

TULE LAKE INCIDENT  
SEQUENCE OF EVENTS: SEPT. 30--NOV. 5, 1943

+ September 30---Burning of the Benches

When the last trainload of segregants from Topaz arrived, some young men, including Hawaiians from Topaz, gathered at the Induction center near the high school. They made a bonfire, using wooden benches, and stood around it shouting, "Banzai!" Two to four benches were burned.

X October 7-----Termination of the Coal Crew

The coal crew of 43 was terminated after three of the group had refused to work. Two Topaz men who were not working on the crew figured in the trouble. There were requests for coveralls, gloves, a Japanese foreman and a 4-hour day.

X October 8-----The coal crew jobs were opened to anyone other than the 43 who had been terminated. No one reported to take the jobs.

X October 12-----Settlement of the Coal Situation

There was a meeting to discuss the coal situation. Jobs were opened to the old crew, and promises were made that coveralls, gloves and a mid-morning snack would be furnished the workers.

October 13-----150 men turned up to work on the coal. A fire truck turned over in making a turn on the way to a fire. Nine firemen were injured, three seriously.

October 15-----Truckload of farm workers turned over on its way to the farm for harvest work. Twelve men were hospitalized, four in a critical condition.

X October 16-----Farm worker from Topaz who was hurt in the accident died in the hospital. No farm workers turned up for harvesting at Project farm.

October 17 - 21      Formation of a group of evacuees which discussed working conditions at the farm, workmen's compensation for injuries, and the licensing of truck drivers charged with transporting workers.

October 21-----Statement of Project Director in Project newspaper that harvesting would be turned over to the Army if no evacuees reported for farm work by this day. There was also a statement of willingness to discuss situation with authorized representatives.



October 22-----Three men visited Project Director, requesting him to appear at public funeral for Topaz man killed in the farm truck accident. The widow of the dead man informed the Project Director that the family was not interested in a public funeral. Project Director sent a letter, which was not delivered, stating that a public funeral was not authorized.

Breaking of windows in Housing Office  
Thirteen out of eighteen windows in the Housing Office were systematically smashed by a group of young men during the night. Also some damage was done to the bank office.

October 23-----Public Funeral for Farm Worker from Topaz  
Funeral ceremony managed by Buddhist Leaders was attended by about three thousand evacuees. Three Caucasians also attended the funeral, one of these being the Reports Officer of the Project who was slightly roughed up after having taken four pictures of the ceremony. Evidence of organization appeared in the form of young evacuees directing people in the blocks to go to the funeral, and a group of young men patrolling at the rear of the crowd. Power was turned off on the Project so that the public address system could not function.

October 24-----The Housing Office was closed for a week as a result of the smashing of windows and two instances of minor violence against evacuee housing office workers....Recruiting of evacuees from other centers for farm harvest work....Basket ball game at High School Auditorium during which minor damage was done to roof and windows, and a fight took place between Nisei and Kibei boys.

October 26-----Meeting of a group of ten evacuees with the Project Director. The spokesman was Kuratomi of Jerome. The group asked for recognition as representatives of all the evacuees in the center, and asked for a clarification of their status under international law. They stated that there was strong feeling for separating within the center those who had answered "N" to question 28 and those who intend to go back to Japan. They asked that W.R.A. take responsibility for farm and fire accidents, defective equipment and inexperienced drivers. They demanded that nothing be shipped out from



the farm to other relocation centers. They asked for an evacuee organization to govern the center and negotiate with the administration, to be called the central governing body and to have control over the Block Managers.

There were requests for improvement of lavatory facilities and for uniform porches to be built on all the barracks. They complained about food and asked for provision for unemployment compensation.

These points were discussed with the Project Director, Assistant Project Director Zimmer and the Chief of Community Management. The meeting ended with an agreement to send in a committee to discuss plans and further details.

October 29-----Thirty-two thousand pounds of food supplies were moved from the Project warehouse out to the newly recruited harvest workers at the farm. The food was moved by members of the appointed personnel staff.

November 1-----Director Myer arrived at Tule Lake.

A crowd variously estimated at from three thousand to eight thousand gathered around the Administration Building at about 1 p.m. This group came in response to unauthorized announcements to the evacuees that the director would speak to them.

An organized group of young men numbering about 200, headed by a former evacuee warden, forced the crowd to remain around the building throughout the afternoon.

A public address system was set up in the Administration Building by evacuees. Appointed personnel were told by evacuees to remain within the Administration Building.

While the crowd gathered, a committee of 17 evacuees, including Kuratomi and Kai of Jerome, entered the Project Director's office and met with the national director and the Project Director for a period of three hours. They presented a series of demands which were as follows:

1. Clarification of the status of the residents of the Tule Lake Center as disloyal Americans or as Japanese nationals.
2. Resignation of Project Director Best, Assistant Project Director Zimmer, Mess Supervisor Peck, Warehouse Supervisor Kirkman, Chief of Internal Security Schmidt, Farm



- Superintendent Kallam and the whole Caucasian hospital staff.
3. Improvements within the camp as follows:  
Identical porches for all apartments  
Distribution of mops, brooms and buckets  
Sanitation of rest rooms  
Double walls for partitions  
Dust control on roads  
Additional ambulances
  4. Equal professional rights for Japanese doctors and Caucasian doctors.
  5. Further segregation of people within the center
  6. Improvements in farm management.
  7. Improvements in food.

During the meeting of the committee with the director in the Administration Building, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Reece M. Pedicord was beaten at the hospital by a group of 12 young evacuees.

Late in the afternoon, after meeting with the committee, Director Myer and Project Director Best addressed the crowd briefly, stating that they would not deal with demands but would be glad to discuss problems.

Their addresses were summarized by Kuratomi in Japanese, and a speech dealing with loyalty to Japan was given by Rev. Kai. The crowd dispersed quietly after the leader of the young men who had been patrolling the area requested them to bow and go home.

† November 2-----The appointed personnel held a meeting at which was circulated a petition for a fence between the administrative and evacuee areas. Director Myer addressed the staff at the Recreation Hall. There were speeches by several members expressing the insecurity which they felt. Some members of the staff resigned.

November 3-----A ceremony commemorating the birth of Emperor Meiji was held in the center by evacuees. Trucks travelled through the center picking up people to attend the ceremony, taking them from the jobs that they were working on. Meeting of 20 evacuees, headed by Kuratomi, with Spanish Consul.

November 4-----An edition of the Tulean Dispatch was published under evacuee supervision, containing an editorial urging center residents to act like Japanese.



Army called in

Motor pool workers refused to give up keys for trucks wanted for transportation of outside harvest workers. After dark in the warehouse area a group of young evacuees appeared armed with clubs. Evacuees also armed with clubs drove up in trucks in the administrative residence area. About 75 young men were first reported some time after 9 p.m. in this area. A total of between 200 and 300 young evacuees were reported in the whole administrative area during the evening.

An attempt was made by the evacuees to surround the Project Director's house, and shouts of "Get Best!" were heard. There was fighting between 5 Caucasian Internal Security officers and evacuees, one Caucasian being badly beaten up. The Project Director called in the military police at 9:45 p.m.

The military police and Internal Security officers caught 18 evacuees, and the rest ran into the center. Almost all of the 18 caught were from Topaz.

November 5-----Two gatherings in the center were broken up by military police with the use of tear gas.

*Add also Jamba p. 85.*

*Kocho - in N.C.*



TULE LAKE INCIDENT

Sequence of Events ----- Nov. 5 - Nov. 16, 1943

Friday, November 5 ----Evacuee office workers coming to work in administrative offices told to return to residences by Military Police.

Two small gatherings of evacuees in center broken up by tear gas.

Food deliveries made by WRA personnel with Army escorts.

Saturday, November 6 --Proclamation issued by Col. Austin announcing Army occupation of center, prohibition of out-door gatherings, and offer to meet with representative group of evacuees.

Monday, November 8 ----Meeting of Army representatives with members of evacuee committee of seven, for purpose of discussing restoration of normal activities.

California State Senate committee hearings on the Tule Lake incident begin at Tule Lake, California.

Spanish Consul visits center to investigate incident; meets with evacuee group headed by Kuratomi.

Evacuee cooperative store re-opens.

