

109
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

[Handwritten signature]

Washington, D. C.
November 3, 1943

STRAIGHT WIRE

John Bigelow
Minidoka Relocation Center
Hunt, Idaho

Glad you're going to Tule. After arrival please assemble all facts of incidents in recent days and report to Washington and San Francisco. Cover size of crowd, its leadership, violence or coercion in any form, beating of project physician, any damage to property, demands of evacuees, WRA response, essence of Myer's talk to evacuees and current status. Keep us posted on further developments. Its the toughest job you ever had. Good luck.

John C. Baker

cc: ✓ Mr. Cozzens



Press Release
Tulean Dispatch
November 4, 1943

This notice is being published to confirm my verbal instructions that in order to prevent any unnecessary incidents which might accompany any large assembly of people no public gatherings will be permitted beyond the west line of the fire-break from the main gate of the military area to the south line perimeter fence. This means that no public gathering of evacuees will be permitted in the hospital area, administrative building or residence area or the warehouse area. All matters of policy and all business discussions will be done through committees of evacuees working with administrative committees.

R. R. Best

Project Director


Don't know much about the ^{Nov 1, 1943} fish story but I wouldn't doubt it at all - Anything can happen in this dump - Its almost as bad as being in Germany - You wonder why you were born - No fooling these guys have no respect for women and boy do they believe in Gestapo methods - You can't use your own mind, you gotta be on the alert of what you say and on

top of that you gotta respect
the-ibeikays -

NOTE WRITTEN BY NISEI GIRL WORKING IN LEAVE OFFICE

PICKED UP BY MISS HERT, NOVEMBER 1.

"Don't know much about the fish story but I wouldn't doubt it at all--Anything can happen in this dump--It's almost as bad as being in Germany--You wonder why you were born--No fooling, these guys have no respect for women, and boy do they believe in Gestapo methods--You can't use your own mind, you gotta be on the alert of what you say and on top of that you gotta respect the ibeikays-."


STRAIGHT WIRE

Washington, D. C.
November 5, 1943

Ray Best
Tule Lake Center
Newell, California

Suggest joint statement to be issued by you and Colonel Austin include if possible report of all verified facts concerning incident Monday. Should make clear that Army has been ready to move at a moment's notice and came in the center on request of WRA. Believe it important to make clear the character of population at Tule Lake. Is Bigelow on the job yet?

Reiland Barrows
Acting Director

cc: ✓ Mr. Cozzens



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Telegram sent by D. S. Myer to
Dr. Sproul

Reur joint wire, Harrison and Lundberg, statements of facts being prepared and checked. We are in entire sympathy with your suggestion. Situation so ~~great~~ grave, great care required in documenting. Have release out this week and follow with others as facts can be verified. We hope statement can be join with Army. If not, statements will be released anyway.

D. S. Myer

P.W.

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TELETYPE

WRA
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11-13-43

Mr. Leland Barrows
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
Washington (25), D. C.

In partial compliance your wire 11th regarding testimony, following WRA personnel testified at first hearings held by California Senate Committee at Tule Lake:

Charles K. Wiese, Property & Warehousing Officer
Clifford L. Payne, Internal Security Officer
Ernest R. Rhodes, Fire Protection Officer
John C. Stubbs, former Cost Accounting Clerk
Noble C. Wilkinson, formerly Associate Project Steward
Floyd B. Stone, Assistant Equipment Maintenance Supervisor
Charles Scott Warren, Assistant Farm Superintendent

A WRA representative was present at all hearings.

Philip J. Webster
P. Webster:HB
11-13-43

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TELETYPE MESSAGE

NOV 18 1943

Ray Best
Tule Lake Center
Newell, California

Teletype No. _____

Our statement on incident as cleared with you indicated that internal security officer beaten on night of November 4 tripped, struck his head on stone, and was subsequently beaten by an evacuee with a club. In reply you suggested changing to evacuees with clubs. This change was made. However, examination of Brobeck's testimony before State Senate Committee reveals no reference to tripping. Please supply us with any evidence you may have regarding this point.

Leland Barrows
Acting Director

cc: ✓ Mr. Cozzens



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3TL-74 SF OEM 11-20-43 833A
230 SF WAR /NEWELL/RELAY TO TULE LAKE 74/ 11-20-43 1030A
R R BEST WRA TULE LAKE RELO CTR NEWELL CALIF

IN ORDER TO BE CERTAIN THAT OUR DOCUMENTATION OF THE TULE LAKE INCIDENT WILL BE HANDLED COMPLETELY AND WITHOUT CONFUSION, WISH TO RAISE THE FOLLOWING POINTS ----

1. PLEASE SUPPLY BY TELETYPE LIST OF ALL MATERIAL WHICH HAS BEEN MAILED THIS OFFICE REGARDING THE INCIDENT, SENATE HEARINGS, ETC.
2. LIST BY TELETYPE ADDITIONAL MATERIAL NOW IN PREPARATION OR TO BE PREPARED INDICATING BRIEFLY WHAT EACH ITEM WILL COVER AND WHEN WE CAN EXPECT TO RECEIVE IT.
3. IF YOU HAVE NOT DONE SO, SUGGEST THAT YOU DESIGNATE SOME ONE MEMBER OF YOUR STAFF WITH SUCH ASSISTANCE AS YOU CAN PROVIDE TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR COMPLETING THE DOCUMENTATION. IF YOU HAVE DONE THIS INDICATE WHO IS IN CHARGE AND SUGGEST THAT ALL DOCUMENTATION CLEAR THROUGH THIS CHANNEL.
4. DOES THE WORK YOU ARE DOING OR PLAN TO DO INCLUDE INTERVIEWING UNDER CONDITIONS WHICH WILL PROVIDE A RECORD, AFFIDAVIT, OR CERTIFIED WRITTEN STATEMENT OF FACTUAL INFORMATION FROM EVERY PERSON KNOWN TO HAVE FIRST-HAND KNOWLEDGE OF THE INCIDENT.
5. HAVE YOU BEEN ABLE TO INTERVIEW UNDER APPROPRIATE CIRCUMSTANCES FORMER EMPLOYEES AND TOWNSPEOPLE WHO HAVE GIVEN TESTIMONY IN THE HEARINGS OR STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS. HAVE YOU BEEN ABLE TO QUESTION SUCH PEOPLE SO AS TO BRING OUT FACTUAL BASIS FOR THEIR INFORMATION.
6. ARE THE FBI INVESTIGATORS AT THE CENTER INVESTIGATING THE FACTS OF THE INCIDENT INCLUDING ACTIONS OF WRA OFFICIALS AND ARMY OFFICIALS OR ARE THEY CHIEFLY CONCERNED WITH INTERVIEWING EVACUEES AND INVESTIGATING COMPLICITY OF EVACUEES IN THE INCIDENT.
7. HOW LONG DO YOU WISH TO KEEP BIGELOW AND SPICER.

