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CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES

Subcommittee on Un-American Activities

(Costello Committee)

~~The Subcommittee of the Senate Military Affairs Committee~~

The (Chandler Committee), which was set up to hold hearings on a bill to transfer the functions of the WRA to the War Department, began its hearings on January 20, 1943. From that date until its final report was submitted to the Military Affairs Committee on May 7, 1943, the Japanese relocation camps and the WRA administration received continual newspaper publicity. However, the acceptance of the Chandler report did not cause a lack of publicity as the *House subcom. on Un-Am. Actin.* ~~Dies Committee~~ took up where the Chandler Committee left off.

During the latter part of 1942 and the first half of 1943, the Committee on Un-American Activities received complaints from organizations and citizens concerning the handling of the relocation camps and the release of Japanese from the camps by the WRA. They also received requests for an investigation from members of Congress and state authorities. In May, 1943, J. Parnell Thomas, member of the Committee from New Jersey, went to Los Angeles and conferred with interested persons and groups. He reported that he felt that the situation warranted investigation. Because of this recommendation and at the request of Rep. Costello of Los Angeles, the Committee on Un-American Activities ordered an investigation of centers and detailed investigators to them. These investigators toured the centers before the appointment of a subcommittee.

On May 19, 1943, Rep. Thomas addressed a telegram to Pres. Roosevelt requesting him to "suspend immediately any further release of Japanese until such time as the Dies Committee has completed its investigation of relocation centers and until such time as the committee releases section two of its Axis Report which will deal with Japanese activities".

This telegram was turned over to WRA Director Myer by the President's Office.

On June 2, Mr. Myer answered Rep. Thomas saying in part:

"We are informed by our staff that investigators for the Committee have visited most of the centers. The brevity of the visits, and the nature of the inquiries leads us to have grave doubts of the value of any findings which may result from the investigations. The public statements which have been made recently by members of the committee have revealed either an ignorance of the policies and procedures of this agency or a willful intent to misrepresent the situation.

"We believe firmly that loyal American citizens and law abiding aliens now in the relocation centers should be encouraged to relocate as soon as possible to normal communities where they may make a contribution to the war effort; we believe also that our procedures for determining eligibility for leave provide all proper precautions for the national security. In the absence of any evidence to the contrary, we shall continue our present program."

(Myer to Thomas, 6/2/43)

The following day Rep. Thomas replied:

"Your reply to my wire of May 19 to the President, if nothing else, clearly indicates your inability to hear the voice of the people crying out against the release of Japanese from the relocation centers....

"If, as you write, the Dies Committee investigators only made brief visits to the relocation centers, then let me advise you that the visits were long enough to discover gross mismanagement, inefficiency, and destruction and abuse of Government property and the pampering and release of Japanese whose real loyalty is to the Emperor of Japan....

"In the release of 1000 Japanese a week from these centers you must have lost sight of the fact that we are at war with Japan or your wild desire to create another social experiment has blinded your reasoning.... In the meantime I hope that you will pay more attention to the sensibilities of the general public on the Japanese question and less to the bleeding heart cabinet members who seem to be in such dire need of Japanese servants."

(Thomas to Myer, 6/3/43)

Congressman Thomas gave his reply to the press and on the same day Mr. Myer gave a statement to the press in which he said that if the WRA were to comply with Rep. Thomas' suggestions they would be justly accused of interfering with the war effort. He concluded his statement by pointing out that no evacuee is granted an indefinite leave if there is anything in his

WRA record or in the records of any investigative agency which would indicate that he might endanger national security. (WRA press release, 6/3/43)

This exchange between Thomas and Myer took place Before the subcommittee to conduct investigations was appointed. On June 3, Chairman Dies appointed a subcommittee composed of John M. Costello of California, Chairman; Herman P. Eberharter of Pennsylvania; and Karl E. Mundt of South Dakota. From June 8 to June 17 hearings were held in Los Angeles. Testimony was taken principally from men who were then or had been employees of relocation centers. Hearings were held in Parker, Ariz. on June 18. From July 1 to July 9 hearings were held in Washington. WRA Director Myer was the chief Washington witness. (Report of the Subcommittee of the Special Committee on Un-American Activities of the H. of R. on H. R. 282, pp. 2 & 3)

In the Spring of 1943, the average citizen was having considerable difficulty in obtaining certain foods, particularly fresh meat, canned fish, canned pork and beans, butter, chocolate, coffee. These were the items which the newspapers charged were plentiful in the relocation centers. As early as May 11, the following statement, attributed to an "informant" in the office of the Dies Committee, was carried by the San Francisco Examiner:

"A report to be submitted by a subcommittee (of the Committee on Un-American Activities) in about three weeks, will oppose
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An A. P. dispatch on 5/31 stated that a Dies Committee member had alleged that beef, ~~pork~~ pork and beans, coffee, canned fish, and chocolate bars were plentifully supplied to the camps. The WRA comment on this was that there were no canned pork and beans served in the camps nor were there any

chocolate bars except when baking chocolate had been substituted for cocoa when the latter was unavailable. ^(WRA Comments on Newsp. Statements, no date) The Washington Times-Herald of 5/28

reported that an investigator had stated that the evacuees were fed so well that they were sending butter, coffee, and other rationed food to their friends outside the camps. The WRA pointed out that the evacuees were sub-

ject to rationing. There was no evidence that any rationed food had been sent out of the camps, but if it had occurred it would have to have been at the expense of the sender's rationed allowance. A news story by Ray Richards in the New York Journal-American on June 1, 1943 cited the amount of food purchased at Manzanar during the week of May 6. The WRA pointed out that these figures were misleading because they assumed that the food ordered in one week was only for one week's consumption. Actually many items were to be used over a long period. *(Ibid. These rumors are also refuted by D.M. in his testimony before the Costello Committee - see also the report of Com on War Rel Act. in US, Vol 15 P. 9651 H.)* Rationing was not mentioned. Mess halls received rationed food in accordance with the points allowed for the number of persons served. The fact that the WRA was limited to a maximum of 45¢ per day per person was not mentioned. The story repeated the charge that the Japanese were sending butter out of the camp. At that time, only oleo-margarine was used in the mess halls. A statement attributed to Acting Chairman Starnes in the Washington Times-Herald of 6/4 charged that the evacuees were allowed 5 gallons of whiskey per person. The WRA answered that the only whiskey available was used for medical purposes in accordance with a prescription from a physician. *(Comments by WRA on Newsp. Statements)*

Some of the most sensational newspaper charges were attributed to former WRA employees who testified before the Costello Committee. One of these was Mr. Earl A. Best, a former assistant steward at Heart Mountain and Poston, currently facing charges of forgery and illegal entrance into the United States. The Los Angeles Times of 6/17/43 reported that Best had testified that at Poston fresh milk had been ordered for all even tho the evacuees were satisfied with evaporated milk. Best said that Project Director Head ordered frsh milk "as we do not need money to win the war". Mr. Head's comment on that charge was that canned milk can be shipped to troops while fresh milk cannot. The slight additional cost of fresh milk would not

hinder the war effort, while heavy use of canned milk might.

A former WRA employee, Harold H. Townsend, outdid Mr. Best in furnishing sensational headlines. Mr. Townsend's past is essential in evaluating his testimony. He was Chief Supply and Transportation Officer at the Poston Relocation Center in November 1942. There was a strike at one of the Poston camps during November. Mr. Townsend became extremely upset during the strike, saw imaginary but dire dangers, tried to spread panic among the other Caucasian employees, and finally took French leave of the center in a government auto. A few days later, Townsend returned to Poston and admitted his incompetence at the time of the strike. The Project Director asked for his resignation. (Conversation between W. Wade Head, Project Director and H. H. Townsend, 12/1/42, WRA release) *also refuted by D. M. Hearings 9646* At the beginning of his questioning before the Costello Committee, Townsend was asked if he had ever served in the U.S. Army. He said "Yes", he had served six months in France. War Department records do not disclose any Harold H. Townsend serving in World War I. After the war, from February to August, 1919, he did serve as a YMCA hut worker in France.

Townsend was asked if he recalled the amount of food consumed daily. He answered that by actual count, 58 tons per day were used. During the month of December, 1942, Townsend's last at Poston, WRA records show that the average quantity per day was 27 tons. The population at that time was approximately 18,000 making the food consumption approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ pounds per day per person. Townsend repeatedly declared that food served to the evacuees was superior to that served to the army. All the relocation centers obtained their food thru the Army Quartermaster. The food, in quality, was equal to or lower than that served in army messhalls. It was definitely less in quantity as the WRA had a ceiling of 45¢ per day per person which they could not exceed.

Townsend also testified that the finest cuts of Grade A meats were being eaten by the evacuees. WRA records show that the meat obtained was usually third grade. In November, 1942, voluntary meat rationing was introduced in the six western centers and extended to the other four in January, 1943. Mr. Townsend told the committee that Poston had the finest grade of butter which could be bought. WRA instructions to all centers in January, 1943, were to discontinue all purchases of butter and to substitute oœomargarine. Ice cream, said Mr. Townsend, was brought into the centers every day. This statement is true, but its implications are false. Ice cream was never purchased with government funds. It was purchased by community stores, using evacuee funds, for resale to evacuees.

The most startling of all Townsend's testimony in regard to food was that he had been told by different evacuee groups that they had placed emergency food in secret cellars under the mess halls for Japanese invasion armies and parachute troops. They had also buried large caches of food thruout the desert which could be used for similar purposes. Townsend never reported anything of the sort while he was an employee of WRA. (WRA comments on Townsend Testimony)

Other charges were concerned with the loyalty of the evacuees. The first attributed to an "informant" in the office of the Dies Committee, of these appeared in the San Francisco Examiner as early as May 11. It stated that:

"A report to be submitted by a subcommittee (of the Committee on Un-American Activities) in about three weeks, will oppose release of any Japanese whatsoever, American citizen or alien from confinement. This report will insist that 'Known subversives', estimated to number more than 25,000 in the centers, be taken from their 'comfortable environment' and placed in rigidly guarded Department of Justice detention camps for enemy aliens.'

These statements were made on May 11, the day on which investigations of the first center to be visited, began. If this is an accurate report, it indicates that the investigators had reached conclusions before visiting

a relocation center or requested ^{any} information from the WRA. The WRA commented that:

"If the Committee has evidence that there are more than 25,000 'known subversives' in relocation centers, we earnestly hope that it will be turned over to the authorized investigative agencies of the government and to this agency with all possible promptness."

