

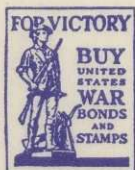
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NOTES ON MANZANAR DISTURBANCES

By Wm Lucy Adams



## NOTES ON MANZANAR DISTURBANCES

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(These notes are copied from the daily diary I kept at Manzanar. Those prior to Sunday, December 6th, are condensed, and include nothing except entries on manifestations of unrest.)

November 17 - December 5.

I arrived at Manzanar on Tuesday, November 17, to take the place of Dr. Carter, superintendent of education at Manzanar, while she was away on vacation. On reporting to Kimball, acting project director, he told me at once that some situations in camp were very tense, and he did not know whether immediate trouble could be averted or not. He knew some of the agitators but not all. They were clever in keeping under cover. He mentioned some of the incidents which had happened - some beatings, breaking of windows, intimidation of the police, the organization of the mess hall workers and their demands, accusations against staff members, and the fears of some of the people on the project that gangs were out to "get" them.

Mr. Merritt, the new project director, arrived the day I did, and I had no further opportunity for talk with Kimball before he left.

In the notes Dr. Carter left for me was reference to serious discipline problems among the high school boys. Next morning, (Wednesday) when I went round to visit high school classes, failure to maintain order was very evident in some instances. In one class, students got up and walked about, left the room, talked to each other, read magazines, while the teacher tried to conduct a class in mathematics. The boys were the chief offenders. Part of the confusion was due to the fact that the class was much too large, that there were not enough chairs, and some students had to sit on the floor, and that some who had chairs had no place to write. Other classes, under similar difficulties, however, were proceeding in an orderly fashion.

The boys' study hall was the worst. It was far too crowded. Very few were studying. Some were reading comics, some drawing cartoons, which they covered up as I came by, some were talking and moving about, or leaving the hall without permission. There was some scuffling in one corner, and a good deal of impudent staring and obvious defiance.

That afternoon I discussed the discipline situation with the high school principal and vice principal. They said it was one of their chief headaches. It appeared some elements in the school were out of control. Small gangs of older boys who had work permits and were supposed to be out on jobs were coming round the school and making disturbances. Insult-



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ing remarks against some of the teachers had been found on some of the blackboards. The walls of the boys' latrine had more than the usual quota of insulting, filthy and subversive remarks, some of them directed against the teachers, some against the government, some in praise of Japan. These had all been washed off, and they were trying to keep them clean.

At a meeting with the project educational council (composed, with one exception of thoroughly Americanized Nisei, the exception being an older strongly American Issei woman) I brought up the question of discipline in the high school, and found them very much concerned about it, but with no solution except to close the study hall and expel some of the more troublesome boys. Mrs. Kikuchi indicated that it was tied in with some of the growing unrest in the camp.

On the 25th, Mr. High reported to me a disturbance in the study hall in which one of the boys had thrown a heavy dictionary at the librarian who was attempting to keep order. The boy was thrown out by one of the Caucasian teachers and suspended. A gang was then overheard making plans to waylay the librarian that night and beat him up. Mr. High reported it to the police, but nothing happened.

In talk with various members of the staff I found considerable reference to Japanese insubordination, to supposed inability of some of the departments to control their Japanese personnel, to the unpopularity among the Japanese of some of those, like Togo Tanaka, on whom the project seemed to be relying for information. All this was fluid, and passed along largely as gossip or rumor. There was little or no indication of real uneasiness, and there was at least as much rumor and gossip about half a dozen other things.

Going round to adult education and recreation groups in the evening, I found most of these excellent and busy making plans for various activities like a bazaar, a Christmas program, training for relocation. In only one class did I sense a strong anti-American bias. This was an evening class in Spanish led by one of the block leaders. It contained such a mixed group of old and young and seemed to be so suspicious of visitors that I got the impression that a majority in it were probably strong Japanese Nationalists. On the same evening I visited the current events group led by Dr. Kondo and said a few words. They were discussing Wallace's speech, which Mr. Ferguson had had reprinted. I listened a while, and the man sitting next to me told me what they were saying. Here I got the impression that some of the people at any rate felt themselves a little island of democratic loyalty in the camp, and very much alone and on the defensive.

