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# MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE TULE LAKE CENTER RESIDENTS - DAI HYO SHA KAI

TIME: 7:30 p.m.

DATE: October 17, 1943

PLACE: Block 16 Mess

An informal meeting of the Tule Lake Center Dai-hyo Sha Kai assembled punctually. Chairman nominations were made and Hyakutaro Mori was appointed as a temporary chairman by applause.

*translated the minutes.*

Suggestion was made to segregate all non-Dai-hyo Sha from the floor in order to facilitate the calling of the roll. Another suggestion raised was to select a vice-chairman prior to the roll call. Temporary chairman Mori then appointed Kai and Yamamoto to count hand votes. Then the meeting proceeded with the nominations of the chairman and the result of the voting was as follows: T. Kuratomi, 29; H. Mori, 20, and A. Takahashi, 9. Thus, T. Kuratomi was elected as the chairman. Thereupon, Kuratomi addressed the body as to the ways and means of selecting a vice-chairman to which the body recommended the one who obtained the next highest votes, whereupon, H. Mori assumed the position as vice-chairman.

Secretaries were selected with an understanding that the post may be held by persons who are not Dai-hyo Sha. As a result Hitoshi Katayama, Tanaka, and S. Komiya were appointed as Japanese Secretaries and Megumi Yoshiyama, as English Secretary.

*Satoshi*

Roll was called by the vice-chairman Mori as follows:

Block 4 Ozaki <i>alt (Oto)</i>	Block 5 Kai <i>7</i>	Block 6 Yoshiyama <i>To</i>
7 Uyeda	8 Matsuno	9 Yamamoto <i>To</i>
10 Fujimoto	11 Ikebata	12 Muraoka
13 Kobayashi	14 (Yamanaka <i>To</i> ) <i>Ogashira</i>	15 Kawasaki
16 Shimada <i>Rover</i>	17 Kugata	18 Cook <i>Tulean</i>
19 Ono	20 Mohri <i>1st. Mount.</i>	21 Ogami <i>Onoye Y.</i>
22 Takamine <i>J.</i>	23 Koyanagi	24 Kawahara <i>Tokuhaaga shien</i>
25 Uyeda	26 Nakano	27 Sasaki <i>Tule</i>
28 Tsutsumi	29 Idemoto <i>Tule.</i>	30 Tsuda
31 Yamatani <i>Poston</i>	32 Uchida <i>Post.</i>	33 Tanabe
34 Mitsuda	35 Morikawa	36 Fujii
37 Uchida	38 Ogawa	39 Hoshiko <i>Tule.</i>
40 Yamane	41 Katayama <i>Rover</i>	42 Nakagawa
43 Oki <i>Tulean</i>	44 Nakashima <i>Tulean</i>	45 Yabumoto
46 Ito <i>Tulean</i>	47 Nakao <i>Tulean</i>	48 Sasaki <i>Tulean</i>
49 Watanabe <i>Poston</i>	50 Kawano <i>Topog.</i>	51 Nakano <i>Topog.</i>
52 Hayashi <i>Jerome</i>	53 Nagashima	54 Yabuki
56 Naito <i>Topog.</i>	57 Miki <i>Tulean</i>	58 Takeshita <i>Tulean</i>
59 Tateishi <i>1st. M.</i>	66 Kuratomi <i>J.</i>	67 Yamatani <i>Poston</i>
68 Takahasahi <i>Top.</i>	69 Sasajima <i>To</i>	70 Fujimoto <i>Tulean</i>
71 Nogawa <i>JP</i>	72 Hamamoto <i>P.</i>	73 Kobayashi <i>Jerome older</i>
74 Kurihara <i>H.M.</i>		

The Chair addressed and emphasized that since the agenda involved great significance to the colonists, especially as to the Japanese moral that rash and inconsiderate words and actions during the discussion should be refrained. The address was approved by applause of the body.



Thereupon, Hazama of the agricultural department took the floor and began to read the resolution. Secretary Katayama voiced that the urgent business is to discuss the ways and means of looking after those injured in the accident and he appealed to the chairman for permission to read the resolution on the disposition of those who were injured in the accident. Upon motion made, seconded, and carried the resolution was accepted. (the original copy is not available.) Resolution of the agricultural

Chair: Before entering our discussion, I wish to recommend a definite policy by which we are to act in the future, therefore, will every one express their own unreserved opinion on this matter?

Kai of Block 5: Since time is limited, we should proceed with some specific agenda first.

Chair: Mr. Kai's motion is very thoughtful, shall we begin with the report of the farm incident?

Kai: I recommend that the farm department employees present the recommendation of the warehouse department.

Thereupon Hatano explained fully the recommendation of the warehouse employees. (1) Prosecution of the responsible parties, (2) Termination of minors, (3) Urgency of consultation with the Administration and the Spanish Consul, (4) Report of the consultation with the Administration should be submitted to the Spanish Consul as soon as possible, and (5) Disposition of the case of those injured in the farm accident. Hatano explained fully on the aforementioned resolution.

Chair: If there are additions or retractions or corrections on the resolution, please do so.

Kai: With regard to the employment of minors as truck drivers in the Motor Pool, I wish Nishioka, foreman, would give an explanation.

Representatives from the Motor Pool division Nishioka, Matsumoto, Okamoto alternately related the scene of the accident and the persons involved. In regard to the point that drivers were minors, they apologized and they further added that they are expending their utmost to bring a satisfactory result on the disposition of this case and appealed to the body to give them full support. Nishioka, one of the foreman, explained the WRA regulation relative to the 16 years or over drivers. Chair then translated the WRA ~~regulation~~ instruction into Japanese. According to it, 16 year old youth drivers are violation to the ruling. He added that this regulation was in effect within the Center.

Nishioka: The regulation which he explained was forwarded to me from the Internal Security so that I believe my explanation is legal.

Question was raised from the floor that such regulation could be applied outside of the fence. Another question from the floor was that when a group of men is transported on a truck, the driver's ability should be scrutinized, that is, whether or not he has chauffeur's license or operator's license, because the operator's license does not permit the driver of the vehicle to be other persons.



Nishioka: I cannot fully explain that point.

Question was raised inquiring if social security compensation exists and in case of an accident whether insurance is provided for.

Nishioka: There was once, however, I don't know whether it is in practice now. Social Security is in effect, I am sure. (He then presented a form issued by the WRA. Chair then read the form presented. The form is attached. Note: however not attached). Full explanation was made with regard to the Granada Center truck incident by the Chair. Furthermore, it was later discovered that the form and the matter they had discussed did not pertain to the insurance but Social Security only.)

Suggestion was made from the floor to select a committee to clarify the matter. Kai suggested to proceed with urgent negotiation plans regarding the incident instead.

Chair: I have a plan to make, that is, instead of approaching the whole issue at this time, investigation should be made by departments. I suggest that the body select a committee to make the investigation.

Takahashi: Before going into the selection of committees, I want to make clear the legality of 16-year-old youths driving trucks and also if accident policy is applicable on this matter.

Chair: I will have the investigating committee undertake the job.

Kai: We have heard enough from the Motor pool representatives that we wish to ask them for their support of this body's future policy when it is decided. (Any statement made by Kai was applauded by the majority of the body. Thereupon Nishioka, Matsunaga, and Okamoto were excused from the floor.)

Uchida: Did the foreman of the agricultural division notify the occurrence of that accident with the names of those persons injured to the Administration within 48 hours?

Chief foreman Sato: (walked up to the chair and answered) As I was afraid to be taken as if I were taking side of the Administration, I hesitated to go alone to report this matter. I did not, as yet, make any report to the Administration.

Uchida: I suggest that this Committee be elected to prosecute the matter immediately with the Administration.

Kai: I question foreman Sato's responsibility, since he, as a responsible man, did not report such. I suggest that an investigation committee be formed at once to consult with the Administration. (The suggestion was approved by great applause.)

Mohri: Improvement of roads, shower rooms, latrines, and also the inside of the mess halls should be taken up with the Administration. (He then asked the Chair to consult the body.) We cannot afford to neglect or ignore such important matter as improvement of living condition, at this time. (The Chair expressed that difficulties must be encountered in making such extensive investigation at this time by the Committee. Thereupon Mohri



indignantly read the resolution passed at the block managers' meeting.

Block 19 representative read a recommendation of his block in connection with the betterment of living condition.

As Block 4 Ikeda reported that according to Dr. Hashiba, T. Kashima, who was injured in the incident (farm), was in a very critical condition, silence reigned the meeting.

Ikeda again pointed out the inhuman attitude taken by the WRA when a fire truck turned over four days ago. In spite of the fact that there are three ambulances only one is in operation for a colony of this size.

Hayashi: I have been informed from an authentic source that farm products are being transported to the Army and Navy. I demand that this body take action and investigate fully. If facts are established, we should altogether refuse shipment to the outside.

Shimada: As one means of solving employment problem, I like to see the public school re-opened as soon as possible for the sake of minor children.

