

SASAKI'S DAILY REPORTS FROM LOS ANGELES (Continued)

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#55

WASHINGTON

It was my intention to go to one of the other churches this morning, but was sidetracked when I met Mits Aiso downtown. He was on his way to Long Beach, and after having a cup of coffee with him, it was too late to make any other church, except the one around the corner.

The attendance was limited to about 30 people, mostly of high school age. There were a few old timers, three to be exact. Harry Minami, Mary Oguchi and myself. I was sitting by myself when Mary Oguchi, about 25 asked if I weren't Myrtle's husband. I said yes, and then joined here so our conversation wouldn't distract too much attention.

Mary is visiting in Los Angeles. She lives in Chicago where she works for a Maternity hospital in the office. She said that she was visiting her parents for several weeks, but that she intended to stay in Chicago. She felt that most of the professional people, and those with skills are most likely the ones who will stay on. It was also her feeling that there were more in Chicago than there were in Los Angeles.

The church went on smoothly with Louise Tatsumo, formerly of Bakersfield, lending an extremely lovely voice to the program. The sermon by Rev. Nakajima was well received. Whether it is the summer-time lack of interest in church, or simply that the older niseis do not exist in Los Angeles will have to wait until later. It is the feeling of Mary Oguchi that the latter is probably the cause.



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

WASHINGTON

56
Los Angeles (1)
8 September 46
T. Sasaki

Economic Adjustment.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

I visited the Taiyo Drug Co. immediately after church and found Ken Utsunomiya behind his watch counter. I jokingly said, "What, working on Sundays?"

Ken laughed and said that he came on Sundays to wind the watches. Then continued.

"I enjoy living. I don't believe in working 12 to 14 hours a day; but wait and see, the minute bad times hit this town, you'll find all of these merchants cut-throating each other. Most of them are paying \$100.00 a month rent and are living on the place. They can afford to stay open until 9 and 10 o'clock. There are three watch-makers who live behind the store. I won't be able to compete with them because I live elsewhere. I don't believe in this long hour business. Most of the other Jewelers down-town belong to an association that prevents them from staying open too long, or practicing other cut-throating methods, but not here. It is not worth staking too much in a store down here anyway, because they'll be tearing down the place pretty quick to make room for the street.

TS. "What made you move back from Denver?"

K. "Mostly the weather. Just about every kid in town comes down with rheumatic fever. I've got three kids and I don't want them to get it.

But there is something I have to say about those people out there. They know how to live. They don't spend all of their waking hours earning money.

They know how to live outside of working hours and they demand lots of it. But the Japanese in town all worship the almighty dollar. They go to bed as soon as they are thru working, and begin gorking the minute they get up.

Not me, I want to enjoy myself.



Los Angeles (2)
September 16
Sasaki

Discrimination.

WASHINGTON
Within a half hour Ken was ready to close so we walked outside and ran into Mineo Kobayashi and Harvey Tanaka. Mineo is driving a truck distributing merchandise for the Safeway stores, while Harvey is buying for a Hawaiian firm.

The talk, somehow shifted over to the topic of discrimination and before long experiences were being related.

M.K. "When I was in Brawley back in 1943 when De-Witt's statement that a 'Jap is a Jap' came out, one fellow said that he would shoot the first Jap that came in to town. I called his bluff and went down to the store to see him. My friend warned me against it because he had his gun oiled, and was practicing on targets. Hell, I didn't care, and went down. The old guy didn't shoot. Then they used to have what they called Commando Raid practices. One of the fellows who owned a service station told the rest that they ought to wait and see what the verdict was on these people in the Centers before they did anything rash. He lost most of his trade. He actually had to go to a truck-company, one that owns a fleet of 20 and explain to him his position. He got that account back, but he keeps his opinions to himself. You can't blame them. But some of these nihonjins are stabbing the backs of those who helped them out when the going was tough. They shift accounts over to those firms that refused to help them when they needed help. I don't believe in that kind of crap.

H.T. "That is the trouble with some nihonjins. They get taken in by smooth words and the first thing you know, they are kissing the ass of those who were the worst to them.



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Los Angeles (3)
September 16
T. Sasaki

K.U. "The worst guys are probably the Filipinos. Lot of them are still bitter about the war. And the method they use is underhanded.

M.K. "That's right. There is a Korean fellow who works in the market on 9th Street. He went down to the valley and tried to get some Filipinos to load up for him. They said that they wouldn't work for a Jap. When they tried to get them to, they came up with their big harvesting knives. He picked up a Jack to protect himself when a white guy came up and told them that he was Korean. But that sort of sentiment still exists in the valley.

"One nite about 2 o'clock, there were supposed to be some shots fired in our neighborhood. I didn't hear it, but Kodama, a man I took down to Brawley said that he did. It sounded like a 22. The next day I went into town and found out that a bunch of guys were going on a rabbit hunt, so they said. I don't think so. Several days later, I found a 38-30 hole in one of our tanks.

As the meeting closed, there was unanimous agreement between the three that things were not as bad as they seemed to be several years ago. Most of the accounts were rumors, and it is felt that they were gross exaggeration of stories.



Sept #57

WASHINGTON

The Vogue Bowling Alleys is one of the most popular pleasure places in Los Angeles. On a Sunday afternoon or evening the place is packed with both hakujin and nihonjin enthusiasts. If one were to look up one of the younger unmarried nisei men, or woman, it would be a good jumping off place.

The Alleys are located on 9th and Grand. There are thirty alleys altogether and from all appearances, they are filled morning noon and night. As a matter of fact, the place is opened 24 hours a day.

This afternoon there must have been about 50 niseis either participating, or watching. The first 10 alleys had the names of the nisei bowling teams on the frame case hung above the take-off place. None of the hakujins seemed to give a damn about the Niseis who were infiltrating. They were more intent on their own games. There were no mixed nisei-hakujin teams playing together, and except for two cases in the whole afternoon, were there any semblances of conversation passing between the two groups. One of the cases involved a hakujin fellow talking to a girl, attempting to get a date, no doubt, and the other was myself talking to a fellow from Salt Lake City, who was looking for some nisei friends.

Darwyn L. Haueter was his name. He was making a tour of Southern California getting into bowling tournaments. He was recently discharged from the service, as was revealed by his button. I was curious as to his interest in niseis so I started a conversation which ran something like this.

TS. "How did you get interested in the niseis? Why?"

D.L.H. "For a number of years I lived in Hawaii. At that time I got to know white a few niseis, and isseis. I worked mainly in the bowling alleys, and many of them went to those places for the tournaments. There was no discrimination there. Then I enlisted and was with the 25th Div in the South Pacific. I spent some time in Guadalcanal, and for an



WASHINGTON

average individual, it is pretty difficult to understand why a South Pacific Veteran likes niseis. I knew them before the war, and I've seen them since. All of these things add up to just one thing, that the niseis are as good, if not any better than anybody else.

Those that I got to know in Salt Lake City were the more progressive ones. One fellow owns a Florist shop, started out small and now has about 14 people working for him. He wanted to sponsor me on this West Coast tournament, but I said that I felt it was too expensive. But he did sponsor me on the tournament in Denver. However, out here I wore his shirt. There aren't quite enough niseis left in Salt Lake City to have their own bowling alleys, but out here there might be possibilities. That is one of the reasons why I want to see this fellow.

TS. What sort of work do you do?

DH. I am in partnership with another fellow doing roofing and painting. I got a G.I. loan and we got started. We're doing all right. But bowling is my real life. I was assistant manager to one of the largest alleys in Salt Lake city, then even when I got into the army, I was the manager of the G.I. alleys in Hawaii, besides being president of the association there. The Bowling Congress of U.S. discriminated against Japanese bowling in their tournaments and I am trying to break the barrier down with the AVC. Since I was active in Hawaii, I think what I have to say will carry quite a bit of weight.

"Yes, I'll stake my life on the niseis because I know they won't let you down.



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Los Angeles
September 16
Sasaki

(1)

#58

Orientation.

WASHINGTON

It was my intention to spend some time in Boyle Heights this afternoon but was side-tracked when Mr. Fujii invited me to ride out to Inglewood with him to visit Mr. Imada, who formerly owned a Photographic Studio on 1st street. We drove out for about a half an hour and finally came to 205 So. Inglewood Ave which is the second building South from Manchester. The first building was a Florist Shop run by a bakujin. It was set on the corner and is surrounded by Mr. Imada's nursery which extended from Inglewood Avenue around the Florist shop and runs about 50 yards on Manchester. Manchester Avenue is a busy thoroughfare which connects Inglewood, and So. Los Angeles with Manhattan Beach and other beaches on the coast.

We approached the house which was set back about 30 feet from the sidewalk. On both side of the walk were hundreds of plants, both small and large. No-one was in the house so we walked around the building until we came to the store-side where a bespectacled young man told us that he would call Mr. Imada.

Mr. Imada invited us in and soon Mrs. I came in. After preliminary greetings, Mrs. I stated that they had a difficult time finding a place to buy, but were fortunate in finding a place that had a building. It was nicely furnished and Mr. I said that they were all of the furniture they had stored. They had sold all of their business equipment, but kept their furniture. The price paid for the lot and houses they considered much too high, but felt that it was the best they could do.

Mr. Fujii asked Mr. Imada if his son had returned from the army, and Mr. Imada said that he was back. His son was in Japan and had visited his grandmother in Hiroshima, and had further news about the rest of the relatives.



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Los Angeles (2)
September 16
T. Sasaki

Orientation.

WASHINGTON

The talk between F. and I. gradually turned to the war, and Mrs. F suggested to Mrs. Imada that they have the men and go out to look the property and plants over.

Conversation
Interview in Japanese.

M. F. "I can't understand why the leaders in Japan did not realize the futility of the war after Germany surrendered. It was only because Germany pushed Japan, and egged them on that she started, so when Germany surrendered, she should have given up.

I. "Yes, it is hard to understand. Japan negotiated with Russia, and now finds herself in a fine fix. If she came out directly to the U.S. with her hands raised, then we would not be having trouble with the Reds now.

When we were in camp it was funny that we believed everything that the short-wave sent over. Now when I think about it, it was foolish to think that Japan had a chance. The conditions in which we lived I suppose had much to do with the bitterness that we felt. When Japan lost most of her ships on Midway, they should have known that they couldn't stand up.

F. "Japan began her foolishness when they had the Naval ratio meeting after the last war. What difference did it make what ratio Japan was able to get when United States Mass production could make as many as they wanted if they wanted to. Japan, with her limited supply could make only a certain number of ships. The leaders knew that, but they had everyone fooled. Towards the end of the war when they said that they would fight until the last man, woman, and child were killed, and that bamboo spears would be used to defend the country against the B-29s, everyone should have known that the war was hopeless. But ~~why~~ there is no question that the defeat of Japan was the best for that country.



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Los Angeles
September 16
T. Sasaki

(3)

orientation.

WASHINGTON

Mr. I. "Yes, it is bad that Japan lost the war. If she had won, there would be no place for the common man. Unless one were a member of the military, he would have no status. The people can now live under peace, without fear from the military, and Japan can become a member of peaceful nation. Not only that, Japan has a backer. U.S. is responsible now for her behavior, and will see to it that she conforms, and then in the event that there is another crisis when Japan assumes her position, U.S. will back Japan up, that is, of course if Japan conforms to the U.S. policy. Yes, I think within five or six years Japan should be a nation with peaceful intention and with respect for the U.S.

"It is very funny, however, that there are still some people in Japanese town who think that Japan has won the war. We were in town yesterday, and they tell us that there are still some who think that way. Some people are very pig-headed.



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Los Angeles (4)
September 14 1946
I. Sasaki

Economic Adjustment.

WASHINGTON

The ladies came back. Mrs. Imada mentioned that her son-in-law was having a difficult time finding a job. He had been discharged from the army and had looked all over Los Angeles, but found no job with suitable pay.

Mrs. Imada. "When he was discharged from Fort Snelling, I-trote him to find a job in the east because there was nothing in Los Angeles. But I suppose he wanted to be where the rest of us were. He is helping us now. He made applications to go to Japan, and was finally accepted, but now we are getting very busy; so he does not know what he wants to do.

Mr. F. "Couldn't he get a job as a school-teacher at Snelling?"

Mrs. I. "No, I guess it was because he was a member of the Japanese Consulate. It may be that for that reason he had a difficult time getting approval to go to Japan on a job.

At this moment Tad Imada, the son came in. When asked if he made any money in Cleveland working as a photographer he said that in 8 months in Cleveland, he had made as much as he had in two years in Little Tokyo. He explained this by stating that when one owned one's own place, expenses were high, but when employed by someone else, the wages were clear.

Mr. F. "How do you find this place?"

Mrs. I. "We were afraid at first that we would not be able to make a go of it because some people told us that there was much discrimination against Japanese here before the war. The land-owner took it over with me, and finally we decided that there was no such feeling existing at the present time. The Florist owner, however, felt that he would not be able to compete with the Japanese, and asked me if I would buy his place.



WASHINGTON
"Altho it is a good location, I did not want to buy out his place, and told him that he had nothing to worry about because I would not compete with him. I was selling plants, while he was selling out flowers. This assured him that there would be no cut-throating. I think it is good to maintain good relations, after all, we intend to stay here for a long time.

"Almost all of my customers are hakujins. There are about a half dozen gardeners who buy plants to put in some of the places they have contracted, but they constitute only a small portion of my trade.

Both Mr and Mrs. Imada are isseis. The son-in-law a kibe, and the son Ted a nisei. The family has become well-adjusted in the community economically, but socially, they still have their arm out in Little Tokyo, or the West-side of Los Angeles where they own a home. The son-in-law, however, seems to be in an unhappy position at present because of his job situation. He is a white-collared worker, but from indications given by his mother-in-law, there are only limited opportunities for him.



#59

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF RELOCATION ALTERNATIVES

Los Angeles (1)
September 16
T. Sasaki

Relocation Center performance.

I went to Mits Aiso's house at 7:30 pm. He was waiting for me, as I told him yesterday that I would come over. Mits is about 30 years old, is living with his mother in an apartment which he owns. There are several other families living in the apartment, one of the several houses Mits owns.

Before the war he spent about half of his days serving on the jury, and the other half cooking for gardeners, and doing a little gardening himself. Since we belonged to the same Y club before the war, I was naturally interested when in August of 1943, it was mentioned in the papers that the Hospital in Heart Mountain had gone on a strike, and that the ringleaders were sent to Leupp. His name was included. I asked him what had really happened, and for the next two hours he told me.

Mits. A. "I was the Chef at the hospital. And not like most Japanese in camp, I guess I was more outspoken. It was not because I wanted to make trouble, but I could read the directives sent over from Washington, and when the small shots in camp tried to get away by getting away from them, I would stand up for the evacuees.

"There was quite a bit of stealing of medicine, meat, and other hospital supplies by the appointed personnel. The Director of the hospital came right out and said that it was all right to let the Japanese die; he said he didn't care what disease they had, just put them all in the C.D. ward. That burned me up. Then I knew just who the persons were who were doing the swiping. Sugar, meat and other things were either carried over to the appointed personnel mess hall, or sold to the town outside.

"The dietician would juice the oranges in the evening for the patients breakfast and during the night the registered nurses would come and take that to their own barracks. This happened all the time.



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Los Angeles (2)
September 16
T. Sasaki

Relocation Center Experience.

"The Chief Steward sent over a barrel full of salted herrings. I blew up. The dietitian and I went over to the steward and asked him, 'Why did you send over the barrel of fish fertilizer?'"

"He said that he heard that Japanese liked fish and rice."

"What in the hell, the Japanese like their fish and rice, but not fish fertilizer. I told him to take a bucket-ful of the stuff and feed it to the appointed personnel, and that if they would eat it, then I would feed the patients with it. We were supposed to get the patients well, not kill them."

"One thing led to another, and then finally a general strike was called. The chairman came over and said that since we were members of the hospital, we would have to join up. I told him that a skeleton crew should work because the patients had to be fed."

"Within a short time, they came after me, gave me an hour to pack up my belongings into my zipper bag and took me off to Leupp. When we got there, Paul Robertson wanted to know what the charges were. He didn't know, and I didn't know, altho I had a hunch that the Chief Medical Officer and the steward wanted me put away because I knew just who was stealing all of the stuff. This was as good an excuse as any to put me away. For weeks before they were telling four of us to relocate. They kept on wasting us."

"It was not for six weeks that the charges finally came thru. There were six of them which included, Refusal to feed the patients, No cooperation with the medical staff, and four other things. There were six affidavits."

"About that time some of the news leaked out, and the Japanese began rounding up affidavits to refute the charges. On top of that, they had notarized statement charging certain members of the administration of underhanded practices. Anyway, it amounted to almost 200."



WASHINGTON

"Paul Robertson the project director of Heart Mountain was back of me, and between he and Washington all kinds of tele-phones, and wires were exchanged. Finally, Dillon Myers got suspicious and sent a representative down. They made an investigation, and finally kicked the Medical Director, the head nurse, the stewards, some registered nurses and a few others. Robertson drove me to Flagstaff, put me on a bus for Minedoke where I stayed for about an hour getting processed for leave clearance and then left the camp.

"I didn't mention anything about the Chief nurse. One day she came and while we were eating. She asked me why I didn't have my crew stand and bow when she came in. I told her that this wasn't Japan, and besides none of my crew were trained hospital workers. You see, the trouble was, she was a missionary in Japan for about 15 years, and returned to this country about 7 years before the war. She told us that they stood and bowed to her in Japan so there was no reason for us not to. I told her that even if we are surrounded by barb wire fence, we were still American citizens, and that this was the United States. She hated my guts after that.

"Some of these crazy nihonjins who became powerful in camp tried to get the good graces of the administration. A group of them went to the project director, and told him that they had heard that the hospital was baking all kinds of pastries while the rest of the camp had to do without. The director told them to go, representing the director. That was just what he wanted because a split force among the evacuees would strengthen the administration position.

"They came over, and so I told them. The trouble with your blocks is that you give out sugar to everyone regardless of whether they use it for their coffee or not. Some of you take it home and make home brew, other s use it



UNITED STATES
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Relocation Center Experience

WASHINGTON

Los Angeles (4)
September 16
I. Sasaki

for something else. Don't deny it because I have proof. Since you are bold enough to come out here to make charges, I am bold enough to make charges against your blocks. I told them that we put the sugar on the table, those who use it do, while those who don't, don't. In that way we have a surplus of sugar that we can use for baking. Hell, I told them off and told them to get the hell off the hospital.

"There was another cook who came and told me that he had heard that because the hospital was being fed well, the rest of the camp was suffering for it. The dietician and I were together at the time. I told him, 'you are a cook of your block, so you should know that we have only 160 patients, out of which most of them are on soft diets. That giving one patient a little more doesn't mean that 100 or so in the block are going to starve for it. It doesn't make sense. After all, 160 patients being fed well isn't going to do a helluva lot in the way of starving 9,000, no matter how much the patients ate. I noticed on the dietician's chart that his wife was in the hospital a short time ago. I told him to go home and ask his wife how she was fed, whether she received better food in the hospital than she did in her block. This cook bragged about how he cooked at this hotel, and that one, but they didn't know beans about cooking for 200 people. He went back, asked his wife and came back the next day and apologized. I ~~didn't~~ told him that I didn't care about his apologies, that we ran into jack-asses like him all the time. I told him to get back to his block and worry about his own affairs.

"You see, that is what the administration wanted. They wanted the evacuees to put charges against us so that it would cover up their stealing. Anyway, it didn't work and the ones to blame were kicked out.



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BUREAU OF RELOCATION AUTHORITY

WASHINGTON

Los Angeles (5)
September 16
T. Sasaki

Jacl.

About 9, I said that I'd better leave him so that he could get his sleep. But he said before I left, would I ride down-town with him so that he could mail his letter, then a cup of coffee. This suited me.

We ended up in a Waffle shop and over waffles and coffee spent another hour talking about the Jacl.

Mits. "The Jacl is going to have a tough time coming back. What they should do is admit their mistake before the war, and then the people will give them the backing. The Isseis aren't willing to make donations if they don't know what the money is going to be used for. After all, before the war they collected \$6,000, and they don't know where it went. No public statement has been made.

"The people in San Pedro were charged \$5.00 for permits to get over the bridge. This was not necessary, but somebody put the money in their pockets.

"Out in Hollywood, we were the last ones to be evacuated. The Jacl, who said that they would stay until the last Japanese was evacuated, pulled out when Little Tokyo was moved. That was their whole policy, Little Tokyo. Out here, I shelled out \$60.00 along with four or five other guys to maintain an office, telephone bills etc to get the last minute messages from De Witt. We got calls from the outlying communities, we would have to make two phone calls a day to Frisco, and the last couple of weeks, the phone company made us post a bond of \$75.00. We didn't mind paying the money from our pocket since it was for all of the nihonjins, but what in the hell, the Jacl pledged themselves to take care of it, then skipped out. They'll never get support from the Hollywood bunch unless they come out and admit their mistake, and say that from now, they'll try to do better.



UNITED STATES
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Los Angeles (6)
September 16
1945

Jael

WASHINGTON

"Some of these leaders don't dare show up in Los Angeles. The people would run them out.

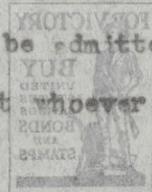
TS. Who are some of them?

Mits. "Kiyoshi Okura, Kiyoshi Higashi, Bay Sugahara, Fred Tayms, Tokio Slocum, etc.

"They are making the mistake of not admitting their mistake. The Japanese are funny. They shell out for a picnic, it flops, but the next time they come around for donation, they always make sure to tell the people that the last one was lousy but this time they will try to make it better. The people go for that.

"The Jael can do a lot of good. I think there should be a unified organization and they should make it a strong force. You take the housing issue, which I think is the most critical. With Dillon Myers in as part of the FPHA, the Jael can represent the Japanese and ask for help. Whether they get results, or not, makes no difference. It is the display of action the people want. I talked to some Negro politician and they say that they don't care if nothing is done, they want to be heard. Some day, when the voices get loud enough, then they might get some action.

At this point I suggested that a strong force might be the some odd 400 isseis who have applied for citizenship. That also it was against the Jael policy to have isseis on the membership. This weakness, which could be modified ~~and~~ include these 400 aliens interested in obtaining citizenship as subsidiary supporting members who could influence their children into joining the Jael, registering for voting etc. If there were 2 in each family, that would increase membership by 800. Mits agreed that isseis should be admitted because most of them held the purse strings. Politicians knew that whoever



Jan 1

UNITED STATES
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WASHINGTON

Logan
September 16
Osaka

(7)

held the purse-strings were the real force in the community.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Economic Adjustment

I asked Mits the question, "What phase of living did the Japanese miss out on the most as result of evacuation?"

Mits. "I'll tell you Tom, it's this. It took 20 years for the Japanese to build themselves up to a point where they lived better than the average hakujin. Out in our community, most of them lived mighty comfortably. In just a few short months, all of their earthly belongings were wiped out. All of the furniture, cars, homes, that they had purchased at lower prices, and they were making pretty good money too, were sold for nothing.

"The Japanese are back living like Mexicans used to. They come back and find the Mexicans and Negroes in the position they once held. It hurts. Now, the Japanese have to buy their furniture again, at inflated prices for goods twice as bad. They have lost out on the big money that others have made.

"So what do you find now? The Japanese are all out to get back on their feet. Everyone thinks only of himself and works himself to the bone. They have no time for organizations. The only ones you'll see are the Bobby Soxers who are only interested in having a good time. The older people have to regain their financial foothold.

"The Japanese have nothing to fall back on. There has to be a basic type of work that must be dependant upon the Japanese. By that I mean, for instance the Negroes have the foothold on the porter and other jobs in the railroads. They have a strong union organized, and they are representative. But the Japanese don't have anything. Any sort of a union among the Japanese would be a failure because they are too individualistic. Everyone is out for himself.



