

26.15E

Disposition: (get details)
Hokazono moved to
Camp. 2.

POSTON TWO

July 31, 1943

*Belvin
Stavrik*

Memorandum To: Mr. W. Wade Head
Project Director
Subject: Mr. Rikei Hokazono, Block 215, 13-D

I am sending you a copy of the medical report of Mr. Rikei Hokazono, Block 215, 13-D, who was recently transferred to Unit Two at your request.

I also wish to report that Mr. Hokazono is getting along nicely with his block residents as well as the people in general.

James D. Crawford
James D. Crawford
Poston Two Administrator

JDC:tk

C
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Y

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION OF MR. HOKAZONO

Past history negative.

Symptoms in general negative.

Physical examination: Pulse 64, Blood pressure 120/68

Head - negative

Eyes - pupil reacts to light, vision, R-20/60, L-20/200

Mouth - negative

Neck - thyroid gland not felt

Lungs - clear to percussion and auscultation

Heart - sounds normal

Abdomen - no masses, some fullness in the right groin
but does not appear to be hernia

Neurological examination: Deep reflexes are all active
and equal. Patient has no tremors. Rhomburg is
negative.

Laboratory examination: Blood - Wassermann - Kline - negative.

Urine examination - sugar - negative,
albumin - negative, microscopic - negative.

He appears to be an intelligent, practical, and a rather sociable fellow. I have heard from others that he is a steady worker and has not been the type to change from one job to another. He states that he drinks alcoholic beverages moderately and does not do so to "drown out his sorrow". He states that he does not have periods of depression altered by elation but keeps himself more or less on even mental keel.

Impressions: (1) Physical examination - negative

(2) Vision - refractive errors; would profit by use of glasses.

(3) No gross psychiatric defects.

Recommendations: If desired, refer to Dr. Leighton for further psychiatric examinations. I, myself, would not have any good grounds on which to advise the patient to see a psychiatrist.

/s/ Henry H. Kazato, M. D.
Henry H. Kazato, M. D.
Chief, Medical Staff
Camp #2

POSTON POLICE
STATION COMPLAINT REPORT

Station: <i>Co. A.</i>	Date: <i>July 7, 1943.</i>
Complainant: <i>Mrs. Shige Nishi</i>	Address: <i>30-11-B.</i>

NATURE OF COMPLAINT

Rishi Hokegano 30-13-a
pulled my son James Bob. in
the tomato patch between 12 and
13 barracks and beat him about
the head and kicked him on
the thigh. He also threatened to
kill my son.
S. N. Shige Nishi

Action Taken: *Arrested.*

Station Keeper:

Commanding Officer: *Yoshinobu Ota*
(924)

July 7, 1943.

To whom it may concern:

This is to certify that Michi Tsunes,
aged 10, of Block 30-11-B. has been examined
by me and found to be suffering from
hematoma of forehead, and contusion
of the left thigh.

Tsunes Munakaei M.D.

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. W. Wade Head
Project Director

SUBJECT: Rihei Hokazono

The Block Advisors of Block 30 held a meeting on July 7, 1943. After deliberating on all of the circumstances surrounding the incident which caused the detention of the above-mentioned subject, they now feel that the matter is not of such a nature to require any severe punishment to be meted out to the offender. The Block Advisors therefore request that in disposing of the matter, the Project Director will exercise as much leniency as he may in good conscience, after giving due consideration to all of the facts adduced therein.

Respectfully yours,

M. Okamoto 1 child
M. Okamoto

U. J. Murakami 5 children
U. J. Murakami

M. Hoshino
M. Hoshino

R. J. Takeda 3 children
R. J. Takeda

Y. Akada 2 children
Y. Akada

CASE OF RIHEI HOKAZONO

There was a meeting in the Project Director's office on Wednesday, July 7th, presided over by Mr. Head and attended by some of the members of his staff.

Mr. Head explained the charge and Mr. Hokazono admitted his guilt, but explained the circumstances under which he had assaulted the boy, Bobby Nichi. Mr. Head, after asking Mr. Hokazono various questions concerning his record at Poston and previous to coming to Poston, and after hearing the tales concerning the assault on the boy, asked him to secure an attorney. Mr. Maeno, at the request of Mr. Hokazono, came and spoke with him.

The hearing was set for 1:30 p.m. July 9, 1943.

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On July 8th Mr. Hokazono was examined by Dr. Leighton at the request of Mr. Head. Dr. Leighton's report indicated that the defendant's mental age was about 12, that under the influence of liquor he is easily stirred to fits of anger and perhaps this is what happened in this case.

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July 9, 1943

THEODORE HAAS
Project Attorney

HEARING BY PROJECT DIRECTOR OF CASE OF RIHEI HOKAZONO
July 9, 1943

Defendent: Rihei Hokazono

Attorney: John Maeno

Interpreter: Jim Hahiro

Owing to the delay in Mr. Maeno arriving, the defendent was asked to give the facts concerning the incident.

Defendent sworn in.

Interpreter: What is your name?

Defendent:* Rihei Hokazono

Int. What is your address?

Def.* 30-13-A

Int. What is your age?

Def.* 56

Int. What are you doing now?

Def.* I am the Block Gardener.

Haas: Will you ask him to briefly describe what happened on Wednesday morning, July 7th.

Def.* In conformity with my work, at eight o'clock I started to irrigate the tomatoes and the Napa. That woman's (the witness pointed to the mother of the boy) son came by and I asked him to return a small whetstone back to me as my knife was getting dull and I needed to sharpen it. He responded to me by swearing at me and saying all kinds of swear words, such as "How the hell can I return this when I haven't got it?" and such other statements. And he was swearing at me so much that I got mad at him and struck him. He was swearing at me so much that I struck him with my right hand and struck him with my left hand.

Int. Did you kick him in any way?

*Defendent by Interpreter

(The mother of the boy was asked to leave the room.)

Def.* I don't know whether I kicked or not but the mother came out and she said that I treated her boy badly and she jumped on me and started to claw me like this (the witness showed his right arm). The boy was grabbing me by the legs and in order to free myself I may have kicked out with my foot but I am not sure. I cannot definitely say that I kicked the boy or not. I was quite excited at that time.

Int. And what then?

Def.* That was all with the small boy, but later on the big brother came to me where I was irrigating and he asked me whether I wanted to fight with him or not. "I have no reason to fight with you and I don't want to fight with you, so get out of here." But about ten or fifteen minutes later the older brother brought about seven of his gang to me and I told them that I did not want to fight and then he struck me in the eye and knocked my hat off. As I stooped to pick up my hat one of the others kicked me. Then I chased them away. Then a few minutes later the seven in the gang came back again and took my shovel away and then Mr. Ouchi, who is the Block Manager, came in and grabbed the shovel. In other words, I was irrigating when the boy tried to grab my shovel and I tried to hang on to it and Mr. Ouchi also grabbed on to it and stood in between the boy and myself, holding the shovel.

I knew that the Nichi boy was the leader of the gang and I tried to get the others to put their names on a piece of paper but they refused to do this. In this case the boys challenged me to a fight and so I told them that I wasn't afraid of a fight but before I would fight with them that they would have to put their names on a piece of paper which they refused to do. I also told them that I would fight with them that night but that maybe some of the boys would not be able to come. That is all that happened on Wednesday morning.

Haas: You haven't been in any trouble before?

Def.* No, I haven't been in any other trouble before, except that some people may say that I was in trouble over this event: that I was the Block Gardener and some of the boys would destroy the plants so I asked the parents to talk to their children to see that they did not continue the practice. I also stated to the parents that they should make them stop but seeing that the children did not stop, apparently led me to believe that they are doing these things with the consent of the parents.

