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1942 FEB 17 PM 4 39

TELEGRAM
SPECIAL

WM83 76 SALEM ORG FEB 17 12222P 1942

HONORABLE FRANCIS BIDDLE

ATTORNEY GENERAL

FILED
BY V.S.
MAR 14 1942

I AM CONVINCED THAT OUR PEOPLE ON THIS COAST DEMAND MORE
THOROUGH ACTION FOR PROTECTION AGAINST POSSIBLE ALIEN
ACTIVITY PARTICULARLY BY JAPANESE RESIDING ON COAST. I DO
NOT BELIEVE MEASURES NOW BEING TAKEN ARE ADEQUATE AND URGE
FURTHER AND PROMPT ACTION TO REMOVE THKXXX THIS MENACE AND
RECOMMEND INTERNMENT. WE WANT NO REPETITION OF HONOLULU
EXPERIENCE HERE. RECOMMEND YOUR AGENTS CONFER WITH MILITARY
AND POLICE AUTHORITIES TO PLAN POSITIVE PROTECTION FOR
AMERICANS, WITH DECENT TREATMENT OF JAPANESE
CHARLES A SPRAGYE GOVERNOR.

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEB 17 1942 P.M.
DIVISION OF RECORDS
ALIEN ENEMY UNIT

RECORD

C. C.

C O P Y

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OCTOBER 16

SALEM, OREGON

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
WASHINGTON, D. C.

MORE THAN 200,000 TONS OF SUGAR BEETS IN EASTERN OREGON AND WESTERN IDAHO WILL BE LOST UNLESS ADDITIONAL HELP CAN BE SECURED DURING THE COMING FOUR WEEKS. IN THE MEANTIME, THE GREATEST AMOUNT OF IDLE LABOR IN ALL THE WEST EXISTS WITHIN A DAY'S RIDE OF FIELDS WHERE LABOR IS NEEDED, THIS LABOR IS TO BE FOUND IN THE WRA CAMPS FOR JAPANESE EVACUEES FROM WHICH EFFORTS TO OBTAIN VOLUNTARY RECRUITMENT HAVE BEEN A DISMAL FAILURE. FROM ONE CAMP NEAR TULE LAKE, CALIFORNIA, ONLY 8,000 OF THE 15,000 OR MORE JAPANESE HAVE ACCEPTED EMPLOYMENT. I AM SHOCKED AT THE REPORTS OF ATTITUDE EXPRESSED BY THESE JAPANESE, MANY OF WHOM PRIOR TO INTERNMENT GAVE ASSURANCE OF THEIR DESIRE TO PROMOTE THE WELFARE OF THE NATION IN ANY WAY THEY COULD SERVE. NOW A SPIRIT OF LETHARGY AND INDIFFERENCE PREVAILS. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION GIVEN ME TODAY, ONLY 6,000 OF THE 15,000 IN THE CAMP PRETEND TO DO ANY WORK. 9,000 LIVE IN ABSOLUTE IDLENESS AND GROUCH ABOUT THE FOOD AND TREATMENT ACCORDED BY THE GOVERNMENT. THE WORK OFFERED IN THE SUGAR BEET FIELDS OF EASTERN OREGON CARRIES PREVAILING STANDARDS OF PAY WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION AND THE JAPANESE WORKERS NOW IN THE AREA ARE WELL SATISFIED WITH CONDITIONS. WHAT WE NEED IS A DEFINITE PUSH FROM WRA OFFICIALS TO GET THESE JAPANESE EVACUEES TO WORK. NO COMPULSION WOULD BE REQUIRED IF EMPLOYMENT AGENTS HAD THE SUPPORT OF WRA EXECUTIVES IN ENCOURAGING THE RESPONSE OF EVACUEES. IF VOLUNTARY RECRUITMENT FAILS, THEN JAPANESE EVACUEES SHOULD BE COMPELLED TO WORK OR BE TOLD THEY WILL BE DEPORTED AFTER THE WAR. WILL YOU NOT INSTRUCT WRA OFFICIALS TO GIVE POSITIVE ASSISTANCE IN THE RECRUITMENT PROGRAM.

CHARLES A. SPRAGUE, GOVERNOR OF OREGON

C O P Y

Orig.

