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THE EVACUEE SPEAKS NEWSLETTER

August 1, 1942

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS:

This is the first of a regular weekly private newsletter, which will be sent to a select list of people who should know the facts and views of the evacuees now interned. The writers make no claim that the personal views presented are those of the center residents as a whole; yet, a sincere attempt shall be made to make the newsletter as factual and objective and scientific as possible, in order that the reader may draw his own conclusions. A variety of problems of the Center residents shall be presented as they occur.

HEARING BOARDS FOR THE EVACUEES

From the very start, the racial basis of the evacuation was pointed out as a danger and a violation of the principles that our country is fighting for, and if its policy is pursued, it will end by stripping the nisei of citizenship and deporting them together with the issei to Japan. Vociferous demands have been made by Christians and liberals to cease this practice and institute hearing boards to give justice to the evacuees. However, hearings and the subsequent release of the evacuees are not as simple as they sound. The problem of making a living under the intense suspicion of the public must be considered. Proving ones loyalty is a problem in itself. The issei, who are alien, and the nisei, who are citizen, (but about half of whom are still young and dependent) create a complication that deserves serious scrutiny. Leaving those who are unable to prove themselves loyal and who would rise considerably in number would invite an unexpected result of making all the centers truly concentration camps of "undesirables." This would be tragic. The Japanese problem cannot be regarded merely on abstract and theoretical grounds. The answer, however, is in finding loyal elements by hearings and putting them to useful work, such as in education and leadership, in the relocation areas. That would lift the evacuee's morale tremendously, by simply showing trust and taking them in confidence, and avoid the complicated problems that may rise from the careless release of the evacuees after hearings.

ON CIVIL LIBERTIES

The violation of the Constitutional rights of American citizens is a serious affair and should be contested. The American Civil Liberties Union has taken the evacuation of the Japanese-Americans as a violation of the civil liberties and is contesting its legality through several test cases. However, the condition of war produces a situation in which the violation of civil liberties becomes often inevitable. This happened in the Civil War and in the last war. Making an issue of a constitutional case, now, ignoring the war condition, is suicidal. It will only stir the existing discontent of the nisei and distract them from paying attention to the war effort to the immediate problem. Besides this, it will bring frustration to

them for the duration of the war. Such an issue, which will come in conflict with the war effort, will be put off until the war is ended, as shown by other cases brought up under the wars. Making an issue now is untimely and not helpful to the nisei. Even if something is done about it, it would not be the solution for the problem that confronts the Japanese, for drawing a sharp line on the basis of citizenship, will only alienate the nisei from the issei, and the malignant aspect of the issei-nisei relation will become worse. Much better results will be achieved by helping the nisei to understand the war, drawing them into the war effort, and by presenting their case after the war, when the nation will be ready to review the merits of the people, their sacrifices made, and compensate them for whatever loss they suffered. Thus they may enjoy the fruits of victory.

NISEI IN THE WAR EFFORT

Unable, now, to participate fully in the war effort, the interned nisei undoubtedly feels some frustration and exclusion from the American scene, which is completely concentrated on the winning of the war. Although a large number of nisei in the army are serving in the utmost capacity, although evacuation itself has been called a sacrifice for the war effort, and although some are working on war industries such as camouflage net weaving in the Centers: very few of the evacuees are allowed to feel that their temporary suspension of citizenship rights by internment is actually a part of the winning of the war. For example, instead of being made to realize that camouflage net weaving is a vital war industry and consequently that their services are necessary, the workers are told that if they are dissatisfied, they may leave the job. The administration has failed to realize that in order to overcome the sense of being unwanted in America, the nisei, himself, must feel necessary to the war effort. No encouragement, and often suppression of progressively pro-Democratic attitudes, is given by the administration by their failure to recognize the pro-Democratic elements, which could be instrumental in a wide program of enlightenment for Democracy among the vast majority of the uncertain element -- the uncertain element, which is neither pro or anti-Democratic. Perhaps the immediate need is an enlightening program for the administrators, whereby they may know that the stringent regulations, which are intended to curb the actively pro-Fascist elements, is fast encouraging many of the passive majority toward the anti-Democratic.

COMPOSITION OF CENTER POPULATION

Upon this question of the citizen and non-citizen ratio, an erroneous concept is founded; it is implied that, since 70,000 of the 110,000 evacuees are American citizens, great injustices have been done by the American government to the majority because of the minority. Literally speaking, there is nothing wrong in this statement. However, nothing could be more fallacious. The composition of the Center residents, in terms of the adult-thinking population, (those who have their independent opinions and are at all influential in their contacts with their neighbors), has the

exact opposite ratio. Although exact figures are not yet available, it is safe to say that two-thirds of the American born Japanese are under twenty-one; therefore, their influence is negligible in Center life. Because of this fact, at least equal emphasis must be placed upon the rights of the first generation, who are non-citizens, and the second generation, who are citizens of the U.S., in making proposals regarding Center residents. Unless this principle is recognized, a proposal with the best of intentions can invite negative results.

