

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
Tule Lake Center
Newell, California

Sent to WRC

In reply, please refer to:

NOV 25 '43

Mr. R. B. Cozzens
Field Assistant Director
War Relocation Authority
Whitcomb Hotel
San Francisco, California

Dear Mr. Cozzens:

I am enclosing the following:

An account of the November 1st
demonstration based on interviews with
70 witnesses, prepared by E. H. Spicer.

Sincerely yours

R. R. Best

R. R. Best
Project Director



RRC

S.F. copy
Nov. 23, 1943

Tule Lake Incident

THE NOVEMBER 1 DEMONSTRATION (Prepared by E. H. Spicer)

A crowd of about 5000 evacuees, on the afternoon of November 1, 1943 gathered around the administration offices at the Tule Lake Center, while Dillon Myer, National Director of the War Relocation Authority, was inside the administration building with officials of the local project. The gathering of the evacuees was a planned demonstration. Movements of the crowd were directed by a group of evacuees who had definite objectives. The best source of information at present available concerning these objectives is the record of what the crowd actually did during the afternoon.

The Coming of the Crowd

The first movement of people from the evacuee residence area to the administration area consisted of about 200 men. A few minutes before 1 P.M. they walked across the firebreak between the residences and the hospital, formed two lines, and came on toward the main administration building, one line going on either side of the hospital. The line to the east broke into a run after it passed the hospital and swung around the administration building, meeting the other line which had come up between the military area and the leave office. Thus, by a few minutes after 1 o'clock, the administration buildings were surrounded by a cordon of evacuee men, who then proceeded to direct the movements of a larger mass of evacuees walking up from the colony into the administrative area.

By 1:30 several thousand evacuee men, women, and children had arrived in the administration area. They eventually filled the greater part of the space between the hospital and the administration buildings and took

up positions on all sides of the leave office and the main administration building. The crowd of evacuees was variously estimated by eye-witnesses of the demonstration at from 3000 to 10,000. The most experienced estimator of crowds present, Willard Schmidt, WRA National Chief of Internal Security, estimated 5000 as the probable maximum.

Control of Movements of Caucasians

The evacuee organizers of the crowd, including some of the 200 who first surrounded the administration buildings as well as others posted in various parts of the project, carried out efforts to control the movements of the appointed personnel. Steps were taken to prevent the movement of persons from the outside into the center and from the center to the outside. Caucasians in the warehouse area were told to go to the administration building. Caucasians encountered in the administration residence area were sent to the administration building. Caucasians in the military residence area were not permitted to come to the administration area. Finally, Caucasians within the administration buildings were kept in these buildings. In general, these controls over Caucasians movement were successful, although there were exception.

(1) Blocking of Entrance to and Exit from the Project. About 1:30 PM Mr. P. Bergman, Sanitary Engineer, drove from the plumbing office in the warehouse area to the motor pool on his way to the engineering office to turn in a report. He found a group of evacuee men lined up across the road between the motor pool building and the military fence. The evacuees shouted at him to stop. He swerved to the north side of the motor pool building and went on out the gate in the military fence. When he returned he found the gate closed and under military guard. He remained there throughout the afternoon and saw eight trucks lined up end to end across the road

from the service station in the motor pool to the military fence. His account of trucks lined up if this position is verified by two other project employees who were in the vicinity of the motor pool, and it is contradicted by none.

About 2:00 P.M. Monday afternoon, Mr. Frank Fagan, Acting Personnel Officer, attempted to drive out the back gate of the project. He found the gate locked and a soldier on guard duty there. While he was there three truckloads of evacuee men, about 35 individuals, drove up. They informed the sentry that they were instructed to keep anyone from entering or leaving the colony. They drove one truck up against the gate to block Fagan's exit. Later a squad of soldiers armed with Tommy Guns came up and some of them pushed the truck away from the gate. The evacuees offered no resistance, but remained seated or standing in the vicinity of the gate while Fagan drove out.

(2) Removal of Caucasians from Warehouse area to Administration Bldg.

Mr. Ernest Hitt, Plumber, was in the plumbing office in the warehouse area about 1:30 on Monday afternoon. Four evacuee men came into the office and told him that he was wanted at the administration building. When asked for a reason, the evacuees refused to give any, and Hitt put them out of his office. They went elsewhere, and Hitt then left the warehouse area in his car. When he got out of his car in the vicinity of the motor pool, he was told by two young evacuees to go to the administration building. This time he complied.