WE ARE TRYING TO ASSEMBLE INFORMATION WHICH WE SHALL NEED TO SUPPLEMENT OUR PRELIMINARY REPORT TO THE PRESS TO DEAL WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES, MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, AND POSSIBLY TO APPEAR BEFORE THE COSTELLO SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE DIES COMMITTEE. CONSEQUENTLY, WE ARE COMPILING HERE IN WASHINGTON A SUMMARY OF ALL THE STATEMENTS AND CHARGES MADE IN THE PRESS, AND EXPECT THROUGH THE FACTS SUPPLIED FROM YOUR OFFICE TO BE ABLE TO COMMENT FULLY ON ANY QUESTIONS WHICH MAY BE RAISED. PLEASE WIRE ME AT LENGTH IN RESPONSE TO THESE QUESTIONS BEARING IN MIND THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF A FUTURE INVESTIGATION IS ONE OF THE REASONS I AM ASKING THEM. SUGGEST SPICER, BIGELOW, AND COZZENS, IF POSSIBLE, BE ASKED TO PARTICIPATE IN FRAMING YOUR REPLY.

D S MYER WRA WA

DB 1050A
JM 911A
1. Best
~~2. Cozzens~~
3. Bigelow
4. Spicer

TELETYPE
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November 23, 1943

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Mr. Ray Best
Project Director
Tule Lake Center
Newell, California

Would like statements checked following items:

1. Adams statement on conscientious objectors.
2. Dayton's statement regarding sugar for soft drinks, sugar for hospital, shoe rationing, barley and potato harvest last year.
3. Cumming's statement regarding leasing of whole hotel in August and bill of \$1300.
4. Callem's statement regarding men needed on land preparation, irrigation, and livestock, and number of men used.
5. Leuck and Rhoades statement regarding missing valves, and sand and ~~mixes~~ glass in fire hydrants; false alarms; damage to phone system; destruction of nozzles and hydrants; alleged stealing of fire hose; statement regarding last 5 fires put out by volunteer brigades.
6. Rhoades statement regarding 300 turnip knives alleged to be stolen from farm in one day; 60 auto and truck springs broken in month of December; oil soaked straw in each corner of garage; oil poured over some cars; straw saturated with stove oil under butcher shops.
7. Stubbs statement regarding expensive school books and laboratory equipment; ~~in~~ more cars and trucks than needed; tank battle with tractors.
8. Williamson's story regarding evacuees taking his car; alleged treatment of him, Peck and Zimmer with butcher knives; stolen bacon; boxes of straw and weapons.
9. Story regarding condemned hogs and number of hogs buried at slaughter house.

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10. Stone's statement regarding parts stolen and nothing done about it.

11. Cook's story regarding telephone operators forced off job by several evacuees night of November 4. Is this true?

D. V. Myer

Director

11/23/43

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November 24, 1943

Mr. Ray R. Best
Project Director
Tule Lake Relocation Center
Newell, California

Teletype No. _____

Please supply all available information on following points which have appeared in newspapers: 1. Mrs. Clarks statement regarding an evacuee blockade of postoffice 2. Yalerman's statement that evacuee operated radio transmitting sets were so powerful as to jam reception in military quarters outside center 3. Yalemans statement that WRA permitted evacuees to maintain house of prostitution within center. ~~4. Statement in San Francisco Call Bulletin that evidence regarding hanged evacuee woman was destroyed before civilian authorities could investigate.~~ 4. What recommendations were made by FCC officials when they visited center on or about October 30. This material needed for Congressional investigation which may begin Monday November 29.

Watozier:jn

DIRECTOR,

D.S. Myer

Rise

P.W.

Send to Wof C

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Tule Lake Center
Newell, California

In reply, please refer ~~Reports~~

November 25, 1943

D. S. Myer, Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Myer:

Enclosed are the following documents in connection
with the Tule Lake Incident:

- I. Transcript of meeting between Mr. Cozzens and
Congressman Engle.
- II. Chronology of events between November 5 and 16,
prepared by E. H. Spicer.
- III. Signed statements by Julius Christensen,
Eada Silverthorne, Otis Roper and Margaret Lucas.
More of these will be sent from time to time.
- IV. A brief account of a recent power-shut-off at night.
- V. Three letters written by evacuees and found in
their desks after the Army took over and the evacuees
did not return to work. These are indicative of
evacuee sentiment.
- VI. A report on appointed personnel activities in
connection with the Tule Lake Incident, prepared by
John Bigelow.
- VII. Transcript of my testimony at the California
State Senate Committee hearing.

Sincerely yours,

R R B
R. R. Best
Project Director

Note to Mr. Cozzens:

Item No. 1 not included in copies sent you.

