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PROGRESS REPORT ON THE RELOCATION OF JAPANESE

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By

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Los Angeles, California  
May 11, 1943

In order to refresh our memories as to the initial steps in the evacuation of persons of Japanese ancestry from the Pacific Coast, permit me to begin this progress report with a brief chronological table.

It was on February 19, 1942 that the Executive Order No. 9066 was issued by the President. This order empowered the Secretary of War or designated the military commanders to prescribe military areas and to exclude any or all persons from such areas.

On March 15, 1942 the Wartime Civil Control Administration was established under the direct and immediate supervision of the Western Defense Command and Fourth Army to supervise the evacuation and to coordinate the assistance of civilian Federal agencies.

On March 18, 1942 the President issued Executive Order No. 9102 establishing the War Relocation Authority to formulate and carry out a program for the planned relocation of such evacuated persons.

On March 23, 1942 the first 1,000 evacuees--volunteers from Los Angeles-- went to the Manzanar Relocation Center in Owens Valley to assist in preparing the new community for its ultimate population of 10,000.

In the space of about two months after its creation the Wartime Civil Control Administration effected the evacuation of all persons of Japanese ancestry in the designated areas on the Pacific Coast to a series of assembly centers. The evacuees remained in these assembly centers until relocation centers had been constructed, and as fast as these were built, the evacuees were transferred from assembly centers



to relocation centers. This transfer was completed by November, 1942.

The War Relocation Authority took over the responsibility of each relocation center as fast as they were completed so that its jurisdiction began at Manzanar in June 1, 1942, and by November, 1942, it had the total responsibility for all the evacuees who by that time were located in ten centers as follows: two in California, two in Arizona, two in Arkansas, and one each in Idaho, Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah.

In addition to this chronological table, it is important that we be reminded of the way people on the coast and elsewhere in this country felt about the evacuation. Probably no more comprehensive summarization of that sentiment is available to us than that issued by the Tolan Committee in May of 1942. You will recall that the Tolan Committee held hearings at various places on the Pacific Coast at which hearings individuals and representatives of organizations had an opportunity to express their ideas in the open. From the hundreds of such individual expressions the Committee made these general observations with respect to the evacuation of the Japanese:

"Since the committee's first report on the problems of evacuation from prohibited military zones, dealing with the several issues involved in such large-scale movement on a compulsory basis, it has become clear that a curtailment of the rights and privileges of the American-born Japanese citizens of this country will furnish one of the gravest tests of democratic institutions in our history. As with all previous crisis in the Nation's history, the preservation of liberties will depend upon the degree to which clear vision is applied to momentary difficulties. Realism must go hand in hand with



a profound sense of responsibility for the maintenance of our way of life.

A first measure of this responsibility calls for clarification of the scope and meaning of the Executive order empowering the military to regulate the activities of the civilian population in large areas of the country.

The Nation must decide and Congress must gravely consider, as a matter of national policy, the extent to which citizenship, in and of itself, is a guaranty of equal rights and privileges during time of war. Unless a clarification is forthcoming, the evacuation of the Japanese population will serve as an incident sufficiently disturbing to lower seriously the morale of vast groups of foreign-born among our people.

The war years and the days after the war are crucial times. Decisions profoundly affecting our national institutions, exemplified in the west coast evacuation orders, and rapidly being extended to other broad areas, must of patriotic necessity be fully interpreted for our people. America is great because she has transcended the difficulties inherent in a situation which finds all races, all nationalities, all colors, and all creeds within her borders. This breadth of vision must be applied to the present circumstances.

With respect to the question of the evacuation of the Japanese population from the west coast, the committee has already stated its position in its first report. The committee reiterates its opinion that the decision of the military must be final in this regard.



It is, therefore, with a sense of looking forward that these problems must be considered. Emergency measures must not be permitted to alter permanently those fundamental principles upon which this Nation was built.

The fact that in a time of emergency this country is unable to distinguish between the loyalties of many thousands of its citizens, and others domiciled here, whatever their race or nationality, calls into question the adequacy of our whole outlook upon the assimilation of foreign groups.

To many citizens of alien parentage in this country it has come as a profound shock that almost overnight thousands of persons have discovered that their citizenship no longer stands between them and the treatment accorded to any enemy alien within our borders in time of war.