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles (8)
September 16
Sasaki

WASHINGTON

"There is only one thing that holding the Japanese in this country up. That is the fact that the Japanese in Japan are suffering much more. They think that they shouldn't quibble so much over here when their mother country is suffering. They know that no matter how bad it is, it can never be as bad as it is over there now.

"But it hurts them to know that the Negroes and Mexicans are in the position that they formerly held. If the Japanese stayed on here thruout the war, they would be sitting pretty. Most of them owned or had places to stay. If they made money they would have purchased their homes and since they had their furniture, they wouldn't have to make that investment.



Los Angeles
10 Sept. 1946
I. Sasaki

(1)

#60

Tenrikyo Hostel.

WASHINGTON

The Tenrikyo Hostel is located in the temple which is a very nice and clean-looking building. Next to the Evergreen Hostel, perhaps this one is the best looking one, at least from the outside. It has a large yard, with most of the ground facing the First Street covered with lawn and miniature gardens. A large parking lot is located on the other side of the building.

My trip here was a disappointing one. No-one seemed to know just where anyone else was. Outside were a couple of young ladies of high school age sitting on the lawn while the younger children were running about around the yard playing hide and seek and other such games.

I walked into the building only to be faced immediately with drapes hung from wires, and wooden poles. These were used to separate the quarters. Everyone, and there were only a few women, were rushing back and forth, busying themselves, but seemingly without purpose. I stopped one of them and said "excuse me", but before I could go on, she scurried off.

It seems difficult to get the people living in hostels to knock off a few minutes for some reason. Perhaps they feel the effects of living in a crowded hostel, and feel that they cannot invite one in for a chat. Ordinarily in their own homes, if they are at home, they would inquire of one his business, then invite him in. But so far, except for friends that I knew before the war, or in camps, I have had little success.



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles
10 September 46
T. S. Sasaki

(1) #61

WASHINGTON

Economic Adjustment

With my quota of issei respondents falling low, I thought I had better get a few of the lined up. I went to 1616 E. 1st Street, an apartment run by Mr. Hayashida and his hakujin wife, to see Mr. Fujimoto, who lived in Hart Mount in during the war. Today was his day off. But no-one was in any of the apartments, and so, disappointed, I took off on the street car to Mott and 1st street, another location where a number of nihonjins lived.

Three buildings West of Mott on First Street I saw a group of young girls sitting outside; this could be the home of Mr. Katow and family. I went over and asked the girls if the Katows lived here. Yes, they did. And there were also three other families living here.

I went inside and asked for Mr. or Mrs. Katow. A girl, whom I later found to be Bob Hashime's sister came out and told me that Ben Katow was home, but that he worked between 12 and 8 am, therefore he might be still asleep. Just at that time, Ben came running down the stair-way.

The home is a large one with the entire second floor separated into rooms for bedrooms. The first floor, including the living room was also turned into sleeping quarters. So the best place to go was outside on the porch. Altho this situation is not normal, for the Japanese it seems to be. In most homes where there are more than two families living, or in hostels or hotels where the entire family occupy a single room, there is no place else to go except on the porch, or someplace else where one can talk.

It was 2:30 pm, and Ben Katow did not go on duty until 12 midnight. We sat outside and exchanged a few notes on mutual friends. Eventually I thought I had better make the best use of this time in spite of having lost an issei respondent.



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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles (2)
September 16
1946
T. S. S. ki

Economic Adjustment.

WASHINGTON

Ben K. works as a lab technician in the General Hospital. He was graduated from U.C. at Davis, then went into gardening, and then joined the army. He learned his technical work in the army. I was interested to find out he got his job with the L.A. county, and whether he had found any discrimination in getting appointment. So, the interview is recorded.

TS. How did you get your job?

BK. "I took an exam, but I got my job on a temporary basis at first. I should have worked ass-backwards; that is, I should have gone over to the General Hospital first, because they are very short of technicians. The wages for technician is actually lower than it was before the war and many of the girls quit their jobs to get into private labs where they can make \$50.00 more.

"I took the exam, got 65, but with my veteran's 10%, it brought it up to 75%. But in the meantime I went over to the Osteopathic ward where the doctor told me not to work for him because there is just about twice as much work there as in the general ward. So from there I went over to see the employment office at the General Hospital Lab division, and they told me it was all filled up. One day I went back to the County Civil Service Room and they told me that if I wanted a temporary job, it was available. For a couple of months I worked as a temporary employee, and then they made me permanent.

TS. Could you see any evidence of discrimination?

BK. "I am not sure, but I think there was. At the employment office, the people got in a huddle in the back of the room discussing my veteran's status. When I first went in there, they did not know that, but the second



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Los Angeles (3)
September 16
Sasaki

Economic Adjustment

WASHINGTON

time, I told them I was a veteran, and it must have said so on the paper they received from the Civil Service Headquarter.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

TS. How do the other technicians feel about your working there?

BK. "They treat us darned well. Before the war there were several nice girls working there. And they knew that they did good work, and were easy to get along with.

TS. What other kinds of jobs are the niseis able to get?

BK. There are quite a few working in the Board of Education. Several are working over here at the Roosevelt High School, and in downtown offices.

TS. But what about the men?

BK. "Around here they work in the furniture factory, record factories, but most of them go to the other side of town to Pasadena, or Beverly Hills where they work as gardeners. The housing is so critical, that it is like our house where four families are living. Most of the places are like that. The hostels are pretty bad. There are three of them in this neighborhood. But I think they are going to have to close up pretty quick. I don't know where they will go.

At this time a fellow named Kono, a M.E. student who will enroll at U.C. came over. He was ready to go up to Berkeley, but wondered if he could be able to get back, since it has been five years now since he last did any studying.

Much of the talk centered around the cost of living in Los Angeles. They seem to agree that it was probably lower here than in the east. Rents ran around 30 to 40 for a pretty nice apartment, if one could be found. Ben felt that there were several apartments closed because the owner felt that he was not getting enough under the OPA ceiling.



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Los Angeles
10 Sept. 46
Sasaki

(1)

Economic Adjustment

WASHINGTON

Mrs. A. Stow came back, and we exchanged a few words. She could not hear very well so we had to raise our voice slightly to be heard. She disappeared inside, then within 10 minutes, she brought out cake and ice cream.

Small talk lasted until about 3:45, when I decided I had better pay a visit to the Tenrikyo Hostel, just a block away.



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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles (1)
11 September 1946
Sasaki

#62

Jacl

WASHINGTON

The Jacl meeting was to begin at 7:30, but it was not until 8 that there were enough to start. It was heralded in the papers as an important one in which the Community Coordinating Council was to be discussed. Many of the issei leaders were present and they included people such as:

- M. Mukasegawa, former president of Japanese Chamber of Commerce.
- Rev. Suzuki of the Zenshuji temple
- Eiji Sato, former ihonjinkai resident and one of the moneybags.
- Mr. Sasaki, former president of Japanese Association.
- Mr. Akashi, former president of the Japanese Commerce and Industry.
- Mr. Ishikawa, Editor of the Japanese newspaper.
- Mr. G. T. Ishikawa, 1st vice resident
- Rev. Yamazaki of the St. Mary's Episcopal.
- Mr. Tanaka, Executive Secretary of the Garden Japanese Ass'n before the war.

An introductory remark was made by Eiji Tanabe, and he pointed out the first project that could be worked on by the council, the dinner for the G.I.'s and appreciation dinner for the Caucasian who helped the Japanese during the war.

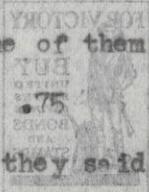
The record of the meeting is reported below.

Eiji Tanabe: "I would like to have a report from the various committees at this time. What about Ty Saito, chairman of the Hall committee.

Ty Saito: "I haven't much more to report than what I reported last week. Most of the places will not accommodate more than 4 or 5 hundred because of the food shortage. John Yamazaki probably has something to report, and John Yasukochi.

J. Yasukochi. The Riviera has a seating capacity of only 500. They charge \$2.75 a plate. The Roger Young on Washington has unlimited seating capacity and they charge about \$2.75.

Rev. Y. "The Church Federation found several places, and in one of them they are able to take care of about 500, for .75 a plate. I said, .75 and they said, .75. I asked them if they had better dinners, and they said they could make one for about \$1.25, with all the trimmings.



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Los Angeles (2)
11 September 46
Asaki

Jaal.

WASHINGTON

Rev. Yamazaki then asked to give his viewpoint. He said that the Church Federation was giving a dinner at the Kwoan Lo for about 250 on the 23rd. They had already set their plans so that it was impossible for them to withdraw. However, they would support one hundred per cent any community dinner that was to be given. He felt that they owed the Hukujins for their help during the evacuation.

Eiji Tanabe called on all of the Isseis to give their viewpoint. Each one gave their approval, and support. Mr. Ambo, however, wanted to know just who was going to get the money if there was any left over. Obviously, he said that there was something behind this, and he didn't want to see it go into the hands of the Jaal. This point was cleared by Eiji Tanabe by stating that plans were set up for a Community Coordinating Council. However, 10 of those on the listed had called in apologizing for not being present. Therefore, they could not yet call this the Council. However, some name would have to be given it so that when there is some money left over, it would be in somebody's hands. Mr. Ambo felt that unless there was a drawing card, they would not get community support. Rev. Yamazaki said, "How about General Stillwell?" Yes, Stillwell was all right. And a movement is under way to get him out.

When the general support of the isseis were received, Co-chairmen were selected. Everyone felt that there should be an issei on each committee, as co-chairman, and as members. As a matter of fact, some of the niseis were leaning over backwards to get their support.

Mr. Mukaeda was selected co-chairman of the General overall committee. Mr. Gongoro Nakamura was also nominated, but he was not president, and Mr. Sato pushed Mr. Mukaeda rather hard.

The various committees then were filled with isseis (names will be got on next week when they pass out their minutes), and it was felt that



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Los Angeles (5)
11 September 1946
S. 11

100.

most important committee was the Finance. The issei on the committee, sitting in the rear of the hall told Eiji that they will get separately and get the money. Mr. Tanaka, who was sitting behind me said, "2 to 3 thousand dollars is nothing. They don't have to worry about it when those money-bags in the back are handling it. They'll get the money. All we have to do is to set the date and the number of tickets they want to sell."

When the meeting was over, there was an air of optimism in the outcome of the coming dinner. The issei felt, along with the nisei that a weekly meeting should be held to keep everyone posted on the progress of the dinner. October, the last part was set aside as the tentative date. It would be especially timely, according to John Yamazaki, since it would be just before the election on November 7th.

There seems to be an indication that out of this might come about the council which would insure close working between the issei and the nisei.

One thing has to be kept in mind, however. Most of these nisei are in their early 30s, or late 20s. The nisei who are in the 40 age bracket are not here. They are the ones who are opposing the formation of issei organizations. The nisei present seem to want to push issei-nisei cooperation.



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF RELOCATION AUTHORITY

11 September 1966
Los Angeles, California
Plan drawn up by staff
as result of last week's meeting.

WASHINGTON

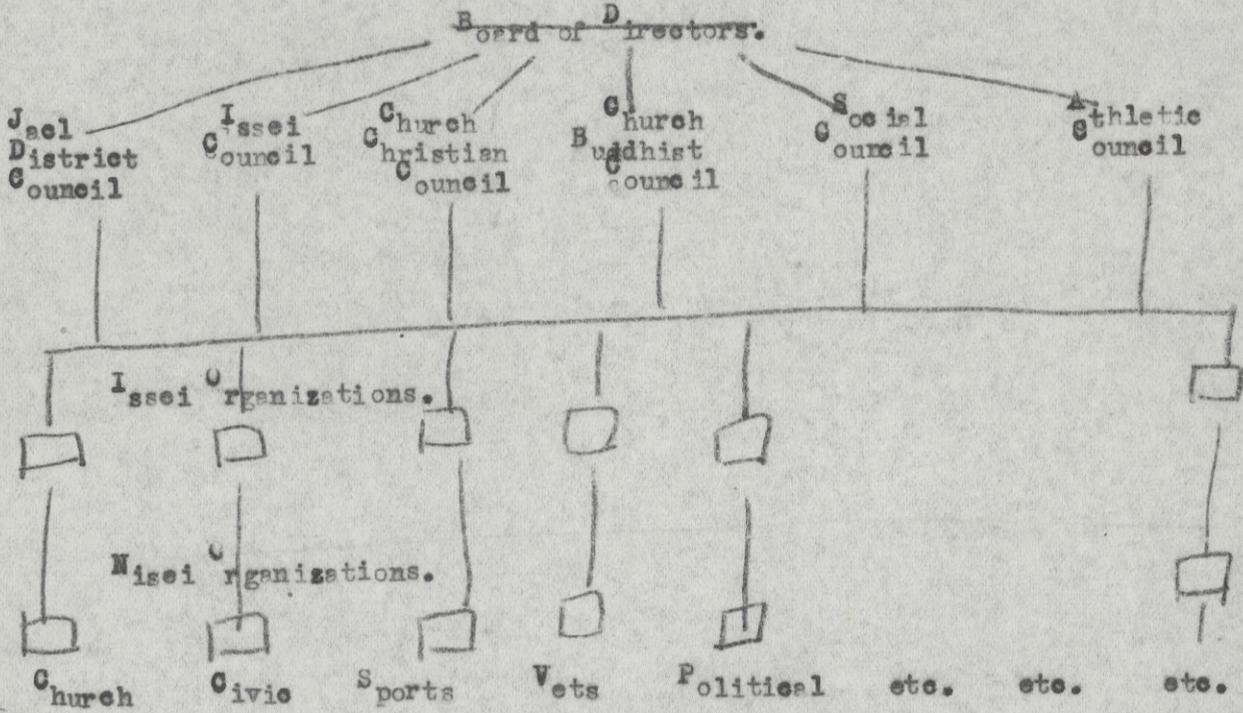
COMMUNITY COORDINATING COUNCIL

(Current Activities)

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Nisei Veterans
Testimonial Dinner

Caucasian
Appreciation Dinner



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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles (1)
11 September 46
T. Sasaki

#63

~~Movement Westward~~

After my conversation with Mr. Hayashida, I was ready to knock off for supper. I spotted Jiro Shimizu, who lived in an adjoining block in camp at Boston talking to a familiar-looking G.I. The G.I. was Frank Hayama, wounded veteran of the 42nd who was convalescing in a hospital. I asked him if he was going back to school, or get a civil service job when he got out of the hospital. He said that in Mechanical Engineering, he could only make \$200.00 a month working for the City, but as a gardener, he could make \$300 at least. He was going into gardening. I invited the two to dinner with me, but Frank was ready to go home. Jiro said that he would join me.

Jiro finished St. Louis University in accounting recently. Both of his parents are working at the Edgewater Beach Hotel where they make \$200.00 a month with board. They were sending Jiro \$50.00 a month while he was going to school so there was no opportunity for them to save. Now, the parents wanted to come back to Los Angeles. If Jiro was able to find a suitable place to stay, they would come down. Otherwise, they would wait a year or so until the housing loosened up, so Jiro says.

Jiro expressed himself as not wanting to come back because there were more opportunities in the east. Johnny Masatani came into the restaurant later and when I asked him if he were going to stay in L.A., Johnny said that if he could cut away from his parents he would leave the next day. He also advised Jiro to stay back in Chicago.



~~Economic Adjustment~~ UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles (1)
11 September 1945
T. S. S. #64

WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

I left Miss Cox's office at 4:15 and then went to the T. ul Building for a chat with Mr. Hayashide of the Hayashide and Narahara Real Estate Agency. Both of these men were Council Chairmen in Hart Mountain, and worked closely together. Mr. Hayashide is an elderly issei who is married to a Caucasian. Besides running the Real Estate Agency, he owns and has his wife operate a rooming house on 1616 E. 1st Street. Mr. Narahara, it seems to me is a nisei around 45. He speaks English very well, as does Mr. Hayashide.

When I went into the office, Mr. H. raised his eye-brows, smiled, and then asked me to sit down. Mr. Narahara was phoning, speaking in a loud voice. He called several times afterwards so it wasn't until almost 5 that he was free. However, in the meantime I chatted with Mr. Hayashide.

TS. How is business, Mr. H?

H. "Fine, people just have to have homes, and they are willing to pay for them. I don't know where they are getting their money, but I am sure that they are putting everything they own into a home, so even though they don't have money, they have a home to live in. Out in the South-west district around 3rd, 4th, and 5th Avenue (Jefferson, between Arlington Ave & Crenshaw), there are over 100 who have bought homes. Japanese used to live out there, but most of them leased their homes. They didn't live quite so far out. A few years ago the 25 year restriction against other races was lifted, so Negroes and Japanese are moving out that way. In other sections, people are also buying places. In Boyle Heights of course there are probably more Japanese than anyplace else.



Los Angeles (2)
September 16
1945
T. Sasaki

WASHINGTON

~~Economic Adjustment~~ Housing.

"Housing, by far is the most critical thing. One reason why they are buying, is because they have to pay such high rent. I know a man who was in Hart Mountain, he lives over in the Alen Hotel with his wife and child. He was in the insurance business before the war, but something has happened that he cannot get back in yet. He pays \$2.00 a day for one room. He gets up early in the morning, goes to Pasadena to work in a cafeteria, then comes back late at night. He leaves his baby, about two years old before she wakes up, and comes back after she is asleep. He does not have a home life.

Mr. Narahara about this time was through phoning, so Mr. M. introduced me to him. He said that he worked for WRA in Los Angeles, but felt that the set up was as bad as it could be in the government. The personnel he felt was not good, and he especially criticized the fact that they did not work on housing until January of 1946. At that time, Dillon Myers said that all efforts would be concentrated on housing, but as far as the WRA here went, it meant getting domestic jobs.

Mr. N. "It is mainly the poorer guys that the government never hears about. Success stories, yes, but most of the Japanese won't tell you that they are hard up. Even tho they are, they pretend not to be. It is only indirectly that one hears about it. I know a fellow who works down at the market. His wife also works down there. They live in a small room near their work, and pay \$40.00 a month. A room without a wash-basin, no closet, nothing. Then, they support a family of six in another room in Boyle Heights. They pay \$60.00 a month. Now it is asking just too much for these two to support all of them on the low salary they make. There is no home life for them, it is



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BUREAU OF LAND RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles
September 15
1945
(7)

WASHINGTON

~~Economic Adjustment~~

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

only place to park their bodies at night. You can multiply that by hundreds, it would be the same story.

"Sure, a guy can make 2, 3, or 4 hundred dollars a month, but it is all work, they can't enjoy it. They spend most of it on their room, and on food; there is nothing left after they deduct that. In your talks with these people, you won't be given a hard-luck story unless you can give them something concrete in return.



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles (1)
September 16
1945

#15

W. Alfano.

WASHINGTON

My appointment with Miss Beryl Cox was at 3:30. She is with the Bureau of Public Assistance in the building located on 5th and S. Pedro. The information man, negro on the first floor said that I was expected, and that the room was on the room floor, 306. I rode the elevator up and then the secretary told me that Miss Cox was waiting for me.

Miss Cox must be in her late 30s, a large woman with a bright smile, but a complexion that was rather bad. She introduced herself, and I did likewise. I sat down in a chair opposite her desk and offered her a cigarette and she began.

G. "I don't know just what sort of information you want, but it has been the policy of the bureau not to release any of our statistical material to anyone because it is open to so much bad interpretation. When the WRA was closing, we had all kinds of trouble. But perhaps if you had the director write a letter, in very much detail, we might be able to give you some information if not everything you ask for. So in your correspondence with the director, I hope you will explain to him our situation, and a letter addressed to Miss Beulah Lewis will probably result in your gaining the required information. Now, what can I tell you today, without giving away confidential information. Can you tell me something of the relief situation, as it now exists.

C. "Contrary to common belief, we have not isolated the Japanese as a racial group. We have made it a policy to treat them as any other group, but statistically, we have set up separately the breakdowns since last January. It is very complete and it might be made available to you, although we have only released it to the State Public Assistance Agency.

"Relief falls into several groups. The Japanese on the whole do not qualify for social security because they are aliens. (check).



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Los Angeles (22)
September 16
1945
S. S. Sasaki

Welfare.

WASHINGTON

some cases, there have been as many as four or five receiving aid. For instance, the father would receive aid because he is blind. He gets compensation for the blind, the grandmother is ill, she would receive another type, then the children would receive benefits because they are dependant upon their aged parents. At the time of relocation from the camps to Los Angeles, we met up with many unfortunate situation. The WRA came in, and sent in mainly people who did not know Los Angeles, nor any of its agencies, and they did not for the most part know the Japanese. The first ones were kids 17 year old coming back to get in to school. None of them had work experiences, had no place to stay etc. A couple of girls did have a good offer. Femy Singleton, Blondie of the movies offered two sisters a job, one to care for her 5 year old child, and the other to do housework. We got two close friends to take the job, and they are having the time of their life. They got \$100.00 a month, and separate rooms a piece in another building, but on the same property. They are very happy over the situation.

The WRA instead of looking up various agencies to see what type of assistance was available, they stood off in a holier than thou attitude and said that when they needed us, they would call on us. But we felt differently because we knew that the county and city agencies would have to take over when the WRA was closed. We protested loudly the housing facilities in the camps that were being set up for them. But they went right ahead. About the time we took over, most of the Japanese were disgusted, and rightly so, because you can't settle in one place, get a job, then a few months later be moved again to another location. They had to quit their first jobs, move, find another one. The employer began to lose faith, saying that the Japanese could not stick to their jobs, when it was not their fault.



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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

L. A. Sasaki (2)
11 September 46
Los Angeles

Balance

WASHINGTON

When this happens a few times, the agencies themselves felt that the best thing to do was to stay on relief. Then, for some reason, and maybe it is because of what I have just said, they have become agency conscious. They have become dependent in many ways. But here again, it is not general. At the Cal Sea Food in Lomita, the International instituted archiving a time trying to organize clubs, recreation etc. But at the King's Nursery, they have told the employers to leave them alone. They have no place to live, an income, now they just want to be left alone.

One thing I can tell you, is this, that since February we have had the relief rolls drop by about 1600. Before the war we had about 81, most of them single men, very elderly.

TS. There seems to be a number of Niseis working in City and County Civil Service. Is this because of change of attitude, more jobs, or just what?

G. "I think it is because there are more jobs available, and the Niseis are taking examinations. I think the Bureau of Public Assistance has the fewest number employed, altho we have a number of openings. If you know of anyone who is unqualified, I wish you would refer them to us because we can use them.



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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles
September 16
T. Sasaki

(1)

#66

Social Organization.

WASHINGTON

John Yasukochi invited me over to his office in the Miyako Building. Mr. Yasukochi is about 30, lived in Salt Lake City almost all of his life then spent a stretch in the army, in the east, and finally came out here on the insistence of his wife because of her health. He is just getting started in the real estate and insurance business, and is having a difficult time because he is not a local boy, and does not know many people.

John's interest in organizations drew me towards him. He has a nice personality, and is readily communicative. He is about 5'5" tall, always wears a brown suit, nice smile and wavy hair which seems to have been put in by his wife.

The office, I suppose is typical of a combination real estate, doctors reception room and storage room. A pile of newspapers and magazines are placed next to the lounge, the secretary, Miss Hisako Tanaka, graduate student at UCLA lends her charm to the newly re-decorated room.

We finally sat down after Ty Saito, the boss of the outfit scurried out of the room after stating that he had to go the bank, and then to the Westside. He was reminded, however, that the meeting of the Jacl would begin at 7:30.

