

E2.862

67/14
C

Conversation with Russell T. Robinson; 8/30/42

He seems to be of the opinion that there is some "intuitive" psychological reason for the antagonisms of the white against the Japanese in Sabina Valley, Placer-home area. Antagonism particularly violent in Loomis area. Cites the case of Placer farms: farms along the RR & have continental hiway.

~~His~~ Case of Yego who wrote letter to WRA about the Farm Corporations ~~exploiting~~ exploiting him. Robinson investigated and found out that Yego was much better off than if he ~~did not~~ operated farm himself. Yego relocated.

[not much antagonism in Flowin Area] in Isleton-Walnut Grove
History of Placer farms:

As ~~end of~~ June 1942 approached and nobody could be found for marginal farms of Placer county Robinson hit upon idea of getting ~~farm~~ packing houses to operate these farms, they knew conditions. Labor employed very poor (also full of prejudices a case of returning Japanese in uniform) in quality. Cost of labor jumped from \$35¢ to 82¢ & hence most ~~work~~ could not operate in 1943 season. Had to find some other sub-op. Robinson hit upon idea of ~~employing~~ ^{using} Chinese & Pacific in S.F. - 500 applications ~~went to the field~~ Very successful, still operating. history of Calif very few farms abandoned - Some Caucasians took over Japanese farms rec'd to theirs. Every thing O.K. now

Japanese more materialistically minded than Americans. Don't care about being deprived of their civil rights — but do care about their properties. Robinson feels that WRA should have insisted less on sociological aspects of relocation & insisted more on property rights. He reached this conclusion on the basis of the reports submitted to him from the camps.

Robinson operated 15,000 acres at one time in the Sabina Valley

Method of operation of Japanese.

Plant variety of fruit trees so that crops follow each other & he can use his family.

Some story about low wages!

July 21, 1942

Mr. John W. Pehle,
Asst. to the Secty,
Treasury Dept.
Wash. D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

For your information I am enclosing a copy of a letter dated July 17th received from Karl R. Bendetsen, Colonel, G.S. C., Asst. Chief of Staff, Civil Affairs Division, with reference to the assumption by the WRA of the responsibilities that this bank has been carrying on for the WCCA. together with its enclosure, being a letter from Mr. Fryer, Regional Dir. of the WRA.

You may recall that I discussed this question with you on the telephone and informed you that the WRA was giving consideration to it. As you will see from the enclosures, it has decided to take over this responsibility. The letter does not, however, indicate whether the WRA will seek delegation of freezing authority from the Secty. of the Treasury.

For your further information, this particular service is to be under the supervision of a Mr. Russell T. Robinson, who was associated with the Farm Security Administration working on farm problems for evacuees. He appears to be a very competent man and, of course, has good experience with agricultural problems. He called upon us the other day to get a better idea of the type of problem which he was liable to encounter in connection with the service we have been rendering. We, of course, expressed our willingness to be of whatever assistance we could and to make available to him any information which might be in our files.

We are still engaged in servicing the evacuation in Military Area No. 2 in Calif. and, of course, do not know exactly when all the evacuees will be transferred from assembly centers to war relocation areas, but at least with the receipt of this letter we have knowledge that our services will be definitely terminated when these moves are accomplished.

Vice President

WDC and FA
WCCA
July 17, 1942

Memo for: Mr. William H. Hale, Federal Reserve Bank
Subject: Evacuee Property Protection Services.

1. In pursuance of our conversation of last week in which you inquired as to the intention of WRA regarding the assumption of responsibilities relative to evacuee property protection, I enclose a copy of a Memo received from that Authority which I believe is self-explanatory.
2. Of course, following transfer of responsibility arrangements will be mutually accomplished to provide appropriate access to pertinent records necessary to the discharge by WRA of such responsibilities with provisions for copying such extracts as may be necessary.

Karl R. Bendetsen

WRA San Francisco
July 16, 1942

Memo to: Karl R. Bendetsen, Colonel, G.S.C., Asst. Chief of Staff, Civil Affairs Division
Subject: Evacuee Property Protection Services

Answering your memo of July 8, it is the intention of the WRA to assume the responsibilities in connection with the management of evacuee properties, following the completion of the evacuation of Military Area No. 2. We assume that all records will be turned over to this authority by the FRB and the FSA.