Next day Dr. Kondo came in to see me. He talked a little of what he was trying to do to get the people in the camp to see that democracy was the only way to peace, and what the United States was trying to do for



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all the people and nations. It was very hard and a lot of the people wouldn't see it because of what the government had done to them in evacuating them from their homes. I mentioned later to one of the Japanese that he seemed a very fine old man. She said, "A lot of the Japanese here don't like him." I asked her why, but she only answered that he had a lot of friends too.

Dr. Carter had asked me to take part of the session of her junior college psychology class, which meets on Monday evenings, for discussion with them of the report on the Fears of Tule Lake and its relation to Manzanar fears. I heard here the first direct expression of bitter feeling against the government, and of the conviction that no matter what the government might say about helping the loyal citizens of Japanese ancestry it couldn't do anything. The people in the towns would see that the Japanese didn't get a chance. They hadn't been able to do anything for the negroes. A couple of accusations were also made that the WRA had said it was going to do a lot of things but hadn't shown yet it could keep its promises. These were scattered remarks. The general discussion was sane and level-headed. Next morning one of the members of the class apologized for some of the remarks made and said it was outsiders who had come in and were 'just out to make trouble.'

The attempt to burn down the Co-operative store did not seem to add to the uneasiness among the staff, though I heard some talk that both the charter and the co-operative had been pushed too fast, before a lot of people were ready for it, and that it would be a mistake to push the camouflage factory. In general, however, Mr. Merritt's arrival, and especially his general staff meeting, the first held at the project, gave people confidence and a hope that things might be straightened out. He had been very frank in his statement of loss of respect for and leadership of Caucasian personnel, and of the critical state of affairs. He mentioned the emergence of various pressure groups which would necessitate a show-down.

During the ten days I met with various groups of Japanese - PIA, adult education, recreation, college, and with various camp committees - and heard a great deal of talk about the divisions within the camp itself, with allusions to Block 19, the Terminal Island gang, the San Pedro boys, Block 22, the mess hall workers, the linoleum crew, the Black Dragon society, and to various Japanese who were being threatened. Most of what I heard came up incidentally in the course of talk about other things. Any attempt at questioning was apt to be met with polite evasion or change of subject. I did hear several outspoken remarks that the trouble makers should be taken out of camp, and then things would settle down, and a lot of other differences work themselves out.

Saturday, December 5.

After supper in the evening at the Nielsens with Mr. and Mrs. Merritt there was some talk of the trouble which was threatening in the camp, and of



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the possibility of preventing it from coming to a head without a crisis involving the whole camp. Mr. Merritt mentioned some of the pressure groups and their demands and his refusal to bargain with them. While we were talking, Ned Campbell, evidently considerably disturbed, came to the door and asked Mr. Merritt if he could come at once. Some masked men had beaten up Fred Tayama and cut his head open, and he seemed to be badly hurt. Mr. and Mrs. Merritt left and I stayed on with the Nielsens for a while. Mr. Nielsen mentioned some of the threats he had heard were being made against some Japanese in the camp, and thought that some of the people who had withdrawn from recreation leadership jobs might have done so because of threats.

Sunday, December 6.

I spoke to Ned Campbell as he passed the house, and asked him about Fred Tayama. He said he would be all right, and they had some of the men involved in jail. Later, as I was packing up to move into Independence, Mr. Merritt came in to speak to me. He mentioned what had happened the night before, and that one of the men concerned was in jail in Independence. He had been up he said until 5:30 talking with the men who had been brought in trying to get a confession from them. While we were talking, Ned Campbell came to the door and said that Mr. Merritt had better get down to the gate right away because there was trouble brewing.