John brought out his note-book and drew a plan on a sheet of paper of the Community Coordinating Council that they were thinking about. This Organization Chart is attached to the notes on the Jacl Meeting. He asked what I thought of it, and I expressed approval. Then he jumped to the subject of athletics for the niseis.



Social Organization.

WASHINGTON

J.Y. "You know the "All Star" baseball team is really not composed of all stars. It is all politics. I know at least three or four fellows who are better players than those on the team. If an old man contributes \$50.00, he has to have his son, or a friend's son playing on the team. I can't see this, and I told Henry Ohye about it, and he feels that we ought to do something about it. At the games over the Labor Day Holidays, they made quite a bit of money. Now who the Nisei Athletic Union is, I don't know, but if the team is a representative All Star outfit, they ought to put the proceeds into a common fund.

"Henry said that we ought to start a football league, but I told him it was too late. We ought to get the basketball organized. We could get the City to handle all arrangements, and we would organize the teams. This is what I did in Salt Lake City. A friend of mine knew that I had some experience in organizations, so he asked me to form a Church basketball league. There were 16 teams, so we arranged to have them play at one gym, two times a week. In other words there were four games a night. We made each team sell a certain number of tickets to defray their expenses in getting the use of the gym, and to pay the referees etc. We found ourselves with a tidy sum at the end of the season to sponsor other sports. That is the sort of thing I would like to see here. Not one team going cross town to play one game, another at another place etc. It involves too much expense, and you can't get turnout to these games. In Salt Lake City, we drew crowds up to 6 and 700.

"The important thing is to get these boys off the streets. If there was a gym in Japanese town it would be just the thing. Too many boys are hanging around first street with nothing to do.



Social Organization.

WASHINGTON

"Coming back to this chart, we first had the Jacl on top, but we decided that it would be best if it were on the bottom on the level with other organizations, and have the Coordinating Council, which would include issei and nisei organization. After all, the isseis hold the money, and without their full backing, and participation, I don't think we can get anywhere.

"If we don't work fast, some of the organizations will get ahead and it will be difficult to get their cooperation. And cooperation for the Japanese seem to be a pretty difficult thing to do. They had a growers association in Utah a short while back, but every contributor wanted his son to be the president. The one who contributed the most had to have his son the president whether he was capable or not. The only time I've ever seen it work was the Bussei laundry that they started. About 12 or so started, and they are doing well. The isseis of course have the money and the control it.

"I think with the coordinating council working for the benefit of the community, we will really be equipped to meet the needs of the community. I wish I had more time to spend, but I am just getting started, and I can't afford it. (At the Jacl meeting, I talked to Mrs. Y who told me that they were looking for an apartment. Currently they are staying at a nisei-owned hotel called the WAWONA on 5th and Maple. They pay \$2.00 a day for a bedroom and kitchenette. No weekly or monthly rate. If they complained about services, or the price, they would be immediately evicted. So until they get a better place, they are sticking tight. Mrs. Y. just got a job as a permanent civil service worker in the Board of Education.)



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Economic Adjustment
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

I asked John how business was, and he said that he was just breaking in, and when we went out for a coke, he said,

"Between you, John T. Saito and myself, some of these places aren't doing so good. As competition gets keen, and outthroating begins, there will be quite a few who will close up their shops. The Sato Cafe that is closed now wants us to handle the deal for them. But we aren't pushing it because we know that the next owner will also flop. Then there is a Chinese Restaurant near the Paul Building that wants us to find a buyer. Well, competition among the Chinese restaurant is also keen. During the summer, no-one wants to buy Chop Suey houses because they feel that people don't want to eat the heavy food in the summer. We aren't pushing that either. Yes, when competition gets keener, when people begin to feel the depression, then they'll have a plenty tough time here.

TS. In your observation, where are the the hardest-up people living?

J.Y. "In the crowded hotels, and in the outlying country district. For instance, out in Gardens, people live in garages, and barns. It is really a sad situation. Even in the homes in the city the people live doubled up. They have families of six doubling up with another family of six, and you can't expect them to have any home life. Of course, home is nothing but a place to sleep now, but unless something is done, the social conditions will get from bad to worse.



(1)
#67

Economic Adjustment. WASHINGTON

I called Dr. M.M. Nakadate, a dentist on advice from Mits Saito, for a lunch date. He readily accepted and at 12 I dropped in his office to call for him. There were four patients waiting, and how he handled them in the period of the next 15 minutes is still a mystery to me.

His office is located on the 3rd floor of the Firm Building, which is located next to the Pilgrim House on San Pedro Street. It was newly painted in a light shade of blue, with new tubular steel furniture, and it was not a surprise to me that he had so many patients since others had told me so before I went to him. On the door in bold letters was a sign, "Terms, strictly cash".

His assistant, an attractive girl around 22 or so asked if I were Mr. Sasaki, then said that the Doctor would be with me as soon as he was through with his last patient.

The Doctor finally came out. He was dressed in a brown herring-bone tweed suit and extended his hand with a whimsical smile and said that he was Dr. Nakadate. When I told him I used to live in Brewley, he said that he knew my brothers and asked just what my position with the Interior was. I explained my job as we walked out.

He guided me towards the left as we walked out of the building and said, "Let's go down here. I don't like to go where there are too many colored persons eating." We walked across the street to a Japanese restaurant, but found that it was crowded with G.I.s so we backtracked to the Mensei-A on San Pedro Street across the street from his office.

As we sat down he immediately began in a soft voice telling me about the conditions under which some of the Japanese lived.



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Dr. N. "Some of these hotel owners ought to be publicly hor-sewhipped. The charge families \$2 and \$3 a night for a room when the OPA ~~sets the prices~~ around \$1.00. They know that the Japanese have to have a place to live, and the Japanese don't complain to the OPA. Among Japanese they will not report because they will be booted out and another Japanese family will move in.

TS. "That makes it kind of hard on the families, doesn't it?"

Dr. N. "Yes, it does. Not only does it make it hard on the family pocket-book, but it does not give them a basic family organization which is the root of the community organization. Families are broken up, living separately, a single room does not afford them a place where they can call friends, or call on friends, it is only a place to eat and sleep. Most of the time it is only a place to sleep because there are no cooking facilities.

"It ranges from the youngest to the oldest. There are no activities to busy the children. Many of them are borderline delinquents. They have no firm hands guiding them because parents have to earn money; they are uncontrolled and it will not be too long before there are a number of delinquent resulting from this. Then, there are the high school and college age group. They are getting morally loose. There is nothing but the schools to keep them occupied, but during the summer, there are no schools. Then, people like us. We are settled down and outside of working hours we like to meet with friends, discuss a few problems which we have in common, then develops organizations which meet the common problems. The issues probably are having the most difficult time. They have no Japanese magazines to read. XXXX At the time of evacuation, some of the Japanese themselves tried to make jobs for themselves in camp by calling themselves Censors. I S anti



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Anita they piled up all of the Japanese magazines, "King", "Fujin Club" etc, and burned them. Now, you will run into a few who have some of these old magazines who pass them on to friends after they are through reading them. They are read over and over again until they literally fall apart.

"All of these things, of course come from the fact that the Japanese are not economically stable. Most people lost all they had when they evacuated. When I left for camp I entrusted my things to three hekujin families. When I returned, I found that they had disposed of everything some way, and all I had was \$125.00 to begin all over again. I have had to get all of my things and start again from the bottom. So naturally I work as much as I can to regain some of my lost wealth.

TS. "If the Japanese were not evacuated, would they have made out better?"

Dr. N. "There is no question about it. I know one Korean fellow who bought up a lot of Japanese goods on consignment. Ajji-no-moto (spice), Shoyu, Tsukemono (pickles) etc, and just for example, he paid 8 cents a can for Takenoko (bamboo sprouts), and sold them to Filipinos and Chinese for \$2.00 a can. There was no ceiling on the items so they sold them at any price they wanted. Another Chinese person I knew in Montebello had absolutely nothing before the war. He used to come over and borrow money from me. Now, he has property that is worth \$100,000 besides his liquid assets. There are stories after stories like that.

"However, we can't get away from the fact that the Japanese would have had a tough time. Like the last war, the Germans were mistreated but in the end they found that the Germans were just as good Americans as anybody else. The country should have profited from that experience, but they didn't. Why? Because for over a period of years they have been building up a hat against the Japanese. You have the 1924 Immigration quota, the Alien



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Land Law, non-citizenship policy for the Japanese in this country, and follow it thru during the war when the Atom-bomb was dropped only on Japan, Flame Throwers was used only against the Japanese, the only outfit ever to use fixed bayonets on the fighting fronts were the members of the 100th Battalion.

"If we stayed here, we would have had persons killed probably every time some mother's son was killed in the South Pacific. But there would have also been more volunteers for the army. The 42nd wouldn't have had to fight to erase the black mark against them. And what was that black mark, the fact that we were in the camps. If there was a propaganda of love and freedom and equality for everyone, the Japanese boys would not have fought to erase the black mark, but would have gone on probably to fight to ~~thank~~ thank the Americans for having enough faith in them to let them alone.

"There would be a war against the Russians now, if there was a similar preaching of hate against them. Or against any other country. This war had to come to a head because of the years of hate propaganda against the Japanese.

"The other day, and for several days, many Hokujins have come to me and said that when they read the Atom-bomb article in the New Yorker, it finally brought the might of the bomb to them personally. It was because they spoke in terms of Mrs. Jones, or Dr. so and so. They asked me what I thought of it. I told them that until America can preach, and act as they preach, this country will never reach maturity. They were the beginners of the League of Nations, the United Nations, condemners of the use of Poison gas, bacteriological warfare; then on the other hand they use flame throwers, atom bombs, both of which are probably every bit as outlawed as any of the former. But that is a difficult thing, because even individually, we have



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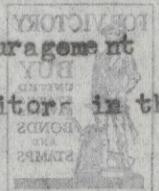
our inward feelings even though we speak outwardly about them. We speak of equality towards the Negroes, but inwardly we fear them. We feel that we do not know them. It is the same thing.

Dr. N. broke off here, and asked if I had gone over to see the J. I said that I had, then immediately I asked what he thought of it.

Dr. N. "I think it is a good thing. There has to be something like the J. They have approached me several times, but I have declined participation because I was kicked out once upon a time. I was one of the seven persons who organized the L.A. chapter a long time back. I'll tell you what happened.

"It has always been my policy to be outspoken, even if I am the only voice in the group. I would insist that we make our own platform, that we back a certain candidate whether he won or lost. This way, we would gain the prestige, and respect of the candidates. But the other members, the leaders who I won't mention, were bought off. They would not commit themselves until they saw who was going to win, and with a \$25.00 or so handed to them by the politicians, these individuals would then tell the group that they were backing up so and so. It even went further than that. Once there was a politician who helped the Japanese out a great deal, and in the next election, rather than backing him up, they changed boats just because the other person gave a few individuals a big line on what they would do for them and \$25.00. I protested against this, and the J. demanded my resignation, saying that I was a radical, a communist etc.

"Several years before the war I got the fishermen together and tried to organize them into a group who would put their fleet into action in the event of war against Japan. I was given sanction and encouragement by the Brigadier General of the National Guard, and all of the editors in the



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country gave me backing. As a matter of fact, I was the leader of the only group that opposed evacuation. I foresaw it, and tried to get organized to fight it.

"But when the war started, I was immediately brought before the Army Intelligence and questioned. It is funny to call it a questioning because it was really grilling. They came out and said, on certain day you did this, or this, or that. You could answer only with a yes, or no. If you tried to explain and prove why you did it, that it was for the good of the people, they told you to keep quiet, that it wasn't necessary to explain. Stories such as these were charged against me. With this fleet of fishing boat, we would approach a destroyer and put acid in the water around the destroyer. That I was going to go on with my sabotaging one way or another.

TS. Who charged these against you?

Dr. N. "It was the Japanese themselves. Members of the Uechi, who for \$25.00, a promise to work with the Naval Intelligence, and other favors told them all of these things. When one thinks of them now, they are actually funny.

"But the people have learned their lesson. I think out of this experience, the Japanese have gained much maturity. Those people's conscience is bothering them, and they probably know now that such underhandedness does not help them. They will probably make their platforms and stick to it. But the important thing, is for the Japanese to regain their economic position. And for this reason, men and women work from morning to night, and cannot get organizations started because when one attempts to break away and get in a little social activity underway, the rest of the people say that this is no time for such foolishness, we have to make our money first.



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"Now, the reason why I want to stay away from the JACL, altho I know it is an important group, and should be, anyone who is a leader, and fights for what he thinks is right, and for the good of the people, is branded a radical, or a communist. With the clouds hanging heavily over the Russian front, I don't want to have to go thru the same experience that I have already had. Anyone with radical leanings will be taken in first. I am getting away from the "don't care" attitude that I had in my younger days. I lost too much.

"But if there is a good cause, sponsored by any group, I am willing to contribute to that cause.

***** *

He took my check, as my protestation, and paid for it. Then we walked out. Before he left me, he said that he wanted one other thing to do before he would be satisfied, that was to get at the California Congressmen in some way. Altho he did most of the talking, he thanked me for getting in touch with him, and felt that what I had to say was informative to him. The only thing that I injected into the conversation was I appreciated having had the opportunity to talk to him.



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TS. "What do you think is the future of Little Tokyo?"

Dr. N. "I think it is here to stay. There has to be, for one thing, a place that the Japanese can call their own. There has to be a headquarters, no matter how much the people are scattered thruout the country. When an emergency arises, there has to be someplace where the Japanese can lean upon.

"Everyone in town is doing a tremendous business. They claim that there are more people living in the city now than ever before. And the colored people who have made their money during the war still have some of it left. But as the leases on farms become available, people will move out; and as the Negroes lose their money, they will move out, until finally the business will have dropped so much that there will be a lot of stores closing. But still, basically, there will be a Nihon-machi.



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Population Distribution

Rev. U. Nonaka, formerly of the Japanese Christian Church, now called the all people's church invited me to talk with him at his home on Park Front walk which is located about 47th and Avalon Blvd.

CHIEF OF THE DIVISION

Reverend U. Nonaka is a member of just about every committee to help the Japanese in the community. Before the war, while pastor of the Christian Church, he was also interested in the social condition of the Japanese, and kept a close tab, and therefore knows pretty much of what he is talking about. However, tonight, it is my feeling that he has kept away from the darker side of the picture deliberately. What reasons he may have had, I am not sure, but his optimistic outlook might stem from the fact that he has spent much of his time placing individuals into jobs, and may be slightly blinded to the other side of the picture.

After exchanging greetings, he said that he would like to express himself and his ideas first, without interruption, and then if I had questions, to ask later. This, I am sure, was the chance he was looking for. He is like an old fire-horse itching to get back into harness, and since he has not had too many listeners, especially among the Niseis, he wants to express himself. I told him that the arrangement was a good one that I appreciated his taking this time.

Rev. U. First, I think I should talk about the concentration of the Japanese population. Of course, the main concentration is in Little Tokyo. That is, most of the businesses have started out there. This was a natural phenomena because most of the Japanese still regarded that as their home. The second thing that prompted the Japanese to return there was the fact that the building owners wanted them back there. They had had experience with both the Japanese tenants, and Negro tenants, and they preferred the Japanese.



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because they kept the buildings up better, and boosted the land value.
This was especially true because most of those settling in Bronsville were the southern negroes.

Boyle Heights, of course is a cosmopolitan area. There are the Russians, the Jews, the Armenians, and the greatest concentration of the Spanish in Boyle Heights. Many of the whites, as they saw the migration of the other nationalities into Boyle Heights, moved to other sections. However, the whites who were still living in Boyle Heights, welcomed the Japanese in favor of the other people. Why? Because they would clean up the yard, repaint the houses and generally beautify the neighborhood. The houses, however, are pretty old. There are no white churches within three miles of the area, and the land is hilly.

Many of the Japanese have moved out to the Southwest section. That is the area starting from Normandie on Jefferson going all the way up to Crenshaw. As the negroes moved in passed Arlington Ave., the whites saw that this was the time to sell at inflated prices and move to a better neighborhood by paying a little more on top of their money resulting from the sales. When the Japanese first came, they were able to get a nice house for 5 or 6 thousand. On one block now, there are three or four families very securely settled there. The houses are comparatively new. It is much better than the Boyle Heights area. Out here, as in Boyle Heights, stores, service stations etc are being built up. Their customers are not entirely Japanese, and in most cases the majority of the trade comes from the hakujins. You take the case of Mr. Yoshii, who runs a service station on 35th Place and Western Avenue. He is always busy. I went to his place once because I let my battery run down. I had to wait for a half an hour before I was waited on. There were about 25 cars waiting to be serviced. He gives good service, is on his toes all the time. The customer likes the



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quick courteous service and come back. But at first he had a tough time because his station was a run-down thing. He cleaned it up, and after beginning with a day's take of only \$19.00, he has not built up his business where there are several hundreds of dollars.

The Virgil area is also very thickly populated, but so far there has been no development as far as stores are concerned. There is a nursery, but that is just about all.

West Los Angeles is another section that is growing. It has many gardeners living there, but very few stores developing.

The number of houses being bought, even at this inflated price is astounding. I'll tell you what I heard. I have to confirm it but in the Normandie district, the gardeners are getting together, about 10 or 15 of them, and they put up \$50.00 or \$100.00 a month. Each month somebody buys a new house. In this way, one gardener a month is able to put a down payment on a house. I think it is a good idea and should be started elsewhere.

TS. What do you estimate to be the total population?

Rev. U. "I think it is close to 30,000. There is probably a greater concentration of Japanese in the city than ever before. Many from Washington, San Francisco, Imperial Valley, Central California have settled into the city. The farmers cannot move out because where they used to farm are now suburban communities. San Francisco is centered around one section, and it can only hold about 4,000. In Los Angeles, the population can be scattered in all parts of the city. I think the Los Angeles county will reach its normal population very soon.



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Economic Adjustment.

When I returned here back in January of 1945, over a year and a half ago, the war was still going on, but reception was very good. A few had returned, and some of the larger estates were pretty well run-down, and they wanted gardeners. Some of the braver estate owners called on gardeners, then the neighbor seeing that nothing went wrong, would whisper over to the gardener to take care of his property. In this way, the early ones found themselves taking care of 7 estates, all located in the same block. He saved time in his work, he could turn on the water in one estate while he trimmed the other places, and consequently he was able to do more, make more money, and still have time on his hands. Then they would do what the gardeners called "clean-up". It is a dirty job and no-one wants to do it. So they charge about \$50.00, and two fellows can do it in one day.

Then, when the war was over, I don't think the Japanese have ever enjoyed less discrimination at any time in their history. The girls and women can get jobs anywhere they want. In stores on Broadway, in Beverly Hills, in the County and City Offices. It is remarkable. They are in demand. I placed several in an exclusive dress shop in Beverly hills where they sell dress from \$400.00. ~~XXXX~~ Now, they have the dresses made exclusively by the Japanese women. They earn about \$10.00 a day, and on Saturday when they work, they make \$15.00. I placed John Mieno's sister Lily in a secretarial position; she started at \$150, and somehow she quit her job because of some peculiar circumstance. After resting a month she went to the U.S.E.S. and they referred her to the City Attorney's office. She was asked if she could go to work that day starting at \$185.00 with opportunities for advancement.



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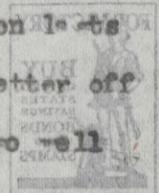
Economic Adjustment.

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These men, outside of gardening, have not done so well. Perhaps they haven't looked for those jobs because gardening pays so well. They want to accumulate as much capital as they can so that they can start something of their own. They know that they will not last too long, especially for the issei, so they want to get it while they can. And the Japanese do not like the routine type job. It may be acceptable for a hakujin to work routinely at the post-office, day after day, but the Japanese want independence. In many cases, two, or three in a family are working, and the income for all three amounts to close to \$700.00 a month. There are no business expense because it is all service. For those who own their own home, all the better. The only ones who are having a difficult time are those with large families of small children.

There are exceptional cases with men, however. There are several working in the Carpet manufacturers earning about \$75.00 a week for a 5 day week. Some work in the Firestone Tire factory, others are in Civil Service. But they are very few. Los Angeles is not like Chicago. Chicago is a manufacturing center and Japanese can get a job almost anywhere. But in Los Angeles, the manufacturing is still in its infancy, and I think with time, the Japanese will grow with the factories.

The net result then, is that those who were brave, came out early and started their own business in various communities, found housing while houses were still cheap, are the ones who are getting along. The ones who are the worst off are the 1000 who are still living in hostels, and the 1000 who are living in trailer camps. Everyone came out of camp filled with anxieties about reception, treatment etc., but soon they found the conditions now are better than it ever was. If the present situation lasts for another five years, I think the average Japanese will be better off than they have ever been. The only ones who will probably not be so well



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off are the leaders who lost quite a good deal as result of evacuation. But take the average person, and the ones who were not doing so well, the farmers, they will be much better off. The farmers may not want to return to the soil if the present boom keeps up.

"I have to go to Anaheim, Santa Ana, Garden Grove to meet with one of the largest pepper concerns. Before the war the Japanese produced much of the pepper for this company, but when they were evacuated, the Americans took over, and combined into a tight union. The Company wants to bust the union, and would like to get the Japanese back to grow peppers. I don't know what will come of it, but I shall go down to see.

TS. "Do you think there is a tendency for the Japanese to get away from dependency on other Japanese, economically?"

Rev. U. "Yes, I think so. Those examples I have given you illustrate this. Most of the services, and goods are rendered to the Caucasians. Only in Little Tokyo, are the stores patronized mainly by the Nihontime. The tendency, and I think many of the Japanese are realizing it, is that the whites now are better towards the Japanese than they have ever been before. They feel that now is the best time to get started in a white community.



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T. S. Sasaki

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Economic Adjustment

TS. What about the people who are not doing so well. The hostelites, or those who live in trailers?

Rev. U. "Those who are living in hostels are very unfortunate. The same is true, if not worse for those living in hotels. When the hostels are registered, or the hotels, they are listed as transient quarters. So they can charge so much a night. In most cases it is \$2.00 a night for a room, or \$1.00 per person. The hostel charges are supposed to include meals, but in many cases, this is extra. The hotels charge the high prices per night, but the Japanese continue to stay on and on. They are not transients. In a way, it is a racket. The Japanese know they can make the money only by calling the hotel a transient hotel.

"In west Los Angeles there is a hostel that charges .75 a day which includes meals. There are about 100 gardeners living there. So they make the money.

"Therefore, in most cases, the people spent most of their money for lodging, and food, and have little left over to put away to start their own ventures. You cannot attribute this entirely to the hostels, however. I think the quality of the individuals is such that they would have been the unfortunate ones in any case. They are the weak who hesitated too long in coming, they are the ones who are afraid of community pressure. In the end, no doubt they will fall by the wayside while the strong survive. So by survival of the fittest, the Japanese community will grow strong, but will be spread out all over instead of concentrated.



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Social Organization.

TS. What about the social organization. I mean what you attribute the absence of the various organizations to?
Rev. U. "Partly, I think it is those factors that we already talked about. People want to establish themselves economically. But there is another important thing. The war is not officially over. The FBI is constantly watching, not individuals, but organizations. The only issei one in existence, probably is the Church Federation. We got permission from the FBI to organize. The dinner we are sponsoring was also begun after permission was received. The Japan Relief was also begun after permission was received. You see, we don't want to cause any further trouble. The Business-men have organized, but for a purpose. To combat illegal practices.