Tuesday, November 9 ---Evacuee warehouse crew returns to work under Army supervision.

State Senate hearings continue in Tule Lake Center.

Tulean Dispatch mimeograph machine taken out of evacuee possession, at suggestion of WRA administration.

Evacuee Committee of Seven urges coal crew to turn out for work.

Wednesday, November 10-Coal crew goes to work under Army supervision.

State Senate Hearings concluded.

Segregation movement completed, 242 non-segregants being moved to other centers.

Radio broadcasting outfit picked up by Internal Security and Military Police in evacuee apartment, under direction of F.C.C.



Thursday, November 11--Coal and warehouse crews stop work, protesting working conditions.

Issue of Tulean Dispatch, published under evacuee supervision, gives Evacuee Committee's version of incident, asserting that violence resulted from administrations bad faith in moving food out of warehouse.

Announcement by Army of mass meeting to be addressed by Col. Austin on November 13.

Friday, November 12 ---Evacuee block delegates hold meeting and vote against mass meeting for following day, according to Tulean Dispatch.

Saturday, November 13--Tulean Dispatch publishes announcement cancelling mass meeting.

Col. Austin and Mr. Cozzens, with large Army escort, enter colony to address residents; no evacuees attend meeting, although address are given.

Curfew keeping evacuees indoors between 7 P.M. and 6 A.M. proclaimed by Army.

Tulean Dispatch mimeograph machine picked up by Army.

Coal crew returns to work.

Sunday, November 14 ---Tsuda, former chief warden, and others picked up and held in military area by Military Police.

Evacuee committee of Seven issues proclamation calling for passive resistance to WRA and Army personnel, hunger strike by evacuees, and closing of cooperative stores.

Meeting of block delegates of evacuees held in which opposition to hunger strike by evacuees is voiced and a new "~~Negotiations~~ <sup>Communications</sup> Committee" is elected.

Monday, November 15 ---More evacuees picked up by Army.

New committee, headed by George Yamatane meets and discusses getting Spanish Consul to act as go-between for evacuee factions.

Boys wearing head bands with red circles in center (language school group?) picked



up by military police when found marching  
in center.

Co-op board of directors orders cooperative  
store to remain open.

Kuratomi and Rev. Kai in hiding in center.

Tuesday, November 16--Cozzens meets with Block Managers.

Young evacuees prominent in Hawaiian Kibel  
goon squad picked up by Army together with  
data on organization of First Committee of  
Seven.



1. Check by Hoffman shows all hydrants in good condition except one on which valve nut is missing. No hydrants blocked or filled with sand or dirt, although they have been in the past, prior to segregation, ~~sometimes~~. Fire reporting telephone system operating satisfactorily, few lights on fire department switchboard burned out. No fire hose stolen from fire department. 189 carbon tetrachloride quart size extinguishers missing out of 1700 since center began; appointed personnel as well as evacuees have access to these. No hose nozzles damaged. Five or six  $2\frac{1}{2}$  gal. and 4 gal. water-type extinguishers bent and three or four of same type filled with chicken louse spray and gummed beyond use. Fire truck damaged in turn-over on way to fire October 13, now in use.
2. There is no record of knives having disappeared during last several months. Turnip knives lost or stolen in farm division were prior to segregation, and many have turned up in fields after plowing, showing loss while in use at work. No records of knives disappearing from mess-halls, other than normal breakage.
3. Four wooden benches thrown into bonfire during welcoming of Topaz segregants by others from Topaz. Benches thrown on fire by Hawaiian Kibei youths. They were not taken by the boys from any building, but ~~were~~ had been set out in induction area for incoming evacuees to sit on. Welcoming ceremony not otherwise disorderly, boys stood about and shouted Banzai.

4. Farm Superintendent Kallum seen by Zimmer, Best, and Opler immediately after alleged meeting with farm workers. showed no evidence of being beaten or roughed up, but ~~said~~ told them he had been pushed around in room and kicked in shins, then forced to sign paper stating that portion of farm crop harvested by Tuleans for use only ~~of~~ Tuleans. Few minutes later Kallum told Schmidt of Internal Security had not been beaten and had merely signed paper stating presence at meeting. Later different versions were given to Joyce, Engle, Cole, and Schmidt by Kallum. The alleged paper has never been produced.

In town of Tullake, Calif. on Nov. 8, eight former WRA emplo

Chas. K. Wiese, Clifford L. Payne, Ernest R. Rhoads, John C. Stubbs, Noble C. Wilkinson, Floyd B. Stone, Chas. S. Warren.

On Nov. 10----- three residents of Tullake, Calif.  
Clark Fensler, Tullake Civilian Defense Head  
Howard Dayton, Local Cammnder American Legion  
Mrs. Cummings, Mgr. Golden Hotel

At Tule Lake Center -----

On Nov. 8 ----- 4 WRA employees  
Benj. F. Gerry, R. R. Best, Seemah Battat, Margaret Lucas

On Nov. 9 ----- 7 WRA employees  
Geo. B. Lueck, Mrs. E. E. Adams, R. B. Gozzens, ~~Exxx~~  
F. W. Slattery, J. J. Donovan, Roy S. Campbell,  
Dr. R. M. Pedicord

----- 3 former WRA employees

Ralph Peck, Clifford R. Kallum, E. H. Borbeck

Seemah Battat, E.E.Adams, and Kallum appeared twice, once each in the town of Tullake and at the center.



TULE LAKE INCIDENT

Three Evacuee Writings

The three attached letters, one a note, are an indication of evacuee attitudes toward conditions and occurrences at the Tule Lake Center.



LETTER FOUND IN DESK OF JAPANESE GIRL WORKING IN THE LEAVE BUILDING

Nov. 4, 1943

1618-M

Dearest Hideo:

Received your letter with the clipping in it, was certainly newsy, especially when you know the person.

Plenty of excitement here lately, early this week we had a near riot with just about the whole village up around the administration building. The people had a right to do it so I won't say anything against it. After a checkup it was disclosed that the caucasians were chiseling in on the evacuees point ration foods and meats. The hospital staff of caucasians were the cause of a lot of death recently, chiefly Elmer and Helen Yoshihara's baby which was stillborn. and Maybe you don't know Henry Furukawa's little 2 year old baby Junior, anyway he fell in a bucket of hot water a couple of weeks ago and the doctor didn't do a thing for him so he passed away several days after. It was so sad. Lots of other cases too that was only in block 16 and it all happened in one week too. Since the riot or rather meeting we have had some pretty good foods. Eatable anyway. Imagine today we had eggs for breakfast and a steak for noon, the other day canned peach made an appearance on the table and everyone nearly fell over. We don't get any canned fruit at all so it was good.

I guess starting next Monday I'm going to work in the mess, then I can have more time to stay around home. Guess I'll be going to Jap. school too in the evening.

Since more people are scheduled to come in they are planning on building 10 more blocks. Saw the movie "Sun Valley Serenade" last nite and I sure liked it.

Today the weather is cold cause the wind is blowing and looks like rain pretty soon.

Nothing else that I'd call news at the present but maybe I'll wait a few days before I mail this out then I can add some late gossips in.

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Block 713-C  
Newell, California  
November 2, 1943

Hi, Mamie,

I received your post card and letter. May I acknowledge them since it looks pretty black on the record for me. However, May I also say that my silence does not mean that my thoughts do not turn to you on numerous occasions daily. In fact, it is not infrequent that I write to you, but oh, so sentimentally that I kick myself back to reality. I haven't found anyone that I can pour my troubles (?) to. Remember!--

When you're a long, long way from home,  
It's hard to find a pal that's true,  
That you can tell your troubles to--

Ah, well, such is life--I'm really in the dumps today with nothing to do at the office--I'm typing this at the office, by the way. And, too, I'm shaking in my boots yet. Yesterday afternoon, suddenly a strike a strike was called--it was so sudden that I didn't know what was happening and what to do. I was really scared. Here goes the inside story-----

In the morning at 10:30, Sam Ichida, you remember him, came around to the office and asked me to take down the minutes of the conference with Mr. Myer, who was scheduled to arrive at noon. I told him, naturally, that I couldn't and shouldn't go. He seemed to think in riddles, saying that I didn't have to worry about Mr. Silverthorne's work (The weekly report, by the way, had missed the deadline again) I also made the mistake of telling him that I didn't want to go. Then at lunch everything damned on me when the block manager announced the work stoppage and asked every young man to assemble in front of the administration building. I didn't know whether to go to the office and clear up my desk or stay home, since Mr. Uchida has menacingly told me that he would come again at noon. Gee--- So I scurried off to a friend's house on the other end of camp-- I stayed there all afternoon, coming home at 4:30, at which time the strike was all over.