(Supplementary Comments by WRA on Newspaper Statements)

The Washington Times Herald of May 28 reported statements allegedly made in a report received from a Dies Committee investigator which charged that ~~camp~~ camp directors pleaded with evacuees to changed their answers from 'no' to 'yes' on the loyalty question. Mr. Merritt, Director of Manzanar, answered this charge in this manner:

"The story from the Dies Committee (representatives) that I urged disloyal Japanese to say they are loyal is complete abuse of material I voluntarily offered them to show the thoroughness with which records were developed to clarify loyalty or disloyalty and to recommend to you denial of leave clearance to each of the cases quoted in this article. Men questioned are a group known as kibe who have American citizenship but for the most part educated in Japan and speaking only Japanese. During registration due to language difficulties it is claimed that errors were made by interviewers and to clear all records we reviewed each case with results shown..." (Ibid.)

This same paper, using the same source, stated that as many as 76% of the Japanese in one camp had refused to profess their loyalty to the United States. The only WRA comment on that was that it was completely untrue.

The June 12 Los Angeles Examiner featured the testimony of Norris E. James, a former Poston employee. He charged that subversive Japanese who had been interned after Pearl Harbor were released to Poston without the approval of the FBI; that these released internees were the leaders of a series of beatings of loyal evacuees; that the evacuees ^{were} are permitted to communicate between relocation centers in uncensored Japanese letters which might contain code messages; that Japanese army songs were played over the loud speakers; that the Japanese flag was flown. Mr. Townsend

also testified that the American flag was taken down and the Japanese flag flown. The WRA has affidavits from eight Poston officials that the flags usually flown continued to be flown. (WRA Comments on Townsend testimony)

Two days later the Los Angeles Examiner ^{Headlined} reported that testimony before the Dies Subcommittee indicated that Poston residents might have been responsible for the wreck of a Southern Pacific train on July 27, 1942. (L.A. Examiner 6/14/43) On the sixteenth, this paper reported "Definite acts of Sabotage and Espionage Already Have Been Reported". On June 19, the S. F. Examiner reported, from information allegedly obtained by investigators in a radio on JACL headquarters, that an American born Japanese who said that Japanese-Americans should kill the president of the U.S. was permitted to continue to deliver inflammatory speeches at Manzanar for a period of at least five months. Loyal evacuees reported his remarks about killing the president, but no action was taken. The WRA comments that the person in question, Juichi Uyemoto, was committed to the Casmirillo State Hospital in October, 1942, suffering from a severe mental disorder. "It appears clear from the records that Uyemoto was having mild disturbances as early as March, 1942. These became progressively more serious until they reached the point of danger to those about him." (Further Comments by the WRA on Newspaper Statements)

The leave policy of the WRA was criticized in the press on the grounds that disloyal persons were being released. (S. F. Examiner, 5/11; L.A. Examiner, 5/14 & 6/16) The administration of the centers was criticized in the L.A. Examiner of 6/12 for teaching Japanese games. Mr. Myer was charged with attempting to censor statements of members of the Dies Com. (L.A. Examiner, 6/16)

Investigators and committee members, either thru ignorance or intentionally, frequently made statements at variance with the facts. For example, Rep. Thomas, in discussing the WRA leave program, commented on the case of a Japanese who had been apprehended by the FBI and sent to Camp Livingston, La. He was quoted by the A. P. as having said:

"It has been reliably reported that he (the interned Japanese) has stated the food and wine at his camp are excellent and that he is concerned only with his expanding waistline. Are we to release this fat-waisted Jap while our American boys on Guadalcanal are barely receiving enough food with which to keep alive?"

The implication in the above is that the WRA would be the ^{agency} authority to authorize the release of this Japanese. Camp Livingston is an internment camp under the jurisdiction of the Department of Justice.

The chief investigator for the Dies Committee was Mr. Robert E. Srippling, but the investigators who visited the centers were Mr. Thomas Cavett and Mr. Gene Hagberg. Mr. Cavett had also been an investigator for the California Tenney Committee. These two investigators were not accompanied by members of the subcommittee during their visits to the camps which took place during the last two weeks of May. The usual visit was approximately twenty-four hours. They toured the centers to get an idea of the physical layout, visited mess halls, classrooms, warehouses, libraries, and occasionally visited evacuee living quarters. They also took statements from project officials and occasionally from residents. (Letters Project Directors Stafford to Myer, 6/8/43; Ernst to Myer, 6/15/43; Solicitor Glick to Myer, 6/1 and 6/17/43) While visiting the Topaz Center, the investigators met two small boys having a parade. The leader was carrying a flag and his follower was beating a drum. The investigators were suspicious that the

parade was being staged for their benefit. They took the names of the children and interviewed the parents to make sure that it was real rather than synthetic "patriotism". When convinced that it was a spontaneous demonstration, their comment was "Fine indoctrination". (Glick to Myer, 6/17/43)