May 20, 1942

Hon. Charles A. Sprague
Governor of Oregon
Salem, Oregon

Dear Governor Sprague:

Today, as you know, the United States Employment Service began the voluntary recruitment of a number of persons of Japanese ancestry who are permitted, under prescribed conditions, to leave an assembly center within Military Area Number One to engage in private employment in Malheur County, Oregon. This recruitment and this movement of evacuees to Malheur County were approved by the War Relocation Authority and the Commanding General of the Western Defense Command because:

- (a) You, as Governor of the State, and appropriate officials of Malheur County have accepted full responsibility for the maintenance of law and order;
- (b) You, and other officials and the employers involved, have earnestly represented that additional workers were needed to save the sugar beet crop of Malheur County;
- (c) Employers and appropriate officials have given assurance that evacuees would not displace other labor, that evacuees would receive not less than prevailing wages or not less than wages prescribed by law, that suitable health, housing, and food would be provided for such evacuees in Malheur County, and that transportation both ways would be provided at no cost to the Federal Government.

Thus the public responsibility which is borne under most circumstances by the military establishment and by the War Relocation Authority for protecting communities and evacuees and for providing evacuees an opportunity to earn a livelihood under wartime conditions, is in this instance borne by the State of Oregon and by one of its counties.

The permit to persons of Japanese descent to leave Military Area Number One is a conditional one. By Civilian Restrictive Order Number 2, dated today, May 20, 1942, the Military Commander of the Western Defense Command and Fourth Army has declared that evacuees may move only to Malheur County and that they shall return to a designated Assembly Center or Relocation Center as may be required by the Director of the War Relocation Authority.

It is clear, of course, that the action of the Commanding General in limiting the movement of evacuees to a single county, in requiring them to return, and in invoking penalties for infringement of the order, in no way reduces the responsibility of the State of Oregon, of local law enforcement officials, and of the employers, as previously

2 - Hon. Charles A. Sprague

stated in this letter.

I, as Director of the War Relocation Authority, shall require the evacuees affected by Civilian Restrictive Order Number 2 to return at any time to an Assembly Center or Relocation Center under any of the following conditions:

- (a) If the agreement basic to the movement of evacuees to Malheur County is in any respect infringed;
- (b) If at the close of the farming season, or sooner, employment conditions are such in Malheur County that the evacuees can no longer be provided full-time work opportunities;
- (c) If for any reason it appears to be in the best interest of the Nation, the community, or the evacuees to require their return.

I am sure that all persons in Oregon directly concerned with this matter understand that some of the evacuees now moving to Malheur County are aliens; many are American citizens. It is the policy of the War Relocation Authority, and I am sure it will be yours, to demonstrate to the world—to our enemies and our friends alike—that this wartime human problem can be handled by a great democratic nation with kindness, tolerance, and deep understanding of all that is involved.

I hope you and officials responsible to you will notify me of any incident or situation which you feel requires the attention of the War Relocation Authority. I recognize that you have assumed a heavy responsibility only because of your deep concern about the production of a crop vitally needed in the country's production program. We share that concern. If there is any way we can be of assistance to you, do not hesitate to call on us. Since I am usually at my office in Washington, your office will no doubt find it most convenient to call Mr. E. R. Fryer, Regional Director of the War Relocation Authority, Whitcomb Hotel, San Francisco, California.

Sincerely yours,

M. S. Eisenhower
Director

MSEisenhower/HH

Oregon

C O P Y

INFORMAL MEMORANDUM TO JOHN BIRD

SAN FRANCISCO CAL MAY 30 --

DEAR JOHN:

I JUST WANTED TO GIVE YOU THIS QUICK FLASHBACK OF HIGH APPROVAL OF YOUR MEMORANDUM OF MAY 28 TO ELMER ROWALT, COPY OF WHICH YOU MAILED ME, WITH REFERENCE TO MEETING CRITICISM ON ENLISTMENT OF EVACUEES FOR PRIVATE WORK.

THE PAST WEEK WE HAVE HAD TWO GOVERNORS -- OREGON'S SPRAGUE AND IDAHO'S CLARK -- YELLING TO HIGH HEAVEN THAT JAPANESE SHOULD HAVE THE CHOICE BETWEEN BEET FIELDS AND CONCENTRATION CAMPS. I HAVE COUNCELED CAUTION IN MAKING ANY STATEMENTS, WITHHELD THE EXCHANGE OF TELEGRAMS BETWEEN EISENHOWER AND GOV. CLARK TO AVOID ANY SUGGESTION THAT WE WERE GOING ALONG WITH CLARK. AND CLARK, WE NOW HEAR, HAS BEEN ROUNDED UP BY THE BEETGROWERS AND HAS TAKEN A HELL OF A BEATING FROM THEM FOR HIS INFLAMMATORY REMARKS WHEN THEY WANTED THE JAPANESE TO COME INTO THE STATE.

