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C

6/10/43 -- EC

108
K
Local Administration
Minutes of meeting
Report on visit of Dies Committee

(After the regular staff meeting, several members of the staff lingered. AHL told EC there was to be a conference to prepare a report on the Dies Committee visit, and asked if she would stay and take notes. We waited, and gradually others left until finally only MB, LN, WH, RG, AHL and EC remained. grouped near the large desk behind which WH sat. Before the conference began, a phone call came for WH who talked some minutes, apparently with regard to some incident connected with the visit. His voice sounded pleased and rather amused.

The tone throughout the meeting was fairly light. Laughter and joking about different incidents that occurred during yesterday's visit, but an undertone of seriousness. Apparently the meeting had been suggested by MB who was to prepare a letter to send to Mr. Collier informing him of what had happened. Various ones made suggestions, but gradually WH began to dictate a report, then someone or he himself would throw in some joke about the visit, there would be laughter, and then WH would say to leave it out. During this small meeting, as during the larger staff meeting, WH seemed to take the attitude that the investigation wasn't too bad, and that the Committee members who had appeared were "pretty good men." Whether this is his official stand, or whether he actually thinks so couldn't say. However his face and manner tired. Noticed several times the high-pitched explosion of laughter that seems to come when he is under strain. Got the impression that he wasn't really much interested in this report, but thought it should be done and was more or less doing it because MB was certain it should be done. LN quiet with little to say this afternoon. He and MB seem to have struck up some friendship over this. RG sounds disgusted from the little he says and anxious to stop talking about the matter. AHL sits back in his chair watching the others and making few or no contributions to the report. MB probably most active after WH.)

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WH: (To MB) What do you have in mind on this?

MB: A brief report on the investigation yesterday to go to Mr. Collier.

WH: All right. (Looks at EC and starts dictating) Yesterday three members of the Dies Sub-Committee were here. Costello, Eberharter, and Mundt. (starts a different order of the names, then goes back and emphasizes this order. Originally started with Eberharter.)

RG: (Amusement and disgust) And did a good political job of getting their pictures taken down by the jail, by the school houses, looking at the cellars.

MB: They had three reporters and 2 photographers with them.

WH: Both UP and AP. One UP man, one Associated man, and one Examiner man. Then a Court Reporter and two investigators, Cabot and Steadman.

~~There were~~ No hearings were held at Poston and after several requests by me to be heard, they finally suggested that it would be better to have that testimony given in Washington. (Amusement in tone) They spent from about 10:00 until 5:30 ~~here~~ in the afternoon and looked for parashoot troops, cellars with stores of food, emplacements for guns and ^{boats} ~~boats~~.

RG: There only success was the location of one ^{boat} ~~boat~~.

MB: In an adjoining state. (laughter) What did they actually go to?

WH: They visited apartments — several apartments, one block quite completely, the jail. They had pictures taken by the jail. The school project, had pictures taken laying adobe. Inspection of dining rooms, three dining rooms. Had pictures taken serving food to evacuees. (Amusement from all, but right now WH tone seems to have considerable disgust in it.) We walked them several miles showing them swimming pools and other points of interest. They found a Japanese flag but found it was a Red Cross Flag. (Very quickly) They were kidding. Those guys know that stuff's all nonsense. They admitted as much almost. They caught sight of this flag and it was suggested to Mund that he should wave it in a circle

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and have his picture taken waving the Japanese flag. They know it's —
(doesn't continue, tone laughing)

The three Congressmen in my opinion are not too bad in spite of the determined effort to seek publicity. (after dictating sentence says to insert word "determined." Others comment on this, and there is some joking) I say this because Costello agreed with us that the evacuees should be paid straight wages and more equipment should be brought here to develop the land. And he said confidentially that he would even be willing to take 500 into Imperial Valley to farm. (Stops suddenly and says that if this included in report, Mr. Collier might bring it out some time, get it into the record somehow and it was said confidentially. Then laughs again.)

RG: Gus told them things in confidence and they went ahead and printed it.

WH: They made a joke of the testimony given. They more or less joked about much of the testimony given. They realize as well as the rest of us that it's absolutely false.

(Then comments that didn't finish details of what shown, and asks to have letter ^{they} straightened out when written.) We took them to the warehouses and spent some time in the afternoon looking for cellars under the houses, (corrects himself) under the barracks, expecting to find some of the food we were holding for parachute troops. They were successful in finding two cots where children sleep at night.

All in all, their visit here to Poston as far as finding things to criticize that they hoped to find seemed to be a complete failure. In fact they took a rather friendly attitude toward everything.

RG: They had their pictures taken holding babies and talking to children. (Someone comments that they didn't seem anti-Japanese particularly. Others laugh about this, pictures holding babies. WH says that the SD congressman found a child down in one of the blocks (think C2) who was born in North Dakota. That was close enough to SD for him and he had to have his picture taken. Someone says

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don't see why they had their pictures taken here the way they did, since they can never have them shown outside for any publicity. Think RG says that Costello told by his advisors not to come into Poston without an armed guard. More laughter and cracks taken at this.)

