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Topaz H473

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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT  
TOPAZ, UTAH

BUDDHIST CHURCHES OF AMERICA CONFERENCE

April 28, 29 and 30, 1944

by

Toshio Mori

January 17, 1945

PROJECT REPORTS DIVISION  
HISTORICAL SECTION  
E.W. CONRAD  
CHIEF

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## BUDDHIST CHURCHES OF AMERICA CONFERENCE

After long preparation the national three-day Buddhist Churches of America conference became a reality on April 28, 29 and 30, 1944. Topaz, as national headquarters of the Buddhist Church, was host for this first all-important Buddhist gathering since December 7, 1941. Its rallying call was sent to all known Buddhist groups and churches in the country: The drive was on to incorporate the Buddhist Churches of America.

This proposal was the cumulative result of many emergent changes occurring since evacuation. When war broke out, the Buddhist churches in the United States were cut from all ties with Buddhist headquarters in Japan. They were left on their own, especially after the evacuation. However, Buddhist churches were created overnight on a temporary basis in assembly centers and again in relocation centers. To coordinate the present activities with the future of the Buddhist church, this movement for incorporation of all Buddhist churches in America was immediately approved and sanctioned.

General arrangements were completed a week in advance of the conference. Rev. Z. Okayama, Deputy Bishop, released the conference information to the public via circular letter on April 21. The date for the conference was set: April 28, 29 and 30, 1944.

Invitations were sent to various Buddhist organizations throughout the land, including Amache, Poston, Minidoka, Heart Mountain, and Denson Relocation Centers and Ogden, Denver, Salt Lake City and Mesa. The response was encouraging. A few churches were unable to send delegates to the conference. Those that responded gave assurance that the conference would be a success.

The most important topic of the conference, of course, was the incorporation of the Buddhist Churches of America. However, there were others almost as pertinent and these included:

Free zone church movement, training course for Nisei reverends, Buddhist publication, church supplies, Buddhist Churches of America debts, working fund for the Headquarters, and relationships of the centers and the Headquarters.

A few days before the conference opening, the following members were selected for the various committees. General co-chairmen were Messrs. Toshio Yoshida, Masuji Fujii and Kihei Ikeda. Program was in charge of Messrs. Jiro Nakaso, chairman, Mike Kudo and Seichi Wakayama. General arrangement's chairman was Mr. Hideo Kawabara with the following members on the committee: Messrs. James Yamakoshi, Nomura, Tokujiro Nitta, T. Isomo, Nakamoto,

Seichi Kawamoto, Umehara and Kawaguchi.

On the reception committee were Mr. Vernon Ichisaka, Misses Mitsuye Ozeki, Tsuneko Fujimoto, Margaret Wakayama, Masako Kami, and the Fujin Kai. Messrs. Kami, Yoshifuji and Fujimoto were in charge of food. Mr. Matsuzo Kurokawa was responsible of the Nyu Butsu Shiki. On the welcome committee were the co-chairmen Joseph Sasaki and Yamate.

The entertainment committee included Messrs. Hirano, chairman, Kami, Yoshifuji, Ikeda, Hosokawa, Yoshida, Suzuki, Nakamura, Wakayama, Okuno, Nitta, Uyeda and Miyamoto. Finance Section was in the hands of co-chairmen Yamakoshi and Yamada, aided by Messrs. Nakamura and Yoshifuji. On the transportation committee were Chairman Isono and Messrs. Neishi and Minamoto.

April 28, Friday

8:30 A.M.- 9:30 A.M.-----Opening Service---Church  
Chairman---Mr. Masuji Fujii  
9:30 A.M.-11:30 A.M.-----Meeting--1-10-CD  
11:30 A.M.- 1:30 P.M.-----Recess  
1:30 P.M.- 4:30 P.M.-----Meeting (continued)  
4:30 P.M.- 7:00 P.M.-----Recess  
7:00 P.M.-----Kangei Kwai (reception)  
High School Auditorium

April 29, Saturday

8:30 A.M.- 9:00 A.M.-----Morning Service---Church  
Chairman---Mr. Kihei Ikeda  
9:00 A.M.-11:30 A.M.-----Meeting--1-10-CD  
11:30 A.M.- 1:30 P.M.-----Recess  
1:30 P.M.- 4:30 P.M.-----Meeting--1-10-CD  
4:30 P.M.- 7:30 P.M.-----Recess  
8:30 P.M.-----YBA Inaugural Ball  
High School Auditorium

April 30, Sunday

8:30 A.M.- 9:00 A.M.-----Morning Service--Church  
Chairman--Mr. Toshio Yoshida  
9:00 A.M.-11:30 A.M.-----Meeting 1-10-CD  
9:00 A.M.-10:00 A.M.-----Sunday School Service  
High School Auditorium  
Chairman--Mr. Yoshitomi Fukushima  
10:30 A.M.-11:30 A.M.-----YBA Service,  
High School Auditorium  
Chairman--Mr. Arthur Takemoto  
11:30 A.M.- 2:00 P.M.-----Recess  
2:00 P.M.-----Closing Service, combined with

Dedication of the Buddhist  
Churches of America.  
Chairman, Mr. Matsuzo Kurokawa

7:00 P.M.- 7:30 P.M.-----Homikwai  
High School Auditorium  
Chairman, Mr. Kihei Ikeda

7:30 P.M.-----Entertainments  
High School Auditorium  
Chairman, Mr. George Hirano

#### OPENING SERVICE:

A capacity crowd attended the opening service of the three-day Buddhist Conference held in the Buddhist Church on April 28, 1944. In his opening address, Chairman Masuji Fujii welcomed visiting delegates and Buddhist members to the conference.

The program was elaborate. Representatives from many Buddhist churches offered incense to Buddha. The following churches participated: Topaz Buddhist Church, Ogden Buddhist Church, Denver Buddhist Church, Salt Lake Buddhist Church, Amache Br. Buddhist Church, Minidoka Buddhist Church, Heart Mountain Buddhist Church, Poston I Buddhist Church, and Poston III Buddhist Church.

A period of meditation followed. "Shinshu Shuka" of Gatha was offered. Following this welcome message was given by Rev. Okayama, representing the Buddhist Churches of America. Mr. Sasato Yamate spoke in behalf of the Seijin Board, and Mr. Toshio Yoshida of Board of Directors gave a salutatory address. Project Director Charles F. Ernst welcomed the Buddhists to Topaz.

Rev. S. W. Tsunoda responded in behalf of visiting delegates, and this was followed by "Ondokusan" (Gatha) and closing remarks by the chairman. The initial service closed with meditation.

#### THE FIRST MINISTERS AND BUDDHIST DELEGATES MEETING:

In this all-important conference for Buddhists in the United States, ministers and delegates held their first meeting in Topaz on April 28 at 10:20 A.M.

Rev. Zenkai Okayama, Deputy Bishop, acted as temporary chairman. Thirty-seven delegates were present, representing such distant points as Denver, Colorado; Salt Lake City, Utah; Amache, Colorado; Minidoka, Idaho; Poston, Arizona; Heart Mountain, Wyoming; Ogden, Utah; Mesa, Arizona. Fourteen ministers were present as designated delegates. Topaz had the largest number of delegates with nine. Minidoka came next with eight, including three ministers.