THE ISSEI VIEW OF THE NISEI

What are the attitudes of the first generation toward the second generation? Is there sufficient harmony between the two? Unfortunately, the answer must be no. The attitude of the first generation toward their American-born off-spring is that of mild contempt and even antagonism. The youth and inexperience of the younger generation is, obviously, one of the reasons for this situation; however, the approach of the Caucasian Americans, including the religious workers, is responsible to an extent. Since Pearl Harbor, very few Caucasian Americans have come to the defense of the rights of the non-citizen issei, and the voices that protested to the evacuation found their major argument in the fact that "the majority of the evacuees are American citizens." This distinction between the citizen Japanese and the non-citizen Japanese, while necessary in a certain sense and therefore justified, served, not only to widen the already existing gap between the first and second generations, but gave an entirely false concept to the yet inexperienced nisei. The majority of the nisei failed to come to the aid of the first generation; moreover, they even refused to do anything with the "enemy-alien," thinking this phrase to mean "alien enemy." However, the evacuation applied to both the citizen and non-citizen alike--none of the citizen Japanese were exempt from the order. The result was a sudden awakening on the part of the nisei to cold reality and consequent complaints, while from the issei came the I-told-you-so attitude.

Friends outside must awaken to this strange situation. Under these circumstances, even the best of intentions in stressing citizenship as a classification of the loyal and disloyal, can greatly damage and even nullify the sacrifices that the American Japanese are rendering in evacuation toward insuring victory for the United Nations.

THE NISEI AND HIS PARENTS

Still the most formidable barrier between the first and second generations is the Japanese language difficulty of the nisei (and on the other hand, the English language problem of the Issei). The one group expressing itself to the other is at best awkward; many nisei, therefore, avoid conversing with the issei whenever possible. While there may be sympathy for each other, there is no real bond of understanding. The parent, to the nisei, is still old-fashioned but is admittedly making some "progress" in discarding anachronistic notions. An issei remarked that in these social dances, the boy is effeminate and the girl brazen, but the nisei looks upon this observation with humor and tolerance. The nisei continues to admire the courage and

moral stamina of his parents; it remains as a matter of fact that it is the parent who does most of the spiritual encouraging here in camp.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE CLASSES

Five hundred issei are attending the morning, afternoon, and evening classes in beginning English in order to gain a speaking, reading, and writing knowledge of the language.

THE DEMOCRATIC ENLIGHTENMENT PROGRAM

One of the most encouraging things in Center life at Santa Anita is that a class, conducted by two issei for the sole benefit of the non-English speaking Center residents, on American Geography and History is attracting steady listeners. The class, which started with only 28 students, has grown in the course of six weeks, into a class almost ten times as large in the morning and another class of 100 in the afternoon, in order to answer popular demand.

The fundamental approach of this class, it appears, is not Americanization, but democratic enlightenment. The majority of the listeners, being subjects of Japan and present evacuees, cannot be made the subjects of an out and out Americanization program in the sense of "making them good Americans." The contention of the initiators of this class is, "Give the Santa Anita residents facts regarding America; they will be able to come to their own conclusions."

Besides the astounding record of attendance, the reaction on the part of the students is heart-felt appreciation for the class. This class, conducted entirely in Japanese, is serving as a real morale builder in the Center.

BAN ON JAPANESE LITERATURE

The Center regulation, banning all books written in Japanese, except Bibles, hymnals, and English-Japanese dictionaries, was received by the Center residents with dismay. It was a terrible blow on the morale of the Japanese-reading residents because the majority of them had selected what they considered "good" books and brought them over to the Center. Some of them were very resentful, almost to the point of wishing to defy such an order. Politically minded Japanese-Americans saw in it a milder form of the Nazi "burning of books," perhaps, with a bit of exaggeration, but on a seemingly justifiable ground. No reason has been given for the order, thus far, which was issued on July 8, 1942, and the residents are worried that it may be the first of a series of suppressive measures.

Word has been received this week that Japanese records (phonograph records) are to be sent to San Francisco.

STUDENT RELOCATION

Congressman Leland M. Ford's request that the program of student relocation be postponed until further investigation has caused a considerable amount of concern among over 500 students who submitted applications to the representatives of the National Student Relocation Committee on July 9 from the Santa Anita Assembly Center. Some

students who had completed all arrangements to leave for school before coming to the Center, including acceptance by the university, finances, transportation, and residence were sorely disappointed to find that all student releases had been frozen. Students who had remained in school until the last day of evacuation, in order to get full credit for the semester, are now saying that they should have left for school as soon as they learned of the pending evacuation order. The high school graduates, without counsel regarding the choice of school, of training or the advisability of such, are bewildered. The graduate students are beginning to realize more acutely that the number of schools that can offer them advanced work is very limited. The great majority of applicants, without financial aid, a list of available schools, and vocational counsel, are patiently waiting for word from the Relocation Committee, hoping that arrangements can somehow be made before the fall semester, although the spring and summer quarters have been missed. Some students feel that their responsibility is with their families or in the relocation areas; these students have come to the decision that they can be of more use, even without advanced education, in whatever capacity that will be available to them in the new areas.

