3/23/42

defense

OFFICE FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

US WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Release - Immediate

Press rel. unedited

War Relocation Authority Announces
First Colonization Project

The first large-scale relocation of Japanese residents being evacuated from West Coast military areas will be made on the Colorado River Indian Reservation at Parker, Arizona, where 20,000 alien and citizen Japanese are to be moved by the Army. The colonization plan has been worked out by the newly-formed War Relocation Authority, the United States Indian Service, the Indians who own the land, and the War Department.

The plan provides for temporary, self-sustaining colonies, four or five in number, for the purpose, first of furnishing homes and useful employment to the evacuated Japanese, and secondly to prepare the land for use after the War. Approximately 90,000 acres of land are available for development of irrigated farming, with an adequate supply of water to be diverted from the Colorado River by the Headgate Rock Dam, recently completed by the Indian Irrigation Service.

The War Relocation Authority, through the Indian Service, will be responsible for general management of the colonies, and for the technical aspects of subjugation of the land, in which the Japanese will be employed in construction of irrigation canals, leveling of lands, and preparation of the land for cultivation. The Army has undertaken the building of homes and other essential structures on the Reservation, and will transport the Japanese to the colonies and provide military guard service.

Three features of the plan were particularly emphasized by Milton S. Eisenhower, Director of the War Relocation Authority:

(1) That the settlement is purely temporary and the land will revert to the Indians at the end of the War.

(2) That the relocation will be handled to provide the maximum useful work contributing to the war effort, and

(3) That the project will be designed to provide humane and constructive living and working conditions for the colonists.

The War Department already has authorized the shipment to the Reservation of building materials adequate for construction of facilities for 20,000 persons. As soon as adequate facilities have been constructed the Army will begin transporting evacuees from military areas to the project.

One of the first big tasks the Japanese will undertake will be digging canals to bring water to the land so that subsistence gardening may start as soon as possible. Besides raising food for their own use and preparing the land for the future use of the Indians, the colonists may find useful work raising crops particularly needed for the war effort. A number of possibilities, such as production of guayule and long staple cotton, are now being studied by the Indian Service, Department of Agriculture, and other interested agencies.

To a large extent the communities will be complete local units with doctors, nurses, teachers, and other specialists provided by the Japanese themselves.

THE JAPANESE AND THE WAR MANPOWER SHORTAGE

Statement by:
Paul V. McNutt, Chairman
War Manpower Commission

(In a letter to Director Dillon S. Myer
of the War Relocation Authority, dated
November 27, 1942)

The War Manpower Commission heard with considerable interest the informative presentation, which Mr. Thomas Holland, Director of the Employment Division of the War Relocation Authority, gave at one of the Commission's meetings last month, on problems and relationships of the War Relocation Authority program for evacuees of Japanese ancestry with the general war manpower program.

The employment data which were contained in the written statement have given us a comprehensive background for study of this possible source of labor supply. As I understand it, the War Relocation Authority has formulated an employment program for those of Japanese ancestry who have been evacuated from the West Coast to encourage their employment and adjustment, under proper safeguards, into the customary channels of American life. This policy should have the dual effect of benefiting the evacuees, many of whom are American citizens, and of making available to the country several thousand people for employment on farms and in industry.

The War Manpower Commission thoroughly endorses the employment program developed by the War Relocation Authority and assures it the continued cooperation of the United States Employment Service in its recruitment and replacement activities.

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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
BARR BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C.

FEBRUARY 4, 1943
RELEASE TO PROJECT NEWSPAPERS

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NISEI OUTSIDE WRA CENTERS
CAN VOLUNTEER FOR ARMY AT
ANY LOCAL DRAFT BOARD

WASHINGTON, Feb. (Special)--American citizens of Japanese ancestry who are between the ages of 18 and 38 and who live outside WRA centers may volunteer for active service in the United States Army by applying at the nearest local draft board, according to instructions issued by national headquarters of the selective service system and mailed to draft boards throughout the country.

The instructions make reference to the announcement here last week that a combat team composed entirely of United States citizens of Japanese extraction or parentage is to be formed for active service in a theatre of war. Volunteers for this team, it is announced, must have been born in the United States or its Territories and be able to speak English.

A special form entitled "Statement of United States Citizen of Japanese Ancestry," (Form 304A), will be used by local draft boards in accepting applications from those who wish to volunteer for the special combat team. This form will also be used by the Army representatives who are scheduled to start receiving such applications at the ten relocation centers not later than February 10.

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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Reports Officer

February 15, 1943

PRESS RELEASE FOR PROJECT NEWSPAPERS

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS OPINION FAVORABLE TO COMBAT UNIT

Editorial opinion in newspapers almost uniformly in support of War Department decision

WASHINGTON, D. C. Feb. (Special) — Strong editorial support of the War Department's decision to form a combat unit of loyal persons of Japanese ancestry for service in an active theatre of war is disclosed in a survey here of newspapers throughout the country. The survey reveals a large number of papers from coast to coast have commented on the War Department's action and with few exceptions the comments have been favorable.

The Springfield (Mass.) Republican after tracing the circumstances leading up to evacuation, states that "the organization of such a (combat) unit for military service would surely create a good impression among the mass of Americans."

The Baltimore (Md.) Sun views the combat unit as "a valuable symbol of what we are fighting for," and "a visible, tangible denial of the German theory that this is a racial war." The Sun also observes: "Tyranny is the enemy, and a liberty-loving Japanese may hate it as heartily as any other man. If he hates it, we can help him to strike a blow against it."

After reviewing General Delos C. Emmons' statement that American soldiers of Japanese descent in the Hawaiian Department "have added materially to the strength of the Hawaiian area," The Atlanta (Ga.) Constitution says "There is no reason why loyal Japanese-Americans should not make excellent soldiers and ... they should be granted the privilege of fighting for their country in her hours of greatest peril."

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The Minneapolis Morning Tribune refers to the War Department's action as "wisely undertaken," and observes that "For the loyal citizens in those (relocation) camps, there should be freedom to participate in the war effort, either on the home front or in our armed forces."

Several other papers, it was observed, also made reference to the increasing opportunities for employment of evacuees in private industry, particularly war industries, as a solution for problems growing out of evacuation.

Among West Coast newspapers supporting the formation of the combat unit, the Portland Oregonian regards it as "Bad News for Hirohito," while the San Francisco Chronicle said the decision "will gratify all who have felt that the only proper test in their (Japanese-Americans') case is loyalty, not racial origin."

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ARE JAPANESE AMERICANS LOYAL

Statement by:
Colonel Kendall J. Fielder
Chief of Military Intelligence
Hawaiian Department

(Excerpts from speech given at the University of Hawaii Forum, March 1943)

"Without revealing secret military information, I can say truthfully that members of the Japanese race have themselves constituted our chief liaison with the Japanese community and our most reliable check on its morale, its needs and its activities.

"How differently a Himmler or a Rosenberg would have handled this delicate situation. Does anyone believe for a moment that any of the axis crowd would give one of enemy race a fair chance to prove himself? Yet that's what was done in Hawaii--and so far it has proved militarily sound. That the situation is working out well is a tribute not only to wise administration, but to tolerance on the part of the rest of our good Americans here. We have lived up to President Roosevelt's description of democratic peoples as 'men of good will'.

"It would take much too long to tell you of the many concrete ways in which many of these people who were put on the spot have proved their love for America and have helped solve an otherwise ticklish military problem here. For the information of all who might be misled, there is none among us who has been led into this policy out of a mawkish sentimentality or gullibility. To us Japan and her people are a race of stubborn, hardy, despicable warrior zealots, who would stop at nothing to snuff out our lives and our way of life. Her army and navy must definitely be crushed. The question of Americans of Japanese blood is far different. They are Americans--and until they prove (or show themselves dangerously capable of proving)--traitorous, they should be treated as Americans."

(Over)

Statement by:
Elmer Davis
Director of the Office of War Information

(Excerpts from a nation-wide radio broadcast on
April 23, 1943)

"The assassinations (of American flyers by Tokyo) have had no effect in this country except to produce universally a grimmer determination to fight through to complete victory--a determination that seems to be felt by American citizens of all sorts. Let me read you some extracts from one newspaper editorial--'We know today the nature of the brutal enemy we face across the Pacific, and this knowledge should serve to intensify our efforts to achieve a speedy and complete victory. The American people will not brook a negotiated end to this war. There can be no peace with murderers. We must and will gain the unconditional surrender of our axis enemies. The enemy will give no quarter, and the salvation of our way of life rests on complete and irrevocable military victory'.

"Those passages come from a Salt Lake newspaper called the Pacific Citizen, the organ of the Japanese-American Citizens' League; and it shows that American citizens of Japanese ancestry who have grown up in this country and absorbed the American faith in freedom and democracy feel just the same about this outrage as do all other American citizens. At Camp Shelby, in Mississippi, there are three thousand American soldiers of Japanese ancestry; and they turned out yesterday and put the better part of a month's pay into war bonds, to show what they thought of this performance in Tokyo. Thousands of other Americans of Japanese blood, from Hawaii and from the relocation camps in the west, are now being inducted into the army--all of them tested and known for their loyalty to their country, and all of them just as eager to avenge this sort of behavior as are any other Americans."

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WAR DEPARTMENT STATEMENTS ON JAPANESE AMERICANS

Statement by:
Hon. Henry L. Stimson
Secretary of War

(Statement made in announcing the formation of a combat team of American citizens of Japanese descent)

"It is the inherent right of every faithful citizen, regardless of ancestry, to bear arms in the Nation's battle. When obstacles to the free expression of that right are imposed by emergency considerations, those barriers should be removed as soon as humanly possible. Loyalty to country is a voice that must be heard, and I am glad that I am now able to give active proof that this basic American belief is not a casualty of war."

Statement by:
Colonel W. P. Scobey, Executive Officer
Office of Assistant Secretary of War

"It is hoped that the Japanese American combat team will become one of the outstanding units of the American Army. This combat team will fight with and as a part of a Caucasian force. The War Department has faith in the loyal Japanese Americans. This is a splendid opportunity to demonstrate to the American people and to the War Department that the Japanese Americans have faith in America. A success of the program and the voluntary feature of induction will be a great step forward in the rehabilitation plans for the Japanese Americans."

Statement by:
Lt. General Delos C. Emmons
Commander of the Hawaiian Department
April 3, 1943

"Enough Hawaiians of Japanese ancestry have responded to the call for volunteers to form a combat team of approximately 4,000 men... The response to the call was highly gratifying...I believe they will make a splendid record...I hope no further call for volunteers will be made now, because many can ill be spared by Hawaiian industry."

STATEMENTS REGARDING RUMORS OF SABOTAGE IN HAWAII

Rumors of sabotage by Japanese at Pearl Harbor are still being repeated and believed by reputable people in California.

Following are official statements from W. A. Gabrielson, Chief of Police of Honolulu, and Colonel Kendall J. Fielder of the Military Intelligence Headquarters. These statements were secured through Charles F. Loomis, Director of the Morale Section of the Hawaiian Military Government.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

City and County of Honolulu

May 12, 1943

1. The statement that Japanese trucks in Honolulu deliberately put out of commission several American airplanes is an absolute lie. The Military and Naval Intelligence services and the F.B.I. can verify that there were no Japanese trucks on any airfield, nor did any such trucks do any damage in Honolulu on December 7th.

2. There was no congregation of crowds, and the Army, Navy or Marine Corps was not called on to preserve order in the city. No American machine gunners cleared Honolulu streets of any Japanese before, on or after December 7th.

3. The statement that all over Honolulu had signs which read, "Here a Japanese traitor was killed", is another absolute lie.

4. There was not one act of sabotage attempted by any Japanese or any other person during December 7th or thereafter.

5. The Japanese bombed Oahu twice: on December 7, 1941, and sometime during the latter part of 1942, when four bombs were dropped in the hills back of the city.

6. There was no dynamite planted by any Japanese or anyone else in or about Honolulu in December; and no civilian ever used a truck to pick up any dynamite.

While no acts of sabotage were committed, the Japanese did maintain an excellent system of espionage.

(Signed) W. A. Gabrielson, Chief of Police

(over)

HEADQUARTERS HAWAIIAN DEPARTMENT

Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Military Intelligence

17 May 1943

I was surprised to learn that some of the many Island rumors about the Hawaiian Islands during the first few days of the war are still prevalent on the mainland. They have been repeatedly denied by all authorities.

In connection with the six statements that Mr. F. enumerated in a letter to you, it can be positively stated that all are untrue. It is hardly worthwhile to refute them individually, but it might be of interest for you to know that the movie, "Air Force", was censored and the scenes about the misuse of the Japanese trucks and the Japanese snipers on Maui were deleted before the picture was permitted to be shown in Hawaii.

Having been in charge of military intelligence activities since June, 1941, I am in position to know what has happened. There have been no known acts of sabotage, espionage, or fifth column activities committed by the Japanese in Hawaii either on or subsequent to December 7, 1941.

(Signed) Kendall J. Fielder
Colonel, G.S.C., A.C. of S., G-2

(over)

Julian - Dispatch (J.P. Cont.)

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE
442ND COMBAT TEAM
CAMP SHELBY, MISSISSIPPI

June 2, 1943.

CAMP SHELBY, MISS. News notes from the Japanese American Combat Team in training here:

Newly-inducted volunteers from the Relocation Centers are arriving daily, in groups and individually. On reporting to the Combat Team they are immediately assigned to companies and their training starts. The new men already have been inducted and processed at various reception centers before they arrive here. Company commanders here check their equipment, replenish it where necessary, and send them to special recruit units where they are put through a program designed to catch them up with their regular companies who already are well into their basic training.