Several appointments were made by the chairman for the conference. Rev. Motoyoshi of Topaz was appointed chairman for business meetings and Masaru Harada of Minidoka as vice-chairman. Rev. Sanada and Toshio Yoshida, both of Topaz, were assigned as secretaries in Japanese and John Hirohata of Mesa and Rev. S. N. Tsunoda of Poston as secretaries in English.

The number one topic at this morning session was the Incorporation of the Buddhist Churches of America. Rev. Okayama opened the discussion by briefly stating the aim, background and reason of this incorporation movement. He asked the delegates to study the by-laws for further discussion.

Mr. Ikeda explained that the corporation consisted of Nisei citizens of the United States and its purpose was to advance Buddhism in America.

The problem of keeping Buddhism alive was discussed. It was stressed at this meeting that a good program of Buddhist training and teaching was necessary among the "free zone" people, relocated Buddhists and center residents. This corporation, the delegates agreed, will lay the foundation for the future of Buddhism in America. The articles of incorporation are attached as Exhibit A.

For further discussion on the matter, as suggested by the chairman, two groups were created to attend separate meetings in the afternoon: the ministers group and the laymen group.

The meeting was adjourned with gassho at 11:50 A.M.

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\*This report is based on the minutes taken by John Hirohata, secretary of the conference.

#### LAYMEN MEETING:

The laymen meeting was called to order at 1:50 P.M. on Friday afternoon with Reverend Tsunoda as chairman. Both Issei and Nisei attended. The chairman interpreted in English Rev. Okayama's morning talk for the benefit of Nisei in attendance.

The Articles of Incorporation was filed with the State of California, Mr. Ikeda stated. Attorney and filing fee of \$100 was paid.

The "free zone" Buddhist churches and Y.B.A. organizations expressed their need for coordination in Buddhist movement under the Buddhist Churches of America, Incorporated.

The meeting was closed when the body approved the filing of corporation papers with the State of California.

#### DELEGATES' AFTERNOON SESSION:

All delegates were present as Rev. Motoyoshi called the afternoon meeting at the Council chamber.

Rev. Kyogoku reported on ministers' meeting. He said that the delegates were asked to study and formulate the by-laws and to make the Buddhist Churches of America, Incorporated an organization of value. The By-laws is attached as Exhibit B.

Mr. Ikeda reported on the meeting of laymen group.

During the afternoon session a question was raised as to the status of the original 47 incorporators. It was explained that they are permanent charter members. It was also stated that the Board of Directors have power to:

Call special meetings of the members.

Supervise and direct the business of the corporation.

Appoint and remove officers, agents and employers and fix their duties and compensations.

Create a Board of Trustees in order to manage the business activities of the corporation, which shall consist of the Executive officers of the Board of Directors and seven laymen counsellors to be appointed by the Board of Directors.

Incur indebtedness and to accept donation or contributions in order to conduct the business of the corporation. The President and the Executive Secretary shall sign officially all notes and obligations, secured by deeds of trust, or otherwise, as authorized by the Board of Directors.

A question was asked as to whether the Buddhist Churches of America, has the power to transact general business in other states with the headquarters located in Topaz. This was clarified by reading Article three of Incorporation:

That the said religious corporation be empowered under and by, and in conformity with, the laws of the State of California and or any other State within the jurisdiction of the United States, to celebrate religious services, subject to the discipline and by-laws of this corporation.

The chairman appointed Rev. Kyogoku, Rev. Terakawa and Mr. Ikeda to translate "Articles of Incorporation and By-laws" into Japanese.

The meeting was adjourned with gassho at 5 P.M.

## SATURDAY MORNING SERVICE:

Buddhists attended the second morning service en masse, filling the Buddhist Church in no time. It was a half-hour service, giving way to the scheduled meeting at the Community Council Chamber. The program was as follows: Meditation, Sutra Chanting, Three Treasures, "Ikeraba Nembutsu" (Gatha). The congregation joined in reciting the Three Treasures:

"Hard is it to be born into human life. Now we are living it. Difficult is it to hear the Teaching of the Blessed One. Now we hear it.  
If we do not deliver ourselves in the present life, no hope is there that we shall be freed from suffering the sorrow in the ocean of birth and death.  
Let us reverently take refuge in the Three Treasures of the Truth.

I PUT MY FAITH IN BUDDHA. May we all together absorb into ourselves the principles of Thy Way to Enlightenment and awaken in our souls Thy Supreme Will.

I PUT MY FAITH IN DHARMA. May we all together be submerged in the depths of Thy Doctrine and gain wisdom as deep as the ocean.

I PUT MY FAITH IN SANGHA. May we all together become units in true accord in Thy Life of Harmony, in a spirit of Universal Brotherhood, freed from the bondage of selfishness.

Even through ages of myraids of Kalpas hard is it to hear such an excellent, profound and wonderful doctrine. Now we are able to hear and receive it. Let us thoroughly understand the true meaning of Tathagata's Teachings."

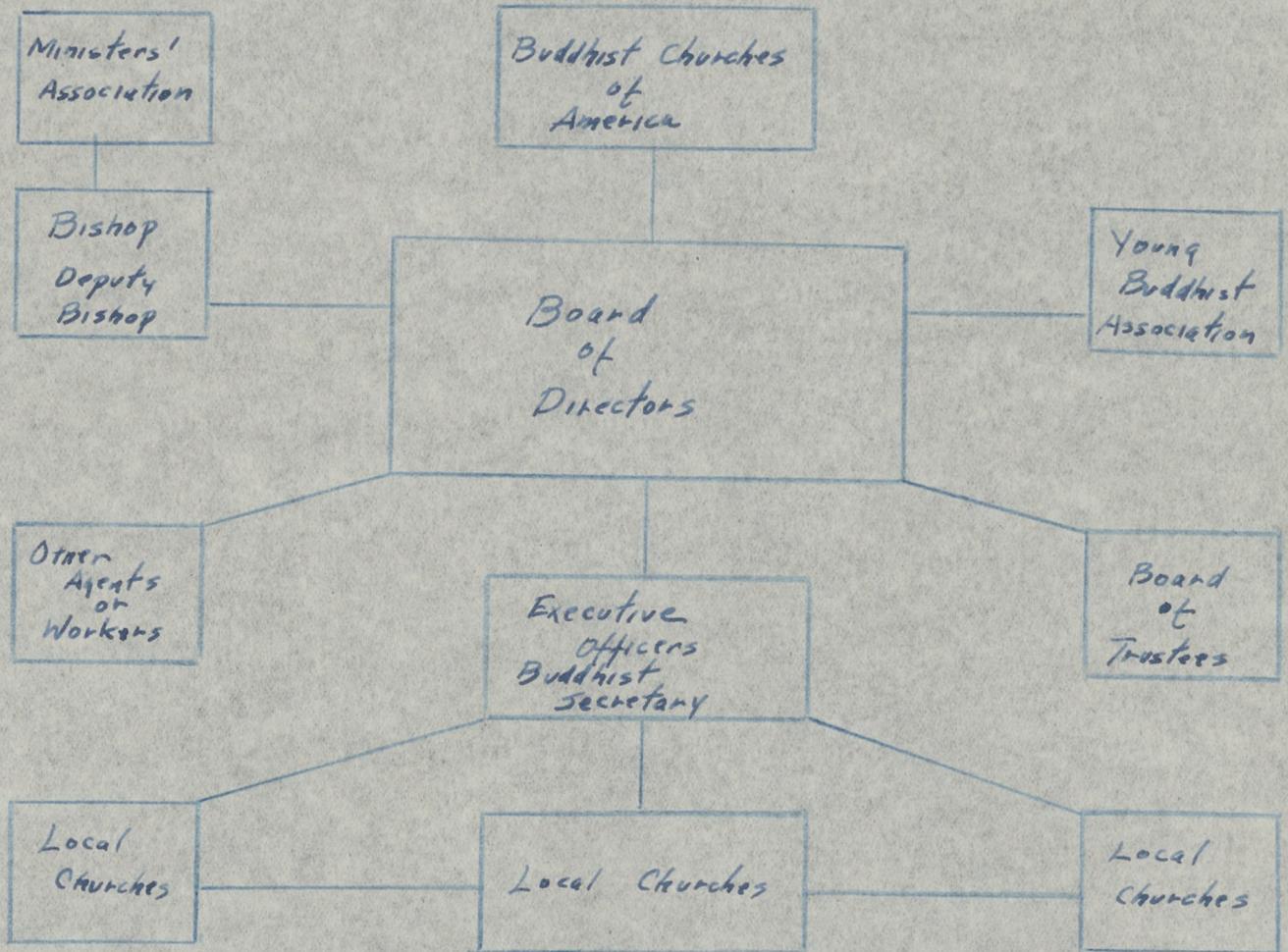
Mr. Kihei Ikeda, chairman, made the closing remarks.