I am certainly glad we had moved to Block 7 (I shall tell you about Mr. Silverthorne's help), since this block is mostly reserved for doctors and hospital workers. I feel more at home in the block because many of the married folks and even older Issei speak English. Hospital workers and mess workers were requested to stay on duty and in our blocks, only young men were asked to join the mob. In other blocks, I noticed while "fleeing" that everyone was going, even mothers with baby buggies. The order, I later learned, was "anyone who could walk". Each block was represented by orderly masses of marching people, led by the block manager. It was really terrifying!



The army immediately went into action by guarding the gates. A parade of tanks and jeeps bristling with guns was quite impressive. The back gate, which I was able to see from my "foxhole", was blocked by two large tanks, a jeep and a group of M.P.'s. The watch tower above the gate was crowded with M. P.'s.

From time to time, trucks and ambulances came around honking their horns, asking everyone to go, picking up stray colonists as they went by.

What took place at the ad bldg, then heavens, I do not know. I hear that over 10,000 people crowded the administration area. From the amount of trash scattered and the plants and grass trampled, I would say that they numbered very easily over 10,000.

The conference took place in Mr. Best's office, with Miss Battat and Mr. Best's secretary doing the reporting. Three evacuee girls were also present. I understand that Lily's name was called over the loud speaker several times. They even appealed that it was for the good of the Japanese people, that girls who knew shorthand were heroines in that they were serving Japan, etc., etc. I'm certainly grateful to my own judgment in not being there. I'm still not clear about what the whole thing was about; evidently, to demand more lumber, buckets, etc. for the colonists.

Mr. Myer, in his usual manner, handled the situation very diplomatically. My only regret is that I missed hearing a good speaker.

The only violence was the beating up of Dr. Peddicord, the head of the hospital. A bunch of kibel boys pulled him out of his office, kicked and badly injured the doctor. Two nurses carried him back into the hospital after he was unconscious.

I now realize, as Dr. Ishimaru and a dozen others had told me prior to leaving Poston, that this is no place for me. I've tried to look at the whole thing objectively. Things have quieted down today, although I'm still "a-shakin' in mah goots" and in a very unsettled and depressed mood. May I not feel sorry for myself--that I will not excuse. My attitude, I supposed, should be "I asked for it, I'm getting it."

By the way, on the way home at 4:30, I stopped by at Lily's place and was stopped by a notice hanging on her door. No, not a "WANTED" \$5,000 reward! but a notice for us to be at the conference--it was addressed to me. Strangely, it did not bother me. although Lily immediately went to the writer's house and apologized. The way I look at the request is this: If I could, I would. But I can't, so I don't. I've heard Mr. Myer speak before -- that time Doc Ishimaru took me -- and I know how he speaks. In the first place, he's so interesting that I hate to take anything down. In the second place, and the main reason, he goes TOO FAST FOR ME.

Tre-la---'Snuff said.

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Tule Lake

NOTE WRITTEN BY NISEI GIRL WORKING IN LEAVE OFFICE

PICKED UP BY MISS HERT. NOVEMBER 1, 1943

"Don't know much about the fish story but I wouldn't doubt it at all--Anything can happen in this dump--It's almost as bad as being in Germany--You wonder why you were born--No fooling, these guys have no respect for women, and boy do they believe in Gestapo methods--You can't use your own mind, you gotta be on the alert of what you say and on top of that you gotta respect the ibeikays" (Pig latin for kibe).



SPICER'S LETTER

Sunday, Nov. 14, 1943

Dear John,

The parts fall gradually into place. Here is how I size it up at the moment. (See the outline sequence of events which we are sending in tomorrow for a brief narrative account of the significant happenings.)

The immediate cause of the violence Thursday night that brought the army in was conflict over the relation of the outside evacuees brought in for harvest to the Tule Lake people. There was resentment over the fact that food had been taken out of the warehouse to supply the harvesters. Some of the evacuees at the motor pool on Thursday thought that trucks which were wanted to transport harvesters were to be used to carry more food to the harvesters. The motor pool workers refused to give the keys for these trucks. Meanwhile a bunch of young fellows gathered in the warehouse area to try to prevent any removal of food. The leaders, Kuratomi's group, told the people that Best had promised not to move any more food out without informing the Tule Lake evacuees. This was untrue, but the statement was used to inflame the young fellows against Best when they heard from the motor pool workers that some trucks had been asked for. The gang of young fellows collected first at the warehouses and then also in the vicinity of the motor pool which is in the administrative residence area. At both places they were spotted by Internal Security men. Meanwhile Zimmer had gotten the keys for the trucks at the motor pool and the trucks were being taken out. It looked to the gang as if their plan to stop the trucks had been scotched and they then went wild and made a desperate effort to get Best. (Frankly, I am rather doubtful that they had any plan to "kidnap" him, as is generally believed here and which Cahn believes. The evidence looks to me as though they did probably try to get him to beat him perhaps. He was there by the motor pool and had participated with Zimmer and Cahn in getting the keys for the trucks. The gang had been inflamed



against him by Kuratomi for many days and here was their chance to beat him up. Anyway whatever their real intentions, they went after him and that plan was also broken up by Internal Security men and ultimately by Best's calling in the Army.) The main point in connection with this whole incident is that feeling against the outside harvest-workers set it off.

The gang that operated on Thursday night had been operating all through the week and since at least the time of the funeral for the Topaz farm-worker on October 23. The leader who headed them Thursday night was the same one who headed the young fellows who patrolled the crowd on Monday afternoon. They had been getting organized steadily since Oct. 23. Some of their activities have been (1) the posting of men in each of the blocks on October 23 to try to force people to go to the public funeral; (2) patrolling the rear of the crowd at the funeral, keeping people there; (3) roughing up the Reports officer when he took pictures at the funeral; (4) probably breaking the windows of the housing office and bank (although it is not really known who did this); (5) possibly tampering with the beds and belongs of the truck drivers who were hired from outside to handle the transportation in connection with the farm harvest (this too is a doubtful point); (6) intimidating people into attending the Monday afternoon gathering at the Ad. Building and patrolling the people in the crowd through the afternoon; (7) intimidating people to leave their jobs and picking them up in trucks on Wednesday morning Nov. 3 to attend the commemoration ceremonies for the grandfather of the present Emperor; and (8) the attempt to prevent the trucks from moving food out of the warehouses and the attack on Best Thursday night. The leader was a former warden. They were mostly young men and there was a strong nucleus of Hawaiian Kibei from Topaz.

This gang has operated very much as did the one which put in motion the Poston strike. Operating in every block, intimidating people by marching about and threatening beatings, they have aimed at whipping the whole center into line



## FBI REPORT ON TULE LAKE INCIDENT

Kuratomi and Kai's Speeches - Nov. 1 pp. 4-5.

After Mr. Myer and Mr. Best had addressed the crowd that had gathered during Mr. Myer's meeting with the committee George Kuratomi briefly outlined the meeting in Japanese and mentioned the points which had been brought up at the meeting telling the crowd that negotiations would continue on these points. Dr. Webber said that Kuratomi's attitude was much more conciliatory than the attitude he had assumed in the meeting. In his speech he made no mention of any threats and its tenor seemed to be that he hopes something could be accomplished. Rev. Kai then spoke. Dr. Webber stated that Kai's speech was about as follows: "We have been here a long time. A great many things have been discussed and no conclusions have been reached. We will have to enter into further negotiations in the future. You people must remember that you are Japanese and must act as Japanese to hold together for the sake of the Empire and the Emperor." This speech was given in a very passionate tone of voice. When the crowd, sensing that Kai had finished his speech, and was about to leave, Kai called, "Wait a minute". The crowd stopped, Kai then called "Orei". The members of the crowd then took off their hats, bowed slightly and Kai said you are dismissed. The crowd then broke up. Dr. Webber stated that he did not feel that the word "Orei" was meant to pay homage to the Emperor but was rather a formal closing of the meeting. Homage to the Emperor of the Japanese Empire would probably have been "Ten Naheika Banzai" which means "Hurray for the Emperor".

