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FARM LABOR

JAPANESE-AMERICAN EVACUATION

RADIO TALKS

1942-45

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WESTERN AGRICULTURE

Presented as a part of the U. S. Department of Agriculture program in cooperation with western agricultural colleges over KGO and associated stations of the Western Division of the Blue Network Company, 6:45 A. M., P. S. T.

FSA

Friday, March 20, 1942

MORE ON JAPANESE PROBLEM IN WEST
A report voiced by Len Gross, NBC, for
the Farm Security Administration.

GROSS: On the West Coast, agriculture has a new wartime problem. It's the problem of the lands owned or leased by Japanese. Japanese-Americans and others who have been ordered by the Army to vacate West Coast military zones. This morning we have a report on what's being done about these farmers. A new plan designed to continue full production on these vital agricultural lands was put in operation this week by the Western Defense Command and Fourth Army, operating through the Farm Security Administration.

The Farm Security Administration, under Army orders, supervises the fair disposition of evacuated land and will help qualified farmers take over the land and obtain operating credit.

Fifty Farm Security field agents are at work on the new plan, operating at the Wartime Civil Control Administration's "service centers" which were opened this week at U. S. Employment Service offices in Washington, Oregon, California and southern Arizona. Working with these agents will be representatives of the Treasury Department and the Federal Security Agency, who will help the Japanese with such problems as disposing of their personal property, and getting employment. The Farm Security field men, handling agricultural problems, will be directed by Laurence I. Howes, Jr., regional director of the Farm Security Administration, aided by Ralph W. Hollenberg, FSA assistant regional director, and William C. Helvey, chief of the new program.

Field agents are under instructions to contact Japanese and other farmers who are evacuating their land, bring them together with qualified farmers capable of taking over the land, and reforce fair arrangements between the two.

Mr. Howes says that the field agents will see that the Japanese are able to make a fair disposition of their land, and that maximum production of war crops is guaranteed by the new operator. This applies to arrangements with landlords, produce buyers, contractors, and others.

Mr. Howes says, and I quote: "The field agents will assist in finding operators for the land who are qualified to grow the vegetables the Japanese have planted, or the kind of food needed in the war. If they agree to produce war crops, we will assist such farmers in getting credit. If the agents can't help them get a loan from private sources, the Farm Credit Administration or a rehabilitation loan from our regular FSA offices, we have the authority and funds to make special production loans. Our job is to keep the land in use, but payment of the loan in full and on schedule is expected.

"This program is a basic war measure. Japanese now produce from 35 to 50 percent of the vegetables grown in California, and California production in many crops constitutes from a third to two-thirds of the Nation's vegetable production.

"Since increased production under the Food-for-Freedom program affects food supplies to our own defense workers and Army as well as British and Russian supplies, keeping the Japanese land in production is an essential part of our military effort." That ends Mr. Howes' quotation.

The Farm Security and other field agents of the Wartime Civilian Control Administration are located U. S. Employment Service offices in the following locations:

Northern California: Salinas, San José, Watsonville, Alameda, Berkeley, Hayward, Oakland, Pittsburg, Richmond, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Rosa, Fresno, Merced, Stockton, Visalia, Chico, Marysville, and Sacramento.

Southern California: El Centro, Indio, Redlands, Riverside, San Diego, Santa Ana, Inglewood, Long Beach, Los Angeles, San Pedro, Santa Monica, Torrance, Alhambra, Burbank, Pasadena, Pomona, San Fernando, Whittier, Bakersfield, Santa Maria, and Ventura.

Arizona: Phoenix.

Washington: Bremerton, Raymond, Seattle, Tacoma, and Yakima.

Additional offices will be opened later at Ukiah, Ontario, Covina, Monterey, Santa Cruz, Napa, Lodi and Santa Barbara in California.

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WESTERN AGRICULTURE

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FSA

Friday, March 27, 1942

AGRICULTURE AND THE WAR

By Larry Hewes, Farm Security Administration,
San Francisco, for Wartime Civilian Control
Administration.

- GAPEN: Friends, for a front-line report on West Coast agriculture, we call on Larry Hewes, regional director of the Department of Agriculture's Farm Security Administration. The Farm Security boys are working night and day for the Army at the important job of seeing that production is kept up on farms of the Japanese and Japanese-Americans who must evacuate West Coast military zones very soon. And Larry, I don't blame you for looking tired this morning. How's this rush job of yours coming?
- HEWES: Rush job isn't half of it, Ken. Two weeks ago -- on Friday the Thirteenth, by the way, the Army ordered us to see that Japanese and Japanese-American farming operations were transferred to new operators, with square deals all the way around. And they told us to see that the crops are harvested.
- GAPEN: I understand you had just 84 hours to get into operation all along the West Coast.
- HEWES: Yes, and by having our regular Farm Security agents drive across a couple of States, we managed to do the job. There was a bit of confusion at first. But for the past ten days we've had field agents in most of the 64 "service centers" which the Wartime Civilian Control Administration has established in U. S. Employment Service offices on the Coast. They are bringing Japanese and other farmers together, refereeing the transfer of land, and helping the new operators get credit.
- GAPEN: I can see the thousand and one questions your agents must be sending in in their letters.
- HEWES: Letters? There isn't time to write. Here's a wire from Arizona: "Thirty-seven capable growers have expressed willingness to buy out voluntary evacuees on equitable basis. Guarantee to continue production on 80 percent Japanese acreage."
- GAPEN: Your problem in that case is to get the Japanese to dispose of their land.
- HEWES: Right. But here's one from Oregon. "Today received 83 requests from Japanese to relinquish farms." In this case we need to find new operators. In most areas, Ken, we need more Japanese and Japanese-Americans to list their land with us, and we also need farmers willing to take over operations on the land. This is a rush job -- and when the Army says rush, it means rush. I want to relay this Army message to every farmer. If listeners know of Japanese farmers still on the land, or if they or their friends are interested in operating such land, report at once to the Farm Security agent at the U. S. Employment Service office.
- GAPEN: I notice the Army wants the Japanese to get their equity out of their farming operations by disposing of them now. And I think that's a good point, Larry. If not, they may lose a lot of money.