*Kurikara* → Nishioka: Block 74: Properties owned by the colonists are their assets, which we should prevent loss by fire or theft by all means. Therefore, I recommend that the fire department of this Center be improved, by providing more fire extinguishers, fire hose, and trucks. Even though the population in Heart Mountain is less than this Center, they have more and better fire equipments. For instance, they have 25,000 feet of hose and fire extinguisher in each apartment. Since our bank accounts are frozen and we have no other means of income than our meager salary, we should be provided with all these necessary equipment to prevent fire. I understand that in some blocks, especially Block 59, they have insufficient water supply and they are very much handicapped. I recommend that at least 200 gallons of water per person daily should be allotted.

Takahashi: I make a motion to proceed with the business to be discussed and decided which must be presented to the Administration. Besides, time is getting short.

Chair: By discussion, we have planned to consult the Administration with all the issues of the Center. Therefore, we must discuss regarding creation of departments to draw up the resolution.

Takahashi: I wish to correct the titles of some committees.

Chair: We should prepare the resolution in writing so that we can present it to the Administration as well as to the Spanish Consul, as I regard the time to be opportune now.

Nii, Block 41: I suggest that we select committees on ward basis.

Kotani: Ward basis is not practical, since we need the most intelligent persons in our committees.

Chair: For your reference, let me explain the Sanitation Committee and the extent of its duties.

(Explanation?)



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Katayama: I suggest that the farm incident be treated independently. The Committee on Betterment of Center Condition should prepare all reports of their investigation to be submitted later. As far as the Center condition betterment committee is concerned, I would like to recommend the following sub-divisions: betterment of delivery of food, hospital, mess hall and food supplies, and education.

It is definitely known that there are many minors employed in the farm department. In view of the fact that there are many employable people, fair adjustment should be made by immediately terminating the minors.

The recommendation was unanimously accepted by the body.

Chair: What procedure should we take to select the committees for various departments? I'd like to suggest that the meeting be held in the Block Manager's office.

Vice-chairman Mori wrote on the blackboard as the Chair specified each committee's meeting place as follows: Sanitation and Betterment of Living Condition Committee, block 44 Manager's office; Farm Incident Settlement Committee, 14; Hospital Committee, 11; Mess Hall and Food Supply Committee, 70; Education Committee 32; and Negotiating Committee, 29.

Wada, block 48: What should the members of the hog and chicken farm do in the meantime?

Chair: It is advisable to have them continue working until the matter is settled, because they must be fed daily.

Kubota and Kotani: We agree with the Chair that hogs and chickens should be fed by the colonist workers.

Chair: Please select six committees from each ward for the various departments and assemble by 9 o'clock tomorrow morning for election. (Approved by all.)

Uchida: Problems we are facing are the greatest importance to the colonists and the WRA should be fully responsible. Therefore, the Committee should do their utmost to bring about a satisfactory solution.

Chair: We are merely selecting the committee now so you should make that speech to the Committee.

Komiya: We should demand for unemployment insurance and clothing allowance. (Giggling heard from the floor.)

Chair: So much for discussions, we will proceed with the recommendation of the Committee. Each ward should hold a meeting tomorrow at 9 o'clock at the following places: blocks 49, 43, 15, 28, 12, 31, and 71. Then the committees will meet at the same places at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. Now is that clear? (Each makes note).

At this time, it was recommended from the floor that a central Co-ordinating Committee should be instituted.

Chair: Since all those in the various committees will be the cream of the colony, they fully realize the importance of their duties, which makes the organization of such a Co-ordinating Committee unnecessary at this time.



Voice from the Floor: In order to unify the functions of a body of this size, it is urgent that a Co-ordinating Committee be instituted in the central part of this Center. This will facilitate the functions, advantageous to all those concerned, etc. (Interrupted by the Chair) such is the duty of the Committee. The Committee will decide at the meeting.) *Did not say it*

Chair: After the meeting of the Committee at 2 p.m. tomorrow, all agenda discussed and decided upon must be immediately reported to the Negotiating Committee and the latter in turn will again thrash the matter and report back to the various Committees for approval.

*not said*  
Voice from the Floor: Such is not necessary. Negotiating Committee is the supreme body. *name not made*

*Committee Decided N.C.*  
Discussion arose regarding the title of this organization.

Takeshita: Before discussing such matters as title of this body, isn't it more important to specify our policy?

*not said*  
Chair: (with no reference to Takeshita's statement he went on to say) We will have our central office at Block 29 and the name of the organization will be for the time being Dai-hyo Sha Kai. (Unanimously approved)

Another suggestion was made to use the former Planning Board office as headquarters, however, decision had already been reached and the subject dropped.

Akiyama: Do the workers of the hog and chicken farm have to walk? I asked this because I know the fact that Motor Pool is not operating as usual. Since the incident occurred in the agricultural department all the farm workers stopped working. Doesn't that create some friction with the farm workers if the hog and chicken farm workers continue to work?

Chair: If certain department employees stop work altogether it will be regarded as a strike. The hogs and chickens should be fed, as we have not decided on a strike. (No reaction from the floor)

Wada: I wish to make this point clear for the workers of the hog and chicken farm. Whether it is approved by this Committee to continue to work.

Takata: Since the farm workers stopped working, why should they (hog and chicken farm workers) continue to work. That's not cooperation, to my mind.

Voice from the floor: Strike is not declared. Therefore, at least animals should be fed by colonist workers, otherwise we will be short on food stuff, especially in meat and egg.

Kodama: I am sure that upon declaration of a general strike, all divisions and section workers should stop work altogether. Until then, continue work.

Takata: We did not come to Tule Lake to get jobs. We came here for the purpose of returning to Japan. The center management should be taken care by the Army and the Administration. We have no responsibility as far as management of the Center is concerned. Therefore, why do we not support the farm workers and go into a strike.



Chair: We will bring up the issue to the Administration just as soon as the Committee completes its investigation and preparation.

Ikeda: since the M.P.s have confiscated our passes for no reason at all. It means that we are prohibited from going out of the fence. Why should we continue to work?

Chair: We have absolute confidence that we will win in this consultation with the Administration on this issue. However, we should think about the time of this negotiation. If the hog farm workers should strike at this time and prove to be a failure, we have no excuse to offer to those injured.

Uchida: We have never had chicken or pork on our tables and I presume that hogs and chickens do not belong to us. Why should we assume responsibility for anything that doesn't belong to us?

Chair: That problem will be settled by the Food Supply and Mess Hall Committees.

Akiyama: Assuming that the hog farm workers continue to work then, will the Motor Pool take responsibility of the workers' transportation?

Chair and Vice-chair: Motor Pool has nothing to do with this problem. We want the WRA to have the impression that we are working by just merely feeding the animals. *know*

The problem of whether the chicken and hog farm workers should continue to work was put to vote. The result was as follows: Yes 58 and No 7.

Chair: As it is getting late we will adjourn the meeting. (The Chair reminded the body to see that tomorrow's meeting is attended and soothed the body by saying, "I will have the title of this organization discussed among the executives.")

*not said* → After the meeting was adjourned, it was cautioned that since majority of the farm workers think that the strike is postponed, the chances are that they will go back to work on Monday. In that case, the question is whether there is any way of notifying them that they should not report to work.

Chair: We will have the block managers make the announcements in each mess hall to inform them.

Takahashi, at this time, made a motion that the chairman should be the president and the vice-chairman, the vice president of this organization. Since time was so late everyone was anxious to go home that they unanimously approved with applause.



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE DAI-HYO SHA KAI  
OF THE  
TULE LAKE CENTER

April 11, 1944 (Translated and typed)

DATE: October 23, 1943

TIME: 8:00 p.m.

PLACE: Block 16 Mess Hall

*This statement  
couldn't  
have been  
made because  
I have not seen  
Mr. Burt yet.*

Chair Kuratomi reported, after his opening address, that he had received a written memo from the Project Director notifying Dai-hyo Sha Kai's official recognition. Upon completion of the preparation of the negotiating body of all departments, negotiation will commence Monday. Additions or retractions should be made without hesitation.

Roll was called by the Chairman and the following were present:

Blocks 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9,	-represented by One
" 10	-Okumura
" 11	-Kawamura
" 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17	-Yamada
" 18, 19, 20, 21, 22	-Kozuma
" 23, 24, 25,	-Miyazaki
" 26, 27, 28	-Fukuwa
" 29, 30, 31, 32	-absent
" 33	-Kushida
" 34, 35, 36, 37	-absent
" 38	-absent
" 39	- "
" 40	- "
" 41	- "
" 42	- "
" 43	-Yoshikawa
" 44, 45, 46, 47	-Yamagishi
" 48, 49, 50	-Wada
" 51, 52	-Nakamoto
" 53	-absent
" 56, 57, 58	-Tsuchiya
" 59, 66	-absent
" 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73	-Saito

15 block representatives absent.

