Japan and between persons on the fence.

We put up a question: those who like to go back to Japan at the first opportunity is the ones who really want to go back. They don't want to stay here until they see what happens.

We tell them: 'We might be given a bad place to live - would you go?' They said, 'Yes, we'll die there as Japanese!' Those guys who won't say yes to this are the guys who are going to stay here.

We have about five to six thousand signatures.

(Mrs. Matsuda related this with such passion and fluency that I suspected that she had repeated the speech frequently.)

I asked her what was to be the fate of the thousands of people who had not signed the petition, but were by no means inu.

The other people - they didn't stick up for us in the crisis. It's not our business to worry about them. We didn't force anybody. It was signed only by those to whom the statement appealed to.

[1. I questioned Robertson about this accusation of multiple jobs. He admitted that there were such cases. However, regulations limited employment to only two members of a family are being prepared.]

Tule Lake Fieldnotes

We're holding ourselves in. We tell them over and over it's not time. We don't want the community to see us forget ourselves.(1)

Boys Beaten by Internal Security

One boy kept saying at the hearing, 'Mr. Schmidt attacked me.' Schmidt said, 'If you'll withdraw that statement, I'll release you.' The boy's name was Hayashida (sp?). He was working the motor pool.

Another Riot

Some people say they'd like to have another riot and see the WRA get out of here. I was hoping we'd have a certain status.

The colony has signed a petition that the Daihyo Sha should not come back.(2) But we want them back. We want them back here.

(Among the items of information which I was not able to write down during our conversation was Mrs. Matsuda's insinuation that Mr. Akashi (the man who had written to Attorney General Biddle and to the Spanish Embassy asking for permission to circulate the resegregation petition) was not really in this pro Daihyo Sha Kai group, but was being used by them as a tool. She also insisted that the petition had been prepared in a representative manner, two persons being selected from each (relocation) center represented at Tule Lake. She added that the Daihyo Sha Kai members in the stockade were the peoples' only refuge. The group sponsoring the petition was determined not to deal with Mr. Best in this matter (the petition), because they did not trust him and had no use for him. As I left Mrs. Matsuda, I wondered why she had chosen to tell me so much. Perhaps Mr. Robertson's recommendation had helped. Again, I became very indignant when she told me how her brother had been beaten. No doubt, the fact that we are both women helped a great deal.)

SHORT TALK WITH MR. BLACK

Talked briefly with Mr. Black to ask him for a copy of the Akashi letter sent to Attorney General Biddle. Black said he did not have the letter. After much searching on the part of Mr. Robertson's secretary (who was called in to look through the files), it was decided that Mr. Best must have locked the letter in his desk before going on his trip. Mr. Black did give me a copy of the authorization to make a survey, which is attached here. Black seemed fatigued and disgusted. He remarked that he had given the group permission to make a survey, whereupon they had gone ahead on their own initiative and started this "return to Japan" rumpus.

TALK WITH GEORGE YAMASHIRO

The Seinen dan is getting bigger and bigger. All they're doing now is community activities. For me, why not put the Seinen dan and the community activities together so we can have bigger activity.

[1. I was not at this time aware of that Mrs. Matsuda was letting me know that some members of her group were eager for violence, but that other members were telling them "it's not time."]

[2. No one else ever mentioned this particular petition.]

(I mentioned to George that Mr. Huycke had not been pleased at what George had said.) George explained. I told him that if he stopped the Seinen dan, he would have another November 4 on his hands.

What about this rumor in camp that Best is going to quit in the near future?

I don't want the people to get on the wrong side of the track. I'd like to stay out of the picture and just advise.

I just intended to get together with the CAS.

Miss Mayeda is a Nisei 'Yes-Yes' girl. Naturally, my ideas and hers don't get along. So I quit. Since I heard Miss Mayeda is going to another center and Mr. Huycke is going into the Army, I don't mind going back to the Community Activities.

The Petition

You see Akashi is Chairman of this petition. Mr. Akashi used to be a member of the Board of Education of the Japanese language school once.⁽¹⁾ Since he'd so like to have political power, he sticks his nose in too much and so he was kicked out of the board. Naturally, he's bitter toward the Board of Education. He thinks this is the best time to segregate the Japanese on the first or second boat.

Naturally, the status quo is still under ground. So I think he just put his name on the paper and did it. A friend of mine went to see him and asked him, 'If you do this petition, what will be the result?' He said, 'I'll do it anyway, I don't care about the result.' He's a poor leader. Naturally, I didn't sign.

(Yamashiro agreed the Daihyo Sha remnants were back of the petition.)

I don't know. If this kind of petition is allowed, thousands of petitions will come out in the future. We'll never have any peace day.

Some wards didn't get any names. Some tore it down. In wards seven and four, it was pretty successful. Mr. Akashi feels that if he tries to segregate two or three Japanese in this center, that makes him very popular in Japan.

Violence Toward Coordinating Committee

This Coordinating Committee may get a two by four one year later. People are very scared about the stockade. If Leupp is opened, I think they won't do it (won't attack members of the Coordinating Committee). If the Coordinating Committee gets to Japan, something will happen.

If WRA has a policy and does things definitely, the people are happy; but WRA has no policy.

Fight in Gymnasium

We had a small fight between Manzanar and Oakley (sp?) House basketball teams. Oakley House is an old Tule Lake team. They fought quite hard. There's something under that.

[1. Mr. Akashi, an Issei, taught in Japanese language school in Mt. Eden, California, from 1934 until the evacuation.]

