Department of the Interior
War Relocation Authority
Room 202, Sheldon Building
461 Market Street
San Francisco 5, California

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE TO ALL PROJECT PAPERS No. I

Scope of the services the Farm Security Administration (FSA) can make available to returning evacuee farmers has been outlined in a letter sent to WRA by R. W. Hollenberg, Regional Director of the FSA, it was announced today by R. B. Cozzens, Assistant Director of The War Relocation Authority.

Before a loan can be made to any applicant the FSA county committee, comprised of three prominent local farmers, must pass on his eligibility, character and integrity, Mr. Hollenberg said.

RURAL REHABILITATION OR OPERATING LOANS

Rural rehabilitation or operating loans are available to citizens who qualify as low-income farm families (including owner-operators, tenants, share-croppers and farm laborers with sufficient family manpower for farm and home operations, except possibly at peak seasons) if certain other requirements can be met.

These other requirements include: the necessity of full-time farm operations effectively utilizing family manpower or part-time operations which may be supplemented by off-farm employment that will not interfere with successful operations in order to maintain full employment and a satisfactory level of living; a willingness to assume the necessary responsibilities in order to make an effective contribution to the Nation's war effort; a family background of rural experience and managerial ability; that the borrower be unable to obtain adequate farm and home financing at reasonable rates and terms from sources other than the FSA; that there be a reasonable possibility of repaying the loan and that the family's level of health and living can be maintained or improved.

Heads of families eligible as standard borrowers can get loans for livestock, farm equipment, minor repairs and improvements for farm and/or home, participation in group health, hospital and/or dental services, for emergency health services and for correction of physical conditions when the approved farm and home

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plan indicates that such expenditures are necessary to successfully conduct the family's war production program and rehabilitation of the farm family.

However, loans will not be made for refinancing, generally speaking, although exceptions may be made.

FARM OWNERSHIP LOANS

Farm purchase loans, which run for 40 years at three per cent interest, are available to veterans of the present war, farm tenants, renters and laborers who are citizens. FSA reports that due to the limited funds on hand for this purpose and the large number of applications already on hand it is unlikely that more than 12 farm ownership loans can be made in California this year.

HEALTH SERVICES

Farm families, whose income for taxable purposes has averaged $2,000 or less per year during the last five years, are eligible for prepaid medical and hospital care through membership in county health associations established by FSA in cooperation with California Physicians Service, county medical societies and local farmers.

WATER FACILITIES LOANS

Water facilities loans, which run up to 20 years at three per cent interest, are available to farm families for repairing, rebuilding or constructing farm and irrigation water systems, provided the family cannot secure adequate financing from other sources.

GROUP SERVICES LOANS

Group services loans are available to farmers wishing to pool their resources for the purchase and use of services and equipment such as purebred sires and machinery which they cannot afford to own individually. These loans carry three percent interest and run for a period not to exceed the lifetime of the facility purchased.

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Department of the Interior
War Relocation Authority
Room 202, Wheldon Building
461 Market Street
San Francisco 5, California

PROJECT RELEASE NO. 2

San Francisco, January 18 -- Robert W. Kenny, attorney general of California, has written the law enforcement officers of the state calling upon them to see that returning Japanese-American people are given full protection. In his letter he quotes the text of a statement issued by the State Law Enforcement Advisory Committee after a special meeting called at the suggestion of Governor Earl Warren. The statement follows:

"We consider it our sworn duty as law enforcement officers to fully cooperate with the Army authorities in dealing with the return of the Japanese residents of this state. All persons, regardless of race, are entitled to the full protection of the law. The Army has carefully investigated each person to be permitted to return and will not allow those who are potentially dangerous to return.

"There should be no difficulty involved in this transition unless incidents are provoked by intemperate words and thoughtlessness.

"During this period of adjustment the reputation of each of our California communities will be at stake. We have faith in the good judgment of the people of California. We confidently expect all citizens to join with us in furthering full respect of the individual rights involved."

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Department of the Interior
War Relocation Authority
Room 202, Sheldon Building
461 Market Street
San Francisco 5, California

PROJECT RELEASE NO. 3

FRESNO, Calif. ---- Two families who have returned to the San Joaquin Valley area have reported to Paul Fischer, Relocation Officer at Fresno, that they have received a friendly welcome from their neighbors.

The Kazuo Hiyama family, including their two children, returned from the Gila River project to their farm at Fowler. Mr. Hiyama reported to Fischer that no difficulty was experienced and that they are getting along nicely.

James Morishige, his wife, Marcella, and two daughters, Priscilla and Marlynne, have taken possession of their farm three miles northwest of Selma. They were well received, said Mr. Morishige. The children are attending school and have received fine treatment from local children at Selma.

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Department of the Interior
War Relocation Authority
Room 202, Sheldon Building
461 Market Street
San Francisco 5, California

Reports

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE TO ALL PROJECT PAPERS NO. 4

To keep Nisei fighting on the far-flung battlefronts informed of progress on the home front, Pasadena Friends of the American Way, through Marjorie Noble, executive secretary of that group, has sent letters to Nisei soldiers whose homes were in the Pasadena area.

Addressed to "Dear Nisei Soldier," the letters tell the names of the returnees and what they are doing. Here's a sample:

"In this first week after the lifting of the ban, thirteen Japanese Americans have come to Pasadena. They include:

"Ko Yamaguchi, age 10, living with the Emerson family and attending McKinley Junior High School. A clipping about him, from the Los Angeles Times, is enclosed.

"T. Hata, who has found a gardening job, and housing for his family. He is temporarily living with the Emersons.

