

OCTOBER 22 -- (1)

Dr. Hachiro Yuasa spoke to an audience of approximately seven hundred men and women this afternoon in the school auditorium. The highlights of his speech are recorded below:

1. In New York he saw a letter written in Japanese. This letter had been picked up probably in Attu. It was a letter sent to a Japanese soldier by his ^{younger} sister, who lived in Niigata prefecture. The writer seemed to be a graduate of high school, and now was working in a defense factory near her home town.

Continued
The letter began with a description of the coming of Spring in the countryside. It mentioned wild flowers blossoming in the fields beautifully. Then, it went on to describe the Doolittle bombing expedition.

"A bombing raid --- for this we waited and waited every day --- has come. A plane visited our town with roaring sound. Then we heard a roaring 'boom', shattering our ear drums, in the direction of the Nakatsugawa River. Then another booming sound. The sound of the plane waned. We rushed to the direction of the sounds to see what happened. We were curious. When we arrived at the place, there were already many people around a gaping hole. It was in the middle of field (probably rice field). The other bomb fell in the river. My dear brother, the American airmen have myopia. They had come down to the low level to bomb, but they missed the target. It was clear that they had aimed at the railroad bridge spanning the river."

It was presumed that this is the plane that landed in Siberia. (This part of Yuasa's ^{speech} made a great impression on the audience. They seemed to like it. Hearty laughs were heard several times.)

The letter continued with an information that a new, neat, but not large, administrative building of the town had been built.

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Yuasa commented that Japan had enough energy to spare to built town buildings, although it is popularly believed that the whole country has been geared to the war efforts.

The Japanese girl, then, explained the approaching election of town Councilmen. She said posters were put on all over the town, asking the voters to cast their ballots for this or that candidate. 'I am a woman, and I don't pretend to know anything about the politics. (Yuasa -- It was obvious that she knew a great deal, but for femine propriety she denied her knowledge.) But I do know that when women were given rights to voice their opinions on national affairs, Japan would be a better country among the nations of the world."

The girl concluded her letter with a prayer for the safety of her brother. "I don't know where you are right now. But please take care of yourself and serve our country with your best." (This concluding sentence moved the audience.)

2. The Japanese people are troubled with intellectual myopia. When they speak of Japan, they say "the Great Japan". They study, and were taught to study, the history of Japan by itself. They forget that there are the history of Greece, that of Rome, that of France, and so on besides the history of Japan. The Japanese people must learn to see their history in terms of these other histories. To see themselves within a ^{whole} sphere of the international world is essential to get along with others.

3. The Nisei of high school age are disgusting. They cannot speak neither English nor Japanese. "I refused to talk to these students, because to speak to any persons who have no command of a language is very dangerous." The Japanese people have had a great trouble with English. They had a tendency to say "yes"

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to any statement made by foreigner. ("Hai" is translated as "yes". But the "Hai" Yuasa meant in this instance is the one with a connotation of "I understood you" without any future commitment or moral obligation.) This "yes, yes, yes" caused many misunderstandings between the Japanese and the foreigner. This could be one of the factors which caused an impression to the outside world that the Japanese do not live up to their promises.

4. There are only few foreigners who understood Japan and the Japanese. Joseph R. Crew is one of those few who knew Japan well. In his "Ten Years in Japan", Yuasa received an information that the war began on October 25. The Emperor is peace-loving, and edicted to preserve peace at any cost. But the militarists disobeyed the Imperial edict.

5. Christianity is officially recognized as one of the national religions of Japan. There are at least 300,000 Christians in Japan and the number is steadily increasing. Many bibles written in Japanese have been recovered by the American invasion forces on the battlefields. Yuasa has seen two pocket-size bibles in Japanese that had been picked up at Attu. These bibles had many underlines marked in them; it indicated that the soldiers of the Japanese army are allowed to pursue their own religion even on the battlefields. In order to lead the future Japan, the Japanese must become true Christians. "If you are to remain as half-baked, hypocritic Christians, you are worse than true Buddhists." (Many of the audience, except church goers, did not accept this conclusion.)

April 18

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A regular meeting of the Block Managers was held this morning from 9 o'clock in the conference room of the Unit Administration Building.

It was decided by the Managers to hold their meeting from 9:30 A. M. hereafter. It was difficult, they said, to get up early enough to come out there on time, if it was held at 9 o'clock.