A short time later as I went to take my suitcases out to the car I saw men and boys running down toward the gate, and went over to see what was happening. There appeared to be a mob of perhaps 200 or 300 at the administration gate and facing them a line of soldiers with bayonets. Another two or three hundred Japanese seemed to be onlookers, and were scattered individually or in small groups round the administration building. A number of them were asking each other what was happening. Boys were crowding on the top of a car in front of the administration building in order to see better, and occasionally telling the people on the ground what they could see. A group of boys, some of whom I recognized from school, were gathered round the flag pole, I thought guarding it. People were crowded on the steps of the various office buildings craning to see what was going on. One group was crowded into a truck. Several men were haranguing the crowd in Japanese. One of them was an older man whom I had seen a couple of times round the camp, one was the block leader who had been the teacher of the adult Spanish class. A younger man I did not recognize. The speeches were all in Japanese, and called forth shouts of angry approval and exclamations of resentment. A Japanese next me said they were demanding to have the man put in jail last night released. In the front I could see Mr. Merritt's hat, and occasionally as the crowd shifted caught sight of him surrounded by four or five Japanese who seemed to be the spokesman for the crowd. Mr. Merritt seemed to be refusing something they were demanding.

Many of the people in the back of the crowd did not seem to be paying



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much attention to the various speakers, but were talking among themselves. Some of them were very bitter. Several times I heard angry remarks about the six months jail sentences given to three boys who had broken windows and threatened a policeman. I also heard references to one of the staff members, and the remark "they ought to get him out of here. He's no good." Some of the talk was going on in English, some in Japanese. There were several jeering commands from older boys to "Speak Japanese." Some of the later arrivals were angry at the rioters saying 'They'll make trouble for us. Why don't they have more sense?' One man several times cleared off the boys who were crowding on the roof of the sedan and denting the metal. An older man was going round telling the girls it was no place for them, and they should go home. Some of them left. A woman was trying to get some of the small children back. I had seen her at a meeting, and as she passed me she said angrily, "Those boys. Somebody ought to send them home. They'll make trouble."

I went into the administration building. About a dozen of the Caucasian staff were looking out of the east windows which were immediately above the edge of the crowd and the end of the line of soldiers. The soldiers had evidently had a hurry call. Some of them were in fatigue uniforms, some had on the army jacket over the fatigue clothes, some had not shaved. They were obviously angry and some of them excited. One of the staff members said that some of the younger Japanese in front had been jeering at the soldiers, and that some of the soldiers had shouted back 'Remember Pearl Harbor' and that it looked for a few minutes as if there might be trouble, but a sergeant had ordered the men to keep quiet and not to say anything. While I was there an older Japanese tried to get some of the young boys back into the crowd. Some of the boys were making faces, and there was some pointing at the soldiers and laughing. One of the soldiers was swearing continuously under his breath.

Mr. Merritt and the committee appeared to be reaching some agreement. The soldiers drew back of the internal security building, and lined up across the road there. I went outside to see what was happening. Tension seemed to have pretty well disappeared. Quite a number were beginning to laugh and joke among themselves. Some of them were sitting against the back wall of the administration building in the sun and not trying to see what was going on. Then a Japanese I hadn't seen before got up and began to address the crowd. A man standing next to me said he was telling them all to go home because Mr. Merritt had agreed to bring the man back from jail. A few minutes later the crowd began to disperse. One Japanese woman as she passed me said to another 'He ought not have done it.' I thought she meant that Mr. Merritt ought not to have given in to them.

As I was going back to the apartment a Japanese stopped me and asked if I had been to the PTA bazaar yet. I said I hadn't, and she said 'You had



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better go soon or everything will be sold.' Mr. and Mrs. Nielsen joined me and we walked over to the Bazaar which was being held in the Ironing Room in (I think) Block 8. Most of the things had already been sold when we arrived, and they told us there had been children's clothing, pyjamas, knitted things, painted post cards of Mt. Williamson, doughnuts, and they had made quite a lot of money. Apparently the bazaar had gone on without interruption during the demonstration at the gate, and the people did not seem to be at all excited. They asked us if everybody had gone home, and if there had been a lot of people there. They asked us if we would like to come and see the movie they were showing that night to raise funds. It was to be run twice so that more people could come.