## THE SECOND MORNING MEETING:

The second morning meeting was called by Chairman Motoyoshi at 9:45 A.M.

First on the program for the morning discussion was "By-laws of the Buddhist Churches of America, Incorporated." Mr. Ikeda, advisor to the By-laws drafting committee of the incorporators, explained the by-laws. All questions from the floor were answered. To make a clearer picture of the working body

of Buddhist Churches of America, Incorporated, the following diagram was drawn:



A committee composed of reverends and laymen was formed to study the By-laws:

Ministers' group - Rev. T. Terakawa  
Rev. K. Kumata

Nisei group - Mr. Toshio Yoshida  
Mr. Tsutomu Ikeda  
Mr. James Yanari  
Mr. Kiyoshi Hoshida  
Mr. Kay Terashima

Issei group - Mr. Kihei Ikeda  
Mr. Masaru Harada  
Mr. Hosokawa

This committee was asked by the chairman to study the By-laws for suggestions and criticisms. The members were reminded by the chairman that these By-laws will apply only for the duration of the war. Adjustments will be necessary when we return to normal life, he said.

Mrs. Ryu Nakatsukasa's will bequeathing \$13,450 to the Buddhist Churches of America was discussed next. Mr. Ikeda disclosed that she left the following assets:

		\$10,000 - In Yokohama Specie Bank (deposit)
		500 - Stock in Yasuda Bank
1		1,000 - Stock in Onoda Cement Co.
2	\$500	1,950 - Fujimoto Shoken Kaisha (Interest Certificate)

The status of the Hokubei Kaikyo Zaidan was explained by Rev. Kumata. Hokubei Kaikyo Zaidan (North American Ministers Economic Association, he stated, is a corporation which handles endowment funds for the future advancement of Buddhism. Interest from the principle of \$30,000 was used before the war to train Nisei ministers. The fund was created through contributions by the Zaidan members.

Rev. Okayama briefly discussed church supplies. Rev. Kashima, who is in charge of this department, reported on the inadequacy of the present fund for carrying out an extensive program. Rev. Terakawa of Salt Lake City reported on a plan of making "Go-eizo" (Hotokesama or Buddha). "Go-eizo" will be made available for Buddhists upon request "Ojusus" (rosary) are also being made for members. Rev. Kashima said that "Omiyo-go" eventually will be sent to relocatees. It was suggested by those present that these religious symbols be explained to avoid superstition.

The matter of publication was discussed next. A booklet containing 30 pages of fundamental doctrines of Buddhism will be mimeographed. All necessary supplies for printing and binding have been secured.

The following suggestions were made:

1. This type of publication should be mailed to the re-located members.

2. The YBA would like to have publications about a month before a Buddhist Festival.

3. A booklet containing basic principles of Buddhism should be published to interested Caucasians so they will understand the true meaning of Buddhist activities. A monthly journal published by the Buddhist Brotherhood in America was cited as an example.

4. Clarification should be made as to the status and the relationship of the Buddhist Brotherhood in America with the Headquarters.

5. All actual cost of all materials and publication should be charged.

The meeting was adjourned with gassho at 11:48 A.M.

AFTERNOON MEETING OF APRIL <sup>29:</sup>~~30:~~

Vice-chairman Harada of Minidoka called the afternoon meeting at 1:48 P.M. in the absence of the regular chairman.

Discussion on publication, the delegates decided, will be continued at the ministers' meeting.

The chairman called for discussion on two related problems: Nisei Reverend Training School and Buddhist Students Scholarship Fund. To determine a candidate for ministership, Rev. Okayama explained, ministers of the locality must refer to his character and social standing in the community. There are several students in Topaz who are being taught by the ministers, he said. They are studying "Shoshinge", "Wasan" and the history of Buddhism.

The Tri-State YBL greatly favored this Nisei ministry movement. Its representatives endorsed the plan, guaranteeing moral and financial aid. Delegates pointed out that the <sup>best</sup> training ground for these potential Nisei ministers is in the center where experienced ministers' guidance is still available. It was also stressed by the delegates that such students may choose their teachers for this ministry training.

A question was brought up from the floor: Will the "isei be able to acquire the rank of full fledged ministership after receiving their training? The body approved full ministership for any "isei trainee capable of advancing the Buddhist movement.

The "isei ministers' training fund had been assessed to the local church and reverends before the war, it was reported. This training program, however, may be somewhat hampered due to the draft calls involving potential ministry students. Nisei girls are eligible to apply for Nisei ministers' training course.

The Chairman next introduced one of the important propositions of the conference. This was originally proposed by the Gila Buddhist Church's Canal Division branch. Rev. Kumata reported on the program. He explained that the Headquarters' desire for a Buddhist chaplain among "isei soldiers was still unfulfilled. He stressed the importance and significance of this purpose, but pointed out there is little hope for its immediate fulfillment because of the various obstacles and lack of Nisei ministers. A chaplain, he said, must be a citizen of the U.S.A. and pass army physical requirements. In April, 1943, Rev. Kumata had volunteered to serve as a chaplain but was rejected because of poor vision. The only other available Buddhist minister, Rev. Tsunoda, was ill.

Rev. Kumata then explained that there was no possibility whatsoever of sending chaplains to the various army camps at this time. There are no eligible ministers.

To render services to the many Nisei soldiers of Buddhist faith, ministers will be urged to make short visits to army camps. It was also suggested by the delegates that there might be a possibility of sending ministers to the neighboring towns of various army camps.

The chairman next presented the subject "Relationship of the Center and the Headquarters" to the group. Deputy Bishop Okayama asked for more harmonious relationship between the center churches and headquarters. Communication via correspondence must be maintained, he said. For better relationship, the delegates agreed, the ministers must be given definite assignments in their respective areas. This topic was referred to the ministers' meeting.

