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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Intermountain Area

FINAL REPORT

By Vaughn Mechau

F2.45

No. 1

The Intermountain Area roughly comprises a region that extends from border to border, North to South, (although recently Arizona was transferred to the West Coast jurisdiction), bound on the West by the evacuated West Coast while on the East it includes most of Montana, except for the Southeast corner, part of Wyoming and encompasses the states of Utah, Idaho and Nevada and the eastern parts of Washington and Oregon.

This Area, in several respects, is unique in the WRA relocation organization. In the first place, since it borders the West Coast evacuated area, it drew probably the greatest number of voluntary evacuees, as well as the first to relocate from the centers. This is due to a combination of circumstances, including:

- 1.)--the relatively large number of residents of Japanese ancestry already living in the Area, (Utah alone had 2,210 in 1940 and eastern Washington and Oregon had several well-established communities which were never affected by evacuation);
- 2.)--"reasonable" treatment was expected in most communities, many of which are predominately of the Mormon faith, (Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints);
- 3.)--availability of work in almost every line of pursuit, including railroad employment in the Pacific Northwest which included housing;

pick a staff, the Area is to be considered fortunate in having had staff members who were not only devoted to their duties, but who had a deep and sincere interest in the program as a whole.

CONCLUSION:

As expressed in the Spokane district report: "Racial prejudice is a state of mind and can be most effectively combatted by an objective educational program; that patterns of thought compatible with the democratic way of life can be as easily taught as patterns of thought that were the heritage of the fascist state.

It is recommended by the same office, that:

1.)--The United States government, in coordination with the state and local governments, carry on a continuous program of education for the purpose of bringing about a better understanding between all racial and religious groups throughout the nation.

2.)--All local citizens in all communities be encouraged to form minority group councils and that a governmental agency be set up to coordinate the work of such groups.

3.)--Legislation be sponsored that will guarantee equal rights for all in the true spirit of democracy.

4.)--because the evacuees had, at least, the mental satisfaction of knowing that they were adjacent to relocation centers and to their original homes; and, 5.)--many had done seasonal labor in the Area at some time in previous years.

Generally speaking these factors were important in drawing evacuees to this Area. Naturally, there are exceptions, for example, many of the voluntary evacuees moved into Spokane for the purpose of investing their money in business pursuits in order that their assets would not be frozen on the West Coast. However, the majority drawn to the Intermountain Area came for agricultural and industrial work.

A survey showing the occupation of evacuees in one district lists 37% occupied with agriculture while industry followed with 26.7%. Only 2% were in private business while another 2% were domestics; 2.7% were employed in mining; 1.2% in transportation and the remaining 28.4% were representative of many types of miscellaneous occupations and professions. These figures are representative of the Utah part of the Area and probably would hold constant for the entire Area, except for more than 600 evacuees employed as railroad workers in Washington and Montana.

From the very beginning there was a serious need in each relocation district to "set the stage" for the program that eventually led to dissolution of the centers and the reestablishment of the evacuated people. One obstacle standing in the way of the relocation program was the stigma left by the meeting of Western Governors with the Army and WRA previous to the evacuation. Only one Western

Governor, (Carr of Colorado), showed any graciousness about allowing the evacuated people to come to his state. In fact, some of the Governors fought bitterly against it and created in the minds of the public a picture of hordes and suspicious and unwanted "heathens" coming into their states. Governors of Montana, Wyoming, Utah and Idaho opposed any permanent relocation in their states and Arizona was active in passing legislation planned especially against evacuees.

This attitude never entirely disappeared from the "official" picture but few officials openly fought relocation once it got underway. The reaction to the stand taken by the Governors, however, was felt by employers who, at that time, had persons of Japanese ancestry on their payrolls or were planning to employ them to relieve the manpower shortage. The railroads, as an example, immediately "dumped" section hands and roundhouse workers, many of whom had been employed for 30 years or more, because they were fearful of criticism. Even at a later date when the railroads were practically forced to depend upon evacuee maintenance men, Forest Service employees urged that they not be used in heavily timbered areas, (which incidentally invariably included that portion of the rail lines which needed most attention), for fear that any fire that might start would be blamed to sabotage.