The realization that this Nation is at war must form the cornerstone of all our national policies in connection with the treatment of aliens and citizens alike. This realization of conflict must likewise carry with it an enlightened understanding and a thorough appreciation of the aims and purposes of that conflict.

This realization, in turn, must motivate the operations of the War Relocation Authority, created by the Executive Order of the President to administer the resettlement of persons evacuated from prohibited military zones. The majority of the evacuees to date are American citizens against whom no charge of individual guilt has been lodged. A constructive performance, therefore, on the part of the War Relocation



Authority, will go far toward fashioning the whole pattern of our policy on racial and minority groups now and in the post-war world."

The purpose of this paper tonight is to examine the operation of the War Relocation Authority to see what it has been able to accomplish in meeting this challenge to render a constructive performance along the lines indicated above by the Tolan Committee.

From the beginning, the War Relocation Authority has been carrying out its responsibilities under Executive Order No. 9102 with three basic assumptions in mind. The first of these is that all evacuees of Japanese ancestry, except those who request repatriation and those who may be deported for illegal activities, will continue to live in the United States after the close of the war. The second is that the United States has no intention of conducting the war on a racial basis and that the relocation program should be carried out at all times in harmony with this principle. The third assumption is that all American citizens and law-abiding alien residents of the United States should be treated by the government, insofar as possible under wartime conditions, without racial discrimination.

The functions of the War Relocation Authority have been roughly divided into three divisions. The first is the operation of the centers in behalf of the evacuees who are residents of those centers. This division has the responsibility for providing as adequately as possible a substitute for the homes of the evacuees. The second division has to do with providing opportunities to each of the residents for school and other training which will fit them for their chance in life. The third division has the responsibility for carrying out the policies and plans



for relocating the evacuees in all parts of the United States except those designated as defense areas.

In examining the first of these divisions, namely, the operation of the centers, one may picture ten newly created cities varying from eight to twenty thousand men, women and children. These are essentially American communities following the pattern of such communities everywhere in this country. There are all the problems of food and shelter, health, education, recreation, and general welfare, public safety, city government and a newspaper. Also, all the personal family problems of births, weddings, and deaths, ration books, point systems, and buying at the cooperative stores. Churches, both Christian and Buddhist, also play a large part in the lives of the centers. The residents live in these centers on a community basis; they eat in common dining halls rather than in their individual apartments, and similarly everyday items that go with human life are taken care of by block facilities which are used in common by all the residents of that block. Private agencies such as the Y.W.C.A., the Boy Scouts and the American Red Cross, etc., are actively represented in the life of the centers.

Everybody works who is physically able, and in addition to food, shelter, and medical care, the workers receive \$16.00 a month as a cash allowance rather than wages, a clothing allowance, and under certain conditions unemployment compensation. For a limited number of job classifications including the doctors, teachers, nurses and other professional and supervisory positions, \$19.00 is paid. For persons who because of age or physical condition are unable to work, public assistance grants are provided through the Welfare Department on an individual case basis.



The following description of a welfare department in the relocation center was prepared by Mr. George Lafabreque, Welfare Consultant of Topaz, formerly Welfare Supervisor in the California State Department of Public Welfare at Sacramento.

"I know that all of you will be interested in the functions of the welfare departments. First, let me call to your attention that over and above the normal vicissitudes of life that we deal with in our work, our WRA welfare workers have all the usual individual and family adjustments plus those caused by the evacuation and those arising out of abnormal living conditions. It is a challenging task indeed. The organization of the welfare department varies with each center. However, for the most part, the services rendered in all the centers are the same. These services fall into four main categories--family counselling, youth guidance, housing of the residents, and issuance of clothing allowances and ration books.

The Family Counselling Unit is all-inclusive, dealing with the over-all problems of family life. Administering daily needs by constant contact and consultations with the families are the particular responsibilities of the family workers. To this Unit also falls the important task of interpreting the WRA policies and assisting the residents to become familiar with the policies. It is responsible for the welfare of the family and its members and thus of the community at large. The workers make periodic visits to each family in the center, giving a direct liaison effect with the residents in order that family plans for the present and the future will be directed into as



constructive a channel as possible. It must be kept in mind that all this work is performed by resident workers. In most centers none of the residents are qualified by experience or training for the field of social welfare. However, by careful selections of residents who understood the psychology, the social mores and reactions of the evacuees, excellent groups of workers have been assembled who have devoted themselves to the service of their fellow residents.