In answer to Congressman Ford's argument that the problems of the interruption of schooling for the nisei is a minor one, in comparison with the disruption in education for the whole of American youth in the army and in defense industries, the nisei students point out the fact that over 4,000 nisei are serving in the armed forces of the United States.

EFFECTS OF THE STRIKE (CAMOUFLAGE NET--June 16 & 17) ON CENTER LIFE

The first strike of memorable significance was the camouflage walkout. That this has had a material effect upon camp life and subsequent strikes is undeniable. The camouflage workers won enviable concessions such as a raise in pay, special lunch line, afternoon lemonade, etc. People in other phases of camp activity, comparing their own plight, are beginning to feel resentful of the net workers' gains and are similarly asking for higher wages and special work privileges. Some center inhabitants are of the temper that a general strike is the only effective means of "getting to" the camp officials, for it is a widespread opinion that the administrators are entirely unsympathetic and uncooperative. The young people, many of whom have never participated in a strike before, take the whole affair seriously, and in some cases will brook no opposition. As for example, recently in one of the mess halls a youth who is a "door-man" was beaten up severely because he had warned the diners to bring their own plates in view of a pending strike. The strike has given to the worker a new-found sense of dignity, it has lent tension to the Center atmosphere, and whether it will promote understanding between the Center administrators and the people remains to be seen.

THE EVACUEE SPEAKS
PRIVATE NEWSLETTER

August 30, 1942

THIRTY-FOUR YOUTHS ORDERED TO LEAVE CENTER

This morning, August 17th, eleven boys out of 34 slated to leave left camp at 3:30 A.M. for the Tule Lake Relocation Center. Why they had to go was not explained by anything more than the phrase, "for the good of the center." Not any of these people had an inkling of the order until yesterday afternoon between 2:15 and 3:30 P.M. Some are accustomed to coming home late at night, and these, of course, did not learn of it until then. A committee of five, including the youth leaders, were with the Center Manager, Wilbur, until 1:30 A.M. this morning, trying to explain the case for these boys as well as attempting to secure a reason for the order. Mr. Wilbur, after listening to them, phoned to five different agencies in San Francisco to determine whether he could have the order rescinded. The final reply from the responsible army officer was no.

The action will aggravate the already delicate camp situation. The youths--three of whom are under twenty and a fourth just twenty-one--are being separated from their parents and relatives without explanation. However, the administrators have assured them that the families will positively be rejoined. Personal investigation of four of the boys revealed no valid reason for their removal for the "good of the center." As a matter of important fact, one is a needed club advisor and the others were leading club members. If anything, they are needed here for the "good of the center." More boys have been given notice to prepare themselves for leaving this evening.

Why does the Army refuse to give reasons for their removal? What effect will this have upon Center morale, upon the relatives, upon the youth group? What will this do to the organized Boys' Club activities which have just begun to make significant progress, even among the less manageable youth? And most important--what will this do to the thinking of the boy, that is, will it make the task of understanding and belief in Democracy impossible?

CENTER RESIDENTS MOB POLICEMEN

On Sunday, August 9, the daily newspapers carried the first account of the riot which took place five days earlier. The news release was incomplete in one important respect: it failed to mention the immediately provoking cause, the police contraband search. During that day, some of the center residents attacked a member of the Internal Security Police and threatened others. In order to understand this amazing burst of defiance, certain previous administrative measures should be noted.

At the end of May, camp managers severely regulated all center meetings, banning those which would discuss political topics of an international, national, state, or local nature. Soon afterwards, July 7, they curtailed the reading and possession of Japanese language literature, excepting the English-Japanese dictionaries, Hymn books and Bibles. Then, on July 28, a ban was placed on all Japanese records, voice and instrumental; they later modified this to include only those of a "subversive nature." *These orders had the effect of creating a cumulative resentment among the inhabitants, many of whom surmised that the administrators were deliberately planning to make their lives as miserable as possible.

*This modification has not yet been publicly announced.

So, if the steps were intended to curb things un-American, the purpose was defeated in the alienation of many people.

Early Tuesday morning, August 4, there was nothing to indicate that anything unusual would occur. About 10:15, however, people observed policemen going into the house units and coming out with hot plates, dishes, records, books, screwdrivers, hammers, sacks of rice, etc. A house to house search for contraband was being conducted. Tales of money and jewelry being taken, houses broken into by policemen immediately became rife, and knots of people formed in front of barracks to prevent further searching. People stormed the administrative offices with complaints of police robbery and mistreatment. In the Recreational Hall, all workers were released to go home and "protect their belongings." Feeling grew high; this "last straw" sentiment burst the emotional cyst. At 3 in the afternoon a crowd picked out a policeman accused of having money and jewelry concealed in his hat and chased him into the Orange Mess Hall. He was rescued a short while later by other members of the police force on a pick-up truck. The crowd, now highly excited, sought out a long-suspected "informer," Kawaguchi. Cornered in the government house, he failed to satisfy their inquiries about his activities. They beat him severely. At approximately the same time a crowd of some two hundred people assembled in front of the police office in the grandstand, demanding the return of their belongings. The soldiers (Military Police) appeared at 5:15 P.M. to quell the crowd, and they remained until Friday afternoon, August 7. On Wednesday, August 5, the MP's systematically checked the complaints; they were courteous and were well-received by the inhabitants.