YOUR POINT NO. 2 IN THE MEMO REFERENCE DEVELOPMENT OF WESTERN RESOURCES WARMS MY HEART CONSIDERABLY. YOU'LL REMEMBER HOW I CAN MAKE A SPEECH ON THAT SUBJECT. I WELL RECALL MAKING ONE SUCH SPEECH TO YOU ... BUT, FRANKLY, I DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE LISTENING.

ED BATES

C O P Y

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
Tule Lake Project
Newell, California

*Put this
copy in
Governor's file*

October 21, 1942

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

We herein respectfully enclose our letter of protest to the telegram which your office received from the Governor of the State of Oregon, the Honorable Charles A. Sprague, with regard to recruiting Japanese labor on the Oregon beet farms.

We hope you will give it due consideration.
We have the honor to remain

Most respectfully yours,

/s/ Ichiro Hasegawa
Ichiro Hasegawa

/s/ Richard Hikawa
Richard Hikawa

/s/ Ken Sekiguchi
Ken Sekiguchi

Enclosure

October 17, 1942

OREGON JOURNAL - Page 16, Col. 4

DEPORT IDLE JAPS, URGES OREGON CHIEF

SALEM, Oct. 16-AP-Governor Sprague telegraphed a request to President Roosevelt asking him to force Japanese internees to assist in harvesting farm crops, particularly sugar beets.

The governor, bitterly criticizing the Japanese for not volunteering for farm work, said they should be told they must work or else be deported after the war. The governor's telegram said:

"More than 200,000 tons of sugar beets in Eastern Oregon and Western Idaho will be lost unless additional help can be secured during the coming four weeks. In the meantime, the greatest pool of idle labor in all the West exists within a day's ride of the fields where labor is needed. This labor is to be found in the war relocation authority camps for Japanese evacuees from which efforts to obtain voluntary recruitment have been a dismal failure.

Shocked at Attitude

"From Newell camp, near Tule Lake, Cal., only 800 of the 15,000 or more Japanese, many of whom, prior to internment, gave assurance of their desire to promote the welfare of the nation in any way they could serve. Now a spirit of lethargy and indifference prevails. According to information given me today, only 6,000 of the 15,000 in the camp pretend to do any work; 9,000 live in absolute idleness and grouse about the food and treatment accorded by the government.

Pay, No Discrimination

"The work offered in the sugar beet fields of Eastern Oregon carries prevailing standards of pay without discrimination, and the Japanese workers now in the area are well satisfied with conditions. What we need is a definite push from WRA officials to get these Japanese evacuees to work. No compulsion would be required if employment agents had the support of WRA executives in encouraging response of evacuees. If voluntary requirement fails, then Japanese evacuees should be compelled to work or be told they will be deported after the war. Will you not instruct WRA officials to give positive assistance in recruitment program?"

C O P Y

Division of Agriculture
Tule Lake Project
Newell, California
October 18, 1942

Open Letter To
His Excellency, The Governor
Salem, Oregon

Dear Governor Sprague:

After reading your article in the "Oregon Journal" of October 17, 1942, page 16, column 4, decrying the dismal failure in your attempt to recruit beet workers from our midst, we wish to bring to your attention the following facts which we hope will clarify the half-truths mentioned in your telegram to the President.

As we are writing this letter, 54 persons are leaving this camp for Caldwell County, Idaho, to participate in the sugar beet harvest. Therefore on this day, October 18, 1942, there are remaining in this camp exactly 14,472 persons. Of this number, women and children under 18 years of age comprise 9,412. The remaining 5,060 are males over the age of 18, but of this number 1,060 are over the age of 60. On the assumption that every man between the ages of 18 and 60 is able-bodied, we would have available, assuming that there is no work to be done in camp, for

sugar beet labor from this camp exactly 4,000 men. Under any circumstances, when nearly 15,000 people are brought together to live in a new community established in a period of less than three months, there will be among them many whose labor is essential to the daily operation of the new community. These include 800 project farm work; 500 construction; 400 maintenance men which includes janitor and garbage disposers; 800 warehousing and other transportation; 350 cooks and cooks' helpers; and 410 wardens, firemen, and other Civic workers; and at least 100 hospital employees, a total of 3,360.