WH: Two of the investigators left the Project about 2:30 and went to Parker. While there they ran into a few barflies and other such outstanding and respectable citizens — (then breaks off and says that this shouldn't go into the report, should be cut out. Says then that wants the tone of the report to be light enough to show that can take the visit as a joke, but report should also inform Mr. Collier of what happened.) While there, they tried to find a few people who would give the kind of testimony they were interested in. They were successful in finding one guard of the Metropolitan Water District who testified that some explosives had been taken. These explosives were stored 25 miles from the project. The Deputy Sheriff in his testimony gave a ~~very~~ fair and impartial testimony which was very fair to the Project. I was talking to the Deputy Sheriff this morning. He stated he had investigated what was supposed to be a theft at the time it was reported and decided that no explosives had been stolen.

They invited us to dinner. We spent the evening together. (Much laughter, and more joking remarks about events of last night. MB asks if shouldn't put in about managing to carry Eberharter on to the train.)

Eberharter personally seemed to be touched by the fact that the people seemed to be living under very crowded conditions and that certainly they were not being pampered. (MB wants to know if he didn't just get maudling about the situation after he got drunk. WH says that while still at Poston Eberharter made some comments that seemed to show he had been genuinely touched by the situation.) MB: I thought this was very enlightening. Just before he got on the train, he said he wanted to leave on the West Coast the impression they they weren't trying

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to crucify anybody but were a fact finding group. (More joking)

WH: Mundt seemed to be -- fair --. (WH gives instructions to place dashes as given with amusement in his voice) We're not sure just what his reactions were. Costello was seeking votes and that's as far as his interests go.

LN: I wonder if this could be brought out -- which I thought was very good. The reporter said he had had his mind set very definitely against all niseis, including those who had volunteered, but he had switched.

MB: They boarded the train with a case of beer, two quarts of whiskey and a hatful of cracked ice.

AHL Mundt said during the evening that it was a very tiresome and hot week, and he would be very glad of a rest. Hearings all day, and at night working pretty hard around Hollywood.

WH: They did not seem to ~~for~~ be especially antagonistic toward the Japanese. It reminded you of a Bostonian the first time on an Indian Reservation.

MB: I think that the fact -- it was obvious that it was a political circus.

RG: They visited the military police.

WH: They paid an official call and spent a very few minutes.

They inspected the personnel quarters and the hospital. The investigators went to the warehouses in Parker.

(All agree that this about covers it, WH says that anything else MB can add from his own knowledge.)

Yesterday three members of the Dies Sub*Committee were here, Costello, Eberharter and Mundt. They had three reporters, UP, AP and Examiner, with them and two photographers. Also a court reporter and two investigators, Cabot and Steadman. No hearings were held at Poston and after several requests by me to be heard, they finally suggested that it would be better to have that testimony given in Washington. They spent from about 10:00 until 5:30 in the afternoon going over the Project looking for parachoot troops, cellars with stores of food, emplacements for guns, and ~~boats~~ ^{boats}. There only success was the location of one boat. They visited apartments, one block quite completely, and the jail where they had their pictures taken. They inspected the school project and had their pictures taken laying adobe. They inspected three dining rooms and had their pictures taken serving food to evacuees. We took them to the warehouses and they spent some time in the afternoon looking for cellars under the barracks expecting to find some of the food we were holding for parachoot troops. They were successful in finding two cots where children sleep at night. They also inspected the personnel quarters and visited the hospital. They paid an official call to the MP camp and stayed only a very few minutes. All in all, their visit here to Poston as far as finding things to criticize which they had hoped to find went seemed to be a complete failure. In fact they took a rather friendly attitude toward everything. They had their pictures tkann holding babies and talking to children. It seems obvious that they regarded the whole thing as more or less farce. They made a joke of the testimony given and apparently realized as well as the rest of us that it is absolutely false.

Two of the investigators left the Project about 2:30 and went to Parker. They visited the Parker warehouses. While in town, they tried to find a few people who would give the kind of testimony they were interested in. They were successful in finding one guard of the Metropolitan Water District who testified

that some explosives had been taken. These explosives were stored 25 miles from the project. The Deputy Sheriff in his testimony gave a fair and impartial testimony which was very fair to the Project. I talked with the Deputy Sheriff this morning. He stated that he had investigated what was supposed to be a theft at the time it was reported and decided that no explosives had been stolen.

The committee invited us to dinner and we spent the evening together. The three congressmen in my opinion are not too bad in spite of the determined effort to seek publicity. I say this because Costello agreed with us that the evacuees should be paid straight wages and more equipment should be brought here to develop the land. And he said confidentially that he would even be willing to take 500 into the Imperial Valley to farm. Eberharter personally seemed to be touched by the fact that the people seemed to be living under very crowded conditions and thought that certainly they were not being pampered. Before he got on the train he said that they wanted to leave the impression on the coast that they were not out to crucify anybody but were simply a fact finding committee. Muncie seemed to be --- fair ---. We're not sure just what his reactions were. Costello was seeking votes and that's as far as his interests go. They did not seem to be especially antagonistic toward the Japanese. Their attitude reminded you rather of a Bostonian for the first time on an Indian reservation.