The program generally was slow in starting. Relocation personnel not only had national and state animosity to fight but they also had to combat rather well-entrenched rumors that blossomed

especially in neighborhoods adjacent to the three relocation centers of the Area--Central Utah, Minidoka and Heart Mountain.

With labor as difficult to obtain as it was early in 1942, local employers in the vicinity of the Centers resented the contractors, who were constructing buildings at Centers, paying excessive wage scales to local labor, thus absorbing almost totally the labor supply. They also resented the possibilities of the "Jap Camps" threatening to take over reclamation lands and appropriating irrigation water for the projects and other imaginary grievances. Although the first was true and the second never developed to the extent of harming farmers, the situation confronting relocation officials before their work could even be started was the developing of public sentiment favorable to the program. As with most unfounded criticism, the reclamation land at the center did not open competition with resident farmers and actually when the centers closed the land included in the project areas was opened for local use.

During the early days of the relocation program, contacts were necessary between WRA officials and state, county and local authorities and organizations whose interests and activities included all types of civic consciousness. These contacts in almost every case were maintained during the entire period of the program. Indeed, in many cases these early contacts resulted in a healthy respect for the WRA program and bolstered the agency's fight against interests which worked against the relocation of evacuees.

A variety of antagonistic attitudes confronted Area relocation officials but the feeling, though often extreme, was not strongly backed. In most cases, feelings were in direct relation to the need for workers. The general attitude toward evacuees and WRA, however, was not crystallized to any extent until after the first groups of seasonal workers had been employed throughout the Area.

During the early days of the program, some agricultural interests believed that the evacuee workers should be hired on the same basis as other migratory workers; some asserted the evacuees should be confined and controlled as prisoners of war, (which was a recommendation of the governor's conference), and no one admitted wanting them to remain on any permanent basis.

Later there were criticisms that evacuee farmers were raising only produce that would bring top prices, paying little attention to produce needed in the war effort; also, in a few districts where evacuees were buying property, it was whispered about that they were using insidious methods of eliminating all of the Caucasian farm competition; there were also cases of outright jealousy as well. Resentment toward evacuees was expressed only rarely but when it was, each issue led toward a better understanding by the community of the relocation program.

Instances of good relations and cooperation are greatly in the majority as can be witnessed from reports of the various districts. Feelings expressed in violence were asserted, however, and on one

occasion in 1944, shots were fired through windows of evacuee homes near Brigham City, Utah and into the labor camp at Provo.

While there were such instances, there also were many cases of communities backing an individual nisei or an evacuee family, such as the civic leaders of Walla Walla aiding the Ichikawa family in finding a home so they would have a place to which their wounded son could return from McCaw General Hospital.

In most communities where feeling at times ran high, the usual reaction was for the "reasonable" thinkers of the community to assert themselves and establish tolerance and understanding as the program expanded.

SEASONAL WORKERS:

Despite the fact that centers were not generally established until the fall of 1942, sugar company recruiters had already laid the ground work for a seasonal work program. Many workers were hired and sent to the fields, some even before they were sent to assembly centers. It is estimated that 8,000 seasonal leave workers were in this Area alone and formed part of the crew that produced sufficient sugar for 10,000,000 people, according to sugar company estimates.

The Salt Lake Area experienced every aspect of the relocation policy, both good and bad, as it relates to seasonal leave. It is estimated that the number who went out in 1943 was considerably larger than during the previous season, and more than 4,000 leaves were issued in one district alone. The relocation officers were confronted with

and had to solve in one way or another practically every violation of WRA regulations that could have occurred under existing rules. Contractual violations, by both evacuees and employers, housing, food, unrestricted travel, wages, matters of public and human relations were the chief concern.