Mrs. Boatright, Teacher, was working in a warehouse, about 1:30 P.M. She was told by two evacuee men who appeared at the warehouse to go to the administration building. She refused to go and was allowed to remain at her work in the warehouse without further molestation, although she later came up to the administration residence area of her own accord.

(3) Sending of Caucasians in the administrative Residence Area into the Administration Building.

CAUCASIANS who were in the vicinity of the administration building during the afternoon were asked by evacuees to go into the building. These included Clarence J. Benz; Asa Thompson; Emily Light; Guy Cook; Grover Lytle; Mrs. Carrie Driscoll; Mrs. Evea Adams; Ernest Hitt; Roy M. Daggy; Mrs. Robinson; Mrs. Lawhead; E. J. Davis. All of these people were in the area immediately surrounding the main administration building or outside the residences of the appointed personnel in the administration area. Evacuees did not enter any residences of appointed personnel. Benz and Thompson were at the personnel mess hall. Cook and Lytle had come up from the high school to see what the crowd was about and were in front of the main administration building. Hitt had driven up from the warehouse area and was accosted near the motor pool. Daggy, Adams, and Lawhead were outside their apartments in the residence area. Robinson and Driscoll were near the cooperative store in the vicinity of the administration building.

In each case the Caucasian was asked or told by an evacuee youth accompanied by one or more other evacuees to go to the administration bldg. The request was made in various ways; "You are wanted in the administration building; "Please go to the administration building," being the usual forms. The Caucasians describe the requests as being firm, but polite of such a nature that they thought it best to comply. All these mentioned except Benz, Thompson, Cook and Lytle did comply immediately or after a brief and fruitless effort to find out why they were wanted in the administration building. Thompson refused to comply at first, was pushed a little by an evacuee, and then decided to go. Cook and Lytle, who were in front of the administration building, sat for some time outside the building without farther molestation, after having been told to go inside. There is not any report of pushing following the request, except in the case of Thompson.

(4) Restriction of Movement of Caucasians into Evacuee Residence area.

Two cars which Caucasians attempted to drive down the road on the west side of the hospital into the colony were stopped by evacuee men in other cars. The cars of evacuees were driven into positions to block the Caucasians' cars. Then the Caucasians were told to go back into the administration area.

(5) Keeping Caucasians in the Administration Building.

Some effort was made by evacuees to keep appointed personnel in the leave office, however, five persons left or moved out of and back into the leave office successfully. Two of them (Mrs. Silverthorne and Mrs. Rose) were told not to go but went anyway and were not molested. There was on the other hand, a definite effort to prevent the movement of Caucasians out of the main administration building, once they had gone in. This was accomplished in the following ways: (1) the south door on the east side of the main corridor connecting the wings of the administration building was blocked shut from the outside by placing three empty trash cans against it and (2) evacuees were stationed at the north door of the corridor and at the front or west entrance to the administration building between the south and middle wings. Twelve Caucasians who attempted to leave the building were told by evacuees to go back in. These were Anthony Smith, R. D. Smith, Carrie Driscoll, T. E. Breece, Stella Robbins, H. K. Shipps, Elize Velasquez, J. J. Donovan, R. W. Slattery, Roy Campbell, L. Haycke, and E. J. Benz.

In the case of R. W. Slattery, J.J. Donovan and T. Breece, the Caucasians were merely spoken to, the words used being, "Please go back," or "You had better go back inside." These persons attempted to go out the north doors of the corridor on the east side. Donovan and Slattery attempted to go out the front entrance, refused to comply with a command to stop and were pushed back. Mr. Breece also attempted to go out the front entrance in an effort to join Cook and Lytle who were coming through the crowd toward the

building. He was told to go back by a male evacuee posted there. According to two other witnesses he was pushed and cursed. He himself does not recall this, but remembers that the evacuee raised his fist and threatened him with it. Br. Breece came back into the building and did not try to go out again. He was not injured, and according to his own account was not touched.