Petition

This petition brings the status quo back again in front of the people. If the loyal group got out that would help a lot, but only halfway. If the loyal group went out and the first exchange boat went out, then the people would have some hope. Now there is no hope at all.

(Throughout the conversation, Mr. Yamashiro gave me the impression that he was disgusted with the situation at Tule. Eventually, he admitted that if there was a chance for him to get out and go to another center he would go.)

SHORT TALK WITH KIMI HASHIMOTO, A YOUNG NISEI

(I interviewed Kimi specifically on the petition issue because she is conservative, intelligent and level-headed, and I wanted her reaction of her type of individual.)

I think there are three factions here. I think the Yes-Yes should be taken out of camp. I don't care about the No-Nos and the repatriates. I don't think there is any point in separating them. These two factions would be creating trouble between the Japanese. We came here for the same reason. (Kimi means that the separation of Yes-Yes from the others would be good, but sees no reason to distinguish between Repatriates and No-Nos.) The Yes-Yes should be taken out. That's what everybody is saying.

In the first place, this place was for the disloyal Japanese. They (Yes-Yes group) have no place here at all. They'll cause trouble and would be called inu.

TALK WITH YAYOI NISHIKAWA, A YOUNG NISEI

I had known Yayoi well in Gila, where she worked as one of Gordon Brown's secretaries. I knew her to be a mild little girl, very sympathetic to Caucasians, and I wondered how she had reacted to the present situation and the petition. She was very homesick for Gila, hated the crudities and the violences of Tule Lake, and hoped, pathetically, that there would be no more trouble. She had found it very difficult to make friends here. She wished that the instigators of the petition would stop, because she didn't want any more trouble or demonstrations.

TALK WITH MRS. OPLER (WIFE OF COMMUNITY ANALYST)

Mrs. Opler described the fight in the gymnasium in more detail. One boy on the team tripped another. A fight broke out in which both teams took part. Then the spectators joined. An elderly Japanese janitor attempted to stop the fight; the boys turned on him and beat him so severely he had to be hospitalized.

APRIL 14, 1944TALK WITH MR. KURIHARA

Returned to Mr. Kurihara's to discuss the situation and received criticism on my paper. Kurihara was busy mopping the floor of his "apartment" but insisted on my staying and talking. He had found only one item to criticize. The remainder of the paper, he said, surprised him. He could not see how anyone could have learned so much about the situation. The criticism was on p. 5 where I say that many of the Administrators believe that the men who formed the nucleus of the Daihyo Sha Kai had begun their organization in Jerome and had continued their machinations ever since arriving in Tule Lake.

That opinion was circulated by the Caucasian people, that the boys from Topaz and Jerome were trying to get hold of the controlling interest and trying to get the people under their control. When those boys had acted, we had quite a discussion in Leupp with Mr. Fredericks. He strongly believed at that time this opinion was gotten through the newspapers, that those boys from various centers were trying to get hold of the leadership in the camp. I argued with him that it wasn't so. The only reason the boys from Jerome took the leadership here was because they themselves were leaders in Jerome. When they got here, they naturally took leadership again, especially of the Jerome faction. Jerome constituted the greatest number. I doubt whether they were trying to get leadership or that the plot was formed before. A thing of that nature happens spontaneously.

Reasons Why Old Tuleans Were Not Involved

The people who were here were satisfied with the conditions of the camp. But the people from other camps were not. The other camps were improved and had better conditions than here. When they came here, they were disappointed. They compared conditions at Jerome and at other centers in the same manner. Things here were so deficient, they couldn't be satisfied.

The people from other centers were going through a period of transition. They were not satisfied or happy. They had time to brood. The people who had first come to Tule were mainly farmers in the San Joaquin valley. Their expression is, 'Living condition here is far better than outside of camp.' Even now the people (old Tuleans) say, 'We asked for it over and over again and we didn't get it. What's the use?' So they do nothing. The other people who came here were different. In Manzanar we didn't have to ask for things. They bring it to us.

Tule Cooperative

The people in the Cooperative were running in conjunction with the WRA. They will say this to the people, 'Don't depend on the WRA. Let us supply the things for ourselves.' The officials of the Co-op say that. But do you think the people will then be satisfied? They (the Co-op) sell everything which the WRA will be furnishing. When they can buy them, they won't press the block leaders to fight for these things. I saw 100 people standing in line to buy a bucket. They asked (WRA) for it, couldn't get it, so they went and bought it.

General Uprising

I doubt if the general uprising will happen for a very long time. The food has improved.

The Loyals

We consider them, those who answered Yes-Yes, as loyal to the United States. Those who answered No, and then Yes, we consider them as komori (bats), neither bird nor animal. The No and Yes, and now No, are such, neither Japanese nor Americans. They are men without a country. We despise them worse than those who said Yes.

Whoever said No, must be considered as Japanese, regardless of what they have in their hearts. The only thing we could ask is that those who openly said Yes be removed from the camp. It may split the families, a husband may have said Yes, and wife No. A son may have said No and a father Yes. The father came with the son or the No-no. In any case, if the husband said Yes, regardless of whether it splits the family or not, we want him out.

All those who said Yes - the Issei who said Yes - we can't blame them. But if they were asked a question similar to the Nisei, they might not have said the same thing. Naturally, they ought to be sent out of camp, whether it breaks the family up or not. This is a serious question. The life of the nation balances on it. They (the Administration) ought to have records here.

They (the people behind the resegregation petition) are trying to narrow it down to only those who have signed the petition, who want to repatriate or expatriate. Their minds are too narrow.