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Taken over the phone from Captain Hall, November 26, 1943

Statement issued by General McCoach, dated 15 November 1943.

The Commanding General, Ninth Service Command, issued the following statement this date:

"On November 4, 1943, at 9:50 p.m. at the request of the Project Director of the War Relocation Center at Tule Lake, the troops normally stationed at the camp moved in and took over control of the Center. At this time a small group of evacuees was dispersed from the Administrative Area. Since the Army assumed control of the Tule Lake Center there have been no disturbances. While there have been work stoppages among the evacuees in the center the normal operations such as feeding, housing and medical care have continued without interruption under the supervision of the military authorities. The troops are policing and patrolling the entire area and no incidents or signs of resistance or unrest have occurred. In the investigation by the Army which followed occupation, a few articles of contraband were discovered and confiscated. No firearms or explosives have been discovered. The duration of Army control will depend upon future developments."

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TELETYPE MESSAGE

DEC 1 1943

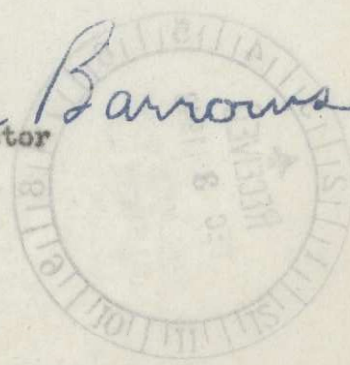
Ray Best
Tule Lake Center
Newell, California

Teletype No. _____

Congressman Costello claimed in today's newspaper that the Tule Lake incident was instigated from Tokyo by shortwave radio, that the center has been in communication with Tokyo and that the evacuees are awaiting further orders from Tokyo. Have you any evidence concerning existence of short wave receivers in the center or other information bearing on this assertion? I understand that the broadcasting transmitter that operated in the center prior to the incident had a range of only a few miles; that the equipment operated on broadcast band only.

Has the equipment in question been located and picked up? If so what is the nature of the equipment? Was it manufactured from a broadcasting receiver? If the army will permit please report whether any contraband radio equipment has been found in the center since the army took over. If so list equipment.

Leland Barrows
Acting Director



LBarrows:LJ:LH
Dec. 1, 1943, 11:55 A.M.

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Investigation

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TELETYPE MESSAGE

December 9, 1943, 3:45 P.M.

TO ALL PROJECT DIRECTORS

Director Dillon S. Myer appeared before the sub-committee of the House Committee on un-American Activities on December 6, 7, and 8 to reply to questions concerning events at the Tule Lake Center. The hearings were conducted by John M. Costello of California, Chairman of the Committee, Karl Mundt of South Dakota, and Herman P. Eberharter of Pennsylvania, with Robert Stripling, investigator for the Committee, also serving as questioner. Questioning during the three day hearings covered details of Director Myer's personal activities at Tule Lake on November 1 and 2, developments on the night of November 4 which led to calling in the Army to restore order in the center, and details of administration of the Tule Lake center in past months. Much of the questioning regarding administration of the center was based on testimony by residents of the Tule Lake region and former employees of WRA at Tule Lake who appeared before the California State Senate Committee at hearings conducted in mid-November. Most of the charges made at the State Senate hearings were general in nature and Director Myer was able to present precise and specific information which clarified and in some cases refuted previous testimony. During the course of the hearings Director Myer pointed out that the questioning had dealt for the most part with trivial details and had overlooked the policies and procedures on which the WRA program is based. At one point he stated that those who have given exaggerated publicity to incidents at Tule Lake have played into the hands of the disloyal Japanese who have set

P.W.

out deliberately to make trouble. He pointed out further that while the Tule Lake disturbance, of itself, is not occasion for reprisals against Americans in Japanese hands, the distortions of the situation may provide the Japanese government with an excuse for taking repressive action against American internees and prisoners of war.

Early in the hearing Director Myer had been questioned concerning Mid-West Frontiers, a publication issued by the Cleveland Relocation Office of WRA, intended for distribution to residents of relocation centers as a stimulus to outside relocation in the states of Ohio and Michigan. The publication contained an article on Ohio farming which included the suggestion that some farm workers might learn lessons in sanitation from the Japanese. This article previously had aroused a storm of protest. Director Myer stated at the hearing that the author was an acquaintance of long standing, highly respected by Ohio farmers, and that the statement was indiscreet, but not un-American. He announced that all available copies of the issue had been recalled and destroyed.

Near the close of the final session, the Committee Chairman drew the ire of Director Myer when he compared Mr. Myer's departure from Tule Lake on November 2 with the departure of one H. H. Townsend who had left Poston during the general strike in November 1942.

"There are significant and fundamental differences in the two situations", Director Myer said. "Mr. Townsend had a responsibility at Poston which he deserted in time of stress. I stayed at Tule Lake until I was sure all necessary precautions had been taken. I had and still have complete confidence in the ability of Project Director Best to handle the situation and in the collaboration of the military authorities stationed

cc: Mr. Cozzens
Mr. Pitts
Mr. Whitaker
Mr. Collier, Chicago
Mr. Collier, Washington

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

WASHINGTON

Mr. Raymond R. Best
Project Director
Tule Lake Center
Newell, California

Dear Mr. Best:

After examining the statements which we received recently from Tule Lake regarding the hospital incident, I believe it would be wise to start all over again on this particular job.

In order to complete the record before the Costello Subcommittee, we need sworn and notarized statements from as many eye-witnesses to the incident as can be rounded up. These witnesses should be asked the following questions and their answer to these questions should be set forth in their statements in consecutive order:

1. Was Dr. Pedicord dragged outside the hospital building after being beaten?

2. Was he kicked during unconsciousness? (It may be that Dr. Pedicord himself is the only one who can provide an adequate answer to this question. If, as his recent statement would seem to indicate, he did not actually lose consciousness, merely had his breath knocked out, the statement should indicate this fact and should specify whether he lost his breath as a result of the kick.)