A former employee of Manzanar, Mr. Charles K. Ferguson, gained admission to the Los Angeles hearings of the subcommittee and wrote back his impressions to the Manzanar Project Director. He felt that the whole thing was staged. Only the press was admitted and everything was done for the benefit of the press. His comment on Chairman Costello was "He is as fitted to be chairman of an impartial investigating body on this matter as Wm. Randolph Hearst would be." During the three days Mr. Ferguson attended the hearings, the committee did not invite a single pro-Wra or pro-Nisei witness. Anti witnesses were invited; pro witnesses requested permission to come to testify. When a pro-witness took the chair to testify, he was submitted to a barrage of questions designed to show that the witness himself was subversive. For example, when Rev. Kirby Page took the witness stand, for ten ~~xxx~~ pages of the printed testimony, he was questioned concerning his personal background and beliefs. (Hearings before a Special Subcommittee of Committee on Un-American Propaganda Activities in the U.S., pp. 9226-9235) Mr. Costello told Mr. Ferguson at these hearings, that the committee would suggest no legislation but would merely make recommendations. Mr. Ferguson's conclusion was "Maybe they just wanted to raise a furor in the Coast papers and keep the evacuees scared away and scare everybody else out of the idea of letting them come back to the Coast. (R C. K. Ferguson to R. P. Merritt, 6/18/43)

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In a statement before the committee on July 6, Dillon Myer said that the manner in which the WRA conducted its program was of concern to all the people of the United States and it also had international implications

which "demand that it be approached thoughtfully, soberly, and with maturity, and that public statements concerning it be made only after thorough understanding of the facts". He further stated that:

"The program of the War Relocation Authority has been under investigation for the past eight weeks in such a manner as to achieve maximum publicity of sensational statements based on half-truths, exaggerations, and falsehood; statements of witnesses have been released to the public without verification of their accuracy, thus giving nationwide currency to many distortions and downright untruths.

"This practice has fostered a public feeling of mistrust, suspicion, and hatred that has had the effect of

Providing the enemy with material which can be used to convince the peoples of the Orient that the United States is undemocratic and is fighting a racial war.

Undermining the unity of the American people.

Betraying the democratic objectives which this nation and its allies are fighting to preserve.

It may lead to further mal-treatment of our citizens who are prisoners or who are interned."

(Hearings, p. 96⁵⁸⁶)

The following day Mr. Myer spoke to the committee on evidence of Americanism among the Japanese-Americans. He pointed out that 70,000 of the evacuees were American citizens; that there were more than 8,000 American citizens of Japanese ancestry ^{at that time} serving in the U. S. Army. Both within and without the centers, Japanese-Americans were displaying their patriotism in the same manner as other Americans. (Hearings, p. 9749)

Also on July 7, Mr. Myer spoke on the constitutional principles involved in the relocation program.

"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 established in normal life.

....

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 remained outside the evacuated area.

....

"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.

"The detention or interment 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.....

....

"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."

(Hearings, pp. 9753-4

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Following the reports of the investigators and the hearings before the subcommittee, two reports were submitted to the Committee on Un-American Activities--~~namely~~ a majority report by Representatives Costello and Mundt and a minority report by Representative Eberharter. The majority report states that "This committee does not consider it necessary to discuss in detail the administrative errors and deficiencies of the War Relocation Authority...". It criticizes the fact that very few of the WRA personnel were well versed in Japanese language or culture. It further criticizes the WRA for not speeding the segregation program. A portion of the report is devoted to gangs at Manzanar, and results of the loyalty question. The WRA program is charged with promoting cultural ties with Japan thru such things as instruction in Judo and failure to clamp down on the Butoku-kai. The final criticism deals with the leave policy. (Report, pp. 3-15) The majority report concludes with the following three recommendations:

- "1. That the War Relocation Authority's belated announcement of its intention of segregating the disloyal from the loyal Japanese in the relocation centers be put into effect at the earliest possible moment."

2. That a board composed of representatives of the War Relocation Authority and the various intelligence agencies of the Federal Government be constituted with full powers to investigate evacuees who apply for release from the centers and to pass finally upon their applications.
3. That the War Relocation Authority inaugurate a thorough-going program of Americanization for those Japanese who remain in the centers. "
(Report, p.16)

Rep. Eberharter in his minority report states:

"The majority report has stressed a few shortcomings that they have found in the work of the War Relocation Authority without mentioning the many good points that our investigation has disclosed or the magnitude of the job with which the Authority is dealing." (Ibid., p.17)

He further states that since the close of the hearings he had made some further inquiries the results of which had not been communicated to the other members of the subcommittee because "the subcommittee has never met to discuss the contents of a report". (Ibid., p. 17) Mr. Eberharter briefly reviews the functions of the WRA and conditions in relocation centers, and adds:

"Because of these facts I am disturbed about some of the ridiculous charges that were made early in our investigation. Stories about the Japanese people hiding food in the desert and storing contraband in holes under their houses, were shown to be ridiculous when a project was visited. However, the majority's report fails to withdraw these charges.

...