HEWES: Correct. By tomorrow our agents will have all their land listed. And we want all farmers interested, to look it over. All we ask is that they be able to grow the kind of crops needed for war purposes. Of course, we're going to see that everybody gets a square deal.

GAPEN: That's where your negotiators and Federal appraisers come in -- helping get the deals under way and setting fair values on the land.

HEWES: Yes. And if farmers are making deals on the outside, we want them to clear through us. The Army wants a full report on how this transfer process is working out.

GAPEN: How about helping the new operators get credit?

HEWES: We're ready to move on the double quick to get them the money to operate. We're asking all banks and commercial lending agencies to give immediate priority to loan applications from farmers taking over this evacuated land. And the same goes for the Farm Credit Administration.

GAPEN: Then, if a farmer needs a real estate loan, the Federal Land Bank is ready to give him quick consideration. And the Production Credit Association will give him fast action on an application for a crop or livestock loan. Is that right?

HEWES: It is. And if no one else can help him, we will try to get the farmer a regular Farm Security rural rehabilitation or Food For Victory loan.

GAPEN: Suppose none of these agencies can help him?

HEWES: Then we have the authority and funds to make direct special loans, provided, of course, the farmer has secure tenure through ownership or lease, and protection against judgment on chattels.

GAPEN: Who is eligible for these special loans?

HEWES: The big job is to keep these vital crops in production. Often a day's delay will mean a crop loss. So we'll loan money to almost anyone who can farm the land properly.

GAPEN: That means to owners, tenants, farm laborers, partnerships and corporations?

HEWES: It does. Moreover, if we find that no individual is able to take over certain farming operations, we'll loan money to any organized group that can do the job. And we can make loans to secure the services necessary to operate this farm land on a cooperative basis.

GAPEN: I suppose the loans can be made for almost any necessary purpose?

HEWES: Yes, for any expense in connection with land use.

GAPEN: And the loans are for one year.

HEWES: Yes, except that renewals may be necessary where capital goods are being purchased.

GAPEN: Can you aid in the disposition of greenhouses?

HEWES: Yes, we can.

GAPEN: That's all clear enough, Larry. Now to cut back a minute. Just whom does Farm Security represent in doing this work?

HEWES: We're doing this work at direct Army orders from General DeWitt. But we're also representing the United States Department of Agriculture, and we're cooperating with the Department War Boards in California, Arizona, Washington and Oregon.

GAPEN: And I know that Bill Cecil, director of the California State Department of Agriculture, is cooperating with you, so I guess that makes it a job for everybody.

HEWES: Yes, Ken, and he's doing a good job. After all, it's an American job. We're in a war, all of us, and this is a vital assignment. Japanese lands cover 240,000 acres on the West Coast, and the farms alone are worth \$70,000,000. In California they produce a great proportion of the tomatoes, celery, peas, spinach and snap beans. These are crops we must have to help win the war. So I want to repeat -- every farmer interested in any way in transferring these lands to new operation should check with our Farm Security agent at the U. S. Employment Service offices at once.

GAPEN: I'm with you a hundred percent, Larry. I think it's the patriotic duty of every American farmer who can possibly do so to step in and help keep these farm lands in production -- even if he can't be sure of making profits this year. I think it's the least an American farmer can do. And I also want to urge speed, speed, and more speed. If you're a Japanese or Japanese-American farm owner or tenant, check with your Farm Security agent at the U. S. Employment office today. If you are interested in operating this land that will be vacated, then be sure you check with the Farm Security agent. This isn't just our request -- it's an Army request. Let's keep this Food for Freedom growing and be sure it's harvested, along with the other food that we're counting on to win the war and write the peace.

Our reporter today was Larry Hewes.

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WESTERN AGRICULTURE

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FSA

Friday, April 3, 1942

MOBILIZATION OF AGRICULTURE TO KEEP JAPANESE FARMS PRODUCTIVE

By Dolph Winebrenner, Farm Security Administration, for the Wartime Civilian Control Administration.

GAPEN: West Coast farmers have just developed another big news story for us. And the man to announce it is Dolph Winebrenner of the Department's Farm Security Administration.

Dolph, you people have tackled a big two-headed job for the Army -- finding American farmers to replace the Japanese who are evacuating the vital military zones and saving a food supply.

WINEBRENNER: It is a big job that we undertook 3 weeks ago. That's when the Army order came through to transfer Japanese and Japanese-American farming operations to new hands. We had 6,000 farms and more than 200,000 acres dropped into our lap.

GAPEN: So, as reported last week, your field agents got busy. They set up offices, in cooperation with the Army's Wartime Civilian Control Administration, at U. S. Employment Service centers in Washington, Oregon, California and Arizona. They sent out word to Japanese and Japanese-Americans, on the one hand, and American farmers on the other, that a quick transfer of farming operations was in order. The agents brought people together, saw that everyone got a square deal, and helped the new operators get technical advice and credit. Now, Dolph, what about these transfers?

WINEBRENNER: Since March 16, our agents report better than 1,000 transfer deals. These call for new operators on 40,000 acres. That's roughly 15 percent of the total. New deals are going through now and I think it's safe to say that by tonight, more than a third of the Japanese land will be transferred to new operators.

GAPEN: You spoke of credit a moment ago -- to what extent have loans entered into these new farming operations?

WINEBRENNER: Well, in the first two weeks about 200 new operators applied directly to Farm Security for special loans, and about 250 were referred to other credit agencies. The special loans we have made so far average about \$3,000.

GAPEN: Sounds like a pretty good beginning.

WINEBRENNER: Just what it was, Ken, considering the pressure on our agents. We were racing with time. No one could say when the Army's Evacuation Order would be put into full effect. And before that day we have to get the rest of the land transferred and our new operators installed.

GAPEN: So you had to broaden your campaign of attack.