However, at least four persons were allowed to leave the administration building without interference during the course of the afternoon. Miss Margaret Lucas, at the time the crowd was beginning to gather, went from the administration bldg. to the mess hall and back again, in a search for Mr. Best, without being accosted or stopped. Miss Battat also later in the afternoon made her way from the adm. bldg. to the leave office with out interference. Willard Schmidt went from the adm. bldg. to the hospital about 2:00 p.m., was told by an evacuee at the door that she could not. When she explained that she wanted to bring her mother to the adm. bldg., she was given a young male evacuee as escort, who accompanied her to her apartment, waited for her mother to get ready and then accompanied both back to the adm. bldg.

CONTROL OF MOVEMENTS OF EVACUEES

The basic arrangement of the crowd was that of a circle of evacuees surrounding a building full of Caucasians at the center. The methods by which the Caucasians were concentrated in the center and not permitted to mingle in the crowd have been described. The movements of the crowd of evacuees were also controlled in a general way. This control, as in the case of the Caucasians, was exercised by groups of male evacuees. An estimate of the number of such evacuees was made during the afternoon by Dr. Marvin Opler, Community Analyst, who watched their movements from a point near the administration residences in the military area. He estimated a total of 305 --- 25 posted along the road on the east of the military area,

200 around the administration building, and 80 driving about in trucks. There may have been more, since Opletz could not see the motor pool area from where he stood, and there were some there. A conservative estimate would be perhaps 350.

The men controlling the crowd in the vicinity of the administration building were posted in two general positions: (1) close to the building on the inner periphery of the evacuee crowd and (2) around the outside periphery of the evacuee crowd. The men on the inner periphery were posted at doorways of the administration building and at various places on the inner fringe of the crowd. As has been described, they kept Caucasians from leaving the administration building or escorted them to and from the building. In addition, they kept or attempted to keep evacuees out of the administration building. Definite steps were taken throughout the afternoon to keep evacuees out of the main administration building. Most of the office workers did not come back to work after lunch. A few had eaten their lunches in the administration buildings, namely, some evacuee girls in the statisticians' office in the middle wing of the main bldg. and five who worked in the leave office. Shortly after 1:00 p.m. three of the evacuee girls in the statisticians' office were called by telephone and asked to leave. They did this after informing their Caucasian supervisor, Miss Waldron, that they had been told to leave. In the leave office, ~~three~~^{five} evacuee girls first attempted to hide within the office when the crowd gathered, but eventually went out and mingled in the crowd when told to by the Caucasians in the office.

Other indications of efforts to control evacuee contacts with persons in the administration building were the following: (1) an evacuee man entered the telephone booth on the porch of the front entrance to the adm. Bldg. and started to make a call; he was pulled out of the booth by one of the evacuee crowd-organizers posted there; (2) an evacuee woman about 2:30 in the afternoon

entered the administration building to go to the rest room; she was followed shortly by the evacuee mentioned above, an evacuee woman and three evacuee men, who (after an attempt to enter the women's rest room was blocked) waited until the first woman was through and escorted her back out into the crowd again.

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On the other hand, three evacuee men were not molested when they entered the leave office and transacted business with the project attorney. The only other evacuees who entered the adm. building were several who ~~attended~~ attended to the attachment for the loud-speaker in the front office of the north wing, members of the committee who passed thru that office on the way to the meeting with Mr. Myer, and a few who sat in that office to rest as the afternoon wore on.

In addition to these efforts to keep evacuees out of the administration building, the crowd-organizers on the inner periphery also kept the crowd back from the windows of the administration building. This is reported for the north side of the north wing, where orders were given to the crowd to keep back, which they followed at least during the early part of the afternoon.

The evacuee organizers on the outer periphery of the crowd performed several different functions. The twenty-five or more on the east side directed evacuees, as they came up from the colony, on to the administration building. They kept evacuees from entering the administration residence area in the military compound. They blocked Caucasians from entering the residence area. They kept evacuees away from the fence bordering the military compound, trying to keep an open space between the military area and the edge of the crowd and keeping the crowd back from the military area when members of it moved over to watch the tanks warming up. Finally they more or less

successfully kept persons in the evacuee crowd from leaving to go back into the colony. There was never any general movement of the crowd to go home, but as time went on and nothing happened evacuees were constantly attempting to slip away. The organizers at the edge of the crowd told these people to return only a few got through.

Other organizers of the crowd went about in trucks, keeping in communication with each other, stopping Caucasians from going down into the colony in cars, and periodically bringing up truckloads of evacuees from the colony to join the crowd. They also posted evacuee guards at doors of the hospital to prevent entrance into it after the beating of Dr. Pedicord. They allowed evacuees to go in and out of Ward E in the hospital where a rest room is situated.