Failure of the center personnel to understand the difficulties facing the field offices and failure of field personnel to understand problems of center offices, resulted in difficulties all around. But with the tightening of regulations and setting up of new procedures, the situation improved. Looking at the results after the picture has cleared, it is apparent that the irritating incidents, none of which reached really serious proportions, proved to be the necessary catalyst in setting the program on the proper operational basis. Actually, a vast amount of work had been accomplished and in places where it was needed most. Many crops actually were saved by the evacuees and their contribution to both agriculture and industry, as well as to the local economy was vital. (The various aspects of seasonal leave regulations are discussed individually by districts.)

At the close of the 1943 season, a survey was conducted by Dr. Ariel S. Ballif, Brigham Young University, (later Relocation Adjustment Adviser), to determine the public reaction to the evacuee workers and the findings were published in Sociology and Social Research. In the concluding section of the report, it is stated:

"Although there are many limitations in the findings of this study, there is social significance in the reaction of the 43 employers

of the 680 Japanese Americans and Japanese whom they employed.

"First, the bulk of negative reactions centered around the wage problem. The main point involved was economic profits. The crops were good, demand was great and prices were tops. Caucasian labor was unavailable. These Americans of Japanese ancestry and the Japanese insisted upon wages in line with present economic conditions. The right to bargain is a democratic principle that all Americans cherish.

"Second, more than half the employers expressed appreciation for the fact that their crops were harvested, that the work was efficiently done, and that the employers had given full value for wages received.

"Finally, social nearness in terms of better understanding has resulted from this experience. Few of the employers had previously had direct contact with these people. Only 3 of the 43 checked 'enemies,' and 25 underlined 'more friendly,' as a result of their contact with their employees.

"These Americans of Japanese ancestry, or nisei, and the issei, who are favorable to the United States, need to be understood in terms of what they can contribute to the United States, need to be understood in terms of what they can contribute to our society. This goal may be sought through intergroup contacts which may result in better understanding."

The complete report on the survey is included under the Adjustment Adviser's report. (Exhibit No. 1)

RELATIONS WITH GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND OTHER GROUPS:

The relations of relocation officials with other government agencies, USES, WFA, WMC, and Welfare were good. Local representatives of these agencies rendered valuable assistance. In a few cases actual cooperation was largely verbal. As a rule, cooperation was all that could be expected under the pressure of need and wartime circumstances. The same situation existed as far as labor unions were concerned, as is indicated in the district reports. As a rule the AF of L did not accept nisei as members, but in some cases Nisei were allowed to work without the blessing of actually being members. Many CIO locals did allow nisei to join.

Relocation officers at the Centers cooperated either well or poorly, and in some cases it seemed almost apparent that center officials were holding back the most eligible project workers, who could be most easily placed by the field workers. The announced intention of closing all centers, plus pressure from Washington, brought better working relations between the field and centers.

Since different relocation districts experienced a variety of assistance, or lack of it, from these sources, each is discussed separately by district.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

When the relocation program began to gain impetus on a more permanent basis as the result of seasonal workers finding opportunities for which they were suited and center residents, in many cases, wanting

to escape the deadening influence of center life, the vast region included in the Intermountain Area offered many attractive possibilities.

The entire area suffered acute labor shortage. Not only was it necessary to harvest and process the fruit and vegetable crops if the Army and citizenry were to be fed, but the valuable and essential root crops, including sugar beets, had to be tended and harvested. Many war-born industries, too, were taking shape and workers were needed badly.

One of the contributions made by evacuees in this Area, was the assistance they gave to the Tooele Ordnance Depot, Tooele, Utah. The depot was in serious need of workers just previous to the final push that ended in VE Day, and subsequently, when the nation's efforts were pointed toward the ancestral homeland of the evacuees.

One relocation officer was detailed to act as information specialist, recruiter and liaison officer, spending his time between the ordnance depot and relocation centers. (Workers for the Tooele Depot were recruited from Colorado River, Gila River, Heart Mountain and Manzanar centers. Other centers contributed to the workers at the Sioux Depot in Nebraska.)

Approximately 250 individuals were placed by this Area in the Tooele Depot although more than 600 applications were received. Various complications kept the others from accepting jobs at the depot, among them: 1.)--applicants were restricted to munition handling jobs regardless of qualifications for better positions;

- 2.)--large families could not be supported on the pay of one person;
- 3.)--PMGO clearance delayed appointment.