- WINEBRENNER: That we did. We decided, in the Department of Agriculture, to mobilize every farm producer, large and small, and take no chances of having a single acre left without a new operator. The mobilization includes all the State and county agricultural agencies working through the Department of Agriculture War Boards in California and other states. We have the benefit, too, of the wholehearted cooperation of the Director of the California State Department of Agriculture.
- GAPEN: Well, Dolph, I think it's about time you gave us that red hot news.
- WINEBRENNER: Well, a few days ago we were worried. Time was fast running out. And still we didn't have enough small farmers to keep pace with Japanese in California. So, last week-end representatives of the Department of Agriculture, including the Farm Security and Farm Credit Administrations, met with R. N. Wilson, of the California State Chamber of Commerce, and officers of a dozen large associations of growers and canners. Staff members of the Western Defense Command and Fourth Army took part in the conference. We told these growers and canners how much they could help the Food for Freedom program by operating vacated farms. We asked them how much land they could take over and keep in production. And I am glad to say that they agreed to handle a good part of it. The actual details are being worked out right now. Of course, all arrangements will be supervised by the Department of Agriculture.
- GAPEN: I guess that qualifies for the headline, Dolph. But, tell me, will there still be farms available for more farmers who can make a go of two or ten or forty or eighty acres?
- WINEBRENNER: Certainly there will be. Plenty of them. You see, we are still straining all our energies to beat time on this job. The large-scale enterprise of canners and growers I just told you about does not absorb all the farms listed for evacuation. We've got to have more farmers, both large and small. We can give them every advantage.
- GAPEN: I expect that many farmers are hearing about this today for the first time. So, let's give them instructions on how to go about getting a Japanese or Japanese-American farm to operate.
- WINEBRENNER: Well, I think the recent story put out by the USDA California War Board sums up the instructions perfectly. The story says: "Wanted -- good farmers to take over going operations to keep war production on the move. Fine opportunity for profit and vital contribution to war effort. Heavy investment not necessarily required. Full credit available to experienced farmers. Anyone interested should inquire of the FSA representative located at the nearest office of the United States Employment Service. The FSA is offering financial assistance in cases where credit is not obtainable elsewhere. Farmers who have difficulty establishing contact with the proper authorities are advised to consult with their local Department of Agriculture War Board."
- And there you have it, Ken.
- GAPEN: All right. We know the problem is biggest in California, so I think we ought to hear more about the way the California War Board is helping to keep these farms in production.

WINEBRENNER: As you know, the War Board is the coordinator for all the Department agencies in the state which participate in the Food For Freedom Program. The Board has just thrown the concerted strength of the Department behind our efforts. Farmers will find the County War Boards eager to help them locate on new farms, and to give every possible assistance in planning new farm operations. Farmers can also take questions on contracts between the Japanese and themselves to the War Boards. Farmers in other West Coast States will get similar assistance from their War Boards. And, incidentally, down in Los Angeles we're getting splendid cooperation from Mr. Rosecrans, the agricultural coordinator there.

GAPEN: Dolph, I'm sure the canners and growers who are taking a great slice of farm acreage in this program will get the credit they deserve, and I don't mean just the financial variety. And I'm also sure that the small farmers, the fellows who provisioned our hungry Continentals in 1776, and have been a mainstay of the Nation in every emergency, will deliver again in the same inspiring way.

WINEBRENNER: The Food For Freedom Program is counting on that too.

GAPEN: Right. Friends, our reporter was Dolph Winebrenner of the Farm Security Administration.

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ONE THOUSANDTH OF THE NATION

An address by Dillon S. Myer, Director of the War Relocation Authority, to be presented March 23, 1944 before a joint meeting of civic organizations in Salt Lake City.

In a nation composed of people who have sprung from all the other lands of the earth, it would be rather surprising if the great bulk of the population had a well founded understanding of any of the minorities who make up the group as a whole. But I doubt if any minority group is more widely misunderstood these days than the people of Japanese descent who make up about one-tenth of one per cent of the nation's population. One in a thousand. This one person, with his Japanese face, his yellow skin, his characteristic name, looks different from the other 999. Because he is different outwardly, many are willing to believe he must be different inwardly, in his beliefs and loyalties.

Over the past two years the greater portion of this minority group have been treated in such a way that they are made to appear even more different from the majority of Americans than they appeared before the outbreak of war. Some 115,000 of them were required to move from their homes in the Pacific Coast states, something no other group was asked to do. Since then, most of them have lived in segregated communities, called relocation centers, a situation which has further heightened the differences. For two years, emphasis has been placed on the ways in which the people of Japanese descent are different rather than on the many ways in which they are like the rest of the people of America. The result has been a vicious circle; the evacuated people are outside regular communities because they are different; and because they are different it is difficult to get them re-established in normal communities. The relations between the one---and the other 999---constitute a problem worthy of attention by the entire nation. It is the major concern of the War Relocation Authority, and one of the newly acquired problems of the Department of the Interior.

The major event which caused relocation centers to be established was a conference which took place here in Salt Lake City, almost two years ago, when WRA was only about three weeks old, and when orderly evacuation from the West Coast was only one week old. The background of that conference is highly significant. During March, 1942, the people of Japanese descent, most of them American citizens, some of them aliens, were making their plans to move from their West Coast homes. Some of them actually did move. Several hundred came into the inter-mountain area, including Utah, with Salt Lake City attracting large numbers of the so-called voluntary evacuees. The others stayed where they were, principally because they had no place to go. The Commanding General of the Western Defense Command announced about the end of March that no further movement on a voluntary basis would be permitted; the evacuation henceforth was to be carried out in systematic fashion under governmental orders.