There was little doubt in the minds of the thinking population that an incident such as this was coming for some time. Suppressed by one means or another, the people had to find an outlet for their long pent-up feelings.

Some other noteworthy aspects of the riot incident: the uncovering of a liquor smuggling plot, involving Caucasian mess hall stewards and cooks; definite evidence of homes broken into without either the knowledge or consent of the owner; the deplorable educational effect upon the children; loss of confidence in the Internal Security Police; and hope for improved treatment by the inhabitants with the change of certain administrators, thus creating a more receptive Center mentality.

REACTION OF THE ISSEI TO THE AUGUST 4TH INCIDENT

The reaction of the issei residents to the unfortunate events of August 4th is very interesting. First, they did not take active part in violence, remaining, in most cases, as interested spectators. Second, it was they, more than the nisei, who felt relieved. They had been complaining that their offspring were spineless. Now, they had seen with their own eyes that the nisei can be aroused, when there is just cause to become aroused. Several issei expressed their feelings thus: "I misjudged the nisei. They're all right. I'm glad." Regarding their unusual calmness, several careful observers expressed this view: had the search occurred after the U.S. offensive near the Solomon Islands, the issei could not have remained calm; on August 4th, the news of the offensive was still unpublished; the issei could be composed because they were confident that Japan was winning. Serious thought must be given to this very interesting observation, for it is quite possible that the issei will be more likely to cause trouble when they are worried and desperate about the war situation.

DEMOCRATIC-ENLIGHTENMENT CLASSES CONTINUE

The adult classes in democratic enlightenment stood their first serious test during the days when the Assembly Center was placed under military control. Despite flying rumors that all activities were suspended and that there would be no school session, more than 170 listeners attended the class on Wednesday morning, August 6th, the morning after the mobbing of the policemen. Although the attendance was only half of the average daily attendance for the previous week, there were enough present to continue lectures. When the class was organized ten weeks ago, morale building was its primary object, together with an attempt to serve as a stabilizing factor in the Center. Its undisturbed continuation during those turbulent days gave confidence and stability to the greatly shaken people of the Center. The calisthenics group, which had voluntarily discontinued its meeting Wednesday morning, resumed the next day, when one of the participants, a student of the democratic enlightenment class, told the leader that the class had gone on as usual and that keeping the Center life as normal as possible would help greatly in keeping up morale among the residents.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE CLASSES

In the grandstand every morning and afternoon, English language classes are held. The course intends to teach the Issei and Kibei self-expression in and understanding of English. Since the instruction period is short, conversation is stressed, and only enough grammar to promote the understanding of oral speech is taught. The pupil is classified into one of twenty-five groups, according to the degree he comprehends English. There are classes where the uneducated beginner is schooled in the rudimentary ABC's, then they range upward through the intermediate, which works upon sentence structure and composition, up to the senior group. The latter reads and discusses books and news articles. Everyone makes amazing progress to the delight of both the teachers and pupils. Attendance is regular in spite of the walking distance to class and the necessity of climbing the grandstand stairs. The instructors, with limited teaching materials, secure what they can in the Santa Anita library and work out the lessons together at meetings. There is a shortage of blackboards and chalk. There are other difficulties: noise and hubbub from the camouflage workers who work below; children, and other English classes; and the dust from the camouflage nets.

THE ROLE OF 'THE PACIFIC CITIZEN'

We are at war--and because of our affinity with the enemy in the past, we have been affected by a military measure for the security of the country. The task of leadership for the nisei is that of offering a constructive program and guiding the nisei through the test that the evacuation and resettlement program presents. The Pacific Citizen, the newspaper of the Japanese American Citizens' League and the only national newspaper publication for the nisei, has, unfortunately, failed to give such leadership thus far. Instead, it has become a "loud-speaker" that cries, "We've been done wrong. Where is Democracy?" Instead of giving the nisei a positive view and giving the understanding that a measure restricting Japanese in America is inevitable in view of the complicated relationship of the nisei--it fell to questioning the evacuation. It forgot that we are in a war and wrote in such a way that the attention of the nisei was diverted from the war, its problems, and its relation to the nisei--to abstract questioning. Instead of uplifting the morale of the nisei and creating a positive attitude, it broke morale by its negative policy. The Pacific Citizen must of necessity grasp the reality of the position of the Japanese-Americans in the war, see that the situation of

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the nisei arose from the war, and give positive leadership to the nisei.