Comments
Sakai announced that there would be no departure of relocations tonight, because the special train was postponed for one day on account of troop movement.

Sakai read a letter from the Community Council of Heart Mountain to the Community Council here, which was referred to him. The Council wanted to know

1. Whether the residents here had gotten linoleum flooring in their apartment.
2. Whether they are supplied amply and regularly with buckets, brooms, etc.
3. Whether they get ^{an} adequate supply of soap.
4. ^hWhether they have wire screens on their windows.

From the context of the letter it was obvious they are complaining about those things at Heart Mountain. At Poston, we have no com-

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~~pl~~aints about those things except soap. The residents realize that soap is hard to obtain even on the outside, although they complain about it sporadically for a good measure. The Supervisor had been placing orders for soap at the beginning of every fiscal quarter, but he had been notified that it was impossible to purchase it in big quantities.

Yanamoto of Block 11 expressed his appreciation for the donations to the Mitani family who left for Crystal City on April 14.

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March 23

The following article appeared in the Colorado Times of

March 18, 1944:

MARCH 23 -- (3)

Denver has 1,083 of the Japanese relocated from the West Coast two years ago and later released to support themselves, the second largest number among all cities in the United States, Secretary Ickes disclosed in Washington Thursday.

The relocated population was more than three times as large as Denver's prewar Japanese population, and brought the total of persons of Japanese blood in the city to approximately 1,400. The 1940 census listed 323 Japanese as Denver residents.

Ickes said more than 21,000 of the 112,000 people of Japanese ancestry removed from the West Coast to relocation centers early in 1942 are now living and supporting themselves outside the centers.

Colorado and Utah received the largest number among the 7,000 who relocated in the Rocky Mountain states, but the state totals were not included in press dispatches. Others have sought homes in states farther east, particularly Illinois, Ohio and Michigan.

The report stated Chicago, where more than 3,500 are now living, has been the most popular city. After Chicago and Denver, cities in which considerable numbers have relocated are Cleveland, 787; Salt Lake City, 740; Detroit, 531; Minneapolis, 464; New York City, 406; and Washington, 150.

More than 19,000, the Secretary said, have been granted indefinite leave to establish homes in communities scattered from the eastern boundary of the exclusion area to the Atlantic Coast. On seasonal leave mainly as farm workers are between 2,000 and 3,000 others, while an army battalion composed entirely of Americans of Japanese descent has already served in the Italian campaign.

Ickes said that of the employable men granted leaves, more are engaged in agriculture than in any other occupation.

"A fact that has been widely overlooked," Ickes said, "is that these people are mainly American citizens, entitled to the ~~rights~~ rights specifically guaranteed to all American citizens. Fully two-thirds of them were born in America, and 72 per cent of these native-born Americans have never seen Japan."

Ickes emphasized that both the citizens and the aliens have been carefully screened and "only those who are loyal citizens or law-abiding aliens are receiving permission to relocate."

"It has never been the intention of the government to hold these Japanese in relocation centers longer than was needed to segregate those whose sympathies lay with Japan from those whose sympathies lay with the United States, and to make arrangements for the resettlement of those eligible for leave," Ickes said.

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The following articles should be noted in the Poston Chronicle of today:

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171 Pass, 50 Rejected Sunday (page 1)

1944 Rice Allocations Announced (page 1)

Washington Analyst Visitor Here (page 1)

Horse Laugh (page 3)

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An editorial, "Tragedy in Sicily", which appeared in the Los Angeles Examiner of March 21, is receiving a considerable attention of many residents here --- the Issei and the Nisei. The sentences which especially interested them are reproduced here.

"Eight months after the event, the American people have learned that through a Tragic Error twenty-three of our ~~own~~ transport planes were shot down by our own anti-aircraft fire with the loss of four hundred and ten young American lives."

". . . what the people cannot accept without censure is the indefensible and unpardonable SUPPRESSION of the facts for over eight months --- facts which were at last revealed apparently in accidental disclosure."

"This is not the only instance of the suppression of vital information."

"The disturbing thing is that they do not GET the news promptly in any event, and NOW THEY MUST SUSPECT AND EVEN CONCLUDE THAT THEY DO NOT GET SOME OF IT AT ALL."