* * * * *

The Mainland youths appear particularly keen and eager to get on with their training. Early opportunity to enter Officer Candidates School offers a distinct incentive but beyond that is the desire of the soldier to get himself in condition as early as possible and master the rudiments of Combat Team training. Off hours are spent in serious study of military and technical manuals. "Go for Broke" is the regimental motto and the newly-arrived soldiers are quick to subscribe to its spirit. It is a motto that succinctly catches the fighting theme of a Combat unit: It means "Shoot the Works" or "Risk All". Proud that they are volunteers with a strong desire to make a name for patriotic Japanese Americans, the men from the Relocation Centers are definitely determined to "go for broke" in the war against Axis enemies.

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Next to getting in fighting trim, the newly-arrived soldier seems most anxious to get in touch here with volunteers from other Relocation Centers. As soon as they find time, there is a lively bit of scurrying around the regimental area to see whether "Joe" or "Tom" from another Center is here, and if they locate each other there are impromptu, joyful reunions.

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The new men from the Mainland also seem anxious to get acquainted with their comrades from Hawaii. Once they arrive here, there is no differentiation among soldiers from the Mainland or Hawaii. They are mingled together in the various companies without regard to their geographical origins.

* * * * *

Regimental Headquarters has started a series of schools for non-commissioned officers and applicants for Officer Candidate Courses. Completion of these courses does not mean that the students will go to Officer Candidate Schools but the studies should prove highly advantageous. Students for the first course are listed as follows: William I. Oba, Frank K. Sakamoto, Harry I. Takagi, Albert A. Koby, Toyo Sakamoto, George M. Matsumoto, Thomas O. Mita, Jimmie Kanaya, Shaw Sakamoto, Jimmie T. Shimizu, Mitsuo D. Tsuruda, Edward S. Tanabe, Thomas T. Utsunomiya, Kay K. Mio, William K. Nakako, John H. Koby, Kazuo Ohka, Susumu Yamada, Hideo Yasui, Dick Z. Masuda, William S. Oda, Herbert M. Sasaki, Joe Iwaoka, Charles M. Sugi, Hero Shiosaki, Phillip N. Ichino, Richard H. Hata, Kazuo Kimura, Charles J. Oda, Ben T. Kumagai, James N. Yamamoto, Frank Okusako, M. Hattori, K. Uchida, Thomas H. Imai, M. Sumida, Henry Harada, Max A. Marutani, Hideyuki Noguchi, Jimmy Sakimoto, and Tami Takamoto.

SECRETARY OF WAR STIMSON ON DEPORTING
JAPANESE AMERICANS

Seattle, Washington
June 9, 1943

E B MACNAUGHTON, PRESIDENT
THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF PORTLAND
PORTLAND, OREGON

I HAVE YOUR TELEGRAM OF JUNE 8TH IN WHICH YOU REFER TO A PROPOSAL TO MEMORIALIZE CONGRESS IN FAVOR OF DEPORTATION OF ALL JAPANESE AMERICANS IRRESPECTIVE OF CITIZENSHIP. THE WAR DEPARTMENT HAS RECOGNIZED THE LOYALTY OF MANY JAPANESE AMERICANS AND HAS INCORPORATED A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF JAPANESE AMERICAN VOLUNTEERS IN THE ARMY. THE RECORD OF JAPANESE AMERICAN UNITS IN THE ARMY HAS BEEN EXCELLENT INDEED, A CERTAIN NUMBER HAVE RENDERED SERVICE AGAINST THE JAPANESE EMPIRE FOR WHICH THEY HAVE BEEN DECORATED. I FEEL THAT ANY PROPOSITION TO DEPORT ALL JAPANESE AMERICANS IRRESPECTIVE OF CITIZENSHIP OR LOYALTY WOULD NOT ONLY BE INAPPROPRIATE BUT CONTRARY TO OUR EXPERIENCE AND TRADITION AS A NATION. DEPORTATION OF DISLOYAL ELEMENT IS OF COURSE DESIRABLE BUT THE WAR DEPARTMENT DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT ANY SUCH SWEEPING PROPOSAL AS YOU REFER TO IS JUSTIFIED IN MILITARY CONSIDERATIONS.

(FILED WASHINGTON D C JUNE 9)

Henry L. Stimson

(over)

War Department Disagrees with Resolution
Passed by San Diego Board of Supervisors
(as reported in the San Diego Union)

Taking sharp issue with the county supervisors for their recent action in adopting a resolution urging that Japanese be kept in relocation centers until victory, the war department yesterday disclosed its views in a letter received by the supervisors and signed by Col. William P. Scobey, a general staff executive. The letter said:

"The Secretary of War is in receipt of your letter of May 12 transmitting a copy of a resolution adopted by the San Diego board of supervisors on the subject of Japanese in America.

Cites Cost of Centers

"The War Department does not subscribe to the view stated in the resolution. The War Department feels that retention of 100,000 people in relocation centers at the expense of the government in time of war is not only unjust to those who can establish their loyalty but it is an unnecessary expense.

"The War Department policy in this matter is to make a determination of those who are loyal and release them from the centers to be employed in gainful occupations in support of the war effort or serve in the army. Also the war department is in accord with the view that all disloyal or suspected disloyal Japanese, whether citizens or aliens, should be retained under close supervision and denied the privileges that are given to loyal people.

Cites FDR Stand

"This policy is in accord with expressions of the president, the recommendations made by Sen. Chandler, chairman of the senate sub-committee for military affairs, and it appears to be in accord with democratic American views.

"To condemn the Japanese in this country as a whole for the actions of the Japanese militarists does not seem to be just or appropriate. Undoubtedly you are aware that the War Department and the army have the responsibility of protecting the west coast as well as all other coasts, and it does not propose to relax any of the restrictions which jeopardize this security.

Hold Privileges

"However it must be recognized that United States soldiers of Japanese extraction who have been taken into the army have the rights of soldiers and they have the authority to visit on the west coast. The privileges afforded these soldiers must be respected."

EVIDENCES OF AMERICANISM AMONG JAPANESE-AMERICANS

(Statement by Dillon S. Myer, Director of the War Relocation Authority*).

In view of the fact that the Japanese side of Japanese-American life has been so strongly emphasized during the recent weeks, I believe that, in the interest of fairness and accuracy, some attention should be drawn to evidences of Americanism among the Japanese-American people.

Of the 110,000 people of Japanese descent who were evacuated last year from the Pacific Coast military area, approximately 70,000 were born in the United States and are American citizens. Roughly 72 percent of this group have never even seen Japan. They have attended American public schools and have been subjected to all the other Americanizing influences that operate constantly in any American community.

More than 8,000 American citizens of Japanese ancestry--approximately half of them volunteers--are now serving in the United States Army. Some are in service overseas and three have already been cited for bravery in action. One is serving as a turret gunner in a Liberator engaged in bombing operations over the Continent of Europe.

Over 1,200 of these soldiers volunteered for service from behind the wire enclosures of relocation centers. As a result, the centers today contain large numbers of service flags and other evidences of tieswith the Army. Men in uniform are frequent visitors at the centers and arrangements for entertaining them are part of the regular community activities program.

There are many other evidences of Americanism among these people both in the relocation centers and in normal communities throughout the country. At all centers, training in American ideals and American institutions is part of the regular school program just as it is in public schools outside. Formal flag raising and the pledge of allegiance are a regular ceremony in most of the center schools. Practically all national organizations for young people--such as the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H Clubs, YMCA, YWCA, and Junior Red Cross-have active programs at the centers and many thousands of members. Boy Scouts alone number several thousand.

Outside the relocation centers, the thousands of Japanese-Americans--including both those who have left the centrs on leave and those who were never evacuated--are displaying their patriotism in the same ways as other civilian Americans. They are buying war bonds and stamps, donating money and blood to the Red Cross, and participating in salvage campaigns. Several hundred are serving effectively in the intelligence branch of the United States Army. Others are serving as language instructors, helping to train intelligence officers for the Army and Navy. Still others are working as translators with the Overseas Branch of the Office of War Information. Many are employed as carpenters, machinists, welders, and in other jobs essential to war production.

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*Presented before Costello Subcommittee of House Committee on Un-American Activities, on July 7, 1943.

ADVANCE RELEASE: For Use After 10:45 p.m., EWT, Thursday, July 15, 1943.

~~OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION~~
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

~~NB-1178~~

Text of Address by Dillon S. Myer, Director of the War Relocation Authority, over the National Broadcasting Company network at 10:45 p.m., EWT, Thursday, July 15, 1943.

During recent weeks, a great deal of public attention has been given to the War Relocation Authority, the relocation centers, and the Japanese-American people who live in these centers. Unfortunately, much of the information given circulation was untrue, and misleading. Much of what has been said has caused confusion, by focusing attention on some minor details and covering up the really basic issues.

The proper handling of the people of Japanese ancestry who were removed from their homes along the Pacific Coast into relocation centers is a matter of importance to every person in the United States. It is essential that everyone who gives thought to the problem keep certain facts clearly in mind.

First---enemy aliens suspected of being subversive were arrested immediately after Pearl Harbor and are now interned. They have never been in relocation centers.

Second---During the first month of the evacuation period -- in March 1942 -- the Japanese-American people were first told simply that they must move out of the Pacific coastal zone and were free to go anywhere else they liked. It was only after this voluntary movement had caused difficulties that controlled evacuation came into the picture. Relocation centers were established primarily to provide living quarters for the evacuees while long-range resettlement plans were being worked out.

The evacuation did not imply for one moment that all evacuees were guilty or even suspected of endangering the national safety. It was a precautionary move taken in view of the exceedingly critical military situation on the West Coast. The evacuees in the relocation centers are not charged with any crime or subversive intentions; they are a dislocated people who had to have some place to live-- and the relocation centers seemed to be the most feasible temporary solution to the problem. There is no reason to conduct the relocation centers as internment camps or prisons.

On the contrary, there are good reasons why they should not be so conducted. Two-thirds of the people who were moved into relocation centers were born in this country. They are American citizens, and 72 per cent of this citizen group have never even seen Japan.

(over)

X-18063

In the ten relocation centers, the evacuees are provided with most of the basic necessities of life--and the opportunity to earn a small amount of money so they may buy other things not provided by the government. They receive food, lodging, and medical care, and schooling is provided for the children.

The living quarters are barrack-type frame buildings, divided into family-size compartments--and furnished with cots, mattresses, blankets and heating stoves. There is no running water or cooking facilities in the barracks--but community bath houses and mess halls are located in each block to serve 250 to 300 people.

The school program is planned to meet the standards of the state where the center is located, but until recently there were no buildings put up especially for school purposes. Classes have been held in barrack buildings originally intended for living quarters or for recreation.

The medical service in a relocation center is barely adequate even as measured by wartime standards. Non-Japanese doctors and nurses are in charge of the medical staff in each center, but most of the staff is composed of evacuees.

Any community of--say--ten thousand people, eating three meals a day--will require a lot of food. Most of the relocation centers were able to produce very little of their own food last year--and so most of it had to be brought in. People who have seen the trucks going into the relocation centers loaded with food quite naturally have been impressed with the large amounts--and so many rumors have started that the evacuees in relocation centers are getting huge amounts of food--far more than other civilians.

I want to say right here and now that people in relocation centers are rationed--just the same as the rest of us. Most of the food is bought through the Quartermaster Corps of the Army. But there is a top limit of 45 cents a day per person which may be spent for food, and the actual cost has ranged from 34 to 42 cents a day. By way of comparison, the Army allows a maximum of 61 cents a day and actually spends 55 to 57 cents a day for each man. From the standpoint of quality, the food served in the centers is, of course, never better than Army standards. And on many items, such as beef, it is definitely inferior.

The government of the United States has an obligation to feed the evacuees in the relocation centers but--we are doing it in strict accord with rationing regulations--and with a keen regard for the heavy demands on the nation's food supply.

I won't take time to dwell on other details of the relocation center activities--except to say that the War Relocation Authority is operating with a minimum staff--and has attempted to give a maximum of responsibility to the evacuees themselves for providing the services needed by the community--and for managing their own affairs.

The wages for those who work are just about enough to provide for the necessities--12, 16, or 19 dollars a month--plus a small clothing allowance for each member of the worker's family. The evacuees are not compelled to work--but only those who do work receive wages and clothing allowances. About 90 per cent of the employable evacuees at the centers are now engaged in some kind of work.

In spite of the fact that the War Relocation Authority is responsible for managing the ten relocation centers--we don't feel that they are desirable institutions, or anything in which the people of the United States can take pride. It isn't the American way to have children grow up behind barbed wire. It may be possible to make good Americans out of them--but the very surroundings make a mockery out of principles we have always cherished and respected. It's difficult to reconcile democracy with barbed wire--freedom with armed sentries--liberty with searchlights.

But, in spite of these discouraging surroundings, Americanism is predominant in the relocation centers. It is taught in the schools--in the adult education classes--through organizations such as Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, 4-H Clubs, Future Farmers of America, Girl Reserves, and Parent-Teacher Associations. Several of the centers have U.S.O. Clubs or similar arrangements for the entertainment of soldiers of Japanese ancestry who come back to the centers to see their families or friends.

However, there are some people in the relocation centers who have indicated that they prefer to be Japanese rather than American. And there are others whose records indicate that they might endanger the national security. Accordingly, we are planning within the next few weeks to segregate these pro-Japanese people and establish them in a single center where they will live for the duration of the war or until repatriated to Japan. It has taken time to gather enough information for such a program of segregation. We now have the necessary information and we expect to carry out the program as soon as transportation can be obtained to make the move.