After we left the bazaar we walked along the firebreak to have a look at the new judo hall. There were small crowds gathered round some of the doorsteps, talking, we gathered, about the demonstration. We went over to watch a game of football on the firebreak. That too had apparently been going on during the demonstration. There was a fair sized crowd watching it. Some of them had come directly from the administration gate. They showed no particular feeling because of the incident, and seemed very friendly with Mr. Nielsen. Several people came up to speak to him about recreation events which were scheduled.

Our impression was that with the exception of the gang immediately round the gate the crowd was more curious than hostile, and relieved that things had calmed down. Many apparently did not feel themselves particularly involved.

About 6:30 I went over to the administration building to put in a long distance call. Everything seemed to be quiet and I could not see anybody at the gate. My call was held up by a Japanese who was telephoning directions to his Caucasian business partner in Los Angeles about the Christmas flower trade. Between calls he talked about his business and his impatience to get out of Manzanar. He mentioned the disturbance at noon and said he did not think there would be any more trouble that night, but there was a lot of things behind it.

I was scheduled to speak at a forum at 7:30 on Relocation and went up to Mess Hall No. 1. I was late when I got there about 7:45 I found that the meeting had been cancelled. There had been about 45 present and some seven or eight were still there gathered about the stove. One of them asked me a question about relocation plans. This was followed by other questions, and two more people drifted in. We got into a discussion of the opposition of many people at Manzanar to relocation. There was a widespread suspicion apparently that it was a move to get the Japanese out of California and prevent them from ever returning; and some of the camp leaders were telling the people they were not to apply for relocation.



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As I got up to go I realized that for some minutes past I had been hearing increased noise outside and occasional shouts. Just then a Japanese came in and said there was a crowd down at the gate and one was up at the hospital. The people with me began to talk in Japanese. After a minute or two one of them turned to me and said there had been trouble at the movie that night. Some men came in after the first show and beat up somebody.

Two of the Japanese said they would walk over to the apartment with me. As we came to the front of the mess hall we saw a number of men and boys running back in some disorder from the administration gate and shouting. I looked down and could see quite a crowd. Puffs of what looked like smoke were rising in front of them and being blown south over the end of the administration building. One of the Japanese said they were using gas. We heard a muffled explosion and saw fresh puffs of gas. We went toward the quarters and were halted by two soldiers wearing gas masks. The two Japanese turned back immediately, and the soldiers asked where I was going. They said I had better stay with them till the gas cleared. It was blowing toward the quarters and I might get some. I stood with them for about five minutes. A few people were coming back toward the gate again. There was some shouting in the distance but I could not make out anything in the darkness. One of the soldiers was thoroughly aroused. He wanted a chance to fire at 'the yellow bastards.' 'The soldiers had been waiting for a chance like this. They had stood all they were going to.' The other was more philosophic, but said 'If they ask for it we'll give it to 'em.'

It was obviously useless to try to get to Independence that night and I stayed with the Nilsens. We stayed up listening and tried to see what we could from the windows. All we could make out was that the disturbance seemed to be increasing, and presently we heard what sounded like two shots. Later on, after I had gone to bed, I thought I heard another.

Monday, December 7.

I was awakened by hearing the intermittent beating of mess hall gongs which went on longer and louder than usual. I wondered if meetings were being called. Later as I walked over to the offices I found the staff all asking what had happened, whether we had heard the shots, how many there had been, and whether anybody had been killed. Over in the education office the few Japanese who had reported to work were standing round the stove talking in Japanese, which was very unusual for this office. The teachers were asking whether there would be any school. I learned then that a school boy had been killed and a number of people injured when the soldiers fired on the mob. I went over to Mr. Merritt's office to find out what he wanted to do, and told him that the teachers were anxious to go ahead and hold classes. He said he should proceed as far as possible with the normal activities. Only a handful of the Japanese personnel in the administrative offices had reported for work.