There is also another thing that occurs to me. At one time I also had an oral argument with Mrs. Kido. It was the occasion when volunteers were being asked to assist in the school building project. Mrs. Kido was supposed to have made the statement, which I did not hear directly, that the Block Gardener was not an essential party in this block and so they could send the Block Gardener to assist in the school building project. I became incensed about this and I told Mrs. Kido to mind her own business.

Int. Besides this, have you had any other difficulties or troubles inside or outside the camp?

Def.* No, I have never made any trouble on the outside.

Head: Was he ever in jail on the outside?

Def.* Yes, I was in jail.

Int. How many times?

Def.* In 1932, when there was hard times, I over-parked my car and was fined \$5.00. It was hard times and I could not pay the fine and so I had to sit it out in jail to pay my fine.

Int. Were there other cases?

Def.* At one time I was put in jail because they said I was drunk.

Int. When was this?

Def.* I don't exactly recall the year, but I think it was about '34 or '35.

Head: In Los Angeles?

Def.* In Los Angeles. It was just at that time when the city of Los Angeles was clamping down on drunk people. They would pick up anyone that they smelt any liquor on his breath.

Head: You hadn't had much to drink, you say?

Int. Had you drank quite a bit at that time?

Def.* No, I wouldn't say very much, except I was returning from a party.

Int. Were you arrested any other times?

Def.* I was in the Bakersfield jail after the war broke out over a little trouble over the food in the Labor Camp. I was in jail about four weeks.

Int. Were you convicted on any charge?

Def.* They tried me twice and the judge explained that all the Japanese were to be evacuated and that they had to be in jail anyway regardless as to whether I had pleaded guilty or not so I pleaded guilty. Then possibly two or three weeks I stayed in jail. I was released from jail on February 22 and then I came to this project on May 25.

Head: How long have you been Block Gardener?

Def.* I acted as cook for about a month and then I transferred as Block Gardener and have acted in that capacity ever since.

Head: Are you a citizen of the United States?

Def.* Yes, I am a veteran of the first world war.

(RECESS FROM 2:30 to 2:45 p.m.)

Mr. Maeno, attorney for the defendant arrived at this point.

Witness sworn in.

Int. What is your name?

Witness: My name is Shizue Nichi.

Int. Where do you reside?

Mrs. N.* Block 30-11-B

Int. Will you explain briefly what you know about this case that occurred Wednesday morning?

Mrs.N.* I was home doing my work Wednesday morning when my son Bobby came to me and told me that this man (pointing to the defendant) grabbed my son. He was on his way to the summer school at the Toy Shop, making airplanes. The neighbor's boy, by the name of Jimmie Yamamoto, reported to me that my son was being beat up and for me to go over and bring him home. I rushed out and found my son on the ground in the tomato field. I tried to pick him up but he could not stand up by himself, having

been struck on the forehead (the witness demonstrated with her fingers). I was trying to pick him up and had him partly up when the defendant again kicked him from behind. I was trying to take my Bobby home but the defendant was trying to prevent me from doing so, so I grabbed him by the wrist and dug my finger-nails into his arm, causing the bleeding. As I am rather small, I could not take my son home so I went and called my husband who was still at home and I had my husband go out there and my husband asked the defendant why he did this. I later called upon the defendant at his house and he called me all kinds of names, saying that I was a prostitute. I know of this defendant since the time that he lived in Los Angeles and that his reputation is not very good. The defendant may not think that I know him, but I do know of him.

Head: What is your son's name?

Mrs. N.* Bobby Nichi.

Head: How old is he?

Mrs. N.* He is 13.

Maeno: Mrs. Nichi, the first time you saw the defendant on Wednesday was when Jimmie came to call you?

Mrs. N.* Yes.

Maeno: And when you went to this place where the defendant and your son were, you saw your son lying on the ground. Is that correct?

Mrs. N.* That's right.

Maeno: About where was this man here in relation to where your boy was?

Mrs. N.* As I explained, it was not in the field but off to one side of the tomato patch and he was wanting to hit my son some more.

The Defense objected: We only want to know how near the son was lying.

Int. How far away was the defendant standing from your boy that was on the ground?

Mrs. N.* He was standing about this far away. (The witness stretched out her arms a distance of 3 or 4 feet.)

- Maeno: If this was your son (placing chair), how far away was the defendant?
- Mrs. N.* He was standing about here, 3 or 4 feet away. He was standing just far enough away so that he could kick him if he wanted to.
- Maeno: Was your son lying with his feet away from the defendant or towards him?
- Mrs. N.* My son's foot was close towards Mr. Hokazono.
- Int. When you went to pick him up, did you pull him towards Mrs. Hokazono?
- Mrs. N.* Yes, I think it must have been that way. I don't recall definitely just how I tried to raise him.
- Maeno: You first said you didn't see your son at first, only Mr. Hokazono.
- Mrs. N.* Mr. Hokazono was standing so I saw him first, and Bobby was on the ground so I noticed him next.
- Maeno: As you pulled your son up, is that when he again kicked your boy?
- Mrs. N.* Yes.
- Maeno: And you were between your son and the boy?
- Mrs. N.* Yes.
- Maeno: And he kicked your son in the back, but he didn't touch you?
- Mrs. N.* I didn't want my son to be struck any more so I left my son lie on the ground and grabbed Mr. Hokazono's arms.
- Maeno: And didn't your son come and grab Mr. Hokazono?
- Mrs. N.* No, he could not get up and as he couldn't get up I went to call my husband.
- Maeno: Did your son and this man have trouble before?
- Mrs. N.* Yes, there was one time when this defendant complained to me about my son tearing out some tomato plants.
- Maeno: He is the Block Gardener there, isn't he?
- Mrs. N.* Yes.

Maeno: At that time you told him that boys are supposed to be mischievous and you weren't going to do anything about it?

Mrs. N.* No, I did not.

Maeno: Nothing of that substance?

Mrs. N.* I scolded my son and told him that he should not tear up tomato plants and asked him if he did or not and he denied that he tore up the plants.

Head: Do you think this man is dangerous in the block?

Mrs. N.* Yes, I definitely think that he is dangerous in the block and I, as a mother, do not want him back in the block.

Head: Did you attend the meeting in Block 30 on Thursday night?

Mrs. N.* No.

Head: Who were the people who called that meeting?

Mrs. N.* I do not know. I didn't go so I don't know.

Witness dismissed.

Witness sworn in. Mr. Ouchi, Block Manager (no questions as to name, age, etc.)

Haas: Were you present at the time of the fight?

Ouchi: No, I was at my office. This is exactly what happened. It was a little after 8:00 and I was at the office. The date was July 7th. A little boy who later I found was Bobby Nichi ran up to the office and said there was a big fight going on and wanted me to stop it. It was at Block 13, Apartment A, and Mr. Hokazono and Mrs. Nichi were arguing and Mrs. Nichi was there and also Mrs. Ramuta, the grandmother, and several people standing by the road - twenty, thirty or forty people. So I told Mr. Nichi and Mr. Hokazono to keep quiet and they were arguing about a knife so I told them, "If you are arguing about your boy stealing this, we will take it up to the police department." So they both went back to their apartments.