These organizers of the crowd, who controlled movements of both evacuees and Caucasians, were unarmed. One posted near the military area keeping the evacuees from leaving carried a thin two-foot stick with a rag tied to one end of it. He did not threaten with this or touch anyone with it. None of the others are reported specifically by anyone to have had weapons. They dealt with evacuees and Caucasians alike by giving them firm spoken orders. They touched individuals only after refusal to obey orders and such contact is reported only as light pushing. There are four specified cases of such contacts, Donovan, Slattery, Thompson, and Adams -- if we except the doubtful instance of Breece.

BEHAVIOR OF THE EVACUEE CROWD

The behavior of the organizers of the crowd was purposeful and ranged from extreme politeness to aggressive threat. The behavior of the great mass of the evacuee crowd was quiet and passive. As the crowd first began to gather, coming up from the colony it was seen by Loren Huycke, Kay Tift, Grover Lytle, Emily Light, Marvin Opler, and Kenneth Harkness. It is de-

scribed by them as quiet, the women carrying or wheeling children, all moving at a moderate, sauntering pace. Lytel stopped, talked, and shook hands with a student; the student seemed to him embarrassed, but not hostile. Opler talked with evacuees who had been working for him and with others whom he knew. They were friendly and communicative and conversed with him in an ordinary, polite manner.

As the crowd gathered around the ad. bldg., many women and children took up positions in the courtyard between the north and middle wings. Some young people got sticks from the wood pile near the leave office and used them to sit on. A few evacuees came up to the windows of the ad. bldg. building offices and peered in at the Caucasians, until told to step back by other evacuees. The crowd talked among themselves, but on the whole were quiet. There was no shouting and voices were raised only once or twice by one of the organizers of the crowd and two or three of his associates posted at the front entrance of the ad. bldg. The crowd did not move about as a mass during the afternoon, but remained clustered around the ad. bldg. Once there was a general movement from the vicinity of the leave office toward the military area, apparently to observe the warming up of the tanks in the military area. This movement was checked by the organizers on the western periphery of the crowd. Later in the afternoon there was a constant small dribble of evacuees out of the crowd back to the colony. only partially checked by the organizers at the outside periphery.

Relations with Caucasians. Caucasians at the outer edges of the crowd, such as those near the military residence area, found evacuees ready to converse easily and in friendly manner. In the immediate vicinity of the ad bldg. evacuees often did not respond when addressed by Caucasian acquaintances. A number of Caucasians reported not seeing anyone they knew in the crowd. There was definitely a lack of communication during the afternoon between

Caucasians and evacuees in the crowd, the latter maintaining an air of aloofness. Those Caucasians who went through the crowd with or without escorts have reported that they were not jostled or treated roughly.

Destruction of Property. Some flowers in the margins of the flower beds between the wings of the ad. bldg. were trampled during the afternoon by the crowd, but the greater number of these flowers were not injured and are still growing. Sticks of wood in the woodpile at the leave office were taken by members of the crowd and used for seats and were then thrown back in the general direction of the wood pile as the crowd left. The most serious damage to property in or around the administration building, consisted of injuries to automobiles parked near the administration building. Evacuee youths sat on or in several of the cars. Scratched in the glass of the windshield of one car were the words "For Sale Cheap." One car owner reported a sun visor torn off and the glass of a door shattered in one corner, but when this was done has not been determined. One car door handle was taken. The radio aeriels of two cars were taken and windshield wipers were taken from 12 cars. Gas tank tops were taken from at least four cars and dirt was seen thrown into several gas tanks. The paint on two cars was scratched. A car top was dented as a result of some boys sitting on it. In connection with this list of property damage, it should be added that evacuee crowd organizers, when asked to by Huycke at the beginning of the demonstration, ordered boys to get off Huycke's car. Another point is that Halloween just preceded the demonstration and one witness who first reported the loss of a windshield wiper and a gas tank cap on Monday afternoon admitted later that this had happened the previous night.

Although there was no damage to administration buildings or any other buildings in the vicinity, there was damage to the high school building during the afternoon. Three door panels were broken in and the

auditorium, and the panel of the door in the Community Activities office was pried out. In the Community activities office the ribbons on all the typewriters were cut and the glass on the supervisors desk top was broken.