We feel that the remainder of the population--those who are thoroughly American in their loyalties--should not be required to remain in relocation centers. They can make a much greater contribution to the war effort by working on farms, in factories, and in other places where their abilities can be used to best advantage.

In the spring of last year, when the evacuation was only beginning, there was an insistent demand from sugar beet growers and refiners for evacuees to work in the beet fields of the Western States. Before the harvest season was over, about 10,000 people from the centers had gone to work in the fields of the West--and they harvested enough beets to provide a year's sugar ration for about 10 million people.

The results of that program were generally good from every point of view. And so the War Relocation Authority went one step further. Starting in July one year ago, we began to work out a program whereby evacuees with sound records might leave the centers indefinitely to take jobs and establish homes in normal communities. Up to the present time, about 10,000 of the evacuated people have taken advantage of these procedures and have gone out on indefinite leave to establish themselves mainly throughout the interior sections of the country. In addition, approximately 6,000 have gone out on seasonal leave for work chiefly on farms throughout irrigated sections of the West. And in all these months, not one case of disloyal activity on the part of these people has been reported from any reliable source.

(Over) X-18063

Within the past few weeks, there has been a great deal of public discussion about the release of people from relocation centers. The procedures for granting release and the methods of investigating individual evacuees have been widely misunderstood. So tonight I want to state those procedures just as clearly as I can in order that the public may have the true facts. Over a period of many months, we have gathered a considerable amount of information on each evacuee 17 years or over -- information on their individual backgrounds and interests and their past employment records. Before any evacuee is granted indefinite leave, this information is carefully checked at the relocation center. If there is any indication that the evacuee might endanger the national security or interfere with the war effort, permission for leave is denied.

In addition--as a further precaution--we have submitted the names of all evacuees past 17 to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The FBI has now checked nearly 90 per cent of these names against its files and has supplied us with whatever information it had on the individuals involved. We have been using this information in determining eligibility for leave. But I want to emphasize the determination is made by WRA and not by FBI.

There are certain classes of evacuees who automatically are denied leave: one-- those who have asked to be repatriated or expatriated to Japan, two-- Shinto priests, three-- American citizens who have refused to swear allegiance to the United States and four-- those who have been denied leave once because of bad records. At the same time, there are thousands whose records show no reason why they should not be permitted to leave the centers.

The main point I want to make concerning the granting of leave to evacuees is this: the War Relocation Authority is exerting all proper precautions for the national security--and at the same time is providing the means for loyal American citizens and law-abiding aliens--to take their place in the national life and enjoy the freedoms which are assured by the Constitution.

The War Relocation Authority recognizes that the foremost task before the people of this country is to win the war. This means concentrating on fighting the enemy -- rather than fighting among ourselves -- and using all our available manpower where it can do the most good.

We have faith in the American democratic way of life, with equal rights, privileges, and responsibilities for all, regardless of race, creed, or national origin.

We assume that the great majority of the people of Japanese ancestry now in this country will stay here during the war and afterwards.

We have confidence in the ability of the armed forces to wage the war, and of the authorized intelligence agencies of the Government to give proper surveillance to all suspected or potential enemies within our country.

We believe that it is possible to distinguish between the loyal and the disloyal people of Japanese ancestry, as well as with other national or racial groups, to a degree which will insure the national security.

We believe loyalty grows and sustains itself only when it is given a chance. It cannot flourish in an atmosphere of suspicion and discrimination.

Let me repeat -- the manner in which the WRA conducts its program is of concern to all the people in the U.S. And it has a significance which goes far beyond the boundaries of this country. Our actions are being watched in Japan, where thousands of American soldiers and civilians are held as prisoners or internees; undoubtedly they are being watched in China, India, Burma and other countries whose collaboration is necessary if we are to defeat our enemies surely and quickly. These countries are watching our actions to see if we mean what we say when we talk about racial equality.

So it is important that we all approach this problem sanely and calmly, without racial emotion or hysteria. As I have said before, let's not handle this problem as Hitler would handle it in Nazi Germany, or as Tojo would approach it in Japan. Let's do it the American way.

X-18063

July 1943

TEXT OF WHITE HOUSE STATEMENT

ON TREATMENT OF PERSONS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Secretary of War, after consultation with the commanding General of the Western Defense Command, as well as other officials and agencies of the Government, authorized the evacuation of citizens and aliens of Japanese descent from the West Coast areas, under the authority of executive order 9066. The objective was to evacuate the entire Japanese population from a sensitive and threatened military area. It was a precautionary measure and carried no implications of individual disloyalty.

The indications were, however, that there were a number of unidentified persons of Japanese descent, both citizen and alien, who, by reason of their attachment to Japan, constituted a potential threat to our security. The Army effected the original moves in connection with the evacuation and set up the assembly centers into which the evacuees were first gathered.

A detailed report on the evacuation and the part played by the Army has been prepared by the commanding General, Western Defense Command. It will shortly be made available to the President and the Congress.

The Army has not, however, attempted to deal with the problem of relocation and resettlement of the evacuated people. Shortly after the evacuation was decided upon, the War Relocation Authority was set up in order to relieve the Army of nonmilitary burdens and to assist the evacuees in re-establishing themselves away from the coastal zone.

The first step was the establishment of widely separated inland points of 10 large relocation centers which were built by the Army but have been managed from the beginning by the War Relocation Authority.

The great bulk of the evacuated people are still living in these centers. They are quartered in barrack-type buildings of frame construction, and take their meals in mess halls, each accommodating upward of 250 people. They are not allowed at any time to leave the center without a permit, and after dark are restricted to the limits of the barracks area.

Preservation of law and order within the centers is a responsibility of the War Relocation Authority. However, the external boundaries of each project area are guarded by a detachment of military police, who are available for duty within the center in the event of disorder. Thus far, they have been summoned to quell a disturbance on only one occasion.

(over)

Evacuees at the centers are provided by the Government with food, housing and medical care. Schools are maintained for the children. A portion of the food is produced by the evacuees themselves on Government-owned or Government-leased land within the project area; some perishable commodities are purchased locally, and practically all other food is bought through the quartermaster depots of the Army.

All rationing restrictions applicable to the civilian population are strictly followed and two meatless days are observed each week. In areas where the local milk supplies are short, milk is provided only to small children, nursing or expectant mothers, and special dietary cases. Beef served at the centers is third grade and no fancy meats of any kind are furnished.

In general, the food is nourishing but definitely below Army standards. The cost of feeding at the centers over the past several months has ranged from 34 to 42 cents per person per day.

In order to hold down the costs of operating the centers, the War Relocation Authority has utilized evacuee labor to the fullest possible extent in the production of foodstuffs and the development of agricultural land, and in providing the necessary community services. Top positions in each line of work, however, are occupied by non-Japanese civil service employees. These evacuees who work are paid at the rate of $12, $16 or $19 a month, and are provided, in addition, with clothing allowances for themselves and their dependents.

The clothing allowances range from $24 a year for small children in the southerly centers to $45 a year for adults in centers where winters are severe. Approximately 90 per cent of the employable evacuees at the centers are engaged in some line of work at the present time.

The second step in the WRA program for the evacuated people is to help the loyal American citizens and the law-abiding aliens in resettling outside the relocation centers and away from the evacuated coastal zone. Present regulations provide that any resident of a center--citizen or alien--may apply for permission to leave the center in order to take a job in agriculture or industry and establish residence in a normal American community.

Before permission is granted, however, the evacuee's background and record of behavior are carefully checked, and the attitude of the community toward receiving evacuees is ascertained.

The War Relocation Authority has acquired extensive information concerning the past history, affiliations and attitudes of evacuees past the age of 17 years. On the basis of these records, leave permits are granted. As a further precaution, names of more than 85 per cent of the evacuees have been checked against the records of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and these checks will be continued until the list of adult evacuees has been completely covered.

If there is evidence from any source that the evacuees might endanger the internal security of the Nation or interfere with the war effort, permission for leave is denied.

In addition, there has been established a joint board, composed of representatives of the War and Navy departments and the War Relocation Authority. This board maintains liaison with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Approval of the board is required for evacuees who desire to work in war industries or wish to relocate from relocation centers into the Eastern military area. Such approval is given only after all pertinent information available from the co-operating agencies has been examined and evaluated.

The War Relocation Authority is now undertaking to segregate those evacuees whose loyalties lie with Japan. The segregated group will be quartered in a center by themselves and will not be eligible for leave. Others, however, will continue to be eligible for leave and will be encouraged by the War Relocation Authority to take useful employment in normal communities outside the evacuated area.

The evacuation was the result of military considerations, and decisions of the War Department in the matter were based, and will continue to be based, only on such considerations. The original restrictions have been modified slightly, particularly with respect to soldiers of Japanese ancestry in the United States Army.

In a few mixed-marriage cases and in emergency situations, individual permits to enter evacuated areas have been, and will continue to be, issued by the Commanding General of the Western Defense Command.

In all other respects the original restrictions remain in force. There is no present intention to alter them, nor is any relaxation under contemplation.

From the beginning, the War Department and the commanding General of the Western Defense Command have been in close and continuing consultation and agreement on all matters relating to evacuation and security of the West Coast areas. The present restrictions against persons of Japanese ancestry will remain in force as long as the military situation so requires.

Prior to the outbreak of war there were a number of American citizens of Japanese descent in the army. Since the outbreak, a combat team of soldiers of Japanese ancestry has also been inducted from Hawaii and the mainland. These men in the combat team have been screened; they are all citizens of the United States, and they have all volunteered for service. Thus far their record has been excellent.

Other American soldiers of Japanese descent have performed useful and hazardous services in connection with our operations in the Pacific and a number have already been decorated for meritous service. It is the policy of the War Department and the Army in all respects to accord American soldiers of Japanese ancestry the rights and privileges of all other American soldiers.

A more complete report in accordance with the terms of resolution 166 will be prepared and will be made available shortly.

Statement by Dillon S. Myer
Director, War Relocation Authority

Constitutional Principles Involved in the Relocation Program

The evacuation and relocation program raise important questions of constitutionality. This is so because two-thirds of the persons of Japanese ancestry evacuated from West Coast military areas are citizens of the United States, and the great majority of the remainder are law-abiding aliens.

It is the position of the War Relocation Authority that its Leave Regulations are essential to the legal validity of the evacuation and relocation program. These Leave Regulations establish a procedure under which the loyal citizens and law-abiding aliens may leave a relocation center to become reestablished in normal life.

We believe, in the first place, that the evacuation was within the constitutional power of the National Government. The concentration of the Japanese-Americans along the West Coast, the danger of invasion of that Coast by Japan, the possibility that an unknown and unrecognizable minority of them might have greater allegiance to Japan than to the United States, the fact that the Japanese-Americans were not wholly assimilated in the general life of communities on the West Coast, and the danger of civil disturbance due to fear and misunderstanding--all these facts, and related facts, created a situation which the National Government could, we believe, deal with by extraordinary measures in the interest of military security. The need for speed created the unfortunate necessity for evacuating the whole group instead of attempting to determine who were dangerous among them, so that only these might be evacuated. That same need made it impossible to hold adequate investigations or to grant hearings to the evacuees before evacuation.

When the evacuation was originally determined upon, it was contemplated that the evacuees would be free immediately to go anywhere they wanted within the United States so long as they remain outside of the evacuated area. Approximately 8,000 evacuees left the evacuated area voluntarily at that time and 5,000 of these have never lived in relocation centers. The decision to provide relocation centers for the evacuees was not made until some six weeks after evacuation was decided upon, and was made largely because of a recognition of the danger that the hasty and unplanned resettlement of 112,000 people might create civil disorder.

Detention within a relocation center is not, therefore, a necessary part of the evacuation process. It is not intended to be more than a temporary stage in the process of relocating the evacuees into new homes and jobs.

(over)

The detention or internment of citizens of the United States against whom no charges of disloyalty or subversiveness have been made, or can be made, for longer than the minimum period necessary to screen the loyal from the disloyal, and to provide the necessary guidance for relocation, is beyond the power of the War Relocation Authority. In the first place, neither the Congress, in our Appropriation Acts or any other legislation, nor the President, in the basic Executive Order No. 9102 under which we are operating, has directed the War Relocation Authority to carry out such detention or internment. Secondly, lawyers will readily agree that an attempt to authorize such confinement would be very hard to reconcile with the constitutional rights of citizens.

The Leave Regulations of the War Relocation Authority, instead of providing for such internment of loyal citizens or law-abiding aliens, set up a procedure under which any evacuee may secure indefinite leave from a relocation center if he can meet the following four conditions --

1. WRA must be satisfied from its investigation -- that there is no reason to believe issuance of leave to the particular evacuee will interfere with the war program or endanger the public peace and security;

2. The individual must have a job or means of support;

3. The community to which the individual wishes to go must be one in which evacuees can relocate without public disturbance;

4. The evacuee must agree to keep WRA notified of any change of address.

The War Relocation Authority is denying indefinite leave to those evacuees who request repatriation or expatriation to Japan or who have answered in the negative, or refused to answer at all, a direct question as to their loyalty to the United States, or against whom the Intelligence agencies or WRA records supply direct evidence of disloyalty or subversiveness. The great majority of the evacuees fall into none of these classes, and are thus eligible to leave under the Authority's Regulations.