So I went to the apartment 11-B and Mrs. Nichi complained about how badly the boy was beaten and she wanted to complain to the Police Department and issue a warrant but I told her not to do that at the present time but when I came out of the barracks I saw the boy Hidao Nichi, along with six or seven boys with him, picking a fight

against Mr. Hokazono who had a shovel. I thought he might swing the shovel so I separated them but they kept on picking a fight. Finally, I subdued both sides. I brought the boys in front and I told them not to fight if they had respect for their mothers. But these boys are not a gang; they are just friends and finally the Nichi boy had tears in his eyes.

Head: Why did you put in that statement that they were not a gang?

Ouchi: They were not a gang. That is something else.

Head: What is a gang?

Ouchi: If they are picking a fight, they gang up, but these boys definitely told me that they were not over there to fight. Only the brother was there to pick a fight. Only one boy was going to fight, but Mr. Hokazono wanted to fight everyone around.

Head: Was that the first time you have seen Mr. Hokazono in that condition?

Ouchi: Yes, that is the first time I have seen him with my eyes.

Head: You have heard about it?

Ouchi: Yes, I have - at third hand.

Head: You called a meeting in Block 30 in connection with this?

Ouchi: Yes, this meeting was called.

Head: You led the meeting?

Ouchi: The Block Advisors requested me to hold a meeting for the welfare of the block to discuss Mr. Hokazono.

Head: You requested this?

Ouchi: The Block Advisors did.

Head: Who was the definite man who asked you to call a meeting?

Ouchi: The previous night they had a meeting.

Head: Who was the definite man?

Ouchi: Mr. Okamoto asked me to call the meeting, also Mr. Hoshio asked me.

Head: Who was the chairman in the meeting?

Ouchi: I was the chairman.

Head: You led the discussion?

Ouchi: I talked the whole thing over with Mr. Okamoto to discuss what happened at the Advisors' meeting.

Head: How did Mr. Okamoto explain it?

Ouchi: For the peace of the block, he wanted it to be handled in the block, but unfortunately it has been taken to police and it is out of our hands. The best thing we could do is to submit a memorandum to you and ask your approval, your leniency.

Head: A man breaks a law and the Block Advisors submit a statement like this to me. (See Exhibit). What is the meaning of this? How many people were at the meeting?

Ouchi: Forty-one.

Head: Were they bachelors, or were they mothers and fathers?

Ouchi: Both kinds. I should say those who live in the bachelors' quarters were there. There was about 6 bachelors.

Head: Did they vote that this statement be signed?

Ouchi: There was a big argument. Some said it was not a block affair.

Head: How do you account for only 41 out of 200 coming?

Ouchi: They were heads of families.

Head: What attitude did the parents of children in that block take?

Ouchi: They definitely felt that some action should be taken, but some didn't think so.

Some of the Advisors threatened to resign if this did not carry - to resign as Block Advisors.

Head: I am trying to find out if the fathers and mothers wanted this man out of the block.

- Ouchi: After the incident I gathered the children and explained the situation and when I got back I heard that Mr. Hokazono had been passing a note asking them to sign it to say they would finish the fight. But after I talked to them they did not want to fight. When the parents saw these things happen they got afraid and asked me, "How are you going to protect us?" At first the children were willing to fight, but not after I talked to them.
- Head: What do you think about this man coming back to the block?
- Ouchi: As I gather from last night's meeting, the majority of people do not feel good, but after we took a vote, there was 25 people who favored and 7 people who opposed, and 9 people who was neutral - but that was on this memorandum. But concerning Mr. Hokazono coming back to the block, I asked individual opinion and the majority expressed that since he was causing trouble they didn't feel like having him but they would like his sentence to be lenient.
- Maeno: At this meeting were all the various aspects of the fight between Mr. Hokazono and Bobby brought out?
- Ouchi: Well there was several things. It seemed to me it was more or less personal resentment.
- Maeno: Was it brought out that it was a grudge between Bobby and Mr. Hokazono?
- Ouchi: The word I gathered was that he accused the boy of stealing his knife.
- Maeno: Did you make some investigation, or was it brought out in this meeting whether it was a personal feud fight between the boy and Mr. Hokazono?
- Ouchi: My opinion, it was more or less personal to a great extent. It was more or less an expression and point of view.
- Maeno: Wasn't it expressed how dangerous this man was?
- Ouchi: Yes, those problems came up and Mr. Yamamoto presented the side to get Mr. Hokazono out of the block. Mr. Takeda presented the other point of view. He said this man should be brought back and let the block handle. He stated that he wanted Mr. Nichi to drop the charges and then the block would get together and settle the problem.
- Maeno: Did you go any further as to say what started the fight?
- Ouchi: Yes, it was discussed.

Maeno: Did it appear whether the boy was also at fault in this case?

Ouchi: Yes, I got the impression that they were unruly.

Maeno: You say there is no gang, but there is a group that play together?

Ouchi: Yes, there is such a group of older boys, but it is not a gang. Bobby has a small group, - Jimmie Yamamoto and others.

Maeno: Has Jimmie Yamamoto an influence?

Ouchi: Mr. Hokazono asked me if Jimmie Yamamoto found the knife and shortly after Jimmie brought the knife over.

Maeno: How long has Mr. Hokazono been in the block? Since last June?

Ouchi: I don't recall. I have been there since May 27th. I think he was around then.

Maeno: During all this time was there any other trouble between him and other children?

Ouchi: He had some trouble with the Yamamoto boy, or a visitor from Camp 3. There was trouble about playing the guitar until late in the evening. There was several complaints.

Maeno: This was the first act of violence which came to your attention?

Ouchi: Yes.

Maeno: Do you have trouble in your block over children not obeying parents?

Ouchi: Yes.

Maeno: How is Bobby Nichi? Is he good, or careless?

Ouchi: I could not say. To me he is a good boy. To others he is considered rowdy.

Maeno: Now in this memorandum you ask leniency. In this piece you intended to take him back in your block.

Ouchi: No, there was no such intention at the time this was written. I spoke to Mr. Yamamura and I learned that Mr. Hokazono has been charged and confessed and it is up to the Project Director to issue a verdict. That is how I presented it to the Block Advisors. They said then that since it is out of their hands that they wanted to send this memorandum.

Head: Before they prepared this memorandum, did they go into all of the details, or did they just have this drawn up and sign. Did they hear any witnesses?

Ouchi: Whatever I knew I presented, also what they had of knowledge of the children. Did not go into details.

Head: Do any of these men have children?

Mr. Ouchi marked on the memorandum as follows:

M. Okamoto	1 child
U. J. Murakami	5 children
M. Hoshio	no children
R. J. Takeda	3 children
Y. Akadaa	2 children

Head: Did you, as Block Manager, recommend they do this?

Ouchi: To satisfy majority block people, we did present it over to them.

Head: But these people do understand that there are certain laws of this state that have to be enforced. Do the people understand this? I do not object to them signing it, but I am interested in learning if these men tried to find out the facts before signing.

Ouchi: They tried hard to get the facts.

Head: They talked to you, but didn't get the real facts. I suggest that these men be subpoenaed.

Witness dismissed.

Witness sworn in.

Interp. What is your name?

Witness: M. Hirai.

Int. Where do you live?

Hirai: Bock 30-13-A

Int. How old are you?

Hirai: 45

Maeno: Mr. Hirai, how long have you known Mr. Hokazono?

Hirai: About ten years.