3. What persons, if any, came to the aid of Dr. Pedicord during the fight or immediately afterwards?

4. Did Dr. Mason come to the aid of Dr. Pedicord at any time?

I am sorry that we have to rehash this matter all over again. But since the committee did make such a point of the hospital beating, I believe it is important that we supply them with the fullest facts available. I hope it will be possible to have these statements prepared quickly and sent air mail so that we may receive them within the next week or ten days.

Sincerely,

Director



POWER SHUT-OFFS

On Monday, November 15, 1943, at approximately 6:50 P.M. electric power for the entire project, including the military area, went off. Later it was learned that it was due to breaks in relays on the main power line outside the project. Power in the town of Tulalake was also off.

Several Army scout cars and jeeps were in the Japanese colony at the time it went dark. Presumably they were on patrol duty and checking on observation of the 7 p.m. curfew. Three or four jeeps and one or two scout cars went into the center to look around.

After the lights had been thrown on several times and ^{each} ~~the last~~ time had gone out almost immediately, the Army sent a truck carrying a large portable searchlight into the colony to examine power lines.

All was quiet in the center during the time, approximately 70 minutes, the power was off. Lights on the fence and in the administration and military areas came back on about 20 minutes before the colony's lights.

The power in the project was shut off all day Tuesday, November 16, while new transformers were installed and the substation moved to a new location in the military area.

10 SF 246 SF OEM 11-8-43 348P

159 SF WAR 11-8-43 4P

R B COZZENS WRA SF

FOR YOUR INFORMATION THE FOLLOWING TELETYPE HAS BEEN SENT TO ALL RELOCATION SUPERVISORS, FIELD ASSISTANT DIRECTORS AND PROJECT DIRECTORS.

WE ARE EXPECTING CAREFULLY DOCUMENTED STATEMENT ON WHAT HAPPEND AT TULE LAKE IN VERY NEAR FUTURE. WE WILL SEND YOU COPY OF THIS STATEMENT AS SOON AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE. AT PRESENT TIME OUR INFORMATION HERE IS FRAGMENTARY BUT CERTAIN FACTS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED.

ON MONDAY LAST WEEK WHILE MYER WAS METING WITH EVACUEE COMMITTEE AT TULE A CROWD FORMED OUTSIDE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING ON UNDERSTANDING HE WAS TO MAKE A SPEECH. MYER DISCUSSED PROPOSALS WITH GREVIANCE COMMITTEE FOR TWO AND ONE HALF HOURS AND MADE NO CONCESSIONS. THEN HE SPOKE TO CROWD OVER PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM EMPHASIZING THAT REQUESTS WOULD BE GIVEN EVERY CONSIDERATION BUT THAT WRA WOULD NOT LISTEN TO DEMANDS. AT CONCLUSION OF SPEECH CROWD DISAPERED AND RETURNED PEACEFULLY TO QUARTERS. MEANWHILE FIFTEEN EVACUEES HAD GONE TO HOSPITAL AND HAD ENGAGED IN ALTERCATION WITH REECE M PEDICORED CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER . PEDICORD STRUCK ONE OF THE EVACUES AND WAS BEATEN BUT NOT SEVERELY. SITUATION TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY NOT YET CLEAR BUT APPARENTLY TENSE CALM PREVAILED. THURSDAY NIGHT GROUP OF ABOUT 400 EVACUES MOVED INTO WAREHOUSE AREA AND SURROUNDED HOME OF PROJECT DIRECTOR BEST. ON ROUTE CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THIS CROWD BEAT EDWARD H BROBECK ONE OF CAUCASIAN INTERNAL SECURITY OFFICERS. AT 9-45 PACIFIC TIME BEST CALLED COL. VERNE AUSTIN AND ASKED ARMY TO TAKE OVER CENTER. ARMY HAS BEEN IN FULL CONTROL EVER SINCE AND SITUATION IS NOW CALM. ACCORDING TO COZZENS NO TEAR GAS HAS BEEN USED AT ANY TIME. WE ARE NOT YET CERTAIN WHETHER ANY EVACUES HAVE BEEN INJURED.

FOR YOUR OWN INFORMATION SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE WRA STAFF AT TULE BECAME BADLY FRIGHTENED UNDER SITUATION AND MAY BE RESPONSIBLE FOR SOME OF THE STATEMENTS WHICH HAVE APPEARED IN THE PRESS. IN DEALING WITH EVACUE E RUMORS AT YOUR CENTER, SUGGEST YOU EMPHASIZE THAT OFFICAL ACCOUNT OF WHAT HAPPENED AT TULE PRIOR TO ARMY TAKE-OVER IS IN PREPARATION AND WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO EVACUES AT OTHER CENTERS AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE. IF YOU NEED MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION WE WILL TRY TO PROVIDE BUY HOPE THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO GET ALONG ON BASIS OF THIS INFORMATION PENDING RECEIPT OF OFFICIAL STATEMENT.

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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
WHITCOMB HOTEL BUILDING
SAN FRANCISCO CALIF

XX FOR RELEASE AS AGREED BETWEEN SAN FRANCISCO AND WASHINGTON
SAN FRANCISCO, APPROPRIATE ACTION WILL BE TAKEN TO DEAL WITH THE
JAPANESE TROUBLEMAKERS WHO CLIMAXED A SERIES OF LABOR DISTURBANCES
WITH AN ATTACK UPON WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY PERSONNEL AT THE TULE
LAKE SEGREGEE CENTER LAST THURSDAY NIGHT -NOV. 4-, R B COZZENS,
WRA FIELD ASSISTANT DIRECTOR AT SAN FRANCISCO, ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY.