On June 21, 1943, the Supreme Court of the United States handed down its decision in the case of Gordon Hirabayashi v. United States. Hirabayashi had been convicted of violating both the curfew orders and the evacuation orders applicable to Japanese-Americans. The court held that the curfew was a valid exercise of the War Power. Although the question of the validity of the evacuation orders was directly presented to the Court in that case, the Court did not decide that question. There is evidence in the majority and concurring opinions of the Court in the Hirabayashi case that, although it found the curfew to be valid, it believed the evacuation orders present difficult questions of constitutional power, and detention within a relocation center even more difficult questions. Mr. Justice Murphy, in his concurring opinion said concerning the curfew orders: "In my opinion this goes to the very brink of constitutional power."

Mr. Justice Douglas, in his concurring opinion said: "Detention for reasonable cause is one thing. Detention on account of ancestry is another--Obedience to the military orders is one thing. Whether an individual member of a group must be afforded at some stage an opportunity to show that, being loyal, he should be reclassified is a wholly different question. But if it were plain that no machinery was available whereby the individual could demonstrate his loyalty as a citizen in order to be reclassified, questions of a more serious character would be presented. The United States, however, takes no such position." The Chief Justice, in the majority opinion, was careful to point out that the Court was limiting its decision to the curfew orders and was not considering the evacuation orders or confinement in a relocation center.

More than a year has passed since evacuation was begun. During this year we have, of course, had time to make necessary investigations and to begin the process of considering the evacuees on an individual basis. The Leave Regulations are intended to provide the due process and hearing which fair dealing, democratic procedures, and the American Constitution all require.

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Presented before Costello sub-committee of House
Committee on Un-American Activities.

July 7, 1943

ATTITUDE OF THE WAR DEPARTMENT ON THE QUESTION OF TAKING OVER THE OPERATION OF WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY FUNCTIONS.

In response to a direct question by Senator Chandler of Kentucky regarding the War Department's views on S.444, a bill providing for the transfer of certain functions of the War Relocation Authority to the War Department, Colonel Scobey had this to say:

> "The War Department is not in favor of the bill. The War Department looks upon the measure as giving to it a responsibility which it is not particularly qualified to handle, because the objective to be accomplished is of a social nature rather than of a military nature.
>
> "The War Department has a tremendous job on its hands. It needs all of its personnel on military projects rather than on social projects, as this is looked upon. That, basically, is the reason the War Department feels that it doesn't want to handle this job."

STATEMENT BY J. EDGAR HOOVER ON THE LOYALTY OF JAPANESE AMERICANS

(Excerpts from testimony before the House Appropriations Committee on the Department of Justice appropriation bill)

"We have had practically no trouble with the Japanese in Hawaii. I made the statement before that there has been no sabotage or espionage committee in Hawaii, subsequent to Pearl Harbor. There was espionage committed prior to Pearl Harbor, but not by the Japanese population as such, but by espionage agents and consular agents of the Japanese government.

"I want to mention briefly the work which the bureau has performed in the field of enemy control.

"Immediately following the incident at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, we were called upon to effect the apprehension of potentially dangerous aliens enemies.....

"The action taken and the prompt manner in which it was taken, took out of circulation those individuals who might have been the nucleus of any espionage or sabotage rings of either Japanese, Germans, or Italians in the United States.

"I think that is the reason why we have had so little trouble from subversive agents in this country at the present time. Of course, we are constantly on the alert as to the activities of such groups that are still in the country in the alien enemy class.

oOo

REMARKS OF REPRESENTATIVE HERMAN P. EBERHARTER
(OF THE DIES COMMITTEE)
March of Time, August 26, 1943

ANNOUNCER:
Last June, in Los Angeles, a three-man congressional subcommittee completed an investigation of western evacuee centers for alien and U.S.-born Japanese. One high spot was the testimony of a former official of the Poston, Arizona, Japanese relocation center, Harold H. Townsend:

VOICE 1:
The Japanese are hoarding food, bread, and other supplies for Japanese parachute troops and invasion forces.

ANNOUNCER:
This week, the subcommittee published its report. Said chairman John M. Costello of California:

VOICE 2:
Japanese are being released without adequate checks on their loyalty to the United States. Among the Japanese set free are 23 members of the Butoku-kai, a subversive youth section of the Black Dragon society.

ANNOUNCER:
But Chairman Costello was speaking only for himself and South Dakota's Representative Karl E. Mundt. Hearing the same testimony, the third member of that subcommittee disagreed with his colleagues' conclusions, disputed their statements,had recommendations of his own to make. Tonight, that congressman, Herman P. Eberharter of Pennsylvania, is at our March of Time microphone in Washington, D. C. Mr.Eberharter.

EBERHARTER:
After careful consideration, I cannot avoid the conclusion that the report of the majority of the investigating subcommittee is prejudiced. Most of its statements are not proven. The stories of Japanese hiding food, bread, and other supplies for any enemy invasion force were shown ridiculous when projects were visited. So far 16,000 evacuees have been released, yet the report seeks to make a great deal of the release of 23 who were members of Butoku-kai--a Japanese fencing society. Neither the report nor the hearings offered any evidence that any of the 23 were subversive.

After wind and fury, the report implies the War Relocation Authority is doing a very bad job, stressing a few shortcomings and ignoring the many good points our investigation disclosed. The evidence showed the WRA is doing a good job in handling an extremely difficult problem. The majority report repeats the charge that the Japanese evacuees were supplied with food in greater variety and quantity than to the average U.S.citizen. Evidence completely rebutted that charge. All rationing restrictions are strictly applied, and food costs have averaged about 40 cents a day per person.

(over)

Contrary to the majority report of the Dies subcommittee, evidence indicates there is much less crime of any kind in the relocation centers than in an American community of the same size. The climax of the majority report is three feeble, meaningless recommendations. I agree fully with the first: that segregation of the disloyal Japanese be effected at once. But this program was announced by WRA months ago. Intelligent determination of the loyalty of more than 100,000 people cannot be made in a week or a month, and the WRA's efforts to be fairly certain in its actions is commendable.

The second recommendation of the majority is that a new board be made up representing the WRA and the intelligence agencies of the government, to pass on applications for release. But there has always been close cooperation between the War Relocation Authority and army and navy intelligence and the FBI. One more board is unnecessary and would simply divide responsibility.

The third and last recommendation favors a thorough-going program of Americanization for Japanese who remain in the centers. Of course I favor that, just as I'm against sin. Considering the magnitude of the job, the difficulty of the legal issues involved--that is, the constitutionality of confining citizens not charged with any crime--and considering the complexity and delicacy of the problem of resettling such a large number of people in the midst of a war, the WRA has acted efficiently and capably. I think it is better to let the WRA carry on, unhampered by unfair criticism.

--o)o--

V R KENNEDY WRA KC
427 CG 4// WAR
E L SHIRREL WRA CG
168 CV WAR
H S FISTERE WRA CV
151 NY WAR
R N CULLUM WRA NY
41 BS WAR
ROGER CLAPP WRA BS
356 DL WAR /DENSON/ VIA DL ANT TWX/
E B WHITAKER WRA JEROME RELO CTR DENSON ARK

Dec 43

Press Release

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Fistere

ON DECEMBER 11, 1943, THE FOLLOWING TELETYPE WAS SENT TO ALL RELOCATION SUPERVISORS-- "THE DECISION HAS BEEN MADE TO SUPEND THE PUBLICATION AXX OF ALL PERIODICALS BY THE REGIONAL RELOCATION OFICXX OFFICES FOR DISTRIBUTION EITHER INSIDE OR OUTSIDE THE RELOCATION CENTERS. PLEASE CANCEL ANY PLANS TO ISSUE SUCH PUBLICATIONS FROM YOUR OFFICE UNTIL OUTERWISE AUTHORIZED BY THE WASHINTXX WASHINGTON OFFICE. THIS ORCXX ORDER DOES NOT APPLY TO NEWS RELEASES FOR RELOCATION CENTER NEWSX PAPERS, OR TO UNTITLED MIMEORXXX MIMEOGRAPHED NEWS LETTERS TO THE RELOCATION CENTERS, OR TO BULLETINS IN THE FACTS ABOUT MXX AMERICA SERIES DESCRIBING CITIES IN YOUR AREA" /SIGNED/ D. S. MYER, DIRECTOR.

THE SUPENSINGXX SUPENSION OF THE NEWSPAPERS, ISSUED BY THE FIELD RELOCATION OFFICES, MUST BXX NOT BE INTERPETEEXXX INTERPRETED TO MEAN THAT THE IMPORTANCE OF GETTING INFORMATION FROM THE FIELD TO THE PRO,-JECTS TO STINULATE RELOCATIO N HAS BEEN REDUCED OR MODIFIED. THE PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBILITY OF THE RELOCATIO N REPORTS OFFICERS IS TXX STILL TOGETHER INFORMATION OXX FO R THE CENTERS .

THE SUSPENSION OF THE NEWSPAPERS MEANS THAT OTHER WAYS MUST BE DEVELKXX SXX DEVELOPED TO RXX BRING INFORAXX INFRXX INFORMATION TO THE ATTENTION O F THE EVACUEES. THE BEST POSSIBLE MEANS BE MADE OF PRESS

RELEASES FOR TH E PROJECT NEWSPAPERS . IT SHOULD BE BORNED IN MIND, OF COURSE, THAT MOST OF THE PROJECT NEWSPAPERS ARE LIMITED IN SIZE, AND CONSEQUENTLY ALL STORIES WRITTEN FOR HEXX THEM SHOULD BE MADE AS CONCISE AND MEANINGFUL ASSXXX AS POSSIBLE. PARTICULAR EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE TO SLANT THEM FOR SPECIFIC PROJECT NEWSPAPERS, BY DEVELOPING STORIES AROUND EVACUEES WHO HAVE SUCCDXX SUCCESSFULLY RELOCATED BXX FROM THE PROFXX PROJECTS WHERE THE PAPRXX PAPERS ARE PUBLISHED.

SPECIAL NEWS LETTERS, MIMEOGRAPHED, WTXX WITHOUT TITLES TO INDICATE THAT THEY ARE ISUED PERIODICALLY ARE AUTHORIZED AMXX AND MAY BE USED TO GOOD ADVANTAGE TO PRESENT RELOCATION OPPORTUNITIES IN THE VARIOUS AREAS. THESE NEWS LETTERS MAY DEAL WITH MANY SUBJECTS ON WHICH EVACUEES SEEK INFORAXX INFORMATION BEFORE COMPLETING THEIR PLANS FOR RELOCATION.

IMMEDIATE ATTENTION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE PREPARTAXX PREPARATION OF INFORMATIONAL BULLETINS ON SPECIFIC COMMUNITIES, OR AREAS, WHERE RELOCATION OPOXX OPPORTUNITIES ARE FAVORABLE. THESE BULLETINS WILL BE INCORPORATED IN THE "FACTS ABOUT AMERICA" SERIES, AND THE SHOULD BE PATTERNED GENERALLY AFTER THE BULEXX BULLETIN ON WAHXX WASHINGTON, D. C., WHICH HAS BXX JUST BEEN ISSUED.

THERE IS AN URGENDXXX URGENT NEED FOR MORE PICTURES SHOWING EVACUEES WHO HAVE SUCCESSFULLY RELOCATED . THE RELOCATION REPORTS OFFICERS ARE REQUESTED TO OBTAIN SUCH PICTURES WHEREVER SUITABLE SUBJECTS AND COMPETENT PHOTOGRAPHERS CAN BE FOUND.

D S MYER WRA WA
MP 1023A
CORR IN THE 18TH LINE SECOND SENTENCE SHD BE THE BEST POSSIBLE USES MUST BE MADE RPT USES MUST
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defense answer

US

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

In reply, please refer to:

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, OFFICE
WHITCOMB HOTEL BUILDING

February 12, 1944

You will recall that in answer to a previous request from you we sent you information regarding the policies and program of the War Relocation Authority. Additional information is now available and we are pleased to send it to you herewith.

If you need additional copies to send to other interested persons please advise.

Very truly yours,

Philip J. Webster
Assistant Field Director

FACTS CONCERNING JAPANESE AMERICANS IN U. S. ARMY

Secretary of War Stimson at his press conference on January 20, pointed out particularly the casualties of the 100th Infantry Ballalion, composed of Americans of Japanese ancestry. He said their losses to date have been 96 killed, 221 wounded and 17 missing.

A battalion ordinarily numbers slightly more than 1,000 men, so the Japanese-American battalion probably suffered casualties to about one-third of its men.

Among the casualties recently flown from an east coast port to Memphis, Tennessee General Hospital, according to a United Press release of January 17, was Pfc. Yoshinoa Omiya, of Honolulu. He is a Japanese-American who fought bravely until both eyes were blown out by a land mine.

The Secretary of War praised the courage and daring of Nisei troops, paying special tribute to their skillful work in scouting and patrolling.

Further recognition of Japanese-American fighting men was recently given by the War Department in the awarding of decorations to two Nisei soldiers. Staff Sgt. Ben Kuroki of the Army Air Forces has receive the Distinguished Flying Cross with one oak leaf cluster as well as the Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters. Sgt. Kazuo Komoto was decorated with the Order of the Purple Heart.

Sgt. Kuroki received the Flying Cross and oak leaf cluster for his performance as a turret gunner on one of the Liberator bombers which raided the Ploesti oil fields in Rumania. He was previously given the Air Medal for participating in 100 hours of operational flight against the enemy in the Middle East Theater. The three oak leaf clusters were added after he had taken part in bomber combat missions over enemy-occupied Europe.

Sgt. Komoto saw action at both Guadalcanal and on New Georgia Island in the Southwest Pacific. He was wounded by an enemy sniper who opened fire on his detachment with a concealed machine gun. Now convalescing at a military hospital in California, he recently visited his parents at Gila River.