TEST CASES FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES

The handling of the test cases for the civil liberties of the Japanese evacuees reveals a weakness on the part of the organization which has taken them up and which unless checked, may prove to be a boomerang to the Japanese. It is unfortunate that the organization has not been more realistic about the very thing that brought about the evacuation: the war with Japan. A section of the Japanese population had been involved in partisanship to Japan's war. One of the test case subjects had been connected with such activities. The enemy within the Japanese is trying to utilize every opportunity found in the democratic system to further his activities; and unless careful checks are not made as to his previous activities and his true character revealed, not only will the organization be disgraced for aiding the enemy, but the Japanese-Americans will be placed in a position that will invite attack from groups that have already made a number of attempts to injure the Japanese.

COOPS IN THE RELOCATION AREAS

Many interesting opinions have been expressed by Center residents regarding the cooperative organization in the Relocation Areas. Summarized, their opinion seems to be: It is all right to have coops, but to ban all private enterprise is bad. There should at least be permitted a limited number of private enterprises--barbershops, shoe-repairing, and the like should be done by individuals who use their own skills and tools. There would be better service, and individuals in these professions would feel more free than if they were working under the administration. It is added that in case there are various types of cooperatives, including consumer cooperatives, those with idle capital should be permitted to invest with limited dividend assured. Making more flexible the present strict regulations would have three advantages: (1) Idle capital can be used for the benefit of the residents, (2) those with capital and experience are given incentive for harder work, (3) all the residents are given hope that at the time they must leave the area after the war there will be opportunity for free enterprise on their own money. Their greatest worry at present seems to be that there are no prospects of making money for the duration of the war, and both the issei and the nisei are horrified at the thought of getting out of the Areas penniless, when the war ends. Permitted limited private enterprise and private investment may greatly relieve such worries.

GOVERNMENT ISSUE OF CLOTHING

Beginning Friday, August 14, notice of clothing issuance to the Center residents were distributed. According to this, each person, adult or child, is given a certain allotment ranging from \$2.25 to \$4.61 per month, retroactive from the day of induction to August 31. Thus, a male adult arriving on May 1st will be given \$15.24, which is the amount he can order from the approved list of clothing from the Sears and Roebuck Company. Those who have already been issued shoes will have the cost of the shoes deducted from their clothing allowance--\$3.00 for the men and \$1.75 for women.

NEW MESS CARD SYSTEM OF FEEDING

A month ago, a card system of feeding was started in the mess halls. The numbered card indicates the hour at which the resident is to have his meals, and no one is allowed to enter the mess hall except at the time indicated. The system has eliminated long queues of people who used to wait as long as half an hour. It appears that the new method has cut down on waste considerably and may be the cause of a noticeable improvement in food. The residents are now enjoying butter, rice, and other vegetables served "family style" on the table

and only the main dish is served cafeteria style.

WRITERS' PROJECT

About twenty-five qualified writers and research workers are now engaged in compiling a documentary history of Santa Anita under the supervision of Louis Suski, former English section editor of a Los Angeles Japanese newspaper. Most of the writers are college graduates with experience in sociological and historical research, chosen from a large number of applicants. Dr. Yamato Ichihashi, a former Stanford professor who has recently left for the Tule Lake Relocation Center, served in an advisory capacity in organizing and assigning various phases of the project. Although the project has been in formal existence for a month, the problems of the selection of personnel, obtaining work orders, and administrative sanction of the program of research, submitted in outline form, have delayed progress. Every phase of the development of the community, from the first day of induction to the last day of relocation to a 'for-the-duration' area will be studied in detail. It may prove to be of great value in understanding the problems confronted in the organization and smooth-functioning of an evacuee community.

WAR POSTER CONTEST

"Drawn by Japs--to Fight Japs" was the caption under a picture in a Los Angeles newspaper of the posters submitted to the War Poster Contest of the Art Directors' Club of Los Angeles by seven nisei artists at the Santa Anita Assembly Center. After much controversy, in which hundreds of persons telephoned the club, expressing their views, the organization decided that "Art, like music, is universal and should not be considered from a racial standpoint." One of the committeemen who objected to considering the posters made by nisei presented, perhaps, the opinion of a large number of the American public: "We are at war. Maybe these Japanese youngsters do feel loyal to the United States. The fact still remains they are Japanese and unfortunately become a party to Japanese atrocities now being committed. I definitely do not feel that they should be considered as winners of any of the prizes or honorable mentions." On the other hand, the nisei had an understanding spokesman on the committee who said, "Of course they should be allowed to enter. They didn't consent to be born Japanese. Most of them are not in favor of the present Japanese government or its actions. From a standpoint of fairness, their work should be judged on ability, not on the attitude we think the general public may take."

No word has been received from the committee as to whether any of the posters submitted won any of the war-bond prizes, but the artists are pleased that their posters have been of some worth in presenting to the American public their desire to participate in the war-effort.

GIRLS' CLUBS UNDERTAKE SOCIAL WELFARE WORK

The older girls' clubs are busily engaged in making layettes for the needy babies in the Center from materials which were donated by various individuals and organizations. Many of the mothers are without funds to buy even the most necessary diapers. However, with the clothing issue, which has begun this week in the form of orders to the Sears and Roebuck Company, some of this shortage may be alleviated. Because the amount allotted for infants is \$2.25 a month, there will undoubtedly be further needs.