It is in the realm of youth that the welfare department is performing valuable service to the second generation Japanese. This unit is divided into three main departments--child welfare, youth guidance, and student relocation. The primary concern of the child welfare department centers around the home life, health, education, recreation, and the general rounding out of the youngster's development in order to promote as normal a life as possible. The youth guidance department deals with the problems of education, future hopes, employment, and relationship with the adult world. Although this department was first set up to deal with delinquent youth, it has found that because of the negligible number of cases involving delinquency, it has been able to concentrate primarily on preventive work and assisting with their future plans. The student relocation department encourages students to continue their education wherever possible, prepares students to return to our American stream of life and maintains liaison with the National Student Relocation Council. About 1,000 students from relocation centers are now attending universities in the middle West and



East. Schools are chosen by the Army and Navy authorities. At the present, approximately 250 colleges have been made available to the students in the relocation centers. The student relocation department advises students as to curricula and extra-curricular opportunities, scholarships, etc., at all of these colleges. When students leave, they are regarded truly as ambassadors of good will. A youth now attending Oberlin College from one of the centers was elected student body president. It is experiences such as this that uphold the confidence of the evacuees in our democratic way of life.

The Clothing and Ration Office of the Welfare Department is primarily an operating unit. Monthly clothing grants are provided in the amount of \$3.75 for adults, \$3.25 for children 8 to 16, and \$2.25 for children under 8. In many of the centers a serious problem presented itself during the past winter as most of the Californians had not come prepared for the rigors of the winter encountered in the hinterlands where most of the projects are located. Surplus clothing was made available through Army channels to meet the emergency.

The fourth function of the welfare department is the assignment of available living quarters. This must be done in the most satisfactory and efficient manner so that the maximum people can be housed in the available space. One-room apartments varying in size, house families of from 2 to 3 people in a room of 20 x 16, or 5 to 7 people in a room 20 x 24. Every effort has been made to provide each family unit with a separate apartment. Many of the residents have, through their



handiwork, improvised furniture and other gadgets in the interest of comfort within their apartments. The WRA furnishes cots, blankets, and mattresses for each resident.

I need not call to your attention the magnitude of the task undertaken by all departments in the WRA centers. In the field of social welfare we have often thought of integrating our services and of coordinating our work in various channels without all of our city and county departments. This has been accomplished and let me add, with a vengeance in our WRA centers. Our social workers in the WRA have had this opportunity. I hope that out of all these experiences will come new techniques and new incentives for carrying out some of the lessons we have learned in these WRA laboratories."

As in any ordinary American community the jobs which need to be performed include the trucking and distribution of supplies, warehousing, cooking, agriculture, public works, and all the other everyday services that go with operation of school, hospitals, farms and shops required by the people of such communities.

Requisitions for supplies are made upon the Quartermaster Corps of the Army sixty to ninety days in advance on the basis of the estimated population to be served. This is an important consideration for, undoubtedly, it would be difficult for the War Relocation Authority to go onto the open market and purchase necessary supplies without the benefit of governmental help as represented by the Army in these times of emergency.

Several of the centers were created early enough last summer to enable them to plant and harvest a considerable supply of foodstuffs.



This year all ten centers have well developed farm programs including vegetables, hogs, beef and poultry, and it is anticipated that in these items the centers will be largely self-supporting.

Probably the quickest way to visualize the second function of the War Relocation Authority, namely, that of providing training and work experience to assist individuals in obtaining their chance in life is through a concept of an educational institute similar to that of Antioch College.

The residents find encouragement in thinking that they are attending an educational institute in which everything they do is part of their training whether it be on the farm or in the shops; as members of the city council, or as members and operators of the cooperative stores.

Recently arrangements have been completed with the National Youth Administration through which definite opportunities for training are provided in specific lines of work required in definite lines of defense work and other occupations considered by the War Manpower Commission to require workers.