The position held by the Japanese American 100th Infantry unit on the road to Rome was "perhaps the most advanced of the Fifth Army forces" on October 25, 1943, John Lardner, special correspondent in Italy for North American Newspaper Alliance reported in a delayed wireless dispatch dated October 25, 1943, and published in U. S. newspapers on October 27.

WAC headquarters in Washington have informed WRA that seven Nisei girls were inducted in the Women's Army Corps during the past several weeks.

According to an official bulletin of the War Relocation Authority, there are more than 9,000 young men of Japanese ancestry--roughly half of them volunteers--serving in the United States Army.

L. A. Times
By Lee Shippey

January 6, 1944

LEESIDE

Remington Stone was sent to Hawaii 21 months ago to spend two weeks assisting the chiefs of the U. S. Engineers in straightening out bottlenecks. After Pearl Harbor defense construction increased about 1000 per cent out there and for a while there were more bottlenecks than bottles. There is practically no lumber in Hawaii, no cement and very little rock suitable for construction, so shipments had to be enormous and there was plenty to untangle. But Stone says Gen. Hans Dramer, once professor military tactics at Cal. Tech. and now chief engineer of the Central Pacific Area, and Col. B. R. Wimer, deputy chief engineer, have done such a wonderful job that now the most fervent wish of Hawaii is that the Japs will try it again. An interesting fact, he says, is that Hawaii-born Japanese have done as much as 90 per cent of that construction work in some cases and a very large part of the carpentering and mechanical work in practically all cases, and the F.B.I., the Army and the Navy have all appalauded them. They think they had all the disloyal Japs spotted before Pearl Harbor and rounded them up as soon as hostilities began. Those who have not been segregated are doing a thoroughly efficient job for the United States.

"Nowhere in America did labor perform more effectively than in the islands," Stone says, "despite the large proportion of workers of Japanese ancestry. For months there were no such things as working hours--we all started early and worked late. No strikes, no delays. Anouther interesting fact is that many of our soldiers are marrying Hawaii-born Japanese girls."

After his two-week hitch had extended to 20 months Stone was sent home because there are too many flowers there, all the year round. He is asthmatic and some of the flowers made him ill.

PORTION OF ADDRESS BY ATTORNEY GENERAL FRANCIS BIDDLE BEFORE THE WEST VIRGINIA BAR ASSOCIATION, OCTOBER 9, 1943

One of the most difficult and delicate problems presented by the war is that presented by the situation of American citizens of Japanese descent. Over 100,000 persons have been evacuted by the military authorities from the West Coast to relocation centers established by the War Relocation Authority. Roughly two-thirds of these people are American citizens by reason of their birth within the United States. The remaining one-third are aliens not considered sufficiently dangerous to be interned as enemy aliens under the procedure established for that purpose.

I suppose that no group in the history of the country has ever been confronted with the degree of antipathy visited upon these Japanese--in terms which draw little distinction between citizens and aliens or between those who are loyal and disloyal to the United States.

The first problem confronted by the Government was to provide a sanctuary for all evacuees, citizen and alien alike, establishing so far as possible under such adverse circumstances the conditions of civilized life. Once this was accomplished, the problem was to distinguish so far as practicable between the loyal and the disloyal, segregrating the disloyal in separate centers. This program has been under development for a long time and is now well under way. Finally, the problem is to assist the loyal Japanese, and especially those of United States citizenship, to accommodate themselves to the exceptional sacrifice exacted by conditions of war and to help them to re-establish themselves outside the centers in places where they may gain understanding and sympathetic acceptance.

Theoretically persons at relocation centers are not interned; subject to prescribed regulations, loyal citizens and law-abiding aliens may apply for temporary or indefinite leave. The theory of the relocation program is that it is designed to assist rather than to restrict re-establishment in normal life. So far as Japanese citizens of the United States are concerned, this theoretical basis of the program is probably essential to sustain its validity. Detention of citizens on the sole ground of their race for a longer period than is necessary to separate the loyal from the disloyal and to facilitate re-settlement in new communities is difficult to reconcile with the constitutional rights of citizens. The War Relocation Authority strongly pressed as it is to intern all persons of Japanese descent for the duration of the war, has no such power under the President's Executive Order, under which the Authority was set up. There are, moreover, strong indications in the decision of the Supreme Court in the Hirabayashi case that no such authority could constitutionally be conferred. The only question decided by the Court, as the opinion of the Chief Justice makes clear, was the validity of the curfew orders applied by the military authorities prior to the evacuation of all Japanese on the West Coast. The Court did not consider the validity of the evacuation orders and certainly not the more difficult problem of detention. But even the curfew order was said by Mr. Justice Murphy in his concurring opinion to go "to the very brink of constitutional power." And Mr. Justice Douglas, speaking in passing of the problem of detention, was carful to observe: "Detention for reasonable cause is one thing. Detention on account of ancestry is another."

Press Release

WRA No. 23

Denver, Colo.

Feb. 16, 1944

Private Iris A. Watanabe, first nisei evacuee to be inducted into the WACS, expressed the hope that more nisei girls in relocation centers would enlist in the armed forces and give themselves a chance to lead "a normal, happy life once again in American society."

Miss Watanabe, who recently was transferred to Fort Devens, Mass., after completing her basic training at Fort Des Moines, Ia., declared in a letter to Harry F. Tarvin, Relocation Reports Officer at Denver, that evacuees "by caging themselves in these relocation centers . . . . don't give themselves a chance to succeed in life, just because of one rather unhappy and bitter experience."

"I wonder," she went on, "if it might be a good idea to make another attempt at recruiting Japanese-American girls into the WACS. Now that some of us are in, and just loving it, it might take effect a wee bit."

Miss Watanabe, a former resident of the Granada, Colo., relocation center, said she liked Fort Devens much better "than when I first came. It's beautiful here in the New England states, just as

people describe it."

"You ask me," she added, "if I still like the army; how I'm getting along, etc. The way I feel now, I never want to be out of it!! I don't think I need to say another word."

She declared that Japanese-Americans in the United States armed forces have "had success all along, in this respect, that we have proven to the American people that people of Japanese ancestry are or can be loyal if given the chance to prove it. We must have made the impression, judging by the swell treatment we've been getting."

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
Washington, D. C.

The following is the text of a speech given by Representative O. K. Armstrong, in the Missouri House of Representatives, March 30, 1944, opposing amendment that would have barred a doctor of Japanese descent from practising in the State Tubercular Sanatorium.

Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House:

I rise to oppose this amendment. It would bar an American doctor of Japanese descent from employment in our State Tubercular Sanatorium. Why does the author of this amendment seek to do this? He admits that Doctor Fujikawa was born in the United States. He does not accuse him of disloyalty. But, he says, surely we need not employ a Jap. He expresses his hatred for this race..

This raises a question far beyond the simple matter of whom our state shall employ in its institutions. The question is whether we shall discriminate against a man because of his race, or whether we shall lift our voices here and now to defeat this glaring evidence of racial intolerance.

It is true that this doctor was born of Japanese parents in California. But he has an honorable record. He entered a great and noble profession, that of physician. I hold in my hand a letter from the president of our Eleemosynary Board, showing that he was thoroughly investigated by the F.B.I., and found to be intensely loyal to his native country, the United States. He volunteered to serve our institution rather than remain in comparative idleness in the Relocation Center. He was badly needed at the Sanatorium. Had he not come, one hundred fifty tubercular patients might have been sent home, and some of them would have died for lack of proper attention.

Mr. Speaker, this amendment would stop Dr. Fujikawa from administering his healing arts -- merely because he is descendant from Oriental parents. The sponsor says we must be on guard against the Japs. Yet while we debate this question, Japanese-American soldiers are on guard for us -- batallions of them fighting bravely with our troops in Italy!

Of course we have a determined enemy to fight. As father of a boy in the service, I know, as you members all know, how serious is the task of winning this war. But should we show hatred for our fellow citizens because of their racial descent? No, Mr. Speaker, it would not be worthy of those who fight for liberty and justice. Hatred should have no part in our task.

During the last war, some things happened which we veterans of that war are ashamed of. We hoped they would never happen again. Right here in Missouri, some houses were painted with streaks of yellow by cowards in the night -- because the families had German names and it seemed popular to hate all things German. Yet those families may have been as loyal as you and I.

If we prevent a man from pursuing his honorable profession because his ancestors were Oriental, we would be starting something we could not stop. We would be fanning coals of racial prejudice that might burst into

raging flames. Already we are distressed by outcroppings of interracial friction. Already we hear it said "When this war is over, we'll put the negro back in his place."

Where, Mr. Speaker, is the Negro's place? In this land of freedom, his place is at whatever level he proves himself worthy to stand. We have a Negro member of this House from St. Louis. Mr. Konswil has served quietly and without offense to anyone. He has been an industrious member of the committee of which I have the honor to be chairman. I now say publicly that I have said many times in private conversation, that this man has served ably and well not only the people of his race, but all the people of Missouri. I say to you that there is room in this great state for law-abiding citizens of both the white and colored races, and we should cooperate to banish interracial discord.

Already we hear in this country mutterings and threats against the Jews. We are told that they must be made to suffer after this war. Would barbarous methods, borrowed from tyrants who have plunged this world into strife, solve any of the problems which concern members of this race, in this nation or beyond its borders? Would we advance the causes for which our boys are fighting and dying, by anti-Semitic demonstrations? And what about the Italians? We are at war with their mother country. Should we discriminate against families of Italian descent? Many of them are respected citizens of our state.

Mr. Speaker, this illustrates how easily the passions of war arouse interracial hatred and ill will. Let us guard against them. Let us not punish the innocent victims of war for the crimes of those who are the enemies of freedom. Dr. Fujikawa is not responsible for our war with Japan. For that matter the people of the Japanese Empire had no voice in their destiny, no control over the mad warlords who launched the attack at Pearl Harbor. Let us realize that the common man is the victim of war everywhere. As our forces fight for freedom, let us resolve that victory must bring freedom not only to those who fight with us, but to the people of Germany, of Italy, of Japan, and wherever else tyranny tramples upon the rights of mankind.

Mr. Speaker, there can be no world peace unless it be founded upon the principles of justice, mercy, and understanding among all peoples. Let us then deny the implication that white Americans are the super-race. Grateful as I am for my heritage, I cannot take credit for being born a white man. That was God's will. And if I were a Japanese, or the son of any other race and could be born in this land of liberty, I would thank God that I am an American citizen.

Let us lift our voices against any moves toward discrimination because of color or creed. If interracial bigotry and intolerance raise their ugly heads and lift their reeking banners in other lands, or even in other states of this Union, let Missouri remain forever a refuge for tolerance a haven of good will toward men.

Press Release

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
226 W. Jackson
Chicago

News Release CA-69
June 5, 1944

FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT:

Chicago, Ill. -- (Special) -- The more than 4,000 resettlers in Chicago and its surrounding counties have so favorably influenced these communities that reorganization within the Chicago District office itself has been necessary to meet the increased demand from employers. G. Raymond Booth has been named manager of the office. Mr. Booth has been in charge of the Cincinnati, Ohio, office since it was established early last year.

Vernon R. Kennedy, North Central Area Supervisor, emphasized in announcing the appointment of Mr. Booth that W. W. Lessing, who has been acting district manager during the past two months, will now be able to devote his entire time to supervising all employment functions in the Chicago District office, both contacting employers and referring resettlers to jobs. He will, however, be relieved of the administrative detail and the responsibility for community adjustment and housing. Rapidly expanding employment possibilities in the suburban and rural areas surrounding Chicago will receive most of Mr. Lessing's attention. He will spend most of his time developing farm opportunities in this rich truck farming area and will supervise all other members of the Chicago staff directly concerned with employment.

John K. Brenton will continue in immediate charge of housing and community adjustment factors in the Chicago District under Mr. Booth's general direction.

Mr. Booth has many friends in the relocation centers as a result of his work with the Friends Service Committee on the West Coast

(more)

during and after evacuation and as a result of his successful resettlement work in Cincinnati. Prior to joining the WRA staff, he was for three years executive secretary of the Friends Service Committee, West Coast branch. He was also formerly executive secretary of the Canadian Committee on European Refugees, where his work consisted of the resettlement of persons fleeing from Nazi persecution.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
US WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
Washington, D. C.

September 26, 1944

To: Project Reports Officers
Relocation Area Supervisors
San Francisco
Property Offices

Enclosed is the second of a series of six-day collections of the new "Daily News Digest," which is temporarily replacing the familiar "Weekly Press Review".

This method of furnishing you with an indication of the way the press handles news affecting WRA was designed to speed up receipt in the field. You will receive a limited number of copies. If your organization requires a wider distribution, it is hoped that you will find it possible to handle your own reproduction job. It has been suggested that in connection with the reproduction of the Washington "Daily News Digest" you may find it desirable to add a digest of that part of your local news which you feel necessary to keep your organization up to date.

The "Daily News Digest" is looked upon as a temporary expedient which will probably give way to speedier handling following the October 2 Reports Division conference in Denver. This future handling, however, will doubtless involve necessary reproduction in the field.

We will appreciate your general comments and suggestions on the preparation and transmittal of this material.

M. M. Tozier
Chief, Reports Division

Relocation Area Supervisors:

Please note that the District Offices are not receiving this digest.

OM-1534

Nisei farm lead. . . .

News Release

Columbus Star

A few miles west of Milford Center, O., on the fat black soil of the Darby Creek bottom land, two American families are working out the solution of a social adjustment problem with a degree of success that vindicates the democratic spirit of fair play which has made the United States the greatest of nations.

One of these families is headed by Cone Howard, scion of a pioneer family, a man whose forefathers first settled and developed the thousand acres of land he now is working. The other is the family of Mickey Furuta, a Nisei, born of immigrant Japanese parents into American citizenship.

