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Regional Files 103, Wash. DC
Miyamoto

TULELAKE GRANGE, NO. 408

Tulelake, California
May 18, 1942

Harry L. Englebrecht

House of Representatives

Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Englebrecht:

Tulelake Grange #468 at it's regular meeting May 14, 1942 instructed their legislative committee to write you regarding the waste of labor, materials and dollars in the construction of the Jap concentration camp here. While we realize some of this is unavoidable in war time, we also feel that the general attitude there is not conducive to the desired high morals of this community.

In the hiring of local trucks there is evidence that some person or persons are getting a considerable rake off of the earnings of certain amount of these trucks.

Workers must join the Unions in order to work on this job. In this country, a democracy, it is certainly the height of inconsistency or some thing, when a man must submit to this form of legalized racketeering in order to serve his country in war time. A considerable part of the cost of this camp is going into the treasury of the Union, where it is neither open to inspection or liable to taxation.

In this highly developed farming territory we are striving to produce the utmost in crops, dairy and poultry products with a shortage of farm labor, buying bonds when we can, sending our young men off to the colors and doing all in our power to aid the war effort.

It gives us a sickening let down when we realize that his local project is but one of many thousand throughout the Nation.

We stand whole heartedly for an all out effort to win this war, but are unalterable opposed to any squandering of our hard earned dollars, which will eventually have to be paid in future taxation.

Respectfully yours,

W. H. Weitkamp

Cahirman

D. W. Turnbaugh

W. H. Anderson

Secretary

(committee)

Regional Files 103, Wash. DC
Miyamoto

Letter from Rep. Harry L. Englebrecht, MC, 2nd District of California,
to Fryer.
June 27, 1942

Permit me to enclose herewith a letter received from the Tulelake
Grange No. 468 of Tulelake, California, with reference to the waste
of labor, materials, and dollars in the construction of the concen-
tration camp at Tulelake.

I was very much shocked to receive this information and I am for-
warding it to you requesting that an investigation be made of the
subject, and I be informed as to the situation.

Would you be kind enough to return the enclosed communication with your
reply, and oblige.

Unsigned memo from Bob Brown to Roy Nash
September 3, 1942

Agitation by the people of the Owens Valley seems to have dropped to a minimum in the last few weeks, with the exception of a small group of people in Independence who try to stir up trouble when there is a lull. Strangely enough these - with one exception - are employees of the Department of Water and Power: Frank Krater, Lou Stull, George Lewis are all known to be "H. A. Van Norman's 'men'", E. Seall (Doc) Wolf is the fourth. He is at present the Justice of Peace in Independence, and a ne'er-do-well who has been a town gossip and alarmist for years.

This group's latest contribution to the welfare of Owens Valley is a petition, addressed to the General, thanking him for refusing the petition of the local merchants, and pointing out that the fence here is only three feet high, and that Japanese are still being allowed out of the enclosure to work at Lone Pine Station. Copies of the petition are circulating in Lone Pine, Independence, Big Pine and Bishop.

Heretofore, Bishop has sat back in a half-amused attitude at its poor relations down in the southern end of the valley and pooh-poohed at all the rumors. But now the Bishop Defense council has taken to discussing the situation because of the appearance of the petition. Someone suggested that this august body take the matter up with General DeWitt. Dr. Anderson, who is a member, promptly informed them that the General probably had seen enough petitions and not to waste time and paper. Eventually the Council agreed.

Behind the employees of the Department in Independence, of course, is H. A. Van Norman - and ranking in Mr. V's mind is the licking he took at the hands of Tom Clark and the Department of Justice at the start of this thing. It is my opinion that he will stop at nothing to throw barbs constantly into the organization.

I can't prove it, of course, but I can bring you a dozen people who will tell you the same thing including some high officials of the department if they feel free to talk.

I'm afraid that as far as our relations with the Department of Water and Power are concerned - especially on any important matter of policy that should be discussed with Los Angeles and not Independence - that the department will have to be told - not asked - to cooperate. This was the experience of Mr. Calrk and the Engineer's office in the beginning, and it is still true today.