Rev. Okayama opened the discussion on "Free Zone Area Church Movement." He explained that Mr. Mike Maruyama was working in the Chicago area and that the Buddhist movement was progressing rapidly. Rev. Kumata said that an emergency fund of \$1,900 had been collected from various Buddhist organizations throughout the country. This wartime Bussei movement was largely due to Rev. Kumata and Tad Hirota's initiative. During the YBA Conference of 1943 held in Salt Lake City, it was recalled, this movement was adopted for raising funds. One of the means was

through offertory by assessing each member five cents per week. An estimated income of \$3,000 a year was expected at that time.

The Chicago Buddhist movement was reported in further detail. Mr. Maruyama is doing the public relations work in the Chicago area. Through the efforts of Dr. Isamu Tashiro the Chicago YBA was finally inaugurated on April 21, 1944. The inaugural service was conducted by Rev. Kono.

Mr. Yanari asked for a good public relations man in the Tri-State YBL area for an effective campaign. He stated that the Tri-State YBL will finance English-speaking ministers who are available and able to reside in Denver.

Mr. Hirohata reported on the Buddhist Church-Busseï relations and the activities of Mesa Buddhist Church.

The delegates agreed that contacts with relocated YBA leaders should be made for an organized movement in the eastern states.

After a brief explanation by Rev. Okayama on the Zaidan organization and its purpose the meeting was closed at 5:10 P.M. with Gassho.

#### WELCOME BANQUET:

Under the co-chairmanship of Messrs. Sasato Yamate and Joseph Sasaki, the guests were honored at the Welcome Banquet held at the auditorium. Starting at 7 P.M. the affair opened with salutations from chairman, followed by meditation and "Ondokusan" (Gatha). Next in order came the welcome addresses by representatives of various local organizations.

The following persons spoke in behalf of their groups: Mr. Toku Kuruma, YBA; Mrs. H. Shimizu, Women's Association; Mr. J. Kami, Seijin Board; Mr. Motoki Kudo, BCOA Board of Director; Rev. I. Kyogoku, Topaz Buddhist Church; Rev. Z. Okayama, Buddhist Churches of America. A representative of the 37 delegates responded.

In the ensuing hours dinner was enjoyed by guests. Chairman for the second half of the program, Mr. George Hirano took charge of entertainments.

#### YBA INAUGURAL BALL:

One hundred couples attended the YBA Inaugural Ball Saturday night at the auditorium. Guests of honor at this gala affair were the visiting delegates and the newly elected YBA cabinet officers. Shig Kamiya and Eva Tamaki were co-chairmen for the evening.

#### SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE:

The final morning service of the conference was held at the Buddhist Church at 8:30 A.M. Issei were predominant.

The program was short as there was a heavy morning schedule. Chairman Toshio Yoshida made the closing remarks. On the program were: Meditation, Sutra Chanting, Three Treasures, Sermon and "Nori no Miyama" (Gatha).

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL SERVICE:

The Sunday School classes held their services at the Civic Auditorium early in the morning. Chairman Fukushima gave the opening address, welcoming the children to the conference.

Especially arranged for children the program consisted of sermon by the visiting Nisei priest from the Ogden Buddhist Church, Rev. K. M. Kumata, and story-telling by Salt Lake City minister, Rev. C. Terakawa. Meditations were rendered, Sutras were chanted, incense was offered. The Gatha offerings included "Hotoke Sama" and "Nichiyobi". After the closing remarks by the chairman, the children sang "Sayonara no Uta" (Farewell song).

#### YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE

More than 700 persons attended the Young People's special service held in the auditorium Sunday at 10:30 A.M. to hear Reverend S. N. Tsunoda, Nisei priest from Poston.

The opening address was given by the chairman, Arthur Take-moto. Following this in order were Prelude (Aspirations), Gatha (Right Meditation), Three Treasures, Incense Offering.

Rev. Tsunoda spoke in English on "Faith". The Gatha offering of "Bussei Koshin Kyoku" followed.

A creed was given:

We rely upon Tathagata Amitabha with our whole heart for the Enlightenment in the life to come, abstain from all sundry practices and teachings, and giving up the trust in our powerless self.

We believe that the assurance of our rebirth through His Salvation comes at the very moment we put our faith in Him; and we call the name, Namu Amida Butsu, in happiness and thankfulness for His Mercy.

We also acknowledge gratefully the benign benevolence of our Founder and the succeeding Masters who have led us to believe in this profound Teaching; and we now endeavor to follow throughout our lives the Way laid down for us.

Postlude (Mettabhavana) concluded the morning's ceremonies.

## THE FINAL MEETING

The final meeting was called to order by Rev. Motoyoshi at 9:55 A.M. With many business matters on tap, topics were discussed in rapid order.

Rev. Shirakawa suggested that representatives be sent to visit the bedridden patients in the Topaz Hospital. The delegates approved unanimously. The Chairman appointed Rev. Shirakawa and Miss Shiki to represent the ministers and the delegates respectively.

Rev. Okayama reported on the ministers' meeting held on Saturday evening, April 29. The meeting began at 8 P.M. and lasted till 1 A.M. The following measures had been approved, according to Rev. Okayama:

In the matter of Nisei ministers' training course these rules were passed:

a. If a person is of good character and standing, he or she with an approval of a local minister, is accepted to study Buddhism to become an assistant minister. A person desiring to become a Nisei minister must be a high school graduate.

b. The Corporation will appropriate at least \$10.00 per month as spending money for a student. This matter will be followed according to the By-laws.

c. Both boys and girls are accepted for this training. Topaz, Utah will be the training center as it is the headquarters.

d. At present four reverends are alternating in teaching a student in Topaz. They are assigned to teach him the various fields and courses in Buddhism.

e. All reverends soon will receive advice from Headquarters on the matter of the Nisei training course as definite plans will be started immediately.

Other topics of importance were briefly reported to the delegates at this time. The Ministers' Association had decided to take charge of literary publications within the scope of the By-laws. Free zone area church movement was next discussed. Rev. Okayama announced that the ministers had agreed to wait for Rev. Kono's report on his recent tour. Rev. Kono had visited various eastern cities where Nisei Buddhists are relocated.

Mr. Ikeda gave a brief resume of the By-laws committee meeting. Several changes were approved by the By-laws Drafting Committee.

A question was raised from the floor concerning the YBA

officers' term. There was a mixup in Granada center, for instance, because there an officer is elected to serve six months and the Board of Directors of the Buddhist Churches of America must serve for one year. It was explained at the meeting that the Board of Directors will serve out his term regardless of relocation or expiration of his term as a local YBA officer.

In order to discuss further on topics of importance, the meeting was continued in the afternoon.

The afternoon meeting was called to order at 1:30 P.M. by Rev. Motoyoshi.

Rev. Okayama reported on "Buddhist Churches of America Debts." There was a debt of \$8,141 accumulated by the Buddhist Headquarters. The interest was being paid until the outbreak of war. There was now the matter of paying the interest, he said.

The group proposed a plan of assessing each center and "free zone" church at the rate of five dollars per month in order to continue payment on the monthly interest of \$40.

Mr. Ikeda then suggested a movement to collect a fund of \$8,000 to clear the bank debt and mortgage immediately.