LIEUT. COL. VERNE AUSTINZ, COMMANDING AN ARMY DETACHMENT STATIONED
AT THE TULELAKE CENTER, WAS ASKED BY PROJECT DIRECTOR R R BEST TO TAKE
CHARGE OF THE PROJECT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE DISTURBANCE THURSDAY
NIGHT. THE ARMY IS STILL IN CHARGE WITH THE WRA ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF
CARRYING ON ROUTINE DUTIES, MR. COZZENS REPORTED. HE SAID THAT THE
JAPANESE COLONY WAS COMPLETELY CUT OFF FROM THE ADMINISTRATION AREA,
WHICH INCLUDES THE HOSPITAL, AND THAT NOBODY ENTERED THE JAPANESE
SECTION WITHOUT MILITARY ESCORT.

EIGHTEEN OF THE TROUBLEMAKERS WERE SEIZED THURSDAY NIGHT BY WRA
PERSONNEL AND SOLDIERS AND SINCE THEN HAVE BEEN HELD UNDER GUARD IN THE
PROJECT HOSPITAL. ALL WERE INJURED IN HAND -TO-HAND FIGHTING. NONE
RECEIVED GUNSHOT WOUNDS. MR. COZZENS INDICATED THAT THE ARMY AND WRA
WORKING TOGETHER ARE MAKING NECESSARY INVESTIGATIONS OF OTHERS IN THE
XXEX GANG OF 200 OR 300 WHO HAVE BEEN CREATING DISCORD IN THE
SEGREGEE CENTER SINCE THE WRA SEGREGATION MOVEMENT IN SEPTEMBER AND
EARLY OCTOBER WHEN 8000 JAPANESE NATIONALS AND AMERICAN CITIZENS OF
JAPANESE ANCESTRY WERE REMOVED FROM NINE WRA RELOCATION CENTERS AND
PLACED IN THE TULE LAKE CENTER ON THE BASIS OF THEIR DESIRE TO GO TO
JAPAN OR ON EVIDENCE OF

THEIR DISLOYALTY TO THE UNITED STATES. SEVEN THOUSAND PERSONS WHO WERE LIVING AT THE TULE LAKE CENTER REMAINED THERE WHILE 8000 OTHERS WERE TRANSFERRED TO RELOCATION CENTERS. ABOUT 400 EVACUEES STILL REMAINING IN THE TULELAKE CENTER ARE SCHEDULED TO BE MOVED TO RELOCATION CENTERS IMMEDIATELY TO COMPLETE THE TULE LAKE PART OF THE SEGREGATION PROGRAM, THE WRA OFFICIAL STATED.

MR COZZENS POINTED OUT AMONG THE PRESENT POPULATION WERE MANY CHILDREN WITH AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP WHO WERE OBLIGED TO LIVE IN THE SEGREGEE CENTER WITH THEIR PARENTS.

" IN OUR OPINION THE MAJORITY OF THE JAPANESE RESIDENTS WOULD NOT QUESTION THE AUTHORITY OF THE WRA OR THE ARMY," HE SAID
 "X" HOWEVER, SINCE SEGREGATION WE HAVE BEEN AWARE THAT WE HAVE IN THIS CENTER JAPANESE WHO WOULD GO TO ANY LENGTHS TO CAUSE TROUBLE TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IN THE BELIEF THAT IN SO DOING THEY WOULD BE AIDING JPAXXX JAPAN. KNOWING THIS WE HAVE BEEN PREPARED TO DEAL WITH ANY DISPLAY OF FORCE OR GANGSTERISM.

" EARLY IN OCTOBER WE HAD TROUBLE GETTING COAL CARS UNLOADED BECAUSE THE CREWS WERE STIRRED UP BY AGITATORS. WE GOT THIS STRAIGHTENED OUT AND THE AGITATORS THEN TURNED TO THE FARMING SECTION.
 "Z WHEN A TRUCK ACCIDENT OCCURRED IN WHICH ONE JAPANESE FARM WORKER WAS FATALY INJURED THIS GROUP SEIZED UPON THE INCIDENT TO CREATE AN ISSUE WHICH RESULTED IN REFUSAL OF ANY JAPANESE IN THE CAMP TO HARVEST THE CROPS. WE ASKED FOR VOLUNTEERS FROM THE RELOCATION CENTERS AND AT THIS TIME 234 JAPANESE FROM OUTSIDE ARE HARVESTING THESE FOOD CROPS.

" THE GROUP OF TROUBLEMAKERS HAS SEIZED EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE MAJOR ISSUES OUT OF MINOR GRIEVANCES OF THE RESIDENTS IN AN EFFORT TO GAIN POLITICAL CONTROL OF THE WHOLE JAPANESE POPULATION FOR THEIR OWN PERSONAL

OK/

PRESTIGE AND TO SERVE THE JAPANESE EMPEROR. THE BOLDEST ATTEMPT OCCURRED NOVEMBER 1 WHEN DILLON S. MYER, NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE WRA, VISITED THE TULE LAKE CENTER. HE WAS NOT SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH JAPANESE REPRESENTATIVES UNTIL THE FOLLOWING DAY. YET IT WAS ANNOUNCED IN ALL THE JAPANESE DINING HALLS AT NOON THAT ALL THE JAPANESE RESIDENTS WERE TO GO TO THE ADMINISTRATION AREA TO HEAR A TALK BY MR. MYER. AS A RESULT OF THIS HOAX BETWEEN 3500 AND 4000 MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN STREAMED UP FROM THE JAPANESE SECTION TO THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.