Mr. Akashi (Ishikawa)

Mr. Akashi is a former school teacher in San Francisco. He came from Topaz. He seems to have been pretty well know there.

I objected to the petition. I couldn't sign it. I disapproved because I see their doings are from a very narrow viewpoint. I couldn't see it.

Another point I objected because when that matter was brought up, no clear-cut explanation was made. It was given to the people in a haphazard manner. I couldn't be satisfied. I previously would not sign my name to anything unless I know thoroughly what it means. Many now regret signing the petition. They may have been afraid. It was a good cause without leadership. I think they should have explained it so thoroughly that even a child could understand it. Their attitude was take it or leave it. It was too much of a high pressure group. Their associates were people that I could not place my confidence in. When I'm convinced 100%, I go the limit.

SECOND TALK WITH BILL NISHINO (HIGASHI)

The petition: In many cases, when the wife is No and the husband yes - in these cases if they did request for repatriation or expatriations, if Yes, we should consider them the same (let them stay). Outright support of the petition is not very strong. I've been talking to a fellow who says he did not sign the petition, but, says, 'We have to be segregated.' The petitioners have been asking to be put apart from those not asking from repatriation or segregation and for that reason we have our freedom. We would be under the Army. So we didn't sign it. This man thought that the petition would have been all right if Mr. Black had promised that segregation would take place and make this an internment camp. But Black just said you could make the survey if you wish. The man doesn't feel that's sufficient backing. He went to see Black personally. Black just said you may take the survey. Without the power you can't do anything. Signing the petition like that will only make more trouble.

Tule Lake Fieldnotes

People believe the petition doesn't have anything to enforce it. I found that out. The main object is to segregate the Yes from the Nos. That's why I signed it. If it was connected with status quo, I wouldn't have signed it. Trouble like this is occurring because there are too many inus.

[When I talked to him briefly yesterday, Bill had seemed very eager to have me call again. So I promised to return. Today, after he had discussed the resegregation petition, I turned the conversation to the farm accident and the strike. I found that when I shifted from current tensions and anxieties to "past history", many respondents, like Bill, relaxed and expressed themselves with considerable frankness. Indeed, in all the months I spent at Tule Lake, I continued to collect statements about the "November incident".]

Planning Board and Petition for Daihyo Sha Kai

After the incident, we had a meeting in our block. We were to elect anybody who seemed to fit the job of the Negotiating Committee. We put up a representative from our own block. They took this to the planning board. The Negotiating Committee was elected at the planning board. Then they gave themselves up and confined them. We had a petition in our block stating that these men were our true representatives. More than a majority signed it. I thought it happened in the middle of November, about the 15th. I'm not sure.

Second Negotiating Committee

We heard they were going to have a Second Committee but they didn't function right. I don't think the people did want that committee then. They were backing the first Negotiating Committee.

Furukawa, Niiyama, and Mayeda are old Tuleans.

Conditions in Camp on Arrival

I heard Kai and Kuratomi went to Best and he OKed the use of the school. Just before the day of the funeral, he turned around and said No. Who was the cause of it? They say Takahashi.

It's like this. They're always biting each other.

Administration

Japanese

Japanese

Reaction to Farm Accident

I said, 'Why didn't they put in some licensed driver? Who does the truck hiring? Does the placement officer put anybody in? Did the head of Placement have any experience in that field?'

Reaction to Farm Strike

I didn't blame them for striking. Before we came here, they said they had requested a regular Army truck (to transport farm workers). They had suggested it many times and they couldn't get it. In October, it's pretty cold to ride in an open truck.

Reaction to Statement that Myer was Going to Speak(1)

The first thing we heard about was Mr. Myer. He is coming and we would appreciate your cooperation in coming to the administration building. I said to myself, 'Things should be straightened out. Find out the true dope of how things are standing.' Mr. Myer and Best made a statement that if the people send a Negotiating Committee, he's more than willing to negotiate with them. After that we made elections in various blocks. Nobody criticized (the Daihyo Sha Kai).

I heard, 'How is it that very few people from Tule are on the Planning Board.' Why, I don't know. It was just general rumors.

Reaction to the Funeral of Farm Worker

I'm very religious. I went there and met Mr. Huycke. Twenty or thirty guys (Japanese) were stopping traffic, not to let the Caucasians in. That was because the use of the auditorium had been taken away. When Best refused the auditorium, the people resented it. Also the electricity went off at the time of the funeral. They couldn't use the public address system. I don't know whether this was an accident or not. [It was not an accident.]

Reaction to Bringing in the Harvesters

It made me pretty sore. We were trying to negotiate and make things run smoothly. And here was a Japanese who did that. We felt pretty bad. These fellows staying behind were supposed to be loyal to this country. On the cauliflowers that were sent in, they'd write, 'S-re mitaka fuchuusei mono,' 'See what you get for being disloyal.' That made us sort of - gave us a hatred toward those fellows. The people just coming in was bad enough.

Reaction to Taking food from Warehouse on November 4

I couldn't call this food our own food. As soon as it gets into the mess halls and the clerk signs for it (it is ours). They jumped to a conclusion. Since it's in the other warehouse, the Japanese people, regardless of what Myer and Best said, the people didn't have any right to complain. But it made some people mad, because they'd been feeding us at 17 cents a day. They didn't trust the Administration at all about handling the food problem. Maybe they were putting money in their own pockets. (Bill Nishino means that since the harvesters were paying for their meals (about a dollar a day) the Caucasians may have been making a profit out of this.)

Peoples' Hardships

Criticism grew (as status quo dragged on). People had no clothes. They tried to get their shoes fixed, but couldn't.