E. R. Fryer, Regional Director

Conversation with ~~Davis~~ ^{Lowrie} 7/29/44

Evacuees have suffered many losses, and some quite serious.

- 1) Talked about the Farm Corporations formed by F.S.A. "scandalous situation" with one or two ^{Farm} ~~Flour~~ ^{Inc} exceptions. Operated at very high costs, spend large sums of money on supervision and other superfluous costs, high cost of labor employed; didn't keep up to the promises. Many Japanese have suffered heavy losses as a result.

Could get information from Reconstruction Finance Corporation, F.S.A. (not very fond of these), R.L. Adams & Co.

Very difficult to get information, however, it is a "dangerous" job.

- 2) Talked about the flexible Farm leases assigned by F.S.A. Lease for the duration or duration plus 6 months. This means that lease cannot be terminated by the will of the evacuee-lessee - (tenant may however leave the farm). Tenant cannot be forced to leave if he refuses to farm the land, or is an inefficient farmer. This was the cause of many losses to the evacuees, ~~Japanese~~ ^{what it meant} signed it because they didn't understand exactly.

- 3) In urban property 1) rented at very low prices

- 2) pilferage very numerous. No way of retrieving stolen property. Police dept do not

have enough men to handle all the cases.

Talked about Escheat case.

If alien buys property for his American children, appoints a guardian (himself) with a salary, submits regularly accounts of expenditure + puts all the profits in the name of children then he is O.K. Yono case.

Otherwise the Attorney general has a good case against the alien Japanese

The Japanese at present are much more worried about their property than about their civil rights

Anglo-Calif bank had the right of attorney for many evacuee's property. But did little to protect the interest of the evacuee. Occasionally collected rent. Much of the property under the Anglo-Cal bank was pilfered.

Swan
map

June 30, 1944

Memo to Russell T. Robinson

Narrative Report- June 1 to July 1, 1944

p. 5

In the Portland area we have had numerous requests for emergency pickups involving farm ~~and~~ equipment. In the main this equipment is old and not readily saleable even if the evacuee has authorized us to dispose of it, but it is farm equipment which he used at the time he was farming in the area and which he could use again if he were permitted to return. We feel that it is our obligation to store the equipment pending disposal of it by the owner. There are two reasons why this equipment is idle at present:

1. the farm has been sold and the new owner has ~~no~~ no need for the equipment.
2. the lease arrangement made prior to evacuation in regard to the use of the equipment has expired and the lessee does not care to move the equipment to his new location. Even ~~he~~ if he did want to move it to a new location, it might be undesirable from the standpoint of the evacuee who might lose his interest in the equipment because of the lack of proper lease arrangements.

We feel that WRA's responsibility is satisfied if the evacuee is notified of the circumstances ~~surrounding~~ his equipment and unless he supplies us with proper ~~such~~ ~~such~~ authorization, we have no alternative but to store the equipment if we are told it is being abandoned or that the equipment must be removed from its present place of storage.

We are getting a number of requests from Caucasian custodians to pick up house holds goods and other personal belongings now stored with them. Oftentimes we do not hear of this need for removal of evacuee ~~property~~ until it has become an emergency necessitating quick action on our part in order to protect the interest of the evacuee. We believe some method should be setup whereby this can be handled locally ~~so~~ so as to avoid the necessity of ~~requesting~~ clearance with the San Francisco office before action is taken on ~~request~~ the request.

p. 6

A number of lease arrangements made by the evacuees with substitute operators call for a ~~share~~ share crop rental. We have felt that in the past the evacuee has not been getting a fair deal from the substitute operators due to the fact that he has been bypassing the processor ~~who~~ who is supposed to handle all produce from the farm and has sold direct on the cash market where he could get a better price for his produce and that he has made little or no returns for these cash sales. That sort of condition is apt to happen whenever share-cropping is practised. However, all of the sharecroppers in this area have been contacted and it has been pointed out to them that WRA will expect a very definite accounting for all income and expenses in connection with their farming operations.

