

J 15.16

67/14  
C



Miss Spicer: Please attach to the other report.

102 Outgroup--July 16, 1943



Legation

(This is an addition to the report of the meeting of the Isseis with the Spanish Consul on July 16, 1945)

CONSUL: I have here a message to you people from the Japanese Government which I am permitted to read to you. (He hands the official message to Masuda who makes an oral interpretation in Japanese)

MASUDA: This message says that the House of Representatives of the Japanese Government had passed a resolution to the effect that a message of hope be sent to all Japanese nationals living in countries which are at war with Japan.

ISSEI: Is the essence of the discussion this morning to be conveyed to the Japanese Government?

CONSUL: Yes, it will be.

(Meeting adjourned at this point)



112 ✓  
Dec. 12, 1942m

INCIDENT OF THE SPANISH CONSUL

At 10 A.M. on Dec. 12 the Spanish consul, Francisco de Amat arrived in Poston. Mr. Evans notified the CEC and asked that they get 4 or 5 issei to interview him. The CEC agreed to send the members of the Labor Relations Board(Kadowaki, Mitani, Matusmoto, and Nakachi), Kato(Chairman of the IAB), Mizushima(Vice-Chairman of the IAB), and themselves(Nagai, Okamoto, Nakamura, and Niiseki). They drew up a series of proposals which were presented to the Consul. Nagai and Mitani were reported to have been most infavor of the first proposal which was that \$200,000,000 be requested from the Japanese govt for the issei for the purpose of rehabilitation after the war. The losses of the issei as a result of evacuation were stressed as a reason for requesting such a sum. This proposal was greeted with enthusiasm by the group, it is reported, but later individual members of the group expressed doubts about it. The other proposals were:

1. The storage of 3 months food supply in Poston(to gaurd against emergency which might result in shortage).
2. Improvement of quarters:(a) one family to an apartment, (b) a toilet to each barracks,(c) and heating facilities for each apartment.
3. The payment of wages on time, two weeks after the end of the month.
4. The completion of school buildings.
5. Hospital improvements, such as more optical and dental equipment and increased medical staff.
6. Telephones in the block managers' offices.

The people of the camp knew little or nothing of the consul's arrival. Information concerning the proposals made came to the blocks only after Block 45 began its campaign against proposal ~~for rehabilitation funds~~ for rehabilitation funds. It was announced in Block 45 by Mizushima that the proposals had been made in a block meeting the evening of Dec. 12, "by 10 prominent men."



Dec. 13 ----- X spoke to Mizushima, saying that the kyokoha (radicals or actionists) would oppose the proposal. M. said that he had opposed the proposal himself. It was arranged to have Nomura the block councilman get a member of the CEC to address Block 45 concerning the proposal. Niiseki came and spoke in the messhall at lunchtime, standing on a messhall table. Niiseki said that ~~the~~ Sp. Consul had told them that he had been trying to get to Poston since June but the army had not allowed it until now. He passed over the rehabilitation fund point and dwelt at length on the others. #14 then got up and said he opposed the proposal on the ground that the gold reserve of Japan would not permit; it was like asking for an indemnity from the Japanese govt. Niiseki interposed that it was rather asking the U.S. for indemnity. They had calculated that there were 45,000 issei in the U.S. and the sum arrived at would provide \$4500 for each one. They had been afraid to include the nisei in the request because of international complications. #14 asked for retraction of the proposal and then expressed opposition to the food storage proposal also because he said it would create ill feeling on the outside because of the food shortage there. Niiseki said that he would report this opposition to the CEC, saying that it came from an individual not from the whole group. Someone asked how many Americans are interned in Japan, saying that he believed this has a direct relation to the treatment of Japanese in relocation centers. Niiseki said he did not know, but that he knows the stories of bad treatment of prisoners at Shanghai are false.

X then got up and spoke: I do not know the real motives



of the CEC in desiring to have such a proposal transmitted to Japan, but as I see it there are two apparent motives: If they wished to report to the Japanese government the conditions of the evacuation and the sufferings resulting from it that is an unnecessary step. The details were known to Ambassador Nomura who relayed them to the Japanese government. According to reports some of these facts were broadcast in Japan and created a tremendous furore among the Japanese people. They know how we have suffered. Another point I would like to emphasize is this: If they actually wanted money from Japan I will say that no true Japanese will ask for such at a time like this. Needless to say, our brothers are falling on the battlefields. Fathers and mothers in Japan are sending forth their sons for the sake of survival of Japan. They are sacrificing every comfort toward such an end. They are not thinking of themselves at this time. Their motto is: "To forget oneself and serve the country." How could the CEC ask for money at a time like this? How can we call ourselves true Japanese? Are we forgetting the real convictions and determination we had at the outbreak of the war? When this proposal is transmitted to the Japanese government and made known to the people what will they think of us? Will they consider us worthy of their brotherhood? Our true Japanese spirit has not decayed although we have remained in this country for twenty or thirty years. I am beseeching the wise members of the CEC to reflect again and reconsider the proposal." This was received with great enthusiasm. Niiseki had no ready reply. At this point Nomura adjourned the meeting. Later Block 45 regarded themselves as 100% for retraction of the proposal.



Dec. 14 --- Nagai was of the opinion still at this time that he would get general support for the proposal and made a speech in Block 37 on this night in support of the proposal. His speech was received with a great deal of applause. It was reported that he did not regard the opposition in Block 45 as important. Meanwhile X, after thinking over the proposal fully, decided on a definite course of action to get it retracted. He went to #1 in Block I<sup>(43)</sup>, then to #2 who was not home and then to #3 (who is IA of the block and personal friend of #2). #3 agreed to contact #4 (a yushi in block 12). At this time X added another argument against the proposal (in addition to the arguments of economic difficulties in connection with gold reserve and loyalty to Japan). The new argument was that the CEC did not represent the 45,000 issei in the U.S. and that they had not even consulted Camps II and III.

X then went to Block L<sup>(59)</sup> where he found #5 and #6. They agreed to swing block L and #5 agreed to contact his work group and influence them. #6 also promised to take care of Block P<sup>(13)</sup>. #7 (IA of Block L<sup>(59)</sup> and an internee) said that he would take care of Blocks K<sup>(53)</sup> and M<sup>(54)</sup>. X encountered #8 from Block O<sup>(5)</sup> on the way home and he said he would tackle his block. #14 in Block G<sup>(45)</sup> said he would be responsible for Blocks A, B, and F.<sup>(35) (36) (46)</sup>

Dec. 15, 1942. In the morning X encountered Mizushima in the latrine. He suggested that M. work on retraction. M. replied that he was afraid of "losing his balance as a councilman." Later in the day X heard several statements against M. to the effect that he did not deserve to be a councilman.

At noon X received reports (from stooges of the yushi)



to the effect that #6 had taken care of Block P<sup>(13)</sup>; #3 had been unable to influence Nagai to change his position; #5 had his block 100%; and #7 reported many against retraction in his area.

X then decided to work on the Salinas people. He went to #9 in Block Q<sup>(16)</sup> who introduced him to #10<sup>(16)</sup> (the IA). Between them they agreed to take care of Blocks Q, S, T, and U<sup>(17)</sup> <sup>(18)</sup> <sup>(32)</sup>. X then went to #11<sup>(15)</sup> (IA of R) who said he would bring his block into line. X decided it was not necessary to go to Block 2 where the IA (Nagai) was a friend of #14.

X contacted Block I<sup>(43)</sup> where #3 said his block was uncertain. He also saw #2 and #12. #12 had Block D<sup>(38)</sup> taken care of (#12 is IA of Block C). #13<sup>(39)</sup> (IA of Block E) said his block was OK.

<sup>(53)</sup> In Block L he contacted #5, #6, and #7. #7 said that K and M were against retraction and would have to be neutralized. Nagai had come to speak at Block M<sup>(54)</sup> on the 14th. X thought the block could be neutralized. #7 said that he favored a speech at the council meeting. #14<sup>(35)</sup> <sup>(36)</sup> <sup>(46)</sup> said that A, B, and F were safe.

Dec. 16. There was a joint session of Council and IA, but VK's speech to the council was so long that the matter was not brought up. It was arranged to have an IA meeting the following day, at which Caucasians and nisei would be excluded; in Sumo headquarters in Block 27. Mizushima chided X not to agitate so much, pointing out that Block 28 was already very strong against the proposal. #12<sup>(28)</sup> <sup>(26)</sup> <sup>(27)</sup> reported that X, Y, and W were safe. H, I, and C<sup>(44)</sup> <sup>(43)</sup> <sup>(37)</sup> were holding block meetings. X felt that 24 blocks were now safe, ~~xxxx~~ three or four of which had had to be neutralized, since they could not be swung over.



6.  
(28)

#7 reported that Block X was only lukewarm. X sent #13 from Block E<sup>(39)</sup> to swing it. X also asked TT to talk to IA in her block and to use the argument that publicity on the proposal would hurt the nisei in the U.S. She talked to him and found that he thought of the proposal as fantastic and said that it would be merely laughed at in Japan, that they would say that the Japanese in the relocation camps had amused themselves by thinking up fantastic schemes. Block G<sup>(45)</sup> was by this time rather sore at Mizushima's inactivity.

Dec. 17.--- #14 reported that he had neutralized Nagai of Block 2. X and #14 began to wonder how they could arrange to appear at the IA council meeting. They called a block meeting at lunchtime and the issei agreed to send them as special representatives. Mizushima walked out when this was arranged. Rev. Niisato pointed out at this meeting that Imperial Valley Japanese had once asked the Japanese Govt for \$50,000 when there had been flood damage. This was refused.

The IAB meeting was held in the afternoon in Block 27 Sumo hall. Nagai appeared uneasy from the start. Niiseki was conspicuously absent. During the meeting a young IA (unidentified) asked what about the Consul's visit. Mizushima began to explain, but was interrupted by Nagai who said that the rehabilitation fund proposal had been withheld, although he could not give all the reasons. Then the IA of Block A<sup>(35)</sup> (a stooge of #14) rose and attacked the proposal, speaking chiefly of the economic aspects. He said that such an outflow of gold would be economically impossible. #7 followed with a statement to the effect that it was too mercenary a thing to propose "when people of your own blood are falling on the battle-



field." "The motto of Japan is 'ichi oku isshin messhi hoko' (100,000,000 of one spirit, forget oneself, serve). The proposal is against this spirit." He then demanded that it be retracted.

(36)  
The IA from Block B rose and said: "The idea of my going out to gather ironwood is not to make a collection of ironwood stumps but for the training of an iron will. An iron will means to forbear and to withstand whatever sufferings that come our way. It is the Japanese spirit to receive all sorts of persecution with a smile. The CEC acted without proper <sup>even</sup> authority. They did not consult the IAB. The proposal should be retracted immediately." This speech was delivered with a great deal of emotion.

Nagai then said, "Well, the proposal has been retracted already." He was asked how. Nagai then turned to Rev. Mitani and asked how he phrased it. Mitani pretended to search thru his pockets, then said that he had wired the Consul retracting the proposal and would be glad to show a copy of the statement but did not have it with him. The IA of Block <sup>55</sup>A rose and said: "Retraction is not enough. You must apologize to the group." Nagai jumped to his feet, speechless with surprise.

Then the Ia of Block 3(Nagai's block) rose to defend Nagai. He said that he hoped this would be taken in a good-natured way, that Nagai had been concerned with conditions after the war. He hoped that the IA's would not accuse the CEC.

#7 said, "Well, if you had said ~~that~~ in the first place



that you had retracted the proposal, I would not have said anything. " He intimated that the wrong word "witheld" had been used and attempted to turn the matter off with a laugh. Even Nagai was forced to smile.

The IA of Block F<sup>46</sup> rose and said it was alright, if it had been retracted.

#7 took the floor and said, "I am willing to support the CEC's policy 100% but that does not mean we have to follow it blindly. It is the duty of the Issei Advisers to point out their mistakes and ask for corrections. There is a tendency on the part of the CEC to neglect or forget our existence. From now on we wont hesitate to criticize their policies. We let it be known that we have that right."

Nagai replied, "We are liable to make mistakes although our intentions are good. After all, our experiences and our capabilities are limited. We intend to carry on our heavy problem with your able advice and assistance. We are always willing to cooperate with your represenative body. Please do not hesitate to guide us. I beg you to lead us with your great ability."

X sneaked out of the meeting after this and thanked the yushi who had helped him. The IA of Block F<sup>46</sup> said that Nagai had appeared so weak that he did not want to hit him while he was down. X expressed himself now as before as not wanting to get Nagai's scalp. Mizushima indicated that evening to X that he was thinking of resigning from the IAB. X told him that he hoped he would not, saying that "would leave us in a quandary." X pointed out that he had been working to "help M.'s political ambitions, not against him." M. then said that he



was very grateful to X and would remain in office. M. later reported that the CEC had indicated to him that it was now afraid of Block G. <sup>(45)</sup> Members had spoken to M. asking him whether he wanted to fight with them. M. had replied that he was ready for anything, that he had a lot of support.

Dec. 18.---- X checked at the telegraph desk in Ad. 3 in the morning and found that the telegram of retraction had not been sent until that morning, showing that Nagai and Mitani had been lying in the meeting when they said that the retraction had already been made.



A-----35

B-----36

C-----37

D-----38

E-----39

F-----46

G-----45

H-----44

I-----43

J-----42

K-----53

L-----59

M-----54

N-----60

O-----5

P-----13

Q-----16

R-----15

S-----17

T-----13

U-----32

V-----2

W-----27

X-----28

Y-----26



102  
K/S  
SPANISH CONSUL VISIT TO POSTON AND MEETING WITH ISSEIS  
Observation by TY  
Subj: Spanish consul meeting with Isseis.

3  
7/16/43

This morning (7/16/43) from 10:00 to 11:30 o'clock a meeting of a select group of Isseis/met with the Spanish Consul from San Francisco in the Unit I administration building. There were exactly 19 isseis and 4 niseis present, besides the Consul and a recording female secretary (nisei) of Block 30. Mr. Okamoto/acted as presiding chairman and Mr. Matsuda of the Law Department acted as the interpreter. Mr. Okamoto had the entire schedule of the meeting written out completely and he read portions of ~~it~~ <sup>it</sup> in English, at a time/ and paused to allow Mr. Matsuda to interpret it into English for the Consul. The 19 isseis present did not represent any official body, but the isseis of the community at large. However, most of them were council members, Labor Relations Bd. members, and members of other official bodies.

Chairman Okamoto: (In Japanese, but translated in English by Matsuda)

We are very happy to have you (Spanish Consul) here with us so that we can have the opportunity to discuss/some problems thich we face. We appreciate your giving up your valuable time to visit us.

Spanish Consul: I am paid by the Spanish Government to do this, and I am very glad to be here with you to be of some help to you if possible.

Chairman: During the time that you are here we would like to have you meet with as many people as possible and to give us as much of your time as possible. After we had heard that you were going to be present today, we conducted farious block meetings with the block residents to prepare a list of requests they would like to have presented to you for your consideration. We have this list of these various requests here with us.



(At this point a member of the audience stood up and expressed the view that possibly it might be wiser to allow the Spanish Consul to speak in Spanish and have Mr. George Kushida, who is well-versed in Spanish, make the proper interpretation in Japanese to the issais. It was felt by the Consul and others that the Consul should speak in English, and that he understood this quite well.)

Chairman: In accordance with international law is there any rule or law governing conduct of civilian alien enemy?

Consul: The question is a little too vague. If the question is put more precisely I might be able to answer it. International law is not watchful and it is not followed very precisely. It is not a case in which you can say this is white and/or this is black.