The 800 farm workers are employed on the 2,500 acres W.R.A. project farm which is now in the midst of harvesting, which is supplying not only this camp with produce but also five other Relocation Centers with a total population of approximately 70,000 people. Due to the exigencies of our own harvesting, the high school has been closed to supplement the farm workers.

The 500 construction workers are now engaged in completing the barracks to make them more tenable for the coming winter which is more severe than the climate to which the greater majority of us have been accustomed. In addition, they are constructing quarters for teachers and other Caucasian staff members, constructing an addition which was

sorely needed by the Hospital, and relative to the W.R.A. farm program, constructing a 20,000 hen poultry farm and a 5,000 head hog farm. Furthermore, our school buildings have yet to be erected and at present the 3,971 students are crowded into makeshift buildings without adequate desk and chair facilities.

The 400 maintenance men are detailed to various duties such as: garbage disposal of this city of 15,000; janitors for approximately 400 public buildings, such as mess halls, laundries, washrooms, and schools, and the fuel detail which must supply the 7,500 odd boilers and stoves with coal.

The 800 workers on warehousing and transportation are taking care of 50 odd warehouses and with an inadequate fleet of 60 trucks are attempting to accommodate 15,000 people and a 2,500 acre farm which is shipping on the average seven cars of produce daily.

The 350 cooks and cooks' helpers are cooking three meals for the entire colony of 15,000 which means that one cook is preparing meals for approximately 45 persons.

The 410 workers under the Community Welfare and Internal Security Division are classed as firemen, firewardens, police wardens and other Civic leaders. Due to the frame construction and congestion, the camp must, of necessity

have a large complement of firemen and fire wardens.

The 100 odd workers in the hospital are employed as doctors, internes, orderlies, dentists, dental technicians, pharmacists, first aid men and ambulance drivers.

This leaves 640 men between the ages of 18 and 60 who are employed in miscellaneous employment. This 640 on miscellaneous non-essential employment is quite a difference between the 9,000 whom you have mentioned as in absolute idleness.

According to the news article, you, Governor Sprague, have requested the good office of the President "to force Japanese internees to assist in harvesting farm crops - -".

Since when has it become the policy of these United States to FORCE any person or group of persons to work? We understand that forced labor is an AXIS principle, not a DEMOCRATIC principle.

Prior to evacuation, it was stressed that it was the duty of Americans of Japanese Ancestry to be evacuated. We have been told that to do so was our share in the war effort.

Now that we have been completely evacuated and before we are barely settled in our new community, your good office comes forth with the statement that it is NOW our duty to assist in the war effort through participation as beet workers in the same state which only a few months previous

was clamoring for our evacuation. When the leaders of the various states show such a reversal of policy, it is not only bewildering and distressing to us, but it also seems, to our minds, that we are being exploited by certain groups.

Prior to evacuation the cry was: "Get the Japs out! We'll get along; we'll get the Mexicans and the Filipinos. Out with the Japs! They're dangerous!" Now that we are the only labor pool which is definitely available, the very ones who were crying for our evacuation are begging for our return. Please do not misunderstand us. We realize that every effort in production is essential to the war effort, and as American citizens, we are just as anxious to contribute our efforts as others. But it seems to us that we are being made pawns to the whims of political and economic groups. We hope that you understand, that to be exploited is distasteful to any group. We believe that a high office, such as yours, should have had the data, exercised good judgment, and utilized the influence of your good office prior to our evacuation to a fuller extent, so that you would have not had to propose any "forced labor." Your statement, "Japanese evacuees should be compelled to work or be told they will be deported after the war," is duress in the most vicious sense. It is an Axis technique

the very principle against which the United Nations are now fighting. Such a coercive statement from a high office tends only to defeat the united efforts of all majority and minority groups.

Also your allegations that "No compulsion would be required if the employment agents had the support of WRA executives in encouraging response of evacuees" are based entirely on your opinion and not on facts. The WRA executives, in view of the policy that all the evacuees should be relocated outside of the military areas, are aiding and cooperating with the employment agents in every way possible and strongly recommending to the evacuees that they go out and endeavor to establish themselves. But the WRA officials have a better understanding of our situation; therefore, are recommending, not forcing, us to volunteer for the sugar beet fields.