Incendiarism. Rumors circulated during and after the demonstration that members of the evacuee crowd had been seen preparing to set fire to buildings. None of the materials which were reported to be a part of such preparations have been presented as evidence by anyone. No one has reported seeing any actual effort on the part of any evacuee to start a fire in the vicinity of the administration building during the afternoon.

Two witnesses who were in the middle wing of the adm. bldg. agree that some time during the afternoon they saw an evacuee in the midst of the crowd in front of the front entrance of the adm. bldg. This evacuee was carrying a small brown cardboard carton which had been opened and contained some material which they think might have been excelsior, straw, or paper packing material. They are not sure what the nature of this material was, because they did not see it clearly. They think now that possibly it could have been a package which the boy had received at the Post Office earlier in the afternoon, although at the time they thought the box was part of an incendiary plan. Two other persons report having seen evacuee men in the vicinity of the Post Office and motor pool early in the afternoon with cardboard cartons, but they do not know what these boxes contained. Another witness reported seeing small cardboard boxes in the personnel garage on the afternoon of the demonstration. He reported that these contained straw and that he had seen oil poured over cars and on the ground in the personnel garage. Cardboard boxes are still present in the garage, one containing a battery, two others being empty. There are also greasy rags and oil stains on the floor of the garage, which do not seem to be any different from rags and stains usually found in garages. The evacuee gardener who

worked at the adm. bldg. had left two cartons of trash picked up during the morning at the corner of the south wing at the adm. Bldg.

Carrying of Weapons by Evacuees. All but 8, of 70 witnesses, state that they saw no knives, clubs, or other weapons carried by evacuees during the afternoon. Some say that they saw canes, such as older evacuee men usually carry, in the hands of evacuees; these were being used in the usual manner as walking cans. Seven witnesses maintain that they saw knives in the possession of evacuees. One of these, Mr. Muir, saw a pocket knife with long blade in the hands of an evacuee who was fixing the wires for the public address system in the front office of the north wing. The evacuee used the knife to cut the wires and then folded the knife up and put it in his pocket. Two witness (Hitt & Muir) agree that they saw a knife in the hands of a young man who was seated in the courtyard south of the middle wing of the administration building. This evacuee, according to one of the witnesses, was cutting grass as he sat there. According to the other witness who saw him, he was whittling. One witness saw "boys carving sticks" near the leave office. Another saw "five boys with knives." One saw a knife as large as a saber, another "10 knives," in unspecified places. Wilkinson, whose testimony is otherwise unreliable, is the only one who reports a man "with a knife guarding a window".

A Caucasian who was in the leave office, Miss Hert, saw a small boy put a sharpened stick up inside his jacket. She saw him make no other use of the stick. Miss Hert also saw two pieces of pipe a foot or more long in the hands of an evacuee man. Another witness who was not in the leave office also claims to have seen a man with two pieces of pipe. No others report seeing pieces of pipe, and none report any use made of the pipe. Another Caucasian who was in the middle wing of the adm. bldg. reports seeing

a 9" long object wrapped in newspaper in the rear pocket of an evacuee man. She did not see the individual take the object out of his pocket or make use of it in any way and does not know what the object was.

There are no reports of threats to any Caucasian during the afternoon with knives, sticks or any other weapons.

Behavior of the Appointed Personnel

The great majority of the appointed personnel of the project were never told to go ~~to~~ to the administration buildings. They were either already there, remained in their residences, stood at the edge of the military residence area, or came to the building of their own accord to find out what was happening. No Caucasians fought with any evacuees, with the exception of Dr. Pedicord at the hospital. The six Caucasians who at first refused to comply with evacuee orders to go to the adm. bldg. eventually either went there or to their residences. They did not meet with violence.

The Caucasians who remained in the leave office or the three wings of the adm. bldg. were affected in various ways by the pressure of the crowd outside. Some went on about their work, some walked about within the building viewing the crowd from different places, some remained in their offices and looked out at the crowd.

In The Leave Office There were sixteen Caucasians in the leave office after the crowd had gathered. Mr. Lowery barred the rear door, locked the front door, as a matter of "good sense," then went on with his work. Miss Battat went through the crowd to the adm. bldg. twice to offer her services for note-taking at the meeting with the committee going on in the front office. Mrs. Silverthorne and another woman left the office and went through the crowd to go to the former's home; and the others worked quietly or watched the crowd. One woman in the leave office saw pieces of pipe and a pointed stick in the hands of evacuees. The others there did

did not see these things. There were no demonstrations of fear or excitement on the part of the Caucasians in the Leave Office.