Largely, the cooperation secured by relocation officers from USES was most helpful to evacuees. Local employment offices in Provo, Ogden, Brigham City, Utah; Pocatello, Boise, Weiser, Caldwell, Idaho; Spokane, Pasco, Moses Lake, Pullman, Walla Walla, Wash.; took a keen interest in the affairs of the evacuees. The cooperation in Salt Lake City was somewhat disappointing with applicants to USES for work being referred mostly to one company. The Salt Lake office, however, did increase its interest after considerable work by relocation officials and the scheduling of a meeting with the USES staff at which Lt. Roger W. Smith, veteran of the 442nd Combat Team, spoke, telling of the war record of the nisei.

Agriculture was the keystone to male evacuee employment, while the processing of agricultural produce drew scores of women employees from the centers during the canning seasons and subsequently led to the permanent relocation of many.

Employment naturally varied with the community and its needs. A general survey of businesses in which evacuees are now established, (not including agriculture, industry and railroading), finds the following in the Intermountain Area: barbers, cleaners, confectioners and those operating fish markets, hotels, restaurants, service stations, sewing schools, sign shops, and the professional men; dentists, physicians and surgeons, and optometrists.

Throughout the Area, large numbers of evacuees are now

employed by major business concerns, (not including the scores of individuals working as clerks or in minor positions in small stores, or domestics), and apparently are giving satisfactory service.

District reports contain statements from government officials and others relating to the contribution of the evacuees.

PROBLEMS:

In many ways the problems confronting the relocation officials in the Intermountain Area were only of a minor, but disturbing nature, sufficient at the time of occurrence, to loom large on the horizon. In retrospect it is interesting to note how actually minor these incidents were considering that the program was dealing with a new problem and a new people and that they involved human relations at a time when trifles may have had serious consequences.

Naturally, there were cases of discrimination in the schools, in the purchase of land, in housing, in jobs, in the issuance of licenses, in prejudice shown by theaters and restaurants, but not to any great or serious extent. Situations were not parallel in any two places, for instance, it is customary for minorities (colored), to sit only in the balcony of theaters in Utah although there is no rule against them eating most anywhere, while in Washington state they may sit anywhere they please in a theater but can't eat in all restaurants. That illustrates the variations in attitudes and relates to persons of Japanese ancestry only in so far as they, themselves, consider themselves "colored." That some may so consider

themselves may be directly traceable to the pre-evacuation treatment they received on the West Coast wherein some communities they were regulated by Jim Crow laws, written and unwritten, while other communities accorded them full privileges.

Prejudice against nisei has been both vocal and well-publicized in Spokane where three returned veterans were refused membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post No. 51, and the county Medical Association also refused membership to a nisei doctor. Both incidents have resulted in much favorable reaction toward the evacuees as a whole and although the immediate action was harmful, it is expected that better relations will result. The same situation exists in Spokane regarding the granting of applications for business licenses, with the city council split on the issue.

There were criticisms in various places in the Area where community animosity was aroused when evacuees purchased farm lands indicating to some that "the white people were being run out."

The evacuee florists in Spokane were faced with criticism, too, when the local growers attempted to keep nisei and their parents from growing flowers and plants for wholesale purposes. The general attitude was that the evacuees "live on a bowl of rice a day and work from sun up 'til sun down and undersell so much that they take the bread right out of the mouths of the white people."

As in almost every problem case in this Area, local situations were well handled by WRA personnel contacting the proper individuals,

public officials, school officials, or groups most directly concerned, and making the facts in the case known--honestly and sincerely.

For example, when J. E. Ritchie and William McCroskey, organizers of the Japanese Exclusion League, attempted to organize chapters in the Intermountain Area, (at Ontario, Ore.,) relocation officers immediately started counter action. With the cooperation of the Chamber of Commerce, the newspapers, Farm Labor Organization, USDA Board and the Grange, the State Extension Service, the regional director of WFA and the Office of Civilian Defense, relocation officers were not only able to prevent that meeting but also subsequent meetings sponsored by professional "hate" promoters. The fact that Ritchie and McCroskey made no further attempts to continue their activities is a great credit to the relocation officers and indicates the respect in which community leaders held the objectives of WRA.