Your expectation of a spontaneous response to your plea for workers has not been met in this colony for the following reasons:

1. Many who have previously volunteered have reported that they have been treated as second-class citizens--tolerated only to the extent of the economic necessity of the employers and of the various communities.
2. The contracts, in many cases, have not been in good

faith by the employers. Many feel that they have been definitely "gyped."

3. The great majority of us Japanese are definitely not migratory laborers. Most of us are thinking in terms of post-war rehabilitation, therefore are seeking something more tangible than a few months in the beet fields.

Therefore, instead of resorting to coercion and duress, if your office will give these facts serious consideration, correct the present conditions, and offer more tangible, long-term opportunities, we are sure that many more will welcome the opportunity to volunteer.

A copy of this letter is being sent to the President.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Ichiro Hasegawa
Ichiro Hasegawa

/s/ Richard Hikawa
Richard Hikawa

/s/ Ken Sekiguchi
Ken Sekiguchi

C O P Y

Hood River, Oregon
October 19, 1942

Governor Charles A. Sprague,
Salem, Oregon

Dear Governor:

In response to your request of October 15, I left on the night of that same date for Nyssa and the Boise valley, with the object of securing as much first-hand information as possible concerning the sugar beet situation, need of and opportunities for workers and accommodations available. Owing to the late arrival of the train, it was imperative that, if I was to carry out my schedule within the time which could be devoted to this survey, some data which would have been useful would have to be left for another visit. But I did definitely learn that beet growers and processors of the Boise valley have no objection to the employment of Japanese and Japanese-Americans if these can save their huge crop.

In eastern Oregon and western Idaho there are huge areas of sugar beets waiting to be harvested, but with the pitifully small supply of labor now available, the prospect is dim indeed. The flow of beets into the sugar refineries is, perhaps, not more than 40 per cent of what it should be at this season of the year, and with winter near, it is now anybody's guess whether the bulk of the crop will be harvested or whether a freeze will come and put an end to further harvesting prospects. Naturally, growers are desperate and, with the arrival of a few hundred Japanese in the Nyssa area, they are hoping that these are but the vanguard of many hundreds more to come from the Newell relocation area near Tule Lake.

In response to my questions, I found farmers and people at Nyssa receptive to the harvesting of the beet crop by Japanese or Japanese-Americans. A few residents of the area would, perhaps, be happier if the huge crop could be harvested by white Americans, but these people have neither crops of their own nor are they interested financially in the processing of these beets. During an auto tour of part of the valley, I noticed the names of Japanese on mail boxes, and learned that they have been farming there for several years and have aroused no antipathy.

Japanese from the Newell camp, at present employed in Boise valley are, apparently well satisfied with the treatment being extended to them and are earning from \$4.50 to \$6.50 a day. This is considerably under the current earnings of white beet toppers,

but the reason is that these Japanese confess that they are earning all they want and are maintaining a slower pace than white workers, and see no advantage in speeding up. It costs them about \$1 a day for board and quarters, under a cooperative plan which they have established, which leaves them a nice margin out of their earnings. Their one criticism seems to be that in the Nyssa area a curfew is still maintained, whereas at the Newell center, this has been abandoned since that area was turned over by the military authorities to the civilian War Relocation Administration. But I learned that the curfew was set up at Japanese request and for their own protection and not as a restrictive measure. No discrimination of any kind is exercised against them in the Nyssa section of Oregon and, outside of curfew hours they are free to go -- and do go -- everywhere that white beet workers go.

While discussing the problem of providing accommodations for a large number of Japanese workers, if they could be prevailed upon to leave the Newell camp, I learned that a large CCC camp is now unused, right in the heart of the sugar beet fields, and in 30 minutes I was able to personally study its possibilities, which are adequate for several hundred Japanese, in winter as well as summer. It was also stated that the use of this camp would be permitted if Japanese in sufficient numbers would come up from Camp Newell, just over the California line.

Later in the afternoon of Friday, accompanied by G. L. McMillan, of the U.S. Employment Service at Ontario, and in a car loaned by a group interested in the beet problem, I left for Klamath Falls, passing through another extensive beet area without seeing a single worker in the fields. By travelling thru part of the night, Klamath Falls was reached in the early hours of Saturday morning. Early Saturday morning we were on our way to Camp Newell, just over the California line.

