

These letters sent you at the request of Dr. Lamb.

COPY

FRED H. HEILBRONNER,
821 Spring St.,
Klamath Falls, Oregon.

October 5, 1942

Hon. Walter M. Pierce,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Here are some pertinent facts and information that we think are grossly wrong and should be investigated immediately. We also ask that you refer this information to the California Senators and Congressmen for their consideration and investigation.

1. There are over 15,000 Japanese interned at Camp Newell, California, about 4 or 5 miles from Tullake, California, one of the richest agricultural communities in the Pacific Northwest. The Military Police there have accommodations for 800 to 1000 soldiers, but at present there is only one company of 110 men to police this large number of people. Should any major disorder occur, this handful of men would be wholly inadequate to cope with the situation.
2. The farmers and citizens of this and the Tullake Community are wholeheartedly complying with the 35 miles per hour speed limit to conserve our gasoline and tires, yet the trucks from the Japanese camp travel 40 to 45 miles per hour, utterly disregarding the speed limits or tire conservations. They are driven by Japanese drivers, who thumb their hands to their noses at both the citizens and the Military Police. They also make many unnecessary trips to different parts of the basin.
3. These Japanese are fed according to regular Government Soldier Rations and have the best of meats, foods, milk, etc., while we here are rationed and cannot buy hams or bacon, they receive ham and bacon by the truck load. They also receive choice cuts of beef that we cannot obtain and cannot afford to buy. The Captain of the Military Police says his own men haven't any bacon, yet the Jap camp has plenty. This camp is consuming over 1500 gallons of milk per day while we are going to be rationed in the very near future. What about our own children?

The War Relocation Authority at Camp Newell, I think, and I voice the sentiments of a great many people both in Klamath Falls Tullake, has made a mess of managing this project and a prompt investigation should be made. They are shipping some 50,000 tons of coal, many cars are not unloaded in time and demurrage has to be paid because the Japs are too lazy to work and are not compelled to. Thirty miles adjacent to this camp, there are 10,000 cords of forest wood (slashings, tops, limbs and old logs) going to waste that could be utilized.

We do not mind being rationed and asked to do things to help win the war, but when Japs are not rationed and are treated better than Uncle Sam's own citizens, it is time to call a halt and to investigate. This Tulalake Community has a lot of Veterans who served in the last war and their sons are in the war now. How do you think they feel about it? Are our prisoners being treated royally in the Philippines, Bataan, Corregidor and Japan? Food is also being wasted at this camp, in great quantities, good food that has never been prepared. This is through inefficient management at the camp, and should be corrected.

Please don't pigeon-hole this letter, send an investigator and ascertain the facts for yourself.

Yours very truly,

Signed, FRED H. HEILBRONNER

P. S. I am a Director of the Klamath County Chamber of Commerce,
Chairman of the Klamath Armory Administration.
Chairman of the Klamath Falls Troop Entertainment Committee
Finance Officer of Klamath Post No. 8, American Legion, 3d yr.
Grand Chef de Gare, 40 & 8, State of Oregon, 1942-1943
Chairman, Klamath County Local Board #2, Selective Service.

WALTER M. PIERCE
2d Congressional District
OREGON

COPY

Member Committee on
AGRICULTURE

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Home Address:
La Grande, Oregon
R. D. No. 1

October 12, 1942

Hon. John H. Tolan, Chairman Committee
Investigating National Defense Migration

My dear Colleague:

This letter is for your Committee, but I address it to you, personally, so that it may have early attention and action. I enclose copy of a letter of October 5th, from my constituent, Mr. Fred H. Heilbronner, of Klamath Falls, Oregon. Mr. Heilbronner is a highly respected and well known citizen, whose statements are worthy of immediate and careful investigation. I request that investigation be made at the earliest possible moment.

This Tulelake situation has been brought to my attention previously by railroad people who saw, or handled, the furnishings which were sent to that cantonment. Will you please let me know, addressing it to my office here in Washington, just what action you can take and when you will be prepared to have an investigator look into the situation.

I shall be in Klamath Falls, October 18th, 19th, and 20th, and would appreciate it if I might have word from you so that I may discuss it with people there at that time.

Another thing I wish to call to your attention is the fact that our local papers, in Oregon, have given accounts of teachers hired away from their public school positions to teach Japanese children at greatly increased wages. One such account from Freewater, Oregon, stated that a teacher of music was offered \$500 a year advance in salary to go to a Japanese camp. Comment on such a situation is not necessary. It ought to be sifted to the bottom. Who is responsible for the utter folly which has brought about such conditions?