When the war came it brought problems to both the Howards and the Furutas. Mr. and Mrs. Howard and their three small children found themselves faced with the task of operating their vast acreage but with most of the able hands once available for farm work either employed in war industry or in the service.

The Furuta family, Mickey and Amy, newly married were compelled by national security measures to quickly liquidate their leased vegetable farm in California and to take their innocent place among others of Japanese lineage in relocation centers. Like many others they awaited the opportunity to prove their loyalty to the United States by removing to parts of the country where the Japanese population was less concentrated and the chance for fruitful work would be greater.

Mickey Furuta is a graduate of the University of California. He studied to prepare himself for industrial personnel work but the opportunity of making a living in California was greater in truck farming so he engaged in that soon after he left college.

His wife Amy was still attending Mills College in Oakland when war struck and she completed work toward her degree in sociology, studying in the relocation center. She was awarded her degree while in residence in the relocation center. The Furutas' 18-month-old son, Wilmer, also was born in the relocation center.

When it was suggested to Mr. Howard by Dr. Carl L. Spicer, director of the Columbus office of the War Relocation Authority that Japanese help might solve his manpower problem he readily agreed to the plan. Like other Nisei, both Mickey and Amy were citizens of the United States, their loyalty was unimpeachable and their industry proven by their pre-war solvency.

Amy Furuta has a brother who is an officer in military intelligence. Mickey has a brother awaiting induction (if he has not all ready been inducted) in the Air Forces.

But what was even a greater recommendation for them, the Furutas took a rational view of their plight. They felt no resentment against their government for the condition into which they had been thrust by the war. They wanted to work; to prove their willingness to take their places with loyal Americans who were doing their utmost to further the war effort. The thing they knew best to do was to grow food. So the invitation to work on the Cone Howard farm was readily accepted and they moved to Ohio last March.

Their life on the Howard farm has been happy.

Following the suggestion of the Furutas, Howard contracted to grow tomatoes for a cannery this year. Heretofore he has engaged almost entirely in generl farming and horse breeding.

Howard and Furuta, working together, have produced nearly a hundred tons of tomatoes on two acres of land which was unfit for growing grain and had lain fallow for years. A similarly encouraging planting of potatoes

occupies a nearby area.

Amy Furuta is raising several hundred head of turkeys for the Thanksgiving market and every indication points to an interesting profit for Mr. Howard on her project.

Earlier in the Spring it looked like the turkey venture was doomed to go the way of much turkey raising in these parts. The young birds suddenly developed a malady that affected them much as rickets affects children. All might have been lost if Mickey had not known what to do. He had read everything the United States Department of Agriculture could send him on turkey culture and he recognized the ailment among the birds as a diet deficiency symptom. The turkey feed was lacking in an essential mineral salt. He added the missing substance and the birds returned magically to health. He lost a very few poults out of the flock.

An atmosphere of friendly cooperation has existed between Mr. and Mrs. Howard and the three children and Mr. and Mrs. Furuta and little Wilmer. All have been determined to make a "go"of things in the American way and the result at the end of the year may well be exptected to prove that Americans, of whatever race or color, determined to work together can achieve wonders. It works out that way on Cone Howard's 1000 acres at Milford Center, O.

War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
Washington 25, D. C.

August 15, 1944
RO: Wash.-3

FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT

NISEI GIRLS SHARE TWO HOUSES IN NATION'S CAPITAL
WITH CAUCASIAN HOUSEMOTHERS

Washington, D.C., Aug. 15--Fifteen Nisei girls who came from four relocation centers in recent months to take jobs in the Nation's capital are now living here in two groups in houses which they run cooperatively with the aid of Caucasian housemothers. Among the girls are four pairs of sisters. Two pairs live in each house.

Nine girls from Minidoka, Central Utah, Granada, and Jerome live in one of the houses together with a non-evacuee Nisei and two housemothers who formerly lived in Texas. One of the housemothers, now connected with the Office of Strategic Services, was for ten years a missionary to Japan. The second cooperative residence is shared by six girls from Jerome and Granada. Their housemother, now a medical secretary at a Washington hospital, was also a missionary to Japan for nine years.

The larger of the groups includes the following resettlers:

Granada: The Ohama sisters Margaret and Viola, formerly of Los Angeles. Margaret is a typist-clerk with the Community War Fund, and Viola is employed by the OPA.

Jerome: The Izumi sisters Miyo and Sada, from Tulare, Calif. Miyo is a secretary with the National League of Wholesale Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Distributors; Sada is a typist with the United News Corp.

Minidoka: Sally Sunada, from Renton, Wash., formerly employed in the WRA relocation office in Salt Lake City and now in the WRA relocation division headquarters; Mae Ishihara, from Little Rock, Wash., a secretary in WRA's property division; Emi Kamachi, ex-Seattleite, now employed as a fiscal accounting clerk-stenographer in the Office of Education.

Central Utah: Mary Kawata, from Hayward, Calif., a stenographer in the WRA engineers' office; Tomi Iijima, from Redwood City, Calif., a stenographer in WRA's relocation planning division.

The non-evacuee who also shares their house is Mae Matsumoto, formerly of Middleton, Idaho, and now employed by the U. S. Employment Service.

According to one of their housemothers, Miss Hettie Lee Ewing, former missionary to Japan, the house which she has shared for four months with the Niseis has been "a pleasant home to which every girl returns in the evening with a sense of pride and comfort. We were more than lucky last February when we set out to find a suitable place to live. There is no community more attractive or more congenial than the one in which we found our spacious, home-like house. We share the shopping, and everyone does her part to make our big house run smoothly. "Each of us is doing her part in an essential wartime job and buying bonds."

(over)

191-6

The six other Nisei girls have been sharing their two-story house since last December with their housemother, Miss Claire Kennedy, who learned to speak Japanese fluently during nine years' residence in Japan as a missionary. Three of the girls are from Jerome. All former residents of Fresno, Calif., they are Hiro Kamikawa, employed at the Department of Interior; and the Nagai sisters Kiyo and Sue. Kiyo is employed by WRA's personnel section and Sue is a seamstress in a fashionable women's dress shop in Washington.

The other three girls are from Granada. They are Kay and Mary Fujikawa, sisters from Los Angeles, who are employed respectively by the solicitor's office of WRA and the War Manpower Commission; and Jaine Oi, also from Los Angeles, now a secretary in WRA's relocation division.

A number of newly arrived resettlers have been guests at the house shared by this group, known to their friends as "the Kennedy family." Every month each girl pays a stipulated sum into a "kitty" which is used to buy groceries and to pay the rent and utility bills. Every week two girls are assigned to do the week's dishwashing, and one each to do the cooking and housecleaning. This schedule leaves three girls free each week to take care of their own personal needs such as washing and ironing. After dinner together, the girls get much fun out of a piano which they recently purchased by "chipping in." Especially during the summer they spend many leisure moments on the front and back porches of their house.

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War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
Washington 25, D. C.

August 30, 1944
RO: Wash.-3

FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT

FAMILY OF 13 RESETTLERS HOLDS REUNION
NEAR NATION'S CAPITAL

Washington, D.C., August 30--For the first time in a year the entire Kobayashi family of thirteen members who formerly lived at the Colorado River Relocation Center was gathered together in a family reunion which took place near here on a recent week-end.

The family assembled at a poultry farm at nearby Olney, Md., where Mr. and Mrs. Sachiro Kobayashi, formerly of Santa Anna, Calif., are now living with their son Bill, his wife, the former Betty Kikuchi, and their 11-year-old son Bill, Jr. Both Mr. Kobayashi Sr. and Bill are employed on the farm.

Other members of the family at the reunion included another son Fred, who left his instructorship in physical education at the University of Maryland two months ago to take basic training for Army Intelligence, and his wife, the former Barbara Mitsui. Fred has been stationed at Ft. McClellan, Ala., and stopped to visit his parents before going to Camp Savage. His wife, who was also employed at the University as a secretary in the Department of Home Economics, will accompany him to Minnesota.

Also present at the get-together were Iwao Ishino, who is employed by the Office of War Information, and his bride of two months, the former Mary Kobayashi, who is completing a secretarial course in Washington; Roy Kobayashi and his wife, the former Jean Endow, who had come from Toledo, Ohio, where Roy is employed in the stenciling department of a large company; Jimmie Kobayashi, who was about to be inducted into the Army after working for four months as a mechanic's helper in a Washington garage; and Joe Kobayashi, who is employed at a cooperative store in Washington.

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121-11

War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
Washington 25, D. C.

September 4, 1944
RO: Wash.- 4

FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT

WOUNDED HAWAIIAN NISEI AND BROTHER FROM HEART MOUNTAIN
ARE REUNITED IN NATION'S CAPITAL

Washington, D.C., Sept. 4--Two young Niseis from Hawaii who last saw each other there twelve years ago were recently reunited in the Nation's capital when Pvt. Kenneth Otagaki, who was seriously wounded in Italy, was brought to Walter Reed Hospital at his own request so that he might be near his brother Richard, formerly of the Heart Mountain Relocation Center. Richard has been studying dentistry since last October at Howard University in this city. The only other living member of the Otagaki family is their mother, who is in Hawaii.

A recent issue of the Washington Times-Herald carried an interview with Pvt. Otagaki and a photograph of him and a nurse at Walter Reed Hospital. Despite his serious injuries, Pvt. Otagaki is shown smiling as the nurse delivers mail to him. He was blinded in one eye and lost his right leg and two fingers on his right hand when a mortar shell fell near him and a group of eight other Nisei soldiers with whom he had volunteered to search for wounded men. Pvt. Otagaki was awarded the Purple Heart on January 23.

"For Kenneth, the shell ended his career as a soldier," the newspaper story said. "He'll never fight again -- but he'll get himself an artificial leg and go back to the ranch on Molokai where he worked before he volunteered for the Army. There's no bitterness in him. He smiles easily -- and often. He's proud of the job he's done, of the job his Hawaiian-born colleagues still are doing. He's proud to be an American."

After receiving the degree of bachelor of science in animal husbandry from the University of Hawaii in 1940, Kenneth, who is 21, managed a farm on the island of Molokai until he entered the Army. With 1,400 other Nisei soldiers he was sent to the mainland and trained as an infantryman in Wisconsin and Mississippi. He went overseas from Camp Shelby with the 100th Infantry Battalion. Kenneth hopes to be able to return to Hawaii early next year.

His brother Richard left Hawaii in 1936 to attend the University of Southern California. When his studies were interrupted by the evacuation order, he went first to the Pomona Assembly Center and later to Heart Mountain, where he worked in the dental clinic.

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21-12

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
BARR BUILDING
Washington 25, D. C.

8942

FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT

September 19, 1944
RO: Wash. - 5

Del Brown

NISEI SOLDIERS ENTERTAIN WASHINGTON GIRLS

Washington, D.C., Sept. 19--Nisei soldiers from nearby camps were hosts to more than 100 girls on a recent Sunday, at a well-planned and enjoyable picnic in the famous Rock Creek Park in the Nation's capital. The guests were very surprised to see such delicacies as chicken maze-gohan (which included even gobo, takenoko, water chestnuts, and beni-shoga), tamago-yaki, pork and beef teriyaki, and omusubi.

In the afternoon entertainment was provided by the soldiers, who were mostly from Hawaii. Several novelties were presented, such as hula dances and war chants. The boys and girls thoroughly enjoyed every minute of the day, indulging in everything from baseball to folk-dancing on the grass.

The food was prepared in the homes of three Issei families who have lived in Washington for many years and who are going much out of their way these days to make Washington as much like home as possible for resettlers.

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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
Barr Building
Washington 25, D. C.

FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT

December 9, 1944
RO: Wash. - 6

NEW HOSTEL IN NATION'S CAPITAL EXTENDS CORDIAL WELCOME
TO ISSEI RESETTLERS AND FAMILY GROUPS

Washington, D.C., Dec. 9-- Family groups and Issei residents of relocation centers who are going East to resettle in Washington, D.C., or vicinity are especially invited to be guests at the recently opened hostel in the Nation's capital, according to Mr. and Mrs. Parker Barrett, newly appointed directors of the hostel.

Conveniently located at 2311 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., only seven blocks from the White House, the hostel is sponsored and financed principally by the Washington Committee for Americans of Japanese Ancestry, Inc. Members of the committee include prominent business men, educators, government officials, writers, ministers and other religious workers, trade union officials, and other community leaders. Allen J. White, executive secretary of the Washington Friends Meeting and teacher at Sidwell Friends School, is chairman of the hostel sub-committee.

"Our primary concern is to make the Washington hostel a comfortable and friendly temporary residence for newly arrived resettlers, particularly Issei and family groups," Mr. Barrett said. "We also hope that the hostel will be freely used as a social and informational center by members of the local community of Americans of Japanese ancestry and by visiting Nisei servicemen, who are also welcome as overnight guests."

The hostel is an attractive, remodeled 3-story residence facing on tree-shaded Washington Circle. The quarters, which have been completely redecorated, have a capacity of 12 guests. The hostel is within walking distance of many government buildings, the Lincoln Memorial, the Medical Center, and historic Georgetown. From the Union Station newcomers can reach the hostel by direct street car in 20 minutes for a 10-cent fare, or by taxi in 10 minutes for a 50-cent fare.

Hostel guests have already included a number of newly arrived resettlers and several Nisei soldiers on furlough. A recent get-together in the hostel's social room was attended by some 30 persons, most of them Issei, who heard Pfc. Thomas Higa, wounded veteran of the 100th Infantry Battalion, give one of a series of talks sponsored by the Japanese American Citizens League.