Housing was probably the most serious problem confronting the relocated evacuees, as it was with almost all newcomers to the larger cities in the Intermountain Area.

Housing of seasonal workers was generally taken care of by either the WMC or WFC if under labor contract, but those were the evacuees least seriously concerned. With the influx of war workers to most of the larger cities in the Area, and the lack of construction in residential buildings, plus the further restrictions against persons of Japanese ancestry, the relocation offices faced a sorry situation.

In Salt Lake City, for instance, the Real Estate Board refused to allow evacuees to purchase homes except in certain restricted districts. Again, as was the policy of the Area office, it was necessary for members of the relocation staff to meet with the board and explain the relocation program. It was not until this was done that real estate dealers began to consider the evacuees in the same light as other newcomers to the city.

In Spokane the Victory Heights Housing project, under the National Public Housing authority, has been cooperative and as long as the family head of an evacuee family is employed in an "essential" job, he and his family have been eligible. The same situation exists at Pasco and Ephrata, Washington, although some difficulty was at first encountered. Since many in this district are employed by the railroads, many families have been accommodated. Temporary housing has been afforded evacuees by the hostels operated by the American Friends Service committee and the Fellowship Center committee, which organizations have been of great help to the administration during the entire program. Coplen Park Housing Project, also in Spokane, has housed some evacuees, but generally they have had few vacancies of a permanent nature.

Labor camp accommodations have been available to evacuees at Lehi, American Fork, Orem, Spanish Fork, Utah; and at Caldwell, Adrian and Twin Falls, Idaho.

Problems involving discrimination against evacuee children in

public schools and the charging of tuition were adequately cared for in Idaho, Washington and in Utah, following meetings at which relocation representatives discussed matters with those most closely concerned, (which is outlined in the Adjustment Adviser's report.)

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION:

The degree to which various groups and organizations in communities of the Intermountain Area participated in the relocation program is one of the most gratifying of the entire program. Not only did these groups accomplish much in assisting the evacuees but their work undoubtedly will have a great bearing on all racial and minority relations in the future.

In Spokane an effective organization for the Civil Rights and Fair Play of All People came into existence through instigation by relocation officers. Walla Walla and Pullman also have Race Relations Councils, due to their efforts.

Relocation officers at Boise have developed and established the Civic Committee, while in Salt Lake City, the Council of Civic Unity, organized by the Council of State Social Agencies promises to provide benefits for a long time to come. This groundwork, laid by the relocation staff, is already bearing fruit in the current fight being conducted by the Council for Civic Unity against racial prejudice in Utah.

The churches of the Area were one of the strongest factors in securing fair treatment, many of them contributing time, money and effort in order to aid evacuees.

The Mormon Church, (LDS), dominant in Utah and with large membership in Wyoming, Idaho and Eastern Washington and Oregon, did mission work in some of the labor camps during the seasonal leave program and in early 1945 efforts of the Newcomers Committee of the church were especially directed toward helping the evacuee church members.

Contacts by relocation officials led to many fine relationships which promise to continue after the WRA program is discontinued. The Deseret News, official newspaper of the LDS church, carried several fine articles regarding the nisei and the evacuees generally, and Salt Lake newspapers, after having been approached by relocation officials quit using the word "Jap" in headlines when referring to American soldiers of Japanese ancestry and adopted the name "nisei." Similar friendly relations were maintained in other parts of the Intermountain Area, Because of these well-maintained relations with the press, reports in most newspapers--even in Spokane during the controversy with the VFW--were impartial and factual with the editorial policy slanted in favor of the evacuees.

The LDS, Episcopal, Methodist and Baptist churches were especially active. In the Idaho Falls-Pocatello district, Methodist missionaries spent practically all of their time with the evacuees.