- Maeno: You have lived with him in Poston, together?
- Hirai: Yes, I live in the same house, in the same room.
- Maeno: Has he ever been what you would call a dangerous person?
- Hirai: He always play music and is always fine. No trouble at all.
- Maeno: You have never seen him strike children before this?
- Hirai: No, never before.
- Maeno: After you heard about this incident between Bobby Nichi and Mr. Hokazono, did you make an investigation?
- Hirai: No, I have not.
- Maeno: What do you know about this Bobby Nichi and Hokazono argument, if any?
- Hirai: I don't exactly know the date, but it was in the morning. I went to get the Poston Chronicle from the front door. I saw Mr. Hokazono with three boys, one of them being the Nichi boy involved in this case. I went inside and I could see through my window and I heard the Nichi boy and they was arguing about something. He was accusing him or taking something and the boy denied the fact. I started reading my paper and Mr. Hokazono and the boy went out of my sight. A little later on I heard something hit against the door and what sounded like a child crying, but did not bother to go out. Later the crying stopped and I heard some voices but I did not think this was much of an affair so I remained inside.
- Maeno: Did you hear Bobby Nichi say anything to Mr. Hokazono?
- Hirai: Yes, I heard.
- Maeno: Could you repeat as much as you can remember?
- Hirai: The place where I am at has a very low window and although I was reading the Chronicle I could not help but overhear the conversation. The boy was saying, "I didn't take it" and Mr. Hokazono was saying, "You took it, didn't you?" and that was repeated several times.
- Maeno: Was there any swearing by the boy?
- Hirai: The boy was quite angry and he was saying "God Damn" or something like that.

Maeno: Did you attend the block meeting on July 7, 1943?

Hirai: I do not know of any meeting before. Only the one last night.

Maeno: Did you go to that meeting?

Hirai: Yes, I went.

Maeno: At that time was the incident discussed fully?

Hirai: I didn't say a word but I listened to the others discuss it.

Maeno: At that time was the incident discussed by quite a few people?

Hirai: Yes, there were many people.

Maeno: And did they discuss about Mr. Hokazono himself and did they talk about Bobby Nichi and what kind of a boy he was?

Hirai: Yes.

Maeno: Did they discuss about how this little fight took place?

Hirai: The Block Manager and Block Advisors joined in discussing that fact.

Maeno: It was after all of those matters were brought out that they recommended leniency in this case?

Hirai: The meeting was opened by Block Manager and he announced that the Block Advisors had held a meeting the previous evening in which the circumstances were discussed and recommendation made by the group of Advisors. They had in turn asked for a meeting of the whole block in order that their recommendation might be approved or discussed, and criticized or rejected by the block residents. He then opened the meeting for discussion on all phases of this incident and that was how the discussion started and the recommendation passed.

Head: Does this man have a family?

Hirai: I am a bachelor.

Head: Does he recall in this meeting last night that Mr. Okamoto said they would resign if the people did not sign this resolution?

Hirai: No, I did not hear anything like that.

Witness dismissed

Witness sworn in.

Interp. What is your name?

Witness: Kuni Takahashi

Int. Where do you reside?

Takahashi: 30-10-D

Int. Are you married?

Takahashi: Yes, I have three children, boys - 18, 16 and 10.

Maeno: Have you known Mr. Hokazono for sometime?

Takahashi: I have known him for ten years.

Maeno: Have you any reason to believe he is a dangerous person?

Takahashi: No, I never did, certainly.

Maeno: In your acquaintance, have you determined any opinion of him as a resident and a neighbor. Do you have an opinion of him?

Takahashi: I have a pretty good opinion of him.

Maeno: Do you believe that he is a person who would be dangerous to children in an ordinary community?

Takahashi: No, he seems to like the kids and when I use to meet him down town in Los Angeles he was always surrounded by young children. He could put up with any children. If they do some kind of tricks to him, he always smile. You see, I have three children in my home and I do not want to have any dangerous man around our house. He would stay over night and we found him very friendly towards all.

Maeno: Here in Poston, too?

Takahashi: In Block 30.

Maeno: Have you had any opportunity to go around Block 30 and investigate how this matter happened?

Takahashi: No, I haven't because when I heard about it yesterday I was surprised.

Maeno: Do you know anything about Bobby Nichi or the Nichi family?

Takahashi: No, I don't.

Maeno: Have they good control over their children?

Takahashi: According to rumor the father has not much control over the children.

Maeno: Is the mother working somewhere on the project?

Takahashi: I have no idea.

Maeno: Do you have any idea what she was in Los Angeles?

Takahashi: Understand she was some kind of a waitress in a restaurant.

Maeno: Was the father working in Los Angeles?

Takahashi: I don't know. I was not acquainted with them.

Maeno: Do you have any other ideas?

Takahashi: The trouble is that he is too good natured. He is too kind hearted. Everything he has he gives away.

Head: Does he sometimes get angry?

Takahashi: No, I haven't noticed anything about him losing his temper.

Head: You think he is a pretty good man?

Takahashi: I think you could trust him.

Head: Does he like to take a drink?

Takahashi: I do not know because I myself do not drink.

Witness dismissed

Witness sworn in.

Interp. What is your name?

Witness: Keijiro Uyeno

Int. Where do you live?

Uyeno: 27 - 12 - D

Int. Are you married?

Uyeno: I am married, have one child, 26 or 27, not real son, but step son. Wife in hospital at present time. I am 53 years old.

- Maeno: How long have you known Mr. Hokazono?
- Uyeno: 21 - 22 years in Los Angeles, California.
- Maeno: Have you known him fairly well?
- Uyeno: I don't live with him but we use to see him in Los Angeles quite a bit.
- Maeno: Have you associated with him sufficiently to have an opinion of the type of person he is?
- Uyeno: Yes, I did not have any business relationship with him but socially he was one of my good friends as he was always happy and comical, in fact we sometimes called him "Chaplin."
- Maeno: During your acquaintance, have you seen him with children?
- Uyeno: No, not much.
- Maeno: Do you know if he is a person subject to violence, or violent actions?
- Uyeno: Up to the time he came here, I have never seen any evidence to point towards such action.
- Maeno: In Poston, have you continued to know and associate with Mr. Hokazono?
- Uyeno: Occasionally.
- Maeno: Do you know anything about Bobby Nichi, or his family or background?
- Uyeno: I didn't make any investigation on that fight. I just heard there was a fight.
- Maeno: Do you know anything that could give any further light upon Mr. Hokazono or this incident?
- Uyeno: From my acquaintance with him I could not believe that he is a person that would do such a thing and certainly it was a surprise to me and so I came to be a witness for him.

Witness dismissed

3:40 p.m. Hearing adjourned

CASE OF RIHEI HOKAZONO

MEETING IN PROJECT DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
July 10, 1943

Present: Mr. Head, Project Director

Block Advisors:

R. J. Takeda
M. Okamoto
U. J. Murakami
M. Hoshino
Y. Akada

John Maeno, Attorney for Mr. Hokazono (present part-time)
Thomas Masuda, Attorney acting for Mr. Maeno

Mr. Gelvin, Associate Project Director
Mr. Nelson, Unit 1 Administrator
Mr. Burge Unit 2 Administrator
Mr. Haas, Project Attorney

Head: We are trying to finish this case of Rihei Hokazono. I have your statement here and I just want to ask a few questions before we render a decision.

You gentlemen investigated this case very thoroughly before you made this recommendation? You went into it, each of you personally?

Ans. Not quite an investigation.

Takeda: It wasn't the complete investigation we made. We know the fact that the beating was done by Mr. Hokazono and it was from that fact that we know that he is going to be punished, but on the other hand, it was a worry to the community and for the older children that so much youngsters rowdy and other cases, that we thought that this case was better that Mr. Hokazono shouldn't be punished to the maximum that we asked your leniency.

Head: That's correct. I just wanted to find out, too, about the Nichi boy. What kind of a boy is he? Has he been causing trouble?