*Kuratomi's  
rep.*

Chairman Kuratomi stated, "In view of many absences, I wonder if they realize the graveness of the situation, especially when we have to prepare notes for negotiation by Monday. I grieves me to see the lack of interest. If they should continue to maintain such an attitude, I doubt if we could continue with the confidence that we have that all colonists are backing us. This is our problem and should be solved by us. If they should consider these great issues they should at least send written excuses if they are going to be absent."

(Secretary's Note: Chair stated at length urging full attendance hereafter. Chair then asked the body whether meeting should be conducted with so many absentees to which the body gave approval to proceed.)



Chair: Sanitation and Betterment of Living Condition Committees, please make reports from your notes. (Whereupon Tsuchiya and Mohri of the Sanitation and Betterment of Living Condition Committees read their notes.)

Chair: Is there any provisions which require either addition or retraction?  
(none given)

Kawamura: Colonists should be allowed to use electrical appliances such as iron and hotplates regardless of time or place at their free will. Space for living quarters is insufficient and the Administration should be informed of the condition.

Sasaki: I request that cameras be permitted within the Center.

Okumura: Colonists should be paid just as much as the men in the Army.

Yamanaka: Private enterprises are prevailing within the Center. Such should be restricted. Moreover Co-op is handling too many luxuries and food stuff, which not only affects the economy of the colonists but also encourages the WRA to be reluctant in their distribution of food.

Kozuma elaborated in length with regard to the instruction of Poston WRA to the effect that the restrictions are already made relative to private enterprises. He cited that noodle stand and light luncheon counters are operating and such should be immediately eliminated. Movies should be shown without admission charges. Shower rooms should be provided with 24-hour hot water service.

Kurihara: There is no sawing machine in this center in view of the many in the other projects. Administration should be consulted to make such provisions without cost.

Nogawa: Tulean Dispatch has reports of the Imperial Headquarters' war news, which should be disseminated.

Uyeno: It is unfair for the Co-op to charge 5¢ for cashing Government checks, such should be stopped.

Tokunaga then spoke on the farming problem.

Saito: Lumber for furnitures are furnished free to the colonists in Poston and it should be practiced here too.

Takeshita: Alteration of living quarters is imperative, especially in Block 59, Alaska and Mexico areas.

Kawacka stressed immediate establishment of a Japanese Library.

Chair: Time is limited and we still have many departmental reports. Let's stop the discussion of living quarters and proceed with the discussion of farm problems.

Warehouse Committee, Kozaka of the Farm Committee read his prepared notes in three different articles and explained fully; demands were as follows: farm incident victims, future farm problems, and hog farm department. Kawacka asked Kozaka as to the number of employees required in the hog farm to which Kozaka answered, 'Approximately 50'.



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Kawaacka then inquired if the colonists were permitted to use pork for mess use. Thereupon the Chair explained that pork was never served. He added that the Administration was very inhuman, in spite of the establishment of a hog farm producing 291,000 pounds of pork, such was disposed without the knowledge of the colonists. At present there are about 20,000 laying stage hens, which lay 4,000 eggs daily. However, any amount exceeding the allotment for mess use has been disposed of without the knowledge of the colonists.

Kobayashi (asking Chair): Do you have any report on how many tons of farm produce have been shipped out for Army and Navy use? There's no need of expanding hog farm or vegetable farm.

Chair: I have made thorough study on the farm problem and arrived at a conclusion that 500 or 600 acres of tillable land will be sufficient for this Center's subsistence. At present, we have 3900 acres which will be settled by the Negotiating Committee later.

Yamanaka: During my stay in Topaz, we received only the best farm products of Tule Lake, which means that despite the Tuleans producing them, they are forced to use only second grade farm products, which is utterly unfair. Just because we are disloyal to America is no reason. We are 100% pro-Japanese, therefore, we should be treated according to the International agreement. At the time of the late Kashima's funeral, the attitude assumed by the Administration was called heartless policy (Great applause from the floor was heard).

Chair: Shall we discuss hospital problems?

Kawamura: Hospital Betterment Committee has met with the Hospital Ko-en Kai on the 18th at Block 11 Manager's office. (He then continued to relate the function of the Ko-en Kai for the past six months.) At present it is difficult to investigate hospital problems. There are about five evacuee doctors and all of them are registered 'yes'. Dr. Hashiba stated that he will remain in the Center for the colonists' sake until the last.

Chair: Since we will commence negotiation on Monday, please have all the data ready.

Representative of Block 27: Doctors' registration status should be cleared.

Kai: Consideration should be given relative to the complicated matters and position of the Hospital Ko-en Kai. Hospital Betterment Committee has the support of the entire colonists. Ko-en Kai members should function in co-operation with the Betterment Committee.

Takahashi related what he received in the report from the Hospital. The Caucasian doctors are too dictatorial, enough to make evacuee doctors' lives miserable. Matters must be taken up with the Administration to remedy the situation and at the same time, it is our duty to see that more evacuee doctors remain here.

Kazama: What do we care about the evacuee doctors! Their status of whether loyal or disloyal should be cleared. If there are loyal evacuee doctors, we should not have such doctors, even in case of sickness. I prefer death rather than be cared by loyal doctors. Caucasian doctors are even better. (The floor was in turmoil.)



Kai: Kazama's and Takahashi's opinions are evidence of their mutual love for Japan, which I must commend. However, each doctor's status should be decided by his own will and Dr. Hashiba should be retained.

Hwaoka: There are about five doctors who are not on duty. New nurse's aides should be recruited to relieve the burden of the doctors.

Ikeda: How many blocks are in favor of removing Dr. Pedicord? (he further added) It is impossible at a time like this to expect any kind of treatment from the Caucasian doctors.

Takahashi: I suggest that evacuee doctors be recalled to duty as soon as possible, regardless of their status, whether yes or no, as long as they have intention of helping the evacuees. Even two doctors should be retained for the future of the colonists. Negotiating Committee should look into this matter. (The floor was disturbed as a hornet's nest because of Takahashi's statement. Hoarse voices ridiculing Takahashi were heard.) Regardless of yes or no, doctors who are willing to help the colonists should be persuaded to remain. When the farm incident occurred, victims weren't attended by Caucasians. Nisei doctors (yes doctors) ran to their aid. (He illustrated such facts and mentioned that in relocation centers, they are facing an acute shortage of doctors.)

Kazama attempted to rebut Takahashi's statement by saying "Due to our obligation toward the One and Only (Emperor) - - ". Kai interrupted him and said, "You have no right to hinder a representative who has voice in this body. I advise that you refrain from such an act hereafter." (Kai then explained the meaning of the phrase 'obligation to the One and Only'.) *not said*

Chair reminded the Hospital Betterment Committee to prepare the notes which are to be used in the negotiation Monday.

Kawamura: I recommend that the Betterment Committee and the Hospital Ko-en Kai work together for the investigation. I would like to have the approval of the body regarding this.

*not said*  
Chair: (Those two committees are entirely different and we cannot work together with them without any due reason.) I advise the Committees to hold a meeting tomorrow morning at 9:00 at Block 11 Manager's office to discuss and prepare the notes.

*Saito*  
Kobayashi: Food Supply Committee will not be able to assemble because the investigation was retarded.

Hori of Block 50 pointed out the poor quality of food the colonists are provided daily and asked the body to take a remedial step.

Saito: Reason why the investigation retarded was because the WRA rejected our request to investigate. On top of that, the Administration refused to supply us with fresh vegetables for the reason that farm went on a strike. Numerous complaints from the mess halls are received. WRA's attitude is very indifferent. Apparently there is some graft going on among the WRA officials, which should be stopped immediately by further investigation.

Chair: Please have the reports read by tomorrow evening together with the data of the purchase and expense of food supply of WRA.



✓  
Saito: That's already finished.

Tsuda thanked the Committee for their effort and informed the body that food supply sufficient for two weeks are being stored in the Warehouse at all times. Insufficiency of food supply should be investigated through the WRA files.

? (Secretary's Note: It is almost impossible to investigate through the WRA files.)

Ikeda: Cost of our daily food is only amounting to 18-20¢. It should be increased to 44¢ as stipulated in the WRA regulation. (He further informed the body of the Topaz Center management where mess employees are working overtime without compensation and also the discourtesy of the office workers toward the visitors.)

Uyeda: Daily allotment of food should be 45¢ and the quality should be improved.

Nakahiro related his experience as menu maker in Topaz and made clear the WRA regulation in regard to food supply. He recommended an institution of a Food Committee.

Chair: Call <sup>ed</sup> it the Educational department committee.

Takahashi: I am not in a departmental committee but since I had a meeting with the responsible men on that matter, I have submitted the resolution passed at the informal meeting to the Chairman. I found out that resolution has not been forwarded to the Negotiating Committee. The content was to reopen the public school, as soon as possible with the condition that the school supplies be transported to and from school and the crossings be patrolled. Japanese Language School is necessary. The matter is pending as Block 32 Recreation Hall is temporary office of the committee working on the undertaking. Block 74 Akashi has also been consulted.