102a

6-27-43
EHS, ahl
fr WH

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

The problem of the Japanese in America has several aspects that are important to ~~Amexix~~ the whole nation. ~~XXXXXX~~
Your committee has dealt rather exclusively with one of these, namely ~~XXXXXX~~ un-American and anti-American activities. I should like to take a few minutes and bring to your attention some of the other ~~XXXXXX~~ ^{parts of aspects} ~~XXXXXX~~ the problem that are of vital concern to the United States.

First there is the need of maintainining and further developing American attitudes and behavior, ~~among the American Japanese~~ ^{relocated Japanese} country. There are 110,000 ~~of these people~~ in our ~~XXXXXX~~ which is a larger number than any ~~XXXXXX~~ can afford to ~~XXXXXX~~ antagonise, ~~XXXX~~ ~~XXXXXX~~ wall off, and retain as a foreign body within itself. Furthermore, ~~the Japanese raised in this~~ ^{real} ~~country~~ have shown ~~XXXXXX~~ capacities for being valuable citizens. ^{persons most readily} All ~~people~~ learn ~~best~~ by example, and true Americanism can best be maintained and developed by our demonstrating it in our dealings with these people. Among other things, absolute ~~XXXXXX~~ justice, lack of hysteria and an ability to stick by one's word and one's principles are ~~XXXXXX~~ Americanism.

Secondly, there is the need to prevent the ^{useless} ~~immobilization~~ of manpower. The Japanese in America have shown themselves to be some of the best farmers in the world and ~~XXXXXX~~ as soldiers in the United States Army have been accorded high praise by their superiors. Every one of these is needed by our nation which is suffering from food shortage and ^{is} on the brink of drafting fathers.

Thirdly, there is the American principle of safe-guarding the rights of all loyal citizens without regard to race or color. This is at the core of Americanism and ~~ix~~ it is especially important to preserve it at this time when ~~the United States~~ ^{we} ~~is making~~ ^{are making} sacrifices in war to preserve the American way of life. We cannot afford to lose the battle ^{for freedom} on the home front while our ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ army and navy are giving their lives over-seas.

This principle, like all sound principles, has its practical side. In the first place, if blanket ~~discrimination~~ ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ destruction of citizenship of any group of Americans becomes a ~~fixxx~~ precedent, then no group in this nation will be safe and the seeds of serious internal unrest are ~~sown~~ ^{sown}. America is composed of an enormous number of minority groups and she cannot afford to take such chances. In the second place, we must bear in mind what we hope to accomplish in war and peace in the Far East. The only argument for the blanket discrimination against Americans of Japanese ancestry and the ^{correlated} proposal to deport them after the war, is that ~~xxxxxx~~ they are unassimilable. Such an attitude not only flies in the face of ~~xxxxxxxxxxx~~ facts, but it carries implications that must apply to all oriental people. How can we do this when we are fighting side by side with the Chinese? How can we do this when we hope to have leadership in a just and lasting peace in which the ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ people of India, Burma, the Phillipines, ^{Malaya}, and the Dutch East Indies will participate?

Gentlemen, do not suppose that what we do with the Japanese in America is going unobserved by other oriental people.

In bringing these other aspects of the Japanese problem to your attention, I do not in the least wish to minimize the seriousness of possible subversive and anti-American activity, but I should like to emphasize that for ~~for~~ proper handling, all aspects of the question must be considered and weighed together.

The national welfare in matters of ~~subversive~~ activity has not been neglected. After the war began, the Federal Bureau of Investigation worked hard and intensively rounding up all persons even remotely suspected of ^{un-American} ~~Un-American~~ activities. The people ~~xxx~~ who were evacuated from the Pacific coast were American Citizens and friendly aliens against whom there was no charge or suspicion. Many were known to be extremely loyal.

It was therefore decided to deal with these people in ~~an~~ a manner consonant with American principles. They were evacuated not to prison camps, but to relocation centers which were new communities where American life could be developed and which could serve as bases from which ^{the Japanese} ~~they~~ could, after due process of sifting, go out and take their places again in ~~American~~ those parts of the ~~United States~~ nation where their manpower was needed.

Despite the loss of their homes, savings, jobs, farms, and contacts with their caucasian friends they cooperated ~~xx~~ loyally ~~with the government during evacuation~~ during evacuation with their ~~x~~ Government. Considering the mass nature of the evacuation, ~~and~~ the numbers of people of every description involved, and the physical hardships, the smoothness of the whole movement was extraordinary. The Japanese made this ~~contribution~~ sacrifice for the war ~~effort for American safety~~ effort and I doubt if they have recieved anything like the recognition they deserve. It was in those evacuation days when the United States was not nearly so well prepared ~~x~~ as she is now ~~that resistance~~ and felt

that at least a token invasion of the ~~California~~ Pacific coast was iminant, that resistance and sabotage would have caused untold harm.