"Ruby Hori, who will be a freshman at U.C.L.A. next term, and has a housework job in Los Angeles.

"Akira Kageyama, who will work at Caltech, living now with the Emersons.

"Mitsuko Koyama, living at the Morses', will attend P.J.C. next term.

"Francis Uyematsu and Francis Uyematsu, Jr., now at the Carrs', are here to look over their nursery and make arrangements for reopening the business.

"Mr. and Mrs. Iida and Mr. Yamamoto, who may accept jobs offered them at Moody's mattress factory, in Los Angeles. With the Nicholsons.

"Mrs. Lily Moriguchi, who lived with Miss Fanning while she was here on business.

"Mary Aota, living with the Pomeroys, starts at P.J.C. in February.

"Rev. T. Kowta, living now with the Nicholsons, is here to observe conditions and sentiment and report them in the centers.

"Mr. Takayama, the father of Hideo and Shigeo Takayama, is expected to arrive tomorrow, and others have written that they are coming. We welcome all these, and hope that more will soon be with us. And needless to say, we hope that before long you will be among them."

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Department of the Interior
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Project Release No. 5

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 00. - The five members of the Nitta family, the Shokukes and the Hitoshis, are back on their farm near Santa Ana and pretty happy about the whole thing, thank you.

Things seem to be going well, Hitoshi Nitta reported in a "thank you" letter written to the WRA office here recently, several weeks after the return of himself, his wife, their child, his father and mother from the Colorado River Relocation Center at Poston, Arizona.

"We had a very good trip and since our return are slowly getting settled," wrote young Nitta. "So far we have had a warm welcome by everyone except some farmers, all of which I believe you know about. All of the business houses in Santa Ana have welcomed our business except one farm implement firm. Two other equipment firms have greeted me very cordially and I have already done business with them. I already contacted a blacksmith in my neighborhood and have had business with him. Therefore it looks as if my farm machinery will be cared for. So far our farm labor has been plentiful.

"There has been no difficulty in marketing our produce. A friend of mine, who is a farmer, has offered to market my produce should conditions become so difficult that they would prevent me from doing so. However, he did not think that such a condition would ever exist. I do not think that such a thing will happen either."

Nitta went on to tell of the renovating job he and his family are doing on their home, concluded: "From the looks of things it shouldn't be long before we'll have the place in fair shape."

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To: All Project Papers
For: IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Project Release No. 6

WHAT THEY REPORT

Taro and Saito Fukishama arrived in Richmond (Calif.) recently to take over their nursery which had been leased. The pair, who had been working in defense industries in Chicago and whose parents live at Topaz, stayed with a neighbor who returned from a center a month earlier. Both reported kindly treatment and that the neighbor, who lives on a farm near Richmond, moves freely in the vicinity with no comment.

* * * * *

Isao Yoshikawa left Manzanar to make an investigatory trip to Venice, Calif., and Brentwood, found people friendly at both places. A Catholic Church in Los Angeles aided him in his search for farm property by providing an automobile.

* * * * *

Shegataka Onishi, his wife and son moved back to San Jose more than a month ago to their old home. They report friends, neighbors and storekeepers as being courteous and friendly. The son, 13, was warmly received by his classmates and on Valentine's Day received 15 valentines. The Onishis, who were at Heart Mountain for a year before temporarily relocating to Denver where Mr. Onishi did gardening, said they regretted much more of their friends are not returning, or appear hesitant about doing so.

* * * * *

George Ninomiya, his wife, Mildred, and their two children, aged two years and three months, respectively, returned to San Francisco February 20 from the Colorado Relocation Center. On their way from Poston they boarded a train and found that one of their Pullman reservations had been cancelled. It would have meant that Mr. Ninomiya and one of the children would have had to sit up all night had not a service man insisted on giving his berth to them. In San Francisco they were courteously received at the Granada Hotel on Sutter Street near Hyde. Friends of the American Way made every effort to make the family comfortable, made arrangements for a girl to sit with the children while the Ninomiyas went out to shop. Mr. and Mrs. Ninomiya report they have been treated with courtesy and respect wherever they have been.

* * * * *

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In Lodi, San Joaquin County, four children of returnees have been made to feel welcome by both teachers and students. The children reported that the teachers had told their Caucasian classmates that they must "treat them (the returning children) like anybody else" and that's what they're doing. A special bulletin was put out by the school to all members of the faculty, the bulletin to be read to students "in groups where understanding can be achieved." The bulletin briefly summed up the evacuation, lifting of the ban, the compulsory education laws of California, pointed out that hazing was illegal, wound up by quoting "The test of a free country is the security it gives its minorities" (Acton) and that every person who holds a California State teachers' credential had taken an oath to support the laws of California and the United States Constitution.

* * * * *

In Atwater, near Merced, where two families have returned, the children reported they liked the schools there better than in the center because "the children were nicer."

* * * * *

Robert Ozawa recently became the first Nisei to register at the San Francisco Junior College. He was cordially received by the dean of the college and every teacher he has met so far has assured him of his welcome. Robert, who comes from Topaz and is staying with Caucasian friends in his old home in Berkeley, reported one of his teachers volunteered to "stand by him" at all times.

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To: All Project Papers
For: IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Project Release No. 7

The first and only attempt to date to intimidate returnees to the Santa Clara Valley not only brought quick response by law enforcement officials but immediate castigation, through newspaper editorials and cartoons, of the hoodlumism.