"The CRDU is getting organized, but I don't think it is a good thing, and it will not get support, at least in Los Angeles County. There are several reasons for this. One is the purpose. It does not involve too many people. Not too many people own their own land and would come under this. Many of the rich land owners with faulty book-keeping and bad management have gotten into the trouble. Now, why should the general population be drawn into something for the benefit for the few. The second one is leadership. The Nisei leader was formerly connected with the JACL. The pre-war JACL which left a bad taste in the mouths of many isseis. The other, Mr. Shikama is also not too well respected. The other night they tried to get the approval of Mr. Gongoro Akamura, Mukaeda, Arumi, but they all turned their thumbs down on it. I think it will be a flop as far as Los Angeles is concerned. Most of the issei leaders, therefore, are saying, let the JACL take over. Altho they have done badly in the past, let us forget it and start all over. The issei leaders do not want to get involved into politics again because their activities will be watched, and I think they realize that they will not get very far.



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S-kt

Social Organization--Outgroup, Larger Community.

TS. I know that the problem of integration is very close to you. Could you tell me something about it?

Rev. U. "First, I think I should tell you something about the YWCA. We left Los Angeles with an understanding, in writing of course, that when we returned, we would get the building back. The Japanese paid for it completely, and I have a copy of the deed. But when we came back, they had opened it up to girls of other races. This, I feel is fundamentally wrong. They did not keep their word. Of course, it may have been that they did not know the facts, and did it with the best of intentions.

"I made a report, and was ready to make a public statement when one of the YW leaders asked me to withhold it because if it got out into the papers, then there would be no end to it. Other members of the YW committee received copies of the statement, and they decided to reconsider it. It puts them on quite a spot because they have to face the Community Chest, who furnishes the money for the program. But in the past year and a half, there has been no program for the girls at the dorm. There can be no justification for the amount of money spent. I believe that the program of the YW and the Dormitory are two separate things.

"tonite, the lawyers are meeting with the YW committee and tomorrow I will know just where we stand. If we continued under this strained relation, it would have meant a court battle, and a severance with the YW, which I don't think is a good thing, but many of the Japanese feel that what is legally ours, and morally promised us, should be followed through.

"The same thing happened with our church. The Congregational Board gave \$25,000 and we raised the rest for our church (Christian Church). But when we returned it was under another management, and I have only to take care



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Saki

~~Social Organization towards larger community.~~

of the issues. They do not let me participate in the young people's work because they have a paid young people's organizer. However, Bob Kodama is very competent, and well-liked, and he comes and tells me all about the program he is conducting. This makes me very happy. And in around-about way he is trying to get me involved.

The Hskujin pastor is also beginning to realize that there is a change in the church because there are only about 5 colored people, 5 or 6 hinese, and about 30 Japanese attending church now. Gradually, altho the Japanese lived in scattered communities, they feel that this is their home church and will gradually come back.

"I don't know why the New York Board chose this program when they don't know the local condition. When they speak of integration, it means with other racial minorities, and not with the caucasians. As the neighborhood begins to be filled with minorities, the majority moves out and they become the minority. These then, do not attend the local inter-racial church, but go to Hollywood, Wilshire, or other places where there are good White churches.

"I think the Pilgrim's House is in the same condition. But confidentially, I think they will change management. The Japanese will take over again, and will continue with the inter-racial program. There is a difference in being the manager and holding a certain type of program, and being only a participant.

"This program has retarded the christian work among the Japanese, and I am afraid that the Buddhists are taking advantage of it. I understand that their YBA have a membership of over 350. It may be 5 or 6 years before we are on our feet again, but by that it will be too late, most of us issues will be dead.



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WASHINGTON

~~Social Organizations to the larger Community~~

"It is remarkable, however, that the Congregational Board is willing to spend \$21,000, exclusively of my salary to push the inter-racial program. They are the ones who determine the program. In the Baptist church, the locally run churches are outlining their program according to the wishes of the congregation. Therefore they have set up a different Missi Baptist Church.

It was getting on towards 10:30, so I told Rev. U. H. ... that I would like to continue discussion some other time again. He welcomed the idea and said that he might have more interesting things to tell me when he gets back from his trips. He said that during the war he averaged 8000 to 10,000 miles a year traveling around, but since the end of the war, he has been pigeon-holed and was suffering from inactivity.



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#69

identification.

Tonite I visited G. Raymond Booth, of the Council for Civic Unity, and what started out to be an information-gathering meeting ended up in a purely social visit. Perhaps I felt this way because I knew he had an important meeting last nite, and he gave me the impression that he did not want to speak too much business. The IWC decision was supposed to have been made last nite and he no doubt had that hanging in the back of his brain.

We did exchange a few notes, however, and it was not afterwards that he told me of many of his experience in the east. His experiences out here was held in abeyance.

There was only one thing that he brought out during the evening that had to do with the Japanese in Los Angeles. That was the disinterest of the Japanese in fighting for such things as restrictive covenants, race prejudice etc. He wondered what the background of such a passive attitude towards group problems was, and after a full hours discussion, we determined that they could be attributed to the following:

1. Citizenship status not given to the Niseis. This point gave no incentive to them to participate in political discussions. The lack of discussion in politics limited the Niseis experience in the home, and gave them no incentive to discuss them.
2. The age of the Niseis was still low, but that for their age they had done fairly well.
3. The Japanese were willing to live where they could find a home, and if they were not able to move to a restricted area, they probably felt that they couldn't afford to anyway. Only a few with high incomes could live in restricted areas, and hence only was the concern of a few. The element of personal jealousy over the success of fellow Japanese enters here.

The rest of the evening was spent in Mr. Booth's recounting of his experiences in Cincinnati, and Cleveland.



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Los Angeles
13 September 1946
F. A. K.

(1)

#70

Mutual Aid.

WASHINGTON

With curiosity and, ~~probably~~ a yen to find out if mutual aid or "Koden" was still being practiced, I went to the Aoyasan Temple where a funeral was being held. The Temple is located on First Street, but is not easily discernable from the street since it is set back about 50 feet and is accessible only thru a narrow alley.

When I got there the service was not yet started and so I had a chance to see the people bring their envelopes to the "Sewnin", or the one who arranged the services. He was sitting behind the table on the right of the entrance to the hall with a booklet in front of him. This booklet was used to keep track of the names of those individuals who brought either flowers, or money.

The Koden system is an aid system used when there is a death. Friends of the family bring to the service, envelopes in which are contained money to defray the cost of the service. It depends on the wealth of the deceased whether flowers are brought, or money is brought. And thru this method, undertaking expenses were almost always paid for by friends, and cases were ~~xxxxxxx~~ very rarely referred to the County Charities Division.

Mr. Fukui mentioned to me that before the war no matter who died, whether it was in a county institution, or some bachelor in a cheap boarding house, someone always came to make the arrangements, and thru friends would pay for the services. Since their return to the West Coast, there have been some who have relied on the county, but for the most part, they are still being taken care of by friends. On one occasion, arrangements were completed with the County when the friends decided that they wanted something better and thru the "Koden," rounded up enough money to take care of the funeral. Just in passing, he also mentioned that the funerals purchased now were much better than those they had purchased before the war. He felt that money was coming from somewhere, and was surprised that the Japanese had so much.



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Ski

Orientation--Funeral Service. WASHINGTON

Today's service was no different than they had been before the war. The chairman took no part of the program until after the priest had given his preliminary chant before the casket. The priest then went up to his place on the stage, struck the gong and proceeded to chant some more. At this point, the chairman reminded the family first, that they were to offer incense to the incense. Then the rest of the group followed suit. When this was completed, the chairman spoke a few words, then called on various people to give their eulogies. The priest then gave his sermon.

Upon completion of the sermon, the chairman introduced a member of the family, who in turn said that there would be a procession to the cemetery where another short service would be held, and then afterwards, a dinner would be held at one of the Chop Suey houses. This traditional food offering to those who attended the services is a hangover from the practice held in Japan where relatives and friends come long distances, and had to be fed, and given places to stay before their journey home.



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#71

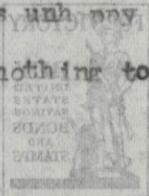
The Long Beach Trailer Camp organization.

I spent all afternoon at the Long Beach Trailer Camp looking around and talking to Ronnie McGoorty, nephew of John Steven McGoorty. It was a profitable experience for me, and will constitute a jumping off place to see what the Japanese think of the place.

The Trailer Camp is located near Santa Fe Blvd, and Burnett, in North Long Beach. It is one of the three located in the Long Beach area, and is perhaps the largest. The total number of trailers is 450, and the number occupied by the Japanese is 120. At the time the Japanese moved in, the camp was getting run-down, there was no community pride, and the turn-over of the occupants was tremendous. The Japanese population has remained static except for a few that left for Downey, the old folks home. The entire history of the project from the time the Japanese came was revealed to me by Mr. McGoorty. ~~XXXXXX~~ I think the interview gives much of it, and I shall leave it to tell the story.

My meeting with Mr. McGoorty was accidental. As I wandered aimlessly about, he presented himself and said that he was the head of the Tenant Council, and would he help me. I told him I was just looking around, but some of the observations interested me. For instance, there seemed to be much intercourse between the hakujin kids and the nihonjin kids. The Japanese people seemed to be happy, and well adjusted to a situation; that there was no air of a purely Japanese situation as was the case in Burbank, where the Japanese dominate the camp.

Mr. McGoorty said the Japanese living here were not always like this. We had a tough time organizing them, and getting them to use the community facilities. When I came here, the Japanese stayed in their own trailers, and looked as unhappy as any group could possibly be. The kids hung around together with nothing to



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Sasaki

Long Beach Trailer Camp Social Organization RAW

do. I decided to do something and organized the tenants council which is composed of 9 members. I insisted that at least three were Japanese. In any camp activity, we try not to limit it to any one group, but I felt that the Japanese were the most underprivileged, that they could not, or did not go out into the larger community for their recreational activities, things that the American Caucasians did. For the Caucasians the camp was only a place to sleep. But for the Japanese it was their temporary homes, and they looked upon it as at least with some permanency. The camp was run-down, people parked their cars by their trailers and the grass was all dying out. You can see the results now. The lawn is as well taken care of as any private project, and just about every trailer has a flower-bed around it. We are proud of this place.

TS. Before you go any further, could you tell me how you got into this work, and what your contacts with the Japanese were before you came.

Mc. "I lived out here back in 1922. At that time I got acquainted with a few Japanese who took me around to various farms where I slept, etc and got to know them. I was an intelligence officer in the first war. Then I lost contact with them when I moved out to Dearborn Michigan. At the start of the past war, I was again put into the intelligence division, and when the 100th came out to Wisconsin, I was put in with them where about 120 Niseis and Kibei were still not cleared. Every week I had to interview them to see what their thinking was. After the war ended, I was transferred out here to the Ford Motor Company, and in trying to look for a place to stay, this Trailer Camp was the only place I could get into. You see, I am a tenant here, just like the rest. I saw the conditions of the Japanese, and I felt that something should be done. My uncle, John Steven McGroarty set a fine example, and I thought it was something to shoot at. And besides, I like the Japanese.



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Long Beach Trailer Camp. Social Organization.

"There is a policy of non-segregation. We Japanese live amongst the caucasians. Even in our program we follow that. We invite the caucasians just as we do anybody else, and if they don't wish to participate, it is their own fault.

"The first thing that we did was to clear the recreation hall of all the warehouse goods. Then I got the young people together, the teenagers, and said that we were going to have weekly dances. At the first meeting there were only about a dozen, and the girls would not talk to the boys, and visa versa. After they found out about my sincerity, they began to really come around and now I don't have any trouble getting any help. Out of the proceeds from the weekly dances, I went down town to get "Goh" and Shogi sets. The Japanese in Little Tokyo wondered who was this caucasian who was buying those things. The Refu Jimbo got interested and interviewed me. Then we put in Japanese shows for the older folks every other week. We finally ran out of pictures so we have discontinued it until Mr. Kumamoto can get new ones. After we have about 4 or 5 weekly dances with the phonograph records, we have enough money to hire an orchestra. Tonite is one of those nites. All of the decorating is done by the kids, and at tonite's dance, we will have a 21 piece band. Kids from all over Los Angeles County come. Those from other camps, downtown, all over. The crowd runs around 400. That goes for the shows, people from the other camps all come down to Long Beach, and I think it is a social center for them.

"Another program I got started was the "Brownies". I had a tough time getting a leader, but one caucasian woman decided to help out. Invitations were given to the caucasian people, but most of them said that they did not want their kids to play with the Japanese. We started out anyway, and now quite a few of the girls want to join up. They go to the meetings and do all they



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Sakai

Long Beach Trailer Camp Social Organization

We are trying to get the scouts organized, and we find the same thing going on.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

One thing that put my foot down on was when some of the issei came and asked if they might hold Buddhist services. I said that up to now we have had an uphill fight to get what we got, and the first mis-step would break down everything we have built up. You see, most of these families living here are veteran's families, and altho I don't object, some of these people might. Sooner, or later, we can have them, but not for a little while yet. Some of the concessions have not like the program, and are just waiting for a slip-up.

Probably the thing that gained the confidence of the Japanese was the time when some of the old people were going to be moved out to Downey. The trucks were tied down and they didn't come until 3 o'clock in the morning. It began raining around 11, so I hustled around getting canvas to cover their bags with, and ran around all nite trying to get the thing under control. I didn't have to do this, but I wanted to. Some of the issei around here still tell me about how they appreciated it, and that they could not repay me.

"I don't get paid for doing this, but I get a lot of personal satisfaction."



#72

Nisei Community Church.

WASHINGTON

at the Nisei Community Church. I decided
A special choir program was announced at the union church and I decided
that for the sake of my religion, I should go. I was glad that I had because of
the fine program they had arranged. The main event were two violin solos by
Mary Toyoda, formerly of the Springfield Symphony Orchestra. The director of
the choir, Harry Minami did a fine job in organizing this group. It was a
surprise to me that he had that talent.

Concert Program.

- "Bless the Lord, O My Soul".....I. P. Tchaikovsky-L. V. Tchaikovsky
- Invocation.....Rev. Hideo Aoki
- Hear Our Prayer" (Kamennoi Ostrov.....Rubinstein
- "A Legend.....T. Tchaikovsky
- "Sweet Hour of Prayer".....Arr by Miyeko Awata. Pianist- Miyeko Awata
- "Melodie.....G. Luck-Riesler
- "The Swan".....S. S. S. S.

Mary Toyoda, Violinist.

- Meditation".....Rev. Hideo Aoki
- My Faith Looks up to Thee".....Schnecker

Choir

- Benediction.....Rev. Frank Umi
- "The Lord Bless you and keep you".....Lutkin.

Soloists: Doris Aoki, Soprano
Key Kokubun, Baritone.

After the service, it was 8:15, still too early for dismissal. Rev. Aoki
asked Harry Hosaka to lead in sing-spiration and for the next half an hour
there was singing as I've never heard. Spontaneous, full of fun, and no doubt
this will, or could be a program in itself.



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T. Sasaki

Nisei Community Church. WASHINGTON

There were about 50 young people present, 10 Niseis, 10 Caucasians and Negroes. The Negroes came over from the All People's Church. Comments were numerous, and enthusiasm waxed from all quarters. An Nisei remarked after the program that it was one of the best services he attended, and that he was most impressed by Rev. Aoki's sermon of only 5 minutes, during which time he packed in so much.



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S. S. Ki

#73

Adjustment.

WASHINGTON

Joan I shiyama lives on Monon Street, located about a half block from the old Disney Studios. I had a difficult time finding the place, but managed after referring to the map about a dozen times. Joan told me that they had bought a house directly from a young Mexican couple and they lived in a neighborhood where there were several Chinese, Russians, and Mexicans. They did not have to clean up their house, the paint was original, and they said that they were surprised because they had heard that the Mexicans did not keep up their house very well. The price paid for it was about \$7,000.

Joan said that she did not feel too well about going in to Nihonmachi, because there was such a strong pull that draws one into the centered life. Her brother George, ~~was~~ felt the same way.

Joan's mother and sister-in-law were home, but George was in San Francisco on business. Joan's mother felt that they were fortunate in getting the house because she had heard that there were some who paid \$100.00 a month for a small apartment. The Uta teacher recently moved out and also bought himself a home because of the high rent.

Joan was disgusted at some of the Japanese because they were obviously trying to make as much as they could at the expense of other Japanese. A case she mentioned was that of Ben Ikeda. He said that when he worked for the WRA, he wanted to do all he could to help the Japanese. Recently, he had told her that he was out to get as much money from them as possible. Everyone was doing it.



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#74

WASHINGTON

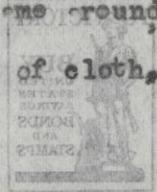
Orientation

I had an appointment with Dr. Aingley at 10:30 so from 9:30 I was in Mr. Monobe's Shoe Store listening to him speak of the direction which the nisei and is-eis should take.

Mr. Monobe is a small man with sleepy eyes, and always seemed to be chewing on a piece of jelly-beans, or a marble. When he talked about the way of the Samurai, Bushido, Nippon Seishin, or those of the KATANA (sword) his eyes would light up, his movement became swift and sure, and it seemed as tho he was re-living the past. I had difficulty in removing my "honorable presence" at 10:30, because he was so hopped up on talking. I told him that I would like very much to hear more about the unwritten history, and he suggested that I come in between 3 and 4:30 when he was the least busy. This morning for the hour and a half I was there, ~~xxxxx~~ not a single customer came in.

(In Japanese)

Mr. M. How is Mr. Henden? Has he gone back to the University?
TS. Yes, I think he was thru with government service on Friday 13, and probably is back in Ohio now. (Without my interruption, he shifted subjects)
Mr. M. "Do you know what the trouble with the Japanese is? Before the war there were too many organizations. They all came around and asked for KIFU (Donations). There was also duplications such as the Japanese Chamber of Commerce, the Commerce and Industry, this club, and that club. They would sponsor all kinds of things, and they used to get away with it. For instance, they would ride around in big Cadillacs or Packards during the 1920's and collect for relief. It used to cost them \$30.00 to over-ride the car out of every \$50.00 they collected. What happened to the rest, the \$20.00, I don't know, and I don't think anyone ever found out. Then later, they came around with a little piece of wood, with names written on it, and a piece of cloth,



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O rientation.

and they would ask \$1.00 for it. This piece of wood was supposed to be sent to the DAI JINGU (Shrine). They even come around to sell one little grain of rice to feed the soldier. For this they charged anything that one was willing to pay. .25', 50', 1.00. Then they would stand back and strut like big-shots (puts his thumbs threw his suspenders and then lean over backwards to illustrate what he meant.)

The churches were the same way. The Christian churches, the Buddhist churches all come around for donations. I feel that if they cannot support their own churches, or the Japanese schools, by their own members, they should close up. Unless they can be self-supporting, it is better to close them up and form a single one which can accommodate enough to support it.

"I don't know what will be the situation from now on, but I hope under the Niseis, there will not be too much of that type of collection. I am very strong on my feeling about letting the niseis do whatever they wish because in a few years the isseis will all be gone. If they want to dance in church, speed on cars, let them. They will learn to take care of themselves better when they grow up. I let my son-in-law paint the house any color he wants, and I also let him to anything he wants to do, except, when I feel that he should get mature judgement on something that I know is definitely wrong. Only by giving the niseis responsibilities, will they be an ^X "ICHI*NIN*MAI" (full-fledged member).

"It is my feeling that they owe everything to this country. It is NIPPON SEISHIN (spirit of Japan) to do that. Even Araki, and Ambassador Saito said that in the event of war between Japan and U.S., it was the duty of the Niseis to swear allegiance to this country. But the trouble is, there are not too many people with education; and they are the ones who think it was smart to repatriate, evade draft etc. You see, it seems funny that Araki, and Saito to say that, but you go back into the Japanese history.



Orientation.

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Saki

WASHINGTON

and you will find that a son has fought the father, on a number of occasions. When one is a member of one Daimyo (feudal lord), and the other belongs to another, then it is the duty of the person to be loyal to the one who is his master. So you take this case during the past war, it is the same thing.

"You see, I am a samurai. I don't tell this to many persons, but during my younger days, I had much training in the way of a Samurai. I learned to handle the sword, but more important, I learned all about the rituals, and why the sword was important. Today, the sword is not important. But they stressed it in Japan, stating that it was the duty of every citizen to complete the task assigned to them, or kill themselves upon failure. But in Japan, they were killing themselves too frequently, over small and minor things. They did not even know how to use the small swords to kill themselves with. I'll describe it to you so that you will know.

"The samurai kneels down with the small sword in front of him. He dresses in a white kimono. He opens his clothing in front and rubs his stomach (belly) so that it will not be too firm, then he takes the small sword and pushes it in on the left side, draws it across his belly, and then up. Then he can fall forward. But usually, before he has cut himself too much, the men behind him will cut his head off to make sure that he dies, and also so that it will not hurt him too much. Under ordinary settlement of arguments with swords, the victor will stick the small sword thru the man's neck so that he makes sure that the vanquished is dead.

"But the Samurai does not like to draw blood, unless it is impossible to get out of it. Many times he would prefer having a priest, or Sumotori (wrestler) intercede and have apologize for the others. This is because they are the only ones who can stop them without losing face.



Oriental.

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Asaki

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"I'll tell you how the Nippon Seishin also worked, as far as the issei went. After all, the issei were not eligible for citizenship, and had no voice in the U.S. affairs, and so when we were in the camps, they put out the registration blanks on which was one question, "Do you swear allegiance to the Emperor", or something to that effect. It was a silly question to ask since we were not American citizens, and what country did we have other than Japan. It would be natural for a Japanese without U.S. citizenship to say that he would. But I left it blank, and told the man what I thought of the question. If the U.S. had given us citizenship, then we would have said, U.S. is now our mother country, it is our duty to fight for it. It is our (Gimmu) obligation.

"So, from now on, I hope most Japanese will turn towards this country and push the issei up as high as they go. The two countries will eventually become equal again, but only if the issei pull through. I feel this because the war has put the issei in the spotlight, and if they accept American culture, and become good citizens, with able leadership, it also helps the mother country because that was the origin of the issei. I don't believe the old fashioned methods of the Buddhists will help out any. You see, from way back in Japan, I am a Christian. In Kochi-ken, where I was born and raised, they set up a church, without contribution from this country, and have kept it going. What matters when one is on the death-bed praying for his after-life as the Buddhist do. They repeat over and over again meaningless words. It is Christianity that fights for the living that is important.

"There are many more things I would like to talk to you about, and if you have time, come in between 3 and 4:30, and I'll tell them to you. They are things unwritten, and I feel that they should be passed on. For instance, the Japanese like to put everything down in odd numbers. 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 59, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99.



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16 September 46
Sasaki

WASHINGTON

Orientation.

and not in even numbers. But I always tell my children to put Takuon
(pickles) in even numbers because of its significance in the belly-cutting
ritual. The Kimigayo (Japanese National Anthem) originated in the
island of Shikoku. There is quite a story behind that. There are many
things I would like to tell you. Come again and we'll talk this over.



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Sasaki

#75

Relationship between the Negroes and Japanese.

Mr. Kingsley, director of the Pilgrims House (Union Church), is

6
Greole, almost white, with greying hairs on the side of his thinning bald
head. He is a stout man, was dressed in a sport shirt and grey striped flannel
trousers. He had on a pair of nice maroon colored socks and brown shoes.
He appeared very busy when I walked into his office, and he motioned me to
have a chair while he finished his phone call. After he was through, I asked
how much time he could spare, and then he said that he had better get off a
couple of more phone calls so that we would not be interrupted.

I explained my mission, and asked if there were not someone who was
studying the interrelation between the Negroes and the Japanese. He said that
he did not know of anyone, but that the Urban League should include the
Japanese, and the Southern Whites who are in the city. It would be impossible
to study the whites because it would be difficult to find them, but the Japanese
being such a group that stood out, there would be no trouble.

I went on and told him that I would like to know of the relation between
the two groups, and then he commenced. He spoke loudly, laughing sometime,
and then getting serious. He apologized at the end to have talked so long,
but I brushed it off by saying that I enjoyed the session very much, and hoped
that I could get together with him again. He then began with the history.