At Pocatello, special memorial services were held Easter Sunday, 1945, honoring nisei war dead. So popular were the services that the church could not accommodate all those who wanted to attend.

Another special church service honoring the nisei dead was held in Spokane where a relocation officer and the city superintendent of schools spoke to a mixed congregation which was larger than seating capacity.

Cooperating, too, were state and county departments of public welfare, which were contacted by Area officials and working agreements made with each for the handling of evacuee cases. Matters were worked out with state agencies to the satisfaction of both the welfare people and WRA.

As evidence of the effective working relationship between WRA in the Intermountain Area and the welfare agencies, is the fact that in the approximately 200 cases presented in the various states, temporary or continuing assistance was given.

Lack of understanding between state educational systems and WRA during the early part of the program led to some misunderstandings and discrimination against evacuee children. Under Idaho laws tuition is charged any pupil attending school in a district away from his legal residence. In the case of evacuees some people thought local schools were giving service not only to nonresidents but to government wards as well. After considerable opposition from local districts and the state department of education, satisfactory arrangements were worked out. (See Adjustment Adviser's Report.)

Contacts by WRA Area personnel with state departments of education, with leaders of the P.T.A. and other groups brought

necessary corrections and evacuee children, generally, were allowed to attend school on the same basis as other children. This same policy of making contacts did not stop with state officials and secondary school systems but was extended, as well, to colleges and universities throughout the Area.

Work with the schools did not halt with the contacting of officials, but the message of WRA's purpose was extended, wherever it could be, into class rooms from junior high school to college. In several instances the children were requested to submit questions to the WRA speaker in which they asked a myriad of questions, many of them significant and revealing. (See Adjustment Adviser's "Contacts with Colleges," etc.) *Exhibit #2*

In presenting the WRA program to college and university students, the relocation representative made it a policy to contact the instructor before each class to determine special interests of the group and discuss those phases of the problem. As a result of this plan, the program was presented to classes in government problems, political science, American government, American history, world history, international relations, journalism, current events, public opinion and leadership, sociology, social problems, social welfare, social psychology, psychology, population problems, anthropology, art, economics.

Other organizations were also drawn into the network of WRA--backed activities which benefited the evacuees in almost every aspect of their life and work.

The Travelers' Aid, the American Red Cross, the Japanese American Citizens League, the Japanese American Civic League and a multitude of other groups, in relative degrees, contributed to the cause of the evacuees.

In all, each relocation officer, working in conjunction with others, solicited in his own communities the aid of the most intelligent and powerful groups of civic thinkers to assist the relocation program. In most instances without the assistance of groups which had the interest of the evacuees in mind, as expressed by WRA officers, the program undoubtedly would have floundered.

Bolstering the efforts of the relocation officers and their community "helpers" the assistance of military personnel assigned by the Army late in 1945 to break down resistance of the public to relocation, was effective and beneficial to the program as a whole.

A variety of organizations listened to the tales of heroism of the nisei soldiers as related by military personnel, which included Capt. Arthur W. Munch, Lt. Roger W. Smith and Capt. Thomas R. Crowley. The way to this effective approach, however, had been paved by speaking engagements of Area personnel, who had laid a sound background of understanding before the communities during the entire period of relocation.

A large number of groups, ranging from high schools and colleges to labor organizations and chambers of commerce, were hosts to WRA and Army speakers.

EVACUEE EFFORT:

The work of WRA officials and community leaders was not the only factor in the integration of the evacuees in the Intermountain Area. The evacuees themselves contributed not only to the work-a-day world but added their bit to community, school and public spirit.

The evacuees helped in many ways to change the skeptical and doubting elements of the communities into "believers."

The evacuees always had the assistance of the relocation staff in their efforts in establishing themselves and contacting sympathetic individuals and groups. (It should be pointed out that the Intermountain Area never had on its staff a Reports Officer, as such. Because of this it was necessary and essential that every relocation official do his own publicity and public relations work, maintaining good relations with the press and radio and keeping the newspapers in his respective district informed of current developments.)