It is our belief that we will be able to show a return from the entire farming operations which will include most of the cash sales and which will show a reduction in expenses of operation by insisting upon a statement from the operator shortly after the crop in question has been marked. To help in this our men have visited all of the strawberry fields in this area and have estimated yields and possible expenses in connection with the growing and harvesting of the crop. Each grower will be expected to account for everything.

.....
/s/ Claude G. Walker

EXCERPT FROM
MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE
CALIFORNIA STATE U. S. D. A. WAR BOARD

Date: Thursday, October 1, 1942

Future Handling of Evacuee Property

Mr. Russell Robinson, Chief, Evacuee Property Division, War Relocation Authority, appeared before the Board to discuss the situation in regard to the handling of evacuee property and to ask for recommendations as to how this matter should be handled in the future. Mr. Robinson explained that when the evacuation program was ordered by the Army, two agencies were given responsibility for the handling of property problems. FSA took care of those concerning farm properties, and the Federal Reserve Bank those concerned with commercial and other city properties. Upon the arrival of the evacuees at relocation centers the responsibilities of both these agencies were handed to the Division of Evacuee Property of the WRA. The time allowed by the Army to effect the transfer of these properties was very limited. Also, certain of the Japanese holdings did not lend themselves particularly well to individual operations. In order to facilitate their transfer within the time limitations and maintain production, corporations were formed by processing and packing houses to take over the operation of a considerable number of these farms. Funds were secured from the FSA for operating these farms through twelve-month loans. The cropping season is now coming to a close and these companies have indicated to the WRA that unless Government money will be available to them their operation of these farms will be discontinued.

The operations in question are located largely in Placer County and comprise some 200 farms with an approximate acreage of 5800 acres. The average size of each farm is 29.8 acres. The principal crops are plums, peaches and pears, some sugar beets, tomatoes and grapes.

The two problems faced by the WRA at this time are the question of whether funds will be made available and whether the production of these lands would be considered essential and should be continued. Mr. Robinson stated that the WRA is concerned with carrying out its responsibility in seeing that there is continuity of production on these lands and that the interests of the evacuees are preserved and protected.

Mr. Hollenberg pointed out that the funds made available by the Army to FSA were advanced in the interests of national defense as a means of meeting an emergency situation and now that the Japanese are out of the area they are no longer concerned. He also stated that the corporations organized to operate these Japanese properties are subsidiary corporations to existing successful

corporations formed for the purpose of securing Government money without risk for these particular operations and that FSA has no responsibility or authority for the continuation of these loans. He thought the most important question was what should be done about individual ownership. Mr. Hollenberg was asked if the FSA would consider making a loan for the following season on those individual farms which had paid out the initial loan. He indicated that this would be done but that such loans were limited to \$2500. Mr. Tapp (Vice President, Bank of America, S.F.) asked about the policy of WRA with regard to ~~x~~ non-crop property. Mr. Robinson said that depended on the decision of the owner of the property. Mr. Robinson said that depended on the decision of the owner of the property. In some instances owners have requested WRA to liquidate their holdings and in other cases owners are maintaining their properties with the hope of being able to return after the war.

Mr. Tapp was of the opinion that the Government was obligated to maintain these properties in a producing capacity and that it was the responsibility to WRA to continue production. Mr. Ralston AES - alternate for Prof. Crocheron) pointed out that frequently the farms owned by the Japanese were peculiarly adapted to Japanese family operations and he doubted whether any other family could take over such farms and make any profit. Mr. Robinson cited the example followed by one company which had taken over some evacuated farms. The original is being removed and the vineyard is being replaced with ladino clover to produce livestock with a minimum of labor requirements. He said this might be done with some evacuee farms but it was doubtful if the income derived from this type of operation would equal the income from the original crop and also, that permission would have to be obtained from the owner of the land before such a change could be made. Mr. Reddick (SCS) agreed with this, pointing out that on many of these farms the irrigation is very poor because of the rocky and uneven nature of the terrain and he thought such land should be pastured to ladino clover or natural grasses. Mr. Ralston asked if Mr. Robinson had talked with local people in the area concerned to see if they could offer advice as to whether an alternative use of these farms could be made in such a way that they could be operated more economically and still contribute to the war effort. It was his opinion that a detailed appraisal of these farms should be made to determine how they can be best used under war conditions.