In the Main Administration Building. It is uncertain how many Caucasians were in the three wings of the main administration building, probably 60 to 70 persons, during the course of the afternoon. In the north wing front office an evacuee committee was closeted with WRA officials from 1:30 to 4:30. In the south front office Black, chief of community management, went about his work as usual. He received reports of the gathering of the crowd from Harkness at the high school and Huycke at the housing office. In the afternoon he allowed several evacuees to connect a public address system to the outlet in the office. After the public address system was set up, Black got in communication with Colonel Austin of the Military Police by telephone and remained in touch with him throughout the afternoon. He arranged, in case need for it arose, to signal the Colonel by means of the loud speaker system. His communications with the Military Police were not interfered with in any way during the afternoon.

In the north wing the appointed personnel went about their work or walked around looking out the windows at the crowd. Some felt it wiser to pay no attention to the crowd and refrained even from looking out the windows.

In the middle wing there seems to have been a good deal of walking about on the part of the appointed personnel. Those who tried to work say that they were disturbed by the movement and talk of others of the appointed personnel in the wing. People from other offices came in and joined those in the middle wing. There was excitement over two incidents which took place. One was the stopping of Mr. Breece when he tried to go toward the crowd thru the front entrance. This was visible from the middle

wing and roused appointed personnel to indignation and excited comment. The incident was seen by several as violent mistreatment of an old man. The other incident which roused people was the entrance of the crowd organizer with some others to get the evacuee woman who had gone to the rest room in the middle wing. Some were indignant, others apparently fearful, at the entrance of evacuees into the building. These flurries of excitement gave rise to much discussion. Statements were made about the desirability of "shooting all the Japs" and fears were expressed that the buildings were to be burned or that they were to be rushed by the crowd outside and that "no Caucasian would be left alive by 9 O'clock." Rumors flew around among the appointed personnel that weapons were being carried by evacuees, that oil-saturated straw was being carried about for incendiary purposes, and that automobiles were being badly damaged outside. One woman (Lawhead) sometime during the afternoon made out her will on a small piece of paper and slipped it into her handbag.

In the south wing appointed personnel for the most part went about their work. There seems to have been more laughing and joking about the crowd here than excited expression of fears and passing on of rumors. The Breece incident here also caused indignation and there was resentment when the evacuees rushed into get the woman in the rest room. When the evacuees left after the latter incident, someone in this wing latched the front entrance from the inside, and no more evacuees entered.

The view that ultimately prevailed among the appointed personnel in the administration building was that nothing should be done which might cause any real trouble to break out between evacuees and Caucasians. An Army lieutenant who was in the middle wing expressed this view, when after noting that the air had been let out of the tires of his car, refrained from going out in order "not to create an incident," as he said. The same

viewpoint was relayed back to the appointed personnel from Mr. Black in the front office.

Meeting of Evacuee Committee with Director Myer

4 While the crowd was gathering around the administration building another event was taking place, which, like the coming of the crowd itself, was unannounced to the officials of the project. This was a meeting between a group of evacuees, the national Director of the WRA, and project administrators. The meeting was held in the Project Director's office in the north wing of the administration building. It was a part of the evacuee-planned demonstration.

Preliminary Arrangements. It had been known since at least October 26 by evacuees that the National Director was to visit the Tule Lake Center early in November. The Director arrived on the morning of November 1. After a conference with the project director, he made a short tour of the center, getting back to the administration area shortly before 1:00 p.m. Plans had been made with the project director for a meeting on November 2 with evacuee representatives. No plan was made for a meeting on November 1, and no indication that any evacuees were planning such a meeting was given until after the crowd began to gather at the administration building. The Project Director was, however, informed as early as 12:30 by a member of his staff that unauthorized announcements had been made in evacuee mess halls of an address by the Director to the evacuees. As the crowd began to collect, the Director, The Assistant Field Director, the Project Director, and two other project officials entered the Project Director's office for a conference.

About 1:20 p.m., T. Yamane, an evacuee who had been directing the crowd outside, entered Mr. Black's office (opposite the Project Director's in the north wing) and asked to see the Project Director. He was admitted and said that an evacuee committee of seven wished to see the Director.

