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October 5, 1943

Dear F.S.F:

Your letter received this morning, and the case material returned to you forthwith. As you can imagine, after reading that article in the Gila News we were somewhat dubious about sending the material back to you, even if it had been marked "personal." Now it is on its way, and should arrive in Arizona in a day or two. You do seem to be having some trouble, don't you? I hope that this late transmittal of your material will not get either your neck or ours in a sling. If you are still at Leupp, however, there should be no difficulty.

You asked me to comment on the case histories you have written. I read each one very carefully, and have them before me as I write now. I think you deserve to be complimented. There is some tremendously interesting and valuable information in them, and you must have worked trojan-like in getting them out. You have, with the material, sent a list of names of individuals whom, I presume, you have in your charge at Leupp. Some of these names are marked with a red line through them. We have been wondering what this means, and it is my guess that these individuals have been parolled. Am I correct in this inference? We have case histories from you on about half the Leupp population, as nearly as I can gather. What about the remainder? While I realize that I am more of a burden to you than a help, it does appear as though we will be able to present some valuable information to the world when this is all over, and it will be well to get this cross-section of Leupp if we can, not only as a cross-section, but in its entirety. All of us here in Berkeley, and myself particularly, since I am the only one that knows you, feel very badly that the WRA is apparently sacrificing you in the way that it is. Not only that, but when you leave, a valuable channel of information will be closed. You can see then how extremely anxious we are to get a hold of any more material of this kind that you may have. As to the cases themselves, are these the total of what you have written, or were you required to make a docket of every internee in Leupp? I was particularly eager to see something on my old pal, George Yamashiro, but this was not included, nor were reports on the lads from Topaz. I make another inference, and assume that you have included only those which might be considered favorably for parole, release, or relocation. Have you

written reports on the really bad boys? In fact, as I look over this information, I see that you have leveled bitter criticism, however indirectly, at Bennett and Cozzens. Your cases at Gila state correctly in nearly every instance the fact that the sole complaint against the individual was the fact that he was a member of the G.Y.P.A. This is certainly true, and, as I look at that crucial period in retrospect, I see no other reason for the mass apprehension. In these cases, further, you recommend release, and in nearly every instance, praise the cooperative spirit of the internee concerned. It may possibly be that this kind of liberalism, and this indirect sniping at Bennett and Cozzens, have earned for you the desire on the part of the latter, at least, to purge you from the WRA. I don't know whether Cozzens ever saw the material you wrote, but it's a fairly decent supposition. I think that you ought to be complimented for the favorable stand you took in regard to these individuals, the background of whose actions we understand only too well.

So, if it must be that the Army will take you, I guess it must be. We will be very sorry to see you leave, and I hope you will keep in touch with me, letting me know where you are. When at Tule Lake, I had several lengthy conversations with Jacoby. Jacoby, himself, seemed favorably inclined toward you as I said. It may be that Schmidt is giving you the run-around there. Even so, an associate chief's job at T.L. wouldn't mean deferment, would it? I hope you can crack the Poston deal. If you can, you know, you will be out of the immediate back-biting WRA circle. Poston, with the solution of its problems, seems to be a pretty well-run center at this time. As the result of your recent stay at Gila, you must be better informed on its present political situation than I am. You have always commented that morale and spirits at Gila were low. According to my successor there, they have reached a new ebb as the result of the segregation policy, which is proceeding so badly. Wolter is seemingly the only man who can stand up for the evacuees, the others are entirely without backbone. You would find Poston a very different place from Gila if you were able to go there. I hope that you can.

I guess that's all the news for now. We are waiting on the effects of segregation with baited breath. Remember, if you have any more information, we would certainly like to be able to see it. Best regards to Jane, and if you come to Berkeley, look us up by all means.

Yours,

September 21, 1943

Dear F.S.F:

Received your lengthy letter the other day, and read same with considerable enjoyment. Things are certainly a mess. I agree with you that Bennett may attempt to exile all members of the GYPA as you suggest. It seems a logical step for him to take, in view of his opposition to the organization and to its members. I learn from our observer at Gila, my successor, that Bennett is attempting to discredit Wolter who, as chief of community services, attempted at first to abide by Bennett's mandates, but of late has been breaking more and more away from them. There is some speculation, as you have continually hinted in your letters, that Bennett is on the way out. Apparently, however, there is no tangible case against him, nor a position carrying with it that high monetary classification for him in Washington. It is speculated that Wolter is to be named successor for him at Gila should such a climax arise. It is my own opinion that the WRA will follow its usual tactics of bringing in some outsider. There seems to be, in view of past circumstances, a reluctance on the part of WRA chiefs to effect promotions from within the project itself. Wolter, desirable as he might be for a project director, could not maintain himself against the strong Bennett faction at Gila. It is logical to suppose that some outsider will come in. Bennett continues to take hysterical views of the whole situation.