Dr. K. The Negroes at the outbreak of the evacuation, and all through
the war have been the most vocal group fighting against any discrimination
focussed on the Japanese. Although you cannot get away from the part played
by the Fair Play Committee, and the Quakers, and other small groups, the
Negroes were the loudest, at least to voice their fight. I have to mention
about the fact that both are minorities that make the Negroes feel that way.



16 September 46

Negro-Japanese Relationship.

"The background between the Negroes and Japanese differ. There would not have been an evacuation of the negroes because they would have voiced their objections, and raised holy hell. The Japanese on the other hand were stoic, which is one of their virtues, and because of their long history of subjugation under authority, they went willingly. But being stoic is not one of the negro's virtues. Their method is to go out and yell, and be as vocal as they can.

"So, at the time Singapore fell, the negroes were very much pleased, not because they sympathized with the Nationalistic Japan, but because of the fact that the white man wanted to dominate Asia. Asia for the Asians was the big factor in making the negroes feel the way they did. What divine rights does a white man have in being appointed ruler of the Asians? What makes them so much better than anyone else?

"Coming closer, just before the rebellion of the Japanese, which I think was just as unfortunate an experience for the Japanese as the evacuation, but not so highly publicized, was tragic. It cost the Japanese just as much to get relocated back here, as it cost them when they were evacuated. They had to start all over again, and many of them went thru mental anguish that they will probably never forget.

"When I came in February of 1944, one of the politicians made a speech across the streets. Just like all politicians in a sub-standard community, he preached that there would be blood-shed in "Little Tokyo". There was no applause. He ranted and raved on, and when he met with no response, he knew that he was licked. Then there was the Revenge Bataan society among the Filipinos. But nothing happened. One of the first to return was a minister, who came to my church and asked that I go around with him while he took pictures



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T. Sasaki

Negro-Japanese Relations.

WASHINGTON

to show in the relocation centers. I asked him why he wanted me along, and he said that he feared violence. When the boys returned, they went around in groups of 10 to 15, for self protection. You couldn't blame them, because they had heard all kinds of stories.

"I'll tell you about the background of "Little Tokyo". I hate to use that term, but it is an accepted term so I'll use it. For about a year after the Japanese moved out, this place was deserted. Then a fellow named Bullocks bought up about 45 leases and then sub-let them to Negro fly-by-nighters. He did this so that when they started, he would charge them \$15.00 a month rent, when their business went up, he charged them more. There were shoe shine stands, bars, taverns, ice-cream stands, chop houses, all fly-by-night affairs. Everyone of them were fronts for gambling and prostitution. Everyone of them had a juke-box, which they had to have. Then all of these drinking places had liquor licenses, and it was just an ideal set-up for an underworld. You see, there are two things that make it ideal for an underworld. You take a deteriorating area such as this, and then let one man control the leases, and the liquor licenses, and you have an ideal set up.

"Well, the Japanese came back to this, and they paid 50, 75, 100, 200 percent more for the stores than when they left. It was a set-back for these fly-by-nighter places and they took them. These Negroes liked that kind of money and wanted to move out anyway. Many Negroes lived in this community, but as they gained economic status, they moved out. It was a disgrace for anyone to live here more than two years. So there was a gradual, normal migration out of Brannville. And there was a certain number moving in. And the fact that this was home to the Japanese made it much easier for them to get re-adjusted. And on the other hand, it was not home for the Negroes.



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Sasaki

Negro-Japanese Relations. WASHINGTON

"Another factor that was highly important was the adaptability of the Japanese to these Negroes. They got along with a group of southern Negroes that no-one else had been able to get along with. Not even the Negroes were able to get along with these people.

"Of course you don't see too much of the Negroes going into the Japanese barbers now, and when a Negro tenant moves out of a Japanese hotel, he is not replaced by another Negro. There is something about the Japanese, I guess you can call it un-objective infiltration. They infiltrated into these stores, and have given up Negro trade without hurting their feelings. And the Negroes, if left alone with other minorities, are not aggressive. They realize the common problem because of race.

"I don't know what the trend will be, but I think the Japanese, if they are like other people in business, welcome the easy money that the Negroes spend. The Japanese are frugal, and they have a streak of hard-workingness about them that is admirable. And it is often hated by the Caucasians and Negroes because they like the easy-going ways. But the frugality of the Japanese and their industriousness have helped them in getting started again.

"There has been nothing but good relations between the two groups up to now, and there is no reason to feel that it will change. As the business-men get established, they move out to live in another neighborhood. They maintain business here, but live someplace else. It is pretty much like the Loop in Chicago. The men have their business there, but they live someplace else. The Negroes, on the other hand, live here, and work someplace else. Those who have established themselves in good jobs, and have a good income, have lived elsewhere, as I've said before. But every once in a while, a child in the nursery school, or a Pilgrim's house member moves out. This is true with



Negro-Japanese Relations. WASHINGTON

the Negroes as well as the Japanese. If one thing that the Relocation did in favor of the Japanese, it was the fact that they got them used to some things that they never had before. One of them is the nursery school. The Japanese children who come to our nursery schools come better adjusted and adjusted. They know what it is like.

Q. What about the population of the Negroes in Bronzville. Has it decreased?
A. Not too much. There is a normal migration out of here. It happened all during the war. And I don't think the population has gone down much. I think it is about the same.

"I don't think it will decrease much more because of this reason. Since the Japanese were relocated back on the coast, the Negroes in their travel throughout the country would deliberately look up Japanese places to eat their meals, for their rooms, and they did this because they felt, and knew that the Japanese were not discriminatory in their business practices. I think of all the races, the Japanese will do business with anyone who brings it to them. I hope it keeps up here. But as I've said before, they have a way of "unobjectionable infiltration" that may eventually put the Negroes out. In other words, I feel that the next move is up to the Japanese.

"The Japanese at first did not have time to get organized, and kept from doing so because of their desire to get re-established. But now, there is a powerful Buddhist group, and the J. C. is coming along, and the Business-men have gotten organized, and if they wanted to, they can freeze the Negroes out. What happens, remains to be seen. The next move is up to the Japanese.



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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles (1)
Tos Sasaki
September 16 1946

#76

Economic Adjustment.

WASHINGTON

I had lunch with John Yasukochi, representative of John Ty Saito, Real Estate Agent. John Yasukochi, as mentioned in one of the previous interviews is interested in organizations, especially for the youths. He is having a difficult time, and is thinking about going to Germany as a Recreational Organizer.

J. Y. "I'm thinking of going over to Germany on a 4200000 - year job. I made applications already, but probably won't know for another five or six months. Right now, I'm having a difficult time because all I can sell is Accident insurance for automobile owners, and the only ones I can sell to is veterans. I expect my Life Insurance License next week sometime, and a real estate license soon too.

"It is difficult to make money, and unless one wants to risk his reputation, it is better to play it safe. For instance, Ty Saito has about 150 listings, houses for sale, but out of that number, only about 2 will be worth anything. Rather than selling any of those, I told Ty that his reputation, if he intends to stay in this business demand that he sell only those things that will bring customers. Prices are so inflated that even those two, are not worth the buy. For instance, a few months ago I thought of buying a home which was listed at \$7500. But the bank would give me a loan of only \$2500. In other words, the lot and building was worth only about \$3,000. So even if the Japanese have money to spend, it is better in the long run to keep the business low and build reputation.

"Ty had several chances to buy houses for \$6,000, and resell them, but he didn't have the capital. That is the trouble, unless one owns a lot of money, he can't grab at the chances to make more money.



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Los Angeles (2)
September 16
1945

Economic Adjustment.

WASHINGTON

TS. "What happened to the Cherry Vista Housing Project that he was interested in?"

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

J.Y. "That flopped. Kaiser, who had these pre-fabricated houses all put up wanted too much money. In other words, unless you have all kinds of money, the contractor won't even consider building."

At this time, I pointed to the new Malt shop across the street that was going to open up. I asked him if he knew who owned the place.

JY. "John Endo, of San Fernando is opening up the place. They will get all of the business in town, simply because they have booths out in the e. But all of their business is going to the Hakuins. I went over to try to sell him insurance, and he told me that he already bought one from a Hakuin firm. I was going to send some flowers over there to brighten up the place when they opened up, but why should I do that when his business goes someplace else. Then, when he makes his money, he will do it from the Japanese. I don't see it, making money from the Japanese, then passing it on to Hakuins."



Los Angeles (1)
September 16
Sasaki

UNITED STATES
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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Negro-Japanese Relations

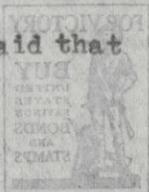
77

James Lillie has his shop a few doors away from the H. I. G. Upholstering shop on Jefferson near Arlington Ave. I knew James Lillie from back home and as I was walking across the street I heard someone saying, "That looks like Tommy Sasaki". I turned around and there was he was, a little bigger, but the same fellow. I walked across the street and we exchanged greetings, caught up on a few mutual friends, then when I asked him what he was doing, he said that he ran this upholstering shop, pointing to the sign on the window, "Lillie's Upholstering Shop".

He said that if I had time, drop in and we could talk in more. His shop was cluttered with furniture and he said that not one bit of furniture belonged to him, and that he had about 2 months work to finish. He said that he had to take out the phone because it interrupted him so much.

James is about 25 years old, is married and has a child a year old. He took woodwork in high school, then did his apprentice work with a Jewish firm for \$6.00 a week. He was drafted, spent two years in the army and then settled in Washington where he worked for \$2.50 an hour for over a year. He got married, bought a home, got a divorce, and came back out here.

Lillie. "I couldn't stand that place in Washington. It is supposed to be the nation's capital, and yet there is so much discrimination that I just couldn't stand it. I didn't know anything about this when I was in Brawley except for what I read in the papers, and it didn't mean anything to me. But when I got drafted, and was sent out to Louisiana, then I knew just what they were talking about. Why no sooner than I had arrived there, one man, a white man came up to me and asked, "Niggah, how does it feel to be in a white man's uniform." Why I almost could have killed him. Then for almost six months, we were afraid to go into town because we were afraid that we would be shot at, or lynched.



Los Angeles (2)
17 September 46
Kasaka

Negro-Japanese Relation

WASHINGTON

"If I knew it would do any good, and if there was no other way, I would just as soon give my life away by going down there and shooting about a hundred of those white men. The atomic bomb should have been dropped down there. But there must be a better way, and I hope someone thinks of one."

"It is pretty bad out here, down there at the Employment office, whenever a negro goes in for a job they throw his application in the waste-basket. The Southern Whites have come out here, and there are hundreds of them."

"There is a man out here, Clayton Russell, who I wished you would meet because he was out in Washington fighting for the ones who got lynched, and is trying to get Bilbo investigated. I remember once over the radio, he was the speaker, but the radio engineer was a white man. In his opening sentence Clayton Russell said that "We must help the Japanese get resettled", and boy did the technician get red in the face. I thought he was going to blow up."

TS. Just how are the negroes and the Japanese getting along?

J.L. "Fine, fine. They were the best friend the negroes ever had. When they had to move, they left their stores, autos, homes, and the negroes went in. They got themselves established and found out something about how to go about making a better living. Now, when the Japanese have move back, it is no better than right that the Japanese should get back their places, because it is their home, and theirs. And the business that goes on between them is good. I have a lot of work that I've done for the Japanese. I've got five pieces right here at this minute. And Henry Inouye, who has his cleaning shop just a few doors away is doing fine business. He gets most of the colored trade, and he gives them good service."



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Los Angeles (2)
17 September 1946
Sasaki

Negro-Japanese Relation.

WASHINGTON

James told me a few things that he wanted held in confidence. It was mainly about his attitude towards the white man.

He also wanted to know where some of the other Japanese that he knew were resettled so that he could visit them. He reminisced, "Back in Berkeley, the Arimoto's coffee shop on the corner, your store, and the drug store, why we could go in there anytime and we didn't feel as though we were being treated any differently than the others were being treated. The same went on all over. We could go into any Japanese store and we would be treated just like anybody else. But down in the South, no sir, a Black man was just a black man, no worse than slaves."



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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles (1)
27 September 1946
Yakima

WASHINGTON

Economic Adjustment.

Today I decided to begin work on the Westside, that area which promises to be the center of Japanese residential and business area in the future.

The area is quite extensive stretching from Vermont on the east side, Crenshaw on the west side, Exposition Avenue on the south, and Adams on the North. To date there are only a few in business with most of the located on Western Avenue, or on Normandie and 36th, centers of businesses before the war. Nurseries, service stations, a drug store, several markets, Doctor's offices, malt shops are some of them. In the main, however, the people living in this area are gardeners, and the women are domestic workers.

I tried several homes, and found no-one at home. School has already begun, mothers and fathers were out working. My only chance for interviews then, were from some of the business-men engaged in work at their places of business.

Service Station.

Mr. Yoshii leased a Shell Oil Service Station on 35th and Western. The Negro who ran the place before him was leasing it on a month to month basis so after he made the arrangements, he got his place almost immediately. Before he applied for this place, he sought a station with the Union Oil Company, but was discouraged, was told that the public was not yet ready for Japanese Service Stations.

Mr. Yoshii is an issei about 42, and has had a varied work experience. He worked for a long time in the wholesale market, then became his own boss when he went into the Service Station business. After several years, he became the owner of 5 Union Oil Service Stations. He lost all of this when evacuation came, and was almost penniless.

I asked how business was, and he said that it was slow right now, but will be picking up towards evening.



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Los Angeles
September 17, 1946
Hakujin

Economic Adjustment.

WASHINGTON

Mr. H. "When I first opened up last October, almost a year ago, my first Hakujin customers would drive up, then they would see that I was a nihonjin, and they would drive away. I didn't blame them at that time. It didn't matter too much because most of my customers were negroes, and they didn't act like that. But now, and this was about 3 or 4 months after I got started, a few of the hakujins began stopping, and found that I gave pre-war service. We cleaned the windows, checked their tires, gave them the best service. Once they came in, they became regular customers.

"I was lucky to find this spot, and had no trouble. The former owner was on a month by month basis, and so when I said that I wanted to lease it, they let me have it the next month. The owner before me was glad to sell because his business was dropping anyway.

Across the street from the service station was the Key Nursery, and adjacent to the station was another nursery. Both of these places were very busy at the time so I didn't think it wise to disturb them. Another trip out when they were not so busy would probably bring better results.

As I left, Mr. Yoshii said, this will be the center of Japanese town in a few years. Just watch and see.



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Los Angeles (2)
17 September 1946
Sasaki

Economic Adjustment.

WASHINGTON

On Jefferson Avenue, one block east of Arlington Avenue is located the H.I. Cleaners. The store looked clean, with fluorescent lighting on the ceiling, and modern equipment. The clothes racks were well-filled with nice clothes. I dropped in to say hello, to whoever was the owner.

I explained my mission to Mr. Henry Mouye, proprietor of the shop.

HI "I think everyone is busy earning a living. Everyone is working hard, and I think they will come along very well.

TS You have a nice place. Did you have any difficulty getting this place?

HI "No, we didn't. A negro was running this place and he let it run down quite a bit. He would get drunk and would not take care of his customers, so he gradually began losing all of his customers.

"When I was looking around for a place, I didn't want a place in a hakujin neighborhood because I didn't think the hakujins would do business with us. We paid \$2,000 for the lease for 3 and a half years. But we had to spend another \$1,000 to clean up this place and put in necessary equipment. We pay \$50.00 a month rent, but there is a place to live behind the store. So it is just like paying for a place to stay, and we can do business too.

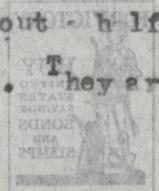
TS Who are your main customers?

HI "About 60 to 70% are negro customers, and they are very nice.

At first I thought they were dirty people, but I find that they are very clean.

They have nice clothes, like you see on the racks, and I like doing business with them because they do not complain. I have a friend who has a shop on Exposition, about 5 blocks away and he has all hakujin customers. He says it is a headache. He wants to sell out.

"We are in a good location too. Right over there (about half block away perpendicularly) is the Rochester Apartment for negroes. They are



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17 September 1946
T. Sasaki

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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
Economic Adjustment

WASHINGTON

new, they were built just about a year ago, and the richer negroes live out here I think. At least they tell me so themselves. And there are quite a few Japanese living out here too. But most of my business comes from the negroes, and I like it.

Mr. Inouye must be about 35, married and has two children. He is a stout man, height about 5'6". He has a pleasant personality and during the course of our conversation he several times waved to his negro customers, who in turn greeted him with "Hello Mr. Inouye".

Mrs. Inouye came out and I was introduced to her as an investigator from Washington. I corrected this statement by telling her I was trying to find out how the Japanese were making out.

The Inouyes lived in San Diego before the war, went to Hart Mountain from where Mr. Inouye relocated and learned about the cleaning business. Up to that time he had no experience.



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Los Angeles (1)
17 September 1946
Sasaki

Randall J. Ottis.

WASHINGTON

There comes a time when one gets restless, and there is nothing specifically to write about. Many things have fled across my eyes which could not be reported as any one item, because they were fleeting. However, the significance cannot be overlooked, and today I am inspired to jot a few of these things down. If there is no coherence to the notes, it is an indication of the disorganization that is my mind's state.

School has started in Los Angeles and some 350,000 school kids are back in with their nose to the books. Much hallabaloo is being made by mothers for the safety of their kids in crossing streets, and demands are being made to do something about it. The nisei kids after having been shifted around are getting settled into what they can call their Alma Mater. Many of them have lost credits in their transfers and will have to go an extra semester or two. But changing of domiciles is not the only reason for the transfer. Belmont High School reputed to be the one school without racial discrimination has attracted many niseis. They have a colored Student Body President, and some of the star athletes are niseis. A number have transferred here from John Marshall where one student claims is a pretty chilly situation as far as the attitude of the hakujins towards the niseis are concerned. The Principal of the Belmont High School, on the other hand, is very active, and vocally chases discrimination off the campus. The football coaches have welcomed back their nisei lettermen, and there are now 7 out for the varsity. 3 of these were last year's lettermen.

After school, the kids are again clamoring around with their Caucasian and negro friends. However, there are still a number of nisei who tend to stick together. Down-town, the same situation exists. Last Saturday night there were at least three parties where Japanese niseis were escorting their Caucasian friends to a chop suey dinner. Out of the bar came a nisei couple



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Los Angeles (2)
September 17, 1946
Sasaki

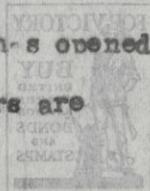
Random Jottings.

WASHINGTON

and a Negro young fellow came out arm in arm. Soon afterwards, another couple, a young good-looking Negro fellow, and a not so-good-looking nisei girl came out and entered the Bamboo grill. Down the street came a good-looking nisei fellow, about 5'10" tall, and a beautiful blonde. A young fellow standing next to me made the remark, "I could sure go for some of these good-looking Mexican girls", as one of them passed by.

Loitering around all over the blocks in Japanese town were GIs from Monterey. Los Angeles has become a stamping ground for niseis on Z day passes. Most of them are out hounding for dates, but have no place to go. A few of the more fortunate ones can be seen with slick looking slicks, but for the most part, they are the forgotten men. At the Mon and Ay's Malt Shop, one of the owners asked Grace Nito what happened at the dance the other day when the women were supposed to take care of the soldiers. There were not enough women..... Grace, who works at the International Institute did not know. She was a little older than the GIs and didn't have the interest in them that one their own age might have had.

Then, the appearance of Little Tokyo is taking on more and more the face it had before the war. There are fewer Negroes loitering around, more niseis in the restaurants and holding up the corner buildings, and neon signs with Japanese Kanji are appearing up and down the street. The latest addition is a 20 feet high neon sign, "SUIYAKI", and in equally as large letters, the same thing in Kanji. The Kawafuku, the leading nite-club of Little Tokyo with all the atmosphere of the Geisha Max is coming back on the scene. The new malt shop next to Club Cobra will be opened in a few days now. The notorious restaurant next to the Bamboo Grill has closed up and there are now less street arguments and fights. A distributor of Japanese film has opened where formerly stood a Negro beauty shop. Pictures of Japanese stars are



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17 September 46
Sasaki

Random Jottings.

WASHINGTON

looking at the crowds outside with a staring eye. Fewer and fewer "comfort women" appear at the entrance of the Miyako Hotel to entice the passer-bys. As a matter of fact I can now walk up the stairs to the offices without having to run the gauntlet. But down on the corner of Central Avenue and First Street, I can hear a woman shouting at a man a half-block away asking him to be sure to bring home the bacon. And last nite I dreamt of an issei bachelor eating a bowl of soup, and he said, "My last dime, and this is the meal that I can get with it. Why don't you do something about it." Even the isseis who used to hang around town are getting fewer and fewer. Maybe they have found a job after constant nagging from the little woman.

Yesterday on the street car as I was coming home, a hungry-looking nisei girl eyed me with a half imploring look to ask her for a date, and a half look of disgust when I did nothing about it. This seems to be a common occurrence in Little Tokyo where so many of the girls are tied up as domestics with little outlets for their gregarious nature. When they are dated out, Bill tells me that they don't know what to do. They are little better than nutes. They don't know what to say, and they don't. At the dance last Saturday nite, there were many there with blind dates, or other fellows dates who were stranded when the girl friend decided they wanted to go. The boys who were left holding the bags had a decidedly bad time. Four boys came up to me and said that the women now-a-days don't know how to behave, don't know what to talk about, and stand around like fools. When about to be introduced, they back out and head in the other direction.



WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
Social Organization. Nisei Council for Testimonial
Dinner.

Los Angeles - (1)
18 September 46
Asahi

#80

The weekly Wednesday meeting of the committee for the Testimonial and Thank you dinner was held at the usual place, the Pilgrim's House. Although it was to have begun at 7:30, it did not get started until 8. Those present were

Nisei

John Maseno - Chairman
Mrs. & Mr. Yasukochi.
T. S. Ito
Rev. John Yamazaki
Frank Humen

Kiyoshige
Tanne no
Sam uchi
Gotty Tuchiya & wife
Isako Tanaka

Issei.

M. Tanaka, former Exec. Sec of the Nihonjinkai in Garden.

The absence of the isseis was very noticeable, but was excuseable since most of the committees met yesterday, and there was a Wake Service for one of the prominent people in Little Tokyo.

The meeting began with John Maseno presiding and the various committees gave their report.

John Yasukochi reported that the Rodger Young Auditorium was available at \$2.85 a plate. The capacity was 1000. The report on the Finance committee was also given by John Yasukochi, and it was reported that the isseis would collect \$2,000 from donation. They also wanted to have this a dinner dance, and would pay for the orchestra. If there was a deficit, the isseis would stand personally up to \$500. If more money were needed to make up for this deficit, the Cinema Company would offer films for two nights free of charge to cover the loss. In this way, there seems to be no worry as far as the financial end of it goes.



Los Angeles (2)
28 September 1966
Sasaki

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
Nisei Council
Social Organization
WASHINGTON

In other words, according to Mr. Sano, the Niseis would be in charge of the financial end, while the Niseis were in charge of the program. Mr. Sano did not know how the Niseis were going to do it, but said that he was not worried.

Mr. Yasukochi also mentioned that Mr. Ambro, who had attended the Dinner Testimonial Dinner, wanted a souvenir program. The budget would be about \$500 for 1000 copies of 24 pages each. This could be self-supporting, i.e., paid for by advertising. The suggestion was carried thru and adopted. Mr. Inogye, the advertising man said that he could probably get a better rate, and would serve as the mechanical chairman, in charge of the layout.