Chairman: According to a recent instruction from the WRA the work Corps is going to be greatly reduced. We further understand that clothing allowance will be issued only to those persons who are working in the project. We feel that this clothing allowance should be allowed everyone on the project, regardless of whether he is working or not.

Consul: Is there any connection between the first point and the second point, that is the point regarding the WRA instruction and the point about the clothing allowance? Are these two points one question, or do they constitute two questions?

Chairman: Those points are just one question. The first part is primarily an explanation of the condition. As long as the people are going to be taken off the work corps even if they want to work or not, they (people) want to be sure of clothing allowance.

Consul: Has everyone been receiving clothing allowance up to now?

Chairman: Up to now only those who have worked received clothing allowance.

Consul: Do you think that this is a question that I should take up with



authorities here in Poston or in Washington.

Masuda: This will have to be taken up with Washington officials.

Issei: (Member of Labor Relations Bd. and Council I think) he spoke in broken English which was hard to comprehend) Some are allowed to get clothing allowance and some are not. There is discrimination. (He made inferences that as prisoners of war the isseis should be given greater consideration, especially in ~~xxx~~ regards to clothing allowance and subsistence allowance)

Consul: You are not prisoners of war, and are not obliged to work.

How serious is this problem of clothing allowance?

Issei: There are numbers of residents here whose relatives (husbands) are interned and the family cannot get along satisfactorily.

Issei: (Mr. Tanaka of the Hospital) As far as I know there are a number of sick family members or aged members who cannot work, and whose family need the clothing allowance. These individuals have applied to the family welfare for assistance, but the family welfare office have given them small allowances. How many received \$1. and how many received \$3.--that I don't know.

Consul: How many have received clothing allowance?

Issei: The record kept here (clothing department) at the office shows that. The family welfare office will supply that information.

Consul: I have been asked by the Spanish Government to make a statistical survey of those whose families have no means of making subsistence. I wonder if you could give me this information. I wonder whether you wish to give me this information yourselves. (To Matsuda) Would you read this questionnaire and translate it orally for the people here. This is a questionnaire prepared by the Spanish Government investigating the subsistence status of



the Japanese in the United States, the majority of whom are in relocation centers. This would concern only the isseis and not the citizens of America.

Matsuda: (Reads two question in Japanese--and briefly it read thus:)

"How many people (Japanese) are in need of subsistence aid?"

"What is the minimum cost of living in the relocation center?"

Consul: There are two reasons for asking this questionnaire:

One, to ask you if you would like to furnish this information; and two, to let you know that the Spanish Government is already working on the subsistence cost in the centers. We will leave this questionnaire with you until tomorrow, and you can meet among yourselves and supply me with the information to the questions. I am going to ask these same questions of Mr. Head anyway.

Chairman: The meal allowance have been 45¢ but have been reduced to 31¢. According to the WRA instruction the balance of 14¢ will have to be produced by the project. In view of the equipment, fertilizer, seed, and tools on hand, it is going to be very difficult to raise the 14¢ balance. We feel definitely that the responsibility of giving us the 45¢ meal per day is the responsibility of the WRA or the government (U.S.).

Chairman: Without any guarantee of a livelihood on the outside we do not wish to be relocated out of the project. The people here do not want to be forced out of the center without a guarantee of livelihood on the outside.

Consul: Are the people being forced out of the center?

Chairman: They are not being forced out of the center but they don't want anything like that to happen.

Consul: Do you have any reason to fear or worry about being forced out?



Chairman and an Issei: There is a number of incidents of people who go out on a job contract and that when they get out there find that they are not qualified to do the work they have <sup>been</sup> contracted for. Then they have to look for another job, and in the meantime this is causing them some personal expense. We feel that while looking for another job the government should pay for the expenses.

Issei: (Member of LRB, speaking in broken English) Can you have these discussion kept confidential with the Spanish Consul and not revealed to the Government (U.S.)?

Consul: (shrugging his shoulders) If I do that I won't have anything to tell the U.S. Government.

(There is a good deal of murmur<sup>ing</sup> and mumbling among the audience, and the consensus was that there is no reason to keep any of the discussion confidential)

Mr. Tanaka: We have good grounds to fear that we will be forced out to work outside.—To reduce the meager amount of meal allowance from 45¢ to 31¢, and in addition to reduce the number of people working in the project. When we apply for unemployment compensation the Government has advised us that there are plenty of jobs on the outside and ~~you~~<sup>we</sup> are not eligible for compensation payment.

Issei: That is the main point, just what you said.

(Many isseis were in strong agreement with Mr. Tanaka's views)

Chairman: There are number 62 workers who are receiving \$16. per month and work 8 hours per day. On the outside the temperature is 135 degrees and this is very hard and detrimental to the people's health. We would like to have something done to relieve this condition.

Chairman: The sewage disposal system is inadequate and very unsanitary, and we would like to have you make the necessary corrections.

Consul: This condition existed the last time I was here, and they have



not done anything about it? Is that right?

Several Iascis: Yes.

Consul: How about the linoleum? I remember that was a big problem the last time.

Several Iascis: Yes, half the camp already have linoleums laid in the barracks.

Chairman: In reference to the Hospital situation there is not sufficient nurses or doctors or medical supplies on hand, and we would like to have you see into the situation.

Consul: This hospital question is ~~a~~very difficult, and I don't know very much about this. The administration will tell me one thing, others will tell me another thing, and I don't know which is right.

Mr. Tanaka: I am the Business Manager of the Hospital and I am familiar with the hospital situation. There are some things which do not require a professional knowledge or eye. For instance, we don't have rubberized dental material. There are many old people who are in dire need of false teeth and other dental repair work, and we don't have any materials to work with. The people are willing to pay for these materials, but they cannot get them at the hospital. They have to go to Phoenix to get these, and it costs money to go to Phoenix all the time. Many of the people need these rubberized material, for they need sets of teeth to chew their food.

Consul: Have the people ~~pay~~ been paying for ~~these~~ materials received at the hospital?

Mr. Tanaka: Yes, the people are willing to pay for these materials.

(T. misunderstood the question put by the Consul, and gave the impression to the Consul that the dental services received by the people were being charged the people.)



Consul: As I understand it, the Government were to furnish all the these services and materials to the people in the centers.

Issei: (LRB member) Before the WRA had promised that they would give the evacuees dental services free of charge, and we would like to get these services free.

Chairman: We would like to have you do everything in your power to have the internees and their families brought together.

Consul: Is it true that the number of internees whose families reside in this camp is proportionately much smaller than other camps? I understand that due to this the administration here has taken a different approach to the problem than other camps.

Issei: There is one pathetic case, in which the husband is interned and the woman is going crazy.

Consul: I would like to have investigate this particular case. I would like to have the exact number of internees who have families here, and the number of internees who have been returned. I think this is the most important problem of the Japanese problem, don't you think so?

Several members: Yes, that is correct.

Consul: (Pulls out some typewritten papers and reads) a section explaining the status of internees and their families. This gave the isseis some assurance to know that there is a law governing that problem)

Chairman: Could you tell us just about when your next trip will be here?

Consul: I don't know. I going to ask permission to make my stay here next time longer. One can't get very much done in just a few days.

(Arrangements were made to continue the meeting at 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 o'clock, and from 2:00 p.m. on to allow those wishing to to have personal interviews with the Consul. Meeting adjourned.)

NOTE: I did not attend the afternoon session as the most important phase of the meeting with the Consul was completed.



71 Outgroups: Re-relocation  
Interview: F. Kuwahara  
Subject: Relocation: personalities, Manpower

March 21, 1943

F. K. I don't like to see these beet workers go out. They represent young boys, who are not the best representatives for building good will. They go out with hopes of finding better jobs, and before you know it, they are out of money, and then accept any sub-standard job that might come along. They are the poorest representatives, going out to the worst kind of jobs.

Ques: What is your future plans?

F.K. I'm going to stick around here until I get a good job. Money is not everything, and what I want is a good housing situation, with people in a community who is willing to accept you. No large city, but a medium sized one. I'd rather accept something that is not temporary, because it will result in the same thing that happens with these beet workers. I think Kennedy, and Nosschhoff are trying to discourage temporary leave, domestic jobs, etc. They are also aware of this poor representation. I think you are in the same position. Men with families are usually thinking more ahead than single men.

Ques: Does the draft enter in?

F.K. No, these volunteers have been in here for a long time now. I don't know what the situation is, but at this rate, I don't think we'll be taken very soon. If we are drafted, then there is nothing we can do about it.

Ques: What are you planning to do after camouflage?

F.K. Well, I'm willing to work for \$16 a month doing Guayule work. I've been trying to interest the Forestry service but so far it has not worked out. Mathieson, and Emerson carry some weight, and I think they are trying to work something out. My signature alone is not any good, but if I could put TCC or some title to my name, then it might carry some weight.

Ques: What do you think about the man-power situation in regards to the camouflage, and the road construction?

F.K. I might be idealistic, but I think it could be worked out. Now, fullest cooperation is required. These U. workers could contribute a few hours a week doing reefing jobs and any other required job for the community. If 200 boys went out and spent five hours on some agriculture project, it would be equivalent to a whole weeks work by some 20 men. These 20 men do not put in their full time. The same thing goes for the other projects. Isseis could be put in the block Manager's office, as well as the other jobs. There are quite a few who are doing nothing but going fishing, working on ironwood etc.



+ met Frank A. in the yard, and walked with him to the rest rooms.

F. K.

goin

These cans have been cleaned today, and probably will be the last time for a long time. Whenever there is pressure being applied, or they suspect inspection, they will clean it up, but otherwise, they leave it alone. Now there isn't a single roll of toilet paper here. You can see outside the door that a lot of lint accumulates here. There are no screens for the windows and the door. He expects us to do everytime, that is, the cleaning, just because we did it once for him. That is the trouble with the damned management, you do a favor for them once, and they can't see why you can't do it again. I'm disgusted as hell, but I'm going to stick around until next pay day. I can't be on the side of the management, and then try to change them. I can't seem to convince them. Of course, I can the management's point of view too. Some of these guys don't work hard enough. But why should they, they don't get to keep all that they earn.

You take a look in the women's can, the rest room is the same as the men's, except for the urinals. And there is the same lack of privacy. Why hell, you can stand outside here, and see these women taking leaks. The rolls of burlap strips are just outside the windows, and when reefers are working up there, these women may as well do their duty outside. The ladies lounge is here. Christ, they don't even have a sheet for the mattress.

The ladies rest room consisted of bowls, sink, with no paper towels, bars of grey soap. The lounge, if it might be called that, consisted of one army cot, and a mattress. It is not inviting, and I don't think it has been used. The place had not been swept out, but it did appear cleaner than the men's. There were no screens, and except for a paper box, there was no waste basket.

I entered the cutting room, and found more lint here flying around than anywhere.

" Kuwahara: These boys are working under a handicap. All this lint flying around is bad for their eyes. They should get eye-goggles.

Rolls of burlap were placed on a pole, and was turned by an electric motor. After these strips were placed, wrapped around the rollers, the cutter took a sharp knife and cut them. There is considerable amount of lint flying around, and on this cutter's face, head, shoulders, eye-lashes etc. a thick coating of lint was placed. If a spark were to jump from the machine, the whole place would probably burn up in no time.



It seems that the place should have more adequate fire fighting facilities. Except for a few faucets, the only other noticeable equipment are the large oil cans of water and buckets, and signs posted, saying, "No smoking within 10 feet of the buildings."

Between the weaving sheds, and the warehouse, I saw Mr. Hege, the designer of the camouflage nets at work. I struck up a conversation with him.

H. "Thinking of working here?"

"No, I'm afraid that I am susceptible to the rash."

H. Well, maybe you can get a job where you won't have to handle the burrap.

Have you been at this very long?

H. Yes, I've been in this work for over a year now. There are about 16 other factories doing this type of work. Rivers is the only other one on the relocation camp. I've worked in Manazanas, and Santa Anita, but have never had the rash. In case you don't know, the basic pattern is the same, ie, the center of the net is completely covered with burlap strips, but towards the edge of the net, the strips are used to highlight the shadows. On each of these nets, will be made about 10 nets, which will be used as samples for others to be made.\*

basis of

\*This is the argument during the meeting between the Factory Committee vs. Employer's meeting the other night.



Over the radio at 10:00 last night in the news cast came the quotation from General DeWitt which said he didn't care what was done with the Japanese so long as they were not returned to California. They had gotten them out and he wanted them to stay out. They are a dangerous element. A Jap is a Jap and an American citizenship doesn't make any difference. There would be no immediate reduction of the dim-out on the California coast because they had evidence that there were Japanese submarines off shore.



102 Outgroups

4/14/43

Observation by AHL

General DeWitt's statement re return of Japs to California

C.R. Local administration-35

Mrs. Cary, Mr. Popkins, Mr. J. Evans, W. Head and Mr. Gelvin were all fuming today about General DeWitt's statement which appeared in the paper this morning and came over the radio last night about the Japanese.



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114  
or impossible. For this, according especially to Mrs. Sugino, he was much criticized by the people. Now they seem to let all questions come through. It will be interesting to see if this works better, or makes the administration inclined to give them the brush-off. What they should be doing is explaining the real situation to the people.

(AHL

## VIA MR. POPKINS AT BREAKFAST

171  
The morale among the adobe workers is all shot to pieces. They come to work at 9:00 a.m. and quit at 11:30, come back at 1:30 p.m. or 2:00 p.m. and quit at 3:00 p.m. or 3:30 p.m. Even those who formerly were most faithful now don't give a damn. He thinks it is the influence of re-relocation.



Mr. Ouchi showed me a telegram as I met him in the hall this afternoon from a bank quoting an offer for the Buddhist temple building by the U S O in San Diego for \$10,000 and stating that if they didn't sell the building would be condemned. Edward Ouchi said, covered in smiles and laughing - the building was worth \$35,000. I said it was high way robbery. He agreed and said Tom Masuda said he didn't believe they could condemn it, but E. Ouchi felt with things in the condition they are, you could not tell - maybe it was best to get what you could.



102  
H  
5/15-43  
CTS  
S<sub>2</sub>

OUTGROUP

Southern Calif race-baiters

WRA policy of segregation  
Mayor Bowron CR ~~xxxxxxxx~~

"Did you read the Examiner today?/ ---No? Then come over and read what Bowron is up to now. While not mentioning names he is accusing ME. It is terrible. It tells of a Doctor's wife, grad. of U.C. who went to Japan and associated with Germans and connected with Cultural society and who has been touring lectur under YWCA. I surely feel sorry for her. ~~xxxxxx~~ Bowron has made so many enemies of the Japanese that he wants to be sure to rid Calif of Japanese, or what has he been promised this time for this race baiting?.

"Did you read today's ~~csbc~~ chronicle in the Japanese section about the possibility of people returning from internment, applying for leave now possible for parolees, about There ~~xxxxxx~~ must be a definite possibility of segregation of the loyal and disloyal. The disloyal to be put in concentration camp worse than this, that is the WRA turning the camps over to the Army and the loyal ones being pushed out."

"When it reaches the stage of being printed in the Chronicle it is beyond the rumor point. There must be some basis for real possibility."



100 ✓/K  
100 Outgroup Relations  
Personal Journal, EC  
Attitudes of outside

5/25/43 5

This morning at breakfast, Mr. Burge tells about a radio program they heard last night about 9:30 from a Phoenix station. It was some past or present commander of the American Legion giving Governor Osborne's report on the situation regarding the Japanese settling in the Salt River Valley. Apparently it was only a rehash of the report, and it boiled down to "We don't want them here." He called them "the biggest danger we have ever faced." Mrs. Burge said that his voice was very low and dramatic and she could just see the housewives throughout the state making sure the doors were locked. They feel that probably many people here in camp heard the broadcast and that it would be just one more discouraging thing.