Chair: Definite policy on Japanese Language School is what I want to know.

*probably incident on*  
{ Kai reported that he had received a written statement from the Project Director that the Negotiating Committee had been permitted and recognized officially. He went on to say that the Administration did not provide space for the Kashima funeral and no sign of condolence was shown to the deceased which exemplifies cold bloodiness of the Administration. To negotiate with people of this type, it is absolutely necessary to have an unification of all colonists with the aid of youths. We wish to request the youths to control the groundless rumors about the Negotiating Committee. Above all, I appeal to the body, whether old or young to unite and give full support to the Negotiating Committee.

Tsuchiya: Since we have come here to be repatriated to Japan I do not find the necessity of learning English.

Chair: A child of five or six could get by without public school education, but high school students <sup>should</sup> must attend public school because of lack of supplies. Educational problems have been entrusted to the educators so we have nothing to worry about.

Yamanaka: Technical subjects should be taught in the public school. *Diversified courses offered in J.S.*

(Kai: I do not find it necessary to employ public school teachers' assistants to educate our sons and daughters.)

*Not said  
He finds better ways than full public school*



Chair: Negotiating Committee is going to start in negotiation on Monday. You are requested to unite and give us full support, therefore I would like to have your verbal promise. (The floor unanimously raised hands) and some even screamed.)

Takahashi: Planning Board Central Consulting body was formed last night officially and at the meeting held the same night, you asked the body to sanction the continuance, but the body ~~rejected~~ and suggested dissolution immediately. Such occurrence may tend to divide the Colony which would be an obstacle to the function of the Dai-hyo Sha Kai. I would like the Planning Board to be co-ordinated in spite of the decision made last night.

Chair disregarded Takahashi's statement and went on to say that prior to adjournment of this meeting the body present should inform block representatives who are absent tonight. Lastly he emphasized that only the support on the part of the colonists make the Committee's work possible. It is up to the representatives to see to it that the Negotiating Committee is supported by each and every one.

The meeting adjourned.

*Mr. Takahashi's statement was contrary to the wishes of the members. (Refer to this resolution)*



FOURTH MEETING OF THE DAI-HYO SHA KAI  
OF THE TULE LAKE CENTER

DATE: October 28, 1944

PLACE: Block 15 Mess

Roll was called by the passing of a paper. Seven block representatives were absent.

Chair asked the body whether the meeting should be conducted when seven were absent. By general assent, it was decided that the meeting should proceed. The Chair reported the result of the consultation with the Project Director. Solution for the farm problem will be made clear by the Administration in a few days in a written form which the Project Director promised to give to the Negotiating Committee. He went on to report that Mr. Best had agreed to give permission for the Center funeral of Kashima, who was killed in an accident, when the intention of the survivors is that they do not wish Center funeral. The Project Director commended the modest attitude of the Japanese people. However, upon forced suggestion on the part of the Negotiating Committee, Project Director agreed to grant permission for a center funeral. As to the cause of the incident, Project Director was demanded by the Committee to enforce strict instruction pertinent to the age and the character of the driver, for the purpose of preventing future re-occurrence. Next demand was a immediate re-segregation of loyal from the disloyal to which the Project Director replied, 'Because of the lack of preparation on the part of the Administration, cause of the confusion created by the recent arrival of the segregates, I will take up the matter upon arrival of the segregates, I will take up the matter upon arrival of Mr. Myer.' Committee further demanded that they be granted permission to consult Myer upon his arrival. Compensations arrangement for those injured and deceased have been arranged and forwarded to Washington, Project Director replied upon question raised by the Committee. For reference on matters of this nature, the Chair requested Reverend Kai to read a letter received from the Spanish Consul in which it stated that the compensation will be made to the family of those injured and deceased as stipulated in the WRA regulation. Wire received from the Spanish Consul to Chairman Kuratomi requested full report of the farm incident. The Chair thus concluded his report.

With regard to the future farm acreage, since Negotiating Committee presumed that farm products have been shipped outside, Committee will see to it that the farm will be operated at the minimum acreage sufficient for colonists subsistence, which will be taken up upon arrival of Myer, the Chair stated. Kai reported that according to Best, produce from Tule Lake farm has been shipped to Gila on reciprocal agreement in exchange for Gila beets. Such reciprocal trade relation has been one of the WRA policies and consequently Project Director stressed that it is the responsibility of the WRA and should be settled by the WRA Administrative personnel. Kai further reported that Project Director mentioned that to obtain food supply from the Army Quartermaster will require at least 50 days.

As to the unemployment compensation, Project Director replied that U.S. Government will assume responsibility and will see to it that the colonists be

*Not  
re-segregation  
but clarification  
of status of this  
center.*

*Mr. Best  
agreed to cut tails  
of farm acreage  
to 600 acres.*



provided with clothing allowances and public assistant grants. Due to the confusion created by segregation program, however it may require some time before it can be carried out. Reverend Kai further reported that upon his question of whether farm produce raised by colonists had been up to date sent to the Army, Best denied it. Upon question raised by the Committee in the event the public schools are opened whether the students will be taught Americanism such as singing of national anthems and saluting flag. Project Director replied that the Administration has no authority to force such practices on the evacuees' children if they refuse. However, in order to continue public education in public school will be required to a certain extent. The Committee, next demanded of the Project Director that in order to carry out smooth center management, there should be officially recognized representative body of the colonists when 20,000 colonists are involved. Project Director promised that he will readily recognize such a body and for future consultation he would like to have the representatives consult him. Space will be provided of the body.

Question was raised, "Pork has never been provided as food in the past. Why are they being slaughtered and where are they being shipped?" Project Director replied, "I myself just arrived that I cannot explain fully on this matter since such practice has been continued in the past 8 months. The hog farm is maintained for the benefit of the colonists and it belongs to them. Besides the former colonists (Tuleans) were perfectly satisfied with food and the fact was reported to the Spanish Consul."

In regard to the improvement of shower room Best stated that Administration will do its best as soon as time permits. However one cannot give a definite answer at the present time. Same answer was given regarding the improvement of roads. Regarding construction of new and improvement of old porches, Best replied that he had that in mind since his arrival here that upon obtaining colonists' cooperation he would like to erect uniform porches. For the purpose \$25,000 worth of materials through WPB has been requested. Reply is anxiously being awaited.

The Committee pointed out the fact that food quality was very poor. Project Director promised that he will do his best to satisfy the colonists.

Committee mentioned that the mail distribution and post office management was very inconvenient. Therefore, it was demanded that evacuee office workers should be employed in order to improve the condition. The Project Director replied that such plans had been formulated for the future and that he will at once see to it that post office workers will be employed.

Committee stated that since baby food supply is not sufficient and of poor quality, sufficient first grade baby food for growing children, should be furnished, especially milk. The Project Director agreed to remedy the situation as soon as possible.

Committee asked for disposition of T.B. cases in Block 5. T.B. cases should be segregated at once in collaboration with the Hospital. Best replied that the Hospital problem is directly supervised by the Government to which he is acting as an agent which empowers him with authority to deal in the Hospital problem. Committee questioned if the colonists interned in this Center are and will be treated according to the provisions made in the Geneva Convention. Project Director stated that he will have to make further studies before he is able to answer the question.

*Handwritten notes:*  
✓  
Kai's reference to Block 5 statement Nov. 1.  
He stated further that Oct. 28 he will publish a notice in the J. Dispatch stopping the further construction of individual porches by the colonists.  
in cont explanation of informed P.



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Committee requested that WRA attitude be corrected that when property is missing to refrain from accusing the colonists. Best readily agreed.

Upon completion of the report of the interview with Best, Chairman Kuratomi added that the foregoing questions and answers were made verbally and no record was kept. Project Director promised to send a written memo with regard to the demands. Chair then appealed to the body to give the Negotiating Committee full support to materialize demands. He further added that the body is working for the Japanese colonists as well as for the native land.

*not made* → In order to improve the condition of the Center, great many obstacles will be encountered. Chair then recommended that a Center body representing the whole colonists be made at once. With regard to the farm problem he stated that 3900 acres of land up to this time had been farmed by the colonists which is entirely foolish to his mind because most of the produce have been used to supply the Army and Navy of enemy country. Chair recommended cultivation of 700 acres. There is no necessity of tilling the remaining balance of 3200 acres of land because surplus produce will be used by the enemy anyway. Since we have pledged our loyalty to Japan, our acts today will have a great significance on the day when peace once again returns. He again reiterated that formation of a central body is an immediate necessity and asked the body to express opinions.

Takahashi: I wonder if 700 acres of farmland to work are sufficient for the colonists of this size.

Chair: According to the Project Director Best, the maximum limit of acreage is 700 acres for the colonists' subsistence. This problem will be fully discussed upon arrival of Myer.

Question from the floor: Is the compensation to those injured in the accident one-third of the monthly pay?

Chair read to the body a message received from the Spanish Consul with regard to this matter and he added that clothing allowances and other allowances will amount to approximately \$45 a month. This is one of the problems the Negotiating Committee must solve in the near future.