More than a year has passed since evacuation and if a committee for investigating American activities were to visit the relocation centers they would find far more than those in quest of ~~of~~ un-American activities. Furthermore, such a committee could find many ~~many~~ reliable witnesses including their own eyes and ears, and would not be so easily misled by people who have more imagination than they have courage, veracity or ~~good sense~~ ^{intelligence} ~~good sense~~. ~~As an example of Americanism~~ As an example of Americanism I might mention the young men who have volunteered for the army, even though sent to desert camps and frequently subjected to ~~the~~ most unfair ~~charges~~ accusations and threats by the popular press. It is far easier to volunteer from your own home before the admiring eyes of ~~family and friends and neighbors~~ ^{family and friends and neighbors} neighborhood and with flags and music and the ~~high approval in~~ popular approval in the press, ~~than to do so after leaving your family and~~ ^{than to do so after leaving your family and} ~~everything they possess and to do so with the approval~~ ^{everything they possess and to do so with the approval} ~~of the community~~ It is a hundred times harder to volunteer to fight, not for a real home and place in a community, but for the principle of liberty.

^{draw to your attention}
I should also like to ~~mention~~ the doctors, nurses, firemen, ^{gardeners, farmers} police, office workers, teachers, and scores of others who have stuck to their jobs for long hard hours in order to make the relocation centers a success and who have recieved little pay and no recognition from the American public. In any community as large as Poston, there will be numbers of people who ^{by constitutional nature} are trouble-

makers, and after a shock such as evacuation, ~~thxxxxxxx~~ it is to be expected that there will be numbers more who will be un-cooperative because of resentment. However, it is a mistake to let the behavior of these ~~xxx~~ ^{faithful} obscure the ~~good~~ work that ~~has been~~ ^{of fair play} ~~done~~ has been done, and it is not in the American tradition ^{to} attach the black lable that belongs on a few to the entire community.

The weeding out of un-American persons has been going on, and will continue. ~~XXXXXX~~ Contrary to popular opinion, it is a task that is not too difficult, but one must be careful not to mistake just griev~~a~~nces for anti-Americanism. Those who are considered anti-American, are sent to concentration camps. Those who remain must not be treated as if they were in concentration camps. If they are so treated, then our whole program ceases to make sense, is more Axis than American in principle and we run the risk of suffering losses in manpower, losses in soldiers and good citizens, losses in post-war ~~as~~ ^{of} embassadors ^{of} good will in the Far East and loss of reputation in inter-racial ~~xxxxxxx~~ dealings.

^{andly with}
In ~~dealing~~ with the Japanese in America, we must realize that we are not dealing with fixed attitudes. The vast majority of the people, like any other section of the public are growing and changing in their attitudes all the time. That change can move in a destructive, anti-American direction, or it can move toward ^{loyalty} ~~loyalty~~ and cooperativeness. ~~xxxxxxx~~
Which way ^{of go} ~~they~~ go will largely depend on what we do to ~~them~~ ^{the people}.
The Japanese in America are neither super-villains nor super-heros, they are just ordinary people with all the ordinary human reactions, good and bad. Consequently they have potentialities for ~~xxxxxxx~~ developing high morale and being a national asset, or

they can ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ deteriorate and become
~~xx~~ a never ending source of expense and trouble. It is our respon-
sibility to influence the development in a constructive direction
and the accomplishment will depend on our skill as administrators,
on consistency in our policies and on understanding on the part
of the American Public.

Loyalty is not a thing to be commanded. Any officer of the
Army ~~of~~ the Navy knows that. Texts on military command will
tell you that the rules of obedience and the punishment of the
court martial are not the things which make the soldier fight that
extra bit that counts, are not the things which make him stick
by his leader when all seems lost. Discipline consists in rules
and punishments ~~and~~ ^{and recognition} rewards, all three balanced with each ~~other~~
~~The loyalty of the soldier is not a thing to be commanded. It is a feeling that he has something~~
~~to be loyal to~~ and administered without caprice. ~~What~~

What is true of the soldier and the sailor is true of the
civilian. What is true of the German American, ~~the Spanish~~
~~American~~, ~~the Anglo-American~~, the Anglo-American and the Chinese
American, is true of the Japanese American. They are and will
be loyal, but we must give them something to be loyal ~~to~~ to.

102 a Congressional Relations
Conversation with Mr. Gelvin by AHL
Dies Committee

6/19th/43

Mr. Gelvin told me in the evening as we were coming back from Parker that Congressman Eberharter had gotten so drunk that he had walked right down to the station without packing and that he, Mr. Gelvin, had gone back to the hotel and packed all of Eberharter's things and brought it down to the station for him.

S.J. I

6-21-43

Conversation with Len Nelson by AHL

Zoot suiters in camp.