Fifty per cent of the evacuees are enrolled in the schools. This interest in education by children and adults, alike, probably furnishes the greatest single item of encouragement to those who are concerned with the future adjustment of the evacuees.

The third function of the War Relocation Authority has to do with relocating individuals and families into various parts of the United States.

Before examining this program it ought to be pointed out that relocation represents a change in policy from that held in the early days following the creation of this agency. At that time it was thought



that in order to give opportunities for work to the evacuees that it would be necessary to establish in each center such public works and defense industries as would be useful in helping the national war effort.

On further consideration, however, it was felt that a better long range national policy prescribed a plan of de-population of the centers as quickly as possible. If defense industries were placed in the centers, they would most assuredly tend to hold the residents within the centers and under this plan at the end of the war the country would find itself with ten Japanese reservations, a fact which might well present most difficult problems of assimilation.

It was felt that it would be far easier to assist such men and women as were qualified for work to go out to where that work was whether it be in industry or agriculture. In this way, the War Relocation Authority would be more helpful to the program of the War Manpower Commission. Obviously, the expense of maintaining these centers would be most quickly reduced, and finally and most important of all the positive benefits from returning human beings into the experience of normal American life would be attained.

It is estimated by the War Relocation Authority that in the ten centers there is a potential labor supply of approximately forty or fifty thousand which gives due consideration to the number of children under the age of sixteen.

Naturally, the War Relocation Authority felt it necessary to give considerable study to its revised plan and policy. On the one hand the evacuees had been obliged to make a hurried move from their homes to assembly centers. Then after a few months they were moved again to new areas and were not in the least desirous of being forced once more to



start out on a move to a new environment.

However, it so happened that the harvest season of 1942 was on at about the time the move from the assembly centers to the relocation centers took place. The need for harvest hands was placed before these evacuees, and approximately 10,000 of them went out into the various parts of the intermountain states to help in the harvesting of sugar beets and other crops.

The experience of these workers with their employers and the communities in which they worked and the fact that nearly 2,000 of them obtained permanent jobs encouraged the belief of the War Relocation Authority that the evacuees could be absorbed by the United States on the basis of their undisputed work qualifications.

With the substantial help of the American Friends' Service and the National Student Relocation Council of which Dr. John Nason, President of Swathmore College, is chairman, the War Relocation Authority had an opportunity to observe the success of the program aimed to provide opportunities for Japanese-American college students to complete their college courses.

A third measurement of community acceptance was gained from the experience of large national church and other organizations which have volunteered their services and facilities to the War Relocation Authority.

As part of their program the American Friends' Society and the Church of the Brethren Organization have planned for the development of a series of hostels to which groups of evacuees could come and live pending their obtaining a job in the vicinity and becoming self-supporting.

On the basis of these various experiences the War Relocation Authority was convinced that the relocation program was feasible. It has, therefore,



set up in several cities such as New York, Cleveland, Chicago, Kansas City, Denver, and Salt Lake City, regional relocation offices which through a staff of relocation offices in the states adjacent to the respective regional offices undertake to find job opportunities for the residents of the ten centers.

On October 1, 1942, the War Relocation Authority published in the Federal Register leave regulations embodying the present policies of the Authority on the release of evacuees from Centers. These regulations outline three general types of procedure under which leave from Relocation Centers may be granted:

1. Seasonal work leave.
2. Short term leave for a period not to exceed sixty days, under which evacuees may be permitted to attend funerals, visit sick relatives, attend court, or take care of other important business justifying their temporary release from the Centers.
3. Indefinite leave, under which evacuees subject to the conditions outlined below are permitted to leave the Centers to take up permanent residence.

Any resident of the Relocation Center is eligible to apply for indefinite leave, but before leave is granted, the following conditions must be met:

1. The evacuee must show that he has a definite offer of employment or other evidence that he can take care of himself at some point outside the areas from which persons of Japanese descent are excluded by military order.
2. The War Relocation Authority must secure reasonable assurance that the community in which the evacuee proposes to relocate will accept him without incident.
3. An investigation of the evacuee, including a check of the records of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Office of Naval Intelligence, and the Office of Military Intelligence, indicates that release of the evacuee will not constitute a danger to the security of the United States.