The San Francisco News ran a cartoon labeled "The House by the Side of the Road" which depicted a Japanese-American home near San Jose being fired by hoodlums while only 50 miles away a world security conference for the sake of international unity was being planned in San Francisco. The News also ran an editorial, "Word Awaited," expressing the hope no stone would be left unturned in the attempts to discover the guilty ones who set fire to the home occupied by ten returnees and then fired revolver shots over their heads as they labored to extinguish the fire.

The San Francisco Chronicle editorialized that "We think the sheriff should find out who they (the culprits) are in a hurry and bring them in," then followed next day with a commendation to Deputy Sheriff Jack Gibbons for his statement that: "When I took my oath of office, I promised to protect the property of all United States citizens."

State Attorney General Robert W. Kenny, whose office has been most cooperative in protecting the rights of returnees, wrote to Sheriff William J. Emig of Santa Clara County that "I was deeply gratified at the forthright stand taken by your office, and particularly by Deputy Sheriff Jack Gibbons, in the recent attack on the lives and property of American citizens in your county."

Deputy sheriffs arrived at the scene of the incident, three miles out of San Jose, within fifteen minutes after the incident was reported to them.

The Japanese-Americans, Suyekichi (Sam) Takeda, 60; his wife, Misao, 51; a son, Joe, 25; Joe's brothers and sister, Bill, 20; Herbert, 16; Edward, 14, and Beverly, 12; a brother-in-law, Philip Matsumura, and Philip's wife, Sue; and a friend, Tom Mitoza, were asleep in the home owned by Joe Takeda on the San Jose-Alviso road when they were awakened by smoke at 12:50 a.m. on March 6.

Aroused, the entire family turned out into the rain to scoop dirt on the two fires started in a shed and at the corner of the house. The deputy sheriffs from San Jose arrived while the family was still engaged in extinguishing the last smoldering embers of the fire, which did little damage.

Joe Takeda reported to the sheriff that while the family was putting out the fire, a sedan cruised by several times. One of several men in it fired one shot on one occasion, fired two more on another, all of them high. None was hurt.

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The sheriff's men found two gallon jugs from which gasoline had been poured in the incendiary attempt, dug a revolver slug from the wall of Joe Takeda's bedroom, and found the telephone wires (it wasn't connected at that time) had been cut.

While heavy rain and the family, in scooping dirt from the ground, eradicated most of the footprints left by the terrorists, Sheriff Emig's men got one good plaster cast which will be used to help identify the culprits when they are found.

The telephone company, at the request of the sheriff, district attorney and a War Relocation Authority investigator, installed a telephone the following morning and the sheriff arranged for a prowl car to watch the district closely.

The WRA District Relocation Officer has been in constant touch with the family since March 6 but nothing untoward has occurred since that time.

Miss Teiko Ishida, JACL representative from San Francisco, visited San Jose and the Takedas, who returned January 26 to San Jose from Parowan, Utah, after having relocated there from the Gila River Relocation Center in 1943.

Miss Ishida was met at the train by Sheriff Emig's wife who, although she had never met Miss Ishida before, drove her around and aided her in making contacts.

Miss Ishida and the Takedas expressed themselves as well pleased with the cooperative efforts of the law enforcements agencies.

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Department of the Interior
War Relocation Authority
Room 202, Sheldon Building
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San Francisco 5, California

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To: All Project Papers
For: IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Project Release No. 8

Basic rights of people of Japanese ancestry returning to California must be protected and such protection is a responsibility of all law enforcement agencies in California, State Attorney General Robert W. Kenny told an annual meeting of the state's sheriffs, held in Sacramento on March 16.

Mr. Kenny denounced groups which are "stirring up trouble" with returnees.

"The protection of their basic rights....freedom from fear, freedom to earn their living, freedom to live as peaceful citizens.....must also be maintained," said the Attorney General.

"This situation is peculiarly one in which many groups need to cooperate wholeheartedly to assure results. The sheriffs and police chiefs have a direct and immediate part to play; the Department of Justice has a responsibility from a state-wide standpoint; the armed services for action of soldiers and sailors; the War Relocation Authority for furnishing information which will be helpful in carrying this program through to its ultimate conclusion; district attorneys to prosecute anyone who violates the law; and all of us, as adults and as responsible members of our communities, to do whatever we can to see that the attitudes, too, of people are such as to allow the Japanese Americans to live in safety and peace in the areas in which they resettle."

Referring to the world conference scheduled in San Francisco for April 25, Mr. Kenny pointed out that the German and Japanese radios mention the conference in scoffing terms "but our Allies speak of it as a hope for the future without recurring wars."

He continued:

"American citizenship with its attributes of fearlessness, self assurance and dignity, means much to the hearts of men who have suffered under the Nazi and Nipponese yokes. We must, therefore, make absolutely sure that nothing interferes with the welcome we extend---that nothing occures in California to mar the impression on our guests of democracy in operation."

Touching on the lifting of the exclusion order banning persons of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast, Mr. Kenny pointed to the decision of the U. S. Supreme Court that the rights of the Japanese-Americans must be restored, that the rights to protection accorded to the wealthy and strong must be extended to those who are small and weak.

"Remember," he said, "----and remind people----that this applies only to those whose loyalty to these United States has been determined and who are hence being allowed to leave the War Relocation Centers. These rights are meaningful and must be protected. And it is the duty of law enforcement officials to cast aside any personal prejudices they may have and fully to protect the returning Japanese Americans.

"It's time that we get down to brass tacks on the reasons for so much talk. One of the clues lies in what you see in California grocery stores today. Gone are the huge piles of tempting vegetables which once made the shopper's mouth fairly water; and up are the prices on the less-attractive vegetables which are on the shelves."