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Feb 25
Local Council
Meeting

The Spanish Consul wrote to "the Spokesman for the Residents" requesting him to send him ^a ~~the~~ list of the Japanese nationals in the center and ^a ~~the~~ list of those who had applied for repatriation through other agencies than the Spanish authorities. According to Okamoto, Burge was reluctant to have anyone furnish the requested lists to the Consul. Burge showed Okamoto a letter written by the Project Director to the Consul on February 15

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on the following three points, which had been requested by the Spanish Consul on his last visit here in December:

1. A list of deaths of the Japanese nationals in the center was sent.

2. His request for a list of evacuees in the center must come through the State Department.

3. Lists of those who applied through the WRA had been sent to the Spanish Embassy from time to time, and the project deemed unnecessary to compile a new list.

The Consul's letter read by Okamoto was dated ^{on} ~~to~~ February 18, and the Councilmen thought these letters must have crossed their ways. They, however, advised Okamoto to write to the Consul for confirmation.

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February 14

Recent rumors I heard from residents regarding the conditions in Tule Lake are as follows:

Even the smaller children are talking about "status quo". It has become a catch word with the residents.

During the disturbance the canteens were open for business as usual. The volume of sales did not decrease. Many people in Tule Lake had become financially inconvenienced as the trouble prolonged without any sign of settlement. This fact alone was strong enough to convince many residents to vote against

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the status quo. "Nowadays we can't laugh at \$16-a-month wages, because that is the only source of income. People can't be too choosy, because they had to have this income to live. Many of them lost their pre[^]evacuation savings, or decreased their savings to such extent that they began to worry about money," one Tule Lake correspondent reported in his letter.

A Tule Lake rumor has it that a Japanese chef was found by the FBI for hoarding food which had been distributed to his block. The chef had been placed in the stockade, but he was beaten by other Japanese there as a conspirator who had worked against the interest of the fellow Japanese.

On February 1 the Elementary School began to operate.

As of February 1, about 4,300 evacuees are working on the project employment in Tule Lake.

At present there ^{were} 247 Japanese confined in the stockade. To date 55 have been released.

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JANUARY 19 -- (1)

5. Communication

A letter from Tule Lake to a Poston resident is reproduced here in parts:

" . . . In the near future this center will be settled fine by the controlling of WRA as usual as before. Yesterday the notice which is on the other paper was announced at every apartment. Every residents over 18 had taken a vote for supporting Status Quo or against Status Quo. Against Status Quo (genjo iji) won by 400 points in the whole camp. Every worker will go back to their works, and confine will be disarmed soon. The school will be started next week. I surely glad every things turn in this way . . ."

(The following mimeographed notice was enclosed in the letter.)

STATEMENT

The responsible men of the various divisions and sections, after discussion and due deliberation at several meetings held, arrived at a conclusion that ~~the~~ the continuation ~~to~~ the Dai-hyo Shas' policy of "status quo" not only was and is unable to restore normality in this center, but have failed vainly in their attempt to release the "justifiable" colonists detained. Being unable to disregard the inconveniences and sufferings of the residents of this Project, we, hereby, have resolved to take the initial step in order to reestablish normalcy in this center by requesting all those various sections and division workers to resume their respective jobs immediately and at the same time try to expend our utmost efforts for the release of those "justifiable" colonists detained.

Herewith, we, the responsible men of various division and sections, make public our beliefs on the supplementary report. We, hereby, submit to all those colonists, 18 years of age or over, by secret ballot for your approval or rejection on the question of "status quo"

(Cf: January 17, page 1, the thrid item)

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Residents here have been complaining lately that the Christmas packages they had sent to their friends at Tule Lake did not reach them. Inquiries from Poston revealed that they have not received them. Many persons sent candies and cookies. Some sent Mochi to Tule Lake. The residents are accusing the M. P.'s at Tule Lake of "confiscating" them for their own use. I fail to see what the M. P.'s would do with the Mochi.

Jan 15

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R. H.

Masaki of Block 22, who had distributed the free calendars of the Poston Chronicle, (Cf: January , page) reported to the councilman that he had been consulted by General Manager Kato of the Community Enterprises as to the disposition of their calendars, which had been ordered by them to be distributed to the residents free in accordance with the request of the Local Council (Cf: November 17, page 6, the fifth paragraph). The Poston Chronicle had distributed theirs already, as Masaki put it, and the Community Enterprises did not know what to do with theirs. The Community Enterprises had received a shipment of 4,000 calendars, Masaki reported. The councilmen advised Masaki to distribute the calendars of the Community Enterprises in the manner he saw fit.

Jan 19

Local
Council
Meeting

Community
Enterprises