Later in the morning ask BSR staff if any of them heard the broadcast or any mention of it. They knew nothing of it. KU said however that somebody here had just received a letter from Don Iwashita (Former head of Leave Office and now at Camp Savage) from Minneapolis and he likes it there. He wrote, "Phooey to California. I'd rather be here where they treat you like a human being." The staff talks on about this, saying that everybody writes about what a good place Minnesota is, and that they have the feeling now that it is the west coast that is really against them instead of the whole country. JS says that he has heard that in Arkansas, the American Legion gave the volunteers a big send off.



6/18/43

161 Food

Heard from MB this afternoon late, the same story that got on bus about the disaster at 30 Mess Hall in Camp I, where the Dies Committee walked in and found the people eating ham, potato salad, egg, cheese, melon and cup cakes. MB says that he thinks it was the cook's fault, that he got mad at something and did this deliberately.

Also learn that the Committee only in this camp about 10 minutes. Saw them come in about a minute or so ahead of the 4:15 truck, so got here about 4:40. About ten minutes later, MB came in and said that they had already gone out again. WH and RG just drove them through the camp. He was laughing and saying that they had been kept out of the offices all day, driving around the camps and must be sweltering by this time.

Notice when we come in on the truck, that GW is going around telling people that the Committee is in Camp. He sees us and holds up two fingers, and says ~~per~~ "cars of them." There were two cars that brought them down.



S

✓ 102 Outgroups  
Conversation with R. Gelvin by AHL  
Arizona State law limiting purchase and business with  
Japanese

5-28-43

After dinner tonight, R. Gelvin mentioned that the State of Arizona had passed a law requiring anybody doing business with any persons whose geographic movement is restricted, to give 30 days notice by advertising in the papers. Sale of food and clothing were excepted. This is of course aimed at the Japanese resettling in Arizona. It was engineered by some business men to inhibit the resettlement. Until recently it was not enforced. Then the Standard Oil Company sold 50 gals. of gas to a Japanese and were fined \$1000. It was thought this would be a test case, and the law could be set aside as unconstitutional. However, Standard Oil backed down and paid their fine. It has put the Japanese in a tough spot. Plans are being made now to bring up another test case. W. Head and the Project Director of Gila are working on this problem in Washington.



June 13, 1943

(In the morning had the dial of the radio tuned in on KTAR, Phoenix radio station on the morning of June 13 at about 10:00 A. M. and the Sunday service hour was introduced.)

Though I was not listening to the sermon the Rev. Kendall of the Central Methodist Church was giving, but when he mentioned the Niseis I pricked my ears and listened to his sermon.

He was preaching that the minority group should be accepted as equals of any other Americans otherwise the fight for democracy would defeat its purpose in fighting this war. He stressed that the people should think with their minds instead of thinking with their hearts.

During his sermon he brought out many examples of discrimination against the minority group. In Phoenix a young brilliant Negroe refused to register for the army stating that he had nothing to fight for in this with all the discrimination shown against the Negroes in the army. He was a brilliant college graduate Negroe but he must be picked up by the F. B. I. by now. In this city the Chinese are not allowed to swim in the public plunges because they are not of the white race.

"Today there has been a new law being enforced that restricts the sales of merchandise to restricted people without the announcement a week prior to the transaction. When the Nazis took over the country in Germany and restricted the transaction of business between the Germans and the Jews, we Americans condemned such discrimination with anger, but today we are doing the same thing here in our own country what we are fighting against on the outside.

The riot of the zoot suiters against the servicemen did not just happen. These are the products of the discrimination and the misunderstanding on the part of the majority of the people. We have to help in making these people of the minority group less conscious of their being of the minority.

We must remember the spirit of Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln and others who have fought for democracy. We must be one people since this nation is the melting pot of the world and looks forward to the future, so should we."

In Los Angeles I have been with the Juvenile Prison Camps for many years and we had never had any Japanese or Jews and only one Chinese. We cannot be the cats paw of the race baiters.



6/17/43

During the day rumors kept coming in that the Dies Committee was already in camp. At one point in the afternoon JS came in saying that the committee were in Camp 5 now, over investigating the Reefers. (Actually, checked in Camp 1 and they were not yet on the Project.)

About 4:15, went up on the bus to I. The driver said that the Committee was in Camp but he didn't know how many had come. He said this morning there was someone on his truck whom he thought was a reporter. The man asked him a good many questions about his boss, but he kept pretending he didn't know anything and wouldn't talk. "I don't want to get my boss in bad." He said that the way the thing looked to him, the Dies Committee were after the Administration leaders here in camp rather than the evacuees. So far, they had just been putting the Administration on the spot, like his bosses Mr. Haverland and Mr. Barrett. (From manner in which he spoke, had feeling he likes both men.) The girl on the truck said that she thought the Committee was trying to get the army to take over the camp and to stop all leaves.

During dinner at I, the talk was about the Committee. The teachers seemed to think that the Dies Committee also in camp. NW told (and later PS) how Senator McFarlane visited PS's sixth grade class with Mr. Nelson. PS told them something about the work of the class, but the man seemed uninterested. She paused, and then he asked, "Do the children salute the flag?" She said yes. He wanted to know, "Every morning." She explained that when she came they used to salute every morning, but she had decided that it was better to have it mean something to them and now they salute when the children ask to do it. He wanted to know if they ever ask, and she told him yes, quite often. PS says she doesn't think he was much impressed by this. The other teachers say that they will have



6/17/43

to have their children salute tomorrow morning. One says that the evacuee teachers always have the salute, but she herself never thinks to do it. Several others agree that it never occurs to them. One, in Seniro High S chool, says th t they don't have a flag to salute if they wanted to.

They start to laugh. One suggests going "Heil" if the Committee turns up, another says she'll greet them with a good "bonzai." From all expression at this table, there is considerable antagonism to the Committee.



6/4/43

Tonight at dinner, MB says that Kenneth Sato has gotten back from Salt Lake City and is very much worried about the situation there. He says that many of the boys and men who have gone out to Utah on seasonal leave are throwing up their jobs after a week or so and drifting down to Salt Lake City where they hang around without jobs creating a generally bad impression. They wear zoot suits or old overalls and look so messy, that Sato said he himself wouldn't want to have anything to do with them. The Whites there don't like it, the more serious among the Japanese don't like it -- but there seems to be very little that can be done about it. Another thing, these boys walk down the streets three abreast and won't make room for anyone to pass. Sato said he went to see the WRA Representative in Salt Lake City to tell him something should be done about this -- the man is very much aware of the problem but apparently has no way of controlling the situation. MB says that is the sort of thing that has him worried about the resettlement program. The way it is going now they have practically no check on those going out -- they just go if they can get a job, or some friend who will take care of them, or have some money. He thinks that it should be a much slower process with careful selection of those to go out. Otherwise he fears that all the evacuees will just be shot back in here again because of some incident. He sounds disgusted when he talks about the stupidity of these boys in not realizing that they should be more careful and just what they are up against.

Then he mentions a letter he received from Rokutani who went to Minneapolis. He wrote that those going out should be warned to wear some decent clothing. Many were arriving there in overalls and T-shirts and creating a very unfavorable impression.



Outgroup Relation

4-14-43

Personal Journal of T.S.

Subjects: Dewitt's Statement in Poston Chronicle.

C.R. Personality Study of J. Watari.

- a. Food
- b. ~~R~~ Relocation.
- c. Selective Service.

At the breakfast table Jim asked me if I had heard Dewitt's broadcast the other nite. I said no. Then he went on into a lengthy discussion.

"You know Tom, to have a guy like Dewitt in the big shots position is something that should never have happened. There must be some reason for his making such a statement. Maybe it is a reverse in the South Pacific. There is a statement in the papers to the effect that the Japs are knocking at the door of Australia. It's because of guys like him, that we are in here, as a matter of fact, because of him directly we are here, and that is the reason I am going to stay here until the end. When Lt. Bolton came here to see about registration, I put No on both the 27 & 28th question; and when he asked me why, I told him. Mr. Hara, and Tom Nishimoto were standing behind me when I told him that I've lost all faith in this country, and that no amount of appeasement will make me feel like I used to again. Yes, I know that he is only one of that particular kind of rats, but why are we in here, because the other kinds of guys were too scared to say anything. I don't blame them either, because if they did try to help out, they would have been called Jap lovers." "If he wanted to annihilate the Japs so much, why don't he go to the South Pacific and face some of those soldiers. Hell, give me a 39-30, and I'll take him on myself. Line up the Japs, and bury them. For christ sakes, that is what they have been doing down there in Hong Kong. They forced the civilians into the Indian Ocean, and then while they were climbing back on shore, they shot them off without giving them a chance. I listened in on a short wave broadcast and it said that the gang of Jap soldiers chopped off the heads of a whole regiment as a retaliation measure."

"For that reason, these white guys get my goat. Hell, I'm going to stay in here until they drive me out. It is the obligation of the government to see that we are taken care of. They put us in here. If I go out, and see my wife and kid hungry, or cold, I'm going to rob, murder if I have to. This food that we get in here is not the best, and I am not kicking, but I know I am not getting what it takes, because the minute I exert myself, I get pretty tired. At least it helps out, and when a person is awfully hungry, he'll eat anything."



102  
K  
6/20-43

Outgroup

via T.I. reported by G.C. -- recorded by CTS.

6/22-'43

REsettlement.

People are talking ~~xxxxxx~~ about T.I.'s report on his recent trip back East. While he did not say, "Don't go out, that is to be summarized from his talk. He said that Niseis are creating problems for themselves by quitting jobs and loafing around." He spoke to a group of people in Ward 7 on Sunday night.

G.C: "Dr. Powell wanted to book him to speak but I told him what his views are. he'd better to talk to T.I. first then he could tell ~~xxxxxx~~

~~"You ought to have xxxxxxxx"~~ T.I.'s views are just opposite of Powell's on resettlement."

CTS: "Why don't you have a panel discussion, Powell and Zimmerman on one side and T.I. and another. The cons should be represented. "

G. C. "That's an idea. The pros have been Caucasians."

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Much dissatisfaction regarding the freezing of the Denver area to Evacuees is expressed in Bl. 11 where one boy of a family of 5 remains. Fear is felt that h would not be allowed to join ~~his~~ the rest of family already in that area. He had remained to have dental work finished. Also he expected to take the ~~place~~ <sup>job</sup> of his brother who has volunteered. <sup>in Denver</sup>



June 21, 1943

Agriculture

Appointed Personnel

Food

(This morning in Camp II Administration area, while waiting for Ken, I happened to talk to one of the landscapers working on the beautification project in the administration area)

Speaking to him about the hard work they were doing under the hot heat, he said that he did not understand why they had to work on this when they could be working out in the field raising vegetables. He stated that this project comes under the Agricultural project. He said, "Camp I and II have poor soil. Camp III soil is the best. I do not understand why they expand the agricultural project on the other side of the road when the soil closer to the river is richer. One can make this conclusion by observing the growth of the mesquite; farther away from the river the soil is rich only in spots but along the river the soil is all rich. There is some difference between the Americans and the Japanese in observing the soils, though there are some Americans who observe like the Japanese. If the Evacuees were to expand the farm project, they would expand closer to the river -- towards the west than to the east."

(I asked him where he was from.) "I am from Pismo Beach. I attended a school in agriculture and forestry; and I am able to do survey work, but now my eye-sight is poor so I now work on surveying only when there is no one to work."

(Asked him about the outgroup sentiments) "The people on the outside should come and see for themselves how we are being treated here in the project. They say that we are kept free in the desert, but how can we consider ourselves free when there are M.P.'s around; though somewhat distant from the camp, they are still around."



6/21/43

"There are news that the Evacuees had blown up the bridge last year and prior to evacuation there were news that Japanese had so much amount of contrabands. This is not the fault of the Japanese that they had them. There is more fault on the part of the Americans who sell these contrabands than on part of the Japanese. If they were patriotic they would not have sold them to the Japanese; though of course it could not helped about the contrabands sold prior to the opening of hostilities, because they were not considered contrabands. Thus, the persons who sell or sold these contrabands should be investigated just as much if not more than the purchasers."

"Within the center there are some Isseis who talk too much without any thought. If they should stop to think that we are here under an abnormal circumstances caused by the war they would understand the present situation. If they would calmly look at the situation there would not be so much complaints about this and that and excessive talking."

"I have told my sons that they should serve this country whatever may happen because they are citizens and that they should fight for their rights. I still tell them to fight for their rights, but here when they are treated like their parents who are enemy-aliens and are not promised their rights as citizens how can they serve their country. But I am confident that when the Americans, at least 75% in their calm state, are not Anti-Japanese."

(After a pause I asked him about the Evacuees attitudes towards the Local Administration.) "They are doing everything possible for us, and things that they cannot get for us are not their fault since there are others above them who veto. Our Administrator gets along fine with the people here in Unit ~~III~~ II; he is very sincere and understanding. Everyone is able to speak to him very freely. I believe that he can understand some Japanese; of course, he wouldn't understand difficult Japanese but the Japanese spoken by



## Sentiments of an Issei, 3

the common people, and the Niseis. Though I have never heard him speak Japanese he seems to understand what the people say. One good example about the sincerity of Mr. Crawford is in what he said the other day when we were going to the mountain to get some rocks. We had to have a Caucasian escort to go with us but we could not find any. Mr. Crawford told us that if we could not find anyone that he would accompany us. He said that if he is unable to go he would send his wife along. So you can understand how much he thinks of us and how much interest he has in us. He was even willing to send Mrs. Crawford along with us, and she is drawing no salary from the government."

(I then asked him if there were any Isseis working in the administration.) "No, there are no Issei working in the Administration, because they do not speak English and one has to speak English to be able to work there. For this reason only the young Niseis are working in the Administration, though there are many capable Issei working in other places. Though they may be doing manual labor there are able men among them. Unfortunately, their inability to speak English is the handicap."

(After a pause I asked him about the mess halls.) The chefs are usually Isseis as well as the cooks, but there is a fair distribution of Isseis and Niseis working in the mess halls. There are always some people who are complaining about the preparation of the food and this and that, but if only those people would understand that this is war and that we are under abnormal conditions there should not be so much complaints. We should respect the cooks since they are doing their best to feed us as well as possible."

WSome of the cooks are professionals in Japanese foods and others in American foods; thus it is difficult to satisfy a group in which there are people, especially the Niseis who desire American food, and also those who



OUTGROUP RELATIONS

6/21/43

Sentiments of an Issei, 4

desire plain Japanese food. But nevertheless the cooks should be given respect of the people of the block."

(Since Ken came out of his office, I had to part with the man, thanking him for the chat.)



102 OUTGROUP

6-24-43

Observations by EHS

Talk by EHS to the Exchange Club in Phoenix, Arizona

On Wednesday night Mr. Head received a telephone call from Phoenix from Guy Jackson, Assistant Editor of the Arizona Highways magazine and was invited by Jackson to give a talk on the truth about Poston before the Exchange Club luncheon today. Mr. Head found out that this telephone call was the result of a letter written by Mrs. Spicer from Sells to the editor of the Highways magazine suggesting that it was about time that somebody in Arizona was printing the truth about the relocation centers instead of the lies coming through the Dies Committee testimony.