If these operations are to be continued he did not feel that the Government was obligated to take all the risk.

Mr. Robinson asked the Board for their opinion as to how essential they considered the production from this property in relation to the present national need. If decided that it is not essential he pointed out that plans for substituting something else should

be made or if it is considered essential plans should be made for continuing the present production. Mr. Davidson informed Mr. Robinson that the State Board had been endeavoring to obtain from Washington information as to which agricultural commodities are wanted and in what quantities. A list of ten war crops has been received but no information has yet been sent out regarding vegetables and some fruits. However, he said it could safely be assumed that vegetables would be needed, probably processed rather than fresh shipments. Flax is considered more essential than such crops as lettuce and melons. Dehydrated fruits will be in demand and fruits that can be dehydrated will have to be used for that purpose. No word has been received to indicate that fresh pears and plums are very essential.

.(FBF)

Mr. Deuel was of the opinion that the farms in Placer County were too small to produce any very essential crop and the effect of the shortage of manpower would have to be considered in any operation. Mr. Tapp maintained that the Government had assumed the responsibility of taking the evacuee property over and acting as an intermediary and this policy should be continued. Mr. Scott (AMS & BAE) did not believe the War Board should attempt to settle the policies to be administered by the WRA but that it should convey to them the commodities that are wanted. He also called attention to the fact that the Japanese had been very well protected in all arrangements made. It was agreed by the Board, however, that continued production is essential.

Mr. Davidson asked for expressions from the Board regarding continued production on any Japanese lands whether operated by corporations or individuals. Mr. Reddick (SCS) stated that some crops would have to be produced to take the place of the foods taken over for Lend-Lease and the Army and Navy and that soon the point would be reached where certain crops would be taken over entirely by the armed forces. His viewpoint was that each acreage should be used to produce to its best capacity whether the crop was classed as an essential war crop or not. It was Mr. Hollenberg's opinion that before long a priority of crops would be established. Mr. Ralston said that this would have to be done on some scientific basis that could be supported. He reported that P. A. Minges of the Extension Service and other scientists of the University have been making an appraisal of the principal vegetable crops of California on the basis of food value produced per acre per hour of man labor. Through this survey a fund of scientific information will be accumulated on which the value of particular crops may be determined. Mr. Hollenberg further stated that regardless of whether a priority crop rating was established, the fact should be kept in mind that it is essential to produce as much as possible, and any crop that can be raised without misusing the land should be produced if the land cannot be used for priority crops. Mr. Deuel concurred in this opinion saying that every pound of food that can be produced is needed. Mr. Robinson indicated that the opinions expressed by the Board would be very helpful.

War Relocation Authority

1709-21st Street
Sacramento, 14, Calif.
December 3, 1943

Eleanor J. Bauman, Documentary Section
Whitcomb Hotel Building
San Francisco, 3, Calif.

RE: Report of Evacuee Property Officer

Dear Eleanor:

In compliance with your request in your memorandum to C. W. Hatch of November 18, we are submitting the following information which, as you know, is ~~was~~ based mainly on memory.

In talking to you the 16 of Nov., you indicated you wish to know what took place after May of 1942, up to and including the time when the WRA came into the picture as far as the evacuee agricultural properties are concerned. The only data that I can give you would be that which I had experienced in the Sacramento Office. My territory was large, however, so I believe the conditions in general which I experienced would hold true on the balance of the West Coast.

At the end of May 1942, a great many of the loans which were in process prior to ~~the time~~ that time had as yet not been completed, in so far as the new operators ~~are~~ taking over the property were concerned. By that time we had new tenants to take over the evacuees' farms, and in most cases it was a matter of office procedure with regard to the loans, which ~~were~~ made the deal as yet incomplete. On most of the transfers from the evacuees to caucasian operators, the equipment on the ranches was either rented with the ranch or sold. There were a few instances however, in which the equipment was actually put into permanent storage.

In this area, nine operating ~~companies~~ corporations had been formed in the Sacramento Office to care for, I believe in the neighborhood of 125 farms. These corporations were in effect "dummy" corporations, as the officers of the corporations were the employers of different fruit shipping Companies located in the area. These corporations were formed to operate these ranches on group basis and the evacuees' equipment on a few of the evacuees' farms was used to its maximum on all ranches.