"After all the wind and the fury of a long report that creates the impression that War Relocation Authority is doing a very bad job, the comments of the majority members are climaxed by three feeble, meaningless recommendations." (Ibid, pp. 18 & 19)

Mr. Eberharter then takes up specific charges in the majority report and comments upon them. Concerning the statement that ~~the WRA personnel was unfit for their~~ ~~position due to lack of previous knowledge of Japanese language or culture,~~ the WRA personnel was unfit for ~~their~~ its position due to lack of previous knowledge of Japanese language or culture, Mr. Eberharter points out:

"For one thing, there are comparatively few people in the United States who understand the Japanese language or are well acquainted with Japanese culture. Apart from that, it would have been unfortunate had ~~xxxxxx~~ the War Relocation Authority sought to employ a large number of such persons when actually they would have been and are more usefully employed by other agencies of the Government engaged directly in the war against Japan. Furthermore, the War Relocation Authority would be subject to sever criticism were it dominated by people who have previously been intimate with the Japanese or Japanese-Americans and therefore subject to the accusation of being unduly sympathetic toward them." (Ibid. p.20)

In regard to food, Mr. Eberharter repeats substantially the comments made by the WRA after charges of food surpluses received newspaper publicity. In regard to segregation, Mr. Eberharter notes that as early as May 14, 1943, the WRA announced a policy of segregation.

The leave program was also defended by Rep. Eberharter. He said in part:

"It is apparent that the leave program of the War Relocation Authority has been formulated with a thoughtful view toward assuring the legality of the Authority's program as a whole, and it is probable that without the leave program, the whole detention plan might well be subjected to successful legal attack.

....

"It is worthy of note that of all the evacuees who have been released on both seasonal and indefinite leave by the War Relocation Authority, numbering more than 16,000, no report of disloyal or subversive activity has been made to the Authority or to this subcommittee." (Ibid. pp. 23,24,26)

The recommendations of the majority did not escape Rep. Eberharters criticism. He agrees with the first one recommending segregation, but points out that determining the loyalty or disloyalty of 100,000 persons is not easy. The second recommendation; that proposing the setting up of a new board to investigate applicants for leave, is criticized on the grounds that there is already adequate collaboration between the WRA and the other government agencies concerned. A new board, he believes, would merely divide authority. In regard to the last recommendation favoring Americanization

of Japanese remaining in the centers, Rep. Eberharter has this to say:

"Of course I am in favor of that; everybody is in favor of Americanization just as everybody is against sin. Of course I am sure that the majority members of the subcommittee do not want to push this idea so far that they will turn these camps into a 'social experiment'.

"Certainly, we would need an extraordinarily intense Americanization program for loyal American citizens who are detained in a seeming contradiction to American principles and the 'four freedoms'. Certainly, also, the best way to push Americanization of this group is for the War Relocation Authority to go ahead with its program of restoring full freedom of movement to the loyal American citizens of Japanese ancestry and the law-abiding aliens who are now in relocation centers."
(Ibid., pp. 27 & 28)

Dies

Beginnings

During latter part of 1942 and first half of 1943, committee received complaints from citizens and orgs. on w.c. concerning handling and release of Js by WRA. Also requests from members of Congress and State authorities to make an investigation. In May, 1943, J. Parnell Thomas of N.J. went to L.A. and conferred with interested persons and groups and reported back that he felt that situation warranted investigation. Called on Pres. to stop relocation program. Because of this recommendation and at request of Cong. Costello of L.A., committee ordered investigation of centers and detailed investigators to go to centers and conduct investigation. On 6/3/43, chrm. of Spec. Com. on Un-Amer. Activities appointed a subcom. to conduct investigation. Composed of John M. Costello of Calif., chrm., Herman P. Eberharter of Penn., and Karl E. Mundt of S. D. From 6/8-1/17 held hearings in L.A. took testimony principally from men who were then or had been employees of reloc. centers. 6/18 held hearings in Parker, Ariz. 7/1-7/9 hearings in Wash.--Myer chief witness. (Report of Subcommittee of the Special Com. on Un-Amer. Activities of the H. of R., on H. R. 282), pp. 2,3.)

Originally created under H. R. 282 which was approved 5/26/38. Continued since then under series of consec. res. which refer back to 282 & provide that Com. shd have same powers as conferred upon it in org. Now operating under H. R. 485 approved 2/8/43.