Today public acceptance of nisei and their alien parents is very good. This is due in part to their participation in the war effort and in "routine" community citizenship.

In Bonneville County, Idaho, the local JACL chapter estimates that the 30 families residing there have purchased an average of \$1,000 per family in war bonds and that these same families have 29 boys in the Army.

In the Bear River district in Utah, where feeling against the evacuees ran high during the early days of the program when the community became what it termed "overrun" with evacuees, the post-

master at Tremonton, who is also a bishop of the LDS church, recently expressed serious concern because many of the local evacuee residents were returning to their former homes on the West Coast. In his opinion, the community would have a difficult time trying to maintain the level of prosperity that had been experienced.

In many communities the evacuees have taken a prominent part in church and civic affairs. In most cases, the younger members of the evacuee community try to interest themselves in "American" ways in order that no taint of "Japanese" will be found in their customs and manners. In one community an aged issei mother, in order to make her family conform, prevailed upon two of her sons to give up smoking because other youth of the Mormon community abstained.

Nisei youth have taken an active part in school activities in many places, the boys participating in sports and establishing reputations for sportsmanship and clean play, the girls taking part in school activities on the same basis as other girls. The efforts of the nisei youth in high schools throughout the Intermountain Area are being rewarded in several schools, where they rank with the "long beards" and have been designated as valedictorians or one of the other top distinctions.

The JACL has frequently been in charge of the annual Red Cross drives among its own people and not only has the organization managed to keep its people among the 100% contributors but it has also helped to raise money through plays and socials.

In the Spokane district the Japanese American Civic Club, the purpose of which is to attain the objectives of American ideals, has promoted recreational programs for all nisei, banquets, education for better citizenship, knitting for the Red Cross, aided the Community Chest, Red Cross, Bond Drives and donated money toward Dr. Tolbert H. Kennedy's survey of racial problems.

Their community spirit has extended even further, with many of the issei farmers and their nisei children contributing to the public weal by volunteering their time and equipment in the welfare program of the LDS church, despite the fact that they were not members of the church.

Comments of local residents throughout the Area confirm the statement that evacuees have established clean and respectable records for themselves, not only along the line of civic consciousness, but as good and worthwhile neighbors and friends.

There has been some criticism in the Spokane district, largely around sections where many issei bachelors, who work on the railroads, live, because of gambling raids. No serious consequence has resulted from this violation of the law except that it has tended to bring general criticism against other evacuees who are trying hard to establish themselves.

The proof of the contribution made by the evacuees is borne out by the fact that in the Intermountain Area they have been accepted for jobs in many branches of business, industry

and in various professions. Furthermore, the fact that some railroads which dropped workers of Japanese ancestry after Pearl Harbor have restored old employees to their payrolls and added many evacuated workers, serves to show that responsible people do have faith in not only the "work-ability" of evacuees but in their loyalty as well.

Considerable credit is due, naturally, to the sincere and honest efforts of the WRA field personnel in finding employment opportunities for the evacuees. However, this has not been carried on to such an extent that it destroyed the self-reliance of the evacuees. The field personnel has felt that the orderly reassimilation of the evacuees would be furthered by treating them as any other person and having them utilize the proper agencies for their different problems just as anyone else would do.

For this reason, wherever possible in the employment phase of the situation, they have been referred to the USES and advised to work on their own as much as possible to eliminate the thinking of some that "oh well, the WRA will find me a job."

Judging the program conservatively, some benefits have come from the relocation program. Without doubt some evacuees have suffered irreparable damage from their evacuation but some have benefited permanently from the new outlook, self-reliance and opportunities that have been offered to them.

Considering the limited personnel from which WRA could

pick a staff, the Area is to be considered fortunate in having had staff members who were not only devoted to their duties, but who had a deep and sincere interest in the program as a whole.

CONCLUSION:

As expressed in the Spokane district report: "Racial prejudice is a state of mind and can be most effectively combatted by an objective educational program; that patterns of thought compatible with the democratic way of life can be as easily taught as patterns of thought that were the heritage of the fascist state.

It is recommended by the same office, that:

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