In some ~~cases~~ cases the evacuee sold his equipment and requested assistance in leasing his farm, but disregarded the problems of where the new operator was to get his equipment. This caused a hardship in these cases, but at that time it was still possible to secure agricultural machinery ~~through~~ through tractor and implement dealers.

In the majority of cases in which transfers were made the evacuee was paid in full for his interest or equity in the crop which he had produced to date. In other cases, the evacuee made arrangements with a neighboring farmers to continue production of their crops to be paid at the time of harvest. Others made deals in which all transactions were strictly verbal and the new tenant was to give him certain shares of the crops, both parties trusting, at that time, each other, and no papers were drawn up showing the agreement made. This type of transaction was discouraged in every instance in which we had knowledge of ~~it~~ it happening.

In practically all the loans which the Sacramento office made, the evacuee was paid in full for his interest in the crop and the government loaned the money to the new operator to do this. These loans were made to those operators who could show sufficient evidence to us that they were qualified farmers and could not obtain adequate financing through any loaning agency or bank. We generally required a refusal

from a Bank, the FSA, or the Production credit corporation.

In as much as we had a registration on each evacuee farm, it was impossible for us to check on these registration cards to see whether or not the evacuee had transferred his ranch to a new operator, who the new operator was, and if possible, the type of agreement made between them. (WFA cards # 1 & #2)

Before the end of May, the evacuation proper began and the Army designated certain areas, and at a ~~point~~ point or central location they placed a Control Center. In this Control Center, the FSA put their representatives to handle any agric. problems that had not been completed, and the Federal Reserve Bank put a representative to handle all commercial, storage and transportation problems that might for some reason have been pending. There was a social welfare worker in charge of the welfare division in which all personal problems were cared for. At dates designated by the army the evacuees went through the Control Center, and passed, by, in line, each of ~~these~~ these groups, and would indicate whether or not they had any problems as yet incomplete. They were also given general physical exams. At that time they were given a family number which they carried through with them to date. In other words, the Control Center was the last check-up of the evacuees' problems, prior to evacuation. They were also told the time at which the train would leave, and upon embarkation, the Army had full control of them. Each control center was patrolled and largely maintained by military police. It might be well added that there was a Provost Marshall at each Control Center. His duties consisted mainly of giving permits and passing on certain problems which arose at the last moment that required Army approval.

After evacuation, remaining problems were mainly those of completion of loan dockets. Each evacuee had in some way or another had his property and personal problems taken care of.

It might be well ~~noted~~ noted to ~~note~~ note here that in several areas, and in the Florin Area in particular, the train in which the evacuees were leaving had not left before people from various ~~areas~~ parts of the country began to pilfer their homes and ranches, breaking windows, filling wells with debris, and committing other acts of vandalism. The County Sheriff was unable to do anything about this, and in as much as the afore mentioned corporations were operating the majority of the ranches in the Florin Area, I got them together and suggested that they hire a night watchman to patrol that area until their organization was able to cope with ~~the~~ each place individually. This was done and the results were noticeable as long as the patrol was continued. However, this could not keep on during the year, and any ranch with ~~building~~ buildings on it with no one living in them was entered and pilfered.

By the end of June, the WFA program was transferred back to the Farm Security Administration proper and all loans made were then serviced by the County R.R. Supervisor of the FSA. It was then that the entire organization of the WCCA, as far as the evacuation ~~and~~ program was concerned, was disbanded. My entire office force was relieved of their position and all loan dockets and other data and all WFA cards, number 1 and 2 were turned over to the FSA. I do not know whether or not the FSA report covers the amount of money loaned on the Pacific Coast, but it is my understanding that the Army loaned ~~in~~ in the neighborhood of \$3,000,000 for these substitute operators. Approximately 1/3 of this amount was loaned in the Sacramento Office. IN the Sacramento Area, the evacuees farmed approximately 43,000 acres, involving in the neighborhood of 750 individual farms.

The instructions we received ~~from~~ on the WFA program were not complete or definite in all cases, but the underlying principles on which we operated were clear - the evacuee was to receive every consideration, and in every instance any deal between an evacuee and a caucasian there was to be justice on both sides. The evacuees were

not to be exploited, and we were to discourage any attempts that we came across to take advantage of them.