4. The evacuee must agree to keep the War Relocation Authority informed of his location at all times.

At this writing the progress report of the War Relocation Authority relocation plan shows that approximately 1,000 evacuees are students at 250 colleges located throughout the country, and that 2,837 men and women have obtained their indefinite leave and are now working in various cities in the Intermountain States, Middle West, or in the East. Another 2,402 have left the centers on what is known as seasonal leave which implies that they are engaged in agricultural work and that they plan to return to the center next November at the end of the harvest. However, in view of the fact that of those who went out last year, over twenty per cent found permanent employment, it may well be expected that many of those who go out this year on seasonal leave will establish themselves sufficiently to desire and obtain their indefinite leave. It is expected that by the end of the year 1943, 25,000 persons evacuated from the West Coast will have gained relocation in some other part of the country. Those that remain in the relocation centers will be chiefly the grandparents and the grandchildren, the mothers of these grandchildren, and another group made up of persons who are not eligible for relocation from the centers by reason of the fact that they have applied for repatriation or whose loyalty to the United States cannot be attested to by the War Relocation Authority.

It is assumed that there is a possibility that some of the persons who leave the centers and go out into strange communities may, for one reason or another, have difficulty in establishing themselves.

The arrangement for relocation now calls, as has been mentioned above, for a series of relocation offices throughout the country. The Government provides transportation and initial subsistence expenses to



evacuees receiving indefinite leave and needing such assistance.

Federal funds are available through the Social Security Board and affiliated public welfare agencies for emergency assistance to evacuees who may through illness or other misfortune need help after relocation.

The United States Employment Service as well as the War Relocation Authority employment offices are assisting evacuees on indefinite leave to find employment.

It is expected that any evacuee who may need advice or assistance will turn to the nearest relocation office. Citizens who have left the center on indefinite leave are permitted to move from one city to another, excepting of course, that they are excluded from the defense areas, and they are required to inform the relocation supervisor of their change of address. Aliens who obtain indefinite leave must clear their movements and obtain permission from the appropriate office of the Immigration Service under the Department of Justice.

With the above provisions in effect and in view of the need for workers at the present time, it is believed that there will rarely be occasion for the evacuees returning to the centers after they have once obtained indefinite leave. Evacuees are encouraged to take the view that they are going out to re-establish themselves on a permanent basis. Therefore, instead of looking to the time when they may return for a visit to their families at the center, it is expected that they will make every effort to have their families join them in their new home.

This, then, is the three way program of the War Relocation Authority in its endeavor to do a job which would commend itself to all citizens of the United States who have thought enough about the ideals of democracy to appreciate at least some of the implications that the



evacuation of some citizens might have on the destiny of all citizens of the United States.

As was to be expected a phenomenon dealing with human beings as conspicuous as was this evacuation from the West Coast attracted the attention of some people who were prompted to present their ideas to the Congress of the United States.

One result after considerable debate was the creation of a senatorial committee to investigate the operations of the War Relocation Authority. Some of the members of the committee visited a few of the centers. Following these visits the committee submitted a report in which was contained three recommendations approximately as follows:

1. That the Selective Service should be opened to all Americans of Japanese ancestry who are qualified for military service under the terms of the Selective Service Act.
2. That all residents of the Center who were found to be disloyal should be segregated.
3. That all other men and women who are living in the center who were found to be employable should be made available for work under the program of the War Manpower Commission.

The report of the senatorial committee seems to indicate that the logic of the facts in the case permitted and demanded a constructive program looking to the ultimate de-population of the relocation centers, and the restoration of their residents to normal life.

And on closer examination of these recommendations of the senatorial committee as well as the progress of the War Relocation Authority all appear to involve one point, namely, loyalty to the United States.

Obviously, it is this question of loyalty that makes the War



Department feel it necessary to consider carefully the question of opening up Selective Service to American citizens of Japanese ancestry.

Certainly, it is the question of loyalty that is involved in the whole matter of segregation. It is the question of loyalty again that must be considered before the War Relocation Authority can grant an indefinite leave to a man or woman who desires to leave the center to obtain employment.