Schmidt and Boerbeck and Mahrt (Ass. Internal Security Chief Nov. 4.

p. 8 - Schmidt finds Kobayashi driving a project car. . . . Kobayashi asked him "What the hell are you doing?" and Schmidt replied, "Who in the hell wants to know?" Schmidt then moved to the rear of the car so that the whole group of four or five were in front of him. Kobayashi then informed Schmidt that he knew about the trucks being taken from the motor pool and that Kobayashi as a leader of the Japanese at the center and his gang were going to see to it that the trucks did not leave the project. Kobayashi further stated that Schmidt and the WRA were going to have a lot of trouble. One word led to another and the Japanese attempted to lay hands on him. Several blows were struck by members of his gang but Schmidt was able to get back in his car and proceed to a parking area in front of the Project Director's house which was about 100 yards from the scene of the original altercation. The car driven by Kobayashi was later found to have been parked on the road in such a way as to block the way to the military compound. Schmidt, in attempting to get to the military compound, instead of following the marked roadways cut across a cleared space and eluded the Kobayashi car when it pursued him. When he got to the military compound he asked that the military take over the center as had been previously agreed upon.

p. 9.

p. 10. Assistant Chief of Internal Security Fenton H. Mahrt. . then proceeded to the warehouse area where he saw approximately 20 men standing in groups of three or four



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WHO informed him that they were waiting to see that no cargo trucks went out of the camp. A little later he saw a cargo pickup truck just below the hospital. He recognized the driver of the pickup truck as being Tom Kobayashi and asked what he was doing. Kobayashi stated that he was going to prevent any food from being taken out of the camp. Mahrt started to drive off when the pickup truck pulled over in front of him blocking the road. Armed with a baseball bat, Mahrt got out of the car followed by Borbeck and Lewis and started over to the pickup truck. Found several men inside. K. said they were Internal S. K. says men forced him to drive car. M. tells (p. 11) K. to go back to colony. "All right," says K. Mahrt goes to Ad. bldg.

Mahrt stated that shortly thereafter he heard a car in front of the building and with Lewis and Borbeck went to see who it was. When he arrived, he found that Kobayashi had driven onto the Administration Parking Area and on seeing Lewis and himself coming, tried to back the truck around and get out but was unable to do so because of the parking posts blocking the way. He did manage to get the truck turned around, however, and drove it straight at them, attempting to run them down. They started out after the pickup truck which made a sharp right turn and stopped. As they were coming up, Kobayashi let out a loud shout and jumped out of the truck and attacked him. At the same time Japanese in the back jumped out and went for Borbeck and Lewis. Hearing Kobayashi yell, about fifteen Japanese in the vicinity of Best's house came over and started helping Kobayashi and the men with him. Mahrt advised that he and Borbeck attempted to back up to the Administration Building to get their backs to the wall and that in backing up he saw Borbeck trip over a stone and fall down. He advised that when Borbeck fell backwards several Japanese jumped on him, one beating him over the face with a club about three feet long. He stated that instant club was about one and a half inch thick and was shaped in the form of a sword. Mahrt advised that he attempted (p. 12) to go to Borbeck's aid but was prevented from doing so by 5 Japanese who were between him and Borbeck. He then ran to the Administration Building, approximately 20 feet away, and as he came inside he met Mr. Cole. He told Cole the situation and asked him what they should do. Upon Cole's instructions, both he and Cole grabbed a chair and started out again. When they got outside the Japanese had already started to scatter, and Borbeck, after washing up, was taken to the Army hospital for treatment. He stated that they stood on the front porch for approximately 15 minutes watching the Army getting ready to come in, and then he and Cole, Lewis and Payne, who had come over from his apartment, started out to the back of the Administration Building. As they came out of the door they saw three Japanese coming, running from the direction of the hospital. He told them to stop. They said they were looking for Mr. Best. He advised that one of them took a knife to his stomach, and stepping aside, Mahrt broke a baseball bat over the head of the Japanese. He stated that in the meantime Lewis got a .45 automatic from the cashier,



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Mr. Forest, and as a Japanese started running past him he hit him over the head with the butt of the .45. The other man was knocked down by Payne. He said that they took these individuals in their custody, and turned them over to Capt. Mount Archer of the Army which had now come in.

Kobayashi irresponsible says Kuratomi.

Kuratomi and FBI p. 33

The San Diego Field Division of the FBI reported on March 20, 1943, that he volunteered his services to that office on February 14, 1943, as a translator and informant. He has been listed as one of the second generation Japanese-Americans interested in training for the Japanese foreign office sponsored Press Attache Organization.

Yoshiyama and Farmers p. 40.

Several days after the truck accident involving the fatality, this evacuee was approached by Masao Hatano and George Kuratomi and requested to assist the farmers as an English interpreter in placing their request before the ~~admission~~ WRA administration. Up to this time he stated he had taken no active part in any meeting or assembly held. (p.41) Subsequent to the Army's taking control of the Tule Lake Center a number of contacts were made by members of the negotiations committee with Colonel Austin in an effort to arrange for negotiations with the Army. Yoshiyama advised that he had attended only one of these meetings and that little took place during this period of time.

p. 44 - A report from the Salt Lake City Field Division dated March 27, 1943, disclosed that this evacuee had signed a statement in which he admitted not notifying his local draft board of his whereabouts because he wanted to evade service in the United States Army.

Interview With Shizuo Kai p. 45.

Kai explained that Kashiwa, the man who was killed in the truck accident, was regarded as having sacrificed his life in service to the colony, and that they felt the entire community should have an opportunity to attend his funeral and pay their respects. The matter was placed before the block manager by representatives of the farm group and they decided that each block should select a representative to handle the matter for that section of the community. George Kuratomi was selected as head of the entire group and Mr. Takahashi was placed in charge of actual funeral arrangements. H. Mori was selected as vice chairman and assistant to Mr. Kuratomi. Rev. Kai himself was presiding priest at the funeral ceremony.

He stated (p. 45) that the block representatives felt the entire community should support this action and for that reason a notice was circulated through the block representatives to all mess-halls and it was read to the Japanese colony. He stated that this notice set forth the fact that



the negotiations committee was to meet with Mr. Myer at 1:30 the afternoon of November 1 and that all individuals in the colony were requested to attend.

p. 47. Kai stated that the holding of a Caucasian employee of the WRA in the Administration Building was a matter that a number of the young men took upon themselves to do and that the members of the negotiations committee had no voice in this action. He said the committee had expressed disapproval concerning this matter and he feels that an apology is due.

While the meeting of the negotiations committee with Mr. Myer was going on Tokyo Yamane acted as announcer and from time to time advised the individuals assembled to be patient as negotiations were proceeding. ..He (Kai) denied that he had made any requests of those assembled to remove their hats and bow, and insisted that the word "Orei" had never been used. Following his speech, Yamane reminded those assembled that they were Japanese and it was customary that they should pay their respects to the dignitaries present, and they made a short bow in honor of National Director MYer, and nothing else occurred.

p. 49. Kai refused to disclose the manner in which he had evaded capture or recognition during the search but he jokingly stated he had a number of women friends.

p. 51. Shizuo Kai is one of the six individuals listed in another report of a Special Agent of the FBI as leaders of the group opposing the registration and voluntary enlistment conducted by WRA in conjunction with the War Department and the Jerome Relocation Center. These six individuals are: Edward Ige, Jitsushige Tsuha, Tsuento Yamate, Mitsuho Kimura, George Kuratomi and Shizue Kai.

Mitsuho Kimura p. 54.

Following the Army's assuming of control over the center he was sent on numerous occasions to attend meetings held with Colonel Austin. He stated that the principal reason for this was his knowledge of English. He was one of the three evacuees who met with Colonel Austin on November 5, 1943, the other two being George Kuratomi and H. Tsuda.

Interview of Shiro (Sam) Kawamura p. 55.