C.R. Moral problems-142

This morning after breakfast, I met Len Nelson and found him far from his usual jovial self. I attempted to joke with him but met with a straight-faced response and an admonition not to be silly. He wanted to know if I had seen the editorial in the Los Angeles Examiner of Sunday's edition and I told him I had not. He said that there ^{were} ~~was~~ very serious charges. Moris Burge and Ned Spicer also reported that Len was in a very gloomy mood, quite disturbed about the zoot suiters in camp.

142 Moral Problems
Conversation with Mr. Head by AHL
Zoot suiters

6/24/43

C.R. Dies Committee-102a
(Congressional relations)

Mr. Head said that he had had a lot of the zoot suiters rounded up and spent most of the day interviewing them in his office. He thinks there will be a lot of haircutting in the next day or two. He and Dr. Cary were talking about the Dies Committee investigation and wishing that Miss Findley had been here, feeling that she would have told them what was what and would have enjoyed the fight.

The zoot suiters have been according to Mr. Head attacking various individuals they don't like and beating them. One bad fight started at the swimming pool when Boner spit in the water and one of the swimmers balled him out for it. The swimmer got beaten up by about 5 of the gang. There was another time when a group went to one of the mess halls one night and forced the watchman to give them some wieners. Isamu Uchida made them take the wieners back to the kitchen. There are a lot of zoot suiters in the fire department which is where Uchida is now.

19 S.J. I

6-17-43

Conversation with Dr. G. Kawaichi by AHL

Dies committee and Army control of camps

C.R. 102 a Congressional Relations

Dr. George Kawaichi came in and chatted with me for a while this afternoon. He is very anxious to get a job outside of Poston to do clinical research.

Commenting on the Dies Committee investigation, he said he thought it would have been much better if the Army had run the relocation centers from the start because they would have prevented all such nonsense as the strike and the beatings and there wouldn't have been any of the stuff that the Dies Committee can dig up and use against the evacuees. Under the present system, the innocent people are suffering for the bad actions of the minority who were able to get away with it. I argued with him that it was the Nisei's responsibility to control the radical elements but he said that the Nisei were mostly too young to assume that responsibility or to organize themselves properly. They were too young "to talk back to their parents and uncles".

100 OUTGROUP RELATIONS

June 9, 1943

VIA RADIO STATION KTR-js

DIES COMMITTEE INVESTIGATION 9:30 P.M. News

The news broadcast of the KTR radio station of Arizona stated that the Social Welfare Department were responsible for the spoiling of the Japs at Poston. It said that Mr. Empie had testified that Dr. Powell and Miss Findley often argue with the administration in favor of the Evacuees and usually win. Some form of control is needed. The Japs go on picnics and on fishing on government cars and are escorted on shopping tours. Even after the strict regulation had gone into effect there has been no change in the center. About \$1500 (maybe \$15,000) worth of government lumber had been on the project by the Evacuees to make their tables, chairs and other pieces of furniture. Miss Findley defended them and said that they were only improving government property. (The radio said that Mr. Empie testified as above in investigation by the Dies Committee at Los Angeles.)

100 OUTGROUP RELATIONS
VIA RADIO STATION KTR-js
DIES COMMITTEE INVESTIGATION 5:30 P.M. News

June 8, 1943

The News broadcast of the KTR radio station of Arizona stated that Mr. Gelvin, the associate project director, testified at the Dies Committee in Los Angeles about the relocation center. It said Gelvin testified that the Japs in Poston worked only when they felt like it so Caucasians have to be hired to do the work. If all the Evacuees could be used, there will be no need of the Caucasian workers. The Caucasian workers get eight dollars and it may be that the Evacuees do not believe that they do not get enough. But some of them believe that since the government had put them in the relocation centers, it is obligated to feed them.

7/5/43

5

"There is one grim touch of humor in the otherwise unrelieved tragedy of the race riot in Detroit. Mayor Jeffries of that city has sent an urgent plea to Rep. Martin Dies and his Committee on Un-American Activities to keep away. Mr. Jeffries putting into words what many other people have felt but were too polite to say, tells Mr. Dies that another investigation by him "would accomplish nothing at all." We seem to remember that a few years ago Mr. Dies spent a lot of money investigating conditions in Detroit; but if this investigation produced anything of value, we don't know what it was. Certainly it did not serve, as it should have done, to put the country on guard about the sort of wholesale murder that was witnessed there a few days ago.

"If the army could speak as bluntly as Mayor Jeffries, we suspect it would give Mr. Dies a similar message in regard to his investigation of conditions in the Japanese Relocation Centers. Mr. Dies, whose hatred of the Roosevelt administration is notorious, is all set to prove that the Japanese are being coddled unmercifully. If his charges are more than ten-percent true, then his previous record under similar circumstances belt him. The army, however, is on tenterhooks about the whole matter. They fear testimony may be brought out by inadvertence, not that some Japanese was given three oranges at a single meal, but that some inmate of some camp was actually mistreated. The Japanese government has sworn to take reprisals against American prisoners in its hands if any of its nationals in this country are abused; and the Japanese government is fully capable of

100 OUTGROUP RELATIONS
"Mr. Dies: Plea for Avoidance"

7/5/43

doing so, to the extent of unspeakable barbarity. The
army will heave a great sigh of relief if Mr. Dies gets through
this phase of his career without doing even more harm than
usual."