Mr. Head came and got me about 11:00 P.M. and suggested that we get in touch with Dr. Leighton who was in Phoenix and had him give the talk before the Exchange Club. Mr. Head, himself, refused to give the talk although he said a number of times he thought it was a very good idea to try to present some account of the problems which administrators are faced within relocation centers as well as the truth about the evacuees. He said that he thought it was high time that our public relations were being improved in the State of Arizona. We were unable to get Dr. Leighton and so WH gave me the keys to his car and asked me to go to Phoenix and deliver his speech before the Exchange Club. The only advice or instruction that WH gave me was the following: "You know as much about what to say as I do. Explain some of our problems to them. Tell them what some of the problems are". A specific question to WH as to which problems would be most important to take up got no reply.

I drove to Phoenix in the morning, got a hair cut and met Guy Jackson at the desk of the Adams Hotel. I had just previous to meeting Jackson asked the desk clerk what the Exchange Club was and he told me that he



didn't know. Jackson greeted me in a very friendly fashion, first addressing me as Mr. Wade and immediately asked me up to the Adams Hotel Garden Room where the Exchange Club meeting was to take place. I had a very brief chat with Jackson and then was whisked around to be introduced to 35 members of the Exchange Club who were present. All were sitting about the room talking volubly, laughing, and slapping each other on the back. In the midst of the introductions which Jackson gave me a young girl came up with a notebook in her hand and asked Muehler, the President of the club who was sitting besides me, if he wouldn't introduce her to me. He did, saying, "Now this little girl is a reporter from the Republic and with her you are on your own. Take care of yourself." I went with the reporter and sat down. She asked me my position in Boston which I told her and then said that she was afraid that she would not be able to stay for the talk and would I, therefore, give her the outline of what I was going to say. Since I didn't know very well myself what I would say I was stumped, but finally decided to mention the theme to her of the difference between a relocation center and an internment camp. I said that I would bring out that point in the talk. She asked me what the difference was and I believe I must have become rather academic talking about people having been selected on different basis for the two types of camp and the fact that individuals in relocation centers had the citizens' right of free movement out of the camp into non-military areas in other parts of the U.S. She floundered over this explanation and had found herself unable to put down any notes. Meanwhile the members of the Exchange Club had sat down at the table and were singing a song and saluting the flag and Jackson came over to get me. I excused myself from the reporter who had written only a couple of lines in her notebook and went over and sat down at the



head of the table with Jackson. Jackson sat on my left. Muehller, President of the club and a paint manufacturer in Phoenix, sat on my right. On Muehller's right was a man named, Marks, apparently vice-president of the club and a clothing dealer. On the left of Jackson, a little later sat a man who was introduced as being with the Arizona Republic although he was not described as a reporter. He took notes occasionally and apparently rather casually during the course of the talk. There were about 30 other individuals sitting at two tables at right angles to ours. For the most part these individuals were young in their early thirties and Jackson remarked to me that the Exchange Club consisted of the younger businessmen of the city; that they were younger in age than the members of the Kiwanis and Rotary although the club purposes were practically the same as the Rotary and the Kiwanis--the businessmen's service club. If someone asks me where to buy shoes I direct him to the store of someone in the Exchange Club. Exchange of services and good feeling between businessmen in the community--that's the idea of the Exchange Club. Each individual wore a very large celluloid button of about 6" in diameter with his name and business stamped on the button. There was a preacher, a Protestant minister, department store proprietor, paint manufacturer, attorney, automobile salesman, doctor, dentist, etc., among them. In other words a cross section of Phoenix business and professional life. It seemed to me that two members of the group were definitely Jewish, Marks, vice-president being one and another who was especially noisy and talkative and whom I shall call "X". My guess is that the group represents the outer less influential margin of the Phoenix business world. Younger men who have for one reason or another not made the better organizations like the Rotary and the Kiwanis



clubs make up part of the members of the Exchange Club while the other part consists of older business men who probably are definitely excluded from the Rotary and Kiwanis as a result of various social prejudices.

The behavior of the group was very noisy and informal. On the program was an election of officers. Both the new president and new vice-president were elected unanimously with no opponents. Typical of the spirit of the club it seemed to me that there was a trend of these newly elected officers. Someone suggested that one of the retiring officers be given a vote of thanks. Everybody laughed him down and said it would take too much time. Someone suggested that the new president should make a speech. Someone else got up and said, "Are we going to listen to that guy when we don't have to? We'll be seeing enough of him and hearing enough of him the rest of this year." In other words the whole tone of the meeting was not serious, but boisterous, facetious, playful and good-natured. Jackson once described the group to me in our chat as having semi-sales programs "like the other service clubs".

Originally the program for today had consisted of a tap dance and a musical number, but when Jackson had gotten someone from Poston to speak it was arranged to cancel the musical number and substitute the Poston speech for it. Thus my speech was scheduled to occur immediately after the tap dance number by a young woman in green. As I chatted with Jackson I gathered that people in Phoenix had been taking seriously the newspaper stories about the possibilities of the evacuees blowing up Roosevelt Dam. Many people are quite disturbed about the matter and there is a good deal of feeling that there should be more restrictions on persons in relocation centers. Jackson also whispered to me once during the course of the meal that he thought it would be a good idea to tell them



the truth about the wasting of time and materials in the relocation centers. His comment was "most people around here think that it's just a continual picnic in the relocation centers. I wish you would tell us the truth about that." Jackson and a number of others whom I was introduced to in the beginning of the meeting suggested that I was there to give them "the other side of the story". Evidently meaning the other side from the Dies testimony.

Just before the desert came on Jackson introduced me to the group as a graduate of the University of Arizona who had been assisting Mr. Head, the Project Director of Poston, during the past year. I was limited to 20 minutes and spoke along the following lines: (1) I began by discussing the difference between the relocation center and internment camps describing first the facts in regard to the FBI screening of the Japanese-Americans population in California immediately after Pearl Harbor and before the evacuation took place. I stressed the fact that the people who lived in the relocation centers are people against whom nothing whatever is known and who had been deprived only of the liberty of remaining in the west coast, but not of going where they pleased in other parts of the U.S. This gave me an opportunity to discuss some of the general background of Japanese Americans in California and west coast states. (2) I tried to describe exactly what a relocation center is like physically. I did this in terms of describing the army camp barracks, mess halls, and so on and then pointed out that in relocation centers it is not single men who are living in such a camp, but families, husbands and wives, babies, and children. (3) I tried to describe the humanbeings living in the camp taking a typical block of 250. I discussed the proportion of Isseis, of Niseis, and Sanseis trying to tackle this



composition in terms of family relationship and indicating the complexity of the family and citizenship relations. In this part of the talk I tried to be as vivid and descriptive as I possibly could trying to give them the feeling that the evacuees are humanbeings and not some kind of demons behind the barbed wire fence. (4) Finally I raised the question as to whether the life was a picnic or not in the relocation centers and gave the answer as "no". Then I discussed the constructive achievements such as the establishment of the victory gardens, the subjugation of land, the development and running of the noodle factory, the setting up of a printing press and so on. The newspaper man sitting on Jackson's left asked me a question as to how hard the people in the camp worked. That caused me to describe the wages of \$16 a month and various conditions making for poor morale in the establishment of WPA attitudes among the evacuees. A number of others joined in the discussion at this point and seemed to be expressing the attitude that it was too bad to make people live that way and to let their morale decline in war time.

Marks then asked me a question which was as follows: "What do the old people talk about most of the time?" I suggested the heat, the food and so on, but he followed up saying, "Dont they talk about the war?" I said they do talk about the war like everyone else in the U.S. , but he kept after me and said, "Don't they talk about Japan and Japan winning the war?" I said that they were interested



in who was going to win the war. He shook his finger at me and said, "Ah, there you see?" Implying that subversive talk was going on in the camp. Another series of questions dealt with how much restriction was placed on movement of evacuees from the camp. It developed during this talk that practically no one had realized that the relocation center residents had been screened by the FBI before coming to the relocation centers. They had not recognized any difference between internment camps and relocation camps. It appeared to the majority of the members of the group had thought that persons of all kinds of criminal and other records had been thrown in together in the centers. They, therefore, thought there should be closer restriction of the numbers of person in the vicinity of Parker Dam, Horse Mesa and Roosevelt Dams. They seemed to be relieved when I told them the true state of things, but they were still bothered by the fact that evacuees may go to the Colorado River whenever they please. They have the feeling that they endanger Parker Dam no matter of the distance to the Parker Dam and the presence of guards at the dam.

One young man brought up the question of citizens and aliens. He said that he had always wondered about aliens who were in this country for a certain length of time and had not ~~taken~~ out citizenship papers were not sent back to their own country. The Protestant minister then got up and replied that Japanese had never been allowed to acquire citizenship which seemed to have been a surprise to the young man who asked the question and to most of the others in



in the group. They had not known of the acts excluding orientals from citizenship in the United States. The minister talked at length on this point and said that our policy, the U.S. policy was to blame more than anything else on that point. The discussion had been going on for a half hour or more and a great many members of the group had left. There were, however, still about 10 of us sitting around the table.

The lawyer asked the following question: "I would like to know how you treat any statements that people make in regard to loyalty or disloyalty. I want to know whether you take it at their face value, for after all you must remember that the background of the Japanese is very different from ours. It is not a Christian background. It's a background which in certain aspects would be different from ours and might cause people to think of their statements in a different light than the way we would think of it." I explained that in the first place about 50% of the California Japanese Americans are Christians and in the second place, in regard to telling the truth, there was no difference among the Buddhists than what they are among the Christians. That both religions respect the truth. Then I went on to express that any case is dealt with on an individual basis and single statements in regard to loyalty and disloyalty are not taken as definite proof of anything. The other Jewish member of the group had been trying to say something for some time. Now he got a chance and began to make a little speech saying that he thought the U.S. was pulling a "dumb trick" by contin-



uing to exclude orientals from citizenship. He said that since we were fighting with China we should change that and he said if he were a Chinese and the U.S. rated him that low he would quit us and go back to Japan. This speech embarrassed the remaining members of the group and they suggested that we break up. The discussion had been going on for about an hour all in the interest of learning facts about Poston. Once during the discussion the man from the Arizona Republic asked me how many evacuees left Poston on the average each month. I had taken the recommendation in the community leaving went through the history of outside employment and pointed that during the last two months somewhere a little over 500 people had gone out, that's the month of April and May. (That night the Richfield reporter broadcast over the radio that E.H. Spicer, Associate Director of Poston Relocation Center had announced in Phoenix that approximately 250 people left the center every month.) As the crowd broke up all those who had stayed came up and shook hands with me thanking me for an informative discussion and a couple of them said, "of course, you will realize that some of the things that have been said are off the record.

I went down to the bar with Jackson and had a chat of an hour or so. He said that he thought the Kiwanis and Rotary would follow the Exchange Club lead and ask for more information from Poston administrator. He said that he, himself, wanted to write an article about Poston from the point of view of the administrative problems. He said



that he himself had been through several Congressional investigations; that he knew that in every instance there are two sides to a story. That's why he had been unable to swallow the Dies Committee report. He asked me to see what he would have to do in order to come to Boston for a few days in order to gather material for a story for some national magazine.

A few days before this the Exchange Club had passed a resolution which requested (presumably WRA) that all Japanese aliens be refused permission to leave the centers in the State of Arizona for the duration of the war and that they not be allowed to remain in the centers or otherwise within the state of Arizona after the war. Marks read many different resolutions just before the luncheon had started and pointed out to me that we and the others had not tried to lump citizens and non-citizens together, that they had made the resolution to apply only to aliens and that they knew that citizens had as good a right to come into Arizona as any other citizen. As Marks said, "I can understand that because, after all, I am a member of a minority group, you might say, and I understand some of those things."



102 Outgroups

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Letter to Mr. Giles Zimmerman from Kaz Oka  
General Impression of the Outside

CR: Congressional Relations  
Resettlement

Mr. Giles Zimmerman  
Chief, Employment Division  
Colorado River War Relocation Project  
Poston, Arizona

Dear Giles:

It was my honest intention of writing much sooner. But the circumstances arising from efforts to adjust myself to this "new" life had not permitted me to sit down for any length of time until this day. I trust that you will excuse my somewhat lengthy silence. In the meantime, allow me to express my deepest appreciation to your staff for your many endeavors in my behalf.

Undoubtedly you have heard previously from other former Poston residents as to the conditions and situation prevailing in Detroit. It may be, though, that you might be interested in getting my reaction to this relocation program, and of the conditions existent in Detroit. While this is by no means a "report to end all reports", I shall try and give you a factual story borne out of my observations, limited though it may be.

SENTIMENT OF THE PEOPLE TOWARD AMERICAN JAPANESE: As far as I have been able to observe, the attitude of the majority, of the great majority, has been one of tolerance and acceptance of the evacuees. I must say that this impression was partly gained by the fact that the people here are, as a rule, too busy with their own war-time affairs to spend much time trying to figure out the whys and wherefores of the so-called Japanese problem. As long as the evacuees take care to make themselves as inconspicuous as possible, there is no reason in the world why the evacuees should not be able to get along in Detroit on an even keel. I make note of this because even in Detroit, there has been an instance of where a group of six boys from Rohwer habitually trouped through the streets. We are endeavoring to "educate" the evacuees not to go out into public in groups of more than threes. Two whenever possible. In this respect, at least as far as Detroit is concerned, I must say that the many former Poston evacuees who have settled here have been very cooperative and beyond criticism in their actions.

I note that some of the evacuees coming out here arrive with the "Premeditated" idea that the people are unfriendly, that they "ain't going to like Detroit." It is interesting to note that five boys who arrived here in that frame of mind left after only a stay of three days for points west (Chicago, etc.) You must impress upon the evacuees who are still remaining in camp and who are contemplating on relocating themselves that they must have a positive idea of making the best of everything. I would say that 99% of the time, they will find themselves much better off if they would assume such an attitude.



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As far as I am concerned, the feeling of the people here toward those of us who are of Japanese descent is very, very, good. It has been my privilege to talk with the average "man on the street," Negroes, and with the people whom I work. I have also discussed matters with a storekeeper, my barber (75¢ for a haircut), and with a Chicago businessman who happened to be visiting in Detroit on business (this conversation took place on a streetcar one evening), and in every case, they were very cordial and friendly. I was privileged to address a small group of businessmen who comprise the Y's Men Club of the local YMCA, and they were keenly interested in the relocation program and in the so-called Japanese problem. This in spite of the fact that they were embroiled in the midst of a mad race riot involving hundreds upon hundreds of Negroes and whites.

Of the three newspapers in town, two of them have been very impartial. The third one is a Hearst paper, and I shall assume that you know the answer to that. I am enclosing a copy of an editorial in the Free Press which testily asks Martin Dies NOT to come to Detroit. You may be interested to know that Mayor Jeffries "Invited" Dies NOT to come here when witch-hunting Dies stated in Washington that he blamed the Japanese for inciting the riot between the Negroes and the Whites and was going to undertake an investigation. The other paper which has not "picked" on the Japanese is the Detroit News. The Hearst paper is the Detroit Times. In talking about the Times with the members of the Y's Men's Club, they assured me that the only time anyone ever reads the Times is when they want to consume something "sensational."

**COST OF LIVING:** The following statement may be hard to believe, but it's the truth, so help me! I am staying in an apartment which was purchased by a Japanese here, Jack Shimoda, who operates a cafe for defense workers. Jack claims that he purchased the building (at an estimated cost of 10,000 dollars) to help out the evacuees. At any rate, he charges each occupant \$3.50 per week. He furnishes the linen and towels, changing them once a week. In one large room, there are 8 boys bunking together. I am staying in a smaller room with another lad and when my wife joins me, we shall be privileged to have this room to ourselves. Three boys are in another, two more couples have rooms of their own, and so on. All told, there are approximately 23 staying in the apartment, which is a three story affair. He will have room for about 25 more when he completes renovating the rooms. However, he tells me that he has a long waiting list, although I have not known him to turn an evacuee down when they hit town and have no other place to stay.