This evacuee was a member of the hospital committee. He advised that his committee went so far as to attempt to ascertain the names of the youthful Japanese who had assaulted Dr. Pedicord. He stated that although a complete investigation had been made the names of the youths involved were not discovered.

Kawamura stated that upon the occasion when Tomio Kazima took the camera from the internal security Caucasian, this incident was caused as much by the Caucasian as by Kazima because of the insulting remarks made by the Caucasian.



Interview of Herbert Hiroshi Hoskiko p. 59.

This evacuee was a member of the seven-men committee representing the seven wards. He was steward of Block 39 and was familiar with the food served in his particular mess hall.

Interview of George Jirozo Yamatani p. 63.

This evacuee advised that upon his arrival at Tule Lake it was his understanding that Shizuo Kai and Toshio Kuratomi were endeavoring to obtain political control of the camp. On October 15, 1943, the day on which the truck accident occurred in which one Japanese farmer was killed and a number injured, Kai and Kuratomi took advantage of the situation in order to further their plans. Yamatani was of the opinion that Kuratomi and Kai had been planning to control Tule Lake before they left Jerome and that they had organized the Japanese segregees into a pressure group prior to their departure.

Yamatani stated that one Takeo (Fred) Hamamoto and Tomio Kazama were the principal mainstays of Kuratomi and Kai's organization. He stated that T. Kazama, one of the farmers, arranged to have Kai speak at the original farmer's meeting and at that time they had played upon the sympathies of the crowd telling them that the farm problem was a problem of the entire camp and it was not just for WRA to fail to provide compensation for the family of the deceased.

Yamatani stated that following this gathering of the farmers, Kai and Kuratomi circulated a notice to members of the camp advising all persons that they should elect a block representative and that these block representatives would in turn meet and act as a central group to negotiate with WRA for better conditions. Yamatani stated he was elected by Block 31 as its representative. He said that on the evening of their election they met at one of the mess halls and it was noticed by him at that time that Kuratomi had temporarily assumed the chair. He said that in addition to the 64 block representatives Kai and Kuratomi had brought a number of Jerome segregees to the meeting. The initial step taken by Kuratomi was to pass a resolution giving all present a right to vote for a Chairman of the block representatives group. Yamatani stated that naturally Kuratomi and Kai were elected to the position they now hold because there were more Jerome segregees present than block representatives and it was a sort of "railroaded" election.

Yamatani stated that Kai and Kuratomi were always looking for an opportunity to make speeches of an inflammatory nature to the Japanese and that they were constantly attempting to make demands on WRA officials.

Yamatani stated it was understood and stated at this meeting that there was to be a central committee eventually to be organized which would have the power of overriding any of the other committees which were formed, specifically the various committess appointed to investigate various activities



of the center, such as the fire department, hospital, mess etc. He said this central committee was eventually organized on the night of November 4, 1943, and designated the Central Executive Committee. He said all of the committee-men selected were Kai's and Kuratomi's men and he did not exactly understand how this occurred until later when he was advised by Koichi Yamamoto, who was elected to the negotiations committee, that he had known the previous day exactly who was to be elected to each committee. He said Yamamoto advised him that Kai and Kuratomi had previously selected the individuals they desired on the various committees and had "railroaded" them through.

Yamatani stated that relative to the mess meeting on November 1, 1943, Kai and Kuratomi had sent out a circular to all of the block representatives that morning requesting that announcements be made in the mess halls at noon for everyone to come to the Administration Building area as the negotiations committee planned to meet with National Director Myer and Project Director Best. He said the reason they requested everyone to come was to show Mr. Myer how large a backing the committee had. Yamatani stated that this circular bore a notation for the block representatives to burn it up in the stove following the announcements. Yamatani said that during negotiations themselves Hamamoto and Kazama aided and assisted by some of the Jerome segregationists kept the Japanese crowd in the vicinity and would not let them go.

Yamatani stated that during the worship services held in honor of the Meiji's birthday, Kuratomi again made a statement to the colony to the effect that the negotiations committee's demands were being accepted 100 percent by WRA officials. He advised that Kai and Kuratomi were highly respected in the eyes of the Japanese and considered as "Big men" because of this.

Yamatani stated that concerning the food strike circular he was of the opinion that the one calling the hunger strike had been issued by members of the negotiations committee who were still in hiding.

Yamatani stated that he was elected as a member of the committee which was to make arrangements with the military authorities for a meeting between the Spanish Consul, the Army and the original negotiations committee. He said he represented Ward No. 3 on the committee and was subsequently designated spokesman.

Yamatani stated that he felt very badly about the fact that a small group of young boys had done the things they had placing the good Japanese in an awkward position. He said that several of the individuals in the camp had been threatened in the even they went against this small group and that Mr. Takahashi, the block representative from Block 68, was threatened in an attempt to make him resign. He said he did not know the identity of the individuals who made these threats but he believed that Hamamoto and Kozama were the leaders. ~~xHanzaidxinbnkbnnoninx~~

He said in his opinion Shizuo Kai and his inflammatory speeches relative to the fact that a war was going on between



the United States and Japan and calling the attention of the Japanese to the fact that their relatives and friends were suffering in Japan and even dying in their struggle against the United States and pointing out that the Japanese should do all they could to assist them even though it entailed a hardship was partially the cause of the present situation.

Interview with Noboru (Bob) Shirai p. 71.

He stated that the radical element seized the farm truck accident as something about which to create an incident. He feels the majority of the Japanese did not know what was going on or what was happening until too late. Kuratomi and Kai with their organization capitalized upon the farm incident and a written circular was distributed throughout the camp by a young man who advised the Japanese that the farm accident and the farmers' problem was a problem for the entire camp to handle.

Shortly after the arrival of this circular, a young man came into the Block Manager's Office of Block 73 where Shirai is Manager and requested that he announce in the mess hall that they intended to elect a block representative from each block and that these representatives were to attempt to settle all problems, including the farm trouble. Shirai stated that the people in his block felt that the farm incident should be separated from the other program and if it were not things might be confused.

Yoshiyama telegrams Spanish Consul - p. 90

Interview of Fukuzo Obayashi - On November 13, 1943, Satoshi Yoshiyama, a citizen, with approval of Lt. Col. Austin, sent a telegram to the Spanish Consulate at San Francisco, stating that the situation at Tule Lake was very grave and requesting the immediate presence of the Spanish Consul. On November 15, 1943, George Yamatani, a citizen member of the Communications Committee of evacuees, sent a telegram to the Spanish Ambassador in Washington, D. C., requesting that a representative of the Embassy be sent to the center to represent them in their present difficulties. An immediate answer was requested. Another telegram to De Amat, Spanish Consul at San Francisco was sent on November 20, 1943, stating that the committee regretted that his presence at Tule Lake was necessary.

It has been learned from confidential sources that the following-named Japanese individuals have communicated with the Spanish Consulate in San Francisco: Kuratomi, Kai, and 28 other names (none of them known to me.) p. 92.

Communications from Kuratomi and Kai were posted on October 21, 1943, the others between October 15 and November 15, 1943.



Trucks for Farm workers - p. 96.

Mr. Robert L. Powell stated that on Sunday, October 31, 1943, he had been ordered to service 14 trucks which were to be used to transport "loyal" Japanese farmers from Klamath Falls to the project farm. He said he asked the Japanese on duty to help him but that everyone in the motor pool refused. He said that their spokesman Charlie Antokou gave as a reason for their refusal the fact that they had received no requisition for the trucks. He said that the Japanese persisted in their refusal even after he told him the trucks were being serviced on the orders of Assistant Project Director Zimmer. After talking to the Japanese for some time he decided to leave the motor pool and get help from some of the Caucasian employees. He stated that as he drove away, obscene remarks were directed at him. He said he found a Mr. Lauritzen and the two of them started to service the trucks. He said that while they were working the Japanese in the motorpool shouted obscenities and interfered with their work by pulling the switch controlling the electric gasoline pump. (Rest of testimony pretty cruddy).



## OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION

OWI-2712

## WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

ADVANCE RELEASE: To Be Held in STRICTEST CONFIDENCE and NOT to Be Used by  
PRESS or RADIO BEFORE 8:00 p.m., EWT, SATURDAY, November 13, 1943.