On arrival at the camp, in which I spent nearly the entire day, I asked for Administrator Elmer Sherrell and explained my mission, asking that I might be free to prosecute inquiries wherever I might desire. This request was immediately granted, but before leaving to interview Japanese, Mr. Sherrell explained many details of camp life and policy, but volunteered no statement which would indicate that any trouble was being experienced in the camp. In fairness to officials with whom I talked, it should be stated that criticism which follows is directed against the system in vogue at Camp Newell and not against officials, who are probably interpreting camp policy the way it is intended they should do. My conclusion is that

there is nothing new about this camp policy -- it is simply WPA all over again. And I believe that, with many years of Public Welfare commission work behind me, I am qualified to know WPA when I see it in any of its forms. And here at Camp Newell, the transformation from individualism to paternalism is already making much progress.

At the administration center, Mr. Sherrell outlined some of the work which is being undertaken by the more than 15,000 evacuees, who are resident in the area. One of the problems, he stated, is that of preparing the buildings for the coming winter, which, so he informed me, would include temperatures far below zero and not infrequent blizzards. And this just south of the Oregon border, down California way. It was almost unnecessary for him to explain that he is entirely new to the Far West and had been told this was the kind of weather he could expect. To the question as to whether this job would keep 15,000 employed, he explained that there is also the task of growing crops to feed all these people, but he admitted that, between them, the two jobs would not furnish steady work for all occupants of the camp. To the question as to whether the harvesting of sugar beets over a large area in Idaho and Oregon could be of even more importance at this time than improving the Newell camp, Mr. Sherrell replied: "That's just what I've been trying to tell our people here, but you see what the response has been. They just can't be persuaded to go outside to work." He denied the statement that he and his organization is making no effort to cooperate with the U.S. Employment Service and other groups, members of which are trying to have at least a reasonable number of the more than 15,000 people in Camp Newell put to work in beet and other similar projects, in which big crops are in danger of being lost. It was my own impression that administration officials with whom I talked would have no objection to the camp personnel being maintained at its present strength indefinitely, even in perpetuity, and for a reason entirely human and not at all uncommon. Another impression I gained was that there is an almost total lack of discipline even in the administration building.

The next several hours were spent interviewing probably more than one hundred Japanese of both issei (first generation, and born in Japan) and nisei (second generation, born in the United States, and citizens of this country). In all interviews, the greatest care was exercised to prevent misunderstanding of questions, especially by older Japanese men and women, and in a number of instances, the American and Japanese languages were used. I found far less bitterness among these older, born in

Japan, people than among the younger folks, born in America. The older folks accepted their situation with Shikata ga nai ("it can't be helped") — but they do deplore the breakdown of morale among their children in the camp, and it was evident that parental control, in many instances, has fallen to a low ebb. Their viewpoint is best exemplified by one elderly Japanese who, after complaining, in Japanese, and at length, that there is no steady, hard work for these younger Japanese in camp, blurted out in English: "Just one year in this camp and we will all be 'bums'".

However, I was even more interested in the younger Japanese men — of the type which could do a great job in the beet fields, if they so desired. And it was during my conversation with these young men that I discovered what is wrong at Camp Newell. For almost complete lack of objective, steady work, many of these young Japanese-Americans are rapidly degenerating into cynics, whose ideas are based upon what they believe is the utter hopelessness of their future. Some of these I have known for years, and in former days all white Americans who knew them rated them as fine, loyal American citizens. Today, a number of them with whom I talked, scoffed when I suggested to them that it would be entirely in their own interests if they would regard their internment as "water under the bridge" and take this opportunity to live up to the oath they took and publicized just prior to their evacuation. Here are but a few of the comments to my suggestion that they cooperate in large numbers to go out and harvest the beet crop: "Why should I work for people who hate me because I am an American born of Japanese parents?" "We are not good enough to be accepted as American citizens, so why should we help Americans?" "They have refused us even a chance to prove our loyalty to our country and have branded us as traitors — well, if that is the way they want to think about us, let it be that way." "We all were very willing to take our places in the United States Army, and a few of us were permitted to wear the uniform, but certain groups were willing to condemn us even without a hearing and throw us into a concentration camp for the duration of the war. While we are in this camp, we are at least protected against more unjust treatment."