" A WELL ORGANIZED GROUP OF PERHAPS 150 TO 200 AGGRESSIVE YOUNG MEN DIRECTED THE MOVEMENT OF THE CROWD AND ALSO TOLD WRA STAFF MEMBERS TO REMAIN IN THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING OR OTHER BUILDINGS. THEIR LANGUAGE AND ACTIONS WERE ROUGH. BUT THERE WAS NO FIGHTING. THE WRA STAFF REALIZED THAT A SINGLE INCIDENT WOULD ENDANGER MANY INNOCENT PEOPLE AND SUCH AN OCCURRENCE COULD HAVE BEEN USED BY JAPAN TO RETALIATE AGAINST AMERICANS HELD BY THEM.

" MR. MYER, MR BEST AND MYSELF SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED THE ADVISABILITY OF CALLING IN THE ARMY WHICH WAS LINED UP AT THE EDGE OF THE PROJECT READY TO ACT ON A MOMENT-S NOTICE. IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE CROWD WAS ORDERLY, THAT IT CONTAINED MANY WOMEN AND CHILDREN BROUGHT THERE ON A HOAX AND THAT THE CROWD WAS BETWEEN THE ARMY POST AND THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, IT WAS DECIDED TO AVOID POSSIBLE BLOODSHED WHICH IN ALL PROBABILITY WOULD HAVE BEEN INEVITABLE UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES IF THE ARMY HAD BEEN CALLED IN.

" WHILE THE CROWD STOOD OUTSIDE, AND IT WAS KEPT THERE BY THE ORGANIZED STRONG-ARM SQUAD, MR. MYER, MR. BEST AND MYSELF MET IN MR. BEST-S OFFICE WITH A GROUP OF 17 JAPANESE MEN WHO SAID THEY REPRESENTED THE COMMUNITY.

THEY MADE DEMANDS SUCH AS DUST CONTROL OF THE ROADS, UNIFORM PORCHES ON ALL THE BARRACKS AND THE DISMISSAL OF MR. BEST, ALL THE WRA NURSES AND DOCTORS IN THE CAMP HOSPITAL AND FIVE OTHER STAFF MEMBERS.

" WHILE THIS MEETING WAS IN PROGRESS WE RECEIVED WORD THAT 10 TO 12 THUGS HAD BEATEN DR. REECE PEDICORD, CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER, IN HIS OFFICE AT THE HOSPITAL, INFLECTING PIXX PAINFUL EYE AND BODY BRUISES. THE MEETING WAS HALTED UNTIL WE WERE ASSURED BY A VISIT OF A STAFF MEMBER TO DR. PEDICORD THAT HE WAS SAFE AND RECEIVING TREATMENT.

"MR. MYER TOLD THE COMMITTEE AND ALSO THE CROWD A FEW MINUTES LATER THAT THE WRA DID NOT ACT UPON DEMANDS AND THAT IT WAS THE AIM OF WRA TO HAVE A PEACEFUL CENTER. HE WARNED THEM THAT IF THEY COULD NOT GET ALONG WITH THE WRA THEY WOULD HAVE TO GET ALONG WITH SOMEBODY ELSE.

"ONE OF THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS, CALLED REVEREND KAI, TOLD THE CROWD TO "REMEMBER YOU ARE ALL JAPANESE AND YOU MUST GIVE YOUR ALL FOR JAPAN." AFTER THAT HE TOLD THEM TO TAKE OFF THEIR HATS, BOW THEIR HEADS AND GO HOME. ABOUT HALF OF THE CROWD COMPLIED WITH THE FIRST TWO COMMANDS. THIS ENDED THE MEETING."

MR. BEST ISSUED AN ORDER FOLLOWING THIS MEETING THAT NO PUBLIC GATHERINGS COULD BE HELD IN THE ADMINISTRATION AREA. THE CENTER WAS OUTWARDLY QUIET FOR THE NEXT TWO DAYS, BUT WRA STAFF MEMBERS WERE AWARE OF AN UNDERCURRENT OF IMPENDING TROUBLE. IT BROKE INTO THE OPEN THURSDAY NIGHT WHEN A GANG OF YOUNG MEN ARMED WITH STICKS AND CLUBS ENTERED THE ADMINISTRATION AREA ABOUT 945 PM AND SURROUNDED MR. BEST-S QUARTERS. WRA STAFF MEMBERS BATTLED THE THUGS. EDWARD F. BORBECK, INTERNAL SECURITY OFFICER, WAS CLUBBED ON THE HEAD AND BODY BEFORE HE WAS RESCUED. MR. BEST TELEPHONED COLONEL AUSTIN AND ASKED THAT THE ARMY TAKE OVER THE CAMPM. THIS THEY DID.

END

Hold for
1SF 246 11-9-43 744

162 SF WAR 11-~~9~~-43 10A

R B COZZENS WRA SF

PLEASE WIRE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE NAMES OF EMPLOYEES AND FORMER
EMPLOYEES WHO TESTIFY BEFORE DIES COMMITTEE OR CALIFORNIA STATE
STATE COMMITTEE. HAVE YOU OR OTHER WRA REPRESENTATIVES BEEN ^{er}PRE-
MITTED TO ^{be}PRESENT DURING HEARINGS QM.