Dillon S. Myer, director of the War Relocation Authority, today issued the following statement regarding the events that occurred between November 1 and November 4 at the Tule Lake Center in northern California:

1. Tule Lake is the only center maintained by the War Relocation Authority for segregation purposes. It was established originally in 1942 as one of 10 relocation centers for persons of Japanese ancestry who were evacuated from the West Coast military area. In September of this year, however, it was made the focal point in a segregation program carried out by the War Relocation Authority and since that time has occupied a peculiar status among WRA centers.

During February and March of this year a registration program was conducted at all relocation centers for the purpose of accumulating information on the background and attitudes of all adult residents. As part of this program, citizen evacuees at the centers were questioned concerning their allegiance to the United States, and alien evacuees were questioned about their willingness to abide by the Nation's laws. After the results of registration were compiled and analyzed, W.R.A. began a program to separate from the bulk of the population at relocation centers, those evacuees who have indicated by word or action that their loyalties lie with Japan.

Four major groups were designated for segregation:

- (1) Those who requested repatriation or expatriation to Japan;
- (2) Citizens who refused during registration to state unqualified allegiance to the United States; and aliens who refused to agree to abide by the laws of the United States;
- (3) Those with intelligence records or other records indicating that they might endanger the national security or interfere with the war effort;
- (4) Close relatives of persons in the above three groups who expressed a preference to remain with the segregants rather than disrupt family ties.



The major movement of segregants into Tule Lake from other WRA centers and of non-segregants from Tule Lake to other WRA centers was started in early September and completed about the middle of October. The process, which was carried out jointly by WRA and the Army involved the movement of approximately 9,000 evacuees from other centers into Tule Lake and the removal from Tule Lake to other centers of approximately the same number. Slightly more than 6,000 residents of Tule Lake who had been designated for segregation or who wish to remain with segregated relatives were retained there. At the present time, there are at the Manzanar Relocation Center in California approximately 1,900 evacuees who are awaiting transfer to Tule Lake. They will be transferred as soon as necessary housing can be completed, probably in the early part of 1944.

2. The Army has the responsibility of providing full protection of the area surrounding the Tule Lake Center. A man-proof fence surrounds the external boundaries of the center; troops patrol that fence; other necessary facilities are at all times in readiness. In September, when Tule Lake was transformed into a segregation center, the Army substantially increased the number of troops assigned to guard duty at the center and built the present man-proof fence around the external boundary outside the ordinary wire fence which was erected at the time of the center's establishment. At this time also additional military equipment was provided.

During the recent disturbance at the Tule Lake Center, the War Relocation Authority and the Army have been in constant contact regarding necessary safety measures. Special arrangements were made for prompt communication between the WRA staff and the officer commanding the troops at Tule Lake.

Like all WRA centers, Tule Lake has been operated, ever since the time of its establishment in 1942, under the terms of an agreement between WRA and the War Department. WRA is responsible for all phases of internal administration of the center. The Army, from the beginning, has been responsible for guarding the external boundaries of the center, and for controlling the entry and departure of all persons of Japanese descent.

WRA maintains order within the center through civilian guards assisted by a staff of evacuees. The understanding with the Army provides that when a show of greater force is necessary to maintain order within the center, WRA will call upon the Army to move inside the center and take full control.

3. Immediately following the segregation movement, some of the evacuees at the Tule Lake Center began to create difficulties. All available evidence indicates that a small, well-organized group -- composed chiefly of persons transferred to Tule Lake from the other centers -- was attempting to gain control of the community and disrupt the orderly process of administration. Against this background, a serious accident occurred at the center on October 15. A truck, carrying 29 evacuee workers and driven by an evacuee, was over-turned while attempting to pass another truck on the road from the center to the WRA farm. All occupants of the truck were injured and one of them subsequently died. On the day following the accident, no evacuee workers reported for duty at the farm.



For a period of approximately 10 days thereafter, work on the harvesting of crops stopped, but no formal representations were made to WRA by evacuee workers. Then on October 25, a group of evacuees who claimed to represent the community met with Project Director Ray Best and submitted a series of questions and demands. Among other things, this committee asked whether the residents of Tule Lake were regarded by the United States government as prisoners of war and stated that the residents would not engage in the harvesting of crops for use at other WRA centers. Project Director Best told the committee: (1) that the residents of Tule Lake were regarded as segregants and not as prisoners of war, (2) that WRA does not operate on the basis of demands, and (3) that if the residents of Tule Lake were unwilling to harvest the crops, some other method of harvesting them would be found.

Faced with the onset of winter and the possibility of losing approximately \$500,000 worth of vegetables, WRA immediately began recruiting loyal evacuees from other centers to carry out the harvesting work at Tule Lake. A crew of 234 was recruited and is still engaged in harvesting work on the Tule Lake Farm. These evacuees are quartered outside the boundaries of the center, wholly apart from the population of the center.

4. On the morning of Monday, November 1, D. S. Myer, national director of the War Relocation Authority, and Robert B. Cozzens, assistant director of the Authority in San Francisco, arrived at the Tule Lake center for an inspection and consultation with key WRA staff members and with evacuee representatives. The original arrangement called for Mr. Myer and Mr. Cozzens to meet with evacuee representatives on the day following their arrival. However, during the lunch hour, a report was received by Project Director Best that certain evacuees were making unauthorized announcements in the evacuee mess halls. Residents were being told, according to this report, that Mr. Myer was to make a speech from the main administration building shortly after lunch. On receiving this report, Mr. Myer and Mr. Best immediately made a quick automobile inspection trip through the evacuee section of the center. They observed that large numbers of men, women and children were proceeding in an orderly manner from the evacuee barracks in the direction of the administration building.

By 1:30 p.m., Mr. Myer and Mr. Best had returned to the administration building and a crowd estimated between 3,500 and 4,000 had congregated immediately outside. One young man from the evacuee group then entered the administration building and asked whether a committee of 17 evacuees might have a conference with Mr. Myer. This request was granted, and Mr. Myer, Mr. Cozzens, Mr. Best and other staff members met with the committee. The committee presented a series of demands including the resignation of Project Director Best and several other WRA staff members at the center.

While the discussion was going on, word was received that a group of about a dozen evacuees had entered the center hospital and beaten the chief medical officer, Dr. Reece M. Pedicord. The conference was interrupted while one WRA staff member left the administration building, passed through the crowd, and went to the hospital for a check up on the situation there. After this man had returned -- wholly unmolested -- with the report that Dr. Pedicord had been badly battered but was receiving adequate medical attention and that order prevailed in the hospital, the conference was resumed. Meanwhile, a small group of evacuees had gone into the administration building and installed a public address system with WRA permission.



At the conclusion of the conference, Director Myer was asked to address the crowd briefly over the address system and agreed to do so. Mr. Myer told the crowd substantially what he had told the committee: (1) that WRA would consider requests made by the evacuee population provided they were in the framework of national policy; (2) that WRA would not accede to demands; (3) that WRA was under the impression that the majority of residents at Tule Lake wanted to live in a peaceful and orderly atmosphere; (4) that if the residents of the center could not deal peacefully with WRA they would have to deal with someone else; and (5) that once the segregation process was wholly completed with the movement from Manzanar, the community at Tule Lake should attempt to select a committee -- more directly representative of its wishes than the current one -- to deal with the War Relocation Authority. After Mr. Myer had concluded his remarks, two members of the evacuee committee addressed the crowd briefly in Japanese. Immediately following the completion of these speeches, at about 4:30 p.m., the crowd broke up quickly and peacefully and returned to family living quarters. During the entire conference and the time when committee members were addressing the crowd, a member of the War Relocation Authority staff who is fully competent in the Japanese language was present and was able to indicate to Mr. Myer and Mr. Bost the nature of all remarks made in Japanese.

5. While the meeting was in progress in the administration building a number of automobiles at the center were slightly damaged. Some of these automobiles belonged to visitors and some to WRA personnel. One visitor reported that a window of his car was broken and a sun visor removed. (This statement has not been varified by other evidence.) A door handle was broken off one car. Radio aerials were removed from two cars and windshield wipers from about twelve cars. Air was released from tires of several cars. The paint on two cars was scratched.