Very sincerely yours,

(signed) Walter M. Pierce,

Walter M. Pierce, M.C.

Partial Report Made on Chamber Probe Of Condition at WRA Tule Lake Center

Partial report of an investigation being made of the WRA project at Tule lake was filed with the Klamath chamber of commerce board of directors Wednesday and approved by the board.

In it, the chamber committee made no final conclusions, but reported findings made so far and advised against idle rumors. Any report of mismanagement or other such matters should be given to the proper authorities, the committee said. Rudy Jacobs is chairman of the committee and Fred Heilbronner is director in charge.

Herewith is the report in full: "On Thursday afternoon, October 22, 1942, Chairman Rudy Jacobs, Director in Charge Fred Heilbronner, Don Kenyon and Earl C. Reynolds visited the Tule lake project of the War Relocation authority. In submitting the following report the committee wishes to emphasize that the re-

port is not final and is still subject to revision and open to additional study and information.

"The committee met with Elmer L. Shirrell, project director, and after briefly explaining the project to members of the committee, Mr. Shirrell answered questions put to him by the various members. The party was later conducted through the project by a Japanese resident.

"As far as members of the committee can ascertain the vast majority of rumors are unfounded and we recommend at this time that before any stories are repeated concerning the Japanese Relocation center the facts concerning these stories be fully determined and the stories investigated. It is our belief that no good can come from idle rumors or gossip and we further believe that if there is any mismanagement or any acts being committed that are not for the general welfare these cases

should be reported to the proper authorities only after, and we repeat, the facts have been ascertained.

"We further feel that lack of knowledge concerning the set-up of the Tulelake project has been the cause of many rumors. If the members of the board of directors will picture in their own minds that portion of the project upon which is located the residences, stores, administration buildings and soldiers' barracks and hereafter called the "Center" and then picture that portion of Modoc county surrounding this Center and including the farm and the contiguous territory between the Center and the farm and this portion of land hereafter to be called the "Area," it will help to clarify the situation. It was the privilege of the committee to have read to it the orders from General DeWitt's headquarters, stat-

(Continued on Page Seven)

OLD AND NEWS, KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON

Partial Report Made on Chamber Probe of Center

(Continued From Page One)

ing that this project was not an evacuation camp, an internment camp or an internment center, but rather a Relocation project. Within the Center Japanese residents are allowed freedom at all times, and between sunset and sunrise this Area is patrolled by the troops stationed there. This patrolling is done by vehicles and by the aid of seven towers equipped with powerful searchlights. No Japanese resident is allowed to leave this Center between sunset and sunrise. Between the hours of sunrise and sunset Japanese residents are allowed the freedom of the Area, and the boundaries of the Area are then patrolled by the troops stationed there. While Japanese residents are allowed to cross the highway at the main gate and also to cross over the Southern Pacific railroad tracks directly across from the main gate in order to reach the hog farm, poultry farm and vegetable farm, they are not allowed to walk up and down the highway or the railroad tracks. At the

tended for the armed forces but were not used by them and have been converted into teachers' quarters. Mr. Shirrell further reported that only one teacher was teaching in the Relocation Center who in 1941-1942 taught in the state of Oregon, and she was from Eugene, Ore.

"Mr. Shirrell advised us that they were experiencing the same food shortages at the Center as civilians were experiencing. Residents at the Center are fed by the Quartermasters department at Sacramento and are on army rations of 45c a day maximum; for instance their meat ration was 2 1/2 pounds per person a week. They have three fish days a week and consume approximately 18,000 pounds of fish per week.

"Mr. Shirrell advised us that there were 14,475 residents at the Center and that approximately 66 2/3 per cent of them were American citizens. 65,000 of these men and women are on the payroll. The pay for common labor is \$12 per month, for semi-skilled \$16 per month and for

younger members' approval at the Center. However, inasmuch as they desired meat, there was apparently no evidence of dissension over this matter.

"We visited one of the common enterprise stores operated by the Japanese themselves and found a variety of goods offered for sale. The store was located in one of the buildings which was intended for a barracks and seemed rather busy. However, we were informed by the buyer that he could not purchase any gum, candy bars or coca cola, and we saw no evidence of any of these products though there were other types of carbonated drinks and some ice cream bars.