LELAND BARROWS WRA WA

DB 1017A

P

2 SF246 TULELAKE 74 11-9-43

WA R B COZZENS

TULELAKE CENTER

NEWELL , CALIFORNIA

OPR ON THE FOLLOWING WE WOULD LIKE AN IMMEDIATE ANSWER IF POSSIBLE
CAN U GET MR GOZZENS WHILE I GIVE U THIS PLS --

BARROWS ---- THIS IS THE TELETYPE WE SENT BEST AT
TULE. SIXX QUOTE " STATEMENT EXTREMELY HELPFUL BUT INCOMPLETE IN
SEVERAL IMPORTAND DETAILS . PLEASE FORMULATE ANSWERS FOLLOWING
QUESTIONS . TELEPHONE US EARLIEST POSSIBLE MOMENT. ALSO TELETYPE
ANSWERS TO US BY WAY OF CONFIRMATION AND SEFEGAXX SAFEGUARD. IF
DEFINITE INFORMATION IS NOT NOW AVAILABLE ON ANY QUESTIONg TELETYPE
SHOULD INDICATE THAT FACT. ALSO , WHETHER FURTHER INQUIRIES ARE
BEING MADE . --- 1 -- HOW ABOUT OIL-SOAKED SACKS AND STRAW. WERE
THEY STUFFED UNDER ADMINISTRATION BUIT
WE HAVE THIS MSG
WHERE DID U GET IT PLS IT CAME FROM WASHINGTON

MIN PLS HOLD ON OK

OK BUT CAN WE HAVE AN ANSWER FROM MR COZZENS ON THIS
AS SOON AS COMPLETE PROBABLY NOT UNTIL TOMIRROW
HOLD ON PLS

MR JOYCE SAYS WASHINGTON IS WAITING FOR ANSWER ON THIS TODAY
ARE HOLDING UP STATEMENT UNTIL THEY GET OUR ANSWER

WE WILL GET AN ANSWER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE CANNOT SAY WHEN
CANNOT DXXX SAY ANYTHING WHEN WAITING FOR THIS KIND OF REQUEST
WORKING ON THIS NOW

GA OR END

END THNK U

Cozzens

109

Barrows: This is the teletype we sent Best at Tule. "Statement extremely helpful but incomplete in several important details. Please formulate answers following questions. Telephone us earliest possible moment. Also teletype answers to us by way of confirmation and safeguard. If definite information is not now available on any question, teletype should indicate that fact. Also whether further inquiries are being made.

1. How about oil-soaked ~~and~~ sacks and straw. Were they stuffed under administration building during conference with Myer. Full details needed on this.
- 2.
2. Was there any tampering with fire hydrants, alarm telephones, or other fire protection facilities.
3. What is character of agitators. Are they mainly Kibei? Hawaiian? bachelors. In which class were 17 men who met with Myer and Cozzens?
4. Precisely how was the truck accident used to precipitate farm strike? What charges were made against WRA by agitators immediately following accident?
5. How long did the crowd remain gathered outside the administration building? How long did conference with Myer and Cozzens last?
6. Reverend Kai, a Hawaiian Buddhist priest, did he address crowd in Japanese?
7. Who were the five other staff members as indicated in your teletype whose resignations were demanded?
8. Was any Caucasian manhandled or shoved around by the strong armed squad during Monday's demonstration.
9. How many members of administrative personnel were in administration building while conference was going on? Were there indications that any administrative personnel in the building were in fear of their lives?
10. Did Myer address crowd directly or over public address system? Was latter hooked up by evacuees?
11. Did evacuee leaders address crowd over system in either Japanese or English?

12. Did crowd gather around residences of administrative personnel during Monday's disturbance?
13. Were administrative staff members told by evacuees to enter administration building for their own protection because of hot-heads in crowd?
14. When was administration area fenced off from evacuee section.....
15. What WRA staff members battled evacuees Thursday night? How many?
16. Were Best's telephone wires cut and if so, when?
17. What personnel other than Brobeck were attacked Thursday?
18. What WRA staff members have actually resigned and why? Specify whether resignation were requested by WRA or motivated by fear.
19. Give fullest possible details of damage to government property or ~~a~~ to property of Caucasians visiting Center. Major Wilkinson quoted as saying his automobile seriously ~~20.~~ damaged.
20. Are volunteer farm workers now harvesting Tule crops fully protected from possible harm by agitators?
21. Were any knives stolen from mess hall?

Now we are going to get out a statement tomorrow hanging it on the director from here and we'll give you the text ~~of~~ so that you can issue it from out there at the same time.

Joyce: Right.

Barrows: That is, we are if we can get any ~~x~~ significant parts of the questions answered.

Joyce: Well, I think I can get the answers to these ~~and~~ in probably thirty minutes.

Barrows: You see what you can do. I've got a call into Tule. If you can get the answers before I can ...

Joyce: Well, I'll take this right in and put it on the teletype and have them get an immediate answer. Now, at lunch I talked with a man who has been covering the state capitol, the legislature here, for a good many years. Speaking of the make-

TULELAKE 74 11-9-43 610 PM

MR R B SXXX COZZENS, FIELD ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
SF WRA

Tosier.

RETEL 119-43 . ANSWERS ARE BY NUMBER OF QUESTION.