Takeda: I living next to both parties. Mr. Hokazono on south side, Mr. Nichi's family on the north side. I know both these parties, and also the boy. There is tomato patch between our barracks and Mr. Hokazono's barracks and Mr. Hokazono is raising all the vegetables for our block and has tomatoes getting ripe lately and lot of children go into patch and pick before he has a chance to furnish the block and kids come in and naturally he gets mad once and a while and I am told that

he has warned Mr. Nichi's family that their children go into the patch and pick the tomatoes and they had better stop. We know that this Nichi boy's reputation in the block among those sized children is not too good and when the parents do not cooperate with other residents to make more careful about their children's conduct, we understand why incident that Mr. Hokazono might get angry about it and took this action, so we thought that if Mr. Hokazono was punished to the full extent it would give the idea to the children that whatever they do the elders couldn't do anything to them and they would get the idea that they could do anything. That's where we ask your consideration and leniency to this decision.

Head: What kind of a man do you think Mr. Hokazono is?

Takeda: I don't like to answer everything myself. Mr. Hokazono, as far as I understand - I have known him in Los Angeles but I wasn't very well acquainted with him, not a friend - but since we came in here we lived together for fourteen months already and the idea I got of him is that he is very fond of children. I have three children myself. They are always going to the apartment and he always plays with the children. He plays mandoline - no, banjo - no, guitar, and he plays for the kids and ten or fifteen children go sing and have play.

This Nichi boy too goes to his apartment, so that means that he is fond of the children. In that case the children gets to like him. But incident like this, I don't expect to happen. He has been in harmony. Sometimes he talks right back but still he comes to terms with most any one. Someone was saying that these things might happen again from his character, but that I don't think so myself.

Head: Would you be willing to have him come back to the block to live? Do you think it would be advisable?

Takeda: The other night we had a meeting and Mr. Yamamoto, when we put this question up to the block, said that we shouldn't do that and if he was released, would we be able to guarantee that he wouldn't do anything again. That is impossible to guarantee such thing, but as far as I am concerned, we like to have the peace and harmony in our block and if the Block Advisors here would go between them and make the complete understanding to each other, I don't think such thing would happen again.

Head: Would you be willing to have him move back to the block?

Takeda: I think both parties could understand each other. If I may repeat it again, I don't think such things would happen again. I would rather go between them and settle this matter ourselves.

Head: Is Mr. Maeno here?

Masuda: No.

Head: Are there any questions you would like to ask for Mr. Maeno?

Masuda: Did the block have very much difficulty with that Nichi boy?

Takeda: Sometimes, yes.

Masuda: I understand he had gotten into trouble with other families.

Takeda: Several times. I saw once he was fight Mr. Eddie Yamamoto who left several days ago. He hasn't got a good reputation, the Nichi boy. I have a daughter in the same class in school, the 6th grade. If you check in the school I think you will find about his reputation in the classroom. Miss Graham was the teacher.

Masuda: How do your children feel generally? Are they afraid of Mr. Hoka-zono? Do they shun him, or do they like him?

Takeda: As a general thing, I think he was liked, but since this incident I think they are afraid of him now.

Masuda: Up to now, would the children have the tendency to make fun of him, or look down on him, or how was he looked upon by the children?

Takeda: I couldn't explain.

Masuda: I am trying to find out the general attitude of the children.

Takeda: On the one hand he plays with the children; at the same time he is raising vegetable for the block. Naturally the kids come in and pick those things up and he goes to chase them out and some of the kids get afraid of him, so there are two ways I think we have to explain how they feel.

Masuda: I think that's all.

Head: Who is the Chairman of the Block Advisory group?

Ans. No Chairman.

Head: Mr. Okamoto, did you know this family?

Okamoto: I know boys' mother and boys' father. She was working in cafe in downtown Los Angeles about fifteen years. The boys' father - they are now separated, they are divorced - he was working in vegetable retail store.

Head: What was her reputation in Los Angeles?

Okamoto: Father's reputation all right but boys' mother was working in kind of cafeteria. Among the Japanese community her reputation was bad.

Head: Her reputation was bad?

Okamoto: Yes.

Head: How long have they been separated?

Okamoto: Something like five or six years.

Head: Which one kept the boys?

Okamoto: The mother took care.

Head: This boy was about 13?

Okamoto: Yes.

Head: What is your personal opinion of the case?

Okamoto: I think among the Japanese community, two different groups. One Issei, educated in Japan. We got problem. Different opinion of such incident. I think people educated in Japan and people educated in the United States entire difference in thought. We Issei people think difference about guilty opinion. Since this incident occurred, some Nisei people, especially among our block, both in Hawaii and educated in the Hawaii, it seems that agitates among the block.

Head: What do they agitate?

Okamoto: I heard some people they tried to see your office yesterday for testimony, gathers whole bunch of boys and tried to testify about the difference for Mr. Hokazono.

Head: What makes you think that? The only testimony we have had in the case is Mr. Hokazono's own testimony, the mother's testimony, the Block Manager's and three witnesses for the man.

Okamoto: Of course you need boys' testimony, but some people tried to agitate in the block, especially among the boys. Otherwise we make peace for among the block. No matter how you decide on this case, we tried to work together for peace among the community.

Head: Had a case like this happened among the Japanese people in Los Angeles, what would the Japanese people have done? Would they have gotten together and settled it themselves?

Okamoto: Yes, that is Japanese style.

Head: Then it would never have been reported. Do you think that is a good way? What about the laws of the country in which they live?

Okamoto: My opinion, anything among the block makes consolidated or co-operation. In our block, four or five times we go out to the river and cut trees and make shade. Those seven people are against us - never cooperate with us. Last year since we came here we made sidewalks, bench, block manager's office shade. Those people never cooperate with us. Too much selfish. They think just of own family and themselves. They never think about how to cooperate.

Head: Would you be willing to have Mr. Hokazono come back to your block? Do you think it would be advisable?

Okamoto: My advice is to send him to some other block.

Head: What is the other block going to way?

Okamoto: He is a good friend of some other block.

Head: Which block do you recommend that he be sent to?

Okamoto: I don't know. His friend is . . . (something about Block 27)

Head: Mr. Akada, has this boy ever caused you trouble in kitchen?

Akada: Good boy.

Head: What do you think of Mr. Hokazono?

Akada: I think the same as Mr. Okamoto.

Head: Would you be willing to have him come back to Block 30?

Akada: Better go to another block.

Head: Why?

Akada: Never can tell when he could get mad again.

Head: What about the other block? He might get mad there. What am I going to do with Mr. Hokazono if every block feels the same.

Mr. Okamoto, what do you think?

Okamoto: Send him to another camp - send him to Gila.

Head: Gila won't take him.

Okamoto: Send him to Topas. (laughter)
Send him to Block 27. That is his lawyer's group. His character so far as I know is pretty good. I don't think any trouble with kids again. This case happened because he was block farmer. If he was not block farmer, I don't think any trouble.

Head: He has one difficulty - drink. Sometimes he gets whiskey or makes it. I think that is what makes people in Block 30 worry.

What would be your recommendation, Mr. Mr. Takeda?

Takeda: I can say that for his conduct I think the law will punish him and he deserves punishment, as as I said, considering all things such as after effects on the children and morale of the community, we should put this into consideration.

Head: What if we move him out of Block 30? What if the children in the block get it in for a new man? It makes me wonder whether we should move him out of the block or not.