This is a sketchy outline in the background of the WFA program and if there is anything ~~which~~ that is not clear, or you wish more detail upon, let me know.

The problems which we encountered in the WRA program whose cause we might be ~~in~~ able to attribute to the FSA not living up to their agreements with the evacuees were not great. The outstanding instance would be the case of the Northern Farms Farms, Inc. and the Florin Farm, Inc. Of these cases you have documentary evidence in San Francisco. Most of the problems in which the evacuees requested investigations where the WFA had some connection were merely requests that the farm property be inspected and a report submitted on the condition of the ranch at that time. We were also requested in many instances to check into the financial returns and disbursements made by these operators

If you ~~wish~~ wish any information on the corporations that were formed, I ~~would~~ would be glad to give you the background on that.

On August 28, 1942 Mr. Robinson called ~~xxxxx~~ a meeting of the officers of all the aforementioned corporations, in San Francisco, for the purpose of determining just what the corporations intended to do with respect to operating the ranches. Some of these corporations ~~intended~~ operated under partial Power-of-Attorney and they all, except one, stated they would not continue operating evacuee farms unless they could secure some sort of government ~~financing~~ financing. It was definitely a problem then for the WRA to make loans to continue the operation of these farms. However, he felt this was not necessary, so it became a problem of the Evacuee Property Supervisor to secure individual operators on these ranches.

A Mr. Thomas Tong, who owned and operated the Chinese Hour over KSAN, San Francisco, called on Mr. Robinson and indicated that he believed ~~that~~ there ~~is~~ were a large number of qualified Chinese who would be willing and financially able to take over a considerable number of these farms. Mr. Tong, over the Chinese Hour, broadcasted the information that the WRA was in search of qualified farm operators, especially in the Placer County and with the ~~cooperation~~ cooperation of the different fruit companies, these ranches were shown to the Chinese with the result that approximately 100 Chinese went onto farms in Placer County (They took over around 30 ranches). The Evacuee Property Office aided in securing the leases and in negotiating the deals between these Chinese operators and the evacuee owners.

In other areas the farms were leased out to individual operators. This was a very difficult time as prices were very uncertain, labor was difficult to secure, and the cost of labor was exceedingly high. A few isolated cases in which farms might have been abandoned were properties of such ~~low~~ sub-marginal value that no one with any farming experience or ability would attempt to operate them, and I believe that very few farms were actually not operated.

This is about all the information that I can give ~~you~~ you at this time. If you have any ~~more~~ questions on any part of ~~the report~~ this report, I will do my best to answer them for you.

Sincerely,
/s/ WAYNE
Wayne L. Phelps
Assoc. Evacuee Property Supervisor

Another Thought

Most of the Problems handled now went through the WFA office, but not all the required loans. It has been necessary, at the request of the evacuee, to replace many of the individual operators who took over a ranch at time of evacuation. Reasons being

poor ~~operators~~ operators, insufficient operating funds or in some cases the new operators were just plain lazy and refused to work. Of course ~~of~~ all of these cases were handled by us in the WRA when the request came from the evacuee.

W.L.P?

Memo to Russell T. Robinson from C. W. Hatch, Sept. 28, 1944

Subject: Trip to Tule Lake Center.

Left Davis at 10:00 PM Sept. 18 and arrived at Klamath Falls 8:00AM on the 19th. Mr. J. Sheldon Lowery met me at the train and drove me to the Center. I spent 6 days at the Center and returned to Sacto, Mon. evening, Sept. 25. A tour of the entire project was made and I was introduced to most of the heads of the different departments. Two of the most important cases were handled with satisfactory results on the first day. They were Masao Tambara and Fusako Fujita.

At the time of the evacuation Mr. Tambara was a merchant in Sacto who imported large quantities of merchandise from Japan. Most of the imported merchandise and sake were stored in our Sacto warehouse along with Mr. Tambara's personal property some months ago under WRA Form 156. Mr. Tambara also left a large number of accounts receivable in the hands of a Mr. Rose who has made a mess of the collections and has apparently left for parts unknown. The Transportation Department was requested to send all of the commercial and personal property with the exception of the Sake to Mr. Tambara at Tule Lake. The commercial property was to be re-sorted at the Center, part of which was to be taken over by the Co-op. and the balance sold to a merchant in Colorado. If Mr. Tambara can obtain his invoices on the Sake, we shall then be able to dispose of it for him at the ceiling price. There were some complications and misunderstandings in regard to the shipment of this property. These differences were straightened out to the satisfaction of Mr. Tambara and all the property is now loaded and ready to be shipped on to the Center.