The western states seemed to offer the greatest possibilities for caring for the people to be evacuated, principally because there was more available land, much of it under public ownership. There was also a demand for labor in this area, which the evacuated people might help to meet. One of the ideas given most serious consideration was to establish the people in the many CCC camps which recently had been abandoned; permit them to live in the camps and work on farms and ranches nearby, or engage in public works in the forests and parks where the camps were located. To consider this suggestion and other possibilities, the War Relocation Authority and the Western Defense Command asked the governors and attorneys general of the ten western states to meet here in Salt Lake City the first week of April, 1942. The attitude of the state officials was unmistakable. They did not want the evacuated people in their states at all, if that could be avoided. If it could not be avoided, then they would not agree to be responsible for law and order unless the people were put in colonies under military guard. Since the Army could not provide enough manpower to guard a large number of small colonies, plans were made for establishing communities that would accommodate at least 5,000 persons. So the CCC camp idea was discarded; new and larger camps---small cities in themselves---had to be established. Gradually ten relocation centers came into being, built under Army supervision but operated by the War Relocation Authority. One of them was established in the State of Utah, about 150 miles southwest of Salt Lake City, near the town of Delta. Another is in Idaho near Twin Falls; two were established in California, two others in Arizona, two more in Arkansas; one in Colorado and one in Wyoming.

The War Relocation Authority has been operating these ten centers since early 1942. Beyond the maintenance of the evacuated people in the centers, we have been engaged in three other major tasks: providing assistance to the evacuees in handling their property problems on the West Coast; segregating the evacuee population on the basis of national sympathies and loyalties; and fourth---and most important---carrying on a program of relocation which we hope ultimately will move most of the evacuated people outside the centers and place them in normal communities.

Let me discuss each of these four major jobs briefly.

In considering the manner in which the relocation centers are operated, it is important to keep clearly in mind the status of the evacuees. They are not living in the relocation centers as punishment for any wrongdoing, or because they are suspected of being dangerous; they are not prisoners of war; they are not internees. They are a dislocated group of people removed from their homes and their means of livelihood as a wartime emergency measure. As such they are entitled to treatment according to American standards of decency. Ever since the summer of 1942, when most of the centers were still in the early stages of construction, all sorts of unfounded rumors and inaccurate stories have been circulated about the WRA management policies. Some of these stories have been obviously fantastic---like the one circulated in Idaho nearly two years ago that all evacuees lived in snug little bungalows with pink tile bathrooms. And the one that all evacuees are provided by the Government with five gallons of whiskey. Unfortunately, most of the stories have not been so plainly ridiculous. Although many were equally untrue, they have generally carried more of an appearance of plausibility and consequently have been widely accepted.

Perhaps the most widely criticized aspect of relocation center administration is the policy under which evacuees are being fed. Food is a delicate topic these days and it's not surprising that people should be aroused when they hear the evacuees enjoying a better diet than the average civilian family. If these stories were true, I will readily concede that there would be grounds for the most intense kind of public resentment. But the stories are not true and I believe that all of you sitting here today would be convinced of their falsity if you could eat just one meal in a relocation center. The food served at the centers is nourishing, but could not be called luxurious by any conceivable American standard. The cost of feeding from the start has been limited to 45 cents per person per day. All rationing restrictions applicable to the civilian population are strictly followed. Two meatless days are observed at each center every week. And in areas where local milk supplies are short, fresh milk is provided only to small children, nursing or expectant mothers, and special dietary cases.

From the time the relocation centers were first established, it has been the policy to produce as much of the food as possible, in order that the people in the centers might be nearly self supporting. This required clearing and leveling land, developing irrigation systems in some instances and drainage systems in others. Naturally the 1942 production was not large, at most of the centers, but in 1943 the centers produced practically all their own vegetables; they are producing most of their poultry and eggs; practically all their requirements for pork, some of their beef, and at one center, in an area where the outside milk supply is short, a dairy herd has been established. In dollars, the evacuees are producing about one-third of their total requirements.

The housing at relocation centers is certainly no more than adequate by any ordinary standards. Evacuee residents live in plain barracks of frame construction which are partitioned off into family-size apartments. A family of six or seven people will ordinarily occupy a room about 20 by 25 feet. In the barracks there is no running water, no cooking facilities, and no baths or toilets. However, each block of 12 or 14 barracks---accommodating between 250 and 300 people---is provided with a messhall and a bath and laundry building.

Education is provided for the evacuee children through the high school level. At all centers, we have developed our school curriculum and selected our teachers in conformity with the standards of the state where the center is located.

All evacuees at relocation centers have been provided with medical care and hospitalization when needed and these services are supplied by evacuee doctors and nurses, insofar as they are available.

In operating the centers, we have always made maximum use of evacuee manpower. Evacuees are employed in clerical and stenographic positions, on construction activities and land development work, in food production, and---to some extent---in manufacturing. Most of those who work are paid at the rate of \$16 per month; apprentices and others requiring close supervision receive \$12, while professional workers, such as doctors, are paid \$19. In addition, each evacuee working at the center receives small clothing allowances for himself and his dependents. These allowances range from \$2 a month for small children in the southerly centers to \$3.75 for adults in centers where the winters are severe.

The policy of the War Relocation Authority provides that evacuees at all centers are to have an active voice in the management of their own affairs but maintenance of law and order within the center is a responsibility of the WRA project director. To assist him in this function, the project director has a small staff of non-Japanese internal security officers and a sizeable crew of evacuee policemen. The exterior boundaries of each project area are guarded by a detachment of military police who are available for service within the center in cases of emergency.

I won't go into further detail on the conditions that prevail in the relocation centers. But I believe I have said enough to indicate that life in the centers is not exactly a bed of roses.

When the evacuated people were moved from their West Coast homes, they were permitted to take with them only a few personal belongings which they would need in the centers. Homes, farms, businesses, household goods all were left behind. The Federal government recognized an obligation to help keep evacuee farm properties in productive use, to assist the families in storing household goods and business equipment, and to lend a hand in the disposal of properties of other types.

We have helped in locating new managers for hotels, stores, and apartment houses owned by evacuees. We have found operators or purchasers for farms.

The value of property owned or operated by the evacuated Japanese has been estimated at more than 200 million dollars. The War Relocation Authority takes no responsibility at all for making decisions regarding disposal of this property; that is the right of the owner alone. But when he designates his wishes, we regard it as our job to see that his desires are carried out if possible.