Obviously an endeavor to obtain valid criteria for determining loyalty on the part of any human being, is a subject that cannot be satisfactorily dealt with here. Suffice it to say that the War Relocation Authority and the War Department have conducted a registration at each of the ten centers simultaneously in an effort to permit every man and woman seventeen years of age and over to individually indicate their loyalty. The War Department on January 28, 1943, through action by Secretary Stimson and endorsed by President Roosevelt offered the opportunity to all male citizens of military age to volunteer in a special combat unit to be composed entirely of Americans of Japanese ancestry. The female citizens were asked to indicate their interest in joining either the WAACS or the Nurses Corps or similar war connected organization if and when enlistment in such organizations was opened to them. On their registration form, these citizens, both male and female, were asked the same question as an indication of their loyalty as follows: "Will you swear unqualified allegiance to the United States of America and forswear any form of allegiance or obedience to the Japanese Emperor or any foreign government, power, or organization?" The aliens who have had no chance to become citizens of the United States were asked a different question to permit them to indicate their loyalty. This question asked: "Will you obey the laws of the United States and do nothing that will interfere with its war effort?"



No report has been made public showing how these questions were answered. However, public statements by members of the senatorial investigating committee mentioned above issued, subsequent to the registration period, and the three point program recommended by the senatorial committee, also announced after the registration period, would indicate that the elements of loyalty and disloyalty were found in sufficient quantities to justify the recommendation of selective service or employment for the loyal and segregation for the disloyal.

Some of the reactions of the male and female citizens to the registration will interest you. Each of the centers publishes a project newspaper, and through this and similar channels the residents involved were able to express their opinions publicly. Obviously, parents who were considering the possibility of going back either as repatriates or visitors to Japan some day considered that it would be harmful to them if it were known that their sons had volunteered for military service rather than waiting to be enrolled through the Selective Service. So they, in one way or another, sought to dissuade their sons from volunteering. Undoubtedly there were other pressures put on the young men from disloyal neighbors in the centers. It disturbed many citizens and particularly the girls to have the volunteering done on what was held to be a segregated basis. Their argument was that only by convincing their Caucasian buddy of their loyalty and fighting ability, could they ever hope to be assimilated in the post war days into American communities, and that their families would also be accepted. Considerable stress was given by many male and female citizens to the question of the restoration of what they termed as their civil rights. In one center by democratic process they evolved a committee which produced a set of



resolutions in the good, old American fashion, and this set of resolutions was forwarded to Secretary Stimson.

Among the resolutions appeared the obvious questions of the constitutionality of evacuation; the question of the return or indemnity of personal property lost through the process of evacuation; the old question of regaining status of citizens to the Selective Service process in the same way as any other American citizens, and that in every way the government and people of the United States should recognize that the principles underlying the four freedoms should apply to these citizens and their families of Japanese ancestry now. Other committees developed resolutions pro and con on each of these matters, and one committee more articulate felt strongly that this was not a time to bargain or trade with the United States Government, but rather that the opportunity to volunteer should be recognized as the first step on the road to reinstatement of civil liberties and an indication of the change in the trend towards a favorable working out of the whole problem brought about by evacuation.

Approximately 1,100 young citizens volunteered for the special Japanese-American Combat Unit and are now being inducted for assembling at their training camp.

A credo developed by the San Francisco Bay volunteers has been circulated throughout the ten centers and has received general endorsement by their volunteers. This credo reads as follows:

WE BELIEVE in democracy and dedicate ourselves to the  
furtherance of its principles. To uphold these principles  
we must destroy every form of tyranny, oppression, and



violation of human rights. We place our faith in America and base our hope in the future on that faith. Therefore, we believe that our volunteering in the armed forces of this country is a step towards the realization of these ends, and a positive manifestation of our loyalty to the United States of America.

--Volunteers of Topaz, Utah

It is in that spirit of loyalty that the first generation of Americans of Japanese ancestry ever to bear arms as volunteers for the United States joined up.

The aliens had no hesitation about replying that they wished to continue being loyal to the United States as they had been for the past thirty or forty years. Yet many of the older Issei indicated no desire to leave the centers. Rather than go out and attempt to re-establish themselves in a new environment, they would prefer to assist in the successful management of the centers with the hope that they might return to their former homes at the close of the war.