Mrs. Fujita is the owner of a forty-five room hotel here in Sacto and has had considerable difficulty in renting the property to any advantage. This case has been worked on since the time of evacuation both by the Property Office and the Legal Department. We have sent Mrs. Fujita several very favorable offers for the purchase of the furniture and a long-term lease on the hotel whereby she would be able to pay all her indebtedness against the property and have it free of indebtedness in about three years and enough money to refurnish the hotel if she so desired. She has always turned down these offers and insisted on having an outside person manage the hotel for her. After several house interviews, she indicated her desire of accepting one of our offers and states that she will send us a WRA Form 153 to proceed with the negotiations.

It is my opinion that if no other cases were handled during this trip, the results accomplished by these two contacts would be well worthwhile. Approximately sixty cases active in our files from Tule Lake were taken with me to the Center for the purpose of discussing them with Mr. Lowery and if necessary discuss the problems personally with the evacuees. Notices were sent out to the evacuees in the Colony requesting them to call at Mr. Lower's office in the administration building at a specified time for the purpose of an interview.

During this visit sixty-five evacuees were contacted, their problems discussed with them and considerable progress made. Six cases will be closed and five new cases opened because of this visit. A number of evacuees called at the office for the purpose of discussing minor problems and I met several evacuees who were formerly known by me. They were interested in knowing the condition of their properties, how their neighbors were getting along and what was the general attitude of the Californians.

After observing and talking to a number of young evacuees who are working in the different departments at the Center, it is hard to realize that they are there because of their disloyalty or request for repatriation. I was told that the majority of these young people are complying with the wishes of their parents and in many cases do not realize the conditions as they now exist. This was particularly true of a young boy and girl that I have known for many years. These two persons were exceptionally good students and were well thought of in the Sacto. and Placer Counties. I did not discuss the situation with them but could not help but feel that somewhere along the line we have made some very serious mistakes.

The Tule Lake Center is in no way comparable to any of the other centers in so far as the handling of the evacuees and in the operations of the Property Office are concerned. The Colony which is the area where the evacuees must live is surrounded by a high wire fence and no one is allowed to enter the Colony through its several gates unless they have a pass properly executed to the satisfaction of the Army. Any evacuee wishing to meet with Mr. Lowery personally must obtain a pass before he is allowed to proceed to the administration building which is located outside the fenced area and at the southeast portion of the Center. After completing his business the pass must be signed by Mr. Lowery and the evacuee is to proceed back to the Colony as soon as possible, surrendering his pass at the gate.

Since the population of the Colony is over 19,000 and because of the distance that the evacuee must walk to enter the administration building and due to the fact that he has to go through all the formality of obtaining a pass, it is natural to believe that a number of the evacuees are not taking advantage of the services to be had by the Property Office.

In order to assist the evacuees with their minor problems and not make it necessary to come to the administration building, Mr. Lowery has set up a sub-office in the Colony. This office is staffed entirely by evacuee help with Mr. Jack Iwata in charge. Such an office is most essential in this Center and no doubt is a great help to the evacuees needing help with their problems. Nevertheless, only minor problems can be handled at this sub-office as they do not have access to the main case files which are kept in the administration building and there is no Caucasian help to assist with the more complicated cases. When such a case arises, it is necessary for Mr. Iwata to telephone Mr. Lowery and make the necessary arrangements for the evacuee to proceed to the administration building and go over his problem with Mr. Lowery personally. Another serious handicap to the Property Officer is that at the time of relocation most of the files for the evacuees coming to Tule Lake were not forwarded on to Mr. Lowery and because of this, he has no past records indicating what requests the evacuee might have made for assistance at the Center where he formerly resided. Mr. Lowery always makes it a point to question these evacuees very thoroughly for the purpose of obtaining any helpful information. Nevertheless, many of the evacuees now residing at Tule are reluctant about giving any helpful information and in these cases Mr. Lowery must start at the beginning