One of the most challenging and serious problems which the War Relocation Authority has faced has been centered around the national sympathies of the evacuees. The aliens, for the most part, have certain sentimental ties to the land of their birth, even though practically all of them have been here at least 20 years, and many for thirty or forty years. Two thirds of the population is composed of American citizens. The great majority of the citizens have never been to Japan, speak no language but English, are American in their clothing, manners, tastes and slang. On the other hand, a small portion of the citizens have had much of their education in Japan and for practical purposes are more Japanese than American.

From the start, we recognized that there were those whose loyalties were with Japan also that there was a much larger group whose loyalties were definitely with the United States. The problem has been to establish standards for identifying those individuals who are strongly pro-Japanese or who might endanger the national security. For several months we have been engaged in a sorting process which has given individual consideration to all the adults in all the WRA centers. On the basis of extensive information which the War Relocation Authority has assembled, plus records of the Federal intelligence agencies, plus individual hearings in thousands of cases, we have been determining which members of the population can safely be granted leave to relocate in normal communities. Those whose national sympathies seem to lie with Japan rather than the United States and who are not eligible for leave are placed in one center, Tule Lake, in California.

Let me say a few words about the character of the population at Tule Lake. Most of the adult people there have indicated either by word or action that they prefer to be Japanese rather than American. But it is a mistake to think of the population at Tule as composed exclusively of agitators and potential saboteurs. Many of the residents are aliens of advanced years who have simply given up the struggle to become adjusted in this country and who want only to live out the rest of their days in the land of their birth. Despite their pro-Japanese leanings, very few of them, in my opinion, are actually troublesome or dangerous. Then there is also another group at the center---perhaps the largest single element in the whole population---which is made up of children and others whose records contain no evidence of disloyalty but who are living at Tule Lake merely because of family ties. These people, along with the aliens, probably constitute a majority of the total population.

At the same time, however, it is true that we now have at Tule Lake some of the most troublesome elements that were previously scattered among ten relocation centers. There are, for example, a considerable number of young American-born evacuees who have received the major part of their education in Japan and who seem to have been thoroughly indoctrinated with Japanese ideas. This group has always been particularly maladjusted at the relocation centers and some of them are among the leaders of those who are plainly out of sympathy with the United States. In addition, there are a number of young people, born and educated in this country, who have become embittered by the experiences of the past two years and have decided to cast their lot with Japan..

The population of Tule Lake at the present time is about 17,000 men, women, and children. In the nine other centers there are a few hundred others who have been denied leave clearance and so will be sent to Tule Lake. It now appears that most of these transfers will be completed some time in the spring, probably by May.

There are approximately 70,000 other people still in the relocation centers who are eligible for leave, and whom we in WRA will give every possible assistance in finding places to resettle. Making possible their relocation is the major objective of the War Relocation Authority, and all the rest of our activity is carried on with relocation in mind.

We realize that the cost of maintaining the entire evacuee population in relocation centers would mean an unnecessarily heavy drain on the taxpayers of the country. We set up our work programs at the relocation centers in such a way that the evacuees could contribute through voluntary work to their own support. And we have maintained that policy consistently from the very start. But even so, the expense of keeping 90,000 people in government centers and providing them with the essentials of life is a heavy one. I am sure you will agree that it should not be encouraged if there is any feasible alternative.

An even more important reason why we have placed so much emphasis on immediate relocation is the nation-wide manpower shortage. We realized from the beginning that the evacuated people represent a significant reservoir of energies and skills which is badly needed in our war production effort. At the start, we made rather elaborate plans for a work program at each relocation center. We had plans for manufacturing enterprises through which citizen evacuees could produce goods needed in the war effort; plans

for extensive development of raw land through clearing, irrigation, drainage; and plans for large-scale agricultural production. But before we had received more than half the evacuee population at the centers, we were forced to recognize that this was a cumbersome method of utilizing evacuee energies and skills and that it was fraught with many difficulties. Everything considered, it seemed quite clear that the evacuees could make a quicker and more effective contribution to our wartime production needs by returning as quickly as possible to private employment. Furthermore, there was an insistent demand for workers from the centers particularly from this part of the United States.

But aside from these wholly practical considerations, there is another even more significant reason for trying to depopulate the relocation centers. I am thinking of Americanization. There are many ways to define Americanism but I have always felt that it is a quality which we absorb quite naturally by living in a thoroughly American environment. It is as President Roosevelt has stated, "a matter of the mind and heart; Americanism is not, and never was, a matter of race or ancestry." We have made every effort to create an Americanizing atmosphere in the relocation centers. We have established the curriculum for our schools with particularly heavy emphasis on the history of American traditions and American Institutions. We have taught these subjects in adult education classes and have stressed them in connection with public discussion forums. But despite all our efforts, I am afraid we never can succeed---in duplicating the atmosphere that prevails in a normal American community. The influences that operate every day and every week to make us a distinctive people on the face of the globe cannot be reproduced within an atmosphere of restriction---an atmosphere which makes a mockery of our American traditions. Relocation centers are and probably always will be essentially outside the mainstream of our national life.

It is our hope that the people eligible for leave in the relocation centers may be relocated into ordinary American communities at the earliest possible date. Almost 20,000 have now left the centers on indefinite leave and have made homes for themselves. Most of these are the young adults with few family responsibilities, who can easily adapt themselves to new conditions. Our big problem now is to make possible the relocation of family groups, including the eligible aliens, most of whom are well along in years, without as much resiliency as their children who have relocated. We recognize their relocation as the most difficult job we have yet undertaken. Yet we feel it is a job that must be accomplished if the American way of life is to have real meaning to these people.

Many of you in this area have become acquainted with evacuees who have left the relocation centers. Some two thousand have established their homes in the state of Utah, and several thousand others have cultivated and harvested Utah's sugar beets, vegetables, and picked Utah turkeys on a seasonal leave basis. In general, they have been accepted without question; their labor has been in demand and they have worked well.

There has been some discrimination yes, particularly in opposition to their entering business or farming on their own, even though they are welcomed with open arms as ordinary labor by most of these sources.