Local residents of Japanese ancestry have already given approximately $500 to the hostel through individual contributions. A number of resettled Nisei assisted in renovating the hostel. It has been pleasantly furnished largely through gifts of household goods and other articles donated by individuals and groups.

Mr. and Mrs. Barrett have volunteered their services as directors of the hostel because of their interest in aiding in the resettlement program. Mr. Barrett is a native of Walla Walla, Wash., and Mrs. Barrett is an Iowan. They are both Phi Beta Kappa college graduates. Mr. Barrett received the degrees of bachelor of science and master of arts from Whitman College at Walla Walla. Mrs. Barrett was educated at Grinnell College and the University of Iowa, where she was made a bachelor of arts.

(more)

142-2

For 41 years Mr. Barrett was in the shoe business at Walla Walla, and for some time his wife was a high school teacher there as well as at Beloit, Kans. Mr. Barrett is an overseer of Whitman College and formerly was a director of the College of Puget Sound, Tacoma, Wash. He has also been president of the Walla Walla Chamber of Commerce, a director of the Union Bank and Trust Company of Walla Walla, and a member of the Rotary Club there. For 16 years he was superintendent of the church school at the Pioneer Methodist Church at Walla Walla.

Daily rates for lodging and meals at the Washington hostel are: $1.25 for unemployed and $1.75 for employed adults; 50 cents for children under 10 years of age; 75 cents for children over 10. Reservations should be made through the hostel correspondent at each center.

About 275 resettlers, including more than 30 family groups, have already resettled in and around Washington, D.C. The local relocation office, which is in charge of Emery Fast, is located at 1006 U St., N.W., Washington, D.C.

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Powell Brown

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
Room 5516, 350 Fifth Avenue
New York 1, New York

16453

FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT

December 21, 1944
RO: NY - 17

LEGION POST IN NEW YORK CITY OFFERS MEMBERSHIP TO 16 NISEI SOLDIERS DROPPED FROM HONOR ROLL BY LEGION POST IN OREGON

New York, Dec. 21--Under the heading "Legion Honors U.S. Japanese," the New York Herald Tribune for December 13 reported that the American Legion's Captain Belvidere Brooks Post No. 450 in New York City had unanimously voted to invite into its membership after the war the 16 Nisei soldiers whose names were recently erased from a war memorial in Hood River, Ore., by the Legion post there.

Following is the text of the resolution passed by the New York City post:

"Whereas: The names of sixteen Americans of Japanese ancestry now serving in the Armed Forces of the United States are reported to have been erased from a county war memorial in Hood River, Oregon and

"Whereas: A mutual respect between the various groups composing the great body of American citizenry, whatever their antecedents, is essential to a national solidarity and of especial importance in time of war, therefore be it

"Resolved: That Captain Belvidere Brooks Post #450, American Legion, Department of New York, congratulates these sixteen men of Japanese Ancestry upon their American Citizenship and their service under the flag of The United States of America, and be it further

"Resolved: That a cordial invitation to make application for membership in the Captain Belvidere Brooks Post #450 is hereby extended to those whose names may have been erased from the said county war memorial, contingent only upon their honorable discharge from the various branches of the armed forces in which they have served God and Country."

The resolution was offered by Lambert Fairchild, chaplain of the Captain Belvidere Brooks Post No. 450, and unanimously adopted on December 11 at a regular meeting at its headquarters, 2642 Broadway.

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172-5

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
Barr Building
Washington 25, D. C.

May 15, 1945
RO: Wash. - 8

FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT

ISSEI PASTOR RETURNS TO JAPANESE METHODIST CHURCH IN SEATTLE

Washington, D. C. - The Rev. and Mrs. Thomas Jonathan Machida and their two children, Calvin Teruo, 18, and Joyce Ayako, 4, who came here from the Minidoka Relocation Center, will return late in May to their former home in Seattle, Wash., where Rev. Machida will resume his duties as pastor of the Japanese Methodist Church, 1236 Washington Street, at the request of Bishop James C. Baker.

Rev. Machida was pastor of the Seattle church from 1940 until May 11, 1942, when he and his family were evacuated to the Puyallup Assembly Center. On their return to Seattle, the Machida family expects to live in the parsonage at 1311 East Spruce Street. Calvin Machida, who has been attending Easton High School here, will enroll in the School of Pharmacy at the University of Washington in Seattle if he is not in the meanwhile inducted into the Army.

Rev. Machida has been employed in this city since July 1944 as a translator in the WRA Reports Division headquarters. He has also served as an assistant preacher at the Douglas Memorial Methodist Church.

"Our Caucasian friends will welcome us to Seattle and open the Japanese Methodist Church for the returnees," Rev. Machida said. "I believe the pastor should return first and tell the people in the centers that there is no danger on the outside. People should relocate at their convenient time, particularly right after the schools in the centers are closed. For the sake of the children, they should leave the camps at the earliest moment. Right now the war in Europe and the Pacific is coming to an end. The people in the centers should relocate 'way before the end comes.

"With help needed in fields, factories, and all kinds of industries on account of the manpower shortage, people will have splendid opportunities to get jobs and secure themselves in the outside world. Those who feel they can, should go back to their own city and settle there. Of course, we might meet hardships and trials for the time being. However, by our good behavior and personal touch with our neighbors, the whole community will accept us without any question. We will have to be the pioneers again, to build a new community with the real ideas of the American way of life."

The Machida family arrived in Minidoka from Puyallup in August 1942. Rev. Machida continued his ministry at both centers. At Minidoka he was also a teacher in the high school and a member of the evacuee relocation staff.

Rev. Machida left Minidoka on December 26, 1943, for Washington, D.C., where he was appointed a translator for the Federal Communications Commission. He was one of the first group of three persons in this department. In July 1944 he was transferred from FCC to WRA. Mrs. Machida and their children came from Minidoka to join Rev. Machida in Washington in August 1944.

(more)

Rev. Machida was born in Japan in 1895. He is a graduate of the Yokohama Higher Commercial College and a seminary course of the Yokohama Biblical Institute. He came to the United States in 1922 to study for the ministry and attended McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, until 1925. While in San Francisco en route back to Japan, he was placed in the California Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church by Dr. H. B. Johnson, superintendent, and shortly thereafter was appointed pastor of the Japanese Methodist Episcopal Church in Fresno by Bishop Charles E. Burns. At Fresno he was ordained a deacon in 1927, and an elder in 1929. In 1930 he was appointed an elder by Bishop Baker of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Sacramento, where he served until 1934. From 1934 to 1940 he served at Oxnard, Calif. During the summer of 1936 he was leader of a group of 25 college students who toured Japan, Korea, and Manchuria under the sponsorship of the Los Angeles Church Federation.

Mrs. Machida, the former Helen Kasumi Hirata, is a native of Fresno, Calif. She and Rev. Machida were married there on March 29, 1926. Their son and daughter were born in Fresno and Oxnard, Calif., respectively.

Mrs. Machida has three brothers, all of Fresno. They are: Willis Hirata, who relocated from Gila River to Detroit, Mich., where he is now a pharmacist at Lincoln Hospital; Dr. Henry Kazato, who also relocated to Detroit from Colorado River and is now a resident physician at Lincoln Hospital; and George Hirata, who returned to the family ranch near Fresno early in February 1945 from the Hammond Ordnance Depot, Hammond, Ind. En route to Fresno, he stopped at Gila to pick up his wife and 7-year-old son, Byron.

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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
Room 505, 1006 - U St., N. W.
Washington 25, D. C.

June 21, 1945
RO: Wash. - 10

FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT

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War Relocation Authority Washington, D. C.

WEEKLY PRESS REVIEW

No. 8 Week ending March 9, 1943.

For the Use of the WRA Staff Only - Not for Publication

SUMMARY

Press interest in WRA was definitely less last week than in the immediate past. Chief source of news was the series of arrests at Tule Lake. Press items on this were in the form of short wire service dispatches on the actual events. Although these were printed here and there in newspapers throughout the country, West Coast papers were primarily interested.

Senator Chandler's first statement to the press after the commencement of his investigation tour came as something of a bombshell. He remarked that he had found 60 percent of the evacuees at an unnamed relocation center disloyal and attached in their thinking to the Emperor of Japan. This was picked up by AP. How widely it was published is not known yet as clippings from other than Washington, D. C. papers have not been received.

Several anti-Japanese resolutions were presented in Congress. Only new subject called for cessation of pottery manufacture at relocation centers. Pressure for this apparently originated with a potters' union.

Most items on employment appearing in Middle West newspapers were favorably slanted toward WRA's resettlement efforts. Editorial position of Chicago Tribune was particularly good. Public attitudes toward farm labor in the Mountain States, as revealed by the press, continued contradictory. But prominent officials seem to be trying to line up favorable farmer attitudes.

West Coast papers devoted considerably less space than in recent weeks to evacuee property matters.

Secretary Knox's statement to a Congressional committee that, despite his wishes, additional Japanese have not been evacuated from Hawaii, drew only one news story and no editorial comment.

The Attorney General of Arkansas held that recent anti-evacuee land ownership acts were unconstitutional. Only the Arkansas Democrat reported this opinion in its news columns.

Various additional Southern California citizens organizations passed anti-Japanese resolutions, chiefly on the post-war land ownership and deportation angles; some were also against student relocation and military service.

Nine papers carried editorials concerned with Japanese-American matters. All were favorable to the work of the WRA.

Student relocation of evacuees at Mason City, Iowa, Junior College was opposed by the local A. F. of L. council.

Pushing back of the Arizona exclusion area by General DeWitt's proclamation was reported only in the New York Times. By next week items from West Coast and Arizona newspapers should have been received.

ADMINISTRATIVE --

WRA's efforts to open Civil Service appointments to evacuees was mentioned by Jerry Klutz in his column "9 to 4:30", Washington News, 2/26/43.

AGRICULTURAL AND ENGINEERING --

Withdrawals of priorities for grade schools at Central Utah and Minidoka were reported in Twin Falls Times News, 2/28/43. The Salt Lake City Tribune (2/28/43) pointed out that school will continue to be held in barracks.

CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS --

Senate Investigation: In his first statement to the press since the start of his investigation tour, Senator Chandler stated that he had found 60 percent of the evacuees disloyal at one camp. According to the Senator, the disloyal Japanese stand ready to commit "almost any act for their Emperor...There is no question in my mind that thousands of these fellows were armed and prepared to help Japanese troops invade the West Coast right after Pearl Harbor, but thanks to the fine work of the FBI they were rounded up immediately." Washington Post, AP. 3/9/43.

Items from the Congressional Record: Representative Rankin asked all Members of Congress to note a resolution of the Sacramento Parlor, No. 3, Native Sons of the Golden West, protesting "the formation of a Japanese unit of the United States Army." "Extension of Remarks Section", 2/16/43.

Representative Schiffler of W. Va. introduced a resolution "directing the WRA to cease and desist" pottery manufacture. Referred to Committee on Military Affairs, 2/23/43.

Representative Mansfield of Montana inserted in the "Extension of Remarks" section a resolution of the Montana legislature asking Congress to prohibit dual citizenship. 2/23/43.

The above resolution was introduced by the Vice-President and referred to the Committee on Immigration, 2/25/43.

Daily Press Items:

Senate investigation was the subject of a signed article by Walter Trohan in the Chicago Tribune (2/22/43). According to this article, the congressional committee is examining "conflicting reports that the prisoners are being treated harshly and that they are being pampered.

Representative Henry M. Jackson's resolution for a standing congressional committee on Japan was discussed by Ray Richards in the San Francisco Examiner and Seattle Post Intelligencer (2/24/43), in the San Francisco Call Bulletin, and was the subject of a UP dispatch which appeared in the San Francisco Chronicle (2/24/43). All articles quoted Mr. Jackson on pre-Pearl Harbor Japanese espionage and fifth column activity.

EMPLOYMENT --

Opening of Milwaukee Office: Location and purpose of proposed WRA field office in Milwaukee was described in the Milwaukee Sentinel (3/2/43). Item was favorable, stressing demand by local employers for evacuee employees and loyalty and workmanship of evacuee applicants. An earlier article (2/24/43) in the same paper had pointed out that Wisconsin residents were eager to hire Japanese-American employees.

Other Middle West Employment News:

An article in the Cleveland News (2/24/43) quoted Harold Fistere to the effect that fifty job offers have already been made in the Cleveland area without government solicitation.

Community meeting at West Branch, Iowa, to discuss the proposal to use the Friends' Scattergood Hostel as a temporary relocation center was reported by the Davenport Democrat (2/25/43). According to this paper, "There was some diversity of opinion, but the general attitude was that if the government desires to establish a relocation center here the decision will be accepted and the community co-operate in the fullest measure in the project." The Des Moines Register had an article on March 2, date-lined from Washington, to the effect that a final decision in the controversy was soon to be made. This article pointed out that some of the objection to the resettlement center was actually directed at the Quaker position in the war effort.

Western Farm Labor News:

A telegram from Project Director Ernst answering Governor Carville's reservations about the danger of sabotage if evacuees were used for the tomato crop in the Maopa Valley was quoted in a UP dispatch, "...We feel you need have no worries on this score. Our concern is the protection of the evacuees." Salt Lake City Tribune, Sacramento Bee, Nevada State Journal, 2/28/43.

Speaking at an Idaho state chamber of commerce meeting, A. Clair Barrett predicted a local farm labor shortage. He said, according to the Boise Statesman (3/1/43), "To make up the difference, it is going to be necessary to use Japanese from relocation camps. For this to be successful, we must in some way educate the public to accept Japanese as citizens."