Mass Meeting Called by Army

The way I felt is, 'What's the sense in going to that meeting.' They told us to put out a Negotiating Committee and we did. Now they won't even recognize them. We lost faith in both the Army and WRA when they didn't recognize the Negotiating Committee.

[1. On November 1, 1943.]

Why Leaders Were Not Given Up

Because the Japanese people, once they sign their names and state a fact! I backed the Negotiating Committee up. Everyone signed that in the mess hall. How can they betray them as a man? As a man, after signing the petition, I couldn't back up. At that time it was a majority.

With the canteen and things, the people were going broke. Say I have \$2,000.00. My friend has only \$10.00. When his money is gone and he sees my children eating, he would like his children to get the same thing.

HERE A PAGE OF MY NOTES HAS BEEN LOST

TALK WITH THE ODAS (beginning of interview is lost)Reaction to Request to Hear Myer Speak

The first time I didn't know the object, why we should go. When I got there I find out the negotiation members were there to consult with WRA heads on the improvement of the center. He (Myer) didn't make any promise. He said, 'I have confidence with Best.' We went to the Administration building there for four hours. After three or four hours we find out it was for nothing because the committee couldn't accomplish anything.

Present Colony Need

One thing we urgently need is a good organized central power.

Mrs. Oda: This would be a fine time for the Coordinating Committee to resign.

Mr. Oda: The members should be elected to a board that would not have the handicap of being self-appointed.

Reaction to Vote on Status quo (January 11, 1944)

I said No because our block said No. I thought deep in my heart it was very silly to keep on in a situation like this. We might as well change the system and have a better way to run the camp. I didn't have any objections to that election. I thought we did not have the authority to run the camp. WRA has the power. We listen to what they say and obey the law. If we keep going forever (with the strike), we're just sunk.

I think the people are so against the non status quo because they don't like the Coordinating Committee. They don't trust the members. If the members of the Coordinating Committee were chosen by election, that's another story. But they're self-appointed. We don't trust them. We don't know them.

The Oda's appeared far happier and more at ease than at any of my former visits. They now hope for better things.

TALK WITH LARRY KATAOKA

Like myself, I want to work for the majority of the people.

There were two petitions.

The Second Negotiating Committee

We thought this time, I don't think it could be straightened out. We thought we'd do what we could. But the people took what I do wrong. The people in here felt we weren't helping out either way. So I just resigned.

Like myself, I went on my own. I'm no sheep. I use my own head.

Resegregation Petition

They put a thing like that out and they are putting people against each other. They just mix the people up. There are two groups fighting the Coordinating Committee. Why not get organized. I give the Coordinating Committee credit. They were fighting against a trend. Feeling will die down.

(Larry remarked that he really did not feel absolutely free in talking to Robertson or to me, for we had our loyalty to our country.)

The got signatures by frightening the people.

TALK WITH DR. OPLERFight at Warehouse

The boys were smacked around when they were picked up on November 4. Sending trucks for the food, I think that was Best's cunning way of doing it. Best gets cunning and has one man to do the job. He wants nobody else to know about it.

Resegregation Petition

Best was here to give the order. He told Black he was against it. But he left it in Black's hands. He wasn't sure. I wasn't consulted. They didn't see it as a project situation. What's naive about the action was that they didn't realize each of those high Moguls (Biddle, Ickes, Myer) was passing the buck; an example of New Deal authoritarianism.

Funeral

Dr. Takahashi was one of the trustees of the fund which was gathering money for the widow. Takahashi leaned to moderate politics. The Jerome group started behind the Topaz group. Topaz was pretty prominent in the coal strike and the farm strike. Topaz controlled the coal strike which was before the funeral. After the funeral, no more Topaz. Kai and Kuratomi (from Jerome).

Zimmer says to Best, 'Be stern. Don't give in.' And my suggestion that it reflected the colony situation and that you must meet with them (was ignored). I always viewed the coal strike as one of the proofs of what you could do if you sat down and did listen to

Tule Lake Fieldnotes

their problems. Kahn introduced the idea of fighting Fascism. 'You don't appease the Fascists - the storm troopers.'

The Administration didn't understand the race of the two factions over the funeral. Best never realized the speed at which the Daihyo Sha had to go to produce results fast. He should not have quibbled over the word "recognize".

Civic Organizations

That means the block managers - the ward chairman and the supervising staff. They are pretty much centralized at 1608.

I think Mayeda and Furukawa come from Tule. Shimada is from Rower.

November 1 Demands

The November 1 demands added nothing except attacks on the personnel to the National Director. Best put off the October 26 meeting a couple of days. 'Let them cool their heels.' He wanted to slow it up a bit. No one came forward till the funeral.

I'd read all those things (Best's announcements in the paper) after they'd happened.

Army Steps Back(1)

It was Cozzens' coup d'etat. Best was here rankling under the situation. Colonel Austin was doing all sorts of things. Best was tipping off Cozzens(2) on what pariahs WRA was in the picture. W.A.R. Department versus WRA. A memorandum was sent out on three levels, the Project, Fort Douglas, and the National level. Best was to deal with Austin, Cozzens was to deal with an Army man higher up (Colonel Meek?) and Myer talks with a general. The new arrangement was that WRA could call in and off the dogs of war. With the old arrangement they could get them in but not out.

It was wonderful because Col. Meek was kicking Best around. He would come all the way from Fort Douglas to do it, and he gave no indication of strategic retreat whatever. Cozzens cooked up the deal that ran Meek off the project.