We have the privilege of using a kitchen by shifts. Seven boys who bunk together got by on \$3.00 (yes, three dollars) each for meals last week, and this week they got by on \$3.50. They are all working



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and eat rather heavily. Another group of seven, of whom five girls and I am one of the two boys, got by last week on \$4.85. We not only ate heavily, but we also indulged in some fancy desserts after every dinner. In my case, I eat four times a day, inasmuch as I work the swing shift at a defense plant. (More about my job later.)

The boys' heaviest expense seems to be in their lunches. Another couple who lives in an apartment of their own tells me that they got by on \$8.00 for the two the first week, and cut it down to \$6.00 the second week. She told me that it was possible to get by on an average of \$6.00 to \$8.00 every week for a couple if they do their own cooking.

Yes, eating out (in restaurants) is very expensive. Some of the boys who stay at the Y told me that it costs them anywhere from \$1.50 to \$2.00 a day when they eat out.

This does not necessarily mean that food is inexpensive. One will find it costs high, in comparison with peacetime prices. But by careful shopping and reasonable use of the ration stamps, it is surprising how far one can make a dollar stretch. Despite the so-called inconveniences of rationing, etc., a persons is able to eat whatever he chooses. Since my brief stay here, I have consumed ham(roast) veal steak, shrimp (fiken), tasty tomato and lettuce salads, etd., and all it cost me for a week was \$4.85; not to mention the desserts which included cakes of all kinds, and a melon once.

HOUSING: Probably the most pressing problem on our hands lies in securing adequate housing facilities. However, numerous individuals, primarily connected with the churches, with the cooperation of George E. Graff, have launched a series of conferences to assist the evacuees in finding adequate housing. As I said before, Jack Shimoda's place offers temporary refuge to evacuees. I would unhesitatingly recommend any family men to first come out by themselves first and scout around. They will save themselves much needless expenditures and troubles. While the housing situation in Detroit is "tight", evacuees are coming in almost daily and somehow finding places in whcih to stay. The girls have been making some very satisfactory arrangements. They have been able to find housing with private families at very reasonable rates. Many of the girls are coming out as typists and other secretarial work and have made such "family arrangements" which, I think, is called the hospitality arrangement in Iowa. It seems to be working out very satisfactorily.

Please instruct the out coming evacuees to be sure and not only wire the relocation officer in their respective destination of their probable time of arrival but also to report to such an officer as soon as they hit town. Many have neglected to do this, with consequent



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inconveniences, In this respect, evacuees should also wire their relocation officers to make some temporary housing arrangement, especially if their time of arrival is at night.

EMPLOYMENT POSSIBILITIES: Jobs are numerous. However, evacuees must be told that no matter what job they may choose, it is hard work and they will not earn \$200 a week. Contrary to all the stories of high wages, etc., the average earnings of defense plants varies between 75¢ to 90¢ per hour. This is not racial discrimination. It applies equally to whites, negroes, and whathave you. Only skilled men, such as welders, etc., should expect to earn more than a dollar an hour. The average earnings of the approximately 12 to 20 boys who are staying at Shimoda's place range around \$40 per week. This figure of \$40 was based on the fact, that while \* there are two lads here who started at 65¢ an hour and are earning only \$25 a week. However, even in their isolated case, they will

\* the great majority of the boys are earning \$45 a week and over eventually be raised to 90¢ per hour, which will raise their earnings substantially.

There are many civil service positions open to qualified persons. Gladys Onoye hit the Federal Civil Service here which would have brought in approximately \$2000 per year to her as a stenographer had she remained (they are planning on going to Monroe so she quit her job). James Sakamoto, former life guard at Poston II, ~~xxxx~~ ~~xxxx~~ came in just last week. We gave him a lead on a city of Detroit civil service job as lifeguard or swimming instructor. If he passes the written test, he will go to work at \$2100 per year to start. Among the City Civil Service jobs listed are: fire fighters, stenographers, IBM statistical, machine operators, senior, semi-senior and junior accountants, bath house golf course and general attendant, life guards, swimming instructors, play leaders, forestry, helpers, hospital orderly and porters, building trades helper, mechanics and repairman of every kind on autos, clerks and typists, etc. The fact that James Sakamoto was received cordially despite his Japanese ancestry is proof that there is no discrimination. If Jimmy doesn't get the job, it will not be on racial grounds,, but it will be on the written test, as he passed his swimming technique and demonstration very successfully.

Just to give you an idea of how things work here along wage lines, permit me to digress a bit on my own fortunate circumstances. I am employed by the Hoskins Manufacturing Company, a concern engaged 100% in war work, manufacturing wirts and metals made of chromel (an alloy of nickel, chromium, etc.) I started in at 75¢ per hour on the day shift. Then I was shifted into what is know as the annealing department (operating three electric furnaces and lime and lead coating wires) on the swing shift. My hours are from 1p.m. to 10 p.m. I get 5¢ more or 80¢ per hour on the swing shift. After



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that, every two weeks we get a five cents raise until I get 95¢. If I'm on the day shift, I will earn only 90¢ an hour. That seems to be about the tops, unless I learn a special skill. We put in a 54-hour week, with time-and-a-half after 40 hours. The work is hard. Fooling around with furnaces whose temperatures range anywhere from 1300 to 2000 degrees Fahrenheit and with hot wires is no fun. I already got three minor burns on my arms, but that is all in the course of a day's work. What makes my job and the jobs of the others in other plants (glass factories, wholesales fish markets, cleaners and dyers, milk companies, etc.) bearable and nice is the pleasant relations which we all seem to enjoy with our co-workers, be they whites or negroes.

Yes, jobs are a dime a dozen. But instruct your outcoming evacuees to expect their jobs to be hard and not as high-salaried as they have been dreaming of. But no matter what the earnings, they should be able to make a go of it, if they can find a place to stay and do their own cooking.

GENERALLY SPEAKING, I would say (and I find in my conversations with the evacuees here) that it's a great life if a person can take it. We have freedom of movement, eat what we please, sit in nice theaters, and we're maturing properly. The folks are okay, be they colored or white. Every evacuee must be discreet in his actions. That's the only requirement. Thank God! we have no zoot suiters yet among the Japanese descendants in Detroit. On the whole, the evacuees have been behaving, as I said before, with sagacity and exemplarity. There are approximately 100 evacuees in Detroit at the present time. Unfortunately, we are for the most part, in the colored sections and therefore, the whites are not too cognizant of our numbers. So the situation is well in hand.

Before closing I would like to have you consider in any way you possibly can the following:

#### GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. George E. Graff requires more help in the office. At present, just he and Mrs. Marie Doe seem to be doing all the work. As I pointed out before, there are numerous employment possibilities which are not merely domestic, etc. But he hardly has the time to unearth them.
2. The WRA policy should be altered in the relocation program to the following. As I am given to understand, the WRA relocation officers "sever" most of their connections with the evacuees once they are out and on their first job. I maintain, and I am basing this on my observations of evacuees in predicaments, that for the first month while out, the evacuees should be given thorough assistance in adjusting himself to the new life and conditions. You may disagree with me and say that the relocation officers are supposed to do that. Unfortunately, they



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are not doing it. Mr. Graff is too busy with his own affairs, much less look after the welfare of those who already came out. He himself admitted that he has orders, generally speaking, of course, to concentrate on getting the evacuees out of the camps. That is all well and good. But it must be remembered that the evacuees venturing out are too, too unfamiliar with the conditions of the east. Most of us have never had previous experience in the jobs we are now holding. In my own case, it required one good week before I was able to turn up with the present job. The rest of the time was spent in evaluating the good and points of the three possibilities which I did have. But others have not been as fortunate. There altogether are too many cases of where the boys would come out on a job, then find out it wasn't exactly to their liking for some reason or another for a variety of reasons. In short, the boys are generally "lost" when they first come out. Conditions are different from the days they used to know on the coast. During this primary month, these boys need counseling and advice as to what course they should pursue, always keeping in mind the welfare of the majority. The only agency properly fitted to carry out this duty of assisting the evacuees in adjusting themselves during that first month is the WRA. I have been doing it on a very small scale. But it's almost a hopeless case. It's a fulltime job.

3. There should be more concerted effort to alleviate the housing situation. Mr. Graff is doing the best he can with the condition, but his hands are tied by the voluminous amount of work. As a matter of fact, during the first week that I was here, another fellow and I went up to the office practically every day to give him a hand with his office affairs. But we couldn't keep it up indefinitely. After all we have to eat too, so we had to go to work. I don't mind donating my time, inasmuch as it's <sup>for</sup> ~~good~~ <sup>a</sup> cause. But a person can't keep it indefinitely.

4. To date, the WRA has been strictly on the defensive in regards to the press and to such as the Dies, Townsend, etc. It seems to me that the reports division of the WRA is really ~~falling~~ falling down on the job. They've got a high-salaried reports department. Why not take the initiative and put out more dope on just how the evacuees are trying to help out the war effort under ADVERSE conditions? Ralph Gelvin probably meant well, but his statement that 450 evacuees were disloyal was certainly not the best method of approaching the matter. Doggone it, Giles, it burns my hide to see the administrative forces and the ones that were released fighting it out before the congressional and other investigative bodies and putting the evacuees on the spot. The administration, in endeavoring to justify its management of the camp, and the other guys who were "fired" trying to discredit the administration, is merely putting us evacuees on the spot. What in the hell's going on anyway? Ralph isn't only one. I haven't read of your testimony so I presume whatever you might have stated was all okay. Otherwise the press would have pounced on it. Thanks to Hearst's Detroit Times, we are fully acquainted with what's going on over there



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in your part of the country.

But the evacuees are trying to make the best of a bad situation. It seems as if tho' the administration is putting every evacuee, regardless of their loyalty, all in the same boat. So we take it, on the chin. And you tell us to keep our chins up. Well, we're doing it. But if you don't somehow call attention to this cat-and-dog fight, some of the evacuees are going to lose fight and your relocation program will be a flop.

KAZ OKA  
23253 E. Forrest Avenue  
Detroit 1, Michigan



6/25/43

"To Martin Dies: Please Stay Away"

CR Congressional Relations

Martin Dies announces from Washington that he and members of his congressional committee are coming to Detroit next week to investigate the race riots.

The Free Press wishes flatly to contradict the gentlemen.

He is not coming to Detroit to "investigate" anything. If he comes at all it will be merely to use this city's sorry plight to gain publicity for himself--his usual trick.

There is no more reason for his coming here than there is for Ringling Bros.' circus to parade through the room of a desperately sick patient when the crisis is at hand.

Detroit is sick from emotionalism and hysteria. Why add oil to the flames for the sole purpose of gratifying the vanity of this headline-hunting bunk artist?

Some years ago he announced that he and his fellow witch hunters were coming into Detroit because they had evidence that there were at least 5000 enemy aliens active in this community. That burp was paraded across the Nation. He never came.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation under J. Edgar Hoover is acknowledged by all law enforcement authorities to be the most efficient police organization on earth. Its Detroit office has done a magnificent job. The staff here has been working night and day with the silent efficiency which characterizes the whole technique of the FBI.

Magnavox Dies says he "has evidence" that Japanese agents fomented the trouble in Detroit. There have never been over a half hundred Japanese in this community--and the FBI has case histories of all of them and has been watching them. John Bugas, local agent, has publicly stated that they have taken no part in any local disturbance.

This is not time in Detroit for blab-mouthed emotionalism and political exhibitionism.

Every good citizen is doing his best to calm wild fears and eliminate hysteria.

For the good of Detroit, the welfare of the Nation, and the progress of war production, we wish the Texan Don Quixote would play horse in somebody else's back yard.



6/28/43

"May be Useless, But: - 'We Won't Do Any Harm,' Says Dies"

In Washington Friday, Congressman Martin Dies, who once after months of expensive snooping came up with the announcement that Shirley Temple was Red, told reporters that he thought his proposed investigation of the Detroit race riots would be harmless, even if it accomplished nothing.

"Nothing seems to have been accomplished so far by the Detroit investigations, so I don't see what harm could be done by our investigations, so if we don't accomplish anything" the Texas Congressman said. "Perhaps, though, we may surprise the Mayor and bring to light some things he hasn't been able to find out."

Civic leaders have made it plain that the typical Dies Circus investigation would be none too welcome in the troubled Detroit situation.

Mayor Jeffries asked the Dies Committee Friday to stay out of Detroit. His statement was made at the request of the Interracial Citizens Committee, headed by Rev. Charles A. Hill.

"The Dies Committee can offer us nothing but more confusion," Jeffries said. "The FBI has been investigating, along with military and naval intelligence and City and State police.".....



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NAVAJO SERVICE  
Window Rock, Arizona

February 6, 1943

MEMORANDUM TO NAVAJO SERVICE EMPLOYEES:

As most of you know, Dr. A. H. Leighton and two or three other Indian Service employees have brought a group of workers from Parker to Window Rock to spend the next three or four weeks doing some special work which is of interest to the Commissioner and to the Indian Service. A number of these workers are of Japanese Descent. You will be interested in the purpose for which these people have come to Window Rock and in the work which they are doing. The following is quoted from a statement prepared by Dr. Leighton which indicates the nature of the work and the qualifications of the persons whom he has brought with him:

"One of the projects which the Indian Service has taken over as part of its contribution to the war effort is the administration of Poston, Arizona of about 18,000 Japanese evacuated from the Western defense area. Two-thirds of these are American born citizens, and all of them are people considered loyal to the United States. This project is to be distinguished from concentration camps to which suspected persons are sent.

"One phase of the Indian Service administration of Poston has been to develop a program of social analysis designed to aid in settling administrative problems and to lay foundations that will be useful in the future management of occupied areas, particularly in the Far East.

"During the last six months I have been in charge of this work assisted by several social scientists, and a staff of field workers who are residents of the camp.

"This group has now come to Window Rock in order to study and analyze the material which has been gathered. It was not possible to make such analysis at Poston due to lack of office space and the impossibility of working together as a concentrated group in one place. We are very appreciative of the opportunity to be at Window Rock, and hope to enjoy its hospitality for about three weeks."

S/ A. H. Leighton,  
Lt., M.C., U.S.N.R.

S/ J. M. Stewart  
J. M. Stewart  
General Superintendent



## COLORADO RIVER WAR RELOCATION PROJECT

Poston, Arizona

August 11, 1942

MEMORANDUM TO: Public Relations Committee  
Temporary Community Council

Attention: Mr. Hidemi Ogawa

FROM: T. H. Haas

At the request of the chairman of the Public Relations Committee and the chairman of the Council, I submit the following suggestions in writing concerning the background of the formation of a committee and the possible work which the Public Relations Committee might perform.

One of the committees which was proposed by the chairman in a conference with me the day after the first meeting of the Council was one to meet with block managers. I felt this function might be too narrow a one for a committee and that this and other functions might be performed by a broad committee on public relations.

If I remember rightly, a committee on the press was also mentioned as a possible committee. I suggested that both committees might be grouped together under the heading of public relations and this suggestion was adopted by the chairman.

Public relations constitutes a very important technique in governmental work as well as in private enterprise. Big corporations, public bodies and governments are anxious that the public should have a good impression of them. Millions of dollars are spent annually on institutional advertising. With corporations like General Motors Corporation and American Telephone and Telegraph Company, the objective is not necessarily to sell cars and telephone, but rather to present in the best light the business policies of the corporation; in other words, to promote good will toward them on the part of the public.