In the struggle during which Dr. Pedicord was beaten, a wooden railing in the hospital office was knocked down. A careful investigation has revealed no reliable evidence of any property damage during this incident other than that listed here.

Several WRA employees and visitors to the centers who were in the area outside the administration building at the time the crowd was forming were approached by some of the evacuees directing the movements of the crowd and told to go inside the building. Aside from Dr. Pedicord, however, no WRA employees or visitors were beaten or injured during this incident. The evacuee employees in the administration office left their work. A few individuals reported they saw knives and clubs in the hands of some of the evacuees. The great majority of WRA personnel reported following the meeting that they had seen no weapons of any kind.

6. After dispersal of the crowd on Monday afternoon, a calm marked by some evidence of sub-surface tension prevailed in the evacuee community for approximately three days. Orders were sent out following the Monday meeting forbidding any meetings or assembly of evacuees in the administrative area. The internal security force was strengthened and authority was given for any member of the internal security staff, under certain specified conditions, to summon the Army directly without consultation with the project director or any other superior officer.



On Thursday afternoon, November 4, work was started on a fence separating the evacuee community from the section of the center where the administrative buildings are located and WRA staff members are housed. That evening a crowd of about 400 evacuees, mainly young men -- many of them armed with clubs -- entered the administration area. Most of the crowd entered the warehouse area. A few entered the motor pool area and some surrounded the project director's residence. The advance of this crowd was resisted by several WRA internal security officers, one of whom tripped, struck his head on a stone, and was then struck by evacuees with clubs. No other persons were injured. As the crowd closed in around Mr. Best's home, he telephoned Lt. Col. Verne Austin, commanding officer of the military unit outside the center, and asked the Army to assume full control of the project area. Troops entered the center at once.

7. During and immediately following the evacuee meeting on Monday, a number of the WRA staff became apprehensive concerning their personal safety. Most of them remained calm but a few became almost hysterical. All were offered the opportunity to leave the center until they felt secure in returning there, and a number of them did so. Since the incident on Monday, twelve people have resigned voluntarily, and two have resigned or were separated at the request of the Authority.

8. A large number of the evacuees at Tule Lake are citizens of the United States, with the constitutional rights of citizens. Many of them are children under 17, and they, together with a very large number of the adults, have no responsible part in the recent events.

In presenting this factual statement, the War Relocation Authority wants to emphasize that reports of the events at Tule Lake are being watched in Tokyo. Already some of the recent newspaper accounts have been used by the Japanese Government for propaganda purposes. There is every possibility that they may be used as a pretext for retaliatory action against American civilians and prisoners of war under Japanese control. Under these circumstances, it is imperative that the situation at Tule Lake be handled with a scrupulous regard for accuracy.

9. In view of the serious international implications in the situation at Tule Lake, the War Relocation Authority has been particularly careful in preparing the information contained in this statement. There have been so many exaggerated, even hysterical, reports that the staff at Tule Lake, confronted with an otherwise complicated and difficult situation, has been able to verify conclusively only the information presented in this statement. As this is written, further investigation is being made to check the accuracy of many of the allegations that have appeared in the press and to complete this story in all its pertinent details. The major events, however, have now been fully documented and can for the first time be presented to the public in an official statement.



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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION ON EVENTS AT TULE LAKE CENTER  
November 1 - 4, 1943

On November 14, 1943 the War Relocation Authority released to the press and the public an official statement on the events that occurred at the Tule Lake Center in California between November 1 and 4. That statement presented the facts on the Tule Lake incident as fully as it was possible to present them at the time of release. Since then, the WRA has had an opportunity to interview 69 people (non-Japanese personnel at the center and members of their families) who were eye witnesses to the incidents, and has gathered further information from other sources. The following statement summarizes the supplementary information which has been gathered, particularly on some of the most controversial and widely misunderstood phases of the Tule Lake incident.

Nature and Attitude of Crowd

Descriptions of the crowd which gathered around the Administration Building on the afternoon of November 1 and estimates of its size vary widely. All available evidence indicates, however, that the crowd was not in any sense an angry or threatening mob and that it showed no signs of being bent on violence or willful destruction. Of the 69 eye-witnesses interviewed by WRA, 31 made comments regarding the nature and attitude of the crowd. Some of them described it as quiet but expectant; others described it as quiet and friendly; and several referred to the holiday atmosphere that prevailed particularly among the children.

Testimony indicates that the movements of the crowd were directed by a group of approximately 200 evacuee young men who were, quite obviously, part of a well organized plan to bring pressure to bear on the National Director. There is no evidence, however, that the crowd as a whole was aware of this plan or consciously a party to it. It appears that the crowd was essentially an innocent tool used by an organized group to further its own ends.

Restraint of Caucasian Personnel

Whether Mr. Myer, Mr. Cozzens and Mr. Best were held as "prisoners" on the afternoon of November 1 will never be definitely known, since none of these officials made any attempt to leave the building while the crowd was gathered outside. All three believe that they were not incarcerated and that they could have passed through the crowd without molestation.

It is true that several Caucasian members of the staff of Tule Lake were asked to enter the administration building by members of the organized evacuee group which was directing the movements of the crowd and that others already in the building were warned to go back as they attempted to leave. So far as is known, three of these Caucasian staff members were physically restrained. Six of the people interviewed by WRA testified that they were verbally restrained by evacuees using surly or threatening language. Eight testified that they were verbally restrained in a polite and well-mannered fashion. One testified that she left the administration building and passed through the crowd without escort or restraint. Another testified that she



left an adjoining building (which was also surrounded) and went to her personal quarters without escort or restraint.

#### Weapons

Despite widely publicized statements that many members of the crowd were armed with knives and clubs, the WRA has found practically no evidence to substantiate this charge. Of the 69 people interviewed, 34 made no comment regarding weapons and 30 denied seeing weapons of any kind. Of the remaining five persons interviewed, two testified that they each saw an evacuee with a knife of the "whittling" type; two testified that they saw evacuees with short pieces of pipe; and one testified that she "thought" she saw evacuees with butchers knives.

#### Incendiary Materials

Many statements have appeared in the press, attributed mainly to a few former staff members at the Tule Lake center, creating the general impression that preparations were being made by the evacuees on the afternoon of November 1 to set fire to the administration building and some of the other buildings at the center. These statements have usually indicated that boxes or sacks containing straw soaked with oil were placed against the building and that oil was poured over some of the automobiles in the vicinity of the building.

The WRA has been able to discover no tangible evidence of incendiarism and has received no direct testimony at the center indicating the use of incendiary material by evacuees. Of the 69 witnesses interviewed, only 20 made any comment on this matter and 15 of these specifically denied seeing any incendiary materials. Three people testified that they had seen evacuees carrying boxes, but were not able to identify the contents. Two testified that "friends had told them" about seeing evacuees carrying straw.

#### Property Damage

As indicated in the WRA press release of November 14, most of the property damage caused by evacuees on the afternoon of November 1 was sustained by automobiles parked in the vicinity of the administration building. Testimony from the eye-witnesses indicate rather clearly that only part of this damage was willful or malicious. Some of it occurred as a result of young boys climbing over cars or standing or sitting on top of them. In a few cases, however, wind shield wipers and gasoline caps were stolen, and air was released from tires. One of the witnesses testified that a first aid kit was stolen from his car and another testified that two wind shield wipers and the gasoline cap were removed from her car on the night preceding the incident, which happened to be Halloween.

#### Hospital Incident

Supplementary evidence obtained by WRA since November 14 indicates that the beating of Chief Medical Officer Reece M. Pedicord in the hospital on the afternoon of November 1 was probably a spontaneous occurrence rather than part of a deliberate plan.



Plan for Future Administration of the Tule Lake Center

As this is written, the United States Army still has responsibility for administration of the Tule Lake center. WRA personnel stationed at the center are serving merely to implement decisions made by the military authorities in charge. As soon as the center has been restored to a normal status, the WRA will resume its responsibility for internal administration and the Army will confine its activities to external guarding unless called upon again by WRA in case a show of force is needed.