DEAN JENNINGS OWI SF

June 12, 1943

JAMES SECREST OWI WA

WRA REPORT FROM LA-----

EXAMINER SAYS.---QUOTES--- HOW JAPANESE RIOTERS IN THE POSTON, ARIZ. RELOCATION CENTER FLAUNTED A PLACARD DEPICTING AN AMERICAN SOLDIER HANGED IN EFFIGY WAS AMONG NEW DISCLOSURES MADE TO THE DIES SUBCOMMITTEE YESTERDAY. THIS WAS BUT ONE OF MANY REVELATIONS IN THE TESTIMONY OF NORRIS E. JAMES, FORMER POSTON PRESS AND INTELLIGENCE OFFICER. HE ALSO TESTIFIED THAT (1) SUBVERSIVE JAPANESE WHO WERE INTERNED AFTER PEARL HARBOR WERE RELEASED AND SENT TO POSTON, ALTHOUGH THE FBI DID NOT APPROVE (2) THE RELEASED INTERNEES SPEARHEADED A SERIES OF VICIOUS BEATINGS OF LOYAL JAPANESE (3) THE EVACUEES ARE PERMITTED TO COMMUNICATE BETWEEN RELOCATION CENTERS IN UNCENSORED JAPANESE LETTERS THAT MAY CONTAIN CODE MESSAGES (4) A JAPANESE WHO SINCE HAS BECOME HEAD OF THE CAMP'S PROJECT PLANNING BOARD, TOLD THE STRIKERS, JAPAN IS GOING TO WIN THE WAR AND THAT HE WAS REPRESENTING THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT AND ALL WHO SIDED WITH HIM WOULD GET 10,000 YEN AFTER THE WAR (5) AFTER COMMANDEERING THE LOUD SPEAKER SYSTEM, THE MOB PLAYED JAPANESE ARMY MARCHING SONGS (6) THE JAPANESE POLICE FORCE SAT AROUND THE POLICE STATION DURING THE TROUBLE (7) WHITE OFFICIALS LOST FACE AND WERE HELD IN CONTEMPT BY THE INTERNEES BECAUSE THEY VACCILLATED AND WERE NOT STERN (8) THE JAPANESE FLAG WAS FLOWN FROM THE POLICE STATION (9) UNCLE SAM PAID \$16 A MONTH FOR A JAPANESE TO TEACH THE EVACUEES GOH---SORT OF AN ORIENTAL CHECKER GAME AND THE SAME SALARY TO 80 OR 100 INSTRUCTORS OF JUDO----- JAPANESE WRESTLING THAT IS PART TRAINING FOR JAPANESE SOLDIERS. END QUOTES. ONCE AGAIN PAGE 1 STORY TAKING SECOND ONLY TO PANTELLERIA SURRENDER.

DAILY NEWS SAYS. QUOTES----- A JAP INSTRUCTOR AT THE POSTON, ARIZ., RELOCATION CENTER ANNOUNCED OVER A LOUD SPEAKER SYSTEM TO FELLOW EVACUEES THAT HE WAS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE JAPANESE IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT. NORRIS JAMES, FORMER PRESS AND INTELLIGENCE OFFICER, TESTIFIED THAT ONE WEEK LATER THE SAME JAP---EMPLOYED AS AN INSTRUCTOR AT THE CENTER BY THE US--- REPEATED THE ANNOUNCEMENT AND RECEIVED A GOOD HAND. PREVIOUS TESTIMONY DISCLOSED THAT FROM 80 TO 100 INSTRUCTORS RECEIVED THE SAME PAY FOR TEACHING JUDO TO THE EVACUEES. THAT MEANS THE UNITED STATES TAXPAYERS HAD A PAYROLL OF \$1500 A MONTH TO TEACH JAPANESE MILITARY TACTICS TO JAPANESE, COMMENTED SOUTH DAKOTA CONGRESSMAN KARL MUNDT, MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE. JAMES SAID THAT ONE JAP I. UCHIDA WAS ARRESTED ON A CHARGE OF ASSAULTING ANOTHER JAPANESE WITH A DEADLY WEAPON, THAT HIS ARREST PRECIPITATED A PERIOD OF RIOTING AND THAT HE WAS RELEASED FROM THE CAMP JAIL AFTER CONSULTATION WITH SECRETARY OF INTERIOR HAROLD ICKES. UCHIDA'S RELEASE WAS AUTHORIZED WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT A TRIAL WOULD BE HELD. WHEN UCHIDA WAS RELEASED INTO CUSTODY OF HIS ATTORNEY THE RIOTING SUBSIDED. HE TOLD THE COMMITTEE THAT HE DID NOT KNOW OF UCHIDA EVER HAVING BEEN TRIED AND THAT JAPS TOLD CENTER AUTHORITIES THEY HAD TRIED THE EVACUEE WHO SAID HE WAS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE JAPANESE IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT, AND APPOINTED HIM LEADER OF THE COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD AS PUNISHMENT. END QUOTES. -----STORY GIVEN TWO COL. HEAD ON INSIDE PAGE. NO ART, NO EDITORIAL COMMENT.

TIMES SAYS-----QUOTES-----WITH THE RETURN OF JAPANESE WHO HAS BEEN INTERNED AT BISMARCK, N. D. TO THE POSTON RELOCATION CENTER, BEATING, TERRORISM AND AGITATION AGAINST THE ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITIES BEGAN,

June 12, 1943

THE DIES SUBCOMMITTEE WAS TOLD AT ITS HEARING YESTERDAY. THE INTERNEES ARE THE JAPS WHO WERE ROUNDED UP BY THE FBI, THE NAVY AND ARMY INTELLIGENCE AND THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING PEARL HARBOR, THEY ARE EITHER KNOWN SUBVERSIVES OR HAD MEMBERSHIP IN JAPANESE ORGANIZATION THAT GAVE GOOD GROUND FOR BELIEVING THEY WERE POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS.