In a community in which various types of fear plays a more important role than in ordinary life, it is especially



important that the people be informed on what their elected representatives are doing. In order that misunderstandings might be avoided, the Public Relations Committee might take charge of the publicity and public relations work of the Council. Important work of the Council committees and important actions of the Council itself might be presented clearly to the people. For example, it is important that all penal laws be given wide publicity before and after enactment in order that interested parties might have an opportunity of presenting their views to the Council or perhaps even to a committee of the Council.

Furthermore, the Public Relations Committee might keep its ear to the ground to determine what misunderstandings exist between various groups in the community or between large groups in the community. In co-operation with the Adult Education Group, it might aid in reducing these misunderstandings.

Other Council committees who desire to present to the community a viewpoint or to learn public reaction to many proposals might also avail themselves of the talents of the committee. Block representatives might also be assisted in clearing up Council policies and actions with their block councils.

In order to perform these important functions the Public Relations Committee should keep in close touch with Council affairs, reading carefully reports of other committees and determining which problems the residents regard as acute and need the attention of the Council. The views of Isseis, Niseis, etc., should be sought.

The Public Relations Committee might also study the public reaction to some of the acts of the Council. If a law was found to be unpopular and various valid objections raised to it, it may be worthwhile to make known this fact to the Council in order that it might consider the possibility of passing amendments thereto. If the objections were not valid and were based upon misunderstanding, the committee might be able to clear the atmosphere by issuing a statement to the Press.

Furthermore, public meetings might be held by one of your committees, having in mind the answering of questions concerning Council powers, duties and actions.

T. H. Haas

(AHL)



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100 OUTGROUP

Via: Letter from S.K. to EHS

6-21-43

4251 W. Irving Pk.  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Dr. Spicer:

It's four weeks now that I've been in Chicago. Yesterday was the first time I had a chance to walk around the U. of Chicago. I looked for the address you gave me, but, I must have mislaid it because I couldn't find it.

The campus is beautiful and immense in size. It must have taken millions of dollars.

I met Dr. Tashiro, a Japanese - American dentist, who has been practicing in Chicago for the last 17 years. He is certainly doing a lot to further the understanding of the Japanese Problem among the University of Chicago people and others of Chicago. His practice is mostly among the "Hakujins". It must have been, or he would have starved by now.

He is a bachelor; but, he is noted for the sukiyaki dinner he serves. He claims it is the best weapon he has. He works among the influential people and also finds jobs for many who come out here. Helps to bring understanding of the problem. Maybe you knew him.

I find Chicago's weather just, if not more so, as uncomfortable as Boston. It suddenly changed from winter to summer. The humidity is something one doesn't find in Boston.

The people of Chicago are still afraid of us. The Japanese Americans here claim that more stares have been directed at them after the execution publicity, and also after the publicity about the camps came out in a



serial in the Tribune. Maybe no publicity is better now.

The people in the place where I work treat me okay. The work is simple; but not in the line with what I had been doing. I have been debating with myself whether to try to change or not. Considering, of course, the possibilities of Post-war period. This plant isn't a war plant yet, its essential. It makes sewage plant equipment. Have made many installations for the army.

The housing is tight. Becoming more so every day. I still haven't found one. Its because I haven't gone about it right I think. I know I missed several time because of my own fault. I need a 6 room place which is scarce. Hoping to bring out my parents.

I hear things are running pretty smooth in camp. Lets hope they remain so. I think Poston is established to a point where the administration should have no worries.

Please give my regards to the friends I didn't have a chance to say goodbye like Ted Haas and Vernon, if he is there.

Sincerely,

Smoot



May 22, 1943

Letters received -- js  
Chicago, Illinois

"I still can't get over the fact how dirty Chicago is but then I like it. The "hakujins" out here are so tolerant--funny part of it is that most of them never knew we ever got kicked out of California."  
"As I was saying this place is really "all city". I sure miss growing things--there are no homes--all are apartment houses.



March 6, 1943

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Letter received — js  
Kalamazoo, Michigan

"Being away from one's race is good in some respects but then again it's very easy to become lonely. I've been lucky since I've almost always associated with Caucasians, but nevertheless it was nice at Christmas time to have a date with a Jap girl again. The color line isn't drawn nearly as finely here as in California, but propriety and discretion are still wise. Everyone here says there would be no objection for us Niseis to have dates with Caucasian girls but we're considering all the angles before we try."



April 11, 1943

14 ✓ Letters received -- js  
Jerome Relocation Center

And what do you Postonites know about spring? Our soldier friend from Robinson is just back from Camp I and does he talk about your "summer weather." Now--you should see Jerome ! Dogwood, wild plum, wild violets, etc. grow everywhere and each Sunday after the concert (boy, was it good to hear George Seno again) we take a walk along the creek and enjoy the fresh green foliage and all. Spring is wonderful ! Yep, yesterday a pal and I took our books and tried to read in our park-to-be. Red and blue birds kept whistling to each other ----

"Been going to more private parties here and are they fun ! The suki-yaki dinner the docs gave us gals took the prize. We sat Hawaiian style; had three hot plates going; five chicken to fourteen people; picked wild chives and they were good.

"No parties, dances or dinners has been given for our volunteers. The less said about them the better seems to be the general camp attitude. We have so many young Hawaiian kibeis and country folk that we're probably backward and anti-everything. Lot of the home town boys are in Shelby now and probably lot more will be joining them.



June 5, 1943

3

Observations -- js

House Bill 187 and Japanese Arizonans

The Japanese farmers in Arizona in the outskirts of Phoenix met at the Japanese Free Methodist Church to have the House Bill 187 which had passed the state legislature in March explained by the lawyers from Poston, Messrs. Masuda, Maeno and Yamamoto. There were about thirty men present, approximately sixteen Isseis and the rest Niseis who are the active farmers.

The law prohibits any citizen to do any form of business with a restricted person without having such intention first publicized about a week before the transaction. The law doesn't specify any certain race but it understood that it refers directly to the Japanese. Failure to comply with this law one is liable to be punished; thus many business men have been refusing to do any trade with the Japanese recently.

Some of the Japanese farmers have had some difficulty in purchasing seed buying gasoline, clothes, chicken feed and other things. In one instant a dentist inquired of the State Attorney if it was safe to diagnose his Nisei patient's teeth. Daily the situation had been becoming worse under the pressure of certain group or groups; in this case probably the shippers, as they believe.

The Japanese Citizens' League has been working to get a lawyer or lawyers to fight this bill, and also had asked the aid of the Poston Nisei lawyers. On the fifth, the lawyers from Poston met with the American Lawyers in Phoenix about the matter and exchanged opinions. The older lawyer had served as the judge of the State Supreme Court for the last seventeen years and at present the chairman of the State War Production Board Commission; the other lawyer is a young energetic person in his late thirties or early forties. Both believed that the law was unconstitutional and saw a possibility of victory over the statute. They believed that probably it would not pass in the state courts but there is a great possibility of victory in the higher national court.

After the explanation of the matter by Mr. Thomas Masuda in Japanese, the JAOL chairman took over the meeting and asked if the Isseis were willing to back the Niseis in this case from all angles, financial and otherwise. The Isseis seemed to have consented but they requested that some of them be made advisors since the case must be faced by both the Isseis and the Niseis and is of grave concern to the welfare of the Japanese, both in Arizona and in other states as well.

Mr. Masuda advised them put full trust in their lawyers, as they are capable and willing to help the Evacuees. He added that it is difficult to predict or explain as to how matters would change or come out since the law is very general in its wording and is possible to make so many different interpretations.

(From my observation, it seems that there is a great difficulty between the Isseis and the Niseis since they could not understand each other too well due to language difficulty on both sides. Mr. Yoshida, long resident of Phoenix and a owner of a garage, seemed to be the Issei leader since he was able to understand the Isseis and Niseis as well.)



May 10, 1948

"Anti-Japanese feeling is continually fluctuating, depending upon news events as presented by the papers. The period of the voluntary evacuation a year ago was one of the highwater marks --exaggerated pictures of strikes and riots, another--senate investigation still another. At the present time anti-Japanese feeling is again running high. The execution of American flyers and the Heart Mountain strike were really given a build-up by the papers."

"Since the people can do nothing about "those Japs" they've taken on a let-them-in-but-I-still-don't-like-it attitude."

"Because of the arrogant attitude of the Caucasians as a whole, the Niseis are developing a bad inferiority complex. At least I can say that much for myself."

"Besides the usual types of jobs in the city (Denver), there is extensive truck garden farming as well as dry farming and cattle ranches. There are a number of large war industry factories here which as yet have not been opened to many Niseis. Denver is also fast becoming the flower center of this country due to the large number of Italian as well as Japanese Florists who moved in from the coast. There are a large number of chick sexers from southern Cal out too. In brief, Colorado is better suited for Japanese than any other inland state--mainly because of its farming opportunities."



✓ 55 STUDENT RELOCATION COUNCIL  
Via Mrs. Masuda  
CR: Outgroup

5-17-43

MISSOURI:

"I had never expected nor imagined people here in Missouri to be so friendly and hospitable. The students are exceptionally friendly and the faculty courteous. When I arrived here and went to the registrar's office, it seemed that they were expecting me any moment. The registrar grasped my hand, took me into his office and we had a long chat."

OHIO:

"Professor Harsh took me to his home, where his wife treated us to dinner. He is a very cordial person - in fact all of them are..... I am really happy here. It seems as if this place has not been much affected by the war. The attitude is entirely different compared to the attitude around the Pacific Coast....I am sure that I will enjoy this place immensely.....I can hardly wait to dive into the books. A new incentive has been instilled in me. What a change of environment will do for one is amazing.....Here's hoping that your relocation will turn out as well as mine has."

"The faculty and the students are very cordial and exceedingly warm to all of us. Wherever we go we are greeted with a smile and the warmest "hello" I ever knew. It is a great sensation and I can hardly hold back my tears."

NEW YORK:

"All have been very nice to us. So far we haven't met any "unpleasant" circumstances although we have been taken for Chinese many times..... The people at the University have been wonderful too."



5-17-43

PENNSYLVANIA:

"It will be three weeks since I stood in your office to receive my travel permit. It doesn't seem possible yet that I'm on the other side of the map, studying in a school I've already come to love. The school is more beautiful than I had hoped, situated in the outskirts of Philadelphia proper. It's good to be able to go to one's window and see greenery all around. It feels good not to have to squint at a hot sun everytime one went out. I'm enjoying this freedom, the privacy of one's own room. I hope more of the people will be able to share it. It was my privilege to view the beautiful site of historic Valley Forge. I cannot express my sentiments as we tread "sacred grounds". It was magnificent and beautiful....Contrary to my thoughts, traveling was very pleasant. We did not have any unpleasant circumstances...Though I arrived three weeks late, the professors have been very lenient concerning my back work. The students and the staff aren't treating me as a "curio", but treat me as one of their own. The feeling is grand."

IOWA:

"After a few weeks of trials and tribulations I have finally emerged, confident in my fellow Americans, the people of this community, the students and teachers of Drake U., and also in my studies. Because of the sudden change of environment, I was sort of lost for awhile. However, I am now well on my way and liking the new change of life. The people of Des Moines are especially friendly to the Japanese. Of course, when one reads the newspapers there are occasionally some persons who are not so tolerant, but the majority of them are very partial. The faculty



55 STUDENT RELOCATION COUNCIL  
Via Mrs. Masuda  
CR: Outgroup

5-17-43

IOWA: (Cont.)

and students of Drake seem to take an individual interest in the 30 odd students of Japanese ancestry who are enrolled here.....Even though I began four weeks late, I have found it much easier than I expected. All of the teachers seem to know the position we are in and thus they take personal interest in helping us out. I studied quite hard the first five weeks and was able to take the 6 weeks' tests with the rest of the class. Much to my surprise I did better than I expected. With such encouragement and such atmosphere I am sure I will do all right."

"My position here has been very favorable.....I have not met with any distasteful incidents, and I do not expect to. The editor of the Des Moines daily paper has been defending us vigorously as well as many other influential persons. As a general rule, I believe the people of Iowa understand our problems and will be willing to accept Japanese in the future."

NEBRASKA:

"The people and faculty members are very nice toward us and we find it very easy in getting settled and getting accustomed to the place."

"I have made many close Caucasian friends who have invited me for weekends and holidays.....Lincoln is a nice place and the people are wonderful. They are very sympathetic to us, and we try not to abuse their attitudes. The Churches especially have opened their doors to us, and it was there also that I have made my closest friends. There are many Nisei students here and they all seem to be doing very well, and seems to be well-accepted by the others."



Via Mrs. Masuda

GR: Outgroup

KENTUCKY:

"All along the trip, there were no embarrassing incidents. The people all seemed too busy to pay attention to us. As for the school, the students and faculty members are more than kind, going out of the way to be kind to us. I do not know the attitude of the town, for I have not been to it, but understand that it is not bad. I am beginning to like this place and am sure that I shall be happy here."

TEXAS:

"The people here are very nice and friendly and treat us very good."

"I have found Abilene to be <sup>a</sup>very friendly city. As you know, my father went to the Hardin-Simmons University in this city about twenty-three years ago, and he was well-loved by all the people. Every day I meet many of his school friends and classmates, his teachers, and friends in the city. Because they loved my father, they love us two girls and have heartily welcomed us so that we have not come into an entirely strange city. When we walk down the streets, strangers smile and greet us.....The people in the South, particularly in West Texas, are very open-hearted and hospitable. The ABILENE REPORTER NEWS published for two days an article about our coming to study in Abilene. Then this last Thursday the high school paper, "THE ABILENE HIGH BATTERY", carried an article and picture of us, so we have been getting quite a bit of publicity.....I consider myself very fortunate in being able to come to study here in Abilene."

WISCONSIN:

"I'm very happy here and I feel that all the girls and instructors



55 STUDENT RELOCATION COUNCIL  
Via Mrs. Masuda  
CR: Outgroup

5-17-43

WISCONSIN: (Cont.)

accept me with no discrimination....I do realize our responsibility out here as "good-will ambassadors" and I do want to do my part for the group of people I have left and who will be coming out somewhere to resettle."

MASSACHUSETTS:

"There are four of us "West-Coast" girls.....and we think it is wonderful here.....We find everyone, faculty and students alike, very pleasant and friendly, and how we appreciate that when we are in such utterly strange and new surroundings.....I hope that since we left there have been many more to learn what it means to "fly from a cage".

COLORADO:

"A great responsibility lies ahead of me and I will not overlook my opportunity. I have come here for a purpose and I shall endeavor to do my utmost in making good.....The students of D.U. and the people in general are all very friendly and kind. This makes me feel very good as I am conscious of the fact that I am Japanese-American. The administration and faculty at D.U. are also very helpful."



✓ 102  
~~100~~ OUTGROUP RELATIONS  
Via: Letter to Dr. Powell  
CR: Re-relocation

5-17-43 S

1042 W. 38th St.,  
Los Angeles, Calif.  
April 17, 1943

Dear Mr. Powell:

I have just finished reading the U.P. excerpts of your speech at the St. Louis conference and I am moved to offer you my sincere congratulations. It is indeed heartening to hear such a forcible, courageous statement of fact in these days when so many are taking advantage of war conditions to attack an American minority. It was indeed placed on the same page with a statement of our California State Senator Jack R. Tenney who charges "overwhelming pampering" at the relocation centers, and states further that "farmers near Tule Lake camp are apprehensive of riot because the nearby Japanese have too much freedom." As a matter of fact, one might almost accuse you of rashness in attacking the California agricultural interests. I can scarcely believe it will go unchallenged, and hope it will have no unfavorable effects on your official standing.