"In discussing the sale of produce Mr. Shirrell advised that insofar as practical this produce was being shipped to other project centers, but that there was a surplus of some of the produce and this was being sold on the open market. Mr. Shirrell was not too familiar with the sale of this produce inasmuch as it is handled from the San Francisco office. He did state, however, that they were receiving \$1 per hundred weight field run for potatoes that had been dug, picked up and bucked out to the edge of the field. The purchaser was

towers equipped with powerful searchlights. No Japanese resident is allowed to leave this Center between sunset and sunrise. Between the hours of sunrise and sunset Japanese residents are allowed the freedom of the Area, and the boundaries of the Area are then patrolled by the troops stationed there. While Japanese residents are allowed to cross the highway at the main gate and also to cross over the Southern Pacific railroad tracks directly across from the main gate in order to reach the hog farm, poultry farm and vegetable farm, they are not allowed to walk up and down the highway or the railroad tracks. At the present time trucks going from the Center to the various farm units must use the highway for a considerable distance. However, there is under construction a private road leading from the vegetable farm east directly to the Southern Pacific tracks. We have been advised by Southern Pacific officials that a right-of-way has been obtained adjacent to the Southern Pacific tracks and opposite the regular highway for a road which would eliminate the use of the highway by trucks driven by Japanese to a great extent except for trucks crossing the highway right at the main gate.

"We inquired as to the rumors with reference to the Japanese 'roaming the countryside.' Mr. Shirrell informed us that one Caucasian guard had on three different occasions signed that he was accompanying parties of Japanese to various points outside of the Area—one of them being to Medicine lake and one to a nursery northeast of Tulelake. However, on these three occasions this guard did not accompany the Japanese and, therefore, there was fact for the stories that the Japanese were outside of the Area unescorted. This guard has now been dismissed from the services of the War Relocation authority, and we have been further informed by an officer of General DeWitt's staff that these facts are true.

"Mr. Shirrell stated that the salary of teachers in the Elementary school was \$1660, in the high school \$2000 and the salary for the head of the schools was \$2600—these salaries all being based on a twelve-month basis with a 2½ day a month leave. The teachers are all under Civil Service. Mr. Shirrell stated that the enrollment in the high school was 2200 and in the elementary school 1500. We failed to obtain the number of teachers and, after our return, the criticism of a light teacher load was expressed. This cannot be determined until after we have found out the number of teachers in the system. The teachers are living in quarters which were first in-

idents at the Center are fed by the Quartermasters department at Sacramento and are on army rations of 45c a day maximum; for instance their meat ration was 2½ pounds per person a week. They have three fish days a week and consume approximately 18,000 pounds of fish per week.

"Mr. Shirrell advised us that there were 14,475 residents at the Center and that approximately 66 2/3 per cent of them were American citizens. 65,000 of these men and women are on the payroll. The pay for common labor is \$12 per month, for semi-skilled \$16 per month and for professional such as doctors, dentists, attorneys, teachers, \$19 per month. There is a clothing allowance of \$2.25 for children, \$3.25 for women and \$3.75 per month for men. Mr. Shirrell said that he had no authority to force any one of these residents to work and, under the International law, could not produce food nor products of any kind for the armed forces of the United States. Likewise he could not force them to work under the same law. Mr. Shirrell admits that labor troubles are many, a great portion of which is through lack of understanding and lack of proper facilities and conditions for the laborers. In further investigating the matter of so-called strikes at the Center we asked an officer of the United States army from General DeWitt's office concerning them and his answer was, 'Well, isn't that a good American custom?'

"We found that the army is now inspecting all incoming parcel post, express and freight shipments. However, first class mail, incoming or outgoing at the Center, is not censored unless censored at its source; for example foreign mail.

"In visiting the mess halls we found the quarters and personnel clean and were given to understand by our guide that there was ample food and that second helpings were served when requested. Our guide further explained that the older people in the Center desired fish, therefore the three fish days per week. This did not fully meet with the

drinks and some ice cream bars. "In discussing the sale of produce Mr. Shirrell advised that insofar as practical this produce was being shipped to other project centers, but that there was a surplus of some of the produce and this was being sold on the open market. Mr. Shirrell was not too familiar with the sale of this produce inasmuch as it is handled from the San Francisco office. He did state, however, that they were receiving \$1 per hundred weight field run for potatoes that had been dug, picked up and bucked out to the edge of the field. The purchaser was picking them up at the edge of the field and shipping them to Healdsburg, Calif., where they had a lend-lease government contract.

"As stated at the beginning, we have no definite recommendations to make at this time, although we believe that if a large sign were placed at the outskirts of the Area, calling attention to civilians that they were now entering the Area, this would be of assistance. We also suggest that a more rigid inspection of people entering and leaving the Center be carried out and that a closer check be made upon Caucasians who enter the Center to determine whether or not they are privileged to go, unescorted, throughout the Area.