While going to the post movie I remarked upon the fact that all cars and persons leaving the project proper had to give their names. Dr. Opler said that this was to keep some sort of a check so that if some big leak appeared in the newspapers, those persons absent from the project at that time would be known.

[1. I asked Dr. Opler about this matter, because Mr. Robertson's remarks had been guarded and ambiguous.]

[2. Field Director in charge of the San Francisco office of the WRA.]

APRIL 15, 1944

CALL ON MAY IWOHARA

I called at May Iwohara's house on her invitation. She appeared very glad to hear of the lessening of colony tension due to the resignation of the Coordinating Committee.

On your last visit they submitted their resignation and it was kicked back, too. Every time they submitted their resignation, they (the Administration) would say, 'The time is not right. We're waiting for self government approval from Washington.'

The Administration was rather stupified when they got the resignation. The Army pleaded with the Committee not to resign because they're 100% for us. The Committee members feel the longer they hold it the longer they'll be called names. They don't have any political ambitions. Mr. Akitsuki is the only one on the WRA payroll, the others are on Co-op and Civic Organization.

Every time when something good was suggested, the Administration would override us.

Last time Mr. Robertson sent the new regulation from the WRA to preserve tires and gas. He sent out a memo to forbid the use of the trucks in the center to transport workers and cutting the working hours from 8 to 6 1/2 hours. Two weeks later a new regulation came out. You had to work 8 1/2 hours. Something bad like that, they just give it to us.

Also using Block 18 for a Civic Center was brought up to the Coordinating Committee to make it an accomplishment -- to at least make a Civic Center. We (all the residents of block 18) all sign a petition, including myself, not to move us. Mr. Huycke didn't like my attitude at all. We didn't want to move out. The Block Managers went to Best and Mr. Best said, 'If you don't want to move, we're not going to move you against your will.'

Undertaking Parlor

Then on March 25, there was a memorandum. They were trying to bring an undertaking joint in the next barrack to put the bodies in there between the wake and the funeral because the hospital was overcrowded. Naturally, you know how the residents would feel. Delegates came and told the block residents they were going to bring the equipment whether you like it or not. We said we would have a demonstration. Mr. Akitsuki phoned Mr. Best. Best said he didn't even know about it. He called the Social Welfare Section.

On Monday, Mr. Black and Mr. Huycke and Mr. Thomas came to the Coordinating Committee and asked Mr. Akitsuki's opinion and asked him to convince the block 18 residents that it would be for the good of the center and unselfish to allow it. So Mr. Akitsuki said, 'Let's go to block 18.' The three delegates tried to talk the residents into moving us out. Naturally, we didn't want to sleep next to a dead body. That day we had an informal meeting with Mr. Best and the delegates went home without his convincing them.

Mr. Black had said, 'If you're not going to move out, we'll bring the M.P.'s out and put you in the stockade.' On the question of the Civic Center, he said he will put you in the stockade if you won't go out.

Mr. Best said he'd take care of it by putting the undertaking firm next to the cemetery. Best said he wanted to bring the undertaking joint here to 18 because it's so near to Social Welfare.

When we went to see Mr. Black, Mr. Huycke came over and snooped, and asked, 'What

have you on the agenda?' He said, 'I don't see why you people want to move out. I don't mind sleeping next to a dead body.' Mr. Akitsuki cited an example, "In Japan, when a child cries, the mother says, 'The ghosts will get you.'"

If they don't hurry up with the employment problem the incident will never end. The Committee has recommended many things, but now, naturally, the job orders are so limited. The Administration says, 'Look at the farm. That's your fault, not ours.'

And yet, Mr. Best makes contradictory statements. He says, 'If you do an honest days work, we can get the farm back.'

The old Tuleans received brooms six months ago. They are not allowed to get a second initial supply. They say it's not in Administrative Instructions. Brooms were given to the segregants.

Civic Organizations

That is an official paid body, more or less coordinating between the Administration and the colonists. We didn't have any self-government or central organizations in here. As Mr. Black said, he didn't want to get the block managers mixed in with politics.

The Coordinating Committee stops on the 30th (of April). At yesterday's meeting he said we'll have to get approval of Washington, to be governed as they see fit. It must be put under study by experts. Before the decision could be reached we were under the Department of Interior.

New Representative Body

Mr. Black suggested a mass meeting at the Auditorium, seven or eight people from each block.

Food During Strike

We got no fresh fruit or vegetables all that month. On Thanksgiving we had bologna.

SHORT TALK WITH MARKLEY, REPORTS OFFICER

Went to request copies of the new Tule Lake newspaper for the study. Markley seemed very much inclined to talk, so I listened respectfully and made a few notes. He told me that this new paper was following a policy of presenting only factual information. No editorials were included and "they were not going into any controversial stuff, or anything of that type."

We foresaw a difficult situation when the announcements for the Selective Service examining team would be made on the 2nd and 3rd of May. Seventy-three boys were to appear before the board. He said that the War Department has not yet clarified its attitude toward citizens who have applied for expatriation. Mr. Markley believes that the boys will first be given their physical examinations and then their fate will be determined on their past records.

I do know if the boys don't appear, the Selective Service will probably turn it over to the F.B.I. and warrants for their arrest will be issued. We did publish that seven were arrested in Poston.

WRA's Policy on November 1, 1943

WRA made a big mistake to hide things on November 1. It made them look like liars. The newspapers offered large sums to people who spoke to construction workers, the M.P.'s, etc.

Markley added that he had adopted a different policy of giving the newspapers anything that had news value. A.P. and U.P. have promised to print nothing which they have not checked for veracity. Heart and the Call Bulletin have not. They don't care if it's true; they won't check for accuracy.