That smacks of a desire for slave labor---Those who advocate such a system, who welcome evacuee labor but would deny them the privilege of entering business or forgetting the principals of free enterprise, of free competition, which are fundamental to our democracy.

But this opposition is also a part of our democracy and is entitled to its full say. Only when all phases are thoroughly understood through free discussion can a fair decision be reached.

I want to congratulate the people of Utah generally however, for their acceptance of these war refugees. It is all the more remarkable because you adjoin the evacuated area in which certain interests have seen fit to continue their persecution of this minority group.

It seems to me that one reason for the generally favorable reception accorded evacuees in the state of Utah is that many of you here are only two or three generations removed from the early settlers of the state, and you remember that they too were a minority group; they felt the sting of intolerance and persecution; they participated in a mass migration which was not altogether of their own choosing. Remembering the history of your own forbearers, it has been a natural thing for you to provide the members of another minority group with opportunities to make new lives for themselves. In so doing, you have given significance to the democratic principles set forth in the constitution; principles which some special interest groups are seeking to destroy, disguising their activities under the name of patriotism.

The problem of this fractional segment of the nation's population is national in scope, and no one section of the country can shirk its responsibilities for finding a democratic solution. The people in the relocation centers came from the Pacific Coast states. For the time being, they must live outside the area which they used to call home. Many of them undoubtedly will remain outside, either in the places where they resettle first, or in other places which look more attractive.

In a country as large, as rich in resources and opportunities, and as populous as the United States, there is no logical reason why the 115,000 people who were evacuated from their homes in the Pacific Coast area cannot be absorbed into the national life in such a way that their abilities may be used and that the people become inconspicuous individuals rather than members of a problem group. It would seem to be in the national interest and in the interest of the people of Japanese descent themselves to spread out more widely than they have done in the past, and to avoid the re-establishment of the compact communities which were common in the Pacific Coast area before evacuation.

Most of the people still look upon the West Coast as home. Most of them hope and expect to return home when the military situation becomes such that exclusion is no longer necessary. When that time comes, either during the war or at its end, there can be no question that the evacuated people should have the right to go back to their former homes if they choose to do so.

I mention this because there are groups on the West Coast who have been campaigning for months to stir up sentiment to keep the evacuees permanently excluded from their former homes. The plague of intolerance

which they have fostered has spread into other areas; well organized efforts undoubtedly will be made to spread it still further. The efforts will be carefully disguised in the cloak of patriotism. What proportion of the people will be affected by this campaign of hate propoganda I won't attempt to predict. I find it hard to believe that the American people will tolerate for very long the fostering of hatred for fellow Americans and the destruction of American ideals when their sons are giving their lives to protect those ideals.

I think it is important for all of us to remember that several thousand boys wearing the uniform of the United States Army have Japanese names and faces. As one of them put it, "It isn't the slant of a man's eyes that counts; the important thing is the slant of his heart."

There can be little question about the slant of the heart of Sergeant Komoto, who recently visited his family at one of the relocation centers in Arizona. He was on leave from an Army hospital recovering from wounds inflicted by an enemy machine gun. He wears the Purple Heart, America's oldest military award. The Miyagi family at the Gila River relocation center wrapped their Christmas packages early last fall for their son and brother. The packages had a long way to go. In February they came back, bearing the stamped word "Deceased." Masuyoshi Miyagi had died in Italy where he was a sergeant in the Fifth Army.

For more than a year after the outbreak of war, American boys of Japanese descent were not accepted in the United States Army. In January, 1943, the Army announced that they would be accepted on a voluntary basis, and hundreds of them volunteered from the Relocation Centers. A few weeks ago involuntary induction through Selective Service was announced by the War Department and already several hundred young Americans whose homes are in the relocation centers have taken their physical examinations and will be inducted as their turn comes. The nation is asking them to fight. So it isn't out of order to ask "Have we given them something to fight for?" Is the foremost democracy of the world going to ask them to fight for the privilege of being discriminated against in such things as selecting a place to live or a line of work to follow? I cannot believe such a situation will exist for very long. It is going to be difficult to justify denying the wives, children and parents of one group of soldiers the rights which are accorded the wives, children and parents of all other soldiers.

We need to keep in mind that any such restoration of rights will be opposed, for the American principles of freedom and equality have enemies at home, just as certainly as they have enemies abroad. Those enemies need to be recognized, met, and conquered.

I firmly believe that to the great majority of Americans, this nation is truly the land of the free and that most of us are willing to make a sincere effort to keep it so regardless of race, creed or ancestry.

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Citizens for Victory
68 Post Street
San Francisco 4, California

Saturday, January 13, 1945
K G O
4:15 - 4:30 P. M.

Announc: "Win the war ... win the Peace! The Citizens for Victory program ... broadcast as a public service by station KGO. Loyal citizens of Japanese ancestry are now free to return to California and the other Coast states. What problems will they face? How can those problems be solved harmoniously and in the interest of our mounting war effort? Today Citizens for Victory brings you a report on these timely questions. Mr. A. McKie Donnan is with us as usual, and his guest today is Dr. Paul S. Taylor, professor of economics at the University of California and a vice-chairman of the Pacific Coast Committee on American Principles and Fair Play. And now Mr. Donnan.....

Donnan: Something important happened here in San Francisco this week.... something important to the whole Pacific Coast, and in that way to the entire Nation and the world. Nearly 200 representatives of West Coast civic, religious, labor and other groups concerned with improvement of racial relations met here in a two-day conference to take stock and to map a program for the future. One of the biggest problems the conference tackled was the situation of the Japanese-Americans who are returning to the Coast after nearly three years in relocation centers. Speakers from a dozen government agencies described the outlook for the returning evacuees and explained how they will be aided with difficult job, housing, legal, and farm problems. Then there was discussion.... solid, searching discussion in which nearly all delegates -- including Chinese, Filipino, Negro, as well as Japanese-American leaders -- participated. *Now for a report*

on the conference high lights

~~For the answer to that question~~ we turn to Dr. Paul Taylor who is here

for the Fair Play Committee the organization which sponsored the *meeting*

Will you tell us something about the background
~~What did you see as the most important result~~ of the conference, Dr. Taylor?