Meanwhile the WRA is formulating a plan for future operation at the center. Although this plan has not yet been completed in all its detail, several changes from previous policy have definitely been determined. The non-Japanese administrative staff at the center will be considerably enlarged, particularly in the fields of property accounting, statistics and record keeping, and internal security. A fence has been constructed between the evacuee residence area and the administrative area and will be guarded at all times. One section of the evacuee residence area, consisting of nine blocks, has been fenced off from the remainder of the community and will be used as a place for the isolation of those whose records indicate that they are likely to be trouble-makers, including those who played an active part in the incidents of November 1 and 4. The fence surrounding this area will also be guarded at all times and no visits will be permitted between this area and the rest of the evacuee community.



# Troops Use Tear Gas on Jap Internees

Army Uses Bayonets  
To End Disorders  
At Tule Lake Camp

Tule Lake, Calif., Nov. 5 (P).—After Army troops were brought here and sought to cool the temper of 15,000 rebellious Japanese at this segregation center, they broke up a large gathering of internees with tear gas tonight, witness reported.

While Army authorities remained silent, observers said a group estimated variously at from 250 to 1000 Japanese gathered apparently for a conference, but was dispersed by tear gas.

Tanks, armored cars and hundreds of troops kept a constant patrol of the 700-acre barracks city.

Earlier, sullen internees watched intently construction of a high, barbed wire fence barring them from Caucasian offices and quarters.

The 40-foot so-called "shooting strip" between two fences around the populated settlement was kept clear.

It was evident that the future was up to the internees themselves.

"Quiet has been restored," was the Army's only comment.

The troops, charged only with the external security of the project, as long as the War Relocation Authority could retain control of focal points inside, moved into the administration area en masse after a civilian guard was beaten severely. More violence appeared imminent, and the WRA called for help.

Twenty internees were injured, and 500, their arms folded over their heads, were rounded up, at the points of bayonets, for questioning.

Long-smoldering resentment on the part of Tule Lake internees, nearly all of them proven or suspected disloyalists, first broke into the open last week.

They refused to harvest crops; demanded better food, oiled streets, changes in white personnel, held 200 employees virtual prisoners during a three-hour mass demonstra-

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# Jap Riot Camp Ruled by Army

Tulelake, Calif., Nov. 5.—(UP) —Troops with full battle equipment patrolled the Tulelake segregation center for disloyal Japanese tonight, to prevent recurrence of violence between War Relocation Authority employees and more than 2,000 male internees.

The Army moved in last night at the request of Ray Best, project director, soon after 16 persons, including a Caucasian internal security officer, were injured in a brief skirmish.

The demonstration broke out when a large group of internees, armed with baseball bats and pick handles, left their quarters at one end of the center and accosted the WRA employees in a large parking lot.

Order was restored when the Army arrived with tanks, armored cars and machine guns. The troops wore steel helmets and carried fixed bayonets. The internees were confined to their own quarters and work was halted in the general offices, dining rooms and laundry, all of which are operated by the Japanese.

Internal trouble at the camp began approximately three weeks ago when 2,000 Japanese began a pact of silence to protest their forced employment in Tulelake truck gardens.

More than 100 administrative officers at the project were held virtual prisoners last Monday when a "committee of 17" ordered the main camp building surrounded by 4,000 internees. The Japanese finally withdrew. Other outbreaks at the camp included the beating of a camp surgeon and threats against other

# Interned Japs Quieted by Troops

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tion, perpetrated several assaults.

Nearly a dozen WRA employees have resigned in fear of their lives.

Caucasians injured thus far include Dr. Reece N. Pedicord of Wheeling, W. Va., chief medical officer, and Edward Brobeck, WRA internal security guard.

The recurrent disturbances, which began last year, long before Tule Lake was designated as the center for disloyalists, came to a head a few weeks ago with the arrival of thousands transferred here from other centers. It was then that a strong, anti-American leadership, fostered mostly by evacuees from Hawaii, first took form.

Most of the internees here wish repatriation to Japan. The WRA has said that this desire, and a hope of becoming heroes of Nippon, have inspired most of the trouble.

There were wide-spread repercussions to the new series of incidents.

In Washington, Representative Claire Engle (Democrat) California, said he was considering the introduction of a bill giving the Army permanent jurisdiction here.

Gov. Earl Warren said "the Army should control the whole situation."



## The Tule Lake Riot

The Tule Lake segregation center is a camp for Japanese who are obvious and self-confessed enemies of America. It houses only those who, as alien foes, will be returned to Tokyo as soon as possible. A riot by such a group is not surprising.

It would be a mistake, therefore, to make thousands of other Japanese-Americans, whose loyalty has been certified by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, suffer for the Tule Lake incident. The trouble-making of avowed enemies should not interrupt the process of releasing individual *nisei*—American citizens of Japanese ancestry—whose trustworthiness has been reliably determined.

The country has no reason to tolerate, on the other hand, any more nonsense at Tule Lake. It is hinted that our rioting "guests" hope to create a situation whereby Tokyo can "justify" maltreatment of Americans, but, if so, that is sheer blackmail. Brutality is not necessary. Discipline is, and the Tule Lake Japanese must be forced to accept it.

## Internee Camp Taken by Army After Japs Riot

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Japan. Remove your hats, bow your heads and go home."

### 'Incident' Feared.

Best said that he would avoid another incident if possible, yet he warned that he may be powerless to do so.

"I am not going to create an incident if it is in my power to stop it," Best said. "They approach me every day to try to get under my skin. It's a reverse game of cat and mouse, but I won't let them inflame me."

He said Caucasians at the center were forced into the position of mice by provocations of the Japanese. The Caucasians fear possible retaliation to Americans held prisoners by the Japanese.

During Monday's demonstration, when crowds of Japanese milled about the administration building while Best heard grievances from a committee of 17 inside, Dr. Reece Pedicord, 57, director of the hospital, suffered a black eye and stomach bruises when 10 young Japanese attacked him.

Three Caucasian employees, including the camp fire chief, resigned as the result of the incident, and five other employees were discharged.

A Caucasian woman employee said it was "a shame and we are not afforded protection here. The Japs have got the whip hand."

Best denied that employees were deprived of adequate protection.

### Dies Inquiry Assured.

Washington, Nov. 4.—(UP)—Two investigators of the House (Dies) committee to investigate un-American activities have been ordered to the Tule Lake (Calif.) Japanese internment camp to conduct an exhaustive inquiry into an incident Monday during which WRA officials were said to have been held prisoner several hours, Rep. Engle (Dem., Calif.), said today.

## Army Takes Over Camp After Jap Internees Riot

### BULLETIN

Tule Lake, Calif., Nov. 4.—(UP)—The Army took over the Japanese segregation center at Tule Lake tonight, Col. Verne Austin announced.

Tule Lake, Ore., Nov. 4.—(UP)—Ray R. Best, director of the Japanese segregation center at Tule Lake, Ore., declared tonight that he would "never permit" another demonstration such as the one on Monday in which a Buddhist priest is said to have threatened camp authorities.

Robert Cozzens, regional director of the War Relocation Authority, disclosed at San Francisco that the Buddhist priest warned the Tule Lake authorities on Monday that "we can't take responsibility for what may happen here."

Cozzens revealed:

1. A watchman on a construction job at the center was roughed up by internees last night. The watchman has not returned to work. The extent of his injuries was not known.
2. Automobiles were scratched and their radio aerials torn down during the Monday demonstration when Dillon Myer, WRA national director and approximately 100 other Caucasians were held virtual prisoners in the administration building by a milling crowd of Japanese.

The Buddhist priest, talking to the crowd, told them:

"You must give your all for

See RIOTS, Page 4, Col. 1.

## Two Nisei Can Remain On Coast

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 24 (P)

—U. S. Attorney Charles H. Carr announced today that military authorities have exempted two American-born Japanese, Mrs. Shizuko Shiramizu and Masaru Baba, from the order excluding Japanese from the Pacific Coast defense zone and particularly from Los Angeles county.

Carr asked Federal Court to dismiss suits brought by a Civil Liberties Union attorney to test the right of the military to exclude Mrs. Shiramizu and Baba. He said army officials had advised him that there were no facts on record indicating that Mrs. Shiramizu or Baba might jeopardize security. Mrs. Shiramizu's husband was killed while fighting with American forces in Italy.