He was told to tell the group to come in. Seventeen evacuee men then came through Mr. Black's office and joined the WRA officials in the Project Director's office. Chairs were brought for them and they sat down. One evacuee, Isamu Uchida, took off his coat, as did Schmidt, WRA Chief of Internal Security, who had joined the group, and Uchida rolled up his sleeves.

At 1:30 just as the group were taking their seats, a telephone call came from the hospital and was relayed to the Project Director by Mr. Black. This call gave the information that Dr. Pedicord, Chief Medical Officer, had been beaten at the hospital. Mr. Best after receiving the news spoke to George Kuratomi who was acting as spokesman for the evacuee group:

What is going on at the hospital, George?

Kuratomi: I don't know.

Mr. Best: They have beaten up Dr. Pedicord, they are tearing down property. Dr. Pedicord is badly beaten up and they are going from one ward to another destroying property.

Kuratomi: We will stop it.

Mr. Best: They have beaten up Dr. Pedicord. That will have to be stopped right away.

The committee then sent some evacuees over to the hospital to investigate the incident. (See separate report on the hospital incident.)

Shortly after this two evacuees appeared at the door of Black's office with a public address system. They did not ask permission to set it up, but Black pointed out to them an electrical outlet in his office, and they proceeded to connect it. As the conference proceeded in the Project Director's office, an announcement was made over the loud speaker which Dr. Weber, WRA interpreter, translated as a statement to the crowd to gather around the administration building. From time to time thereafter during the course of the meeting, brief announcements were made over the loudspeaker, such as a call for an evacuee secretary to take minutes of the meeting, a statement that "an incident" had taken place at the hospital,

and a request that the crowd stay away from the military area.

The Meeting. After a report came that things were quiet in the hospital, the conference with the seventeen evacuees proceeded in the Project Director's office. Dr. Weber, WRA interpreter, was included in the group, and the Project Director's secretary took the minutes. George Kuratomi, evacuee spokesman, described his group's relationship to the crowd as follows:

The residents have asked that these (questions and demands) be transmitted to you. We do not want to commit any riots or conduct ourselves in a disorderly manner. The people outside are here to express their dissatisfaction and anger about the center administration..... We have been asked to bring up their grievances, request and demands to you..... so that you may be able to get an over-all picture of how ill-administered this Center is.

Kuratomi then proceeded to speak at length, criticizing Mr. Best's actions as Project Director. In the midst of his speech, word came again that there was still trouble at the hospital:

Best: They haven't stopped over at the hospital. Dr. Pedicord has been beaten very severely and is asking for military police. What would you boys do in a case like that?

Kuratomi: I don't know.

Best: What would you think about it?

Kuratomi: Maybe if I read some more you can see some of the reasons.

Myer: I think we need to know about this now.

Kuratomi: Some of the reasons?

Myer: Not the reasons. We need to know who is going to be responsible for stopping this situation at the hospital right now.

Kuratomi: Some of the boys have gone over to stop it now. They came of their own accord. We didn't know they were going to do that. I think they will stop everything if we shall continue to talk this over.

Myer: There is no question of talking it over now. We can't sit here and let property be destroyed and Dr. Pedicord's life be jeopardized.

Best: Something has got to be done right ~~now~~ now.

Kuratomi: Shall we wait?

Best: Yes, we will wait till it is stopped over there. That has got to stop.

Kuratomi: (We) will send more boys over.

The meeting was stopped until word came again that things were quiet at the hospital. Once again, some time later, word was received that the disturbance was continuing at the hospital. This time Schmide, National Chief of

Internal Security, left the meeting and went through the crowd to the hospital, followed by one evacuee sent by the committee. He found that evacuee man had been placed at the hospital entrances to keep members of the crowd out and that Dr. Pedicord had received first aid treatment. Schmidt returned along to the Project Director's office to report and stayed there through the rest of the conference.

The conference continued until 4:30 p.m. Kuratomi read a series of questions and demands which he claimed the residents to the Center had instructed him to present. These were as follows.