Mr. Yamate moved that, subject to approval of Buddhist Churches of America of each center and free zone, the principal and interest on the loan now outstanding be paid at the earliest date possible through contributions from church members. A vote was taken and the plan was approved by a large majority.

The problem of ministers' traveling expenses was next discussed. After a brief conference, no changes were made on the original policy.

The meeting was again adjourned until 4 P.M. because of the dedication program scheduled at 2:30.

The meeting was resumed at the Council chamber after the ceremony. The method of electing members to the Board of Directors was discussed briefly.

The Nisei delegates held a separate meeting on the Board of Directors matter. The delegates approved the following distribution of directors:

One director each from Inter-Mountain, Tri-State, Heart Mountain, Granada, Manzanar, Minidoka, Rohwer; two from Arizona consisting of Poston, Gila, Mesa, Phoenix, Glendale; and six from Topaz.

It was recommended that the cabinet officers be selected from the Topaz Board of Directors because they would be available for quick action on emergency problems.

Chairman Motoyoshi officially concluded the conference at 4:28 P.M. with gassho.

#### DEDICATION CEREMONY:

The dedication of the Buddhist Churches of America was finally realized at the closing ceremonies at 2 P.M. at the Topaz Buddhist Church. Chairman Matsuzo Kurokawa gave the opening address.

Meditation, Sutra Chanting, and incense offering by various committees followed. The following members performed the ceremonies: Yoshio Isono of Sunday School, Miss Yasuko Ishida of YBA, Mrs. J. Kitagaki of Women's Board, S. Wakayama of Seijin Board, Vernon Ichisaka of Board of the Directors, and two representatives from the visiting delegates.

"Shinshu Shuka" (Gatha) was rendered. Masuji Fujii, representing Topaz Buddhist Church, was the next speaker. He was followed by a representative of the visiting delegates. "Kikyomon" was rendered, followed by a sermon, "Ondokusan" (Gatha), Meditation, and closing remarks from the chairman.

#### HOMIKWAI

Under the chairmanship of Mr. Kihei Ikeda, the Homikwai was opened on the last evening of the three-day conference at 7 P.M. The program included meditation, "Ondokusan" (Gatha), and a sermon. Thirty minutes later it gave way to the entertainment program which climaxed the conference.

#### ENTERTAINMENTS

The entertainment program, sponsored by the CAS Engei Club, drew a large Sunday audience at the auditorium. The night's program included native songs and dances under the chairmanship of Mr. George Akano.

#### AFTERMATH

The three-day Buddhist Conference came to a successful conclusion to the satisfaction of many Buddhists. The Buddhist Churches of America became incorporated---an American institution without ties to its mother church.

Furthermore, the Buddhist Churches of America Ministerial Association was established. Rules and regulations of this organization were approved at the last Ministers' gathering held on April 30, 1944.

At this final meeting two important subjects were approved

by the assembly. The ministers unanimously selected Bishop Ryotai Matsukage to serve as the Bishop and head of the Ministerial Association. A counsel board was established to serve under the Bishop. The following were selected: Reverends Tetsuro Kashima, Itsuzo Kyogoku, Joshin Motoyoshi and Zenkai Okayama.

Rev. Shintatsu Sanada complete the Headquarters staff as Executive Secretary. The members of the staff reside in Topaz.

The conference inspired many a member to active participation. Delegates from the Headquarters in Topaz visited various Buddhist circles on the outside and in the centers. Bishop Matsukage, representing the Ministerial Association also, toured the states.

In Topaz many Nisei Buddhist leaders relocated to east, handicapping the Headquarters activities. Several Nisei ministry students, however, relocated to Chicago to become assistant ministers, aiding in establishing the second Buddhist church there.

Contributions were collected in Topaz and other centers for the drive to clear the debts of the Buddhist Churches of America. Since the initial collection was insufficient for the entire payment, the drive was continued.

The Buddhist churches no doubt will be reorganized on a permanent basis after January 1945 when the West Coast is opened. The temporary closed churches in California, Oregon, Arizona and Washington probably will be reopened by returning Buddhist members. However, there will be an ever increasing demand for English speaking ministers who can relocate to the Nisei populated areas in the east.

In conclusion, it could be said that the Buddhist Churches of America Conference held in Topaz in 1944 was the beginning of a new shoot out of an old religious tree.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Office of the  
Secretary of State

I, FRANK M. JORDAN, Secretary of State of the  
State of California, hereby certify:

That I have compared the annexed transcript with  
the RECORD on file in my office, of which it purports  
to be a copy, and that the same is a full, true and  
correct copy thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my  
hand and affix the Great Seal of the  
State of California this 2nd day of  
May, 1944

S/ Frank M. Jordan  
Secretary of State

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

of

BUDDHIST CHURCHES OF AMERICA

We, the undersigned, Citizens of the United States  
desiring to incorporate a religious organization and/or  
churches under the provisions of: Title XII of the Civil  
Code of the State of California, do hereby make and execute  
the following Articles of Incorporation; to-wit:

ONE:

The name of this corporation is:

BUDDHIST CHURCHES OF AMERICA.

TWO:

The purpose for which this corporation is formed  
are: (a) That the members of said churches shall maintain  
and promote religious worship, and labor together according  
to the discipline, rules and usages of the "Jodo-Shin-Shu  
Sect" (True Pure Land Sect);

(b) To control and supervise the business of, and the  
religious activities of, all churches under its jurisdiction  
within the United States of America;

(c) To purchase, acquire, own, hold, lease either as  
lessee or lessor, mortgage, deed in trust, such real and  
personal property as may be necessary or convenient to  
conduct and operate the corporation;

(d) To receive donations of personal property by gift,  
bequest or otherwise;

(e) To do everything necessary, suitable or proper, at  
any time or place, for the accomplishment of any of the  
purposes and objects of the corporation;

(f) And to make such further rules and regulations as may, from time to time, be promulgated by the Board of Directors.

THREE:

That the said religious corporation be empowered under and by, and in conformity with, the laws of the State of California and/or any other State within the jurisdiction of the United States, to celebrate religious services, subject to the discipline and by-laws of this corporation.

FOUR:

That the County of the State of California where the principal office for the transaction of business of this corporation is to be located is the City and County of San Francisco.

FIVE:

(a) That the number of directors of this corporation shall be forty-seven (47) and - (b) the names and addresses of the persons who were appointed to act as the first directors of this corporation are as follows, to-wit:

NAMES: ADDRESSES:

SIX:

Regular and/or Special Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held at any place within or without the State of California which has been designated by the by-laws and/or from time to time by Resolution of the Board of Directors and/or by written Consent of all the members of the Board.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, for the purpose of forming this religious corporation under the laws of the State of California, we the undersigned, constituting the incorporators of this corporation, including the persons named hereinabove as first Directors of this corporation, have executed these Articles of Incorporation, this 6th day of April, 1944.

NAMES: NAMES:  
(Sgd) \_\_\_\_\_ (Sgd) \_\_\_\_\_

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA )  
: SS.  
STATE OF UTAH )

I, E. E. MONSON, Secretary of the State of Utah, and custodian of all records showing the appointment of Notaries Public within said State,

DO HEREBY CERTIFY that Harold Russell was on the Eighth day of July, A. D. 1943, duly appointed and commissioned a NOTARY PUBLIC in and for the State of Utah, for the term of four years from that date; that to all his official acts as such NOTARY PUBLIC full faith and credit should be given in all Courts of Justice and elsewhere.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of Utah, at Salt Lake City, this Third day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and Forty-four.