Respectfully submitted,
NATIONAL DEFENSE COMMITTEE.

Rudy Jacobs, Chairman,
Fred Heilbronner, Director in Charge,
Don Kenyon,
C. Reeves,
Earl C. Reynolds.

October 17, 1942

OREGON JOURNAL - Page 16, Col. 4

DEPORT IDLE JAPS, URGES OREGON CHIEF

SALEM, Oct. 16-AP-Governor Sprague telegraphed a request to President Roosevelt asking him to force Japanese internees to assist in harvesting farm crops, particularly sugar beets.

The governor, bitterly criticizing the Japanese for not volunteering for farm work, said they should be told they must work or else be deported after the war. The governor's telegram said:

"More than 200,000 tons of sugar beets in Eastern Oregon and Western Idaho will be lost unless additional help can be secured during the coming four weeks. In the meantime, the greatest pool of idle labor in all the West exists within a day's ride of the fields where labor is needed. This labor is to be found in the war relocation authority camps for Japanese evacuees from which efforts to obtain voluntary recruitment have been a dismal failure.

Shocked at Attitude

"From Newell camp, near Tule Lake, Cal., only 800 of the 15,000 or more Japanese, many of whom, prior to internment, gave assurance of their desire to promote the welfare of the nation in any way they could serve. Now a spirit of lethargy and indifference prevails. According to information given me today, only 6,000 of the 15,000 in the camp pretend to do any work; 9,000 live in absolute idleness and grouse about the food and treatment accorded by the government.

Pay, No Discrimination

"The work offered in the sugar beet fields of Eastern Oregon carries prevailing standards of pay without discrimination, and

the Japanese workers now in the area are well satisfied with conditions. What we need is a definite push from WRA officials to get these Japanese evacuees to work. No compulsion would be required if employment agents had the support of WRA executives in encouraging response of evacuees. If voluntary requirement fails, then Japanese evacuees should be compelled to work or be told they will be deported after the war. Will you not instruct WRA officials to give positive assistance in recruitment program?"

C
O
P
Y

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Tule Lake Project
Newell, California

October 21, 1942

The President

The White House

Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

We herein respectfully enclose our letter of protest to the telegram which your office received from the Governor of the State of Oregon, The Honorable Charles A. Sprague, with regard to recruiting Japanese labor on the Oregon beet farms.

We hope you will give it due consideration. We have the honor to remain

Most respectfully yours,

Ichiro Hasegawa

Richard Hikawa

Ken Sekiguchi

Enclosure

C
O
P
Y

Division of Agriculture
Tule Lake Project
Newell, California
October 18, 1942

Open Letter To
His Excellency, The Governor
Salem, Oregon

Dear Governor Sprague:

After reading your article in the "Oregon Journal" of October 17, 1942, page 16, column 4, decrying the dismal failure in your attempt to recruit beet workers from our midst, we wish to bring to your attention the following facts which we hope will clarify the half-truths mentioned in your telegram to the President.

As we are writing this letter, 54 persons are leaving this camp for Caldwell County, Idaho, to participate in the sugar beet harvest. Therefore on this day October 18, 1942, there are remaining in this camp exactly 14,472 persons. Of this number, women and children under 18 years of age comprise 9,412. The remaining 5,060 are males over the age of 18, but of this number 1,060 are over the age of 60. On the assumption that every man between the ages of 18 and 60 is able-bodied, we would have available, assuming that there is no work to be done in camp, for sugar beet labor from this camp exactly 4,000 men. Under any circumstances, when nearly 15,000 people are brought together to live in a new community established in a period of less than three months, there will be among them many whose labor is essential to the daily operation of the new community. These include 800 project farm work; 500 construction; 400 maintenance men which includes janitor and garbage disposers; 800 warehousing and other transportation; 350 cooks and cooks' helpers; and 410 wardens, firemen, and other Civic workers; and at least 100 hospital employees, a total of 3,360. The 800 farm workers are employed on the 2,500 acres WRA project farm which

Page 2.

is now in the midst of harvesting, which is supplying not only this camp with produce but also five other Relocation Centers with a total population of approximately 70,000 people. Due to the exigencies of our own harvesting, the high school has been closed to supplement the farm workers.