It was suggested by Mr. Sano that the committees be expanded to get more of the leaders from the various communities included. Seishiro Fujika, another money-bag was suggested. Niseis such as Nobu Sawai, Robin Ineko, Kashiwagi, George Inagaki, Frank Awahara, Joe Shinoda, and others were suggested. The Buddhists were to be included since T. S. Ito mentioned that 65% of the people were Buddhists.

Mr. Whitehill was introduced by Rev. Yamazaki. Mr. Whitehill was the former chairman of the Metropolitan AVC, but who gave it up because of his Law studies. He said that they had begun procedures to change the name from the Metropolitan Chapter to Sadao Unemori Chapter, in honor of the Congressional medal of honor hero. He said that it would be an honor to make the formal change at this dinner; and the suggestion was accepted.

The program chairman, Henry Ohye felt that the entertainment should come from other sources, other than AVC to include as many service organizations as possible. Lena Horne was available thru the County AVC, and his talent was also selected in the person of Mrs. Komuro, who according to T. S. Ito is the best Nisei songstress in the market. The Niseis are a living monument to the consumption.



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September 16
1948
Sasaki

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Social Organization.

WASHINGTON

Problems were brought up at this time. A deadline for the sponsors and advertisement was set at October 9th, since it would take about 3 weeks to put the program out. The name of the organization sponsoring the dinner was finally decided upon. The Nisei Council was favored over the Nisei Coordinating Council. This leaves the Jassis out, but it is at the request of the Jassis. Some of the leaders feel that it should be the Nisei carrying the ball. It was mentioned at the last meeting that even under the title, Jael would be all right, however, in case there is some antagonism it was decided to leave this alone. However, in inviting some of the big-wigs, it was decided that Scotty Tsuchiya contact them, and use the Jael letterhead since it contained so many impressive sponsors.

The tickets are to be ready for distribution at the next meeting, and it was decided that each committee meet Wednesday night at dinner somewhere before coming to the general meeting.

The air of enthusiasm is still in the air, and one for Ty Saito's feeling about the press, who has given them little backing so far, everything is in order. He feels that Harry Honda is pessimistic about the outcome, and Henry Mori is too busy to bother too much about it. He will write it up if given the facts, but will not go out of his way to get it. The same goes for Mr. Hashida, the Japanese editor. Yesterday, Miss Tanaka said that she was approached for news, but she could not give anything because there was nothing much to give, except for committee members. This was printed.



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles (1)
18 September 46
Sanaka

Economic Adjustment.

WASHINGTON

#81

I went over to the Firm Building to visit M. Tanaka, who was going to open up a Photographic Studio and a Camera Shop. He was established at the same spot before the war, and was re-opening while his son was out here for a vacation.

Yasuo Tanaka, 27, is a tall (5'9") dark and handsome fellow who served his term in the army and then went to NYU for his masters degree in Business Administration. When I asked him what his future looked like, he responded,

"I'm going back to N.Y. for a couple of years. I've got a good job with a Securities Company, analyzing the various markets. It is sort of an advisory work, advising people what kind of stock is a good buy. I had a tough time getting in, because after all, they would much rather have a Nakujin because it is less trouble for them. They don't have to justify the employees nationality, or race. But the job I hold doesn't matter much because I never come face to face with the caucasian buyers. They don't care who does the advisory work as long as he is competent.

"About two months ago I answered an advertisement in the Wall Street Journal, and when I told him my background and experience, he jumped at me and wanted me to start working right away. I told him I had to come back to Los Angeles first, and the first company wanted to keep me, and promised me very vaguely buying into the firm, but the only concrete thing he offered was a raise in salary. The other firm offered me better opportunities, and in an advisory position, they feel that I am more valuable than one who does the routine work.

"I had to send out about 100 letters before I got my first job. It was not entirely discrimination, because they wanted fellows with experience.



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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles
September 16
1945

Economic Adjustment.

WASHINGTON

About this time, Mr. Tanaka, the father he was dressed in his work clothes, while Yasuo still remained in his gaberdine slacks. Mr. Tanaka came over and frequently discussed with Yasuo what he should do about the printing, wood work etc. All of this quite the reverse of the usual procedure. When I asked Yasuo about his return to Los Angeles, he felt that he would be back here after a couple of years to take over the shop again. He would almost have to in case something happened to his father. He felt that there was a lot of money to be made in Los Angeles, and for those with their own homes, it was no worse a place than New York.

YF. "The company offered me a position out here in Los Angeles but I turned it down. I was trying to sell stocks to the Japanese. The field is pretty limited, and altho most of the stocks are recommended, the people are always asked to study it over themselves. In this way, the final blame is on themselves. But with the Japanese, who do not understand the stock market, or how to interpret the sheets, will rely on me, and if the stock loses them money, it will mean my reputation. Rather than that, I would rather work with hakujins who can blame only themselves in case of failure.



#82

Returning Servicemen's WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

I felt that it would be onserving of Time if I stayed in Little Tokyo today since there was to be held a Coordinating Council meeting at night at the Pilgrim's House. My expressed purpose was to get started on a few interviews with the colored people to get their viewpoint. On my way down to a shoe-shine stand in the Longwani Building, I ran into Roy, an ex-G.I. who lived in Los Angeles before the war, a bachelor of 30, and whom I had last seen in Tokyo last November.

He suggested we go to the Waikiki Cafe for a beer and I accepted, it being up around 97 degrees. Before we were ready to leave it was around 3:30, and we had consumed three bottles, one on him, one on me, and one on another fellow who came in later.

Roy was discharged, and spent some time in the midwest before coming out here. He trained at Camp McCoy in Wisconsin so he had quite a number of friends there. He is a member of the 52-20 club, but will not be for long since he has a few offers already.

TS. What are your plans, Roy?

R.S. Nothing definite, but I've got a few offers that I'm toying with. One job is with a big chain of grocery stores in the midwest, Wisconsin. They want me in the field, doing promotional work, buying fruits and vegetables, and since I've done that sort of thing ever since I was a kid, I can step right into it. When I left, they wanted me to leave my address so that they could keep in touch with me. My feeling is, I could stay right out here and buy the stuff in the Los Angeles market, and then ship it out.

TS. What's wrong with Los Angeles? Don't you want to settle out here?

R.S. No, this Nihommachi is way behind. The Japanese here are a generation behind the Japanese in Japan. They have got the same old ideas they had when they



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Returning Servicemen-- Economic Adjustment.

first come here. What progress is there in Ithaca since before the war? None. They have established stores in the same manner, and without improvement in their display, service, or anything else. The only difference is that the stores are cleaner. But look down the street and see what happens. When one type of store makes money, three or four similar type stores crop up here and there. Pretty soon, there will be too many stores and then no-one will make any money.

The Japanese here are just old fashioned. They've established themselves into ghettos, use slave labor, and cut each other's throats. Unless they stop trying to make money from their own people, they'll never get anywhere. That is one thing I like about the midwest. No-one is trying to make killing. Life goes on pretty slow, and the people have more time to enjoy themselves. Out here, from morning to late nites, everyone is working like hell trying to make money, and quite a few are killing themselves doing it.

A gardener can make 4 or 5 hundred dollars, the fishermen are also making a killing. One group of guys I know have been earning about \$1200 a month, net, fishing sardines. I might try it for a couple of months, but it's too damned hard work. I did that before the war.

I'm not tied down, and I don't intend to be tied down. My very nature makes it impossible for me to be tied down. I've gained a lot of experience between the age of 16 and 25, and with four years lost because of the war, I intend to capitalize ^{on} it before I am 40. Salesmanship, and promotion are in my blood. And I think the midwest is the place to go and make use of my talents.



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In contrast with Roy Sato, the other fellow, Joe Sase, who was also recently discharged wants to resettle here. He was married about 2 weeks ago, and his father is still in the Midwest.

J.S. "I'm trying to get a gardening route, but it's pretty tough. I'm having Wally Nakashima keep an eye open on something good. Wally was in my company over in Europe. My dad wants me to gain some experience in gardening so that we can start a nursery next year when he comes back here.

Joe Sase is still dependant upon his father's judgement, and feels obligated to work together with his father. He has no special skill, is about 25 years old and has worked on a farm all his early life.



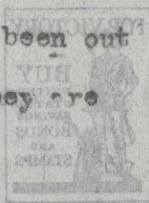
The shoe-shine parlor on the first floor of the Longini office building is a hangout for some of the colored boys. It is a small front, but in the rear which extends is a small radio shop, and a place where the "boys" get together to play cards.

The shoe-shine boy was very cordial and after having him clean a little bit of the gook on my shoes, I asked him what was going to happen to Bronzville with so many of the Japanese returning home.

Shoe-shine Boy. The colored folks are just gradually moving out. They go south towards 25th all the way down to Watts on Central Avenue. This is the Japanese people's home, and they are entitled to get it back. The Japanese and the colored folks have gotten along fine. There has been no fights, no quarrels, and no hard feelings. Up there on 2nd Street in a hotel that my aunt was running, the Japanese took it over, and the negroes and Japanese lived together and did it very well. No other minority groups have gotten along so well. I don't care what groups they are. But as the colored folks find a place to stay, they move out to make room for a Japanese. This is not the colored folks' home. Their district is down on Central Avenue from 25th Street clear down to Watts.

Four of the boys playing in the back room came out about this time, and one of them overhearing our conversation came up on the seat next to me and began,

EX-GI. "It's pretty rough sometimes tho. My mother-in-law ran the Turner Apartment, and the Japanese took it over, and evicted her. She with 7 children. They had no place to go. So far relations have been good, and we've been out here roaming around for over 10 months. But it seems to me like they are



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trying to push the negroes out. The negroes are the best friends the Japanese have. They are both members of the minority, and the colored folks have stood up and have spoken out for the Japanese. And in their business, you go down to most of these stores, down to the Bamboo Room, poor white trash can't go in there and spend 5 to 10 dollars. But the negroes do go in there and have the fish, and other foods, and they pay for it. The negroes are the easiest going people in the world, and they will spend every cent they have. They are bringing all kinds of money to these merchants, but it seems to me they are trying to drive the negroes out.

"You can't compete with the Japanese when they decide to buy out a place. They'll offer \$500 for a place that is worth only \$100 to the colored man. The colored man can't compete with this kind of competition. All the colored man has to do is to open his place for sale, and he can ask any price he wants. The building owner is out for his money too, and he'll give his place to the highest bidder.

2nd Negro. "It's the negroes own damned fault for selling out. It is not the fault of the Japanese. They have to have a place to do business, and if they can buy out a place, then it's up to them. A colored man don't have to sell out if they don't want to. Jacobs, who owns two restaurants isn't going to sell. He is out after the same kind of the money the Japanese are. If they are willing to pay him a high price for his place, then he thinks that it is worth just as much to him. If he can make a go of it, then it is up to him.

GI. "I was in Tokyo last October, and I saw the Japanese. They aren't our enemies. The whites hate their guts, but we don't feel that way. We're all colored. Of course we looked mighty funny to them because not many of them had seen a colored man. One, down there on the Ginza, a little old man in the wooden



logs peered over at me, and then took off. I couldn't blame him. It was just a couple of days after the surrender. Then another time we were looking around for something hard to drink. We had one hellava time. Then some of the nice officers said that they would fix us up. They took us to a beer parlor and we had a good time, but it wasn't strong enough. We wanted hard likker.

So you see, there is no reason in the world why we shouldn't get along. After the Japs know what kind of people we are, the like us, they like our easy ways and our easy money. You ought to tell some of these business men that we are the best customers they can have.

The boys wanted to get back into their back room for another session so I left them.



#84

CRDU

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

WASHINGTON

Almost a month had elapsed since my talk with Mr. Iijima and his
 Mr. Iijima, Executive Secretary and Resident respectively and I felt that
 it was a good time to get caught up on their activities. I arrived at their
 office in the Miyako Hotel and found Mr. Iijima, a slender fellow talking
 to Scotty Tsuchiya, formerly of the Jail. According to the both of them,
 they were resting, just chewing the fat. But I gathered later from Scotty
 that they were discussing ways and means to get the former leaders back into
 harness, and to have them back up the CRDU. The conversation went as follows.

TS. "How is the participation coming along, Mr. Iijima?"
 I. "Very good. That is for almost every place but Los Angeles City.
 West Los Angeles has met its quota of \$5,000, but will get more. Venice,
 Gardena, Hawthorne, Long Beach have all done well and are well up in their
 quota. Indio has collected \$2,000 of their \$5,000, Santa Maria and Guadalupe
 are way up. But Los Angeles, I don't know what is wrong. The quotas are for
 a three year period, so West Los Angeles has already met its budget. The
 escheat case they had out there is being handled by us.
 "I am so tired. There is so much work that I feel like quitting
 and getting another job."

For an hour, the conversation was on the relocation camps, the WRA
 personnel in Los Angeles, and the coming football games. I asked Scotty
 what he was doing now, and he said that he was helping out the CRDU. I
 was surprised, but he clarified this after we were left alone when we all
 went out for an ice cream, on Scotty. He asked me to drop over to the Jail
 office to see a clipping of an article in the Los Angeles Tribune, a piece
 on negro-japanese relationship written by Hisaye Yamamoto, employee of the
 paper. Then as we left Mr. Iijima, he asked if I minded walking around with



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Civil Rights Defense Union. WASHINGTON

him. He said that he had to contact Mr. Shimizu, president of the Business men's organization, Mr. Omi, publisher of the Refu Shimpo, and Mr. Gonsoro Nakamura, former active leader in Little Tokyo to get them together for lunch to see what can be done about the CRDU in Los Angeles.

ST. "I'll tell you what is wrong with the CRDU in Los Angeles. The leadership is the whole thing. Shig A ratani is a small timer. He has no ability and lots of people don't like him. He was the last JACL leader before the war, and at that time no-one wanted to be the president. The JACL members felt that he was a small shot and no-one would hurt him, so they railroaded him in. Mr. I shikawa put over some raw deals, and he supposedly has been involved in some shady deals that lost the respect of the people.

TS. How did these two become leaders? Who put them in?

ST. "It is a funny thing. The National was pushing me to get the CRDU organized last year, but I was so busy with the relocation problems that I didn't have time. I approached a number of these people, but they had just returned from either the relocation camps, or the internment camps, and were trying to get back on their feet. They didn't have time to come out to the meeting to get organized. A few of them came out, and the only two who showed any signs of leadership were Shig, and Mr. I shikawa. I was sorry when Shig accepted, but there was nothing else to do. They were the most vocal of the group.

Mr. Shimizu said that he would come to the meeting as did Mr. Omi. But Mr. Nakamura was away from his office. We then went back to the JACL office, where Mr. Tsuchiya said that a couple of smooth looking nets were trying to get the JACL to sponsor a series of lectures to High School and Junior High kids, on the returning Japanese. They were to come back in about an hour. Scotty asked me to stay and we could both see what it was all about.



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Economic Adjustment

While waiting for the two gentlemen, Scotty and I talked of many things. One of the highlights was the population figures. Scotty felt that within a couple of years the Japanese population in Los Angeles would be about 50,000, or one half of the total Japanese population in the United States. When asked for his reasons, he stated that homesickness on the part of many is one in the east, and their inability to get used to the weather would bring them back. Although many of them had lived in San Francisco, Seattle and Portland, there is not the spread out community in those places to absorb the Japanese. San Francisco cannot hold anymore. Los Angeles can, and will absorb the Japanese because of the spread out community. The Japanese here are tending to disperse, and news that everyone is making money leaks out. There are unfortunate ones too, but they are getting fewer and fewer. He maintains that there are only about 1500 now on relief.

ST. "Some of the Japanese take advantage of the relief, but most of them want to get off as soon as they can. A few days ago one man wanted me to write a letter to the draft board to defer his son, who just became 18. He has 9 children. At the same time, he was put off relief, where he was getting \$425.00 a month. That is more money than he ever has seen. I kept asking him questions, and the reason why he was put off was because he bought a car. I asked him why, and he said that living out in Burbank, it was difficult to get bread and rice, and so he had to travel some to get them. I told him that I wouldn't write a letter, after all he should give something to this country, for having accepted so much from the County.

"The WRA also created a queer situation. Since they were going to close up, and they couldn't find housing for many of the older people, they told the county that these people couldn't work, and that the best place was



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Economic Adjustment--ousing. WASHINGTON

the Old People's Home. The county took their word for it and placed them there. Soon, many of them wanted to work. They were able to, but the county said nothing, they would go on relief right away again, and it was cheaper to have them in the Home. I went to the Welfare Department and asked them, "Do you want to keep the people on County money, or do you want to give them relief for a few months until they can stake out for themselves. In other words, was the county going to do nothing about making the Japanese independent again. They finally took my word for it, and released a number of those who are able to work. (I met one of the fellows in the restaurant earlier in the day. He was about 60, so he told me, and they wanted to send him to the Old People's Home. He had a little cubby-hole, just large enough for a bed in the hotel above the Negro Photo Studio, and was paying 10 dollars a month. Since the County cut off his 'pension', he says he has been having a tough time. His lunch today consisted of a piece of pie and coffee. He says that he is too old to work, but he has enough money to keep him going until he dies. I tried to get more information from him, but he didn't seem to want to talk.)

There are a number of people who are making money on the Japanese. The hotel across the street on top of the Modern Cafe, for instance. The owner is renting the whole hotel for \$50.00 a month, and he is charging \$30 to \$40 a month for each room. I know another man, a supposedly respectable person who has six or seven bungalows. Instead of charging \$30 or \$40 a month for the place, he is renting out the rooms for the same price per month. He clears about \$1,000 a month. The Negroes in the Uptown district have gotten wise to this and are renting out a room for \$30 or \$40 a month. No-one complains about this. I would like to see some red make a big stink and turn some of these people in. I can't do it because of my position. And the Japanese know that if they report it, they will be evicted.



WASHINGTON

Caucasian Rabble Rouser.

Two gentlemen came in to the office and were ushered into the inner sanctum by Mrs. Tsuchiya. The speaker's name was Al Blake, lecturer, and his manager. He immediately spoke and said that he had been lecturing on espionage activity before Pearl Harbor, and had been lecturing for many clubs the past year. He showed us a letter from the Breakfast Club, on the reverse side of which was his picture, his connections etc. He claimed to have been a member of the Naval Intelligence, Counter-espionage Agency, Bureau of Investigation member etc. The date of the letter was September, 1944. He said that he wanted to give a series of lectures on the return of the Japanese to the West Coast, and felt that this 'propaganda' was needed. Then he began reading his speech.

He starts out with, "Boys and girls, I want to talk about the counter-espionage activity that I did during the war, and before Pearl Harbor, when I uncovered the Black Dragon Ring, but there is also another thing that I want to bring across to you. The return of the Japanese to the West Coast, bl h blah." He gave the example of one bad fruit in a barrel will cause all to spoil, hence the evacuation. He gave the example of one Japanese who asked him to steal the Pearl Harbor plans, and of a GI in a hospital who commended him on his speech.

One thing that he neglected to mention was the content of his speech back in 1944. On the reverse side of the letter from the Breakfast Club, it stated that the topic of his lecture was Japanese Espionage and the return of the Japanese to the West Coast. It made me wonder if he weren't just a professional rabble-rouser, who was trying to cash in on the prevailing sentiment.

Scotty said that he would refer the letter to the National House, who sets the budget, and would know in a week whether they would care to finance it.



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Sasaki

#85

Economic Adjustment.

I walked down ^E 1st Street passed ^C Central Avenue on down to ^H Hewitt Street which is two blocks [.] from Alameda Street. ^J noticed several changes, all of which are indications that the ^Japanese are expanding their economic foothold to almost their pre-war status.

^Joe's ^Cafe, which was recently taken over by the ^Japanese is located on 1st and ^Alameda. ^Alameda Street is the street ^{on} which the trucks, trains, and all of the heavy traffic go thru which run north and south. ^A ^Japanese owned this spot before the war. ^Further ^East on ^E. 1st, the ^Union ^Paper ^Supply ^House is established. ^It is still a small store, but will no doubt expand to cover either the next store, or another warehouse in some other section of town. ^Next to this store is the ^Start ^Service ^Bureau, ^Sake and ^Soyu ^Dealers.

^On the corner of ^Hewitt and ^E. 1st, across the street from the ^White ^King ^Soap ^Factory is located the former ^Nippon ^Hotel, and underneath the hotel on the first floor is a grocery store which is being run by ^Japanese.

^Out in this neighborhood, the negroes decrease in number and the ^Mexicans increase. ^Half a block down northward on ^Hewitt is the ^Zenshufi ^Hotel, and adjacent to it is another hotel. ^Two blocks northward is the ^Maryknoll ^Japanese ^Catholic ^Mission.

^I had heard that the ^Nippon ^Hotel was taken over by ^Japanese again, so ^I went inside to talk to the owner. ^To my surprise it was an old friend who owns several other hotels. ^He told me that he took over on the 1st of ^September after paying \$16,000 for the lease. ^It is a 47 room hotel, and he feels sure that he will be able to recover most of it before too long.

^The other hotel he owns is located two blocks further east just underneath the 1st street bridge. ^In this neighborhood the ^Japanese did not own hotels, but there are two now. ^The ^White ^King ^Hotel and the ^Puente ^Hotel. ^Both of which have as tenants most ^Japanese and whites.

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T. Sasaki

Economic Adjustment.

Mr. Katakuru, the proprietor, told me that he does not like to run the business, but likes to see the money roll in. So he has managers running them. He gives them a salary, and they are responsible for the operation.

He is living in Los Angeles alone. His family is in Japan where he left them just before the war started. He took a trip back to Japan and came back on the last boat. He wants to go back after them, but is waiting for legal restrictions to be lifted; ie, he wants to make sure that he can bring them back, and come back himself.

Mr. Katakuru before the war had a shipping shed in Berkeley, California where he also had a manager do all of his work. In short, he is the financier, and with his money, and other people's work, he has been able to make a small fortune. He made trips to Japan almost every year, played around in Los Angeles most of the year except during the busy season, and enjoyed every luxury possible without doing any work. He lent money to farmers, and most of them did fairly well.

He asked me to come over and visit with him when I had the time again.

Los Angeles (1)
20 September 1966
Yasuki

#86

Economic Adjustment.

I had dinner with Helen Hirata, who is the interviewer in the U.S.S. Domestic Division. She is a short, stout woman, with a rugged looking face, but a pleasant personality. She was so talkative that during the dinner when I offered her a cigarette she exposed her talkativeness as a means of taking care of her nervousness. She majored in Languages in U.C., having been graduated in 1934, which now makes her about 33 or 34, and still looking for a husband.

She relocated to Los Angeles directly from Boston without first relocating back east. She got her job as an interviewer thru Mr. Charles Bratt, and is a CAF 7. Her duties was to visit places where Japanese could be employed, and interview possible applicants. When she first arrived there were many referrals by the WRA, but now there are hardly any. The only referrals are made by the International Institute, but so far she says that they have sent only a few. She feels that the Japanese are able to take care of themselves now, and do so by placing advertisements in the paper.

Many calls, she says, come in from hakujin who want Japanese house-workers. She says that she cannot fill them because most of the women are already employed, leaving only those who are migrating back into Los Angeles the only likely prospects. Many hakujin are frantically looking for Japanese women, and want anyone sent out, just so she is a nihonjin.

When asked if the Japanese were fussy about jobs, she said that most of the fuss came from niseis who knew the prevailing wage scale, and the amount of work others were putting out. The inexperienced ones were the worst. They didn't want to work where they had children, or where they had to do cooking etc. The isseis, and those who have had experience in housework did not complain but took the jobs because they knew already how much they had to work in order to make so much money.

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Asaki

Economic Adjustment.