There is a real difference of opinion between the older folks and the adult children as to their future course. It is difficult to find many relocation opportunities for entire families. Therefore, the choice is whether to stay together in the relocation center or to make the break leaving the grandparents in the centers and the adult children with their families starting out on what to them is a Horace Greeley in reverse.

The registration experience also revived the idea of repatriation. There had been some considerable expression of interest to repatriate on the part of evacuees while they were still residents of assembly centers



last summer.

However, after they came to the relocation centers and hope for better things in the future had been revived, many asked to have their application for repatriation cancelled.

But when the registration process made it clear that evacuees should indicate in which country, United States or Japan, they wished to give their allegiance, some persons chose to apply for repatriation. It is needless to point out that many young people as well as their younger sisters and brothers under seventeen years of age accepted the idea of repatriation only because of their great sense of family loyalty.

It was recognized that the evacuees, having been removed from the areas indicated, were no longer in a position to personally operate, manage, or otherwise care for their property. The War Relocation

Authority accordingly established the Division of Relocation Assistance.

This division has a Pacific Coast evacuee-property office at San Francisco. There are field offices in Seattle, San Francisco, and Los Angeles. In addition, provision has been made for evacuee-property representatives at each relocation project.

Evacuees are free to choose the manner in which they desire to have their properties cared for. They may select a person or concern to act as attorney-in-fact, they may choose an agent to act for them, or they may deal directly with persons having transactions with them.

The services of the evacuee-property office are made available to evacuees if they prefer to use them. The functions of this office include acting upon the request of evacuees to determine if property is being properly maintained; securing tenants or operators of both agricultural and commercial property; negotiating leases or sales; adjusting



differences; checking inventories of goods and equipment, and similar activities. The policy guiding the activities of the evacuee-property office are predicated upon the national interests and a recognition of the need for preserving the lawful interests of evacuees.

Very early in the operation of the Relocation Centers, we became aware that many of the residents were parts of broken families.

This was due to several causes. The first arose from the act of the Federal Bureau of Investigation which took many hundred men into custody following the attack on Pearl Harbor. As fast as the Department of Justice was able to arrange a hearing for these men, many were cleared entirely or permitted to join their families in the various Centers on the basis with the status of parolees.

Several hundred, however, have either not had a trial of their case or the information brought into the trial showed that their detention should be continued. These men are in concentration camps operated by the Department of Immigration under the Department of Justice, which is now working on a plan for permitting families in the relocation centers to transfer to join the head of the family in a newly created internment camp operated by the Department of Justice. Other families were disunited even at the time that they were evacuated to the assembly centers. Parts of some families had started to evacuate even in the period of voluntary evacuation.

For the last several months there has been a steady business of re-uniting families and this in itself has been beneficial to all concerned.

About 7,500 Japanese-Americans had been taken into the armed forces through the Selective Service before Pearl Harbor. Beginning in about



October 1942, arrangements were made whereby such volunteers could visit the relocation center in which their parents and families were living. The performance of the various governmental agencies in arranging for this reunion of families has been creditable.

This, then, is the Progress Report at the end of the first year of operation of the evacuation program. It can be truthfully said that the evacuees are being treated with consideration for their individual needs if we always have in mind that we are talking in terms of a temporary and an emergency situation.

Every effort is being made to maintain adequate educational and health facilities.

Special emphasis is being placed on the business of assisting the evacuees to resettle so that they may resume a normal American life and join their fellow citizens in the war effort. The various relocation offices in the Middle West and the East are finding that jobs are plentiful and there is a steady stream of evacuees, chiefly citizens, going eastward. The aliens and the family groups are, for the most part, signing up for seasonal work in the Intermountain area.

The question of the constitutionality of the evacuation order is now before the U. S. Supreme Court. The decision concerning the matter of calling up the 19,000 eligible male citizens for military service through the Selective Service process is now before the War Department.

On the whole, the trend is in the right direction--sanity is displacing hysteria--realism is steadying emotion. America still possesses her ideals of Democracy. She fully intends to maintain the fundamental and well-tested principles which have given justified hopes of the attainment of those ideals. Surely in those hopes we can all find common cause.