Takeda: The way the block people feel, especially the mothers and small children, I can see that they don't like to see him come back. Most of the mothers feel that way about it. I have confidence that if this Advisory Board get together and go between Mr. Hokazono and the Nichis, to put them into complete understanding, forgetting everything, and to be in peace and harmony hereafter, I think we can do that. I feel confident we can do that, but of course, the other people, mostly the mothers and small children, may not think so. I don't think there is any harm coming from his return to the block, but on the other hand it may be advisable to move him to another block.

Head: Mr. Murakami, what is your opinion?

Murakami: On the last meeting Mr. Nichi told us that he would be more than glad to let Mr. Hokazono come back to Block 30 if we could guarantee that he won't do any more such thing. I don't know how the majority of people feel, but I myself think it is a good thing to let him return to our block. I don't guarantee, but we try to make him quiet and if he do such a thing again, we could punish him heavy.

Head: You have five children. Does your wife agree?

Murakami: I don't ask her, but I think she have the same opinion.

Head: Mr. Hoshino, what do you think?

Hoshino: My English not good. What said question?

Head: I would like your general opinion of Mr. Hokazono and the feeling in the block.

Hoshino by Masuda: I have known Mr. Hokazono only during the time he has lived here for thirteen months or so. I was not acquainted with him prior to that time. I live very close to him. I live in 12-C and he lives in 13-A and so I have had the occasion to see him every day and to become quite well acquainted with him.

My experience with him leads me to believe that he is a man of good character, that he is good natured and I cannot see how he would have any bad traits or bad characteristics in him.

As Mr. Takeda stated previously, he is playing the banjo quite often and his attitude towards children is very good and the children seem to enjoy going to him. For the period of thirteen months he was very peace abiding and did work for the benefit of the block. I am not here trying to defend Mr. Hokazono, but I wish you would go into the situation of this child. That Mr. Hokazono is a strong man and if he really wanted to hurt the child he possibly could have done so, but from the fact that this child, even on the day that he was beaten, went swimming, led me to believe that he wanted to chastize the child on behalf of the parents, rather than hurt the child.

Head: Do you know how many times Mr. Hokazono had talked to the Nichi family about the boy destroying his plants?

Hoshino* I wouldn't know.

Head: Would you recommend that Mr. Hokazono come back to live in Block 30?

Hoshino* Mr. Nichi, at the meeting the other night, said that as far as he was concerned, "if you can guarantee the safety of my child," that he would have no further reasons to have this man prosecuted.

Mr. Hokazono has expressed the desire of going on the outside. I cannot personally agree to his return back. On the other hand, If Mr. Hokazono did not return, I wonder just what affect it may have on the children. It may create within the children's minds that they can do most anything and the older people can't do anything against them. I would further suggest to find out how Mr. Hokazono feels about relocation out of the project.

I am more worried about the bad habits or pranks of the younger children in this project, rather than the bad things that older folks may do. I have heard that some of the pranks and habits formed of children 12 or 13 years of age have been very bad and that has been of much concern to me. I am afraid and concerned over their habits of playing with fire. The younger children, when I scold them, or others scold them, will mind and even if they have matches in their pockets will show them, but the older children take a belligerent attitude and will oppose what I do and continue on with their pranks.

Head: Have you talked with the parents of these children about what their children are doing?

*Interpreted

Hoshino:* That is the big problem as far as I am concerned; that within the block living as I do, that it is difficult for me to complain to the parents. The only way I can do is to get after the children themselves.

Head: Couldn't this Block Advisory committee advise with the parents and the children and try to get them not to do things like that?

Hoshino:* I heartily agree with that thought and this case gives us an opportunity to start such a program.

Head: Mr. Okamoto has recommended that this man be moved to Block 27. Do you mind if I go to Block 27 manager and tell him? No, seriously, if he comes back to Poston, do you feel that he should not go to Block 30?

Okamoto: You see, at this meeting, seven opposed. That means they tried to accuse him.

Head: Were they accusing him or pointing out that he had broken the law. I don't think they were accusing him.

Okamoto: They were accusing him at the same time.

Head: You tried to adjust it within the block, but you haven't succeeded. And you think Block 27 would be a good place to put him. We are not trying Mr. Hokazono as a criminal. We are just trying to do the best thing in this case for everyone, to make it fair.

Okamoto: Since we came here to Block 30, we think it is the best block in Poston. We are very sorry to make this kind of case come out.

Head: This is no disgrace on the block. The people should not feel it is, but I think the people should and must try to work out their problems within the block. But this man committed a felony. If it is a felony we have no authority to try it. It would have to go to court. But we want to handle the case right here. This meeting is not testimony, merely statements.

Mr. Masuda, is there anything else you want to bring out?

(Mr. Maeno arrived at this point.)
that

Masuda: This resolution/was passed. Didn't the group assume that Mr. Hokazono was going to be sentenced?

Okamoto: We were led to believe that Mr. Hokazono's matter was already decided, or was determined by Mr. Head already, and this resolution was passed merely to recommend leniency.

Head: All we had was a preliminary hearing. He told us the truth about the case. He admitted it.

Mr. Maeno, this group has recommended that inasmuch as you are Mr. Hokazono's attorney, that Mr. Hokazono be moved in your block.

Maeno: Do you know that I am moving out of my block, so that is all right.

Head: Mr. Maeno, do you want to bring out any points?

Maeno: I believe that all the facts that I would like to have brought out have been brought out and it gives you as complete a picture as we can give. There have been two faults; one by the man and one by the children.

Head: Would you like some time before the verdict is rendered to go into the block and talk with the children?

Haas: Mr. Maeno is leaving for a short trip soon and there are a lot of loose ends to clear up on his other business as he is leaving on Wednesday. I think that the Law Division can do some talking in the block and submit points to you.

Head: Would you like Mr. Masuda to take over?

Maeno: Yes, I have other business.

Head: Would you like to have some of the children on the stand? Would you care to do this?

Masuda: As these Block Advisors have covered that, I believe it is not necessary to have them in, but I want to show that the children need more attention to avoid another fight in the future.

Okamoto: From now on, we could go back there and in a short time get together and tell the people, and try to tell the mothers and fathers for their children not to do bad things any more.

Head: It will take three or four days for me to get this evidence. If any new evidence comes up on either side I would like you to feel free to come down and present it. I am expecting you men to take a fair view of this thing, either for or against Mr. Hokazono.

Okamoto: At the same time, we could use this incident to make some movement in the community, to have the parents take more responsibility for the children. With your recommendation to the Block Advisory Board, I think we could start this movement, whether this case is closed, or even before.

Head: That is an excellent idea. We are finding that when we go back in the Los Angeles records of these 16 - 18 year old boys' school records, that they have been in this sort of thing in Los Angeles.

Maeno: I had occasion to talk with Judge Scott of the Juvenile Division in Los Angeles. I accused them of their discrimination which has placed a large group of these people into Mexican and Russian lowest class immigrant group where all their playmates were "Zoot Suit" crowd. Since the parents of Japanese children were busy working, the children played with this crowd.

Head: Yes, we are finding this in our study of the background of these boys - that the mother did some kind of work in town and she wasn't there at home to take care of the children. In Los Angeles, did most of the mothers work?

Takeda: No, only a few.

Head: Those cases where they did work are causing us trouble. Here in Poston, instead of the family relaxing, it would be a fine chance for the family to regain hold of their children. When they leave this place, most-likely both of the parents may work and the children should have good training while they are here.

(The balance of the discussion was general and did not concern the case.)