A few days ago a request for 60 cannery workers came in from Terminal Island. They were willing to pay \$1.06 an hour plus overtime. She did not want to take the responsibility for referring people to this job because another advertisement in the Asahi Shimbun said that they would pay \$1.23 an hour. She did not feel that it would net the Japanese much because the commuting would run very high. It is .40¢ oneway on a street car to Terminal Island. (The route ordinarily taken would be thru an Pedro, then across the channel on the ferry, which is another .10¢ a trip.)

Weak response to this call according to McGroarty, of the Long Beach Trailer camp a few weeks ago, is the fact that when the Japanese first went there for jobs, they were told that they did not want Japs on Terminal Island, either as workers, or as residents. These people in Long Beach then went to work for canneries in Long Beach. Now, when the Terminal Island Canners want the Japanese to work for them, the Japanese thumb their noses.

When Miss Hirata was asked if any placement records were kept of Japanese, she said that the new order ordered every department to burn the reports. However, she says that out of curiosity she made her own records, and probably still has them in her desk. She said that she would be glad to give those to me if she could find them.

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#87

Japan Meeting -- Mike Sasaki.

A mass meeting was held at the Pilgrim's House on San Pedro Street between Jackson and E. 1st Street. The occasion for the meeting was Mike Sasaki, National Executive Secretary, who is touring the West Coast to inform the people the latest news on the Indemnification Bill, the Naturalization, the Beach Cases, and the Proposition 13.

I arrived at the Pilgrim's House about 7 o'clock and was surprised to find about 30 isseis standing outside by the fence, around the entrance, and on the sidewalks. Besides myself, there was Miss Tanaka, who were niseis.

I met Mr. Anzai, who was at one of the Testimonial Dinner meeting and chatted with him for a few minutes. He said that there were quite a few isseis turning out, and explained it by saying that the isseis were interested in the naturalization and the indemnification. The niseis, on the other hand, were citizens, and didn't have much to have indemnified. However, he felt that the niseis should turn out to find out what is going on, instead of being absorbed in their own small world.

At 7:30, Scotty Tsuchiya, Sasaki, and Eiji Tanabe came and went around to open the door. The meeting finally began at 7:45.

It was very interesting to note that some of the former Japan leaders were present. Shig Aratani, Fred Tayama, Kiyoshi Ura all sat together in the last pew. Tayama left before Mike was through, and Aratani and Ura left after Mike's speech.

The final estimate on the crowd could be stated to be about 100, 80 isseis and about 20 niseis. When the niseis moved out after the English part of the meeting, there was no appreciable decrease in the size of the crowd.

Gongoro Nakamura was in the crowd, as were Mr. Sam Nagata, Mr. Ichikawa of the Raifu Himpo, Mr. Anzai and a few others. For the most part, the isseis were the older ones. Only three or four of the middle-age isseis were present. The niseis, of course were all in their late twenties, or thirties.

Jacl meeting -- Mike Masaoka.

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Masaoka

Mike Masaoka first said that he was disappointed in the size of the crowd, but thanked those who came out for their interest.

Proposition 15, was probably the most important thing at the moment. Masaoka took the arguments for voting yes on Proposition 15, and analyzed them for the audience. The Immigration Board, the Sons of the Golden West, Associated Farmers etc were all sponsors of it along with Henry and Burns. Altho the argument stated that it was to quell the groups of financial interests who were in with the Japanese, it really was for the benefit of those who wanted to oust the Japanese.

All thru the arguments, Masaoka tore down the implications and said that the passage of Proposition 15 would mean that the Japanese would be deprived of means of making a living in California. It was a move on the part of some groups to re-evacuate the Japanese by other than military methods. Any land earning money which go into the support of the Japanese would render the individuals open to punishment, and fines. The end results which they hoped to obtain was to keep the Japanese as common laborers, with no rights to property ownership, or rights to earn a livelihood by independent means.

The second half of the speech was devoted mainly to what was done in Washington about the Naturalization bill, the Indemnification, and Story of deportation. Of these, the matter of Indemnification was most interesting. Masaoka claimed, was not satisfied with the Claims Bill presented by Secretary A. A. Rug. It is only a token indemnification in which only about 10 million would be paid out. No-one kept bills of sales etc to present as evidence of losses incurred. He proposed that everyone should be paid a lump sum, which according to the damage group the individual fell. This, however was not considered.

Masaoka also brought out the fact that more than 60 bills favorable to the Japanese were presented in the 70th Congress. At the other Congresses, only 2 had been put up, while there were many unfavorable to the Japanese were brought up. This, he points out is extremely interesting, and indicated the

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Masaoka--JACL.

trend of the politician's thinking.

The second half of the program was designed to stimulate interest of the isseis in JACL, and he ended up by saying, "We need the isseis thinking, even though they are not eligible for membership in the JACL. We isseis are still young and need the mature leadership which only the isseis can offer. We need your financial support. If you can't go out and fight for the Japanese American's Rights, then contribute, so that others can do it for you. It is a fact that the JACL was the only organization that stood through-out the war, and by that token itself, you can see that the JACL is interested in working for the best, for the ~~most~~ greatest number of people. We have made mistakes, but we have done our best. We have always had the best interest of the people uppermost always."

Eiji Tanabe translated Masaoka's speech for the benefit of the isseis who could not understand English. George Inagaki, National Treasurer, and President of the Venice Chapter chaired the evening.

#88

Veterans.

After the JACL meeting, I met Kiyoshi Kagawa, veteran of the South Pacific, UCLA Graduate, and currently working for the County Library. I told him that I was going down to Skid Row to visit a friend after which we would go out for a beer and "tacos". I invited him along, and told him that he would be interested in meeting Lincoln Taira, who was also a veteran of the Pacific, and who had the same idea about non-segregated veterans posts etc.

We met Lincoln at 10 pm, and drove out to the El Marioba, a Mexican Cafe on 1st street near 5th street in Boyle Heights. We ordered three beers, and tacos, then three more beers came along, and before the evening was over, there were three more beers.

Both veterans were ~~xxxx~~ in the army for over 4 years. Kiyoshi volunteered in February of 1942, while Lincoln Taira was drafted just about at the outbreak of the war. Both were sent to Fort Riley, where they were locked up when President Roosevelt came for a visit. However, they had different experiences in Fort Riley. Lincoln Taira's S.O. was a man who gave them every opportunity for promotion, and looked after the welfare of the niseis. Kagawa's S.O., on the other hand didn't do so well.

They spoke of the treatment they received. Kagawa said that the darkest moments in his life were at Fort Riley. He went into the army filled with idealistic thoughts, and found himself on the Stable Detail along with kibeis who all being suspected. Along with other Mexicans, Negroes, and kibeis, they called themselves the Prisoners of Bataan. Kagawa felt that the least amount of discouragement would have sent him the other way, towards a covering loyalty that many of the kibeis already had. These kibeis were sent to prison later.

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Sasaki

Veterans.

These niseis and kibeis were sent on these details with armed guards watching over them. Kagaawa feels that it was no way to test the loyalty of any group.

As the 3rd bottle of beer came on the table, Kagaawa asked Taira if he belonged to any veteran's group. Taira mentioned that he would like to join the Avets, but wasn't sure yet. He attended one meeting, but wanted to attend an AVC meeting before making the final decision. Kagaawa invited him to go to his group, or if more convenient for Taira, to attend the Munemori chapter ~~which~~ who held their meeting at the Pilgrim's House.

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Asaki

#89

Recreation.

The Nisei All Stars of Los Angeles played host to the Monterey Perisidio All stars. The local fans came out about 2500 hundred strong to watch the L.A. All-stars get swamped 14 to 1.

The game was to begin at 1:30, but didn't get underway until 2:15. The PA system blared out in Japanese that soda and ice-cream were being sold by the first and 3rd bases, and then went on to say just who were going to play. This was necessary because the financiers of the All stars are the issei merchants in Little Tokyo. They had to get their word in.

A number of Mexicans were also watching. And except for about 2,000 spectators intent on watching the game, the 500 odd young people were intent on getting dates, and hanging out at the ball park. After the game, on 1st and San Pedro, the heavy concentration of Japanese in this area leads one to believe that most people just want to hang out - here there are a large number of Japanese.

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Economic Adjustment Nisei

Nob Miyata is about 25 years old, and lives in the Nippo-hotel on 2nd street. He is unemployed at the moment, and is waiting for his brother's service station to open in Boyle Heights.

He pays \$10.00 a week for a room, his brother and wife live in Boyle Heights near their service station, his parents and four brothers and sisters live out on a chicken ranch near El Monte.

Nob. "My parents want to come in to town to live. As soon as we can find a place for them, I think we will call them. Our parents aren't the only ones who feel that way. The niseis are as hard-working as the issei and not many of them will go back on the farm. For that reason, I think Los Angeles city will have more Japanese than it ever had. You look down on First Street now. There are more Japanese now than there ever were before.

TS. "What are the opportunities for the niseis?"

Nob. "You take guys like Johnny Masatani, and Roy Obayashi. They are working in the record factories. What will it get them in a couple of years. They'll still be making records. One of these days they are going to find themselves without a job, and it will be too bad. They ought to get into something that will teach them the trade. I went to Chicago and spent two years learning the body and fender trade. I don't want to continue in that because it is hard work. But I can do the work, and I can fall back on it. Those boys had better get down to business because it won't be long before a depression hits us.

"You take the stores and restaurants in town. There are just too many for the long run trade. People move out of this district as fast as they can get jobs elsewhere, or get housing. As the people move out, the business goes out with them. I don't see how this place can last any more than two or three years at the most. Then what are they going to do?"

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S. S. Ki

Economic Adjustment

"Take the girls who live in this hotel. Most of them make only 30 or 40 dollars a week. One beauty operator, who lives in the corner room makes about 50. That is their future. You can just see how they are getting to a point where they want to get married and settle down. They are dying to meet some fellows, and you can notice it when they talk so loud, just to attract your attention.

"All of this is a bad situation. There is no family life. When we were in camp, our parents began to lose hold of the family, and now, they don't have any control. Kids about 14 or 15, go out as school-girl. Johnnie's sister is in junior high school and she is working as a school girl. God, before the war, the parents wouldn't even consider letting the boys out even after they graduated from high school. Now, anyone who is able to work, no matter how young they are go out. The kids don't know what the score is. And these young kids don't pick up anything decent working in some homes either. One fellow I know, this as before the war, took one of the domestic workers out, and thought that he would get a little necking out of it. But before too long, the girl pulled off her pants, and he was so damned flustered that he drove her home. He found out later that she was taught that by the man of the house, and thought it was the proper thing to do. That may be an exception, but you take any of these domestic workers, they get so lonesome after staying over for the week, that when they get their day off, they will do anything to get married to a fellow. They hand out left and right, because that is one way they think they can hold a fellow, and eventually marry them. The breakdown of the family is a terrible thing.

"I was going to get married in Chicago, but broke off when I thought about the tough time I'd have. The girl would ask me, "Don't you get scared of it?" I can't sleep at nights thinking about all of the troubles we could run into. I would tell her that I wasn't scared, but inside I felt the same way. I'm older now, and when I think of it, it really scares me to death. But a guy has to

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settle down sometimes. You take the gang that hangs out on first street. Johnny, Roy, Hank and Tom. I think the guys most eligible to get married are Hank and Tom Kokubun. They don't think the same way as Johnny and Roy anymore. Roy, of course just bought a home, so he has to think about that, and works like hell trying to cover the debt. But Johnny, he is about the most care-free guy I know. And he is happy. He should worry about his family because they are in the same boat as we are. They live out in the country, and he tries to take care of them, and he has the same idea as we have. He wants to bring his family out to town, but he doesn't worry about it.

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#91

CRDU -- Leaders.

On Saturday of last week, according to Scotty Tsuchiya, a few of the leaders of the Little Tokyo business section met at the request of Scotty to iron out the difficulties of the CRDU. Mr. Aomai of the R. afu Shimpo, Gongozo Nakamura, Mr. Shimizu, President of the Business Men's Ass'n, Mr. Sasaki, former head of Commerce & Industries, and Mr. Anzai, and Seihiro Sato were the ones attending. The reason for this selection was based on the fact that these people were the most vocal of all leaders against the CRDU. For example, Mr. Iijima, executive secretary of the CRDU put in 7 articles to the R. afu Shimpo for publication, but none of them appeared in print. The main objection, however, were focused against the present leaders Shig Aratani and G. T. Ishikawa.

G. T. Ishikawa is ready to resign. He told Scotty that he feels that his presence in the CRDU is the thing that is holding down the organization, and he is willing to fall out. Scotty Tsuchiya, however, does not want him to drop out, especially in such a huff that will cause the Japanese community to lose a person who is willing to contribute so much time and effort as well as money to any organization. It is the feeling of Scotty, and a few other men in the community, that in spite of Ishikawa's shady dealings in the past, he is probably sincere in his efforts to make up for it. This, they contend, is shown by the fact that he has contributed \$1500 to the CRDU as well as office space. All of this, however, did not convince the leaders mentioned above of his sincerity.

When Scotty asked the men at the luncheon what the solution was, they said that the J. a. c. l. should handle the CRDU, since already it is working on the escheat cases etc. It should be, which in Northern California is, the Anti-discrimination division of the J. a. c. l. The J. a. c. l. is willing to support it if the J. a. c. l. will take it over.

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Scotty hesitated and said that they should wait until Mr. Ishikawa gets back from Salt Lake City before they made the final decision. And too, with Mike Masaka here for a few weeks, they will discuss it and then give their recommendation.

It is probably well at this time to bring up the position of Scotty Tsuchiya. He came down from the National JACL to help in the relocation of the Japanese in Los Angeles, and became a champion for them in getting aid from the various city and county agencies during the emergencies. He gained the respect of the Japanese first as ~~xxxxxx~~ an individual, then later was identified as a regional representative of the JACL. When the people would not want his services because he was a member of the JACL, he could not worry because there were too many people who ignored this and wanted help. It used to be said that the leaders of the Japanese community, as well as the larger community would do anything for Scotty Tsuchiya, but nothing for JACL. Now, they are willing to back the JACL 100%. The isseis are willing to help as much as they can. Already, four individuals have contributed \$1000.00 a piece to help finance the JACL. Scotty himself, altho a nisei, says that he can speak Japanese better than he can English, and would rather work with the isseis than the niseis. His feeling is shared by Eiji Tanabe. The root of it, it seems to me is the fact that the niseis are lethargic, and anathetic. Whereas the niseis quibble over quarters and dimes, the isseis are willing to let go \$1000.00 without a word.

The extent to which the isseis are backing the JACL can be seen by the attitude taken by Eiji Tanabe when he and Scotty go out for donation. Scotty asked one individual, a Doctor Ashiro who is perhaps the best known MD among the Japanese ~~xxxx~~, for donation, and the doctor said that he would donate \$1,000. Immediately Scotty asked for \$2,000. Eiji wanted to let \$1,000 stand and did not want to push it any further because the doctor might not even give the \$1,000 if pushed too far. He tried to get Scotty out, but Scotty insisted, and so that he would come back again. Eiji holds back because perhaps he is thinking

Jacl

of what happened before the war.

It is Tanabe's feeling that Scotty Tsuchiya is the biggest force in getting cooperation from the isseis. A force that is almost the equal is that of the National Jacl program. They have made a record during the war years as having the best interest of the people, and fighting for it. The publicity made thru the vernaculars have made the isseis conscious of the need for an organ to keep them informed on the progress of various actions being taken by the government. They have been made aware of the necessity for citizenship, for the defeat of proposition 15 etc. All of this, contends Tanabe, make for a stronger Jacl feeling among the isseis. They, on the other hand, knowing that they cannot participate as full members, contribute to the fund as a working capital. At present, another Jacl office will be established at the Methodist Church on Normandie and 25th, where the HQ of the Koenkai will be located.

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Christian Churches.

The Church Federation of Southern California sponsored a testimonial dinner for the Caucasians who had befriended the Japanese before, during, and after the war. Tickets to this event were sold out far in advance, and I had to scurry around for an extra one. Scotty Tsuchiy, ~~xxxxxx~~ feeling the need of company, told me that there was a combination ticket for E. I. Tansie which would not be used because he would be in Long Beach, and that he would be pleased if I use it. I declined the use of his ticket, but was easily talked in when he said that we would be in an inconspicuous place. He was mistaken in his judgement, and we found ourselves at the speaker's table along with the rest of the guests. Luckily, I found myself seated between Paul Nagano, Reverend of the Baptist Church, and Dan Genun, of the All People's Church.

The dinner was delicious, and all around me were celebrities out of the social Welfare Register. Al Wirin and his wife sat opposite me, Rev. Hechleburger who spent 40 years in the orient were nearby celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary with this dinner, Mr. and Mrs. Spaulding, A. Telos, Dr. Genevieve Carter and others too numerous to mention. In all, there must have been about 100 Caucasian guests. The total number at the banquet was 250.

Rev. Sasaki, the elder, was the chairman. In true issei fashion, a long program was arranged. Each of the guest was introduced, with one from each table giving a short talk. Preceding the main part of the dinner, Reverend Ukonaka spoke in behalf of the issei-ministers, and Rev. Maketime spoke in behalf of the niseis. They both spoke in terms of what good the evacuation brought about. Had it not been for evacuation, we would not have met the people we did. Close contact with worthy Caucasians would have been one or two generations away. Jobs for women in all places would not be open. Good treatment, better than ever before would not have been forthcoming for

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Economic Adjustment.

According to Mr. Nitta and Mr. Tanegae, about 700 have returned to O.C. Of this group, about half are engaged in farming their own land. The rest are laborers. Discrimination now has been minimized, altho at first there was a good deal. Mr. Oda, found himself booted out of a store he re-located before evacuation. The Wintersburg Church was fired upon with 22's. Mary Ouda was run out of town etc.

Now, there is no such trouble. Seed, fertilizers, etc are available to any Japanese who want to purchase them.

Here, as in other sections of California, people are working hard to regain their economic status. It is the feeling of Mr. Ooka that the Japanese have been reduced to their first status, ~~xxx~~ i.e., the status of menial laborers when they first arrived from Japan. Altho the wages are much better, they have been set back one generation. To regain their pre-evacuation status, they have to work hard to save enough money to begin all over again independently.

I inquired of Mr. Nitta, who is probably the biggest man in O.C., the opportune time to visit Orange County, and he said that right now it was bad because everyone was so busy. It would be that way for some time to come. However if I would make pre-arrangements, he would be in. Everyone was in pretty much the same boat. He invited me to come down, and promised me a chicken dinner.

Roy Kobayashi, of the famed Kobayashi brothers of O.C., also asked me to visit him, and also promised me a chicken dinner. He has a chicken farm and now has 800 fryers ready for the skillet. He is increasing his flocks weekly and hopes to have it built up larger soon. He too said that the people were too busy to take too much time off. They got up at the crack of dawn and were in bed soon after sundown. The niseis who attended the meeting were all well-tanned, and showed evidence of the hard work they were doing.

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J a c l .

T amabe and T suchiya invited me to go down with them to Santa Ana tonight where they are to meet with the newly reactivated Orange County chapter of the J a c l . M asaaka was the main speaker of the evening.

We left Los Angeles at 5 o'clock, and returned at 12, midnight. The chronological ~~events that took~~ sequence of events is as follows: ride out to Santa Ana with much horseplay, a Spanish dinner given by the few members of the Orange County Group, the meeting, horseplay on the way back, and a happy ending to the trip with a bowl of noodles at the Bamboo Grill.

Besides the horseplay on the way out, there was a good deal of discussion about the merger of the CRDU and the J a c l . M asaaka was very much concerned about it, and was especially aware of the consequences if the CRDU was taken over without accounting, and with no strings attached. He felt that there should be a new name in the first place, and that the personnel of the present CRDU should not be taken over. In other words, a clean break. He also felt that there would be difficulty in getting funds for the J a c l , when the contributors felt that they had already contributed to the CRDU fund. This however would be worked out as follows: The CRDU would be under the Anti-discriminatory division, which is pushing the naturalization law, stay of deportation etc. The funds collected would be spent thusly: 1/3 for J a c l , and 2/3 for the escheat cases. Such examples as this had to be taken into consideration. Tsuchiya approached Joe Hinoda of the San Lorenzo Flower Company for donation, and Hinoda said that if it was for any part of the CRDU, he would not contribute. He did not want any part of Higashimura, or Ishikawa. Get them out first, and then he would see to it that a good contribution would be made.

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Jacl.

At the dinner, which was a testimonial dinner for a few skin friends, as well for our little group, an air of informality reigned, and a free exchange of ideas were made. We were about a half an hour late so the aftergiving the Reverend, who was to be the chairman for another meeting left with a few words.

I think the Jacl should be organized, and then included in the fight that the other minorities of this county are making. The Mexican group looked through the registrar and found that 100 had registered. This caused several of the young fellows to want to get deputized so that more of them could be gotten. Then they found that the two could not cover the territory so they approached the county registrar for more deputies. His request was refused, and with the help of Gonzalez, who was here from Washington, they presented their case to James Roosevelt, democratic chairman of California. As a result, they got extra deputies, and these last few days will find them canvassing the area to get all of the Mexicans registered. I feel that the Japanese in the County should fight along with them on common problems. It is the only way that gains can be made.

Another guest was a man who had 1000 subscription to the Pacific Citizens. He paid for them, and then distributed copies to people he felt needed the information.

A woman brought out an interesting item. In the Golden Bear, a magazine published by the Natives about 7 months ago had on its Golden Honor Roll, the name of General Dewitt. He was one of the two out-of-staters to be included.

From the La Honda, the Mexican restaurant, we drove another 8 miles to Wintersburg where the meeting was to be held. We got there at 8:15 and found a group of about 15 nice is waiting. Only two girls were present.

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Asaka

Asaoka.

Asaoka gave the same talk that he gave at the Union Church a few days ago. He stressed the importance of defeating Proposition 15, and then gave an outline of the work that the National Asaoka had been doing.

The importance of defeating Proposition 15 cannot be minimized. Although it purports to be aimed at the Alien Japanese, in reality it is aimed at the Niseis, and citizen Japanese for generation to come. It is an attempt to validate the Alien Land Act, and would oust the Japanese by denying them a right to make a living. Not only will violating the law bring about civil action, but criminal action which brings with it a 10,000 fine and/or a 10 year imprisonment. It can be inflicted on generations in the future.

All this, and more too, which is dull reading in the papers was brought out vividly by the forceful speech of Asaoka. Except for one, Eiji Tanabe, who snoozed away, the attention of the group was well kept. Had it not been for the fact that Tanabe snored softly, Asaoka would have let him sleep in peace, but when it began interfering with his talk, he had to wake him.

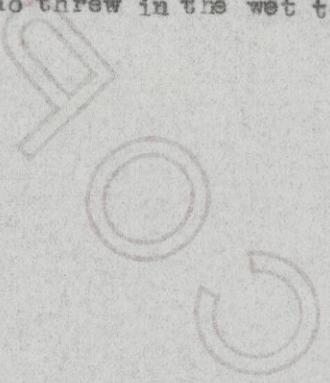
After the meeting, George Asaki, National Vice President, gave a short talk on the growth of Asaoka's knowledge of Washington, gained not without a fight, his personal sacrifice in helping the people etc.

The meeting was then opened to questions, which brought out a point which is the source of irritation to Asaoka, Tanabe and Tsuchiya. One Nisei wanted to know what obligations financially they would have to assume. They felt that they could not fulfill financial obligations towards the National, before they got on their own feet. To this Asaoka said that of the fee, only \$1.00 went to the national treasury. \$2.00 for subscription to the P.C., and .50 for the reporter came out of the fee that went to the national treasury.

acl.

Books were passed out (2) to solicit membership. This number, Henry Kanegae the chairman, felt was insufficient to cover the territory. The question of dues was not settled, and so the soliciting was tabed until they could meet to decide.