Mr. Kenny then enumerated some of the incidents which have occurred, tied them in with selfish economic urges and then asked:

"Are not these activities more reminiscent of Klu Klux Klans and Vigilantes than of our much-vaunted 1945 methods of protection of rights and maintenance of peace?

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"Your shield or star is a symbol of your office, your authority, and your responsibility. It is acquired when you assume office and say, 'I do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States of America, the Constitution of the State of California, and I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of sheriff....according to the best of my ability, so help me God.'

"The Vigilantes were originally formed when law enforcement officers did not do their duty and even participated in defiance of the law. They came about because of the will of law-abiding citizens who demanded that their laws be upheld. It is up to us to see that the powers and duties with which we are charged are not usurped ---in other words, we must do our part or be replaced.

"Most of the incidents that have taken place are specifically prohibited by law and it has been possible to take prompt and definite steps to quell disturbances and take into custody those who transgress against the peace, I know from first hand experience how promptly and efficiently all of you have moved. The Department of Jutice has been and continues to be at your service for any assistance we can render. Offenders must be apprehended and quickly."

Mr. Kenny added:

"The more subtle attacks, resolutions by which large groups promise 'not to do business with the Japs', paint 'Jap-lover' signs on doors, or refuse to allow their children to attend the same schools, are more degrading, harder to handle and result in even more deep-seated discrimination against these people. Actually, if we remember that none of us is doing business with 'the Japs' we'll make more headway. We can and should do business with the 'Japanese Americans.'"

In concluding his address to the sheriffs, Mr. Kenny observed:

"Example has long been one of the more powerful influences in American life and in the setting of customs and habits not only of the nation but also of every community. Lawlessness, clanishness, segregation and mental cruelty are subversive influences which can color the present and future life of the whole community. If they are allowed to exist unhindered and are even tacitly approved, they can and will bring evil consequences of a kind which I daresay none of us would be willing to have a part in."

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Department of the Interior
War Relocation Authority
Room 202 Sheldon Building
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For Release to All Project Papers and
Information of Area Reports Officers
and District Relocation Officers.

Project Release No. 9

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SAN FRANCISCO, March 00.--Four men, two of them brothers AWOL from the Army and the other two brothers and civilian residents of Auburn, California, will go to trial before a jury and Superior Judge Lowell Sparks in Placer County Superior Court at Auburn on April 17 on charges of arson and attempting to dynamite a building, R. B. Cozzens, Assistant Director of the War Relocation Authority, announced here today.

The four were arrested in connection with the attempted burning and dynamiting of the Sumio Doi ranch, near Auburn, on the nights of January 17 and 18.

Picked up after an investigation of two weeks by local and state authorities, Pvt. Elmer R. Johnson, 20, and his brother, Pvt. Alvin E. Johnson, 18, have been held in Auburn County jail because they were unable to make a $5000 cash or $10,000 personal bond. The two other brothers, James Edward Watson, 38, an Auburn bartender, and his brother, Charles, 35, a rancher, posted real estate bonds in the amount of $10,000 each.

On February 21 the four were bound over to the Superior Court for trial after a preliminary hearing. On March 13 the four pleaded not guilty before Judge Sparks, who then set the trial date and gave the Watson brothers five days in which to file new bonds of $10,000 each because District Attorney C. E. Tindall complained that the sureties offered were not sufficient.

The Watsons then made new bonds and were allowed to return to their homes.

The Doi family, Sumio, his father and mother, returned from Granada Relocation Center to their ranch on January 5. Sumio Doi has two brothers serving with the Army, one of them overseas and another has been training at Fort Snelling, Minn.

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Department of the Interior
War Relocation Authority
Room 202 Sheldon Building
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Douglas 8173

Full Press Release

For Release to All Project Papers,
Information of Area Reports Officers
and District Relocation Officers.

Project Release No. 11

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

"Since arriving home we have experienced nothing but kindness and friendly words."

So wrote Eva Tanimoto, member of the first family to relocate on the West Coast from Tule Lake Segregation Center since the lifting of the military ban, to the Relocation Division at the project.

Miss Tanimoto, 23, and her family returned about six weeks ago to the 85-acre fruit farm owned by her and her brother, Jim Minoru, 21, at Gridley, California. Others of the Tanimoto family who returned were her father, Hikiochi, 62; her mother, Rewa, 57; and another brother, George, 18.

Here are excerpts from her letter:

"I am sorry I have delayed until now to thank you for everything you have done for me and my family. I just cannot find words that would express my gratefulness and appreciation.

"We had no trouble whatever in getting home. The trip was very pleasant and the strain of the trip had no ill effect on father's health. I am very happy to say that the lower elevation and warmer climate are doing wonders to him.

"Since arriving home we have experienced nothing but kindness and friendly words. Many of our friends have brought us fresh eggs, home-made butter, jellies and fruits.

"Among our many friends we had a call from a group of people who reside in this area who are fighting against discrimination. They were so very nice and understanding that it brought tears in my eyes to think that there are people like them who take special interest in us and help us in our trying times. They told me to feel free to come to them if there should be any trouble or discrimination. I wish that everyone in the colony could meet these wonderful people.

"Not very long ago there was a little trouble at the Gridley Bakery about services to a Filipino customer, and this group went down there to look into the matter and talked with the saleslady and I understand now everything is fine.