Notes by: Dorothy Stevick
Dorothy Stevick

CASE OF RIHEI HOKAZONO

MEETING IN PROJECT DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
July 10, 1943

Present: Mr. Head, Project Director

Block Advisors:

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M. Okamoto
U. J. Murakami
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John Maeno, Attorney for Mr. Hokazono (present part-time)
Thomas Masuda, Attorney acting for Mr. Maeno

Mr. Calvin, Associate Project Director
Mr. Nelson, Unit 1 Administrator
Mr. Burge Unit 2 Administrator
Mr. Haas, Project Attorney

Head: We are trying to finish this case of Rihei Hokazono. I have your statement here and I just want to ask a few questions before we render a decision.

You gentlemen investigated this case very thoroughly before you made this recommendation? You went into it, each of you personally?

Ans. Not quite an investigation.

Takeda: It wasn't the complete investigation we made. We know the fact that the beating was done by Mr. Hokazono and it was from that fact that we know that he is going to be punished, but on the other hand, it was a worry to the community and for the older children that so much youngsters rowdy and other cases, that we thought that this case was better that Mr. Hokazono shouldn't be punished to the maximum that we asked your leniency.

Head: That's correct. I just wanted to find out, too, about the Nichi boy. What kind of a boy is he? Has he been causing trouble?

Takeda: I living next to both parties. Mr. Hokazono on south side, Mr. Nichi's family on the north side. I know both these parties, and also the boy. There is tomato patch between our barracks and Mr. Hokazono's barracks and Mr. Hokazono is raising all the vegetables for our block and has tomatoes getting ripe lately and lot of children go into patch and pick before he has a chance to furnish the block and kids come in and naturally he gets mad once and a while and I am told that

he has warned Mr. Nichi's family that their children go into the patch and pick the tomatoes and they had better stop. We know that this Nichi boy's reputation in the block among those sized children is not too good and when the parents do not cooperate with other residents to make more careful about their children's conduct, we understand why incident that Mr. Hokazono might get angry about it and took this action, so we thought that if Mr. Hokazono was punished to the full extent it would give the idea to the children that whatever they do the elders couldn't do anything to them and they would get the idea that they could do anything. That's where we ask your consideration and leniency to this decision.

Head: What kind of a man do you think Mr. Hokazono is?

Takeda: I don't like to answer everything myself. Mr. Hokazono, as far as I understand - I have known him in Los Angeles but I wasn't very well acquainted with him, not a friend - but since we came in here we lived together for fourteen months already and the idea I got of him is that he is very fond of children. I have three children myself. They are always going to the apartment and he always plays with the children. He plays mandoline - no, banjo - no, guitar, and he plays for the kids and ten or fifteen children go sing and have play.

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Head: Would you be willing to have him come back to the block to live? Do you think it would be advisable?

Takeda: The other night we had a meeting and Mr. Yamamoto, when we put this question up to the block, said that we shouldn't do that and if he was released, would we be able to guarantee that he wouldn't do anything again. That is impossible to guarantee such thing, but as far as I am concerned, we like to have the peace and harmony in our block and if the Block Advisors here would go between them and make the complete understanding to each other, I don't think such thing would happen again.

Head: Would you be willing to have him move back to the block?

Takeda: I think both parties could understand each other. If I may repeat it again, I don't think such things would happen again. I would rather go between them and settle this matter ourselves.

Head: Is Mr. Maeno here?

Masuda: No.

Head: Are there any questions you would like to ask for Mr. Maeno?

Masuda: Did the block have very much difficulty with that Nichi boy?

Takeda: Sometimes, yes.

Masuda: I understand he had gotten into trouble with other families.

Takeda: Several times. I saw once he was fight Mr. Eddi Yamamoto who left several days ago. He hasn't got a good reputation, the Nichi boy. I have a daughter in the same class in school, the 6th grade. If you check in the school I think you will find about his reputation in the classroom. Miss Graham was the teacher.

Masuda: How do your children feel generally? Are they afraid of Mr. Holmazon? Do they shun him, or do they like him?

Takeda: As a general thing, I think he was liked, but since this incident I think they are afraid of him now.

Masuda: Up to now, would the children have the tendency to make fun of him, or look down on him, or how was he looked upon by the children?

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Masuda: I am trying to find out the general attitude of the children.

Takeda: On the one hand he plays with the children; at the same time he is raising vegetable for the block. Naturally the kids come in and pick those things up and he goes to chase them out and some of the kids get afraid of him, so there are two ways I think we have to explain how they feel.

Masuda: I think that's all.

Head: Why is the Chairman of the Block Advisory group?

Ans. No Chairman.

Head: Mr. Okamoto, did you know this family?

Okamoto: I know boys' mother and boys' father. She was working in cafe in downtown Los Angeles about fifteen years. The boys' father - they are now separated, they are divorced - he was working in vegetable retail store.

Head: What was her reputation in Los Angeles?

Okamoto: Father's reputation all right but boys' mother was working in kind of cafeteria. Among the Japanese community her reputation was bad.

Head: Her reputation was bad?

Okamoto: Yes.

Head: How long have they been separated?

Okamoto: Something like five or six years.

Head: Which one kept the boys?

Okamoto: The mother took care.

Head: This boy was about 13?

Okamoto: Yes.

Head: What is your personal opinion of the case?

Okamoto: I think among the Japanese community, two different groups. One Issei, educated in Japan. We got problem. Different opinion of such incident. I think people educated in Japan and people educated in the United States entire difference in thought. We Issei people think difference about guilty opinion. Since this incident occurred, some Issei people, especially among our block, both in Hawaii and educated in the Hawaii, it seems that agitates among the block.

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Okamoto: Of course you need boy's testimony, but some people tried to agitate in the block, especially among the boys. Otherwise we make peace for among the block. No matter how you decide on this case, we tried to work together for peace among the community.

Head: Had a case like this happened among the Japanese people in Los Angeles, what would the Japanese people have done? Would they have gotten together and settled it themselves?

Okamoto: Yes, that is Japanese style.

Head: Then it would never have been reported. Do you think that is a good way? What about the laws of the country in which they live?

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Head: Would you be willing to have Mr. Hokazono come back to your block? Do you think it would be advisable?

Okamoto: My advice is to send him to some other block.

Head: What is the other block going to way?

Okamoto: He is a good friend of some other block.

Head: Which block do you recommend that he be sent to?

Okamoto: I don't know. His friend is . . . (something about Block 27)

Head: Mr. Akada, has this boy ever caused you trouble in kitchen?

Akada: Good boy.

Head: What do you think of Mr. Hokazono?

Akada: I think the same as Mr. Okamoto.

Head: Would you be willing to have him come back to Block 30?

Akada: Better go to another block.

Head: Why?

Akada: Never can tell when he could get mad again.

Head: What about the other block? He might get mad there. What am I going to do with Mr. Hokazono if every block feels the same.

Mr. Okamoto, what do you think?

Okamoto: Send him to another camp - send him to Gila.

Head: Gila won't take him.

Okamoto: Send him to Texas. (laughter)
Send him to Block 27. That is his lawyer's group. His character so far as I know is pretty good. I don't think any trouble with kids again. This case happened because he was block farmer. If he was not block farmer, I don't think any trouble.

Head: He has one difficulty - drink. Sometimes he gets whiskey or makes it. I think that is what makes people in Block 30 worry.

What would be your recommendation, Mr. Mr. Takeda?

Takeda: I can say that for his conduct I think the law will punish him and he deserves punishment, as as I said, considering all things such as after affects on the children and morale of the community, we should put this into consideration.

Head: What if we move him out of Block 30? What if the children in the block get it in for a new man? It makes me wonder whether we should move him out of the block or not.