TALK WITH MR. TAKEUCHIResignation of the Coordinating Committee

Personally, I think the resignation of the Coordinating Committee is just the result of the Life photographer being here. Now this center hasn't returned to any more normalcy than it had then. These poor saps got their faces in the magazine. There seemed to be quite an outcry about inu and stoolies. Then Life came out. I think that was the primary factor. I saw two by fours coming. It came to a head when the pictures came out in Life.(1)

The Petition

The guys believe the petition is a radical goon-squad business. The group behind the petition was more or less responsible for the incident that happened in November. They proposed the general strike and the hunger strike. They are just a minority who feel that they have to make a name for themselves so they'll be honored when they get back to the old country.

When this petition was circulated in this block, the first thing I looked for was official approval. Although Black's name was typewritten on the sheet, there was no signature. So personally, I ignored it. I haven't signed anything.

Personally, I think many people confused this petition with an announcement that came out through the Spanish embassy, which announced that all people who had applied for repatriation had to fill out a duplicate form.(2) It seems that the committee just picked the right moment to send out the petition just so people would be muddled up. If that hadn't been done, they wouldn't have gotten half the signatures they did.

The only segregation the colonists are in favor of is the segregation of the Yes-Yes from the No-Nos. The majority don't care if there's any distinction made at all between the No-Nos and the repatriates.

Mess Scandal

They changed crews in Mess 9. It seems the new crew that moved in ate up or cleaned out everything in the mess including four pairs of shoes for the crew's use. Over a period

[1. I doubt that the publicity given the Coordinating Committee by Life magazine had anything to do with the resignation. As my notes demonstrate, the members of the committee knew from the moment they took office that many residents would brand them as inu or stool pigeons.]

[2. I have found no other reference to such an announcement made by the Spanish Consul at this time.]

of three weeks they had on hand 24 sacks of rice. (The population of block 9 is 127 people.) In three weeks this rice disappeared. Some poor guy (a Japanese warden) thought he'd be a detective and got in cahoots with the guilty party and since he held the respectable position of detective he was supposed to find the guilty culprits. So he reported people to Internal Security and Internal Security yanked five guys who didn't know what the score was. They are in the stockade now. They are just saints. They don't know anything.

Rationing in Mess

Hayward gave us permission to institute rationing.(1) It was that damned moron Atsinger who fathered the blanket system (the former system) when all the mess halls got the same amount of food. It facilitated delivery, but it was not equal. He was against rationing; it was a little over his head. But he was back in this office three weeks after rationing was under way. He thought he'd run the works to suit himself. I explained everything to him and showed him it was a damned good system under which we would eliminate 85% of the menu changes which had been going on every day. He said condescendingly, 'Well, Jimmy, we'll have to leave everything ride for a few weeks. Then we'll try to tear your system apart.' I had hit the ceiling but put on a blank stare - I went to see Hayward. I explained. By gosh, he hit the top. The next day Atsinger was moved out of my office to the warehouse. At the end of the month, Atsinger took a trip. Now he's friendly and willing to cooperate.

Troublemakers

There's still a few people in this camp who don't seem to realize that things are on the upward trend and it might be a good thing if they let well enough alone. I ran into this guy (a Japanese) the other day, who works in the hospital. He said the children from two to ten were badly malnourished. He came to the mess and demanded that the kids get more fruit. We're issuing fruit three times a week. Eighty percent of the kids don't eat all the fruit they get. Yet he wanted us to increase it by two times. He demanded. I suggested he strike up the hospital for a big supply of vitamin pills, since I don't think just issuing more fruit would greatly assist the malnourishment.

Stockade Internees Taken to Leupp

I couldn't say what would happen, if there would actually be any trouble. In a way, I think the large majority of the colonists would be glad that they weren't turned lose in camp again. On the other hand there are quite a few decent fellows in the stockade. If the Internal Security had a particle of intelligence, they should be able to sort out the innocent from the actual agitators. They could take out the innocent and throw out the agitators and send them to another camp. Personally I think it would be a damn poor thing to turn them back into the colony. It would start another ruckus. What do I care about Dai Nippon? I came here to lead a peaceful life until the war's over.

Physical Examination for Selective Service

One of two things is going to happen. I think there are three groups. The gutless ones will be taken first. I still believe there's quite a few of them left. They'll show up at their physicals and for actual induction. Then there's another group who are going to try

[1. Robertson informed me that the institution of this rationing system was the work of a new man, Mr. Wells; Hayward is probably getting credit for Well's action.]

Tule Lake Fieldnotes

to take advantage of the new Supreme Court ruling. The gist of it is: if a potential inductee refuses to appear for his physical examination he can be classified as a draft evader, whereas, if he should appear for his examination and should be classified 1A and then at the time for actual induction refuses to comply, he could not be called a draft resister. Some will refuse to appear for their physicals and be draft resisters. But the other group is going to appear mainly for their physicals then if they're accepted they'll kick them (the authorities) in the face.

Prospects of Election for Representatives

I don't think the people would go for an election right now. The minute you get a bunch of representatives, you're going to get in a few radicals. They're going to bring up proposals that are downright unreasonable. They will have to bring it up to the Administration and it will cause trouble. Why not let things ride and see what will come of it for a while. If things are let alone they might improve a little more.

Reactions to Farm Strike (October, 1943)

I felt that the people on the farm at that time were more or less unreasonable in striking, because they could have kept on working and watched a satisfactory negotiations to be put through before striking. They jumped the gun. It was brought on by high pressure speakers.