1. WE CAN FIND NO EVIDENCE OF OIL SOAKED SACKS OF STRAW PLACED UNDER ANY BUILDINGS. COL. AUSTIN JUST STATED THAT HE HAS MADE NO RELEASES THAT OIL SOAKED MATERIAL HAD BEEN FOUND.
2. SOME TAMPERING OF FIRE HYDRANTS AND FIREALARM SYSTEM HAS BEEN REPORTED. ALL PRIOR TO INCIDENT ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1. NO INTERRUPTION TO NORMAL COMMUNICATION SYSTEM AT ANY TIME.
3. SEVENTEEN MEN ARE BROKEN DOWN AS FOLLOWS, 1 NISEI MARRIED, 3 KIBEI BATCHELORS, 2 3 KIBEI. MARRIED, 2 ALIENS, MARRIED, 2 HAWAIIAN KIBEI, MARRIED, 1 HAWAIIAN ALIEN, BATCHELOR, 4 UNIDENTIFIED FROM HAWAIIAN GROUP. WE BELIEVE LARGE PORTION OF AGITATORS MADE UP SOMEWHAT ALONG PATTERN OF ABOVE BREAKDOWN. WORKING ON IDENTIFICATION OF AS MANY AS POSSIBLE.
4. FOLLOWING FARM TRUCK ACCIDENT NO PERSONS WERE ALLOWED TO REPORT FOR WORK BY CENTER COMMITTEE. NO NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE MET WITH ADMINISTRATION FOR TEN DAYS. THEN STATED THEY DID NOT WANT TO HARVEST ANY PART OF CROP IN EXCESS OF THIS CENTER-S REQUIREMENTS AND WOULD NOT HARVEST ANY CROP FOR CONSUMPTION BY JAPANESE-AMERICANS.
5. CONFERENCE LASTED FROM 130 PM TO ~~XX~~ 430 PM AND CROWD WAS IN PERFECT ORDER WITH EXCEPTION OF GROUPS OF KIBEI ON OUTSKIRTS PREVENTING ~~XX~~ ANY EVACUEES TO RETURN TO COLONY. ENTIRE CROWD RETURNED TO CENTER LIMITS WITHOUT ANY INCIDENT IMMEDIATELY UPON COMPLETION OF MEETING.
6. REV. KAI IS HAWAIIAN KIBEI, MARRIED, AND PROFESSES TO BE A BUDDHIST PRIEST, DR. WEBBER BELIEVES HIM SHINTOIST. HE DID ADDRESS CROWD IN JAPANESE ONLY.

7 BEST, ZIMMER, KALLAM, PECK, KIRKMAN.

8. FIVE CAUCASIANS MAINTAIN THEY WREXXX WERE FORCED INTO THEIR APPXXX APARTMENTS OR ADMINISTRATION BUILDING. HAVE NO WITNESSES TO THIS PROCEDURE. WILL MAKE FUTHER INVESTIGATION.

9. EXACT NUMBER ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL IN ADMINISTRATION BUILDING NOT KNOWN, ESTIMATE PROBABLY 125. MRS ADAMS AND MRS LAWHEAD HAVE STATED THAT THEY WXXX WERE IN FEAR OF THEIR LIVES.

10. MYER ADDRESSED CROWD OVER P. A. SYSTEM IN PLAIN SIGHT OF AT LEAST 1"5 OF THE CROWD. P. A. SYSTEM WAS ERECTED BY THE EVACUEES AND SPEAKER PLACED AT LOCATION DESIGNATED BY MR BLACK.

11. MYER AND BEST TALKS WERE TRANSLATED LATER BY JAPANESE INTERPRETER. ALL USE OF P. A. SYSTEM BY JAPANESE WAS IN JAPANESE LANGUAGE.

12. YES THAT PORTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE QUARTERS IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT TO ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.

13. A FEW WERE TOLD TO STAY IN THE BUILDING. HAVE NO INFORMATION REFERENCE TO PROTECTION OR HOTHEADS.

14. ORDER ISSUED BY US FRIDAY MORNING NOVEMBER 5. CONSTRUCTION NOW IN PROGRESS.

15. INTERNAL SECURITY EMPLOYEES SCHMIDT, COLE, BORBECK, MYXXX MAYRT, AND LEWIS. TWO ADDITIONAL INTERNAL SECURITY EMPLOYEES MADE NO PHYSICAL CONTACT.

16. NO.

17. THOSE MENTIONED UNDER 15 ABOVE

18. ALBERT R TINKER, ERNEST R RHOADS, JOHN STUBBS, ORVILLE DALTON, MAYNARD JOHNSON, CLIFFORD PYXXX PAYNE, DR JOHN MASON, CORABELLE HARRIS, JACK WILLIAMS, JAMES PRINCE, CHARLES DUNLAY, GERTRUDE LUSXXX LUDWIG ALL RESIGNED ACCOUNT OF FEAR. RALPH PECK TERMINATED .

19. XXXX RANCHER WILKINSON REPORTED TIXXX TO NEWSPAPERS THAT SUN VISOR TORN OFF AND ONE DOOR GLASS SHATTERED IN CORNER. OTHER DAMAGE INCLUDED RADIO & AERIALS TO TWO CARS. ONE CAR DOOR HANDLE TAKEN. WINDSHIELD WIPERS REMOVED FROM A DOZEN CARS. TWO CARS REPORTED SCRATCHES ON PAINT. AIR LET OUT OF SEVERAL TIRES. NO TOHER PAOXXX PROPERTY DAMAGE.

20. VOLUNTEER FARM WORKERS ARE FULLY PROTECTED AND ARE UNDER NO CONTACT.

21. NO. NOT TO OUR KNOWLEDGE DURING THE INCIDENT. HAVE REPORTS THAT SOME KNIVES DID DISAPPEAR PRIOR TO MY ADMINISTRATION.

R R BEST, PROJ DIR TULELAKE WRA

3SF 246 SF OEM 12-17-855A

3 TULELAKE 74 845 AM 12-17-43

MR PHILIP J WEBSTER

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

WHITCOMB HOTEL BUILDING

SAN FRANCISCO CALIFORNIA

ON THE NIGHT OF NOVEMBER 4 TH WHEN THE ARMY WAS ROUNDING
UP THE GOON SQUAD, KOJI TODOROKI CAME RUNNING FROM THE HOSPITAL
TOWARD ADMINISTRATION BUILDING. HE WAS ORDERED TO HALT BY FOUR
INTERNAL SECURITY OFFICERS BUT INSTEAD OF STOPPING HE MADE A FLYING
TACKLE AT FENTON MAHRT INTERNAL SECURITY OFFICER. FENTON
MAHRT SIDE STEPPED AND HIT HIM OVER THE HEAD WITH A BASEBALL BAT. HE
THEN WAS TURNED OVER TO THE ARMY

C E ZIMMER ACTING PROJECT DIRECTOR

JM 907A

*ask Stauber if
K.T. is an
alien*

*Read to Stauber
12/17/43.*

P.W.