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I went back and told the teachers that we would hold school, and myself went up to Block 17 to teach the 5th grade which had no teacher. The building was not open, though the lock on the door had been broken. The inside wooden bar was still in place. As I was standing there a number of children came up and wanted to know if there would be school that day. I said Yes, and asked one of them to get the custodian to open up. Some of the children said they had been told there would be no school, and that lots of them would not come. The custodian came over shortly and said he had been told there would not be any school today and that he was not to open the building. I told him there would be school, and he made no further objection. He had already been in and lighted the heater, and I judged he had done that before he had heard the orders.

Most of the children who came were girls. My class had nine girls and two boys. A number of children from other buildings came up during the course of the morning and looked in. Some asked if there was going to be any school today. Several said 'How come you're having school? We don't have to go today.' At recess one of the boys went home. I could see that the high school was not having many students. A good many of them were walking about in the firebreak.

In my class, school proceeded as usual, and in the music period they asked for America and the Star Spangled Banner as usual.

I gathered from talking to the teachers at noon that very few high school students had reported, probably not more than twenty. Some had come to tell the teachers that they had been told to stay away, and then returned to their blocks. The elementary schools had a larger attendance, mostly girls. Some of the Japanese cadet and nursery school teachers had not shown up, however, and the children had gone home. The teachers reported that some of the younger children seemed afraid, and did not want to go alone to the wash house.

At noon only a few of the Japanese waitresses showed up at the administrative mess hall and the teachers helped out. Staff members said that few of the Japanese personnel stayed throughout the morning. Some had come and stayed for a while and then returned to camp. Others came in very late. They were obviously uncertain and a number said they had been given orders not to work.

Classes were held in the afternoon, and there was a slightly increased attendance in the elementary school. I had three more, though two who had come in the morning were not there. Most of mine apparently expected to come to school next day and asked for assignments to take home. After school the old custodian came over and began to fix the lock. He said again there was not supposed to be any school, but when I left said that he would be there next morning.

As I walked down to the administrative offices, I sensed a consider-



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able increase in tension among the Japanese. Several groups obviously turned aside so that they would not have to meet me. Among them I recognized some with whom I had talked at various times.

Over in the administrative quarters that night things were very quiet, though everybody was talking about what was happening and trying to find out what was going on in the camp. The talk included random post-mortems, discussions of the groups and individuals involved, of how long the trouble had been brewing, of whether the hostility was mainly between different groups in the camp, or was directed against the Caucasian staff.

Tuesday, December 8.

Going over to the office in the morning I noticed that the few Japanese I passed were wearing black arm bands. One of the girls had a black ribbon bow pinned to her sweater.

We decided to continue to hold school. In the high school block some students were reporting. There seemed to be about fifty in all, and the teachers started work. Almost immediately small gangs of boys began to gather and to threaten teachers and pupils. Three teachers were locked into their class rooms, and in one case they had to break down the door to get her out. On some of the blackboards there were threats. Mr. High copied the following:

Dirty White trash  
Remember Manzanar  
(The stab in the back)  
Damage  
1 Dead  
12 Wounded  
Total 1 dead, 12 almost dead.

'I'm scared to come to school because I might get shot in the back like my pal. I shall go home so don't mark me absent.  
Yours truly.'

'Praise the Lord and pass the ammunition.  
Worse than Pearl Harbor.'

'Girls are all shot  
more make .. (Japanese character)'

Also a couple of notices pinned outside class room 'No school till December 14, Mr. High.'

The situation appeared to be getting dangerous and it was decided to close the high school and send the students home before the military had to be called in.



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The elementary schools had about 18% attendance. In some cases no custodians came to open the doors and the stoves were not lit. In other blocks they had been opened. No Japanese cadet teachers appeared. They had all been given warnings that if they taught they would be in danger. The same was true of the nursery schools. Two of the Japanese teachers started to school but were handed warning when they arrived and they turned back. In some of the blocks school was held for an hour or two and then dismissed, as the children were obviously restless and uneasy. One teacher reported being booed as she walked across the firebreak.