Bringing in Harvesters

At that time I thought considering what Best had promised that he'd notify the colonists of any sudden decision. Then he brought in the farm workers from other centers - I thought it was kind of a dirty trick, putting it mildly.

Reaction to Funeral

My opinion might be colored. I believe my disfavor to the stand taken by the Administration was because of their refusal to allow the people to use the gymnasium. It was generally publicised that it would be a camp-wide affair. The funeral was on a cloudy, windy day. Just the kind of a day that would put the people in mind for a little radical propaganda to be spread. Standing out in the cold, shivering, with the corpse in front and the goon squad patrolling behind - it was just right for propaganda.

The goon squad was just a radical unit - young radicals from Jerome. The Administration made a mistake refusing the gymnasium to be used. Had they permitted the gym to be used, they could have put down a ruling and limited the number of people attending the funeral. Had that happened there would have been a lot less people infected with the spirit of to heck with the Administration, and what not.

Breakdown of Status Quo

You'd be surprised how many people voted for status quo. They were still gluttonous for punishment - or they had voted for it in the beginning. It was my opinion that status quo wouldn't accomplish a darn thing but would only increase the peoples' sufferings. You can't have status quo and expect things to improve. It just means taking a stand-offish attitude, not negotiating, not having a darn thing to do with the administration, just letting them do their worst.

Tule Lake Fieldnotes

I voted for the general strike! I went radical that once. I was against status quo the latter part of November. Inasmuch as status quo meant standing pat - they were still going on with the coal, crew, and garbage, mess and hospital, all the janitors and boiler men were working - well, under these conditions status quo could be maintained indefinitely but being very harmful to the colonists. For that reason I voted for the general strike to bring things to a head right away fast. I knew the status quo would be a lingering suffering for the whole damn colony. The elections and meetings were held behind locked doors. The general strike was defeated. Sixty-four mess halls voted and there was a majority of 13 mess halls for status quo. So we had status quo. They got to thinking about the women and children, and that's why so many were in favor of status quo. They figured it would be awful to have to stand around and watch the kids cry.

Dog Hunting

This last week there's been a lot talk about dog (inu) hunting with baseball bats. If there's any trouble here in the next five or six months, it's going to be because of keeping the Yes-Yes in the camp.

SHORT TALK WITH ROBERTSON

Robertson guessed most of the Yes-Yes people were originally Tule Lake people who didn't want to move. Many of those in camp were those who had refused to register. Robertson also told me that word had just come from Washington that the Administration could proceed with community organization (that is, the election of a representative body.)

April 16, 1944

25

Rosalie Hankey Wax

Tule Lake Fieldnotes

APRIL 16, 1944

TALK WITH DR. OPLER

The Civic Organization just channels the stuff (information) through ward leaders to the people. It's a mechanical system.

Employment hasn't picked up much.

Akitsuki

Akitsuki allowed himself to become Japanese through influence of his wife's family. He would like to pack up with his kid and get out. He's got a lousy family (his wife's family). He even does his wife's washing. When his wife was sick her mother and father didn't lift a finger to help him. He came home from a meeting one day and found his little girl playing in a pool of icy water.

The responsible men and the Coordinating Committee has been the buffer, the whipping post. The Coordinating Committee is a split body. Byron Akitsuki was elected chairman at the time all were elected from the floor.

TALK WITH MR. AKITSUKI

I had arranged with May Iwohara at the beginning of my stay to have a talk with her and Mr. Akitsuki. We decided on Sunday afternoon as a sufficiently inconspicuous and innocent time. When I entered the office of the Coordinating Committee the contrast with my former visits was immense. Only one man, a member of the committee, was in the entrance room. No one but Akitsuki was in the office. The change in him was almost unbelievable. When I last saw him in March he was nervous, tense, and hardly able to speak above a whisper. Now he appeared to be an entirely different person, happy and almost garrulous.

Mr. Black told the committee that the Coordinating Committee was not the only body representing the colonists. At that time we sort of felt, it might be WRA policy to keep confusion among the colonists (at the time permission to circulate the petition was made). We just couldn't help but feel that way. Up to the 10th of February the Advisory Council would cooperate with us, but then lately (here Akitsuki laughed) I was told, 'You people are making too much requests and getting in my hair.' It may be WRA's policy to stir up confusion, so that more colonists are disgusted with Center life and decide to repatriate.

We worried a good deal when this resegregation (petition) took place. We had a row in this block. One man who had registered called the one who hadn't registered a dog (inu). Three people were hospitalized. I heard some children's signatures were on the petition. Persons of 18 years and over signed about 500 or 600. I saw two names of children about four years old.

Akitsuki gave me the minutes of the Daihyo Sha Kai and apologized for the delay in translation. He said they had been written in so many (Japanese) dialects that on one occasion it took him four days to translate four pages.

He pointed out the December 19 minutes and said that this was when the Negotiating Committee was told that they would no longer be recognized. He added: There were some members of the Administration that were working hand in hand with the Daihyo Sha. Perhaps this may explain Mr. Black's actions.

Tule Lake Fieldnotes

We requested brooms from Mr. Best. We needed about 850 to 1000 brooms. Best said he would be glad to comply. That was March 30. We informed the people. Then Best said he couldn't get them. But we had already informed the people. On April 1, a second memorandum was released saying it couldn't be done.

The Coordinating Committee was established January 15. The Administration has been telling us we must continue until official permission comes (to elect another body).

I told Mr. Akitsuki that Mr. Robertson had told me the night before that this permission had been received. He was overjoyed and immediately told the other member of the committee about it.