1022
K
Dies Committee
Observations by EHS

5
June 18, 1943

Moris came up in the evening suggesting that he, Alex, and I go up to Parker and catch Wade, Len, and Ralph after they had seen the Dies Committee off. He was anxious for a post mortem on the days adventures with the committee. He had heard in III that the committee had walked suddenly into a mess hall in I and had found an exceptionally nice meal being served--- ham, ~~fruit~~ salad, cup cakes. The persons who had told him in III were very mad. They said that the particular chef who served this meal was always known as a contrary one, and that it was typical of him to pick the day of the committee's visit for such a meal. Moris wanted to check this story. He also wanted to know why the committee had made such a quick and cursory visit to III and had not got hold of Moris. He said they simply drove into III and rapidly cricled the ware-houses and drove out again. Moris had not had ^{much} contact with the committee all day. He said that he had heard that Wade had been hitting them pretty hard all day.

The committee had been in Poston since 8:30 A.M., had driven around in three project cars with Wade, Ralph, and LN piloting them, had eaten lunnh in the personnel mess in I, and had gone up to Parker in the late afternoon, where they were to hold some hearings and have dinner. They were due to leave on the 10:30 train for Los Angeles. We spotted their cars in Parker and then went over to the Corral for a drink. We came over to the station as the train pulled in about 10:30 p.m.

There was a group standing by the Pullman entrance talking---- Wade talking with Congressmen Eberhard of Penna. and Mund of S. Dak.; Costello talking with Empie; Wickersham came along and leaned against the station watching, Moris and I joining him; Ralph seemed to be moving about among the various members of the Dies Party and Len did not come up until all were about to leave. AHL stood and listened to the conversation of WH with Eberhard and later joined in conversation with them.

My impression was that everyone of the party except Mund and Costello were either tight or very drunk. Eberhard was sway ing on his feet, talking thickly, and spitting in a plattering way so that periodically Congressman Mund had to shift his position in order to avoid the spit. Mund seemed annoyed once ~~when~~ Eberhard spit on his shoes. Len later told a long story about the difficulties he and Ralph had getting Eberhard into his coat. A young man, possibly Ambrose the clerk, came out of the Pullman and stood by Eberhard, drinking out of a bottle of beer. He went back into the Pullman and later returned with a newspaper on which he gathered a couple of quarts of ice from the box beside the station drinking fountain, then went back into the car. An elderly gray-haired man, in a state of ~~great~~ dishevelment, with his shirt collar rolled far back exposing much of his chest, rambled back and forth from to car to somewhere in the darkness several times. Wickersham described him as "the chief investigator". He was obviously pretty drunk and seemed to talk incoherently. Ralph pointed out his travelling

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to him
 bag, which he had evidently lost track of, ~~to him~~ Ralph also, I think, told him that he had gotten his coat and vest and tie for him and put them on the train. The "investigator", however, was going by automobile with Costello and not on the train, so *he* went into the car and got his coat. As he came out, he asked Ambrose(?) if he was coming in the automobile with him. Ambrose asked whether he was going to drive and then said something about doubting his ability to drive.

While this milling about of the party members was going on, WH and Eberhard were talking rather volubly, Mund was standing rather quietly close by listening, and Costello and Empie were talking quietly a little to one side. (See AHL's notes for the talk.) Wickersham was talking with Moris, saying that the committee had been behaving pretty badly and that he had a low opinion of them. When it came time to go, LN evidently pretty drunk, hove in sight, came across the platform and shook the congressmen's hands, saying in a loud voice, "So long, G.O.P.," as he pumped Mund's ~~(?)~~ hand. Moris commented that LN was priceless in a situation like this. Costello saw the others into the car and then left to go back to L.A. by automobile.

RN, LN, MB, AHL, and I went over to Terry's bar and set down in a booth. On the way over LN grabbed my arm, saying that he wanted somebody to drive him home, that he was in a government car, that he had with three others killed a quart of whiskey over a steak, and that therefore he couldn't drive home. He said that he and RG had sworn to get drunk after this was over. In Terry's we sat down and had drink around. RG was quite sober, had one scotch and soda with us, and left his second drink barely touched. He was evidently rather downcast. He said several times: "I think Costello is the smartest one of the lot. He stayed sober, and sat back, and kept his ears open. Wade doesn't think so. He says Eberhard is the best of the bunch. But I think Costello is the smartest."