Question from the floor: Did the Negotiating Committee ever demand the WRA, resegregation of disloyal and loyal?

Chair: We have. (Because we have the information by which we can distinguish the loyal from the disloyal.)

*such has never been said* → Question from the floor: Regardless of their present address whether within or without the Center, they are all same Japanese. Disloyal or loyal status should not make any difference as far as Japanese are concerned.

Chair: Negotiating Committee will ask the WRA to rectify your misunderstanding on this matter of re-segregation of Japanese colonists. Re-segregation does not mean segregation among ourselves. The point is to divide between the loyal and the disloyal in the sense of their feeling.



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Kawano: License of truck drivers have been revoked lately even if the boys were over 21. I would like to have the Committee make this clear.

Chair explained regarding transportation of people on vehicles. He pointed out that persons over 21 are legally allowed to operate cars.

Kawano: I've heard that some who are only 21 are allowed to hold their position of truck drivers and on the other hand some who are 23 are being discharged. Why is this?

Kai: Negotiation is pending on the matter and as soon as confusion calms down, it'll be made clear. Just because he's 21 will have little importance, but his ability is the thing that should be noted. (If the Administration should discharge everyone over 21 years, it will then undoubtedly bring trouble.) Even Best stated that he will, upon consultation with the Japanese representatives, hire capable persons regardless of age as future vehicle drivers. As Kawano suggested, Negotiating Committee will consult the Administration at once.

Kawano: For your reference, I would like to add that at the time of the meeting of the motor pool employees, many responsible men of that division were not present. I cannot help but doubt their sincerity.

Chair: Legally the motor pool division has responsibility in that farm accident. Question is to improve the condition and prevent re-occurrence as it is apparent that the desire of the Administration is to divide the colonists among themselves. We have to see to it that we be united as one and support the Dai-hyo Sha Kai. The Dai-hyo Sha Kai will in turn support the Negotiating Committee.

Komiya: Administration requested the return of badges after the farm incident. However, very few people assembled.

Chair: Has the termination been given to them?

Komiya: Not yet.

Chair: The point we must keep in mind is that since the farm employees have not been formally discharged, there is no need of returning the badges. Because this is not a strike, they have no right to terminate farm employees without due reason.

Voice from the floor: How will we distinguish the disloyal from the loyal?

Voice from the floor: Utmost care and consideration should be taken.

Chair: Due to the Administration's lack of understanding of Japanese psychology, many tragical incidents may result. We have to remember that we are Japanese and are for the greater and righteous things. That's why we are discussing this for the purpose of unification.

Tsuda: There are several colonists who have rejected the registration and there are others who registered 'yes', who at the time of re-segregation stubbornly remained and are still with us. If we should demand re-segregation of colonists, how should we present the problem?



Chair: I have no plan as to the ways and means. (I know definitely that by the first of next year, the president of the U.S., by proclamation will recognize Japanese status as pro-Japanese.) Because of this war-time condition, one should not pursue the policy for his own selfishness and should clearly pledge his allegiance to Japan immediately. I made a recommendation for the purpose of classifying one's allegiance to Japan.

*How can anyone make such statement?*

(He consulted the body whether there were any objections. Thereupon, the Chairman proceeded with the plan for the election of various divisional committees and plans for the function of the farm department, farm produce, chicken and hog farm, food supply, motor pool, hospital, betterment of living condition, internal security, education. He enumerated above-mentioned departments and added that Best agreed to have the colonists free reign of management of the Internal Security Department.

Kai: One should exercise utmost caution in making recommendation for the Committee, especially in the Internal Security Department, men of character should be selected so that the colonists will have more respect toward that department. 'Most fitted person for fitted post' should be the basis of recommendations.

Voice from the floor: Is there any difference between the central consulting body and the various departmental committees?

Chair: I know little about the central consulting body, however, I know this, the body is not represented by the whole Colony. Is there anyone in the body who can give full information?

Tsuda: At the time of registration of last February, the Planning Board and the City Council had dissolved simultaneously. Since then the Planning Board remained but was not active. Since the segregation, members of the Planning Board have relocated and the central consulting body, which was to be organized, has been dissolved again, in order to avoid misunderstanding of the colonists and pledged to give full support to this Dai-hyo Sha Kai.

Question from the floor: Is the Dai-hyo Sha Kai a permanent body?

Chair: No, it's only temporary body and will dissolve itself when the time comes.

Kozaka: Wouldn't we be misunderstood if a central body is found at this time without first consulting the colonists?

Chair: No. Kai-hyo Sha Kai was elected from each block by *election* recommendation and this body was formed by that representative body so there is no inconsistency.

Kozaka: I make a recommendation that block representatives consult the colonists first before further going into the discussion of plan for the formation of divisional committees.

Chair: (reluctantly) Of course, it should be that way. We cannot decide by ourselves. (All agreed)

Kai: Whatever the form may be, upon dissolution of Dai-hyo Sha Kai, we want to hold a mass assembly so that we will have a chance to make the report to the colonists.



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Takahashi: As long as we have fitted persons for fitted posts there would be no complaints as far as the present condition of the Center is concerned, Since it is a temporary body, I make a motion that we consult the colonists with our plan. (approved unanimously with great applause.)

Kawano: Mass meeting will require a great space because greater number of colonists will be involved.

Kai: We will have the approval of the colonists upon recommendation of each block and request their support.

Mohri: I recommend that we have a mass meeting to form a central body and formulate the future plan accordingly through that body.

*Jap. usually  
don't  
say anything  
like this*  
Chair: I request that you recognize the accomplishments of the Negotiating Committee (all approved). Unfinished business of the farm department will be taken care of by the committee and any problem that may arise from the farm department will be consulted by that body. I shall refer to the farm meeting tomorrow.

Kai: As the Chair reported tonight, I am sure WRA will cooperate with this body. If in case they do not, then the Negotiating Committee will see to it that they concede to our demands.

Mohri: I am making a motion that we approve Negotiating Committee Kai's recommendation. (Seconded and approved by all.)

Hatano: I wish to thank the Negotiating Committee on behalf of the farm department committee for their effort.

Chair: I wish to consult the body as to the plan for the colonists mass meeting.

Kawamura: It is understood that Dai-hyo Sha Kai will dissolve as soon as the pending problem is solved, but not today. Nothing has been initiated for the solution, therefore I recommend that the mass meeting be postponed until we have accomplished something.

Kai: (indignantly) If there's full collaboration among the Negotiating Committee, the Dai-hyo Sha, and the other committees, there should not be any monkey business. (He demanded Kawamura to reverse his statement.)

Kawamura: (laughing) In that case, my statement shall be reversed.

Kawasaki: Executives of the Planning Board should consult the Dai-hyo Sha Kai at the colonists' mass meeting with written notes. Make clear the Planning Board's standing to the Central consulting body as to the betterment of living condition, which is an everlasting problem and should be duly considered and discussed before the mass meeting. At the mass meeting, the problems of incident should be presented. (Chair explained two plans by which you should consult the Planning Board members. Voice from the floor suggested that Takashita, Chairman of the last meeting of the Planning Board, should be consulted.) HASHI

Kai: Last meeting should be held entirely separately from the Planning Board members. Colonists should be consulted because I feel that it is the most proper time to do so.



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Takahashi: I know pretty well how the Planning Board dissolved. In view of the fact that many Planning Board members are present here and since they do not object I agree with Mr. Kai's suggestion.

At this time electric lights were turned off. Lanterns were lighted and the meeting was continued. Takahashi briefly related as to the plans for future negotiation and recommendation of fitted persons for fitted posts. He recommended that the election of the fitted persons be made by the block representatives and authority to make final decision should be given to the Dai-hyo Sha Kai. Recommendation should be written when conveyed to the colonists, it was decided.

Kai: I suggest that we wait until this body receives written permit from Project Director Best and then hold the mass meeting just as soon as possible, after posting the notices in the mess halls.

The issue was put to vote. As a result, the recommendation made by Takahashi<sup>KAI</sup> was carried unanimously.

Chair: Should the request to the Project Director be written by the Secretary together with the minutes of tonight's meeting? (Kai suggested that Kuratomi should take charge of it which was unanimously approved.)

The Chair promised that he will make complete report of the negotiation with WRA to be held in the near future. Complete report of the investigating committee will be also made. At the present time it is incomplete, but will be completed in time for the mass meeting.

Thereupon the meeting adjourned.



WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
TULE LAKE CENTER  
NEWELL, CALIFORNIA

January 11, 1944

Dr. Edward H. Spicer  
Community Analysis Section  
War Relocation Authority  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Spicer:

I am submitting the following documents, arranged chronologically, for your information; they tell the story of the recent efforts of a group of residents to break the deadlock imposed by a minority, called Negotiation Committee, in the latter's resolutions of November 29th:

- (1) Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Divisional Heads of the Tule Lake WRA Project, Jan. 7, 1944;
- (2) A resolution of January 7, 1944 signed by the "Evacuee Divisional and Sectional Heads," party to that meeting; this resolution censures the Daihyo Shas.
- (3) Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Divisional Heads of the Tule Lake Center, Jan. 9, 1944;
- (4) The next document is composed of several parts, viz.,
  - (a) "What Is This So-Called 'Status Quo'"
  - (b) Facts About the Daihyo-Sha
  - (c) The Motive and Course of Events of The Meeting of Division and Section Heads
  - (d) Statements on Future Employment, Return to Normal Condition, etc.
  - (e) A Japanese translation of the above document;
- (5) "Statement," reputedly signed by section and division Heads (evacuee workers) in the name of the "responsible men" of their sections and divisions, together with its translation;
- (6) Memorandum to Block Managers by Lt. Col. Austin, dated Jan. 10, 1944;
- (7) Directions for Balloting.

Items 4 and 5 were disseminated in the evacuee area, door to door, in this mimeographed pamphlet form with Japanese translation starting at 11:00 AM on January 11th. The balloting is scheduled to take place the evening of January 11th; this fact amends Item No. 6, above, point #2, since the residents, it is hoped, will have read the pamphlet, -- that is before coming to vote. Also you will note on p. 3, Para. 6 of Item No. 1, Mr. Kuratomi is charged by a foreman of the coal crew with having indirectly promoted or instigated the coal crew strike of Oct. 7-12, 1944, in a manner which was regarded as a "threat"; these notes were amended in the Minutes of Jan. 9 (Item 3, p. 1) to strike out Kuratomi and insert "second Negotiation Committee." The point is this: Kuratomi was a member of this "second" Committee, and the sole purpose of the change was to eliminate personal charges in a document intended for wide circulation. I am advised that the original statement is factually correct.

Stick -  
Note!



Report to: E. H. Spicer  
Jan. 11, '43

Items No. 1 and No. 3 were placed in the hands of all block managers and many residents as well; Item No. 2 was more widely distributed; Item No. 4-5, attached as a single pamphlet, was mimeographed in 4500 copies and distributed by evacuees to each door; Items No. 6 and 7 went to all block managers. The mimeographing, under permit of the Army and the WRA, was done throughout the night of January 10, from 6:00 to 11:00 the following morning. The composition of Items 4 and 5 was largely the work of Mr. I. Namekawa, a young man in the Civic organization group, who wrote the documents first in Japanese and then translated them into English. The strategy of this attack on the Negotiation Committee was largely the work of the resident advisory group, as follows: Shimada, Namekawa, Furakawa, Mayeda, and block manager, Naydo (Naydo in records; Naito in minutes) -- all of Civic Organization; and Akitsuki, Yamatani, T. Ikemoto, and Hitomi of the Co-op organization; Mr. F. Kiwai, of Housing, was both a member of this group and the chief point of contact with the division and sectional evacuee supervisors.

The only other point of contact which requires comment is the daily contact between this resident advisory group, the Advisory Council, the Project Director, and the military authorities; the most important of these meetings are reviewed in reports of the following dates: December 10, Dec. 20, Dec. 29, and January 7. The speed with which the evacuee advisory group has acted, indicated in these enclosures, is explained by them as a method of forestalling counter-action on the part of associates of the Negotiation Committee. Likewise important is their explanation for including mention of the "justifiable" (read: handful of innocent) colonists detained by the military authorities; this phrase is used in Item No. 5, and is intended to draw a line in the minds of previously ill-informed residents between the Negotiation Committee members and their cohorts who may be put down as trouble-makers, and the "innocents" picked up with them. The military authorities have seen fit to release one, Kawamura, and others are regarded as relatively blameless; the tactic, however, may be seen in proper perspective in the statement of Mayeda, Furakawa and others to the effect that they and like-minded residents hope that the real troublemakers like Kai and Kuratomi are permanently segregated.

Sincerely,

(signed)

M. K. Opler, Social Analyst

cc. to Messrs. Best, Cozzens,  
Black, including enclosures



WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
TULE LAKE CENTER  
NEWELL, CALIFORNIA  
Community Analyst's Letter: 1/12/44

Dr. Edward H. Spicer  
Community Analysis Section  
War Relocation Authority  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Dr. Spicer:

The results of last night's referendum were announced in the Civic Organization office as follows:

AGAINST STATUS QUO	4659
FOR STATUS QUO	3853

806 Majority

The vote against the so-called status quo of the Negotiation Committee was thus a clear-cut victory, though by no means an overwhelming one. Analyzed by blocks:

AGAINST STATUS QUO won in 36 blocks  
AGAINST STATUS QUO lost - 27 blocks

At my suggestion it was decided to announce the victory to the residents in the following terms since some blocks, particularly in Ward VI, would be quite aware of having voted strongly in favor of the present Status quo: A majority of the adult residents of this center voted against the status quo, and a majority of the blocks voted against the status quo. In respect both to residents and to blocks, the victory was a clear one. (Later, if total returns are requested, they should, of course, be issued; for the present, however, since the decision was only a majority vote, it is felt that some individuals would make capital of this fact).

In a sense, the victory, while not "100%," was a strong rebuke to the program and policy of the Negotiation Committee. The following are factors which influenced the vote in favor of the Committee, thus handicapping the opposition:

(1) The Committee -- Daihyo Shas -- have been in power, manipulating public opinion and enjoying wide publicity for a long period of time: from mid-October to January 11. In view of this fact, many colonists were relatively ill-informed of points in their disfavor. For example, few colonists attended the meeting at which Rev. S. Kai literally hand-picked his block delegates; those present were disgusted when objections were sidetracked; Mr. Yamatani, for one, pointedly stated that over 2000 candidates' names which had been submitted could not possibly be evaluated in a single meeting; whereupon, Kai replied that he could do the job in a half-hour and proceeded to name 43 candidates of his own choosing. This episode followed a call by the Committee for names submitted from each block, together with evidence that candidates had been evaluated as to education, residence in Japan, etc.; those present were disgusted by the high-handed methods, but they were few.



(2) Previous to yesterday's issuance of the pamphlet scoring the Committee and its methods, the counter-strokes against the Committee have been few, though effective:

- (a) The Co-op minutes disseminated in regard to the committee's proposal to drastically limit sales;
- (b) The Co-op vote which trounced the committee 9 to 1;
- (c) The circulation of minutes of the meeting with the Spanish Consul, this time by Civic Organizations.

Actually, then the counter-strokes have been few and scattered compared with the many dramatic appeals of the Committee: the public meeting on November 1st; the Committee-dominated issues of the Tulean Dispatch printed during the period of Army control; the resolutions of November 29th; and the recent bills posted demanding closing of canteens and offices -- to mention only a few. In this light, the change of control recorded in the vote of January 11th is more decisive than appears at first blush. The major groups in opposition have been Co-op and Civic Organizations, both of which are, in popular opinion, apolitical and supposedly neutral organizations by their very nature; while the general populace hearkened to the Co-op and strongly supported it on an issue "of a business nature" neither the Co-op, nor Civic Organizations could gracefully pose, as did the minority Committee, as being "the voice of the people." It is to be expected, therefore, that the victory scored by the more politicalized "responsible men of the various sections and divisions," if followed up aggressively, will prove to be a turning point in community organization centering more definitely in the domain of social control.

(3) The vote was likewise affected by the ill-timed and ill-considered headlines of the San Francisco Chronicle of January 11th which went down into the residential area only a few hours after the pamphlets of the opposition, and were discussed heatedly in many blocks. The headline read: "TULE LAKE HUNGER STRIKE REPORTED!" The lead article which followed claimed that a hunger strike of 200 individuals in the military compound was still in progress. This is untrue, according to personal observation as well as the statement of Lt. Col. Austin. Also significant in the article were the following phrases:

"The hunger strike participants, it was reported, were so-called leaders of the group of Japanese-Americans who wished to 'negotiate' concessions with the Army and WRA administrators ... When the hunger strike started, it was learned, the camp administrators posted huge signs which reported the 'starvation incident' and identified the participants as individual's falsely claiming to represent the internees" (This false, MKO) ... "The authorities also asked for further co-operation from the Japanese-Americans ... The internees refused to give such 'co-operation' it was learned" (Also false) -- p. 1. "They insist the persons in custody are their spokesmen and that they are working to improve living conditions in the camp" (Again false according to yesterday's vote) -- p. 1-and-6. "One of the internees said: 'If these delegates go the limit in their fasting, there may be international repercussions



and the American prisoners in Japan may suffer needlessly!" -- p. 6. Rumor had it that the article also "authoritatively" stated that "prisoners in the military compound had died in the hunger strike." Since this is precisely the kind of martyrdom publicity required by the Kai faction, and promoted by their action in shouting news of the erstwhile and short-lived fast in the compound across the colony fence, it played directly into the hands of the immoderates in the center. It will be recalled in this connection that I earlier reported how the boys in the stockade kept their fires banked low in the daytime to convince the alert colonists that something terrible had happened to them; at night when visibility was limited and the curfew prevented colonists from coming down to the fence and investigating, the fires burned merrily and the smoke poured out of the chimneys of barracks in the compound.