This meeting, in contrast to the one in Los Angeles, was composed entirely of niseis, except for Mr. Nitta, respected leader of Oregon County. He, however, could speak English and so Mr. Tanabe did not have to do any translation. The niseis were older, and altho they still spoke of lack of leadership, capable ones were present. George Inagaki pointed out on our way home that the Oregon County was group was noted to have a few members who were pessimistic, all who threw in the wet towel at every meeting.



#95

Economic Readjustment--Hotels

I walked into the Victory Hotel office after climbing one flight of stairs and met Tom Iara, proprietor, and manager. The hotel is located on 1st and Los Angeles Street, one block east of the City Hall, and almost in the heart of the Little Tokyo. The hallway was newly repainted. All of the windows had venetian blinds, and in every way the hotel looked much cleaner and nicer than it was a month ago when I went to see him.

Tom Iara is about 5' 4" tall, heavy set, with a nervous habit of moving around, shaking pencils, drumming his fingers etc. He spoke English rather well. He invited me in to his office and offered me a seat on the sofa, which he sat in the arm-chair. Almost immediately after we sat down, he had another visitor, another Japanese fellow who was around 55 years old, and dressed in khaki clothes and greasy shoes. At first I thought he was a restaurant operator, but Tom told me that he was co-partners in three hotels. He had brought a dresser to the glass shop downstairs to have a new mirror put in. It was going to cost him about \$5.00. When Iara told him to buy a new dresser, the other man said that it would cost him at least \$25.00.

Conversation between the two was entirely of a business nature, and I told Tom Iara that I would leave and come back some other time, but he told me not to leave. After the man had left, Iara said that he wanted to borrow some money. Iara felt that he should sell his share in his hotels if he wanted the money.

TS. How many hotels are there in Los Angeles that are run by Nipponese?
TT. "I think there are about 350. Before the war there was close to six hundred. (1930-40 directory says 360 hotels & apartment). Everyone who owns a hotel is making money. If it lasts for another three years, the hotel owners will be sitting pretty good.

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Economic Adjustment--Hotels.

TS. You must have made quite an investment in this hotel.

TS. Yes, it cost me a lot of money. I am paying \$540.00 for the ventilation blinds. You can't get the other kind. But it's cheap, I pay \$50.00 a month. I am going to put a neon sign, a small one in front of the door, and that will cost about \$350.00. I bought the lease for \$7,000. I am looking for some things, and I wonder what happened to the goods that were stored at the WRA. I bought some stuff from the warehouse, and when I was ready to buy some more, they closed it up. I had to buy a lot of stuff that I couldn't use, but it was cheap enough so I didn't lose anything. It was still better than buying it from a store.

"I just bought these hand towels at the Army Surplus store. They cost .12 $\frac{1}{2}$ a piece. I got 15 dozen of them. It's good enough. If they were the expensive kind, the people would steal them.

"This location is good. I have all negro people living in the hotel. There are a few Mexicans. But it is much better than Lincoln's place (5th & Maple) because over there you have nothing but white trash. Both of these places will still be good during the depression. All transient customers. I had a chance to buy a 45 room hotel on 3rd and Hill street, but I didn't want it because nothing but white trash go there.

"But I don't want to do this kind of work all my life. Hours are too long, and there is too much headaches. I want to get in the export-import business. Jimmy who just opened up a wholesale outlet on Weller Street. I don't know where he got the money. I think there is a good future in that.

TS. How much capital did it take to get you started in the hotel business?

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T. Sasaki

Economic Adjustment - Hotels.

TT. I had only \$10,000. I started on the Altos Hotel, then bought the Winston Hotel, and then I bought this one. I sold the Winston Hotel the other day.

Lots of people are going into the hotel business. The man who owned the Sun Road Hotel bought the Pacific Hotel for \$18,000. and he will do pretty good. Mr. Ishikawa got a bargain when he bought the Miyako Hotel. He paid \$15,000 with two other guys. He bought out his partners already.

TS. What do you think will be the trend in population in Los Angeles?

TT. I think it will be more than before the war in a few years.

Many people who lived in the north, Washington, Oregon, San Francisco, and in the hot places in the valleys in central California are moving into Los Angeles because of the climate. Many more will come back from Chicago and other eastern cities. These people went all over and when they decide to come back to California, they will all come back to Los Angeles. It won't be long. Another two or three years. Right now there would be a lot of people coming back, but they are no housing for them. As soon as they feel they can move in some place, they will come back.

Here, the conversation went on about Japan. T. S. felt that this country did a great injustice when they dropped the atomic bomb. He feels that it is worse than poison gas. He also feels that Japan will not regain her former status for another 50 years, but feels that Japan is much better off because many of her leaders who led the war will be ousted in favor of a democratic government. He fears Russia, however, and unless U.S. gives them a better program, the Japanese will lean towards Russia.

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T.asaki

#96

Economic Adjustment.

I met Mr. Ogawa through Dr. Hansen at the Hart Mountain party in August. At that time, it was surprising to me that a man of over 50, was married to a young issei girl of about 25. They had a child about 6 months old. Today, I found out that he was married before, and had several boys who were over 20 years old.

A few weeks ago Mr. Ogawa gave me his hotel address, and his residence address and invited me to come over when I had time. I felt that today was a good time to get re-acquainted and went over to see him. His hotel is located on Clay street, one block west of Hill street. Clay street is more an alley than a street and runs for only two blocks. I had little difficulty in finding the place, and when I walked in, I found Mr. Ogawa busy hanging up a few blankets. Just at that time a Caucasian tenant said that he was going to check out, and at the same time two Mexican men asked for his room. Mr. Ogawa brushed both of them off and said that he was "too busy, too busy" in his broken English. The Mexican boy said that Mr. Ogawa became so excited that he did not know what he was doing. I felt, however, that there was something else behind Mr. Ogawa's brush-off. This was confirmed in our conversation later. Our conversation was held in Japanese in his bedroom, which was rather nice, but not prepared for visitors. He slept in this bedroom with one of his sons, and both beds were not yet fixed, altho it was already 2 pm.

Is. "How did you manage to find this hotel, Mr. Ogawa?"
Mr. O. "I got this hotel thru an Italian Real Estate man. An Italian owned this place, and probably because he was Italian, and I was Japanese, he was glad to sell his lease to me. Altho he is able to get his citizenship, and I am not, he still feels that both of us are immigrants, and feels we are in the same boat."

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I have a 5 year lease on this place, and an option on the next five years after that. We made no agreement on the rent after the first five years because I did not know what the conditions would be at that time. He wanted to raise the rent, and I wanted to lower it. If at the end of five years he wants me out, he can raise the rent so high that I will not be able to pay it. There will be no agreement on my part and then he can rent it to someone else. But right now, I have the option.

TS. "Is this place pretty expensive?"

M. O. "I paid \$12,000 for the lease. This hotel has 65 rooms. At first when I moved in, four months ago, I did not know how it would be. I had a very difficult time. There was a little opposition to my coming in, and I was alone, so 24 hours a day I had to keep busy. There was a Salvation Army Captain who went around to all of the tenants and told them not to pay the increased price I was going to ask. There were several others who felt the same way. But there were also others who knew what the place was like, that we kept the place clean, knew our business, and welcomed us. They, in turn talked to other people, and after we stayed here for about a month, the people began to know that we did our business well, and now, about 2/3 of the tenants are satisfied.

"The profits now are just about doubled what it was when I first came in. The reason for this is, every time a tenant moves out, I raise the rent from \$14.00 or \$15.00 a month, to \$30.00, or \$1.00 a day. And each time one moves out, there are several who want the rooms. That is what happened right after the man moved out today. The two Mexican boys wanted that room, but I told them I was busy so that I will not give it to either of them until tonight.

There are several more tenants, besides the Captain, that I have issued notices, but they have not gone yet.

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Sasaki

Economic Adjustment.

TS. Is it as difficult to get started in business now, as it was when you first came over?

M. O. No, it is much easier. The reason for that is the fact that the Japanese are actually two groups, the isseis, and the niseis. When we first came over, there were just the isseis, and we had a difficult time. Every time we wanted to go into some business, or tried to get licenses, property, or got into a problem, we would be told by some hakujin that there was no business, and that would be all. We didn't know what to do after that. But now, the niseis, altho they still have Japanese faces, can understand English, and the hakujins will refer them to some agency who will take care of us. In other words, the niseis are making it much easier because they know enough themselves to ask questions, and they have made themselves known, and respected by the hakujin so that they will not brush us off anymore. Just the other day, one of the health officers came over for inspection and I talked to him for a little while about letting me know of some condemned hotel for sale. I wanted to get it for my brother-in-law, who is in Denver. You see, the prices on a condemned hotel is cheap, and with a little repair, here and there, you can make it pretty good. He said that he could let me know of the first one that came along.

Then, this business of owning several hotels is an easy thing. This hotel cost me \$12,000, but I only paid \$2,000 down. Now, if I wanted to buy another hotel, I can get a loan for \$6,000 by mortgaging this hotel. So, with an investment of only \$2,000 to start, you can keep on expanding. That is the type of business the other hotel owners are doing, Mr. Ishikawa, Mr. Sato etc.

And the profits is tremendous. I have owned five hotels already before the war. And I know just how much money they bring in in peace time. If this condition lasts for another 3 years, I will be pretty secure economically.

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Yasaka

Economic Adjustment.

TS. Who are your tenants, American, or Hakuins?
Mr. O. Except for two Mexican boys, the rest are all hakuins. Three or four Japanese families wanted to move in, and they told me to tell them as soon as rooms opened up. I called them up, and they said that they would come right over. One person told me three days afterwards that he found another place, and another person made me hold a room open for 10 days after which he told me that he found another place. You see, I lost money on both of these, by holding a room open for them. A Hakuin will not break his promise.

"I feel now, that this hotel should be run exclusively for hakuins, or nihonjins. And I don't think I can get this place filled with nihonjins, and if I have several families, the rest of the hakuin tenants may not like it.

"The reason why the nihonjin decide against staying here is because it is fairly far from nihonmachi. It is a good location, however, quiet, yet close to Broadway, and close enough to nihon-machi.

"We were interrupted by an elderly woman who wanted an extra towel. In the meantime, I saw a shelf made of glass holding some specimens of fossil teeth, tusks, sea-shells etc, and along side of this case, books on anthropology, and paleontology. I assumed they were his son's, who was now attending LACD. When Mr. Ogawa came back, I asked him, and he said that they were his. He collected them while at Hart Mountain. The specimens he had filled three cardboard boxes, and he said that he lost many more. He pulled them out, one by one, with a happy gleam in his eyes, and showed them to me, naming each specimen.

"Most of the tooth and jaw structures, he said, were those of the first horse. Other larger ones, including tusks, he said belonged to something else. Then he showed me a fossil bug, clams, periwinkle-looking shellfish, etc. He said that the territory around Yellowstone was under the jurisdiction of Princeton University, and professors ~~xxx~~ went there several times.

"When asked how he happened to get interested, He said that it began

Economic adjustment.

before evacuation. While in New York, he used to go to the Museum of Natural History, and found it interesting. Then when he returned to the West Coast, he picked up a book on paleontology and began reading it. Visited the La Brea Tar-pits, and the museum at the Exposition Park. When he went to Hart Mountain, and found the specimens, he became excited, and spent most of his spare time looking for them, and attempting to classify them. He said that he was amateurish, and spoiled many good specimens. Others, including a hiking party organized by Mr. Inoshita (an insurance man), found many specimens, said that they were interesting, and then threw them away. He, on the other hand, felt them much more interesting because he found pleasure in trying to find out what they were.

At 3:30, I took leave, and he asked me to drop around again when I had the time.

Los Angeles (1)
26 September 1946
Masaki

#97

Dilemma of a Nisei. -- JACL

In two sets of discussions, with two different niseis, found both of them bewildered as to the goals the niseis in Los Angeles are striving for. The first one, Ken Ushinomi, a kibe, about 26, came back from Chicago about 6 weeks ago because he was going to get drafted. Before the war he evacuated voluntarily, and stayed in the east throught the war.

Ken asked, and wondered why there was so little interest in the JACL. As for himself, he felt that the JACL made a pretty bad reputation for themselves before the war, and wondered if their personnel had changed. He had made no investigations to find out, and aside from being critical, made no effort to attend the meetings, or to find out anything about it. He criticized the niseis in Los Angeles by saying that they were only interested in money. At the boarding house he stayed while gardening, the only topic of conversation during their leisure hours was money. He said that he could not stand this, however important money was. He felt that man should enjoy himself, get away from fast living (earning money to Ken) and take in something that would advance a person. Here, in Los Angeles, everyone was in a hurry, but they all ended up going no-where, and doing nothing. He felt that when one stayed in Los Angeles a little while, they end up by doing nothing, and accomplishing nothing. He was glad that he was going into the army next week to get away from this "going no-where" attitude.

Later in the evening, I went over to Nobuyata's hotel room for a little relaxation, and found him in the lobby, or rather at the foot of the stairway talking to his brother and sister. Later on, the sister's boy-friend came and sat next to her. Shinji, the older brother wanted to know if there were many veterans having success with the GI loans. I told him I didn't know anything about it because I didn't inquire about it. Then he went on to tell me of his experiences.

"I applied for a GI loan to open up a service station. I had no trouble because I guess I had the experience. Most of the GI's who apply for a business

Los Angeles (2)
26 September 1966
Sasaki

Nisei Dilemma. Veterans.

loan get turned down because they have no pre-war experience in the business they want to start. Right now, there are a number who want to start a service station because everyone has money to spend on gas. I wondered how the other nisei veterans were getting along in getting loans for homes.

Bob, from here on monopolized the conversation. He wanted to know where the niseis were heading. He felt that the niseis working as gardeners were not getting anywhere. Five years from now they will be the same as they are now. The stores in Nihon-machi he feels are the same now as they were 10 years ago. He says that he is confused over what the niseis actually want.

About the JACL, Bob feels that there must be something to it for the reasons. Many people blame the JACL for the evacuation. They feel that they were responsible for many things. Yet, Bob knows that there must be something to the JACL because it is the only one who represents them in Washington, and they are pushing the various bills. Why, he asks, are the people still criticizing them.

Everyone he has talked to, are against the JACL, yet they do not attend the meetings. He would like to know more about it, but does not know how to learn about it. The editorial pages interest him, but he has difficulty in understanding them many times. He too, as Ken, feels that everyone is only interested in money, and are going fast nowhere. What to do about it? He has no solution, and should have a little guidance.

He spent two years in Chicago, and feels that there are better opportunities for advancement economically, as well as socially in the east. Yet, he came back because of his parents. Now, he feels that he will have to resign himself to a closed-Nihonmachi sort of life.

Los Angeles (1)
September 16
1941

#98

JACL.

A dinner was sponsored tonite by the business-men of Little Tokyo, and other er-twhile leaders of the Japanese community. This dinner was in honor of Mike Asaka, and it was an opportunity for him to speak to the select group to present the problems facing the Japanese as well as to ask for funds to continue the work of the JACL.

When I got to the old room of the Bow Inn, the meeting was already in session. Asaka was speaking. There were about 25 is-seis already present. As time passed, more came until altogether there were about 50.

Asaka gave somewhat the same talk that he has been giving in other cities of California. He talked of the migration bill, the execution claims bill, Reproduction 15 etc. Then he went on to tell what part JACL had in these legislative matters. He told them the expenses necessary to carry on the work and gave them examples of the Chinese, who raised and sent over one million dollars to push thru their claims for citizenship. Since their rights to citizenship was granted, very few applied for citizenship, but because of their "right to citizenship", Chinese businesses have cropped up all over the country. Therefore, he stressed, money spent on JACL, even gains for each individual the right to make a living, if the naturalization bill is passed. He spoke cleverly, and impressed all of the is-seis present.

Asaka had to leave to speak to the Church Federation, and promised to return in an hour when after the dinner they could ask him questions.

In the meantime, Eiji Tanabe translated Asaka's speech, and much discussion passed back and forth between is-seis during the dinner. Every point brought out by Tanabe was met with an approving nod by the is-seis present.

When Asaka returned, the meeting was taken over by Muraoka, lawyer, who led in the discussion (Zadankai). He asked for opinions, and soon talk flowed freely between the members present.

Los Angeles (2)
27 September 1966
Asaka

J aol.

The first speaker wanted to know why he was not charged the regular \$2.50 for applying for the first papers. This, he said was crossed off. Asaka said that Los Angeles was the only place that had this happen, and that he would send a wire to Philadelphia to look into this.

The second person, Shimizu, lawyer, wanted to know if any action were being taken about restrictive covenants. Asaka said that thru grapevines, he had heard that something was being done, and it would be defeated. However, groups would put pressure to keep Nihonjins out of certain places.

Rev. Amazaki made a resolution that those present support the J aol. This was seconded by Ongoro Akamura. A lengthy discussion followed and at times got so furious, that people were shouting at each other across the table. The point for the hot debate was CRDU vs J aol. Many were confused, especially those in the outlying areas over the two groups. They feel that they are competitive groups. When donations are asked from one organization, it is duplicated by the other, and on the surface appear to be doing the same thing. What one should they support? Akamura asked that they not deviate from the original resolution, namely, that this group support the J aol, not to form a Senkai. What could come later. However, some of the issues felt that the differences between the CRDU and J aol should be made clear before any such resolution be passed.

Finally, Mr. Akahoshi, one of the original members of the CRDU had to explain the CRDU's position. He said that it was organized because they could not wait for much grass to pass under their feet. That the money gained would eventually pass to the J aol. At that time, several cases were piling up, and funds had to be raised. When he was thru, Mr. Akamura again asked that they not deviate from the original resolution. This finally brought the members to pledge full-support to the J aol, a committee of 11 was chosen. Finally they parted to different parts of the restaurant to carry on the discussion.

Los Angeles (x)
September 16
1947
S. K. I.

Journal

Mike Asaka stressed in his talk that their books were checked by their own auditors, CPA, and three government checks each year. Therefore, the money was safe, and they need not worry as to any crooked dealing.

After the meeting, I chatted with Asaka for a few minutes. He said, "I thought Los Angeles was tough, but look at this, they're giving us their full support."

Because of the necessity for quick action, the issue is decided to do something about it tonight, which accounted for the meeting after the regular meeting was over. When Asaka said that valuable time was being lost in his being on the West Coast soliciting funds, he could be in the south, in Texas, Georgia, getting and organizing groups to support the measures designed to help the Japanese. Two, three and four years later, members of relocation, the hibakid etc would be duller, therefore it was imperative that action be taken now.

Los Angeles (1)
September 16
1946
#99

Economic Losses During Evacuation.

I went to the CRDU office in the Miyako Hotel to check on the time for the dinner given in honor of Mike Asako, and finding Mr. Iijima, the Executive Secretary resting from work, I engaged him in a conversation. He welcomed the rest, and was anxious to talk about some cases that had come in to the office, altho he did not give names.

Mr. I. "Some very interesting cases come to this office. All of them begin the same way, they lost their stored goods, but everyone of them lost them in a different way.

"For instance, there was one man who entrusted his house and property, all of his furniture etc to his neighbors, the President of the American Society and Principal of the High School. They had known this neighbor for over 20 years. When they came back, all of these things were gone, including the house. The property is still there, of course, but the house was gone. He does not know where it went to, but he thinks that the man sold the house, but didn't sell the property because it could not be moved.

"There was another family who came in from Glendale. The people in Glendale bought property and building for a Gakuen (School) for \$11,000. The building has been moved somewhere, and they do not know where it is.

"When there is a case like this. The other day an old man with a cane carrying a baby came in leading an old woman who was partially blind. They came all the way from Long Beach where they live in a trailer camp. I asked then what I could do for them, and they said that they are without funds, and the man cannot work because he has to spend all of his time taking care of the baby because his wife is blind.

"When I asked him for his story, he said that he had an only daughter that married a G.I. That was while they were still in camp. Soon afterwards, the boy was sent overseas, and he was killed. In the meantime, the girl bore a child, and died after it was born. So the parents had to take care of it.

Los Angeles (2)
September 16
Tokyo

Economic Losses during vacation.

"Checks used to come in regularly, but they stopped coming. They went to the YOMWAN (Old People's Home), but they said they would not take the child, so they left. They went to the orphanage, and found that they would take the child, but would not take them. Then in desperation, they came to this office.

"I got mad and took them in the car to the Veterans Administration and told them that I wanted to see the man in charge. They told me he was busy so I told them I would wait. I waited for 3 hours. By that time I was fuming, and told the story. The captain said that he would wire tomorrow. I told him that I wanted him to wire right now, that I would wait for the answer. He insisted that he was busy, and would not be able to wire until that night. I was equally insistent, and said that I would wait until the answer came.

"Washington straightened things out, and the man got his checks again. You see, this office not only makes a survey of economic losses, but is a center for straightening out quite a few other things. It is very interesting to see different people come in every day, each with a little different type of a story.

Economic Adjustment.
Continuation

M. I. Iijima is a thin man, about 5'6" tall, speaks good English, and excellent Japanese. He was sent to New York, and then to Japan for a year, to work in the Moritake Chinaware Company as a prospective business leader. During this time he is said to have gotten the opportunity to inflate his ego and he was sent back. In the words of one issei, "he was returned because he could not fulfill his duties." Then he went to work for the Minamoto food seasoning company. He earns \$275 a month as Executive Secretary for the CRDU.

I asked M. I. Iijima about his own living condition, knowing full well that he lived in a hotel on Miller Street, a block away.

M. I. Iijima's pay \$2.00 a night for our room, which is very small, about 10' x 12'. There is myself, my wife and two kids. We can't cook because there are no facilities for cooking. It is just one bedroom. So, we have to eat our meals out. For dinner and supper, it costs us .75 cents a meal for my wife, and .75 a meal for myself. That is \$3.00. For breakfast, it is .50 a piece. Then for the kids, it costs at least \$1.00 a day each. So, it costs us just about \$6.00 a day for meals only. When you add up our cost for the room, and meals, it amounts to quite a bit. Then, there are other things, expenses that are necessary, and when we add it all up, it costs us about \$250 to \$300 a month just to live.

Is there must be quite a few others like yourself.

M. I. Iijima: "Yes, all around here are families living just like us. They can't save a thing. All of their money go to paying for living expenses. That is the bad thing right now. Housing is so short that because they cannot cook for themselves, they have to eat out, and jumps up expenses. But when one spends all he makes on rent, and food, he cannot put away anything for a time when housing does open up.

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27 September 196
Sasaki

JACL
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I inquired of Mr. Iijima how he thought the JACL would get along. I told him I felt that they were getting the backing of the is-eis, but wasn't sure.

Mr. Iijima said that JACL would never be organized in Los Angeles. It would never gain support. I took this, of course with all of Mr. Iijima's biases since at present, there is existing a feud between the two organizations (CRDU and JACL). When I asked him why he thought that way, he attributed it to the leadership in JACL. This is the same criticism given by JACL against the CRDU. Siji Tanabe, according to Mr. Iijima, was executive secretary of the Central Japanese Association, just before evacuation. People expected leadership from this organization since it was the first time that anything like evacuation took place. But, Mr. Iijima states, Siji Tanabe packed his bag and evacuated voluntarily. This left a bad taste in the mouth of many a person. People don't forget those things, and it will be unlikely that they will give the JACL support when Scotty Tsuchiya leaves. His sincerity, and work for the Japanese have caused many people to support JACL now, but when he leaves, it will be a different story.

On 24 September after the meeting at Santa Ana, and noodle at the Bamboo room, Tanabe took me home. I asked him why he came back to Los Angeles, and he said that it was because of the insistence of his wife. He didn't care what sort of job he got, but had had experience as a gardener and did gardening work for a month. He said that he evacuated voluntarily to Spokane and did gardening work there until he got the teaching job at Richland.