LN: Ralph sure got Stedman's goat. He drove the poor bastard out of Poston. He was gone by noon. Every time he opened his mouth, Ralph would go for him with some of Towne send's stuff. Ralph would start it every time and then Wade and I would pitch in. He couldn't take it.

chain RG said little, but remained for the most part with his head in his hands, hunched over the table. WH came in, sat on the edge of a bench, and had a drink with us. He was perfectly sober and evidently feeling downcast in much the same mood as RG. He didn't laugh as easily as usual. Somebody told the following story. "One of those guys asked who this bird Johnson is on our staff who ~~was~~ *Costello* was all set to shoot the committee. When some of the party came to the gate, they were stopped by the M.P.'s. The M.P. called up Henriette in the office and said they were there and asked, 'What shall I do, shoot 'em?' ~~She~~ *Costello* Henriette said 'Sure, go ahead.' They figured that this fellow Johnson was laying for them to shoot them and were pretty excited about it."

WH commented that Eberhard was the best of the bunch until he got drunk, that he was the only one who was affected by seeing seven people living in one apartment. WH dropped his whiskey glass on the floor breaking it. Then he ordered drinks around for the rest of us and left for home.

*None Costello
 was still
 around &
 might be
 checking up
 on him.*

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LN wanted to talk and did more of it than anyone else. LN: Four of us killed that quart with a steak straight. Why Christ, man, I never saw anything like. But I kept my head, yeh I've got everything right here. Anytime you want to get hold of this guy Ambrose, here's his telephone number right here. (He shows a notebook with a couple of names and phone numbers, trying to prove that he had his wits about him all the time.) Ambrose is allright... I knew I wasn't in any condition to go along when they were starting the hearings. I knew I'd had too much, so I staid away. Now if they'd have invited me personally, I'd have gone anyway. But Wade just came around and said we should all go up. Those dirty sons of bitches, they were playing Wade, you know, the bastards, they wouldn't let him give any testimony, getting back at him because he ~~wasn't~~ didn't come to L.A. to testify. Oh, I know how the dirty sons of bitches figured it. They got this god damn watchman up here at the dam and he told them that he ~~had~~ found some dynamite or something like that.

So I staid out of it up here, but I was working, by Christ. I was working for that dirty bastard Cliff Snelson. *talk a blow-out / powder* He walked right out on us, the son of a bitch, Gave his keys to a Jap. Pulled right on us, said he had a phone call, why the cocksucker. And the congressman came over to me and he said himself: This fellow Snelson, he isn't in our corner, and he isn't in your corner, he's playing his own game. Well, I knew he was fuckin well right, but I had to work on the congressman. I had to pull for that low down bastard Cliff, and believe me I'm going to tell my old firned Cliff Snelson in the morning. I know damn well, god damn well, what I would do about him if I was Wade Head. (Moris asked What?) Well, now I dont mean nothing ~~like that~~ like that. But you can be god damn well sure, just like the congressman says, he ~~wasn't~~ wasn't in our corner. The bastard takes ^{us} around, three warehouses I guess, just stuff anybody would expect to see. Those congressmen knew damned well, I mean they figured he was giving them the run around. They're smart enough for that. Then we get ready to see the meat and what does that dirty son of a bitch do, but walk out on us and give the keys to a Jap. Well, he wasn't fooling anybody. If I'd been in his shoes I'd have staid in there and pitched. And then I had ¹ stand up for the bastard with the congressmen.

You see, this is the way we worked it. We figured it out. I was trailing Mund. We shadowed them, each one of us. And Ralph trailed Eberhard and Wade trailed Costello. That was our job, keep right on their tails. But, shit, man, Wade went crazy. I tell you he was half crazy the whole damn day. He would come around and tell me to take the other guy a while and then the other guy and how the hell could ^{ya} tell where you stood. I had it fixed down in 35. But what did those dirty lousy bastards do, but barge into Block 21. Jesus Christ, man, the block manager was off fishing and I had to tell to get going and find somebody who would let us take a picture of an apartment. We went through four of them before we found somebody. And then here is this congressman standing with a baby in his arms while they take the picture. God damn, cheap politics.

I wouldn't be a god damn bit surprised if we had a sit-down strike in that block tomorrow morning. I wouldn't blame ^{the} a god damn bit. I've got to work with those guys tomorrow and the day after, that's the hell of it. I figured for awhile I'd like to pack up our stuff and take the wife and kids and get the hell out of here, but now by god after it's over I figure you couldn't pry me away with a ten foot pole. *they got my neck bowed.*

So on the way down to camp II, the congressman says, Len, you don't mind if I call you Len? I said, Congressman, I don't give a shit what you call me. Sure, I like to have you call me Len. Well, he says, Len, I'm going to subpoena you in Washington. So I says, Congressman, that's fine, I've never seen Washington, I'd like to see the dump. Subpoena me but by god you won't ^{get} a god damn thing out of me, and the congressman says, I believe it, Len. So he says, Where is this fellow Burge that runs camp III? And I says well, Jim is outside, he isn't here just now. You can take this place just so long, I told him, then you have to get the hell out for awhile, and so Jim isn't here. But I guess Moris is down there sitting on his ass waiting for a telephone call, just like all the rest of us. So I went on and explained to him that once in six weeks I get in to Parker for a drink. And he said, You poor bastard, just like that.