During the present

Taylor: ~~For the past~~ month loyal citizens of Japanese ancestry and law-abiding Japanese aliens have been free to return to the West Coast communities from which they were evacuated nearly three years ago. The right of these ^{loyal} Japanese-Americans to take up their residence where they please has been fully established. The War Department has lifted the exclusion order which prevented the ^{is} return ~~of Japanese-Americans to the Coast~~ and the United States Supreme Court has ruled that loyal citizens cannot be detained. The Court put it this way: "Loyalty is a matter of the heart and mind not of race, creed, or color".

Donnon: In other words, Dr. Taylor, Japanese-Americans now have exactly the same right to be here -- or any where else in the country -- as have you or I.

Taylor: Yes, that's true. There is no longer any question of the right of ^{loyal} Japanese-Americans to come to California. The question now is what can we who are residents of California do to assist the government in carrying out the decisions of the War Department, and the Supreme Court.... and this is a very important question. I think most people agree that if we ~~can~~ reabsorb the returning evacuees in an orderly and harmonious way we will further the war effort. On the other hand, if we permit irresponsible people to stir up friction ~~between~~ among us the effect on the war effort will be bad ⁻⁻⁻ and the propagandists in Tokio will have an argument to ~~use~~ use against us.

Donnon: This week's conference, then, was called to study the steps that must be taken to give ^{loyal} Japanese-Americans a chance to participate in the war effort as all Americans have a right to do.

Taylor: Yes, to participate in the war effort here on the West Coast. As you know, most of the Japanese-Americans who were evacuated from the Coast have been

aiding the war effort in other parts of the county -- on farms, in war industries, and on the fighting fronts. About 70 percent of those ^{of working age} who went to evacuation camps have already been relocated in other parts of the country -- most of them, of course, in war work. Some 13,000 Japanese-Americans have been inducted into the armed forces.

Donnoan: And they have made brilliant records in combat. Japanese-American soldiers are fighting in Italy, in France, and in the Pacific. There are a great many Gold Star mothers in Relocation Camps x

Taylor: Yes, just two weeks ago a unit of Japanese-American troops fought their way through the Ardennes Forest to the side ^{Battalion} of a division of Texas boys who were nearly trapped in the German offensive. The soldiers from Texas, you remember, urged that their Japanese-American comrades be made honorary citizens of Texas as a reward for their heroic service. I think that like the soldiers from Texas most of us appreciate the part these Japanese-Americans are playing at the fighting fronts, but many folks do not realize how much ~~other~~ Japanese-Americans are doing to help the war effort here at home, or how much they may do here on the Coast now that they ^{are permitted} return. ~~One big question before the conference was how to help them get into war work here.~~

Donnan: ~~Let's get into that, Mr. Taylor, let's review briefly some of the progress.~~ As I understand it about 800 Japanese-Americans have already returned to the Pacific Coast states. How many more are expected?

Taylor: No one knows for sure.... not even the Japanese-Americans themselves. ~~You see there are~~ Mr. Dillon Myer, the director of the War Relocation Authority, told the conference that most of the Japanese-Americans ^{who are} still in the relocation camps and many of those who have settled in other

parts of the country haven't quite decided whether to return or not. Mr. Myer hazarded the guess that 40,000 might return to the Coast states during 1945, but he was far from positive about it. ~~At~~ One thing is sure -- the result of the evacuation will be to distribute the Japanese-American population more evenly through the whole country. For example, the conference heard that ~~there~~ ^{now} are more Japanese-Americans in Chicago ~~than~~ than there were in San Francisco before the evacuation. Some of these people will return here someday, but probably a good many will choose to remain.

Donnan: And I suppose it is a desirable thing from the point of view of Japanese-Americans as well as all other Americans that there be no more "Little Tokios". Well, to get back to the problems of those who will return to California... did the conference discover any great difficulties Japanese-Americans will face in finding jobs here?

Taylor: No, employment seemed to offer fewer difficulties than did ~~some~~ ^{some} other matters. As you know, thousands of war workers are needed here on the Coast and ^{local} Japanese-Americans are just as eligible for war jobs as you or I. The War Relocation Authority and the United States Employment Service will help the returning evacuees find war-essential work and, of course, once they are at work they will come under the same manpower regulations as do all other Americans. Like other minority groups the Japanese-Americans are protected against discrimination in war industries by the President's executive order, and the Fair Employment Practices Committee which enforces the ~~order against discrimination~~ ^{order}. But the conference agreed that in case of discrimination or injustice against Japanese-Americans fair-minded people in the community should step forward to speak in behalf of the returning evacuee ... we shouldn't leave it all to the government, ~~in other words~~.

Donnan: Yes, as citizens all of us have ^{an obligation} ~~the responsibility~~ to protect the rights of others.

Taylor: I think that the conference showed that organized labor appreciates the weight of that responsibility. One labor leader said this: "We have members of our unions -- Americans of Japanese descent -- in the war. We have worked alongside them for years, sat beside them at union meetings, and voted them into union offices, and we expect to continue that policy." There was indication that in many communities citizens of every walk of life mean to study the causes of racial tensions and do what they can to relieve them. Conference delegates from California, Oregon, and Washington all seemed to agree that there is need for organized effort against prejudices -- that prejudice can be defeated if people of good will will band together and speak out loudly against it.

Donnan; We were speaking of ^{the} employment problems ~~the~~ returning Japanese-Americans may face. These days a job isn't of much use unless ^{one has a place to live.} ~~there is housing along with it.~~

Can you tell us something about housing for the returning evacuees, Dr. Taylor?