Ed. by Fred Fertig-
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THE EVACUEE SPEAKS
PRIVATE NEWSLETTER

Sept. 15, 1942

Clarification of Policy

The writers of this private newsletter reiterate in the third issue that the news and views expressed herein are purely personal and make no claim to be representative of the whole of the thinking of the residents of the assembly center; however, they have occupied positions which have given them an opportunity to observe the temper and wishes of a cross-section of the evacuees within an assembly center--the issei, nisei, and kibe; the pro-democratic, neutral, and undemocratic elements; the businessman, farmer, professional man, student, and housewife; the educated and uneducated--their reactions to various administrative trends and events. "The Evacuee Speaks" attempts to present an objective interpretation of an evacuee community's problems.

On the matter of cooperatives in the relocation areas, it must be stated that there exists a difference of opinion among the writers, but to be fair, the opinion of those who are in favor of making small private enterprises legal was presented in the second issue. Further comment on private enterprise is included in this issue.

The best contribution that the evacuees can make to the war effort at the present is the smooth functioning of the various centers. It must be recognized that the great majority of both the issei and nisei population who are of an age to be of political significance are undecided in their loyalty--this, because the nisei were not permitted to assimilate into American life or to become citizens and the issei, because he doubts the justification of the evacuation of Americans based solely on racial similarity to the enemy. The suppressive measures of the center administration against the use of Japanese language and the discussion of political subjects in meetings, and against Japanese literature and phonograph records, have provoked a number of issei, as well as nisei, to feel resentment against the government despite the fact that these measures were intended to curb the activities of the pro-Fascist element if such existed. Although demonstrations through appeals for a second-front and enlistment in the US Army, emphasis on citizenship as a basis for loyalty, as a means of publicity are extremely helpful--they have provoked many an evacuee into ridiculing loyalty and forced them into an uncooperative attitude. The administrators of the Centers have emphasized that any disturbance within the Center will be interpreted by the general American public as gross ingratitude on the part of the evacuees for the "pampering of the Japs;" the events of the past have proved that one report of trouble within the centers has made nil all the efforts on the part of the progressively Democratic nisei to prove their loyalty. And, of course, there are such organizations and individuals who are ready to point out the ungrateful attitude of the evacuees. Not an insignificant number of the evacuees are not ready for an open Americanization program because of the negative effect of the evacuation and the denial of citizenship to the issei, nor are they prepared to accept or support a program of demonstrating loyalty. It would be far better to keep peace within the Centers by concentrating our

efforts, at least for the present, upon improving the physical and psychological conditions of internment life, thus preparing a receptive attitude for a democratic enlightenment program. It is important to note that if 100,000 interned Japanese-Americans cannot be thoroughly convinced of the desirability of the Democratic way of life over Fascistic rule, it would be difficult to conceive of winning the whole of world society to the democratic ideology and the sincerity of the nation in proclaiming the four freedoms and the individual worth of persons.

Relocation Movements

After nearly five months here in Santa Anita, the evacuees have started for the various interior relocation centers. There are to be seven movements, the first of which began on August 23. The last is scheduled to start from October 17. Poston, Arizona was the destination of the No. One movement; No. Two is now on its way to Wyoming. Families are being moved out in accordance with the family number assigned to them by the registration station back home. The morale is astoundingly good. There is a marked difference between the morale of the evacuees at present and that of several months ago when they left their homes; then, the morale was low, the people were depressed, uncertain of the life ahead in the center; now, however, they know--they know what to expect. In these first weeks of relocation a looseness seems to have overcome center life. It reminds us of the characteristic shortcomings of the management: no system has been incorporated for the reshuffling of jobs; the mess hall feeding system has temporarily collapsed; maintenance of order is lax, this last is giving many residents an illusion that the issued administrative regulations have been cancelled. The "giving a free hand" to the planning of the issei recreational night is an instance of laxity which may have a far-reaching consequence. Wasn't it this attitude on part of the management that invited trouble previously both here and in Manzanar? The general atmosphere of "anarchy" may very well have been responsible for the little skirmish which occurred last week in one of the mess halls. The management should not forget that some of us are remaining almost until November.

Re: Cody, Wyoming

Santa Anita evacuees arriving at the Wyoming War Relocation center were surprised to be greeted personally by the administrative officials. These men introduced themselves and made a welcome speech asking evacuees to cooperate since they must now all live together. The effect upon the evacuees was immediate: they volunteered for such disagreeable tasks as cleaning the toilets, a task almost completely shunned in Santa Anita. "The weather is perfect and the air clean and clear." The barracks in this center are twice as large as those of Santa Anita (which are approximately 20 x 12); the ceiling is celotex and has a double-wall thickness; and each room is furnished with a large thick iron stove which can keep an all-night's warmth on one firing of coal. The hospital is equipped with a laboratory and has a main hall about the length of two city blocks. The camp at present is fitted out to accommodate 10,000 but may eventually house 14,000 or so.