(more)

"I was telling this group of my father's illness and that I was going to take him to the new doctor that took over the practice of our family physician. They informed me that this doctor is also a member of their group; they agreed to contact Dr. Thompson for me. On the same day I talked with these people, Dr. and Mrs. Thompson came to visit us. I never met anyone so understanding and friendly as they are. Dr. and Mrs. Thompson are very good friends of Dr. Yamauchi of the base hospital there in camp, so we had lots of common things to talk about.

"This isn't the cruel world I once believed it to be. I don't think there is anyone more fortunate than I. Financially, I may not be the richest girl on this earth, but I have the best friends, a nice comfortable house, orchard, parents, everything anyone can ask for and I value these things more highly than all the gold in the world.

"Thank you from the very bottom of my heart for everything you and the WRA have done for me to get me once more on my feet. I am greatly indebted to you and the WRA for this chance. I have written many encouraging letters to our friends up there telling them of our good fortune. Please remember me to Mrs. Thomas and Mr. Shallit. Once again, many, many thanks to you.

"Most gratefully,

"Eva Tanimoto."

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Department of the Interior
War Relocation Authority
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Douglas 8173

Reports

For Release to All Project Papers,
Information of Area Reports Officers
and District Relocation Officers

Project Release No. 12

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Recently the War Relocation Authority sent a reports officer out to find out how the largest groups of relocated Americans of Japanese ancestry in California were working out their resettlement problems, individually and as a unit of the community.

The groups visited were in Fresno County. While individual answers ranged all the way from "wonderful" to "pretty good, so far", there was not one person unable to say he was glad to come back.

The first visited was the Inoye family who have returned to their home in the Westside of Fresno. When Mrs. Inoye answered the doorbell and saw her visitors, she exclaimed happily, "More company". Mrs. Inoye told us that she had had a stream of callers ever since they returned about two months ago. Her former boss from the Bank of America, the Dean of Women at Fresno State Teachers College, many neighbors and friends have rung the Inoye doorbell to welcome them home. "One nice old man saw my husband on the other side of the street and he got so excited he ran over and hugged him", Mrs. Inoye said. "They looked so funny standing there hugging each other."

The first night Mr. and Mrs. Inoye came home, they walked down to the Chinese section of the town with their fourteen year old son and had dinner in a Chinese restaurant. The proprietor was friendly. Some Filipinos stared at them but the Inoyes were told that Filipino hostility in that section came from seasonal workers who would soon be gone. "We just stay out of their way", Mrs. Inoye said.

Several months before the Inoyes returned, their place of business, a garage, was burned down. This means that they may not be able to reopen their business but, even so, they are happy that they came home.

"If we had listened to rumors, we never would have been here," Mrs. Inoye said. "When we were on the train coming out, we bought a San Francisco Chonicle and read of the Orosi case. I'm afraid we never would have started out if we had that news before we got on the train. I'm certainly glad we didn't know about it because we would have missed the wonderful happiness of being home."

Mrs. Inoye keeps a guest book and all the returnees sign it when they visit her home. She is a complete information center on their plans and activities. She can tell you, for instance, that Fred Waterida has returned to his vegetable farm outside of Fresno and is being cordially welcomed by his Chinese neighbor. Or, she can give you news about young Robert Yabuno from Gila who is preparing to take a job as an optometrist or, maybe, he will open his own business. A Caucasian classmate of Robert's is going out of his way to help him get settled as are other Caucasian friends.

While we were in Fresno West Side, we visited Mr. Kubota, Poston's former Mayor, at the hotel he operates there. Mr. and Mrs. Kubota and young Henry were working like beavers to get the hotel painted up and spring cleaned. Henry is waiting to hear from the Government on a matter of business pertaining to World War Number II and while he is hanging around he is having a good time seeing his old friends. He was invited to a party given in a Caucasian home the other night for a serviceman on furlough. Henry doesn't worry much about talk of Filipino hostility. He had his hair cut by a Filipino barber the other day and in addition to a good haircut, he got a hearty welcome.

Going back to the Relocation Office, we met Fred Nishida and Chick Sasaki who are back in Reedley with their parents and brothers and sisters. These two boys told us that they had a warm reception in Reedley. Returning war veterans from the Pacific have shaken hands with them when they met them on the street. They were urged so heartily to attend the First Mennonite Church that they did a few Sundays ago and were cordially welcomed by everyone. They got their biggest thrill out of homecoming in a grocery store. "We were standing in line waiting our turn at the counter", Fred Nishida said. "We knew all about the cigarette shortage and so we weren't even going to ask for cigarettes. But the fellow in front of us, a Caucasian, asked and he got two packages. I thought I'd ask and see what the storekeeper would say to us. After all, we are of Japanese ancestry and the storekeeper is a Filipino but something made me ask--just to prove to myself whether or not we were being treated like other people. The Filipino storekeeper didn't answer me when I asked for the cigarettes- He merely reached down behind the counter and handed me-- not two packages like he did the Caucasian customer-- but THREE."

(over)

Our first call outside of Fresno was at the home of Harry Osaki near Selma. For a house that had been peppered with buckshot a few weeks ago, it certainly had a normal appearance. Those who worried about the effect of this attack on the elder Osakis would have been relieved if they could have seen them happily puttering around in their garden. The boys were out in the fields and so we visited with the parents.

Mr. Osaki does not speak English fluently but he knows how to get over one point--"This is my country", he said, scuffing his foot in the soil of his ranch, "this is where we belong."

Not far from the Osakis are the Hiyamas. Mr. and Mrs. Hiyama and their two children got home a few days before Christmas and later other members of the family followed. Mrs. Hiyama and her sister-in-law were digging out in the vineyard when we arrived and they were glad to stop work. It looked like rain and they said they might go in the house to bake a cake.