My only interest in the issue is through former students of mine at the University of Southern California of Japanese ancestry, who are at present stewing in these relocation centers when they could be doing work useful to the war effort. I am in constant correspondence with some of these; a few I believe may be at Poston. It is nice to know that those in charge of these centers are of the type of fair minded Christian Americans which you represent.

Know then that many of us whose voices are not so widely heard



(Cont. letter from Edw. S. Brady II)

as yours gain a renewed faith in American ideals through the brief newspaper account of your statements.

Sincerely yours,

Edw. S. Brady II



102  
✓  
100 OUTGROUP RELATIONS  
Via: Letter to Dr. Powell  
OR: Re-relocation

5-17-43

152 W. Ramona St.,  
Ventura, California.  
April 17, 1943

Editor, Los Angeles Times,  
202 West First St.,  
Los Angeles, Calif.

Dear Editor:

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

As a loyal subscriber, I feel that I should write you to let you know that your editorial, "Bleeding Hearts Discuss the Jap Problem," was not entirely to your credit. If your aim is <sup>to</sup> please hotheaded readers, it was all right, but I rather thought your aim in editorials was to enlighten the public, since all we know is what we read in the papers.

You infer that to say a man is wrong in his opinion is to insult him. If so, your columns should quit insulting people.

You suggest that Mr. Powell say what he had said in the presence of General DeWitt. The general is not the first or the last authority in such matters, either. The highest authorities in the Government are apparently taking the view from within. Personally, I have no objection to hate on a racial basis, if consistently applied, but our government authorities support another policy.

The final authorities, who probably know the background facts better than we do, have decided to accept at least American-born Japanese into our Army. Hawaii did not find the Japs sufficiently dangerous to require wholesale internment. The Americans of Japanese descent did not allege that other Americans were so dangerous that they might mob them because they were yellow. As for cases of sabotage and



(Cont. of letter to Dr. Powell from H.L. Norris.)

espionage, at least the former, if your readers could read some of the case histories of the definitely proven cases,--particularly those not brilliantly nipped in the embryo but where real damage was done,--they would be better aware that the policy of wholesale internment, with its costliness and contribution to farm labor shortage, was justified. Denial that the loyal could not be picked from the dangerous is an exaggeration so far as the American-born are concerned; they could all speak English if they could talk at all, and their loyalty should be just as definitely ascertainable as that of foreign-born non-refugee aliens from other enemy countries. No American-born Japanese or any other Japanese resident of this country has yet been sentenced to death for treason.

Cynically, to change the subject a little bit, our country got along grandly with the Japs over there in the old days. Even while China was subject to the humiliation of extraterritoriality, because it resisted all our efforts in the promotion of good relations, our trade with Japan flourished and a lot of good will was dispensed on our part to Japan. About a decade ago Japanese did very much of the confidential translating at our Embassy in Tokyo, being thoroughly trusted in this respect; a Japanese girl, not an American citizen at the time, wrote many of our consular reports for the Consulate General in Tokyo; a Harvard-bred consul at Yokohama decided to replace regular American clerks with American-born Japanese about that time as a measure of economy; and Ambassador Grew's chief confidential clerk, formerly of the American Navy, had a Japanese wife and child, despite our exclusion laws. For aught I know, the little bastard was given passage



(Cont. of letter Dr. Powell from H.L. Norris.)

to the United States with diplomatic rights on the Gripsholm, while other Americans continued to suffer internment in Japan. However, in those days of better relations, those Americans who had lived for years among the Japanese did not treat them as treacherous and distrustful villains to the last man, woman, and child. There were no doubt a lot of such villains among them, and our diplomats and the other Americans in Japan were not as smart as they should have been, but they didn't miss the mark any more than your editorials sometimes do.

In our opposition to Japan we should strike, so far as possible, at that element and those principles that caused the country to enter the war. We should plan to abolish the imperial set-up, eradicate Shintoism, and bring about a new point of view regarding militarism and war as an instrument of national policy. The American-born Japanese could prove a helpful agency in bringing this about if given the opportunity.

In winning the war we may have success in breaking down Japanese morale by propaganda. Some American-born Japanese can be useful in this field. Acceptance of the belief that the Japanese will not "crack up" in the face of serious reverses, without some good explanation of reasons which themselves can be altered and on the assumption that they have more stamina than other humans, is foolish. They have much less stamina than the European races, and their cunning is like that of savages or children, not nearly so insidious and elusive nor so much to be feared as that of Hitler's followers.

When the battle flags are furled, I am not so sure that American-born Japanese should not be allowed to return to their original homes.



(Cont. of Letter to Dr. Powell from H.L. Norris)

with some qualifications, as where military areas are now next door, but I do believe that the Japanese should be entirely ousted from the South Seas Islands, where many of them settled during the mandate regime, and from such countries as Thailand. Korea and perhaps Taiwan should be freed of Japanese rule. As for Hawaii, the Japanese born there will certainly be allowed to remain. It is more important to decide how we shall destroy those forces that led Japan to enter the war than to keep California-born Japanese out of the state. As for abolition of the imperial system in Japan, liberation of Korea, and disposition of the Kwantung Leased Territory, none of our authorities have touched upon them. They are the questions that should have our consideration.

Very truly yours,

H. L. Norris



✓ 102  
100 OUTGROUP RELATIONS  
Via: Letter to Dr. Powell  
CR: Re-relocation

5-17-43

Powell:

You dirty rotten God damn son of a bitch, I shouldn't waste three cents postage on a filthy rotten pro Axis swine like you. If those rotten yellow traitorous Japs come back to California we'll organize a Ku Klux Klan and murder them. I hope the Japs get you and rape your wife and daughter and torture you. Were they nice Japs who have put over 2000 crosses        graves on Honolulu???

May God blast your dirty soul, and may you rot in Hell.

E. Maxwell  
P. O. Box 368  
Santa Monica,  
California

Where we don't want and haven't got the yellow beasts property.



✓ 102  
~~100~~ OUTGROUP RELATIONS

Via: Letter to Dr. Powell  
CE: Re-relocation

5-17-43 S

April 21, 1943

Mr. John W. Powell  
Community Services  
Poston, Arizona

Dear John Powell,

It's not at all unlikely that you got your neck in a sling for making that swell speech the other day, but you might like to know that people whose opinions you would most respect here were unanimously in accord with what you had to say--even making allowance for the fact that the newspapers' account was sketchy to say the least.

Not a few of us got a vicarious thrill out of seeing that somebody was speaking out, after all the hush-hush and wait-wait we've been subjected to.

We'll be watching for more.

Sincerely,

Mendel H. Lieberman  
Director of Adult Education  
Gila Project  
Rivers, Arizona



102 OUTGROUP RELATIONS  
Via: Letter to TS  
CR: Selective Service

5-19-43

(Excerpts from the letter)

"Oh yeah, about things happening around here. First of all \_\_\_\_\_ left for St. Paul, Minn. about a month ago. She has a job in a hospital as a stenographer-receptionist. She likes her work and the city swell.

In the meantime I volunteered for Camp Shelby. No use going into the reasons as I think you know all the reasons anyway. Anyway with \_\_\_\_\_ taken care of, my mother moved out to Cody, Wyo. to live with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. They are expecting a baby about the middle of June, so she will be a big help to them. I guess you know he's working out there in a printing and newspaper shop.

Anyway with everyone in the family settled it left me free to volunteer. Now I'm waiting to be inducted. Been waiting since the 1st of April and no soap yet. Another thing with my flat feet I don't know whether I'll pass -- but at least I can try."



✓ 102  
~~100~~ OUTGROUP RELATIONS  
Via: Letter to Dr. Powell  
CR: Re-relocation

5-17-43

Los Angeles,  
California  
April 17, 1943

Mr. John W. Powell,  
Assistant Chief of Community Services,  
Poston,  
Arizona.

My Dear Mr. Powell:

I just read, with disgust, resentment and contempt, an article emanating from you concerning the Japanese situation, as the enclosed clippings attest. I believe after you have read them you will realize and know how millions of my fellow Americans and I feel. If those statements are from your lips, you had better wake up and become a realist and practical minded instead of a "mushy" sentimentalist. Moreover, you had better devote your time and energy to doing constructive and useful things for good, loyal and patriotic Americans.

If it were not for sentimentalists, pacifists, "sissie panties" and impractical idealists, we probably could have avoided this war today, which will, as you know, prove very costly in material things and in human lives.

We of the major Veterans Organizations on our return from France in 1919, and later, urged, amongst other legislation, compulsory military training for all youths 18 and over primarily to prevent a recurrence of war or to minimize war for our Nation, and as a matter of national defense, because we, having served on the battlefields of France and Belgium, knew what war was.

However, we accomplished little with our lawmakers in Washington,



(Cont. of letter to Dr. Powell from Walter W. Joseph)

D. C. in this direction, as, immediately, we were assailed by so-called pacifists, unrealists, social groups, "crack pots" and "bleeding hearts", as war mongers, alarmists, "killers" and professional soldiers who delight in war. The American Legion was even accused of being allied with the so-called "war makers". Following all this, we "scrapped" our best battleships and equipment used for defense of our Nation.

Needless to state, the above written to remind you that if we had fully prepared, militarily, the treacherous attack on Pearl Harbor would not have occurred, and that furthermore, if it were not for the above factions, and groups, these so-called Japanese "fishermen" (Naval Reservists and spies) would not have been plying their "trade" in our home waters.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion and the Disabled American Veterans, as well as other Veteran's groups, have requested for over twenty years that our Government investigate the presence of these Japanese "fishermen", whom it was proven were carrying on nefarious acts. Immediately a howl went up from these "uplifters", busybodies and social groups that the poor "Japs" are innocent people being persecuted, who are only trying to make a living, and that they are entitled to the same rights and privileges as other Americans. These "poor Jap fishermen" were spying on our Navy and fortifications and taking soundings of the waters adjacent to our shores as well as making other recordings for the Naval Bureau in Tokio.

The Veterans Organizations' pleadings fell on deaf ears in so far as our law makers were concerned, with the result that no action was taken to investigate these "Japs", thanks to these social groups.



(Cont. of letter to Dr. Powell from Walter W. Joseph)

busybodies, "bleeding hearts", and so forth.

I might add for your information that after the infamous sneak attack on Pearl Harbor by the "Honorable Japs" that the F.B.I. agents unearthed in caches in the homes and environs of these same "Japs" thousands of high-powered rifles, shot guns, pistols, revolvers, bombs of many designs, flares, rounds of ammunition, cameras including the movie types, short wave radio sets, long range binoculars, and maps carefully drawn showing our Pacific shore line, harbors, fortifications, the general terrain of the Western States and even the location of dam sites, utility plants, water works, and large industrial and War plants. I cannot, by the greatest stretch of the imagination, conceive how any loyal, patriotic, "true blue" American in these United States can have the temerity to defend or condone the acts of this treacherous element.

My sincere advice to you, Mr. Powell, and to people who share your opinion as well, is to attend to your own "knitting" and let the military authorities take care of this Japanese problem as they deem best for National security. Personally, I agree with General D. Witt when he stated, "Once a Jap, always a Jap". Since at least half of the "Japs" naturalized or native born, profess a dual citizenship; that is, their first loyalty is to Japan, and the Mikado, I do not believe that there is any room in our country for them. These have proven themselves to be an ungrateful and treacherous class of people. They apparently cannot be assimilated.

Yours Very Truly,

Walter W. Joseph,  
Americanization Officer,  
Los Angeles Chapter No. 2,  
The Military Order of the Purple Heart,  
1816 S. Figueroa St., L.A., Calif.



✓ 102  
100 OUTGROUP RELATIONS

Via: Letter to Dr. Powell

OE: Re-relocation

5-17-43

2 Bishop St.  
Oxford, Ohio  
4/20/43

Mr. John W. Powell  
Poston, Arizona

Dear Mr. Powell:

Several days ago I saw in the CINCINNATI ENQUIRER a brief account of a speech you gave at a regional meeting of the National Conference of Social Work (St. Louis, April 16). I cannot tell you how glad I was to find somebody officially connected with the project of resettlement speaking out boldly and honestly in censure of it. I have long lamented the uprooting of the Japanese-Americans and considered it an act of which ultimately the government will have reason to be ashamed, but my letters of protest to Senators in Washington have, of course, been lost in the wind. What a deprivation the Japanese have suffered ---and what indignity they must endure!---I agree with you that the Country should re-assimilate them and enable them once more to become respectable, self-respecting, productive citizens. I hope your efforts enable those under jurisdiction to obtain something like justice in re-establishing themselves.

Sincerely yours,

Warren Staebler  
(Instructor in English, Miami Univ.)



100 Outgroup Relations  
Via letter to EHS from SK

7-12-43

3548 N. Halsted  
Chicago, Ill.  
July 2

Dear Ed:

Your letter with all the latest news on the Poston Political front was appreciated. I certainly miss the fun I used to have. It was playing with fire though under the circumstances.

Regards the political situation though, I don't think there should be any worry for the administrators. Those two, Nakamura and Okamoto are pretty tough; yet, Okamoto especially is well informed on the world situation, both regards the political and the economic standing and situations. I mean, they are at least logical and can be reasoned into certain line of action. Nakamura though is a little too tough on occasions. But, as far as action is concerned, I found them to act more pro-American than any of the other isseis. They are realists according to my understanding of their actions and thinking. Those 2, having lived under the democratic system for 30 years, find it hard to act otherwise. I've heard Mr. Okamoto remark that the kibeis were too radical for him.

I heard through a reliable source that a report on the Block 12 history is on file at the Sociological Research office. From what I heard, the history is about



100% off. It claims that Seido Hashima was the trouble maker and leader of the group. When, (I lived in Block 12) all the time, he held down the boys. The situation was as follows, I was more or less active in the community affairs, was the councilman of the block, and took a leading part in quieting the big kitchen trouble 12 had when Mrs. Ito started the ball rolling. As a consequence, I more or less had some power in the block. This I was able to do by the help of Seido. He interpreted for me in the block meetings. And, due to his deference to me as a brother-in-law he governed himself accordingly. I didn't mean to write all the foregoing, but, if what I heard is right, I wanted to see Seido get the right break and not the untruth. I got all the news through him. He finally moved out of the block because he was getting blamed for everything.

I finally found a place and Mary and Ronnie should be here in a week or two. The place is unfurnished. I think I'm going to squat here forever if the cold winter doesn't drive me south. The place is only three blocks from Lincoln Park. Ronnie should be able to enjoy himself there. They seem to be having trouble in reserving a Pullman. The housing is tight. I don't think some of the kids are going to be brought up in the So. Calif. fashion.

Some of the skilled boys are making good money. Auto mechanics draw as high as \$98 a week check. (works hard and fast) (work is piece work for yello cab) Others



are doing all right because of the overtime payments. 70 cents an hour with overtime brings a months pay to about \$180 or so.

There is a lot of sociological changes going on. Even I can see it through my engineering eyes. Girls and boys live in same apartments (groups of them) because of housing situation. This never happened in So. Calif.

Thanks again for your letter.

Regards

Smoot Katow



December 5, 1942

Gila River Relocation Center

Education-- This teaching business is no soft job, and I'm telling you that I would rather be back at my cook's job than have this job...but somebody has to do it and it might as well be me as someone else. I have a reputation as being among the few teachers who give their students work to do and I mean good assignments. About two weeks ago I got disgusted with the work and progress of my two geometry classes..I knew that most of them weren't paying attention in class half of the time when I was lecturing, so I gave them a good bawling out. I talked about other things that griped me that I had seen students do that wasn't becoming of a good American-Japanese student--such things as marking up building and school furnitures...

To tell you frankly, I like my job even if it is difficult work because I realize that I have something that I could give to these kids so that they may have a good chance for a better world they go out...It is my job to see that they understand and learn what I have to teach them and not merely memorize the subject because some college requires that they know it.