(Sgd) E. E. MONSON  
Secretary of State

## ARTICLE V

### Section 3.

Voting member shall be any member of Buddhist faith over the age of Twenty-one (21) years, who is a citizen of United States; only such persons shall be eligible to become member of the Board of Directors.

## ARTICLE VI

### Election of Directors

The Directors shall be elected by ballot at an annual meeting by the voting Members, to serve for one (1) year, and until their successors are elected. Their term of office shall begin immediately after election. Vacancies in the Board shall be filled at any legally called meeting of the Board of Directors, by the remaining Directors, and those elected thereat shall hold office until the next annual meeting.

## ARTICLE VII

### Power of Directors

Directors shall have power:

- 1st: to call special meetings of the members.
- 2nd: to supervise and direct the business of the corporation.
- 3rd: to appoint and remove officers, agents, and employees and fix their duties and compensations.
- 4th: to create a Board of Trustees in order to manage the business activities of the corporation, which shall consist of the Executive officers of the Board of Directors and seven (7) laymen counsellors to be appointed by the Board of Directors.
- 5th: to incur indebtedness and to accept donation or contributions in order to conduct the business of the corporation. The President and the Executive Secretary shall sign officially all notes and obligations, secured by deeds of trust, or otherwise, as authorized by the Board of Directors.

## ARTICLE VIII

### Duties of Directors

The Board of Directors shall:

- 1st: cause to be kept a record of its proceedings and minutes of all official meetings of the corporation.
- 2nd: direct the auditing of the financial records of the corporation.
- 3rd: supervise all officers, Board of Trustees, agents, and employees, and see that their duties are properly performed.

## ARTICLE IX

### Executive Officers

The Executive Officers of the Board of Directors shall be president, vice-president (first), second vice-president, executive secretary, and treasurer, to be elected by and hold office at the pleasure of the Board of Directors.

## ARTICLE X

### Duties of the President

The Board of Directors shall elect one of their members President; and if at any time the President is unable to act or is absent the first vice-president and second vice-president in their order shall perform his duties; and if these officers are unable to act, some other member of the Board of Directors shall be appointed to act in his capacity.

The President or the Acting President as above provided:

- (1) shall preside over all meetings of the Members and the Board of Directors and the Board of Trustees.
- (2) shall sign as President all receipts for donations and all contracts and other instruments in writing which have been first approved by the Board of Directors.
- (3) shall call the special meeting of the Board of Directors when he deems it necessary.
- (4) and shall, subject to the advise of the Board of Directors, have direction of the affairs of the corporation, and shall perform such other duties as may be required.

BY-LAWS OF THE

BUDDHIST CHURCHES OF AMERICA

PREAMBLE

The following creed shall govern the operation of the Corporation.

1. Each member shall honor the Three Treasure (Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha) and follow faithfully the fundamental principles of Buddhism.
2. Because these By-laws are created for the propagation of the Buddhist Teachings from the standpoint of thanksgiving to Tathagata Amitabha, each member shall execute his duties in the spirit of co-operation and unity, forbearing from asserting one's rights and privileges indiscriminately.
3. That a distinction be made between the duties of the clergy and laymen; that no action be taken which will not abide fully with the Teachings of Buddha.

ARTICLE I

Functions of the Corporation

The function of this corporation shall be to supervise and administer the Buddhist Churches in the United States that are members of the Buddhist Churches of America and also shall directly and indirectly serve and guide the activities of the people of the Buddhist faith, except such matters as directed by the Ministers' Association.

ARTICLE II

Corporate Seal

The corporate seal shall consist of a circle having in its circumference the words:

"BUDDHIST CHURCHES OF AMERICA",  
 INCORPORATED  
 May 2, 1944  
 San Francisco, California

ARTICLE III

Corporate Powers

The corporate powers are vested in the voting members of the Buddhist Churches of America.

ARTICLE IV

Organization of the Corporation

Section 1.

The organization of the Corporation shall consist of Churches and membership thereof of the Buddhist faith.

Section 2.

The Corporation shall recognize and financially support the Buddhist Ministers' Association as directed by the Bishop as the body to administer all the religious activities of the Buddhist Churches in the United States.

Section 3.

The Corporation shall be governed by the Board of Directors consisting of fifteen (15) elected members in good standing.

ARTICLE V

Membership

Section 1.

Church membership shall consist of organized groups of Buddhist faith recognized by this corporation.

Section 2.

Two (2) voting members from each group of Buddhist faith recognized by this Corporation shall constitute the legal members of the Corporation.

ARTICLE XI

Secretary

The Secretary shall:

- (1) keep a record of the proceedings and the minutes of all official meetings of the corporate.
- (2) shall keep the corporate seal, by-laws, record of all membership, shall affix said seal to all papers requiring seal.
- (3) shall serve all documents and notices required either by law or by the by-laws of the Corporation, and in case of his absence or inability to act for any cause, then such documents and notices may be served by a person thereunto directed by the President.

ARTICLE XII

Treasurer

The Treasurer shall:

- (1) handle all funds received or disbursed by the Corporation. The disbursements by check must in every case bear the signature of the treasurer with the countersignature of the President or Acting President of the Corporation.
- (2) shall deposit all funds of the Corporation in such bank or banks as may be from time to time designated by the Board of Directors.
- (3) shall keep complete and detailed accounts of all transaction in such an accepted manner as the financial status of the Corporation is at all time known and understood.
- (4) shall give the summary of the financial reports to the Members at the annual meeting.

ARTICLE XIII

Meeting of the Board of Directors

- (1) regular meetings of Board of Directors shall be held once a year at the head-quarter or other place designated by the directors.
- (2) special meeting of Board of Directors may be called by the President or at the request of five (5) directors.
- (3) Ten (10) members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for meeting.

ARTICLE XIV

Board of Trustees

- (1) The Board of Trustees shall consist of twelve (12) members; which shall be the five (5) executive officers of the Board of Directors and seven (7) layman counsellors to be appointed by the Board of Directors.
- (2) The Board of Trustees shall transact business delegated by the Board of Directors.
- (3) Vacancies in the Board of Trustees whenever caused, shall be filled by appointment by the Board of Directors to complete the current term of the trustees.
- (4) All trustees shall hold office for a term of one (1) year.

ARTICLE XV

Annual Meeting of the Members

The annual meeting of the members shall be held in the third week of April. The definite date of the meeting is to be set by the Board of Directors; and the notices of such meeting shall be made at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of the meeting.

At the annual meeting the members of the Board of Directors for the ensuing year shall be elected to serve for one (1) year and until their successors are elected.

Immediately after the adjournment of the annual meeting of the Members, the Board of Directors shall convene and elect officers for the ensuing year, and to transact any other business that may come before the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XVI

Voting at Members' Meeting

At all Corporate meeting each voting member (or official representative)

ARTICLE XVI

SHALL be entitled to one (1) vote. Voting by proxy shall be valid.

ARTICLE XVII

Amendments.

The By-laws may be repealed, altered, modified or amended at any meeting of the Board of Directors at which a quorum is present by a majority vote thereof.