The Hiyamas were one of the first families to relocate in Fresno County. Neighbors and friends called on them and brought them gifts. Even people whom they didn't know dropped by with Christmas presents. They received over a dozen letters of encouragement from people all over the State. A man sent them an American flag and told them to hang it on their front porch.

The older Hiyamas and their daughter called on a Filipino family whom they had known before evacuation. The family was happy to see them and the Hiyamas enjoyed their visit.

Around the corner and down the highway are the Hirokas. Mrs. Hiroka and her two daughters, Alice and Fusa, were doing chores in their comfortable home when we arrived. They sent out for Harry, the brother who is managing the farm. He is the only one of the four Hiroka boys who has been spared by the Army to run the ranch. Harry came in with Howard Hatyama, a neighboring rancher, who, like the Hirokas, relocated to the East from Gila.

The younger Hirokas were enthusiastic in their praise of Morriston, New Jersey, where they had relocated. They were in the midst of a Friends colony there and the environment was ideal. We suspected that the younger Hirokas would have liked to stay in Morriston--but not so Father Hiroka. He is the biggest booster for relocation to California we met on our trip.

"I guess you can sum it all up by saying 'Be it ever so humble there's no place like home'", young Harry said.

The Hirokas were the first returnees to Fresno County and sentiment was not too good then, they think. "You can tell it's improved by the way people act",Harry said. "When we first came back, people didn't visit us too openly. Now they come here freely." The Hirokas trade in a Chinese store when they go to Fresno. There is one thing that could make their homecoming more pleasant, Harry thinks, and that is for more of the evacuees to come back.

Howard Hatyama said that he and his wife backed up everything the Hirokas said. Both families were amused at the rumors that had circulated in the centers about their homecoming. "We heard that people in the centers had reports that the Hirokas were all dead and that Hatyama was in the hospital or in jail", Harry laughed, "It's too bad people pay any attention to those wild rumors."

Back in Fresno, we ran into James Muyamoto from Poston who has come back to take over the family ranch. Muyamoto runs the farm for himself and his four sisters. Soon he is going into the army and so his friend, Sata Watari a 4-F also from Poston, will run the place for him. Muyamoto has been welcomed by his high school teachers and hundreds of old friends in Clovis. He told us that Johnson Shumiza, also from Poston, is coming back with his family to work for the Leonard Fruit Company. The company is fixing up a home for him.

During the day Pete Nakayama, from Rivers via Montana, dropped in to talk to Paul Fischer, Relocation Officer in Fresno. Nakayama and four other returnees are working for a Caucasian farmer in Kingsburg. The other workers, who are Mexican, are very friendly. Nakayama has been too busy to get around Kingsburg much but he says he can tell that Caucasians are friendly because they "raise their hands to us" when they pass by.

All in all Fresno seems to be a good place to come home to. Fair Play Committees, church groups, sympathetic community leaders, a relocation officer and staff who go out of their way to add many extra touches not really called for in their job descriptions make relocation in that area a pleasant adventure.

Mr. Fischer has only one complaint--he wants more evacuees to relocate.

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For Release to All Project Papers,
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Project Release No. 13

Typical of the type of service offered to all travelers by the Travelers Aid Society is that recently received Rikisaburo Ohashi, a paralyzed returnee.

Mr. Ohashi was met in Sacramento by a representative of the society and given every possible attention there while he and his family changed trains for Modesto.

The representative of the Travelers Aid Society wired the Stanislaus County Welfare Department at Modesto to meet the train with a wheel chair, as was done in Sacramento.

The Travelers Aid Society should be notified far enough in advance to handle special cases. The society is equipped to arrange for emergency medical and ambulance service at all railroad transfer points.

The Ohashis said that porters and other railroad employes were very kind and considerate to them during the trip.

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Times
Good — we should try to use all this
(WC)

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Project Release No. 14

For Release to Project Papers,
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(On March 6 an attempt was made to intimidate the family of Joe Takeda which had returned to his farm three miles out of San Jose, California, January 26. Several persons, thus far unidentified, attempted to burn the Takeda home and then, when the fire was being fought by the Takedas, further attempted to frighten them by firing several shots in the general direction of the house. Although law enforcement officials quickly were on the job, a heavy rain obliterated such clues as footprints or tire tracks. However, the search for the culprits goes on. Meanwhile, Joe Takeda, American, has refused to be frightened or intimidated by a few bigoted night-skulkers. Just how Joe Takeda feels about the whole thing is told by Joe Takeda himself in the following letter which was recently received by James E. Edmiston, WRA District Relocation Officer at San Jose. Written from Rt. 2, Box 958, San Jose, the letter follows.)

"Dear Mr. Edmiston:

"Now that the atmosphere has cleared somewhat following the recent attempt to burn and shoot-up our home near San Jose, I want to tell you how my family and myself feel about this attack. The first purpose of my letter is to set at rest a lot of rumors which have been circulated throughout Santa Clara County.

"Nine members of our family were in the home at the time of the attack. They were: my father and mother; my married sister and her husband, Phil Matsumura; two younger brothers attending Santa Clara High School; and my baby sister Beverly, a student at Alviso Grammar School. I am speaking for all of them when I say that we are satisfied the attack was perpetrated by a few individual thugs and that it does not in any way, reflect the feelings of the people of Santa Clara County and San Jose against our family or any other returning evacuees.

"In support of this may I point out that all of our Caucasian friends, many of whom have known us children since we were babies, have been very cordial indeed. At Santa Clara High School both the teachers and the students have welcomed my brothers and received them back into school activities as though they had never been away. The same applies at Alviso Grammer School.