With such a condition it is readily understood why we in the past have received many duplicate requests from evacuees who have relocated to Tule Lake from other centers. On several occasions we have been requested to

report on the personal property of an evacuee. Upon investigation we, in the field, have found that the property in question has been picked up by the Transportation Dept many months ago and that an EPR was properly filled out and delivered to the center where the evacuee previously lived. We in turn have sent this information on to Mr. Lowery not knowing that our memorandum was the first information that he had on this case. At times we have been rather critical in such cases but after loing over the conditions with Mr. Lowery, we can readily understand how is is working more or less in the dark with such evacuees.

Considering the evacuee population in this Center and the difficulties caused by rules and regulations under which this Center must operate and t themany thousands of evacuees that have been relocated in this Center, ~~and~~ ~~can~~ many of whom do not have their previous files sent on to this Center, one can readily conclude that the Property Office in the Tule Lake Center under the supervision of Mr. J. Sheldon Lowery is doing a good job. One Can only come to such a conclusion by making personl visit to this Center and spending sufficient time to make a thorough and complete study of the conditions as they do exist. It is my opinion that a trip to the Tule Lake Center should be made more often than once a year due to the fact that over thirty per cent of the active cases in our Sacto; Office are from Tule Lake and the results of such a visit more than offset the cost and time of such a trip.

(1)

Conversation with Browne 7/12/44

Most farm cases where there has been a loss in crop would be in Sacramento office or Los Angeles office. Farms in Salinas Valley taken care of ~~and~~ by private arrangements (Japanese have their attorneys). Farm cases brought to Browne mostly ~~in~~ equipment; where there is a change of tenants or operators it is found that the first tenant has usually abused farm machinery which has thus depreciated rapidly (machinery not oiled etc...)

With very few exceptions in all property cases investigated by Browne ~~have been pilfered~~ there has been some kind of pilferage and stealing.

Talked case of a jap. farm devoted to bulbs and (flowers + garlic). Substitute tenant found by FSA, (German), share-crop deal 50%. Large number of ~~bulbs~~ bulbs to be raised & marketed by ~~sub~~ tenant. Farm machinery + personal property left with tenant (but in contract word "to tenant" used which was misrepresented). Tenant did not even take care of property, proceeds to jap. for his whole period of tenancy amounted to less than \$500. ~~no~~ ~~also~~ only about 1/10 of bulbs left by the time the second tenant was put in by Browne; all garlic crops lost. In spite of that during first year second tenant remitted about \$1,100 to owner.

Case had been dormant, and if Browne hadn't taken it up a fair loss would have been much more.

(2)

serious.

German Tenant had died and wife refused Browne to come in house to make inventory of personal property. Browne is of belief that ~~man~~ wife disposed of personal property. She had disposed of two farm trucks (one smashed by her daughter) in exchange for ~~for~~ car. But dealer warned by Browne not to ~~to~~ dispose of the trucks until case entirely cleared. Case of personal ~~to~~ & farm property still pending

Loss of Japanese

- 1) Findings from crop of bulbs.
- 2) ~~to~~ Large number of bulbs - (weeds all over ^{recently})
- 3) ~~Loss~~ Farm property
- 4) Personal property

Many cases of property

F.P.

Cases of theft of personal property

- 1) Police reporting - trap door leading into store - watch stolen
- 2) Ranch in Watsonville - locked EPB went down - locked - asked for key - received after 6 months went back - lock broken, property stolen - no way of finding out how much.
- 3)

Disorderly condition in which property is - showed picture of jewelry store in S.F. many cases like that.

Japanese do not list their property - ask for WRA inventory then protest.

Case of house owned by Jap. and leased to caucasian - property of mother Japanese in house. Caucasian got loan of \$1,000 from Jap owner & ~~went to~~ moved

Pink slip of car owned by Japanese, endorsed and turned over to Chinese
\$40,000 property - deed given to Caucasian with promise of return - no signed papers
Trouble: ~~not~~ many transactions by word of mouth. No signed papers, no possibilities for WRA to recover.
Depends upon honesty of Caucasian or other person