Some of the office workers who came to the administrative buildings said they had been threatened and were afraid to stay. Several were sent home so that they would not be accused of sticking to the Caucasians. A few waitresses came to the administrative mess but said they would not be back. They were afraid.

The camp itself seemed very quiet. Some boys were playing basketball and football, some children were at the swings, but for the most part people were in their houses. The only large groups I saw were two gathered round small fires on opposite sides of the victory gardens. Most of the recreation halls were deserted and locked. I did not see any meetings.

A meeting of teachers was held at one o'clock and the announcement made that there would be no school in the afternoon, and teachers were asked to refrain from going up into the camp. A number of the men teachers were assigned to essential maintenance jobs and to driving trucks. We heard that direction of the camp had been taken over by a committee of six elected from a meeting of block representatives, and that they were saying who could come to work and what jobs would be performed, and telling the people not to leave their blocks.

Some of the teachers were nervous about staying in Block 7, and asked for extra military guards since they had to go outside to the washhouses. They said gravel had been thrown against some of the windows the night before, and they had heard of the mob that tried to break into the YW Japanese girls dormitory.

Later in the afternoon tension appeared to increase, and rumors were abroad that there would be a riot that night, and that some of the Caucasian personnel might be taken and held as hostages, and that the Japanese secretaries had all been threatened with attack. Two teachers came over very much excited about the reports and felt that the teachers ought to be moved out of Block 7. After consultation with Mr. Merritt it was decided to move all the people living on the north side of the administrative entrance among the Japanese, and since no other quarters were available to send the women teachers to Lone Pine and Independence. This was carried out over some protests. Mr. Merritt spoke to the teachers before they left and cautioned them to be careful what they said outside and not to talk about the incidents at all.



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At the evening mess the Japanese cooks were still on duty but no girls had come down and the staff left in camp helped to wait on table and dry dishes.

After supper I went over to the administration building where the Japanese who had been removed from camp and sent to the MP camp for their own protection were brought for the night. All the desks had been cleared from one wing and army cots set up, and the families with their children moved in. Joy Suda, the Hawaiian Japanese girl who has been supervising the nursery school began to describe to me the attack on the dormitory on Sunday night, and how she held off the mob. She said she started to speak to them in English, and they shouted at her 'Speak Japanese. This is Japan.' She was still very much wrought up, and told how in the mess hall the crew avoided her when they passed food, and that they were saying things to each other about her. She and another woman were talking about the black arm bands. They had heard everybody would have to have to wear them or they would not be safe.

Some others were talking about the mob that surrounded Togo Tanaka's house and demanded that he come out. They said that Togo himself was in the crowd that went to his house and he saw his wife come to the door and say he was not there. He had pulled a hat down over his eyes so that nobody would recognize him.

They were talking too of the mob that went up to the hospital on Sunday night demanding Fred Tayama. I could not get all the details but gathered that one of the nurses had hidden him under one of the operating tables, so that the man who finally went through looking for him could not find him. This man was one of the mob and shot later on Sunday night and got a bullet in his leg. He was taken to the hospital and to the operating table, and there was Fred Tayama under it. The one who was describing it said, 'They just looked at each other.'

Several of the people were much concerned about others still left in camp and feared they were not safe. They were all in a highly nervous state, and wondering what was to become of them.

The army was very much in evidence today. Jeeps are patrolling the area. Guards with fixed bayonets are posted round the administrative area and inside the administration building. There are five machine guns at the entrance, and at night two search lights playing. The soldiers have been on duty about 20 hours. Some of them are spoiling for a fight. I heard one of them say, 'I'd give a week's pay for them to try something tonight.'