These are but a few of the statements made to me when I urged groups of these Japanese to take outside work in the beet fields. I wish I could have convinced myself that it was only the "smart alecs" who made these remarks with the object of showing off to their fellow internees — but I am forced to the

conclusion that they were given in all seriousness as the views of those who uttered them and reflect the present condition of mind of many of these young Japanese-Americans. The reason? Well, that is easy to define. Here are several thousand of formerly active young men, largely raised in conformance with American ideals, now inmates of an enemy aliens' camp, largely without healthy occupation of an objective type, with plenty of time on their hands to mourn their fate -- and to listen to a relatively small group, members of which are, by propaganda, keeping the old wound open and smarting at all times, and doing their worst to convert these young men into potentially dangerous enemies. It was only after hearing these views expressed by these young men that I realized why their parents are so worried and so anxious that their sons be given an opportunity to go to real work outside of the camp influence.

It was admitted that there have been many meaningless strikes among these evacuees -- but what could one expect, with defeatism the creed of many of these young men. With this in mind, I was fortunate in being invited to give an address before the camp council, about two hundred strong, and consisting entirely of American born Japanese. Citing the declaration of loyalty, adopted on oath by members of the Japanese-American Citizen's League shortly before the internment order went out, I suggested that, when the war ends, there will be minority groups which will demand deportation, not only of natives of Japan, but also of their born-in-America children, and they will seek evidence to justify such deportation. At the same time, many Americans, realizing that the war will be over, will also seek evidence to prove the loyalty of these young citizens. "Persist in your present attitude and refuse to undertake the duty of every loyal citizen, and your future when the war ends is obvious, for your friends will search in vain for evidence to support a plea to justify your continued residence in America as Americans," was the highlight in my address, which, if applause is an indication, was well received. Late Saturday night, I learned from an administrative official, that the text of my remarks was being circulated by the grapevine at camp and was the subject of much discussion. I hope so.

And now, with your permission, I wish to offer the following recommendations, which are based upon a study of conditions as I found them, both in the sugar beet areas and in Camp Newell:

1. That, at the earliest possible date, arrangements be made to relocate groups of these internees at Camp Newell in beet and other crop-producing areas in which their labor is urgently needed, taking advantage of the facilities offered by now unused Civilian Conservation Corps camps, located in the heart of the

sugar beet areas of the Boise valley, and which are adequate even for winter occupancy -- that is, if the camp near Nyssa is a typical example. It would be better to locate these people in family groups, with full regard for their home groupings before they were evacuated. Thus old friendships would be continued and there would be more contentment.

2. Plan these relocations as far as possible for the duration of the war and the need for labor. In some of the areas there will be almost year-around work to be done, except for about two winter months.

3. Permit each group, as far as practicable, to operate its own camp area; keep down the number of administrative officials of the War Relocation Administration and associated paternalism.

4. In areas in which there are no CCC camps, interest communities desiring this type of labor in making their own plans for providing accommodations to adequately house these workers. It might be possible for such communities to obtain some federal financial assistance for such projects, but they should be free of both federal control and administration as soon as the camp is occupied. The utmost effort should also be made to keep these workers free from exploitation of all kinds -- they should be given a square deal and be given every chance to feel that their work is appreciated and that they are worthy of their hire.

5. Carry out, at the earliest possible time, a careful survey of the actual need of and desire for this type of labor in all communities interested and engaged in producing vital crops or in processing the same, and keeping in mind that further heavy induction of young man power is going to rapidly increase the demand for farm labor. It is suggested that these inquiries be directed exclusively to actual growers of crops and those engaged in processing them and entirely without reference to groups which neither produce or process agricultural crops. Let those who are actively engaged in production for the war effort be the sole judges on the question of employing these evacuees in the growing and harvesting of essential crops.

6. Use every effort to persuade responsible authorities to undertake the work of rapidly reducing the size of the Newell Camp, at least to the requirements of nearby farm areas which require this type of labor. The camp is located either within

or is closely adjacent to Military Area No. 1, which is not at this stage, when transfer to civilian authority has been completed, desirable. Further, urge that no more money be spent on development work at Camp Newell, but that the work of relocating these 15,000 evacuees be proceeded with as rapidly as possible.

Finally, may I suggest that, if these Americans of Japanese parentage are not willing to forget what has happened to them under stress of war and volunteer for productive work wherever they may be needed, to the end that they play their parts as the American citizens they claim to be, then every effort should be made to set up the machinery by which they may be drafted into essential work. Other young Americans are daily being drafted into the armed services to take orders and obey them as good Americans. Surely this is not too much to ask of young Americans of Japanese parentage. ✓

Thanks for the opportunity.

Sincerely yours,

(signed) Hugh G. Ball