(4) Another factor which affected the vote adversely was the fact that terror and pressure and oratorical appeals to the gallery are not yet over. Certain blocks with poor returns were said by the Civic Organization staff who resided in them to have had pressure-group meetings in the afternoon of the 11th, designed to swing the vote in favor of the Committee. Apparently, then, the strategy of the opposition, -- to get their pamphlet out and call the vote soon thereafter, -- was correct on this point. There was no intention in this to delimit free discussion, but rather to beat the pressure groups to the punch. As one put it: "If they have time for big meetings, they are on the defensive now, but would go on the offensive then. That means that they would get their strong-arm boys out and dominate the meetings. It's easier to be oratorical if you jabber about patriotism and "our leaders" in the stockade; people have been afraid and moved by this before and they'd be pushed around again. What we prevent is all this noise and bluster. We tell the truth, but they can race faster with their lie." Likewise, when the votes were coming in, one individual indicated intimidation in his block and came to report it; there the vocal-talented tenth were trying to sidetrack the vote or swing the vote -- one or the other -- by irrelevant discussion as to who is responsible for asking the people their opinion; the block manager, in the face of this opposition, had put the gentlemen in charge of the voting, and the man stated: "Block 44 wants me to keep a discussion going and hold up on the vote. They picked up one man in the block (meaning Army) while it was going on. I didn't know what I was getting into. They tried to get the resident people down on me." To Mr. Shimada (later): "You don't know how disappointed I was in that block vote (64 against to 76 for, with 2 blank) and that manager stayed out because he must of known some were working against a vote. When I took his place, lot of discussions -- they are still want more of it. It's a bad feeling and I didn't think it would be a vote against me." When the returns were going badly for a spell and victory was by no means assured, Frank Kawai said: "Maybe we'd better get our muscle men going, they always have had these guys out on any issue. If we lose, we'll have to do it too. Why not now?"



Other comments of interest heard at Civic Organizations last night:

(1) When the vote came in for Bl. 11, it was decidedly favorable. Said Frank Furukawa: "Why that was headquarter of that bunch of blank-blanks! (Means second Negotiation Committee) Maybe we ought to have them open up office in every block. Then others would get a real taste of those guys."

(2) When the vote came in for Bl. 32, Mayeda's block (Head of Civic Org.) it was a defeat; 64 to 70. There was some good natured heckling of Mayeda:

"Can't even carry his block. Here's where Civic gets a new boss." "Yeah, we need a new supervisor in this office." To the Colonel: "No coal for Mayeda's block." "No food for Mayeda-san either!"

(3) When the vote was announced for Ward VI, it showed most blocks defeating the proposal. Statements like the following were made jokingly to Col. Austin:

"We're going to need a lot more fences around here."  
"They voted against food too. How about a hunger strike for those guys."

"No coal for that block."

(Colonel Austin said: "Let's give them weiners for a week.")

Banter. "Say, wait a minute -- that's food! real food! How about salt herring only? Flat stinking fishes?" Said Furukawa, "I say don't give them any food. They don't need it!"

(4) Ward V votes came in last and literally saved the day. One fellow's statement to a young lady staff member who was calling out the block tabulations -- hot off the press: "You look prettier every time you give a good voting report." Girl's response, meaning a good return was coming up: "Here's another one makes me look prettier."

(5) An MP who brought in votes from blocks in Ward VI, where the returns were poor, spoke as if in the blocks he supervised, the people required a great deal of explanation; also as if he himself misunderstood the issue. He asked Lt. Forbes whether a vote for this status quo doesn't mean "to get things back the way they were, the way they used to be." Judging from further remarks, he indicated that is what he understood by status quo, and so advised his questioners. (Question: too much coaching in Ward VI).

#### Two recent accidents

I should also like to report, for the record, two recent accidents, which although unrelated to the material of this report should be detailed to you in the absence of a Reports Officer here.

(A) The first accident occurred on the afternoon of January 8th, though some accounts place it just before the noon hour. A coal truck, going at moderate speed, overturned in the siding of a



road going up the main firebreak, in the general vicinity of the fire-break cross-road near the Co-op office (#717). The truck landed on its side across from the Co-op office and had not completely turned over. There was no damage to truck or driver (Mr. Okubo), except that the window on the under side of the truck was smashed and coal, of course, spilled out. Boys from the colony helped to turn the truck upright in the afternoon, after complete investigation was made. The account of the accident, checked with a military intelligence officer and Fenton Mahrt, of Internal Security, follows:

Mr. Okubo was driving his truck at moderate and proper speed. (A rumor to the effect that he drove the truck with a lady accompanying him is denied by the above two sources). A jeep drove out of the cross-road and the driver did not see Mr. Okubo's truck, for reasons yet undiscovered. Okubo turned to avoid a collision with the jeep and was forced to cramp his wheels in so doing; then, driving on the soft siding of the road, he was prevented from going further into the firebreak by reason of the fact that people were strolling there (Saturday afternoon; sunny weather; a sudden warm thaw). Because of the weather, and the earlier snowstorms, the siding of the road was particularly skiddy. Thus, when the coal truck swerved and skidded, it landed in the soft mud with wheels cramped and overturned. The jeep was not struck, however, and the lack of serious damage or personal injury to all nearby may be considered most fortunate.

(B) The second accidental occurrence took place this morning, Jan. 12, at 11:00. Fire broke out in the military area garage building, across from the military compound. A sergeant, name unknown, estimated the time of the beginning of the fire as being 11:00. An FBI operative, Mr. Jacoby, seemed to think this was correct. 11:00 was the hour estimated also by various members of the appointed personnel who arrived shortly after. (Mr. Best, Mr. Zimmer). The building was too far from the military compound for there to be any connection, is my presumption. Lt. Forbes seemed to think the fire was probably accidental, and both he and Mr. Zimmer believed it may have been caused by a stove burning and catching to the building. I arrived after the MP's were out and was attracted as were others by the sound of the sirens on the fire trucks. The MP's were removing mattresses and metal containers, etc., from the building and the fire trucks had arrived and water was playing on the roof of the east end of the building. The fire was put out by 11:15 and did not spread west to the rest of the building. The military firetruck, I was told by soldiers and by Mr. Best had been the first to arrive, followed by the WRA firetruck from station No. 1, adjoining the residential area. This latter truck was manned by its regular Japanese crew and though it was the second to arrive, all bystanders questioned (soldiers, Mr. Best, Mr. Zimmer, Mr. Thompson) stated that the WRA firetruck from Station 1 was the first to have its water-line laid and the first to get water on the burning building. The Japanese in the stockade saw this, from inside their stockade.

(Enclosing account of Minidoka, which I believe may be of interest).



WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Tule Lake Segregation Center  
Newell, California

February 10, 1944

RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN ADMINISTRATION  
AND THE CENTER POPULATION

The Educative Function of the Co-ordinating Council and the Co-op.

In the recent period, it has not been possible for Administration to make generalized appeals to the colony, or to assume the task of dispelling rumors. The reason for this is that confidence was shaken and is only now being rebuilt. In this period during which Administration was powerless to speak, the efforts of the Co-ordinating Council and the Co-op officials have been notable. In our recent reports we have spoken of the Co-ordinating Council frequently. But the Co-op attitude has also been well expressed from time to time, and in a recent issue of the Co-operator (February 9, 1944, p. 1) there is an excellent statement of this type. Your attention is called to Paragraph 4 of the article on Tofu and Sewing Factories in which the charge of depleting the funds of residents is answered. The Co-op in answering this charge is inimical to any over simplified idea to the effect that the W. R. A. can provide all. The notion that it can, I think, stems from the belief that the status of segregees was indeterminate, i.e., that they could in all likelihood be considered "prisoners of war." It is true that misconceptions still exist in this center concerning the possibility of gaining "prisoners of war" status. Before November, I noted that many people discussed this matter of indeterminate status and many asked "What is our status -- that of segregees or prisoners of war or what?" Apparently some individuals, especially newcomers to the project, stressed this possibility of achieving such status. There were, of course, many University graduates of institutions located in Japan. Such individuals would know more of both International politics and International law. As such, they could be questioned by neighbors and many, I think, took the initiative in posing as experts on these subjects.

Now, if an attempt were made by Administration to correct such misapprehensions, there would be doubt and suspicion cast on any facts or arguments. Moreover, I believe, if even such a body as the Co-ordinating Committee got out information of an accurate sort on this particular question, it might still be called propaganda. The Co-op, because of these considerations, performs a necessary function at the present time in discussing such questions. It does not intend to, nor will it continue to exercise this type of educative function. As soon as possible the regular channels of news dissemination will perform such functions. But for the present moment we can still hear the charges of propaganda aimed at releases of the Co-ordinating Committee. In fact, not too long ago the opposition claimed that the Army was actually deciding all policies, and the Committee -- just window-dressing -- was trying to get credit after the event.