June 19, 1943

Dies Committee
Impressions by EHS

Dr. Shimizu talked with me in the evening briefly touching on the Dies committee. He said, "Some of us were discussing the testimony of Norris James. We were saying how every question of the committee has a bias behind it. They ask questions always to bring out one side of the story, like the question 'Was it possible for the Japanese to have sabotaged the railroad bridge?' James said it was and they didn't go into it any farther. One of the fellows started to stick up for James, saying he wasn't so bad when he was here. But the others jumped on him. They said that the Caucasians may seem allright as long as they are here, but as soon as they get away they begin to talk against us. That is what James did. He went right along with the Dies committee in just giving one side of the story. Now that is the way a lot of the fellows are talking, the young fellows in camp. They say, Who can you trust? You don't know what the Caucasians are going to say or do as soon as they get out of Poston. They are thinking that there is no basis for trusting any of the administration.

Tom Sasaki said that people are saying that the Dies Committee was taken up to Block 3 to look at the gambling den up there.

Dr. Cary's reaction to the Dies investigation, after reading Townsend's testimony, is that he wants to write an article for the New Republic, "to point out immoral methods they use in their investigations. This has great implications for democracy, that we should let a group like that continue to operate in such a manner."

Scotty said that people everywhere in camp ~~ix~~ are saying, "How can that committee find out about things spending just a few hours here?"

Bob Montgomery, my C.O. room mate, said that he intended to lie low while the committee is here. "Evidently they don't know yet that C.O.'s are here in the camps. It might hurt the people, if the Dies committee got hold of that."

MB thinks that WH has been greatly disillusioned about congress as a result of the Dies Cte experience. He thinks that if WH had been more familiar with various of the congressional hearings in connection with the Indian Service that he would not have been so naive about the Dies Cte.

161 Food

June 18, 1943

Observation -- JS

Dies Committee Investigation

(Overheard the conversation when returning from Unit I on the last bus. A conversation of an Issei who had seen the Dies Committee go into the mess halls and had later gone to one of the mess halls which the Committee had entered.)

This noon the Dies Committee went to Block 30 to see the mess hall. The chef had prepared a special meal, the first time the block had ever had such a meal since Christmas. The people had thick ham, potato salad with a boiled egg, cucumber salad, half of a canteloupe. There was so much that the people said that they could not consume it all. (One person said, "what's wrong with the people of that block anyway, don't they know any better?") I have heard that the chef does the opposite of what the people ask. If the people ask for this the chef prepares that. It may have been that the chef wanted to show the Caucasians that even a Japanese could prepare such a lunch as he prepared. On top of the good lunch; on the wall were poems which had been presented at the recent contest held for the Japanese. The photographers took the pictures of the poems and the lunch.

I heard that one of the members of the Committee stated that the people cannot ordinarily eat such a meal on the outside. Evidently from what I heard the chef had been saving all the food to this day without giving the people of the block any good meals. But if that was the case, it might have been possible to save for a few days more, since they had been warned that the Dies Committee was coming. My mess hall has been having macaroni and squid for the past day. (Someone stated that it was disgusting that some people cannot understand what all this means to the people and also the administration.) There are always some people like that.

161 Food
Observation — JS
Dies Committee Investigation, 2

19
June 18, 1943

Yesterday, about quarter of five, the Dies Committee on three cars went through camp 3. No one seemed to have been aware about their presence except for the people who had remained in the administration area. I heard Mr. Yoshimine run to Mr. Burdick and inform him that the Committee had stopped at Block 308.

This morning I heard from Dale Okazaki that the people in Block 308 had roast beef last night when the Committee entered and saw the mess hall. He said, "And there, we have been having macaroni and rice."

In the evening, I heard that when the Committee went to see the warehouse they saw the workers there gambling. This informer remarked, "Can't they refrain from gambling or fishing for even a few days as ordered?"

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(Ken had just dropped over to see the folks) He mentioned that there is some belief that the Committee had informants since they had gone to only all the good mess halls -- the mess halls that prepared good food for the particular meal. There is no reason for the Committee to come to Unit III and go directly to Block 308 Mess Hall. There is some suspicion on the part of some people. Since the people had been sufficiently warned about the Committee coming into the project, it was up to the people. In these cases it is the fault of the block managers as they were adequately informed and it was their duty to ask for the cooperation of the residents of their respective blocks.) The administration had called me up when the Committee had arrived in Parker, and asked me to warn the people. I heard that when Mr. Galvin entered the Mess Hall 30 he shook his head in disappointment. This whole matter is not only bad for the Evacuees but also puts the administration in the embarrassing position since they had challenged the newspapers and the Committee to come in to the project

and see for themselves. Mr. Head and Mr. Galvin have been working very hard for the people in the Camp and the petition signed recently by the residents show how much the people have come to realize this. Since Mr. Head is still a young man and has a sharp mind it is believed that he will be soon called into the army.