Regional Files, 103 (Gila) Wash., D.C.
Miyamoto

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Letter from Carl Hayden to Myer
September 3, 1942

I have redeived a letter from Mrs. Clara T. Woody, P.O. Box 87, Globe, Arizona, the pertinent part of which I quote for your information:

"A number of items have come to attention that you may be interested in. One is the situation in local Japanese detention camps. The men working there say that there is no Jap sugar rationing. And they feel that at least they should be subject to the same restrictions as American citizens. Another is the appalling waste in these camps. The Japs are arrogant and wasteful so much so that a local boy quit working there saying he couldn't stand it to see it any longer. Prior to this job he had saved his money toinvest in war bonds, but now he feels that if it is going to be wasted by the Japs he can waste it himself.

~~He~~ Personally I feel that the Japs in condoning and encouraging dual citizenship have placed themselves in this position, even the loyal Americans among them, and in not clearing up such a situation they are culpable too. When I see the reports of how Americans are treated in Jap detention camps it does not improve the situation here."

I feel that Mrs. Woody may be laboring under a misapprehension with respect to the situation existing at relocation camps in my state and elsewhere, and therefore, I shall appreciate your consideration of her statements, and your sending me any comments that will be helpful to me in correcting her present impression.

Miyamoto Notes
Washington, Sept. 15, 1943

WRA

I note that in the folder entitled "Complaints" (File No. 103) of the San Francisco Regional Filed, there is more material on complaints with respect to Tule Lake than of any other center. In terms of the quantity of letters and other documents relative to complaints, the Tule Lake folder bulks almost as large as the material on all other projects. The next largest number of complaints are addressed to the Manzanar Center, and the complaints to the other centers are negligible or non existent.

This may be an indication of the relative amount of complaint that arose in the Tule Lake Project, by contrast with that in other centers; or it may merely indicate the better cataloguing of the Tule Lake documents. I am inclined to think that there were more complaints about Tule Lake, especially from the Tulelake and Klamath people in the surrounding areas, than with regard to other centers. At least, there are no comparable set of documents as the ones included in this folder that may be gathered for the other centers.

Regional Files, 103, (Gila), Wash., D. C.
Miyamoto

City Relocation
WRA

tel from Ste wart, Mayor of Phoenix to WRA, San Francisco
October 14, 1942

City of Phoenix registers vehement protest allocation of eight hundred fifty gallons Grade A milk per day to Japanese at Relocation Camp at Sacaton This fluid milk Grade a quality is taken from the depleted central arizona milkshed which already suffers severe loss by reason of labor shortage. Army Quartermasters Corps action in draining this milk from phoenix and vicinity is one cause of serious milk shortage of four thousand gallons per day.

Jeopardizing health of our convalescents, children and general public. Phoenix will not oppose any sacrifice for our armed forces but protests vigorously pampering of Japanese at expense of our public health. Please use your best offices aid in solution this problem

C-109

Sept., 1942.

MILITARY CONTROL OVER JAPANESE INTERNMENT CAMPS URGED

Resolution No. 281

WHEREAS, all Japanese, both alien and native born, were ordered confined in concentration camps for the duration of the war; and

WHEREAS, while the military authorities were in charge of these camps, there was no complaint from the Japanese as to their loss of privileges or confinement in these camps; and

WHEREAS, these camps were to be fenced and patrolled to see that none of the Japanese escaped; and

WHEREAS, since June 1, 1942, when the authority over these camps was turned over to a civilian control board, discipline has been relaxed, no fences have been built and discontent has been bred among the Japanese confined there; and

WHEREAS, a campaign is under way to allow 2000 Japanese students to leave the camp and continue their education at the different schools and colleges; and

WHEREAS, thousands of our sons have had their educational program cut short by being drafted into the military service in defense of our country;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by The American Legion in National Convention assembled at Kansas City, Missouri, that we go on record as being opposed to any special privileges being granted Japanese in these camps and that they be denied the privilege of leaving these camps under any pretext for the duration of the war and that control of these camps be returned to the military authorities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that those Japanese that escaped to States east of the Rockies be taken into custody and placed in these different camps or that they be placed under military control in their present location.