Until today little or no hostility seemed to be directed toward the Caucasian staff. It seemed largely an internal struggle between the Japanese groups within the camp, in which the pro-Japanese and anti-American group was much the strongest and best organized, and had succeeded in terrorizing all those connected with the Caucasian administration. What leadership



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there was among the pro-American Nisei had either been taken out of the camp for protection or was afraid to express itself. Today many of the staff felt that hostility had been turned against the Caucasians. A black list had been posted naming Caucasians they were out to 'get,' or wanted to have removed from the camp. Ned Campbell's name led the list, with Herby Brown and Mr. Winchester following. ✓

Later in the evening, Mr. Hooper came to the house to say that some of the teachers who had been ordered to clear out of Block 7 had gone over there to sleep, and asked me to go with the MP's to get them out. I walked over and roused them and we arranged to get them into town since there were no quarters available.

Wednesday, December 9.

Very few Japanese came to the administration buildings this morning, and all were wearing black armbands. The offices were deserted except for Caucasian staff members. The education division went to work on requisitions and lists of books and equipment, and a few teachers were brought in from Lone Pine for typing and clerical assistance.

The day passed quietly, with military representatives from San Francisco coming in to see Mr. Merritt. Mrs. D'Ille went up to make a ceremonial call on the family of James Ito, the boy who was killed. She reported that their attitude, and those of several visitors who called while she was there, seemed very fine, and not at all vengeful. One brother is in the army in Arkansas, another is away in the beetfields. The body has been sent to Bishop.

Mr. Fryer came in during the day, and in the evening Mr. Merritt called a meeting including Mrs. D'Ille, myself, Ned Campbell, Mr. Schmidt, Bob Throckmorton, Lewis Seigler, Bob Brown and Mr. Fryer to make a decision on the immediate steps to be taken in regard to those who had been removed to the MP barracks for protection and about 100 others still in camp who probably needed it. Three alternatives were discussed: to take them to Gila or some other project; to send them to a CCC camp in Death Valley for a brief period to rest up and adjust themselves before they were sent out for relocation, or to relocate them immediately. It was unanimously agreed upon that the Death Valley camp was the most desirable course. Mr. Fryer thought that they should not remain there more than a couple of weeks, and then be relocated in jobs outside immediately.

In the discussion of what to do with the men held in jail, against several of whom they had not enough evidence for a federal charge, and of the leaders of the subversive activities in the camp, it was decided that it would be advisable simultaneously to find another camp to which they



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could be sent pending the selection of a permanent isolation center. Mr. Brown felt that with the removal of these two groups, operations at Manzanar would be quickly restored to normal. It appeared, however, that only fifteen or twenty of the trouble makers were definitely known, but Mr. Brown thought others could be fairly quickly identified. Mr. Merritt mentioned the demands of the committee of six that waited on him on Monday morning, and his refusal to bargain with them, and the arrangements under which they appeared to be directing the evacuees.

At the conclusion of the meeting it was decided to take the group at the MP camp to Death Valley the following day round noon, to try to find another camp for the trouble makers; and to make no advances toward the Japanese looking toward a settlement.

Thursday, December 10.

After breakfast, I went over to the MP camp with Mrs. D'Ille to see those who were to be sent to Death Valley. They were still at breakfast which was being served to them by the soldiers, and Ned Campbell was making a speech telling them the plans. They would not be allowed to go into the camp to pack their things, but they could give Mrs. D'Ille the name of someone they would trust to do it for them, and the belongings would be collected right away. They were all very tired and disturbed, and still worrying about what would happen to them. One of them said, 'Do you remember when we left for Manzanar?' A number were worried about their things. One man said his place had all been broken up and oil poured over his clothes. Several of them were still worried about getting their friends out and were asking Mrs. D'Ille to see if she couldn't get them out of the camp.

After we left the MP camp I went with Mrs. D'Ille to her office and met some of her staff who had come down to talk about the funeral of James Ito. A younger brother of James was there. The discussion was calm and ceremonious. Before I left the staff was planning its meetings for the following week, and said they had obtained the permission of the committee to work.