On March 1, the Standard Examiner (UP), the Salt Lake Tribune and Desert News carried Governor Maw's appeal for cooperation in obtaining Japanese evacuee labor. This appeal, directed at both prospective employers and city-bred evacuees, asked them to forget their prejudices and personal tastes and pitch in to win the war on the food front.

EVACUEE PROPERTY --

The California Bee papers carried two more items (2/16 and 26/43) on the legislative committee investigation of stored evacuee property. The earlier article left the impression that OPA officials had found numerous caches of subversive equipment, tires, and automobiles among the belongings of evacuated Japanese. The second reported the committee's plans for a series of hearings.

An organization called Farm Management, Inc., has "taken over about 650 acres" old and formerly farmed by Japanese in the Puyallup Valley. Seattle Post-Intelligencer, 2/27/43.

HAWAII --

Secretary Knox told the House Appropriations Committee that he had been pressing for the removal of certain Japanese from the Hawaiian Island of Oahua but that his proposal is not being followed "to as great an extent as I would like to see it done." Washington Times-Herald, 2/3/43.

General Delos Emmons' statement that no mass removal of Japanese from Hawaii is contemplated was reported in the Los Angeles Times (2/22/43) and the New Orleans Times-Picayune (2/23/43). Emmons was quoted as saying that while certain elements among the Japanese population are definitely a menace, ample troops are available to protect the islands. He went on to say, "My confidence in them is being justified by the enlistment applications...This indicates that the Japanese-Americans are anxious to prove their loyalty and assume a share in the war."

INDIVIDUAL EXCLUSION --

Henry Beach, a Portland mechanic, who has been required to appear twice before exclusion boards, filed suit in the United States District Court on February 13 on the grounds that he had been deprived of his rights and liberties as an American citizen. Seattle Times, 2/14/43, UP.

INDUSTRIAL --

The town council of Minerva, Ohio, at the behest of a representative of the local potters' union, passed a resolution asking Congress to prohibit pottery-making at WRA camps. Minerva News and Times (2/25/43).

INTERNAL SECURITY --

First disturbance over registration at Tule Lake and subsequent arrest of 27 men were reported by the AP in four separate dispatches and in original stories in four West Coast papers. AP said that there had been no violence; that "cause for the detentions was not immediately available" but that the FBI was working on the matter. The San Francisco Chronicle (2/23/43) termed the situation "Rebellion at Tule Lake". The San Francisco Examiner's description (2/23/43) of the incident and Coverley's statement was extremely sarcastic.

The February 22 arrest of seven additional evacuees at Tule Lake was responsible for items in the Herald and News on February 22 and 23. The progress of registration was reported in these items, which pointed out that those arrested were members of a small minority group.

All three major wire services carried items on the Tule Lake arrests of 12 evacuees implicated in the February 22 beatings. The situation was described by the AP and UP as "violence over registration" while the INS termed it merely a "disturbance". Removal of twenty-two evacuees from a local jail to "an undisclosed destination" was reported by each wire service.

Removal of 11 evacuees from Manzanar to the Independence County Jail was the subject of a UP dispatch which quoted Robert Brown, Assistant Project Director, to the effect that the arrests were an outgrowth of the December 6 incident. Fresno Bee, 2/20/43. The local Inyo Independent (2/26/43) reported the arrests and subsequent transfer to Moab.

Two youths from Poston were picked up in Los Angeles where they had fled "in a hope of serving in the war, the boy in the army and his sister in a defense plant", according to an item in the Arizona Republic, 2/26/43.

The trial of the assaulters of Saburo Kido at Colorado River was covered fully by the Yuma Daily Sun and the Arizona Sentinel (2/17/43).

LEGAL --

Deportation of all persons of Japanese blood after the war was asked of Congress by the Oregon Senate on February 24. Seattle Times, Des Moines Register, Meriden, Conn. Record, Spokesman-Review, Herald and News, AP, 2/24/43.

The Attorney General of Arkansas held on February 24 that the recent act of the Arkansas legislature prohibiting land-ownership by persons of Japanese blood was unconstitutional. He also held that the state law prohibiting intermarriage of whites and Negroes did not extend to intermarriage of other racial groups. Arkansas Democrat, 2/24/43.

Two proposed constitutional amendments affecting evacuees in Arkansas were still to be considered as the Arkansas legislature entered the final week of its 1943 session, as reported in the Little Rock Gazette, 3/1/43. The amendments are contradictory. S. J. R. No. 5 would ban discrimination between citizens of the United States in the acquisition and ownership of property, and S. J. R. No. 6 would restrict land ownership by evacuees.

MILITARY SERVICE --

The AP, on February 23, said that "1400 Japanese men of army age have registered for the draft" at Manzanar. San Francisco Chronicle Long Beach Press Telegram.

MESS --

"Food ration requirements of persons in War Relocation Centers and alien detention camps will be administered from Washington rather than through local rationing boards, the OPA announced." Little Rock Gazette, 2/28/43.

MISCELLANEOUS --

The Japanese exclusion area in Arizona has been pushed sixty miles south in accordance with a proclamation issued by General DeWitt. New York Times, 3/4/43.

UP picked up an item from the Heart Mountain Sentinel that "good luck" belts are being stitched by women for their relatives in the American army. Omaha World Herald, UP, 2/25/43.

An article in the Spokesman-Review, 2/28/43, on the Army Japanese language schools did not mention that American-born Japanese were among the instructors.

STUDENT RELOCATION --

Expressing the belief that "internees have been 'educated enough'" the American Legion District 42 in convention at Weed, California passed a resolution against the student relocation program. Sacramento Bee, 2/23/43. A similar resolution was passed by the Kingsburg American Legion Post (Fresno County, California), Fresno Bee, 2/21/43. Visalia Chamber of Commerce members "were surprised to learn that 410 American colleges

are willing to accept these Japanese students" and are expected to pass a resolution against the student placement work, according to the Visalia Times Delta, 2/22/43.

At Mason City, Iowa, the local Trades and Labor Assembly (A.F. of L.) went on record against admitting evacuee students to Mason City junior college. Mason City Globe-Gazette, 2/26/43.

REPATRIATION --

A Vichy radio broadcast that the Japanese and U. S. governments had entered into further negotiations, through the Red Cross, for an exchange of nationals, was reported by the Associated Press from London on February 27.

Permission to visit Japanese prison camps has been given to the War Prisoners Aid Committee, according to an item in the San Francisco News, 2/27/43.

PUBLIC ATTITUDES --

Feature articles:

A series of articles by Anne Swensson is appearing in the Seattle Times. First article (2/28/43) was based on an interview with Robert W. O'Brien, formerly with the Student Relocation Council. After quoting O'Brien directly, "These Nisei--American born Japanese--know that they are not winning the war by staying in relocation camps", Miss Swensson went on to describe actual case histories of outside student adjustments and to tell of the loyalty of the younger generation.

The Jerome North Side News (2/25/43) printed a condensation of the third of Mel Arnold's series of favorable articles which originally ran in the Portland Oregonian.

Miscellaneous:

A Superior Court "injunction to forestall the counting of ballots cast by Seattle Japanese in evacuation camps" because "their citizenship is in doubt" is a plank in the platform of James F. Kelly, candidate for the Seattle City Council. Seattle Times, 2/21/43.

"Condemning state legislature memorials", which advised deportation of those of Japanese ancestry and barring them from military service, "as 'unchristian, un-American, undemocratic and an insult to the intelligence of the citizens of Oregon'", the Oregon Council of Church Women drafted a formal letter of protest to the members of the state legislature. Klamath Falls Herald and News. AP, 2/27/43.

Resolutions for the transfer of WRA centers to military control and against the release of evacuees "for any purpose whatsoever" were approved by the boards of trustees of Yuba Junior College and Marysville Union High School. Sacramento Bee, 3/1/43.

Two young people of Japanese ancestry spoke at a youth rally of church people in Utica. They said that camp life was "not too good and not too bad". Hardest to bear were barbed wire fences and sentries. Speakers suggested that some effort be made by the young people at the gathering to obtain "the relocation of some of the Japanese internees to farms in this area." Utica Observer-Dispatch. 2/11/43.

An interview between Justice Raymond Kelly of Seattle and a young evacuee recently released from an Idaho center was reported in the Spokesman-Review (2/28/43). According to the newspaper story, the evacuee told Kelly that the evacuation order was proper because "There are many in the camp who should be interned." He declared that California evacuees are "tough"--"I don't wonder the people of California tried to run them out of the state."

Testifying before the California legislative committee on un-Americanism, a former electrician in Hawaii made charges against Japanese "so startling they could not be released for publication." Washington Star, 3/2/43.

Release of evacuees "only for agricultural work under strict Army supervision and only in areas outside the strategic zone" was recommended by the 23rd District of the American Legion, made up of 25 Los Angeles County Legion posts. Los Angeles Examiner, 2/26/43.

Letters to newspapers:

A letter to the Arkansas Gazette (2/17/43) from F. J. Genter of Stuttgart, Arkansas, a World War I soldier, condemned as un-Christian those who advocate harsh treatment of Japanese.

The Rev. William A. Brown of Cave Junction, Oregon, proposed a barrage of press and radio publicity as a means for obtaining favorable sentiment for evacuees' accommodation in outside communities. Arizonian, 2/23/43.

A letter from Mrs. C. R. McCormick thanks the Portland Oregonian for its sympathetic feature articles on evacuees in Idaho and proposes a similar series of articles on Negro problems.

Miller Freeman, whose views on the post-war Japanese questions were presented in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer (reviewed last week) wrote to the Christian Science Monitor on the same subject.

Editorials:

The Arkansas Gazette (2/18/43) declared that "The desirability of passing anti-Japanese legislation at this time is questionable", but deplored that certain people argued against such legislation on the grounds that it would "constitute 'an unnecessary blow to the pride of a proud race' and would therefore be 'deeply resented' by the Japanese."

The Idaho Daily Standard (2/25/43) applauded what they considered a recent change toward tolerance in America's temper toward Japanese-Americans.

The Salem, Oregon Journal criticized recent anti-Japanese actions of the Oregon State legislature and referred to the actions as "demagogic appeals to racial prejudices" and "foolish and futile resolutions."

The Minneapolis Star-Journal (2/27/43) recapitulated anit-Japanese legislation proposed since Pearl Harbor and stated: "It is dangerous and damnable business to be using the war, or to let it be used, as a pretext to strip one group of American citizens of basic civil and economic rights for the benefit of other Americans."

Malcolm Epley's column, "Today's Roundup", in the Klamath Falls Herald and News (2/22/43) considered that the Tule Lake difficulty over registration was proof that "pro-Japanese agitators are constantly at work" and should be segregated as soon as possible, which is "what the WRA is attempting."

The Hartford, Connecticut, Times (2/27/43) attacked the attempt of the Native Sons "to disfranchise 70,000 American native-born citizens whose ancestors were born in Japan" as un-American racial prejudice.

The Chicago Defender (Negro) applauded the formation of an Army unit of Japanese-Americans on the basis that it was one answer to Tojo's racial propaganda. 3/6/43.

The Chicago Tribune (2/25/43) contrasted treatment of Japanese in Hawaii and the United States, attacked evacuation from the West Coast as smelling of "lynch law or vigilantism" because it did not apply equally to Hawaiian and continental Japanese.

The Chicago Tribune (2/25/43) was "distressed" at a recent state legislature resolution protesting "student relocation". Said the Tribune, "Since when did we so completely cease to be a democracy that we began judging a person's patriotism by his 'racial extraction'." WRA in its resettlement program is trying to permit evacuees to "live and feel like DECENT, UPRIGHT AMERICAN CITIZENS again."

MAGAZINE ARTICLES --

The Commission (a Baptist journal), "Americans of Japanese Ancestry", by Marjorie E. Moore, March, 1943.

Miss Moore visited Jerome and Rohwer early in February to investigate the missionary opportunities in the centers. Her article, describing life therein--primarily from the religious approach--is very favorable in tone. She points out the distinction between "evacuees" and "internees".

Common Ground, "What Happened at Manzanar", Spring, 1943. By Common Ground staff, based on WRA sources.

This is a complete, accurate, and factual account of the December 6 outbreak at Manzanar, including the causes therefor and WRA's method of handling. The article points out that, contrary to press labeling, the incident was not a simple "pro-Axis" demonstration. Prior to December 6, a number of influences combined to make the community extremely volatile. Ueno's arrest was the spark which set it off. Colonists feel that the root causes of the riot were: Discrimination against Issei in favor of the younger, less experienced Nisei in administrative positions and also in the community government; pre-evacuation quarrels and factional disputes; delays in payment of wages and clothing allowances; variations in quality of food between mess halls; the pro-administration and pro-government policy of the center newspaper; the separation of many families from their breadwinners held in internment camps; trial of evacuees by civil courts outside the relocation centers; uncertainty about the future in this country; financial loss in disposing of property at the time of evacuation; an unfriendly press outside the relocation centers." In handling those involved in the incident, WRA took the first step "toward segregation", which the article seems to feel is a desirable policy.

The same issue of Common Ground contains a copy of a personal letter from Ralph Merritt to one of his relatives about Manzanar on Christmas Day. Describing the temper of the center at Christmas--two weeks after the riot--Mr. Merritt concludes: "So we greet this Christmas morning. Shall the problems of keeping this peace and good will be solved by the military--or by being overtrustful of this show of goodness? or is there some safe middle course through which the ideals of peace and good will can mingle with the realities of race tolerance? If there is an answer, it will be the cornerstone upon which a future peace of the world will rest."