To point out the Co-op function I should like to draw attention to quotations from Paragraphs 6 and 7 of the appended article:



"In the event the Co-op engages in manufacturing and processing of merchandise, it is obligated, under Operating Agreement with the WRA, to pay clothing allowance to the family members of its employees in addition to their salaries. However, as the Co-op adds a certain per cent profit to the cost of Tofu, this profit will come back to the pockets of the Colonists in the form of salaries, clothing allowance for their family members and patronage refunds. This fact will clarify the erroneous impression for some people that the Co-op is trying to thwart, by operating the industry by itself, the incoming of the WRA pay checks. It can be said that more or less similar circumstances exist in sewing industry."

The following quotation is a barbed comment on the would-be experts in International law resident in the center:

"We wonder if even those people who are interested in creating a bright and clear atmosphere in this Center are not inclined to depend too much on the WRA. In order to make life pleasant, one has to work it out by himself. The fact that some other Centers are operating a certain industry does not necessarily mean that this Center will operate it also ... Though some people often speak of Geneva Convention, they seem to lack full cognizance of the pact because of their neglect to read it."

#### The Question of the Project Newspaper.

The steps now being taken to establish an information service in the center are well timed. It was said not too long ago that if information were put out in just a few weeks it would be believed, but that the present moment would be slightly premature. The point is that as people go back to work and as the center takes on a more normal appearance, the ice is broken. In other words what would have been called propaganda two weeks ago now comes under the heading of information. The first issue of a project information bulletin is dated February 12, 1944 and, as an administrative bulletin, is a first step in establishing contact with the resident area. The issue, almost an "historic event" in these parts, is appended. It covers employment, school enrollment, tofu manufacture, information on Selective Service, and the transmitting of goods to the Tule Lake nationals of Japan by the International Red Cross.

#### Other Administrative Contacts

It would be well if other administrative contacts could be achieved with organized groups in the center. One attempt was made to establish contact between Administration and the Gila Seinen-kai (youth group). It fell through because the Gilans have made a particular point of not "mixing in" politics. The Heart Mountain youth of Namekawa and the Rohwer youth of Johnny Nayde apparently felt otherwise about the recent impasse; but the Gila group made a particular effort in their former project to stay away from political tides and eddies, and in fact turn to such functions as the publication of a literary magazine in Japanese. A second attempt at contact was with the Co-op Executive Board and since comment has already been made on that meeting, it need not be repeated here. Yet it is still possible to trace some recent developments in constructive thinking about this project among the Co-op leaders to



this same meeting. Favorable comment was heard for weeks afterward, and I think the statement about too much dependence on the W.R.A. dates from this time. It was planned by the Co-op Executive Board to have casual meetings with the Administration in which points of view and policies may be aired. A third type of contact was also recently achieved. The problem of the wardens, in lacking community sanction and community backing, has been especially grave in the recent period. On February 3, 1944 a list of Police Commissioners were made known. The Commissioners are the following: Kazuo Nakamura, 6607-D, from Topaz, age 44; Geo. Yamatini, 3107-G, and Johnny Naydo, 4209-D. These three were chosen from a list including the following: Frank Miyazaki, 3107-D, Aizo Takahashi, 6813-C, Mesami Chikasuye, 4619-B (Hawaiian youth), and Tetsujiro Nakamura, 3014-A. The Commissioners were chosen, as you will recall, in accordance with a plan of the Chief of Internal Security to place greater responsibility upon the residents for the functioning of their Wardens' organization. The idea underlying this move is to vest authority in the wardens by virtue of fact that they will be selected not only in accordance with general security standards but also by representatives of the community itself. They in turn become responsible to the Police Commissioners who are entrusted with the task of drawing up, in consultation with the Legal Department, a system of city ordinances. Immediately following segregation we commented on this "problem" of the wardens and proposed such a plan as has now been announced. In addition, not only are the wardens given community backing, but they will be trained to perform their services in an efficient and practical manner. This type of administrative contact has resulted in two gains for the wardens: (1) the wardens will not be let down by insufficient training for functions in which Japanese-American residents were notably untrained; (2) the wardens will receive community sanction to carry out functions for the benefit of their fellow residents.

While such contacts with individual groups such as the wardens or the Co-op Executive Board should be extended, the process must of necessity be a slow one in view of the lack of organized groups, open and above board, in the center.

Other administrative contacts have involved certain problems. Recently a plan was devised to provide a Civic Center for the resident area, similar to that at Minidoka. It was decided that the residents of Block 18 be moved to one of the nearer blocks in the newly constructed area. Following announcement of this decision, a petition was received addressed to the Project Director dated February 8, 1944. It stated:

"We, the undersigned people of Block 18 feel that it is unfair and unjust to order us to evacuate. So we absolutely refuse to be moved to a different place; we do not wish to go.

"In order to maintain peace and harmony in a block and center, we desire to remain as a unit here in Block 18."

Mr. Quincy Cook, Block Manager in 1807-C, and all the residents of that block signed. When asked why the petition was phrased in such demanding terms, Mr. Cook explained, amiably enough, that they wanted to petition strongly before "any decision went too far and it would be too late."



Mr. Cook explained that his fellow residents didn't want to move and obviously the convenience of living in a centrally located block was an added attraction. A Housing Committee which had been formed earlier asked for a meeting with the committee of the block in the administrative area, this request followed the presentation of the petition. The block residents expressed fear of meeting in the Administration Building, and one was quoted as adding the comment: "We'll get picked up and put in the stockade." A meeting was arranged February 10th between this committee, a representative of Civic Organizations and Mr. Cook, and it was explained then that the reason for urging such a movement now was because after the Manzanar residents arrived, it would be impossible to obtain space in the center of the resident area for the much needed Civic Center. It was pointed out that the inconvenience of moving was well understood but that the gains for the community as a whole would make them seem trivial. In providing a town hall in the Block 18 Mess Hall, in promoting greater efficiency by centralizing offices, the advantages seemed to outweigh this inconvenience. It was decided to take representatives of the block over to the new area where they could inspect the advantages of the newer housing and see the improvements in the layout of apartments, flooring, and the like.

In rebuttal the Block Manager brought up, almost as an afterthought, the fact that five persons had been detained by the military from his block: Fujihara, Sadao; Fujimoto, Teiichi; Fujimoto, Hideo, Fujii, Yoshio (all of Hawaii); and Kazuma, E. from Poston.

The point of discussing this particular situation is not that it presents any insoluble problem, but that it provides opportunity to suggest a possibly superior method of obtaining certain results. In administrative contacts as between the Housing Committee and this block, where problems are foreseen, it might be well to do the job of convincing people and manipulating opinion beforehand and then issue the order after such discussion has taken place. In regard to the Block 18 evacuation and for that matter the evacuation of the half-blocks in 25 and 46 (the latter in order to provide space for elementary schools), it might have been better to consult in advance with such trusted groups as the Co-ordinating Committee on the problem involved in such movement and on the method of putting over such a program. I think the order of events has been to "spring the decision without warning" as one colonist put it, and then later to do the convincing. Thus the Block 18 people were told first that they had to move and later told why such a move would be beneficial to the resident area in general. I believe the attempt to change opinion first, softening up antagonism, followed by the definite decision, is the more palatable mode of operation.

Another type of administrative contact has been illustrated recently in the Leave Clearance Hearings. There is some reason to believe that the Japanese atrocity stories are beginning to affect the opinion of people eligible for leave. It might well be expected and it certainly is true that our batting average on clearance is considerably lower than that at other centers. At the same time at the hearings, it is obvious that some individuals who are worried about sentiment "outside" are refusing to commit themselves. In one hearing yesterday, for example, the interpreter explained to me afterward that the individual feared



forced relocation from the other center with all the bugaboos that fear engendered. Much could be gained in achieving a more objective type of hearing if, to a certain extent, these underlying fears and worries were discussed in a completely frank and informal manner before the discussion came down to the usual questions of views relating to politics and war. Criticism was offered by the interpreter to the effect that this hearing was cold and formal and for that reason did not "go deep enough."

EXCERPT FROM A LETTER FROM TOPAZ:

Topaz, Utah  
February 4, 1944

"We were very happy to hear that Tule Lake had been returned to the WRA by the Army. Letters from Tule Lake seem to express a general trend of thought -- relief and joy at being able to enjoy the good old WRA regime again. They all seem to show disgust with the group of 'Extremists' (Extreme Selfishness) who went around making a lot of noise, 'but whose heads were just like balloons -- nothing but a lot of hot air' as someone wrote. The general feeling seems to be that these people were just bringing shame upon the Japanese people. Here's hoping that peace will rule for some time.

"Is Tule Lake subject to the draft? We are all wondering and speculating. Doctor, remember Mr. Best's speech. Tuleans continue to talk about it. And the same thing concerning the draft was announced here before the segregation -- that in all probability Tuleans there would also be affected if the draft were to come."