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

That we, the undersigned, Incorporators of the Buddhist Churches of America, Incorporated, representing the total number of the incorporators duly signatories to the Articles of the Incorporation, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing By-laws were duly adopted as the By-laws of the said Corporation on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, and that same do now constitute the By-laws of said Corporation.

Secretary of the Buddhist Churches of America

Witness my hand and seal this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_.

Witness my hand and seal this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_.

Witness my hand and seal this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_.

Witness my hand and seal this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_.

Witness my hand and seal this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_.

BUDDHIST CHURCHES OF AMERICA  
Religious Center #2  
Topaz, Utah

April 24, 1944

The following members were selected to aid in the various committees for the Delegates Conference:

GENERAL CO-CHAIRMAN:

Mr. Toshio Yoshida  
Mr. Masuji Fujii  
Mr. Kihei Ikeda

NYU BUNSU SHIKI.

Mr. Matsuzo Kurokawa

PROGRAM:

Mr. Jiro Nakaso, Chrm.  
Mr. Mike Kudo  
Mr. Seichi Wakayama

WELCOME PARTY:

Mr. Joseph Sasaki, Chrm.  
Mr. Yamate, Chrm.

GENERAL ARRANGEMENT:

Mr. Hideo Kawahara, Chrm.  
Mr. James Yamakoshi  
Mr. Nomura  
Mr. Tokujiro Nitta  
Mr. T. Isono  
Mr. Nakamoto  
Mr. Seichi Kawamoto  
Mr. Umehara  
Mr. Kawaguchi

ENTERTAINMENT:

Mr. Hirano, Chrm.  
Mr. Kami  
Mr. Yoshifuji  
Mr. Ikeda  
Mr. Hosokawa  
Mr. Yoshida  
Mr. Suzuki  
Mr. Nakamura  
Mr. Wakayama  
Mr. Okuno  
Mr. Nitte  
Mr. Uyeda  
Mr. Miyamoto

RECEPTION:

Mr. Vernon Ichisaka  
Miss Mitsuye Ozeki  
Miss Tsuneko Fujimoto  
Miss Margaret Wakayama  
Miss Masako Kami  
The Fujin Kwai

FINANCE:

Mr. Yamakoshi, Co-chrm.  
Mr. Yamada, Co-chrm.  
Mr. Nakamura  
Mr. Yoshifuji

FOOD:

Mr. Kami  
Mr. Yoshifuji  
Mr. Fujimoto

TRANSPORTATION:

Mr. Isono, Chrm.  
Mr. Neishi  
Mr. Minemoto

MOCHI:

Dining Hall #2

May we expect your fullest cooperation in making this conference a success.

Sincerely yours,

BUDDHIST CHURCHES OF AMERICA

*Rev. J. Okayama*  
Rev. J. Okayama, Deputy Bishop

BUDDHIST CHURCHES OF AMERICA

CONFERENCE

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

By Buddhist Churches of America 開教使信徒代表者會議 提出議案

本部提出案

1. Buddhist Churches of America Incorporation  
米國佛教團(法人トシテ)ニ関スル件
2. Nisei Reverend Training Course  
二世開教使養成ニ関スル件
3. Relationship between Hawaiian Reverends now in U.S.  
在米布哇教團開教使ニ関スル件
4. Relationship of the center and the Headquarters.  
センタート教團本部聯絡ニ関スル件
5. Buddhist Churches of America Endowment Fund.  
財團ニ関スル件
6. Buddhist Churches of America Debts.  
負債整理ニ関スル件
7. Publication (Literary)  
文書傳道ニ関スル件
8. Church Supplies ( Incense, Ojuzus, etc.)  
法物部ニ関スル件
9. Free zone area Church movement

フリーゾーン佛教運動ニ関スル件 開教使信徒代表提出案

Shinshu Gatha Book ( New York Buddhist Church )

禮拜用真宗聖典讚佛歌集統一ノ件 (ニューヨーク佛教會)

Sunday School Reference Book ( New York Buddhist Church )

青少年禮拜(日曜學校)指導方針及教材參考資料発行ノ件 (同上)

Relationship of the center and free zone area churches ( Rev. C. Terakawa )

集會所ト自由區域ノ聯絡(仏教徒)機關設置ニ関スル件 (寺川澄然師)

Buddhist Students Scholarship Fund ( Rev. T. Terakawa )

二世佛徒ノ獎學基金ヲ設クル件 (寺川湛濟師)

Buddhist Chaplain ( Gile River, Canal Division )

從軍布教ニ関スル件 (比良第一館府仏教信徒)

Nisei Reverend Training Course ( Gile River, Canal Division )

二世開教使養成ニ関スル件 (同上)

千九百四十四年度

開教使信徒代表者會議 決議

- 一、米國佛教團コーポレーションニ関スル件  
米國仏教團ヲ法的ニ確立シ、以テ戰後將來ノ仏教發展ノ礎石タラシメル爲ニ、コーポレーション設立ヲ承認サル。其ノ細則ハ別紙、如ク決定サル。
- 二、二世開教使養成ニ関スル件  
米國仏教發展ノ爲、欠クカテ、必要件ニ付、其ノ具体案ヲ作ル。  
(其ノ詳細ハ別紙印刷シテ通達ス)
- 三、在米布哇教團開教使ノ件  
当人ノ希望ニヨリ、布哇開教總長ヲ通ジ、總長ニ交渉シテ、  
四、センター本部聯絡ニ関スル件  
各地センターノ實狀ニ即シ、聯絡ヲ計ルベク也也ス。
- 五、敗團(北米開教敗團)ニ関スル件  
本財團ノ當事者ニ告処方ヲ依頼スルコト。
- 六、負債整理ニ関スル件  
仏舍利室塔ノ負債ニ関シテハ、左ノ如キ諒解ヲ得  
債財金額ノ支拂ヲ理想トシ、之ニ極力努力スルコト。但シ其ノ過程トシテ利息支拂ニ協力スルコト。
- 七、文書傳道ニ関スル件  
種々ノ要求ヲ参照シテ本部ニ一任スルコト。
- 八、法物部ニ関スル件  
戰時中法物ニ関シ、多々不足品アル折柄、本部ニ於テ  
出來ルダケ告出スルコト。
- 九、フリーゾン佛教運動ニ関スル件  
各地ノ情報ヲ目下調査中ニテ、其ノ報告ヲ得タ上、  
具體的ニ立案スルコト。
- 以下、本部以外ノ提案、
- 十、礼拝用聖典、讚佛歌集統一ノ件
- 十一、青少年(日校)指導方針及教材參考資料發行ノ件  
右ニ件ハ法物部及文書傳道ノニ件ト合併シ、本部ニ於テ告出スル
- 十二、二世使徒ノ獎學基金ヲ設クル件  
二世開教使養成ノ件ニ合併シテ考慮スルコト。
- 十三、日系兵士ニ對スル布教ノ件  
日系兵士ニ對スル慰問布教ハ本部ニ於テ告出スルコト。

以上

*Buddhist Churches of America  
Ministerial Association  
Religious Center #2  
Topaz, Utah*

May 21, 1944

Following are the approved Rules and Regulations established and duly adopted by the Buddhist Ministerial Association. These Rules are presented with the approval of the Ministers that were present at the Delegates Conference held April 28, 29, 30.