TO INTERNMENT CAMPS THEY WENT, PARTICULARLY TO BISMARCK THE FIRST EVACUEES WENT TO POSTON IN MAY 1942. THINGS WERE GOING ALONG WITHOUT TROUBLE. SOON THE INTERNEES BEGAN ARRIVING AND BY LAST FALL 365 INTERNEES HAD BEEN SENT INTO BOSTON FROM BISMARCK. THEY WERE RELEASED FROM BISMARCK, SAID JAMES, IN GROUPS FROM TIME TO TIME BY ALIEN HEARING BOARD. HE BELIEVES THAT IMMIGRATION DEPT AND THE US ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE RAN THE HEARING BOARDS. THE FBI WAS NOT CONSULTED ON THESE RELEASES. THEN THE TROUBLES BEGAN, CULMINATING IN THE STRIKE OF NOV. 17. END QUOTES. TIMES APPEARS TO HAVE JUMPED ON BANDWAGON. DIES STORY HIT FEATURE COLUMN ON PAGE 1 FIRST X SECTION, EQUAL PLAY WITH WAR. INSIDE SLOP OVER OF AT LEAST THREE COLUMNS. SIDEBAR STORY FROM SACRAMENTO ON GOV. WARREN SAYING THE RETURN OF JAPANESE TO CALIFORNIA DURING THE WAR WOULD BE A BODY BLOW TO OUR SECURITY. LITTLE INSERT BOX STORY FROM LOOMIS REPORTING PRESENCE OF A JAPANESE AMERICAN SOLDIER CAUSED A SIT-DOWN STRIKE AT NASH DE CAMP CO WAREHOUSE. LAST OF BY LINES SERIES ON POSTON BY REPORTER HANSON SAYS THE VAST MAJORITY OF AMERICAN BORN JAPANESE AT THE POSTON CAMP DO NOT WANT TO RETURN TO CALIFORNIA NOW OR AFTER THE WAR. REPORTER HANSON WAS TURNED IN A BEAUTIFUL FACTUAL REPORTING JOB IN SERIES OF FIVE ARTICLES ON POSTON. PRACTICALLY NO INTERPRETATION.

EVENING HERALD*EXPRESS PRACTICALLY REPETITION OF EXAMINER COLORING, IN SPOTS, JAMES TESTIMONY.

LANGLEY OWI LA

EVENING HERALD-EXPRESS SAYS. QUOTE---MAYOR FLETCHER BOWRON WAS CALLED AS A WITNESS. MAYOR RECENTLY TOOK THE STAND THAT NO JAPANESE WAS QUALIFIED FOR CITIZENSHIP WHETHER BORN IN THE US OR NOT. AFTER A PROLOG IN WHICH THE MAYOR DEALT WITH THE REQUEST OF THE JAPANESE CONSUL HERE IN 1936 BOWRON EXPLAINED HOW SEVERAL JAPANESE HAD BEEN EMPLOYED IN THE WATER AND POWER DEPARTMENT. HE INDICATED THAT THEIR PLACEMENT THERE HAD BEEN ACCOMPLISHED BY KIYOSHI P. OKURA, AT THAT TIME ACTING CHIEF EXAMINER FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE DEPARTMENT. BOWRON DECLARED THAT THIS FORMER CITY EMPLOYEE WHOM HE CONSIDERED TOO DANGEROUS TO RELEASE, HAD BEEN ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE RELOCATION CENTER AND HAD TAKEN A POSITION TEACHING YOUNG BOYS IN AN INSTITUTION. END QUOTES. PAPER CONTINUES TO GIVE TOP LINE COVERAGE HOWEVER SETTLING DOWN TO TRANSCRIPT.

LANGLEY OWI LA

June 14, 1943

JENNINGS OWI SF

WRA REPORT.

SUNDAY'S ONLY TWO PAPERS HAVE THIS TO SAY ON SATURDAY HEARING--- EXAMINER. QUOTES --- TESTIMONY BEFORE DIES SUBCOMMITTEE STRONGLY INDICATED THAT JAPANESE IN THE POSTON RELOCATION CENTER MAY HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WRECK OF A TROOP-LADEN SOUTHERN PACIFIC TRAIN ON THE DESERT ON JULY 27, 1942, IN WHICH TWO WERE KILLED AND A NUMBER OF ARMY FLYERS INJURED. THIS STARTLING DEVELOPMENT ALONG WITH TESTIMONY THAT IT IS POSSIBLE FOR THE JAPANESE TO SABOTAGE BOULDER AND PARKER DAMS, AND COMMUNICATION LINES, AND MAKE CONTACTS WITH ENEMY AGENTS WERE AMONG THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE HEARING. OTHER DEVELOPMENTS (1) WASHINGTON OFFICIALS SAID EXPENSES FOR FOUR REPRESENTATIVES OF ROCHDALE, N. Y. CONSUMER COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT WERE PAID TO COME OUT TO POSTON AND SET UP A COOP STORE THAT WOULD SELL UNBRANDED MERCHANDISE. (2) TWENTY HEADS OF THE NOTORIOUS LOS ANGELES TOKYO CLUB, GAMBLING ESTABLISHMENT, WERE MOVED TO POSTON AFTER CREATING DISTURBANCES AT THE FORMER JAPANESE CAMP AT SANTA ANITA TRACK (3) IT WAS DISCLOSED THAT AN UNSPECIFIED NUMBER OF JAPANESE FROM HAWAII HAVE BEEN MOVED TO TWO CAMPS IN ARKANSAS BY ORDER OF ARMY AUTHORITIES, (4) HUNDREDS OF ARMS IN THE FORM OF PIPE AND STEEL WERE STOLEN FROM ADJACENT CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS AND SECRETED AT POSTON BY THE JAPANESE. END QUOTES.