"The report that we had left, or were about to leave our home is entirely without foundation. We are here catching up the threads of our lives where we left off and it would take much more than the incident reported to convince us that we are not wanted in this community.

"My brother-in-law, Phil Matsumura, is the only member of our family who has left San Jose. He is reporting for induction into the army.

"You are at liberty to use this letter as you see fit at the Relocation Camps in order that our feelings may be known to other American Japanese in the centers who are planning to return to their homes.

"Sincerely,
"/s/ Joe Takeda
"Joe Takeda"

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For: Release to all Project Papers,
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Project Release No. 15

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wounded American soldiers of Japanese ancestry hospitalized at Dibble General Hospital, Menlo Park, California, are the special project of the San Jose Bible College, 306 So. Fifth Street, San Jose.

To make sure that the Nisei are not lacking for entertainment, workers from the college have instituted a program for the veterans which includes entertainment in homes of persons of Caucasian and Japanese ancestry in Santa Clara County, seeing to it that flowers are placed in the men's rooms, taking them for automobile rides on sunny days and making available to all of them transportation so that they may attend church services.

Among those working with Rev. W. L. Jessup, president of the college and minister of the Church of Christ which sponsors the college, are Mrs. Alice Stilgebauer, Audrey Isaacs, Eleanor Still, Mrs. Maynard Kennedy and Rachael Carlton.

The work is being co-ordinated so that no American veteran of Japanese ancestry is overlooked and that everything within financial means of the group is done to entertain them.

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File

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For: Release to All Project Papers,
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Project Release No. 16

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ordinarily it's not news when two pretty young girls are able to fill their social calendars with dinner dates, movie parties, canteen work and for odd moments with "gabfests" and bedtime snacks in their rooms with other girls.

But this kind of social whirl is news when the girls happen to be two Nisei (Japanese Americans) who have recently resettled in San Francisco.

When Miss Alice Takeuchi and her roommate Miss Emi Okazaki, who were evacuated from the Coast in 1942, came back to this city a month ago, they were not too sure of their welcome.

At best they hoped people would not be rude to them. Even in their most optimistic moments they didn't expect to be treated like popular sorority house pledges.

When the girls arrived from the East they were introduced to each other at a tea given by the International Institute. They found out that both had temporary headquarters at the YWCA and they decided to join forces and look for a room.

They found just the place at the Mary Elizabeth Inn, 1040 Bush Street, a boarding home for girls operated by the women's organizations of the Methodist Church. They were told that the other 97 girls living in the house would be friendly to them. Just how friendly they found out within a few hours of moving in.

"We were unpacking our things, when we heard a knock on the door," Miss Takeuchi wrote to her sister back East when she described her first day at the Inn. "The cutest little girl Marine was standing there. She held her hand out to us and told us that she wanted to welcome us to the Inn. We thought she was a darling and of course we jumped at the invitation to go out and have a dish of ice cream with her."

Later at dinner the two Nisei girls met some of the other girls in the house and everyone went out of her way to extend a greeting.

After dinner there was another knock at the door. This time it was an attractive tall blonde girl who had been absent from dinner and wanted the girls to know how sorry she was to have missed them.

"Since then it has been like that every day," Miss Takeuchi says. "There are two WAVES and five women Marines in the house. Two of the women Marines are on our floor and we run in and out of each other's rooms or go upstairs to fix a snack when we get hungry."

(more)

Both of the girls have met many Nisei in uniform--Japanese American service men who are here on furlough from service in the Pacific or Europe or boys who are stationed in the Bay Area. When they have dates the boys call for them at the Inn. On those occasions the house mother, Miss Mary Elizabeth Daniels, receives the boys graciously in the lobby and puts them at their ease while they are waiting for the girls to come down to the living room.

"When our dates call and the living room for men is crowded, Miss Daniels ushers them into the living room reserved for women," says Miss Takeuchi.

Both girls are "crazy" about Miss Daniels. "She calls us all her family," they tell you proudly.

The girls take their dates to the CIO Service Men's Canteen unless they express a preference for "exploring" San Francisco.

Whether they have dates or not both girls devote one night a week to the canteen. They have sent out an S.O.S. for other Nisei girls to help them.

"The other night we were rushed off our feet," they complain good-naturedly. "There were seven Nisei soldiers in the canteen and they all wanted attention. One wanted someone to listen to phonograph records with him, others wanted to dance and still others wanted to play games. And there were only two of us to go around."

The girls have made friends with the other hostesses in the canteen, especially with the Chinese girls who are on duty with them.

When Emi and Alice take their dates on exploring trips they go to the beach or to restaurants with a lot of San Francisco atmosphere. One night they went to a Chinese restaurant in the former Japanese section of San Francisco. "We were well treated and well fed," they and their dates agree.

The girls have received the same courteous treatment that others receive in stores and public places. The other night they were out with their dates and decided they would go to a restaurant that they remembered under the name of "The Merry-go-Round." They went into a drug store to look up the address in a phone book. When they couldn't find it they asked the clerk.

"Why that place has been closed a long time," he told them, "Where have you girls been?"

"Then he suddenly realized that we were Japanese," Miss Takeuchi said, "and he seemed anxious to make up to us for what he thought was a faux pas."

"Of course, of course," he said to cover up his embarrassment, "Well anyway, it's good to see you back again."