Takeda: The way the block people feel, especially the mothers and small children, I can see that they don't like to see him come back. Most of the mothers feel that way about it. I have confidence that if this Advisory Board get together and go between Mr. Hokazono and the Nichis, to put them into complete understanding, forgetting everything, and to be in peace and harmony hereafter, I think we can do that. I feel confident we can do that, but of course, the other people, mostly the mothers and small children, may not think so. I don't think there is any harm coming from his return to the block, but on the other hand it may be advisable to move him to another block.

Head: Mr. Murakami, what is your opinion?

Murakami: On the last meeting Mr. Nichi told us that he would be more than glad to let Mr. Hokazono come back to Block 30 if we could guarantee that he won't do any more such thing. I don't know how the majority of people feel, but I myself think it is a good thing to let him return to our block. I don't guarantee, but we try to make him quiet and if he do such a thing again, we could punish him heavy.

Head: You have five children. Does your wife agree?

Murakami: I don't ask her, but I think she have the same opinion.

Head: Mr. Hoshino, what do you think?

Hoshino: My English not good. What said question?

Head: I would like your general opinion of Mr. Hokazono and the feeling in the block.

Hoshino: I have known Mr. Hokazono only during the time he has lived here
by for thirteen months or so. I was not acquainted with him prior
Masuda to that time. I live very close to him. I live in 12-C and he
lives in 13-A and so I have had the occasion to see him every day
and to become quite well acquainted with him.

My experience with him leads me to believe that he is a man of good character, that he is good natured and I cannot see how he would have any bad traits or bad characteristics in him.

As Mr. Takeda stated previously, he is playing the banjo quite often and his attitude towards children is very good and the children seem to enjoy going to him. For the period of thirteen months he was very peace abiding and did work for the benefit of the block. I am not here trying to defend Mr. Hokazono, but I wish you would go into the situation of this child. That Mr. Hokazono is a strong man and if he really wanted to hurt the child he possibly could have done so, but from the fact that this child, even on the day that he was beaten, went swimming, led me to believe that he wanted to chastize the child on behalf of the parents, rather than hurt the child.

Head: Do you know how many times Mr. Hokazono had talked to the Nichi family about the boy destroying his plants?

Hoshino* I wouldn't know.

Head: Would you recommend that Mr. Hokazono come back to live in Block 30?

Hoshino* Mr. Nichi, at the meeting the other night, said that as far as he was concerned, "if you can guarantee the safety of my child," that he would have no further reasons to have this man prosecuted.

Mr. Hokazono has expressed the desire of going on the outside. I cannot personally agree to his return back. On the other hand, If Mr. Hokazono did not return, I wonder just what affect it may have on the children. It may create within the children's minds that they can do most anything and the older people can't do anything against them. I would further suggest to find out how Mr. Hokazono feels about relocation out of the project.

I am more worried about the bad habits or pranks of the younger children in this project, rather than the bad things that older folks may do. I have heard that some of the pranks and habits formed of children 12 or 13 years of age have been very bad and that has been of much concern to me. I am afraid and concerned over their habits of playing with fire. The younger children, when I scold them, or others scold them, will mind and even if they have matches in their pockets will show them, but the older children take a belligerent attitude and will oppose what I do and continue on with their pranks.

Head: Have you talked with the parents of these children about what their children are doing?

*Interpreted

Hoshino:* That is the big problem as far as I am concerned; that within the block living as I do, that it is difficult for me to complain to the parents. The only way I can do is to get after the children themselves.

Head: Couldn't this Block Advisory committee advise with the parents and the children and try to get them not to do things like that?

Hoshino:* I heartily agree with that thought and this case gives us an opportunity to start such a program.

Head: Mr. Okamoto has recommended that this man be moved to Block 27. Do you mind if I go to Block 27 manager and tell him? No, seriously, if he comes back to Poston, do you feel that he should not go to Block 30?

Okamoto: You see, at this meeting, seven opposed. That means they tried to accuse him.

Head: Were they accusing him or pointing out that he had broken the law. I don't think they were accusing him.

Okamoto: They were accusing him at the same time.

Head: You tried to adjust it within the block, but you haven't succeeded. And you think Block 27 would be a good place to put him. We are not trying Mr. Hokazono as a criminal. We are just trying to do the best thing in this case for everyone, to make it fair.

Okamoto: Since we came here to Block 30, we think it is the best block in Poston. We are very sorry to make this kind of case come out.

Head: This is no disgrace on the block. The people should not feel it is, but I think the people should and must try to work out their problems within the block. But this man committed a felony. If it is a felony we have no authority to try it. It would have to go to court. But we want to handle the case right here. This meeting is not testimony, merely statements.

Mr. Masuda, is there anything else you want to bring out?

(Mr. Maeno arrived at this point.)
that

Masuda: This resolution was passed. Didn't the group assume that Mr. Hokazono was going to be sentenced?

Okamoto: We were led to believe that Mr. Hokazono's matter was already decided, or was determined by Mr. Head already, and this resolution was passed merely to recommend leniency.

- Head: All we had was a preliminary hearing. He told us the truth about the case. He admitted it.
- Mr. Maeno, this group has recommended that inasmuch as you are Mr. Hokazono's attorney, that Mr. Hokazono be moved in your block.
- Maeno: Do you know that I am moving out of my block, so that is all right.
- Head: Mr. Maeno, do you want to bring out any points?
- Maeno: I believe that all the facts that I would like to have brought out have been brought out and it gives you as complete a picture as we can give. There have been two faults; one by the man and one by the children.
- Head: Would you like some time before the verdict is rendered to go into the block and talk with the children?
- Haas: Mr. Maeno is leaving for a short trip soon and there are a lot of loose ends to clear up on his other business as he is leaving on Wednesday. I think that the Law Division can do some talking in the block and submit points to you.
- Head: Would you like Mr. Masuda to take over?
- Maeno: Yes, I have other business.
- Head: Would you like to have some of the children on the stand? Would you care to do this?
- Masuda: As these Block Advisors have covered that, I believe it is not necessary to have them in, but I want to show that the children need more attention to avoid another fight in the future.
- Okamoto: From now on, we could go back there and in a short time get together and tell the people, and try to tell the mothers and fathers for their children not to do bad things any more.
- Head: It will take three or four days for me to get this evidence. If any new evidence comes up on either side I would like you to feel free to come down and present it. I am expecting you men to take a fair view of this thing, either for or against Mr. Hokazono.
- Okamoto: At the same time, we could use this incident to make some movement in the community, to have the parents take more responsibility for the children. With your recommendation to the Block Advisory Board, I think we could start this movement, whether this case is closed, or even before.

Head: That is an excellent idea. We are finding that when we go back in the Los Angeles records of these 16 - 18 year old boys' school records, that they have been in this sort of thing in Los Angeles.

Maeno: I had occasion to talk with Judge Scott of the Juvenile Division in Los Angeles. I accused them of their discrimination which has placed a large group of these people into Mexican and Russian lowest class immigrant group where all their playmates were "Zoot Suit" crowd. Since the parents of Japanese children were busy working, the children played with this crowd.

Head: Yes, we are finding this in our study of the background of these boys - that the mother did some kind of work in town and she wasn't there at home to take care of the children. In Los Angeles, did most of the mothers work?

Takeda: No, only a few.

Head: Those cases where they did work are causing us trouble. Here in Poston, instead of the family relaxing, it would be a fine chance for the family to regain hold of their children. When they leave this place, most-likely both of the parents may work and the children should have good training while they are here.

(The balance of the discussion was general and did not concern the case.)

Notes by:

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