TALK WITH DR. MIYAMOTO

I called on Dr. Miyamoto, on Mrs. Matsuda's advice. His wife spoke excellent English, heard seldom in Tule Lake. The doctor had been on twenty-four hour duty the night before and was too tired to see me. Since, however, I had an appointment in the colony at four, I asked Mrs. Miyamoto to let me wait out a half hour in her home. We discussed old Gilan mutual acquaintances, whom she knew, although she and her husband had come to Tule from Jerome. Before the half hour was up, the doctor woke up and came out. He was far less friendly than his wife and said that I'd probably get sore if he told me what he thought. So we discussed the evils of evacuation. He told me of some of his experiences as an interned Nisei and we agreed that irreparable harm had been done. After about an hour of communication, I prepared to leave. He then changed his mind and said he would tell me of what he had seen on November 4. He had been asleep when the trouble broke out but was awakened in the hospital to treat a tall boy named Koyabashi who had a bruise on the side of his head. He had asked Kobayashi what had happened and the boy explained he had received the injury when he opened a truck door to get out and a stone had struck his head. Miyamoto and his assistant looked out of the hospital window toward the Caucasian Canteen. They saw a soldier pound on the door which was opened by an old Issei, the Co-op watchman. Without hesitation the soldier raised his rifle and crashed the butt down on the old man's face. The injured man was also brought to the hospital for treatment. Before his cut lip was sewn up, the soldiers demanded entrance. Miyamoto let them in. They took the injured but untreated man with them over Miyamoto's protests. Miyamoto slapped a bit of tape over the injury. Three days later he was called to the stockade by the Army to treat this man. There he saw Kobayashi, the boy who had had the slight head injury, with his face tremendously swollen and with bandages on the arms and legs. He saw also a boy with a broken arm and a boy with a great gash on his head which required eight stitches. He is sure that Kobayashi, whom he saw taken to the stockade on November 4, was beaten after his arrest.

TALK WITH MISS ROUDABUSH

I discussed this matter of the beating with Miss Roudabush, my roommate. She seemed unusually interested. Although she had talked to me very freely before, she had evidently kept much in reserve. She told me she had cleaned up the Statistics Office in the Administration building on the morning of November 5. In this room the Internal Security had interviewed and questioned their captives. Blood and hair was spattered on the walls and floor. She had also seen a bloody baseball bat.

It is conceivable that captured Japanese Americans were brought into this room and held, before they were removed to the stockade, and that their blood, received from injuries suffered during the fracas, spotted the room. But Miss Roudabush says that the room looked as if people had been beaten in it.

Miss Roudabush then told me of some of her experiences working under Mr. Huycke in Housing when the segregees began to come in. It was a madhouse. To begin with, Tuleans who had left the camp, had sold their barrack improvements, shelves, built-in cupboards, etc. to evacuees who were remaining in Tule. These people had moved into the improved apartments without notifying the Housing Division, which increased the already serious housing shortage. The most terrible thing of all, in Miss Roudabush's opinion was the fact that the camp was short several thousand mattresses which arrived only just in time. Had the segregees arrived before these mattresses, the cold and discomfort would have been unendurable. Most of the barracks were very dirty and some were filthy. The worst case which came to her notice was that of a man and his family who were sent to a barrack which they thought unfit for human habitation. They slept the night in their block manager's office. The next morning the man came to the Housing Office and said that he must have a different barrack. He absolutely would not move into the apartment assigned to him. At that time with no cleaning men available, Housing had stopped cleaning vacated rooms. Moreover, they were at their wits end to find housing, since persons who arrived and were not satisfied frequently moved to more desirable quarters of their own choosing. The man was told he must move into the room assigned to him. He found another room, moved his family in and notified Housing the next day. Mr. Huycke was adamant, and said he would be ejected forcibly. The man said, 'Have you seen this apartment?' 'No,' said Mr. Huycke. The Japanese insisted so strongly that he see it that eventually Mr. Huycke promised to do so, providing the Japanese met him at the spot promptly at nine the next morning. When Huycke entered the apartment he found that the former occupant had been using it as a distillery. A mess of fermented figs had spilled over the place. The stench was terrific. It took a disinfecting and cleaning crew three days to render it at least partially fit for human habitation.

Miss Roudabush also told me that the bachelor Hawaiian boys (from Jerome) had been saucy and surly from the beginning. When they found themselves placed 16(1) (?) in a barrack, and knew empty apartments existed, apartments intended for later arrivals, they were a constant source of aggravation to the overtaxed Housing Department. They would move into vacant rooms with their friends, causing great confusion. No locks were available to stop this.

[1. I'm not sure she said 16.]

April 17, 1944

28
Tule Lake Fieldnotes

Rosalie Hankey Wax

APRIL 17, 1944

Dropped in a moment on Kurihara to see if he had been able to get the paper which an Issei friend had written. The man had not finished typing the paper.

Kurihara repeated his opinion that he did not think any major trouble would spring up between the colonists and the Administration, but that the evacuees would fight among themselves. As an example he told of a beating which had taken place in the last few days. A man, the brother of a man who showed movies in camp, had been set upon and beaten. No one knew the reason, but 'we suspect that it was the other group.' I asked whom he meant by this "other group." Kurihara implied that it was the "loyals" who were employing these strong arm methods, 'but we are not sure.'

He also told of trouble in the Internal Security. (The name of this organization has been changed by the Administration to "Police" but all the evacuees continue to refer to it as "Internal Security".) A group of Issei on the force are suspected by the younger members of "reporting things" to the Administration.