Re: Poston, Arizona

The No. One group, mostly from San Diego, left Santa Anita Wednesday, August 26. These people, some 1400, were sent to the third of the three camps in Parker. They were housed in units which are "very roomy" and which possess five windows. The camp is divided into blocks, and these are further broken up into fourteen barracks. Each block has a mess-hall, a toilet, a laundry, and a house for the district manager. A number of letters received here report on the cool reception accorded the Santa Anitans by the center residents of the various camps in Poston. Remarks such as, "why they do look human," greeted their arrival. Apparently, stories of the Santa Anita riot and strikes have been so magnified and distorted as to make the Poston people very apprehensive of the new arrivals. The following incident is related in one of the letters: a bunch of youths recently from Santa Anita went to one of the several barrack dances but were refused admittance. They went to the leader and explained, "we didn't come here to make trouble, we only want to become acquainted with our new friends." That seemed to satisfy those encharged with the party, so they were let in. However, it wasn't very long before they found themselves entirely alone in the room--for the others left. This is the beginning of a tragic and far-reaching center problem unless something is done to check it right here at the outset. Already the Boys' and Girls' club leaders have written up to the directors in Poston outlining the problem together with recommendations for its solution.

More on the resettlement of the "Special Boys."

On Monday, August 17, (refer to Evacuee Speaks No. 2, p. 1) thirty-four boys were sent to the Tulalake and various other relocation centers for what reasons no one has yet been able to find out. At that time two very definite assurances were made by the camp administrators, that their families would be rejoined and that they leave with no "black mark" against them. Reports from the boys in Tulalake give discouraging testimony to the attitudes of the people there. It appears that even before they arrived a whispering campaign had been started against them. As a consequence they were completely ostracized, neither able to obtain jobs nor to make friends. Apparently it is not the administration which is treating the boys in this manner, it is the fault of the center residents themselves. The special committee, recognized by the officials in Santa Anita, working on the behalf of the boys and their families did two things. One was making clear to the administration on the possible bad effects resulting from the sudden transfer upon the center residents as well as upon the attitude of the youth himself. It did this on the night of Sunday, August 16, the day before the departure. The second was requesting the administration to write to San Francisco for a written statement which would have the effect of committing that office on the matter of the boy rejoining his family in their new relocation center. All of the families put in a joint request with the exception of one--they wanted to unite with their boy at the place to which he was sent--and the administration agreeing sent it to San Francisco on August 26th. The family which had taken exception was granted permission to join their boy and his expectant wife in a southern relocation center. They departed August 27th. Whether or not the

rejoining of the boys to the families would be effected remains to be seen. The spirit of the committee brought out the important fact that there are constructive-minded residents who are willing to do their best for maintaining harmony in the center.

Issei Democracy Training Class

Friday, August 28th was a significant date for some four hundred Issei residents of the Santa Anita Assembly Center. On this day, the adult education class in American History and Geography conducted entirely in the Japanese language came to a close after twelve consecutive weeks. The classes met regularly all of these weeks without a single day's interruption, remarkable in view of the facts that nearly all activity was suspended during the riot and that the meeting place (jockey stand) burned down late Monday night, August 24. The scene of the final class session was touching. The first part of the lecture hour was devoted to the "how" of making the relocation center livable. The success or failure of the centers will depend more upon the residents themselves than upon the administrators. It was emphasized that any idea of the center being a temporary habitat so efforts to make it better are unnecessary is entirely negative and destructive. Then the second half was, in a manner of speaking, a graduation ceremony. Four students spoke, two from the morning class and two from the afternoon group. They expressed gratitude that the days spent in Santa Anita were not wasted altogether, and that for the first time they have learned something of the make-up of America. There was one complaint, however: both of the lecturers had to go to the Heart Mountain Relocation Center in Wyoming. Students scheduled for Wyoming were happy, but those assigned elsewhere said that such an order was "unfair", and that at least one of the lecturers should be allowed for another camp. Someone suggested that the teachers become "itinerant instructors," that is, having them go from one center to another thus helping to serve the Japanese community. "We may not be able," he said, "to have the American government to pay their travelling expenses. But that's all right for we are willing to bear the costs if only the government will permit them to go from one center to another." The two lecturers were given scrolls on which were expressed the heart-felt gratitude of those who attended the class. The meeting closed with Auld Lang Syne sung in the Japanese language.

The greatest single contribution the class has made is without doubt that it has shown to the resident Japanese that America is still a free country, and that if properly conducted, even a class in the Japanese language can be held without interruption from the administration. That the creation of such consciousness in the mind of the older Japanese has greatly contributed towards the building up of morale in the center there is no question whatsoever.