1. The name of this organization shall be the "Buddhist Churches of America Ministerial Association."
2. The purpose of this organization shall be to coordinate and govern the Ministers of Jodo Shin Shu Sect. (True Pure Land Sect)
3. In order to carry out the functions of this organization, it is decreed as follows:
  - a. Headquarters of the Ministerial Association shall be created.
  - b. Meetings of the Ministerial Association shall be held at intervals to further propagate the Buddhist religion.
4. The Headquarters shall establish the following officers:
  - a. Bishop - The Bishop shall be recommended by the Ministerial Association.
  - b. Executive Secretary - The Executive Secretary shall be appointed by the Bishop.
  - c. Counsellors - The Counsellors shall be elected by the Ministerial Association. The term of office shall be one year.
5. The meeting of the Ministerial Association shall be held when deemed necessary.
6. The Headquarters of the Ministerial Association shall carry on business relations direct with the Buddhist Churches of America.
7. The Buddhist Churches of America shall provide necessary funds for the Ministerial Association.

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1. The office of the Headquarters shall be located where the Bishop resides.
2. The duties of the Bishop shall be to direct and supervise the activities of Ministers, and also to lead all religious activities thereof.
3. The Bishop shall have the power to:
  - a. Direct Ministers to locate where deemed necessary.
  - b. Call meetings of the Ministerial Association and its committees.
  - c. Censure or commend any Ministers for his deeds and to administer rewards and/or punishment to the Ministers as he sees fit.
4. The Bishop with the advice of the counsellors shall appoint person or persons to direct the activities of the Bishop during his absence from duty.
5. The duties of the Executive Secretary shall include such assignments as directed by the Bishop and carry out the policies and program as outlined by the Headquarters.
6. The duties of the Counsellors shall be to act as counsel to the Bishop.

TOPAZ TIMES

Vol. VII, No. 7

April 22, 1944

BUDDHISTS PLAN 3-DAY  
CONFERENCE IN TOPAZ

A national 3-day Buddhist conference will be held in Topaz, which is the national headquarters of the Buddhist Church, on April 28, 29, and 30, according to Art Takemoto, local executive secretary.

Buddhist delegates and reverends in other relocation centers and on the outside are expected to participate in the conference. Plans for a future program of the Buddhist churches on the outside and for organizing Buddhists who have relocated will be discussed at the meetings.

In addition to the business meetings, the program for the conference will include opening services, reception for the delegates, YEA inaugural ball, closing service, and an entertainment program.

The Topaz YEA will be hosts at an inaugural ball honoring new cabinet officers. Shig Kamiya and Eva Tamaki are co-chairmen of the ball which will be held in the auditorium on April 29. Bids will be available to the public from YEA ward representatives.

TOPAZ TIMES

Vol. VII, No. 8

April 26, 1944

NAT'L BUDDHIST CONFAB TO  
OPEN HERE FRIDAY

The program for the three-day Buddhist conference to be held this Friday, Saturday and Sunday in Topaz, headquarters for the Buddhist Churches of America, has been completed, according to Art Takemoto of the local organization.

Attending the conference will be reverends and representatives of Buddhist Churches from the Poston, Minidoka, Amache, and Denson relocation centers and from Denver, Colorado. Reverend K. Kumata, former Topaz Buddhist minister, will attend from Ogden.

The main topic of the conference will be the incorporation of Buddhist Churches of America. Other subjects to be discussed are free zone area church movement, a training course for nisei reverends, a Buddhist publication, church supplies, Buddhist Churches of America debts, a working fund for the headquarters, and relationships between the centers and the headquarters.

Business meetings and morning services will be held on Friday and Saturday with the visiting representatives and reverends.

Guest speakers will give the sermons at the special Sunday School and YP Services on Sunday.

YBA TO SPONSOR INAUGURAL BALL

In conjunction with the three-day Buddhist Conference, an inaugural ball will be sponsored by the YBA Saturday night from 8 PM at the auditorium.

Bids for the dance may be obtained from any YBA block representative or at rec. 3. A few bids will also be available at the door.

The dance is being held in honor of the newly elected YBA cabinet officers. The guests of the evening will be the visiting delegates to the conference.

30 DELEGATES ARRIVE FOR  
BUDDHIST CONFAB

With thirty visiting delegates attending, the three day conference of the Buddhist Churches of America opened here yesterday, according to Art Takemoto of the local organization.

Reverends and delegates representing Buddhist Churches in the Poston Minidoka, Heart Mt. and Denson relocation centers and Denver, Ogden, Salt Lake City, and Mesa, Arizona, arrived on Thursday and Friday for the conference. The Topaz delegates will be the seven nisei members of the Buddhist Churches of America Board of Directors. Kihei Ikeda will represent the issei.

Following an opening service yesterday morning, business meetings were held during the day. A welcome banquet attended by over 500 residents was held last night at the auditorium climaxing the opening day of the conference. Guests at the banquet were the visiting delegates, Messrs. and Mesdames Charles F. Ernst, Roseco Bell, Gilbert Niese and Ramond Sanford.

Business meetings will be held throughout today. The local YBA will sponsor an inaugural ball tonight in the auditorium from 8:30 in honor of the newly elected cabinet officers and the visiting delegates. Patrons and patronesses for the dance are Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Ernst and Rev. and Mrs. I. Kyogoku. Joe Sasaki, chairman of the YBA Board of Directors, will be the master of ceremonies.

Special Sunday School and YP services will be held tomorrow in the auditorium. Rev. Masaru Kumata from Ogden and Rev. C. Terakawa from Salt Lake City will speak at the Sunday School service, and Rev. Shodo Tsunoda, nisei priest from Poston, will give the sermon at the YP gathering. Dedication services of the Buddhist Churches of America will be held in the afternoon from 2 o'clock at the auditorium.

Climaxing the conference, an entertainment program will be presented under the sponsorship of the CAS Sunday night in the auditorium.

TOPAZ TIMES

Vol. VII, No. 10

May 2, 1944

TOPAZ CHOSEN BCA HDQRS AT  
3-DAY CONFERENCE

The incorporation of the Buddhist Churches of America, with Topaz as the headquarters, and the setting up of a nisei ministers training center here was approved at the meetings held during the three-day Buddhist conference, according to Art Takemoto of the local organization.

With 37 delegates from Poston, Heart Mountain, Manzanar, Denson, Granada, Denver, Ogden, Salt Lake City, and Mesa, Arizona, business meetings were held throughout the three-day conference. A closer relationship between the centers and Topaz was discussed.

The delegates approved Topaz as the headquarters for the Buddhist Churches of America and a Buddhist Churches of America Board of Directors with members from the centers and the outside Buddhist organizations. At the meetings, the group also decided that Topaz will be the center for the nisei studying to be Buddhist priests. Rev. Motoyoshi who returned here recently from the Santa Fe internment camp was chairman of the meetings.

Approximately 700 persons attended the special YP service held in the auditorium Sunday morning, it was reported, Rev. Tsunoda, nisei priest from the Poston center, spoke on the topic, "Faith". A large crowd also attended the Sunday School services in the auditorium it was stated.

One-hundred couples danced at the YBA inaugural ball Saturday night in the auditorium. Guests of honor at the affair were the visiting delegates and the newly elected YBA cabinet officers. A capacity audience filled the auditorium Sunday night at the entertainment program sponsored by the CAS Engei Club.