1. Question: What is the status of the residents of Tule Lake Center? Demand: Tule Lake Center be designated for only persons who wish to return to Japan.
2. Question: Why were the farm workers terminated without notice? Demand: The termination and request for return of worker's badges be retracted until after a meeting with representatives of farm workers.
3. Question: Are any loyal Japanese coming to harvest crops? Demand: an accounting be made to the evacuees of food removed from the warehouse.
4. Demand: Immediate removal of Caucasian doctors and nurses from the hospital.
5. Demand: Distribution of food be corrected.
6. Demands: Uniform porches, improvement of latrines, dust control, mops, brooms, and buckets.
7. Demand: Evacuee central Governing body be recognized.
8. Demand: Resignation of Best, Zimmer, Kallam, Schmidt, Kirkman and Peck.

These points were discussed at length. Myer and Best repeatedly stated that they were willing to confer with evacuee groups on the matters and to investigate complaints. They refused to retract the termination of farm workers, to give an accounting to evacuees of food taken from warehouses, or to ask for resignations of staff members. Each time a refusal of a demand was made, Kuratomi discussed the point briefly in Japanese with other members of the group, and was instructed by them to proceed with the other demands.

The meeting was carried on quietly and with calmness on the part of both evacuees and Caucasians. One event brought a little stir of excitement

among the evacuees. In connection with charges brought against the medical staff, the uncle of a child who had died in the hospital as a result of burns described the case vividly. All present were affected and when the evacuee asserted that WRA should take responsibility for the death there was a murmur of approval from the evacuees. The uncle of the child then left the meeting, saying that he felt "out of place" in an atmosphere of demands.

During the course of the discussion, Kuratomi gave interpretations of the nature of the demonstration outside. It is clear from his statement that he was aggressive and uncompromising in his demands, and that he attempted to give the impression that violence would break out if the demands were not met.

I for one know that if we are to make such a report (that termination of farm workers would not be retracted) as this to the people outside we, as a committee, cannot very well guarantee what the reaction might be of the people waiting outside. I want you to give me an answer to this question in regard to the farm situation that I can transmit to the people outside.

Whatever might have taken place over there (at the hospital) and to Dr. Pedicord in particular might be justified, and some of the boys couldn't wait until the conference was over.

Let me say this, Mr. Myer, I don't want to see any violence; however, unless you don't remove these people I have mentioned from the hospital until such time as an investigation has been held I cannot guarantee the actions of the people. This is not a threat. I cannot stop these people from swarming over to the hospital and getting after the doctors. I don't want to see any violence take place but I cannot guarantee what the people will do. It is not a threat, it is a fact. I am just explaining the actual tension.

I would like to say, in a concluding statement, that as we have already stated, we are not here for trouble and we don't expect to have any unnecessary commotions and we are sincere and feel that the rights of the evacuees here are being jeopardized and sometimes trampled upon. We would like to get these answers or questions clarified for answer, just as soon as possible, because the people are waiting and the sooner we can give them the facts, the sooner these problems will be dissolved and we will have a peaceful center that much quicker.

Dispersal of the Crowd

At the conclusion of the discussion, Kuratomi asked Mr. Myer if he would say a few words to the crowd. Mr. Myer said that he would greet them. Myer, Best and the evacuee committee stepped into Black's office at the door of which the public address system had been set up. Mr. Myer was introduced by Kuratomi and gave a short talk. He told the crowd that he intended to study the recommendations of the committee, but that he would not make commitments at that time. As he spoke, the crowd listened quietly and many of the evacuee men in the crowd removed their hats. At the conclusion of his talk, there was applause from various parts of the crowd. Mr. Best then spoke briefly expressing the hope that problems could be discussed through committees of evacuees. These addresses were translated accurately into Japanese, according to the WRA interpreter, and there was some applause after the translations.

Kuratomi then gave a summary of the afternoon's discussion in Japanese. He was followed by Rev. Kai of the evacuee committee. His speech ~~and~~ as described by Dr. Weber, was as follows: Rev. Kai spoke very briefly to the group reminding them that they were Japanese citizens and that they should conduct themselves as such and that they should be ready to stick together for the Emperor and for Japan."

As soon as Rev. Kai had finished, the crowd turned and began to move away toward their residences. Suddenly a command was given, through the loudspeaker by one of the crowd organizers. The crowd stopped and came to attention. Then came another command. This was the single word in Japanese "Orei" (meaning "bow"). About half the men in the crowd uncovered their heads and bowed toward the speakers in the administration building. One evacuee who was standing near the man who had given the command, did

not uncover his head. His hat was knocked from his head by another evacuee, and he bowed. Then the crowd dispersed quietly and went home.

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