Taylor: ~~Living difficulties will not be as great as one might think. Perhaps I should say that~~ Japanese-Americans will probably find it no harder to find housing than do others who come to the Coast these days. Some already own homes, or stores to which living quarters are attached. Those who go into war work will of course be eligible for public housing on the same basis as anyone else. A few

Japanese-American homeowners rented their houses to Negroes at the time of the evacuation. Now that they are ready to return, the Negro tenants ^{must find other} ~~places to live~~ ^{places to live} ~~with no other housing available.~~ Fortunately both the Negro ⁵

and the Japanese-American ³ are taking a very sensible attitude toward problems of this kind. The conference was told by leaders of both groups that they will ^{work together} ~~join~~ to find a friendly solution ⁱⁿ ~~to~~ each individual case of this kind. ~~There will be~~

Similar problems ^{will arise} ~~arising~~ between Japanese-Americans and Chinese, Filipinos, and Caucasians, but all ~~of them~~ can be solved by good sense, patience, and tact. I remember what the leader of a Filipino inter-community organization had to say on this point. Together with ^{China} ~~Cina~~ -- this man said -- his county has suffered more than any other from Japanese aggression, but he and his people feel no bitterness whatever toward Americans of Japanese ancestry. He felt ~~that~~ it would be absurd to hold a grudge against Japanese-Americans because of what the fascist military machine of Japan has done. On the contrary -- the Filipino leader said -- there should be unity among all Americans regardless of race or ancestry. Donnan: That is in perfect harmony with what the Supreme Court said, isn't it I remember you quoted from the Court's recent decision -- "Loyalty is a matter of the heart and mind and not of race, creed, or color". But to get back to the conference and your explanation of the problems Japanese-Americans will face on their return here. You have discussed employment and housing difficulties. How about farms? I know that a great many of the Japanese-Americans are expert farmers.

Taylor: The situation of those who wish to return to farms is somewhat discouraging, Mr. Donnan. Less than 25 percent ^{of those who farmed before the evacuation} will have any tenure on the land -- that is, less than 25 percent will either own farms or have leases. Most of the Japanese-Americans sold their equipment ^{at the request of state farm leaders} at the time of the evacuation and will find it very difficult to buy new equipment. And, of course, there are some farmers who have profited from the exclusion of the Japanese-Americans.... farmers who took ^{the} ~~their~~ land and equipment, and markets ^{of the Japanese-Americans} and may be reluctant now to give them up. I don't mean to suggest that the average farmer is any less fair or tolerant than his city neighbor, but it is not the average farmer who has benefitted from the absence of the Japanese-Americans. On the contrary, it is the most highly industrialized segment of western agriculture -- the vegetable growing ^{industry --} ~~business~~ -- ^{which has} ~~which~~ profited at the expense of the Japanese-Americans and ^{which} ~~who~~ fear their

return for purely selfish reasons. Most farmers have no cause at all to fear the Japanese-American farmer, or to feel unfriendly towards him. I think a great many farmers will welcome the opportunity to employ Japanese-American farm laborers. At present the government is importing Mexican nationals at heavy expense to work on farms. Every American of Japanese ancestry who takes a farm job will make it necessary to import one less ^{laborer.} ~~Mexican~~. So I think that both the farmer and the taxpayer have a reason to welcome Japanese-American farm workers.

Donnan: ~~I think~~ ^T there is a good deal of misunderstanding about the ~~##~~ position of the Japanese-American in agriculture here. I think some farmers have the idea that the Japanese-American will be a serious competitive threat someday, even if he is not now. How about that, Dr. Taylor?

Taylor: There is no basis in fact for such a belief, Mr. Donnan. The truth is that the ~~number~~ of persons of Japanese ancestry in this country ~~##~~ is declining steadily -- the birthrate among Japanese-Americans is ~~##~~ insufficient to balance mortality and emmigration. Not only is the number of Japanese-Americans declining, the size and value of their farms ~~#####~~ has been dropping for many years. Before the evacuation only four-tenths of one percent of the total West Coast farm acreage was in the hands of people of Japanese ancestry. Nor are Japanese-American laborers a serious competitive threat to other farm labor. The fact is that in 1940 there were only 8,307 farm laborers of Japanese ~~#####~~ descent ⁱⁿ in the Pacific Coast states -- that number, incidentally, is less than five percent of the total of Coast farm laborers. So you see, Mr. Donnan, there is little foundation for many of the current beliefs about Japanese-American farmers.

~~Donnan. I have always found ##### that facts are the best weapons against prejudice. I think you will agree that the most cordial relations are those based on the best mutual understanding.~~

Donnan: I'M sure that's true, Dr. Taylor... not only as it applies to Japanese-American farmers, but to others as well. Misunderstandings among Americans of different races and national origins is really lack of understanding, and I think most of us are agreed that to preserve ~~democracy~~ a democratic way of life we must see to it that there are no second-class citizens in this country. We are in a critical period now. The return of the Japanese-Americans gives us an opportunity to show that we mean what we say about democracy ~~that we are fighting to protect and preserve democracy.~~

Taylor: I think the attitude of California people toward the returning citizens of Japanese ancestry may decide what will be the relations between the white peoples of the world and the Orientals for generations to come. The manner in which we treat a few thousand Japanese-Americans, a few thousand Chinese, and a few thousand Filipinos may decide whether we are to live at peace in the world or ~~short~~ bombers run from some hundred of millions of Oriental peoples. We must remember that those millions on the other side of the ~~the~~ Pacific are watching us. The Tokio propagandists are watching us. They are eager to make this appear a war between Oriental and white peoples if they can. We must show by our example here at home that we ~~mean what we say about democracy~~ ^{to} mean live Americanism as well as talk it.

Donnan: Thank you, Dr. Taylor, for bringing us this report from the ~~committee~~ conference which made such important news here earlier this week. If anyone would like a copy of today's broadcast it may be obtained ~~by~~ without charge by phoning, writing, or dropping in at the office of Citizens for Victory, 68 Post Street, San Francisco.

AnnCR: You have been listening to another Citizens for Victory program broadcast as a public service by station KGO. Heard on today's program were Dr. Paul S. Taylor, professor of economics at the University of California and vice-chairman of the

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Pacific Coast Committee for American Principles and Fair Play, and Mr. A. McKie
Donnan. Tune in next Saturday for another "Win the war win the Peace" broadcast.

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