(more)

The girls insist that their evenings are not all froth and chiffon. On Tuesday evenings they go to Vesper services at the Inn and listen to interesting speakers. On some evenings they go to serious meetings connected with their work. Miss Takeuchi is secretary to the State CIO Legislative Director and Miss Okazaki is a secretary at the International Institute.

Once in a while they stay home to tend to the thousands of details that pile up on working girls. On their nights home they visit informally with other girls helping each other with hair-dos, straightening hems and pressing clothes.

Most of the girls in the house are civil service workers - one girl works for the FBI and another for the OWI.

"I lived in the YWCA back East and I thought we had a darling bunch of girls there," Miss Takeuchi says. "I didn't think they could be beat. But these girls have gone them one better. They are friends we'll never forget because they came through for us when we needed a lift."

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For: Release to All Project Papers,
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Project Release No. 17

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

That Americans of Japanese ancestry serving with the Pacific assault forces have proved their loyalty to the United States through heroism that has won the praise of all who have seen them in action is the message Joe Rosenthal, Associated Press photographer whose photograph of U.S. Marines raising Old Glory on Iwo Jima won nationwide acclaim, brought back with him, according to Charles Gotthard, New York correspondent for the Chicago Tribune.

Rosenthal, whose daring in making the historic picture of the Marines raising the Stars and Stripes at the crater rim of Mount Suribachi after the bloody battle for the island caused Navy Secretary Forrestal to remark that Rosenthal was "as gallant as the men who raised the Flag", told Gotthart:

"There are thousands of Japanese Americans in United States service in all theaters. All of those with whom I came into contact are anxious to prove their loyalty to this country. Often their anxiety is touching, for they volunteer for all sorts of dangerous missions.

"Many have paid with their lives, and many more have been wounded. They have done an outstanding job for the Allied cause and their heroism should be recognized. It has been recognized by the Marine commanders where I saw them in action at Guam, Peleliu, and Iwo," Rosenthal said in the interview.

"Usually they work with headquarters in serving as interpreters. Armed with hand grenades at entrance to Jap pillboxes or caves, they often convince the enemy to surrender where American officers, lacking the proper diction of the Japanese language, would fail.

"They work so close to the enemy on these missions that, along with the danger of being killed by Japs, they run the risk of being shot, unintentionally, by our own Marines. From a distance it's hard to tell them from the enemy. Their dungarees soon become ragged in rough country and the similarity of their physical appearance makes their job that much tougher."

Rosenthal said many of the Japanese Americans were in service in Europe and clamored for transfer to the Pacific where, lent to the Marines, their linguistic and other talents could be put to better use. He said virtually all were serving with special units rather than with regular fighting units.

(more)

"And they get along fine with the Marines, who are pushing their way to Tokyo," he added.

Rosenthal condemned isolated instances of antagonism toward Japanese American fighting men by United States groups. He termed a "crying shame" the action by the Hood River, Oregon, American Legion Post in removing the names of Japanese Americans from the city's honor roll, a move that also was condemned by the National Legion organization. The names later were restored.

Rosenthal is preparing to return to the Pacific soon, Gotthard's story concluded.

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File Press Releases

Department of the Interior
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Project Release No. 21

For: Release to All Project Papers
Area Reports Officers

FOR RELEASE MAY 30

San Francisco, May 30--Memorial Day, 1945, dedicated by the Congress of Industrial Organizations, "to those who have died so that others yet unborn might be free, should be a special reminder to CIO members that discrimination and fascism alike mean human degradation," says the statement of James B. Carey, Secretary-Treasurer of the CIO, chairman of the CIO Committee to Abolish Discrimination and Consultant to the American Delegation of the United Nations Conference here.

"We, together with the other free people of the world, have waged one of these wars to victory in Europe; we and our loyal allies are determined to carry the war with Japan to a similar victorious conclusion. Our fight is for the inalienable rights of human beings," says Carey's statement.

"These rights must not be confused with man-made decisions. The rights derive from the natural law, and hence any individual or group of individuals who denies or restricts the right of life and liberty to any other individual because of differences in race or color, or because of opinions of man's ultimate spiritual goal, destroys universal peace. Man-made decisions, on the other hand, possess no such natural attributes. The right to make a decision is one thing; the decision itself is another. When such decisions affect adversely the general welfare, they may and must be restrained."

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Project Release No. 22

For: Release to All Project Papers

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Evacuees wishing to apply for lumber and other building materials and equipment that are restricted under priorities control must file applications with the War Production Board. These applications are submitted through County War Boards or Federal Housing Administration offices, depending on the nature of the proposed construction, for their recommendations regarding issuance of certificates for the desired items. The applications are then referred to the WPB for final action. In certain instances we have learned that because the applications were incorrectly prepared or for some other reasons, the County War Boards or FHA offices have failed to approve applications. However, WPB may, if it so desires, approve an application without the favorable recommendation of the office transmitting it.

If any evacuees residing in centers wish to file applications for controlled building materials it is suggested that there be attached to each application a statement from the Project Director or Relocation Officer to the effect that the applicant is returning to his home under the provisions of Western Defense Command Public Proclamation No. 21 and needs the materials requested in the application to place his property in suitable living or operating condition. Such a statement attached to the application will aid materially in obtaining approval of the application by WPB even though the County War Board or Federal Housing office to which the application is first referred fails to make a favorable recommendation.

Applications for construction or repair of residences in cities should be made on form WPB-2896. Applications covering farm construction, including dwellings, and all types of commercial property, should be prepared on form WPB-617. Cases involving farm buildings should be referred to the County War Boards. Applications for construction involving city residences or commercial property should be routed through the appropriate district office of the Federal Housing Administration.

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