TIMES SAYS. QUOTES --- POSSIBILITY THAT THE BURNING OF A RAILWAY TRESTLE ON THE SANTA FE RAILROAD WEST OF THE COLORADO RIVER LAST JUNE MIGHT HAVE BEEN THE WORK OF JAPANESE SABOTEURS FROM POSTON RELOCATION CENTER WAS CONSIDERED BY THE DIES SUBCOMMITTEE.

IN THE COURSE OF ITS HEARING WHEN NORRIS JAMES WAS ON THE WITNESS STAND, THE COMMITTEE HEARD READ BY ACTING COUNSEL STEDMAN AN EXCERPT OF A MEMORANDUM DEALING WITH CONDITIONS AT POSTON. A PART OF THE MEMORANDUM RELATED INCIDENTS OF SABOTAGE OF A TELEPHONE LINE RUNNING BETWEEN PARKER, ARIZONA AND BLYTHE, CAL., PASSING NEAR THE POSTON CAMP. LATER, THE MEMORANDUM REFERRED TO THE RAILROAD TRESTLE BURNING IN WHICH A TRAIN FROM PHOENIX CARRYING A CONTINGENT OF FLYERS TRAINED AT LUKE FIELD BOUND FOR THE COAST PLUNGED INTO THE BURNING TRESTLE. TWO PERSONS WERE KILLED. THE FBI AND OTHER AUTHORITIES CONDUCTED AN EXHAUSTIVE INVESTIGATION AND CONCLUDED THE BURNING WAS A DEFINITE ACT OF SABOTAGE. AS YET NO ONE HAS BEEN APPREHENDED. THE MEMORANDUM POINTED OUT THE TRESTLE COULD HAVE BEEN REACHED BY ANY JAP SABOTEUR WHO NEEDED ONLY TO SWIM ACROSS THE COLORADO RIVER AT A POINT WHERE THIS COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED READILY, NOT FAR FROM POSTON. END QUOTES.

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COPY

(This statement read by Mr. Cozzens over the tactical line)

June 17, 1943

Japanese Internees: Dies vs WRA

Group won't allow Official at Hearing

Los Angeles, June 16

San Francisco Chronicle, June 17. AP Report.

The Dies Sub-Committee investigating Japanese relocation camps today announced that it had rejected an offer by the WRA to have a representative participate in the hearing.

"We do not want any representative of this agency to come here and attempt to censor any testimony developed in this hearing" Chairman Costello said.

Dillon S. Myer, WRA Head, had suggested that R. B. Cozzens, Field Assistant Director of San Francisco, come to Los Angeles to see that a factual statement of the proceedings was sent out.

"I have declined Mr. Myer's offer" Costello said. "Japanese evacuees at Manzanar Relocation Center are getting preference over American citizens in the purchase of food," a witness testified at the hearings today. Thomas L. Cavett, former investigator of the relocation centers for the State Legislative Committee, said that the 9143 evacuees at Manzanar were getting an average of 10,000 pounds of beef, 5,000 pounds of pork, 2500 pounds of lamb and mutton a week. "Where is it secured" asked Congressman Carl Mundt of South Dakota. "It is purchased by the Army." "Does that mean that the Japanese are getting preference." "Yes, that is true" replied Cavett. "Every pound of meat purchased by the Army for the Japanese is just that much less for civilians." "Then the Office of War Information ought to beam this information to Japan and let them know that their people are getting better food than our own citizens" Mundt said.

REMARKS OF REPRESENTATIVE HERMAN P. EBERHARTER
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 an 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.

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.

--oOo--

Confidential files ~

Show that ~~sent~~ Chandler
did not tell Meyer - where -
when - or anything x Meyer got info
from other people.

Meyer letter Mar 5, 43 - to
F. B. Whitaker, Field Ass. Sv. Direct.,
Little Rock.

" I have just heard indirectly
that Sen. Chandler is planning to
arrive at Little Rock. . . .

Senator Chandler has been very
successful up to now in keeping
me in the dark about his plans. . . "

Eberharder joins WRA - draft
of Majority Dies Committee Report + E's
Minority report posed, in part, on
WRA's critical evaluation of
Majority's drafts

At Central Utah, T. Dec.,
Thomas Carett of Dec -

interested in 2
Conscientious Objectors in the
Project.

At Heart Note, interview of May 24,
Canett of Dies Comm. He asked
detailed info. re: Divorce proceedings,
Also re: Farm machinery,
inventory of goods, etc., etc,

At both Manzanar p. 21, &
~~Heart Mountain~~ ~~Branda~~, Does Can the investigators
asked . . . " Has there been any
evidence of any improper or sexual
relations between the Japanese
& Caucasians? " (Manzanar
question by Gene Hagberg.)

Same question at Branda, p. 17,
interview with Tomlinson, May 21,
1943

Same question - Tofoz, interview
with James F. Hughes, Asst. Proj. Dir.,
May 29, 1943, pp. 13-14,

Thomas L. Canutt + ^(Wills) Gene Hagberg
visited -

Central Utah - May 28-29

Sila - May 15

Granada - May 21

Heart Lake - May 24

Mayanar - May 12

Minidoka - May 27