Student Relocation

An increasing number of students have been leaving the Center for continuation of their college education. That this has been possible is due almost entirely to the efforts of the Student Relocation Committee whose national chairman is John W. Nason of Swarthmore College. The Pacific Coast secretary is Joseph Conard of Berkeley. This committee made up of college presidents, scholars, and churchmen has not had an easy time; they have had to struggle for

every gain. The chief objection is that almost every American youth's education is being disrupted so why should these citizen Japanese be favored. While this opposition is being overcome, the procedure for the student getting out seems of necessity to be involved: first, the college must be checked and approved in Washington, D.C., proximity to defense industries being important; second, college notification of acceptance; third, assurance of community acceptance; four, background of the pupil must be approved, education in any of the schools in Japan means a very positive "no" to college; finally, the student must show proof that he will be financially secure. Indications are that many will have to register late; some have gotten letters saying that they are not to hope for student relocation until they reach the permanent centers. The importance of these students making a favorable representation in the college communities cannot be overemphasized. Not only must they be able to mix well with caucasians, but they must have a real political understanding of democracy and the relationship of evacuation to it. What damage will be wrought if they know only bitterness and claim the failure of democracy where the citizen Japanese is concerned.

The Problems of an Assembly Center Newspaper

In a place like the Santa Anita Assembly Center with a population of 19,000 people, a mimeographed sheet of six pages does not suffice. The editors must condense and recondense as much as possible, and left-over copy must be used in the following issue. They are guided by the considerations of not one but four different groups: the administrators, the army, the general public outside, and finally, the center residents. Because of the rigid censorship of all news items, the emphasis must be placed upon, "will the administrators accept this news story?" rather than upon the more important and immediate task of maintaining the morale of center residents. Certain mechanical difficulties (as for example, only one mimeograph machine for the entire camp) make it almost impossible to have all copy receive final approval before the paper is mimeographed and stapled. Two hours are required to mimeograph each page of 5,500 copies. For a paper such as the "Pacemaker" with six pages, twelve hours are required. Every piece of departmental news must be approved by the respective heads before the final "OK" by the center management. As a consequence each item before insertion into the "Pacemaker" must be taken to the administrative offices for an approval, the original copy being left with the administrator. This running back and forth constantly between the newspaper office and the administration building wastes much time; several weeks ago a "leg-man" was employed out of the salary of the editors to save time. The reaction of certain individuals on the outside, pressure groups, etc. play an important part in determining the acceptability or the non-acceptability of a news-item. On Wednesday, September 2nd, the "Pacemaker" carried the following news: "Chicken Dinners Next Sunday." After 5,500 copies were printed and the paper was ready for distribution, the center management requested that another story be substituted in its place because "some people on the outside who do not so much as get steaks would object." Finally, the "Pacemaker" must adhere to a correct interpretation of the new center regulations and strictly enforce them.

Re: Manzanar, California

Open to all U.S. Citizens, A Citizens' Federation has been organized in Manzanar (a permanent center). Special membership is open to any persons interested in its aims and purposes; they have, however, no voting privileges. The objectives of the Federation are: improving general conditions; educating citizens for leadership; participation in the War Effort; and preparing for Post-War America. These were discussed by four speakers at the first meeting which was an open forum. The subsequent discussion brought out sharply the various factions and cleavages in thought. One person writes that the Federation "is the only way in which unity can be achieved to prepare for post-war living." Nonetheless it must be admitted that neither the spirit nor the atmosphere is yet conducive to "cooperation and unity." Extremists have made threats, and reports of violence are heard here in Santa Anita. The loyal democrats in Manzanar are talking of a voluntary citizens' camp in order to escape the "stifling sterility and ultra-racism and nationalism" of some of the people. Manzanar is the clearest example of the need for careful, delicate, and skillful handling of Democracy Training. For the time being, it may be best in the long run for us to concentrate upon immediate center problems in order to achieve the all-important cooperation and unity. (On the noon of Tuesday, August 11, the camouflage workers walked out in strike. The grievance is reported to be a disagreement over the arranging of work hours and net production.)

Private Enterprize in the Centers

The giving of too much political freedom is unwise in the center which is composed of diverse elements living closely; it has been noted as the source of friction in some centers. However, freedom of enterprize is another matter and should be encouraged. For, so far the residents have responded very poorly to the work order of the present low wage scale, and private enterprise restored even to a limited extent will release the tremendous initiative and industry for which U.S. Japanese have been noted. It may appear to the people who have not intimately felt the abnormal living which exists in these centers that an ideal situation arose in the evacuation of the Japanese for a social experiment, that cooperatives be advanced, and so on. This attitude requires examination. The majority of the Japanese were evacuated, if not forcibly, against their will, into communities of an abnormal, segregated, undesirable structure. Besides, the evacuees have been very individualistic in their enterprise and economic thinking, the majority having been engaged in some sort of business and farming. It is not surprising that cooperative marketing and buying which have been tried among the farmers on the whole failed because of their deep-rooted sense of individual enterprise. It seems that this is an unfavorable time to obtrude a cooperative mode of economy on people who are unreceptive in their mood. Furthermore, the basic, "agreement to the cooperative principles" is lacking in the evacuees. So this is no time for an experiment, whose base, conditions make precarious, when the lives of over 100,000 people are at stake. The important thing is to restore the normal economic life as nearly as possible. This will allow the building of a community in a shortest period of time and in an all-round fashion, thus paving the way for the future security of the people.