The 500 construction workers are now engaged in completing the barracks to make them more tenable for the coming winter which is more severe than the climate to which the greater majority of us have been accustomed. In addition, they are constructing quarters for teachers and other Caucasian staff members, constructing an addition which was sorely needed by the Hospital, and relative to the WRA farm program, constructing a 20,000 hen poultry farm and a 5,000 head hog farm. Furthermore, our school buildings have yet to be erected and at present the 3,971 students are crowded into makeshift buildings without adequate desk and chair facilities.

The 400 maintenance men are detailed to various duties such as: garbage disposal of this city of 15,000; janitors for approximately 400 public buildings, such as mess halls, laundries, wash-rooms, and schools, and the fuel detail which must supply the 7,500 odd boilers and stoves with coal. The 800 workers on warehousing and transportation are taking care of 50 odd warehouses and with an inadequate fleet of 60 trucks are attempting to accommodate 15,000 people and a 2,500 acre farm which is shipping on the average seven cars of produce daily.

The 350 cooks and cooks' helpers are cooking three meals for the entire colony of 15,000 which means that one cook is preparing meals for approximately 45 persons.

The 410 workers under the Community Welfare and Internal

Security Division are classed as firemen, firewardens, police wardens and other Civic leaders. Due to the frame construction and congestion, the camp must, of necessity have a large complement of firemen and fire wardens. The 100 odd workers in the hospital are employed as doctors, internes, orderlies, dentists, dental technicians, pharmacists, first aid men and ambulance drivers.

This leaves 640 men between the ages of 18 and 60 who are employed in miscellaneous employment. This 640 on miscellaneous non-essential employment is quite a difference between the 9,000 whom you have mentioned as in absolute idleness.

According to the news article, you Governor Sprague, have requested the good office of the President "to force Japanese internees to assist in harvesting farm crops --". Since when has it become the policy of these United States to FORCE any person or group of persons to work? We understand that forced labor is an AXIS principle, not a DEMOCRATIC principle.

Prior to evacuation, it was stressed that it was the duty of. Americans of Japanese Ancestry to be evacuated. We have been told that to do so was our share in the war effort. Now that we have been completely evacuated and before we are barely settled in our new community, your good office comes forth with the statement that it is NOW our duty to assist in the war effort through participation as beet workers in the same state which only a few months previous was clamoring for our evacuation. When the leaders of the various states show such a reversal of policy, it is not only bewildering and distressing to us, but it also seems, to our minds, that we are being exploited by certain groups.

Prior to evacuation the cry was: "Get the Japs out! We'll get along; we'll get the Mexicans and the Filipinos. Out with the

Japs. They're dangerous!" Now that we are the only labor pool which is definitely available, the very ones who were crying for our evacuation are begging for our return. Please do not misunderstand us. We realize that every effort in production is essential to the war effort, and as American citizens, we are just as anxious to contribute our efforts as others. But it seems to us that we are being made pawns to the whims of political and economic groups. We hope that you understand, that to be exploited is distasteful to any group. We believe that a high office, such as yours, should have had the data, exercised good judgement, and utilized the influence of your good office prior to our evacuation to a fuller extent, so that you would have not had to propose any "forced labor."

Your statement, "Japanese evacuees should be compelled to work or be told they will be deported after the war," is duress in the most vicious sense. It is an Axis technique, the very principle against which the United Nations are now fighting. Such a coercive statement from a high office tends only to defeat the united efforts of all majority and minority groups.

Also your allegations that "No compulsion would be required if the employment agents had the support of WRA executives in encouraging response of evacuees" are based entirely on your opinion and not on facts. The WRA executives, in view of the policy that all the evacuees should be relocated outside of the military areas, are aiding and cooperating with the employment agents in every way possible and strongly recommending to the evacuees that they go out and endeavor to establish themselves. But the WRA officials have a better understanding of our situation; therefore, are recommending, not forcing, us to volunteer for the sugar beet fields.

Your expectation of a spontaneous response to your plea for workers has not been met in this colony for the following reasons:

1. Many who have previously volunteered have reported that they have been treated as second-class citizens--tolerated only to the extent of the economic necessity of the employers and of the various communities.
2. The contracts, in many cases, have not been in good faith by the employers. Many feel that they have been definitely "gyped".
3. The great majority of us Japanese are definitely not migratory laborers. Most of us are thinking in terms of post-war rehabilitation, therefore are seeking something more tangible than a few months in the beet fields.

Therefore, instead of resorting to coercion and duress, if your office will give these facts serious consideration, correct the present conditions, and offer more tangible long-term opportunities, we are sure that many more will welcome the opportunity to volunteer.

A copy of this letter is being sent to the President.

Sincerely yours,

Ichiro Hasegawa

Richard Hikawa

Ken Sekiguchi