August 30, 1942

Our first day at this camp was a great disappointment. The place was not yet ready to accept people; and we were quartered temporarily in the barracks that some of the Turlock people were to have had. It was fortunate that they had turned on the shower-room water the night that we arrived...The center is not going to be a bad place after things get fixed up and life becomes normal as it should. The facilities here are better than we had at the Tulare Assembly Center which wasn't such a bad place. The barracks are built better and the latrines are a great improvement. The mess halls are larger and the block units are not over-crowded. I think that there are about 250 people in our section which has 14 living quarters.

The dust around here is terrific and it makes the air choking to breath. The nights doesn't make it much different from the day except that it is dark--and I mean dark as we have not yet had our electricity system set up in the barracks--no street lights at all.

Camp I wasn't much better than ours except that they had all of their facilities installed and a canteen. One of the reasons we had gone to camp I was because we heard that they had a swimming hole there; and it was being filled with water. We found the place but it was kinda disappointing.

They are still sending in people in spite of the incomplete condition of the center. It is a shame that we have to be shoved in here especially for the little kids and babies. I know that it must be a hardship on the mothers; but there seems to be little



OUTGROUP RELATIONS  
EXCERPTS FROM LETTERS

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that can be done except make the best of it. They have started to lay in the water and gas pipes for our barracks in this block; and I guess that it will be about next week before we will be able to make use of the water pipe line.

ku



OUTGROUP RELATIONS  
EXCERPTS FROM LETTERS

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Sentiment-- I hope this camp life hasn't been too boring. I think that we nisei should make the most we can out of these trying conditions and create within our minds a wholesome and healthy attitude. What can be so detrimental to our morale than a pessimistic, depressing attitude ! Surely there are better things to come and by our constant wishing and praying we will find our silver lining on the dark clouds which hang overhead.



OUTGROUP RELATIONS 101  
OTHER RELOCATION CENTERS  
EXCERPTS FROM LETTERS

March 7, 1943

K✓  
Jerome W.R.A.

We have 3 blocks of newly arrived evacuees from the Hawaiian Islands. The islanders are very friendly people and have interesting stories to tell of life on the islands. and of Dec. 7. There are a majority of kibei and young people in this group. They tell us that the cold weather here is such a sharp contrast with the warm climate of Hawaii.

Education- I am now teaching in the elementary school. It seems that they were short of teachers so I applied and was accepted. Since January 4 I have been teaching the 5th grade....

I have 23 pupils, (9 boys and 14 girls--two from the Islands) in my class. The group is a very lively and congenial one and we have fun. I try to make the class as interesting as possible and to bring in as much social activities as I can. During February we had a Valentine party with games, songs, refreshments. It was good to see the children enjoying it so much. The other day we spent a whole afternoon cleaning windows--and honestly,--the windows look dirtier now than when we started and on top of that--1 broken window. What a mess!

recreation- Recreation and social activities here are rather full. Each of the blocks now has a recreation chairman who takes charge for the block. We have ping pong, basketball, volleyball, etc...We have our own dance band here--a 14 piece orchestra--the "Densoneers."

Last night we saw our first movie in camp "How Green was My Valley" with Walter Pidgeon. It was good to see a movie after missing it for so long.

There is a fad here of collecting tree knobs and stumps from the forest area, which are peeled and varnished. It's a wonder what beautiful pieces can be found and collected--very artistic and full of expression.

When the weather gets warmer, we are looking forward to taking hikes in the forest area which surrounds the camp. Already they are beginning to clear portions of that area for agricultural purposes. They have also planned a park with a barbecue pit,--picnic grounds, etc., which should be ready by spring.



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OUTGROUP RELATIONS  
via: MAIN CANTEEN BOOKSTORE  
STATISTICS ON MAGAZINES AND NEWSPAPERS  
COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE

4-1-43

5

NEWSPAPER

EXAMINERS

TIMES

PACIFIC  
CITIZEN

DATE	IN-COMING	OUT-GOING	IN-COMING	OUT-GOING	
2-8	100	3	89	2	
9	100		90	1	
10	100	2	90	1	136
11	100	4	87	35	
12	100	3	90	1	
13	100	3	90	1	
14	175		90		
15	100	47	90	0	
16	100	0	90	0	
17	100	9	90	16	13
18	100	0	90	0	
19	100	0	90	0	
20	100	0	90	0	
21	75		85		
22	200	94	90		
23	100		90		
24	100		90		14
25	100		159		73
26	100	20	159	16	
27	100		159	20	
28	100	Comics	200		



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 COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE

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		NEWSPAPER					
EXAMINER		TIMES		PACIFIC		CITIZEN	
DATE	IN-COMING	OUT-GOING	IN-COMING	OUT-GOING			
3 - 1'			160				
2							
3'			152			15	
4'	100	81	150				
5'	150						
6'	150		150	36			
7'	_____	_____	_____	_____			
8'	100		160	18			
9'	100		157	18			
10'	150		160	21		16	
11'	100			22			
12'	100		160	30			
13'	100		160	36			
14'	250	Comic	225				
15'	100		135				
16'	100		135				



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DATES	MAGAZINES	2/16/43	OUT-GOING
		IN-COMING	
	Joe Palooka comic	40	
	Air Trails	10	
	Heroic comic	70	
	Savage	40	
	Sport	20	
	Shadow comic	42	
	Star Songs	48	
	Baseball	7	
	Song Parade	60	
	Look	14	



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 via: MAIN CANTEEN BOOKSTORE  
 STATISTICS ON MAGAZINES AND NEWSPAPERS  
 COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE

4-1-43 S

DATE	MAGAZINES	IN-COMING	OUT-GOING
2/18/43	U. S. News	2	
	Popular Photography	4	
	All American Comic	25	
	Bat Man Comics	10	
	Capt. Marvel	25	
	Whiz Comic	8	
	Sparkler Comic	50	
	Blue Bolt	23	
	Walt Disney	40	
	Flash Comics	14	
	Adventure	14	
	Post - Feb. 6 issue	53	
	Movie Star	15	
	Motion Picture	15	
	Time	50	
	Movie Show	9	
	Screen Guide	25	
	Mechanix Ill.	14	
	Complete Sport	15	
	Liberty - Feb. 20 issue	70	
	Life	125	
	Colliers	30	



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OUTGROUP RELATIONS  
 via: MAIN CANTEEN BOOKSTORE  
 STATISTICS ON MAGAZINE AND NEWSPAPER  
 COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE

4-1-43

DATE	MAGAZINES	IN-COMING	OUT-GOING
2/19/43	Flying	4	
	Omnibook	2	
	Best Seller Mystery	10	
	Vogue	14	
	Secrets	5	
	Deserts	15	
	Newsweek	40	
	Post - Feb. 13 issue	50	
	Look	45	
	Comics on Parade	38	
	Marvel Comics	34	
	Ace Comics	25	
	Charm	25	
	Liberty	48	
	Action	25	
	Detective	22	
	Pep Comics	25	
	True Comics	24	



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OUTGROUP RELATIONS  
 via: MAIN CANTEN BOOKSTORE  
 STATISTICS ON MAGAZINES AND NEWSPAPERS  
 COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE

4-1-43

DATE	MAGAZINES	IN-COMING	OUT-GOING
2/25/43			
	World Almanac	4	
	Tune In	14	
	Air Progress	9	
	Tip Top Comic	75	
	Post	62	
	Adventure Comic	25	
	American Greatest	15	
	Time	50	
	Newsweek	45	
	Hollywood	5	
	U.S. News	2	
	Mercury	10	
	Mademoiselle	11	
	Good Housekeeping	20	
	Collier	30	
	House and Garden	5	
	Big Shot Comic	48	
	Women's Home Companion	98	
	Life	130	



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via: MAIN CANTEN BOOKSTORE  
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COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE

4-1-43.

DATE	MAGAZINES	IN-COMING	OUT-GOING
3/4/43	Shadow Comics	45	
	Wambi Jungle Boy	40	
	Jungle Comics	48	
	Wings Comics	28	
	Super Magician	19	
	Sheenia Comics	20	
	Kings Comics	34	
	Captain Marvel Comics	19	
	Famous Comics	50	
	Captain Midnight	9	
	Target Comics	25	
	Magic Comics	24	
	Newsweek	40	
	Time	50	
	Look	39	
	Journal	46	
	Colliers	79	
	Life	100	
	Pic	34	
	Magazine Digest	25	
	Post	41	
	Coronet	75	
	Reader's Digest	58	
	Parent Magazine	4	
	Scientific American	8	
	Liberty	49	
	Sky Ways Magician	5	
	Home Craftsman	5	
	Super Sport	15	
	McCalls	21	
	World War Map	17	
	Pacific Citizen	80	
	Romance	4	



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	MAGAZINES	STORE	IN	OUT
		I	COMING	GOING
100	Planet Comics	50		
175	Pic	75		
25	Vogue Pattern Book	10		
165	Look	75		
100	Doc Savage Comics	50		
35	Sport	15		
4	Doc Savage Magazine	4		
99	Real Life Comic	50		
18	Air Trails	10		
110	Star Songs	50		



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 OUTGROUP RELATIONS  
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DATE	MAGAZINES	in-coming	out-going
3/12/43	Big Shot Comics	50	
	Supersnipe Comics	30	
	Jingle Jangle	75	
	Thrilling Comics	50	
	Popular Comics	23	
	Merry Melodies	27	
	New Funnies	23	
	Master Comics	5	
	Shadow Comics	50	
	Superman Comics	26	
	Whiz Comics	15	
	Tip Top	10	
	Best Comics	35	
	Gene Autry Comics	5	
	Capt. Midnight	9	
	Modern Screen	28	
	Movies	15	
	Movie Life	27	
	Photo Play	20	
	Argosy	13	
	Popular Mechanics	25	
	Liberty	50	
	Song Hits	25	
	Harpers	25	
	Atlantic	1	



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STATISTICS ON MAGAZINES AND NEWSPAPERS  
COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE

4-1-43

DATE	MAGAZINES	IN-COMING	OUT-GOING
(Cont.)			
3/12/43	Science Digest	5	
	American Home	20	
	Playmate	3	
	Vogue	10	
	Inside Detective	15	
	Air Tech.	5	
	Star Song	19	
	Time	50	
	Glamour	34	
	Newsweek	45	
	War Heroes	24	
	Life	136	
	Colliers	36	
	Air Progress	6	
	Baseball	9	
	Post	50	
	Life	124	
	Liberty	48	
	Bazaar	5	
	Esquire	12	
	Popular Science	25	
	American	70	
	Collier	32	
	Cosmopolitan	24	



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COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE

4-1-43

DATE	MAGAZINES	IN-COMING	OUT-GOING
(Cont.)			
3/12/43	Sea Story	6	
	McCall's		
	Click	49	



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3/16/43

NEWSWEEK	44
REDBOOK	25
SILVER SCREEN	25
MECHANIX ILLUSTRATED	11
TIME	50
BLUE BOOK	7
FLASH COMICS	23
BLUE BOLT COMICS	22
MOVIE STAR	14
ACTION COMICS	33
SCREEN GUIDE	24
SCREENLAND	24
MOVIE SHOW	10
LIBERTY	49
MAGIC COMICS	15
TRUE COMICS	32
ACE COMICS	20
POST	60
PACIFIC CITIZEN - Th. 3-4	44
" " - Th. 3-11	44
SPORTING NEWS - Feb. 4	9
" " - Feb. 11	9



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3/20/43

CHARM	27
SECRETS	5
VOGUE	9 9
FAMOUS FUNNIES	40
WALT DISNEY COMICS	37
SUPER COMICS	8
MARVEL	26
STARTING COMICS	38
TIP TOP COMICS	48
YOUR LIFE	10
SPORTS	15
PHOTOGRAPHY	5
OMNIBOOK	3
HOUSE AND GARDEN	10
MADemoisELLE	12
SONG PARADE	60
STARDOM	10
POST	60
DETECTIVE COMICS	28
COLLIERS	28
LIFE	148



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OUTGROUP RELATIONS  
via: MAIN CANTEN BOOKSTORE  
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COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE

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3/26/43

Reader's Digest	100
Coronet	23
Facts	15
Mercury	12
Desert Magazine	15
Latest Song Hits	12
Motion Picture	25
Gags	15
Blue Bettie Comics	50
Mutt and Jeff Comics	36
New Funnies	32
Newsweek	39
Home Companion	120
Good Housekeeping	24
Pep Comics	24
Merry Melodies	17
Our Gang Comics	13
Time	50
All Flash Comics	25
Capt. Marvel Comics	26
Coo Goo Comics	70
Pic	98
Home Journal	32
Post	52
Popular Comics	24
Adventure	15
Pacific Citizen's 3/18/43	45
Liberty	50
Popular Cross Word Puzzles	16
Sparkler Comics	30



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STATISTICS ON MAGAZINES AND NEWSPAPERS  
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3/31/43

HARPER'S MAGAZINE	10
COSMOPOLITAN	29
PIONEER COMICS	10
PIC	24
PACIFIC CITIZEN	37
TARGET COMICS	27
NEWSWEEK	40
MOVIES	10
LIBERTY	60
VOGUE	11
AIR NEWS	4
LOOK	55
POST	58



104 a.  
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L.A. TIMES

5/12/42

S

## Chamber's Jap Stand Lauded

HANFORD, May 11.—Action of the Hanford Chamber of Commerce in adopting a resolution protesting the release of Japanese from relocation centers and their projected return to California was lauded last night by Wallace Ware, Los Angeles attorney, speaking before the chamber.

"No man," said Ware, "can be a good Californian and a good American when he owes only half of his allegiance to America and the other half to Hirohito.

"The resolution protesting the release and return of the Japs is a call to arms to safeguard the American heritage of this State."

The chamber resolution, copies of which were sent to the President, the California delegation in Congress and to officials of the War Relocation Authority, asserted California never had wanted the Japs, that they are a menace to the safety of the nation, that they are not needed by California farmers or industries, and their return not only would hamper the war effort but might lead to bloodshed.

## Supervisors Favor Coast Jap Ban

SAN DIEGO, May 11.—The County Board of Supervisors today was on record favoring the ban against Japanese from the Pacific Coast, in a resolution sent to President Roosevelt.

The Supervisors urged that Japs be permitted to contribute to the war effort, but only in inland areas and under Army supervision. Care should be taken, the Supervisors warned, to segregate Japs from Filipinos when engaged in agricultural activity.



✓  
102. Outgroup.

5  
4-20, 1943

Observation. T.S.

L.A. Times article on Powell; and Nisei Soldier's freedom to the West Coast.

Bleeding hearts, a cognomen which was given to Dr. Powell, by Ainsworth of the L.A. Times, over his defense of the evacuee at a convention in St. Louis brought comments from the Gentlemen's sitting room, or ~~xxxxxx~~ a place more commonly known as the "After-breakfast Club." As per usual, copies of the Boston Chronicle was being digested, and articles rehashed by the members of the club. As regards Ainsworth's article, the members has nothing but praise for Powell, for having guts enough to come out with it. They were forced to admit that they had figured out all wrong. George Shimamoto, an older nisei said something to this effect, "Dr. Powell is all right. He sure had guts to say those things."

The soldiers returning to the west coast is old news to some of the Postonians. Eichi Nakazono, of Camp Savage, went to San Francisco several weeks ago for a brief stay, as well as Mineo Kobayashi. Mineo Kobayashi went back to Westmoreland, in the Imperial Valley. This may have been going on for sometime, but was not publicized. Block members were beginning to get optimistic on the future outlook as far as the return to California was concerned.