It begins to look as though there is mounting trouble at Gila. A condition with which we are already familiar, seems to be about to culminate in trouble of some kind. It is said that the community is at a boiling point. It may possibly be that as in other instances the Furor will die out as the result of the lack of adequate leadership in the Gila community. The stress at Gila all along seems to have come about through divided leadership. At the present time, the people are attempting to get together on a plan whereby everyone may say they are disloyal, Gila may be made into another segregation center, and that no one will have to move. It seems to be another of those far fetched schemes cooked up in the stress of confinement. It can, however, be dangerous, inasmuch as Bennett will be utterly unable to cope with it should a good many people profess disloyalty out of spite, as indeed they will.

Apparently, you misunderstood my letter of a couple of weeks ago. I thought I made it clear that I was to stay at Tule Lake only for a week to obtain for the study a certain

amount of documentation on events which had taken place at T.L. This came about as a very decent WRA courtesy. I returned a week ago after a hectic stay in which I got a lot of background on the registration difficulties up there. I got an interesting sideline on you from a talk with Jacoby, int. sec. chief. He asked about you, since many months previously he had received that copy of transfer with Bennett's recommendation on it. Jacoby stated that the transfer was so obviously a case of trying to get rid of you and, not knowing the circumstances himself, he felt obliged not to honor it, in view of Bennett's rather eager desire to have you out of Gila. Not knowing what had happened, or what kind of person you were, Jacoby had only Bennett's statement that you would be better suited to Tule Lake. There is another example of Bennett's bungling. It seems to me that if he had wanted to get rid of you, and could have sent you to Tule Lake, he might have pretended to be reluctant to lose you. At Tule Lake, I saw some of the difficulties arising over the segregation. Actually, the T.L. mess is quieted down somewhat. Again you get this concern of individuals for themselves and their families, and much less emphasis on the fate of the group as a whole. It is at Gila where trouble, as such, has never really broken out that something seems to be brewing. I don't know if they have the leadership to put it over.

I had little opportunity to talk to Best during my stay at T.L. I should have liked to have been able to see more of him, since he seemed to be very personable. He was, of course, tremendously tied up with problems of segregation. He merely gave instructions that my wife and I be given every courtesy, which was very decent of him. He had high praise for you and your work at Leupp. In a sense he seems to be a good administrator, but to be very easily influenced by his associates. In fact, during his first weeks there he began to favor the so-called sociologists in community services, internal security and community analysis. They were able to exert some influence on him, but now he has come under the sway of one, Robert Brown, a nasty so-and-so, if I ever met one, assistant project director at Manzanar, sent to T.L. to be of aid in segregation. He's really very anti-evacuee, and has got Best into a very stern frame of mind against so-called pampering. Was it true in your experience with Best that he was easily led?

Above all things, we would like to see the case histories you have written. I don't know how voluminous these are. I am enclosing a dollar's worth of stamps, so that you can send some of the stuff at least via special airmail. We have enough clerical help, so that we could whip off copies in no time, and shoot the stuff back to you at Leupp. In fact, I am quite sure we can handle anything you send, and have it back to you in the same way in less than a week. We would

certainly appreciate it if you could part with the material for that length of time.

Any news on your deferment? It seems to me that that 45-day period you got should be just about up. I hope to heck you can swing a chief's position and so get deferred. I notice that your letter was posted in Salt Lake City, and I presume you were on your way to Tule Lake. I am sorry that I missed you, but if it should be that you can get down or out to Berkeley, don't forget that the latch-string is always out. Our address, our latest one at least, is 2671 Shasta Road. We have a phone number, but I don't know it yet. Information will give it to you. Best regards to Jane, and take good care of the Jap boys. Let me hear from you soon on that case material. All of that stuff should go to the Giannini Hall address for immediate expediting.

Yours,

February 10, 1944

Dear F.S.F.

Well, how is a soldier boy? I have been trying to write for quite sometime but I kept on putting it off for I was awaiting a letter on some of the question you had on your last one.

Roy Akagi, you wanted to know something about him. Roy was born in Wakayama Ken, Japan. And while in Japan, he attended Kan Sai Gaknen, a sort of combination grammar and high school in this country.

He came to this country while very young and attended Alameda High School at Alameda, California and then majored in History at University of California at Berkeley, California. Upon graduation from U. of C. he entered Columbia University for further education. At the time he came to this country, his parents were residing at Alameda making their living as gardner.

Roy upon completion of post graduate work at Columbia University at New York City, he decided to organize Japanese Student's League composed of all the Japanese student who were attending the different universities and colleges throughout the United States. And he made several campaign trips to different school where most of the Japanese students was congregated. In due time, this Japanese Students League became an existance and then reorganized again in order to cope with the bigger field and general Nisei problem and eventually became what is known today as the Japanese American Citizens League. Roy seems to be a very good organizer but very poorer manager and so he was ousted out and his responsible position has been filled up by some one else. Thereupon he immediately went back to Japan and while he was there, he married the daughter of one of the professor of Waseda University. And through the influence of his father-in-law, Professor

Watanabe, he entered the service of South Manchuria Railway at Dairen, Korea. He has travelled extensively throughout Korea, Manchuria, and China as a advertising agent for over ten years. Then in 1940 he ~~later~~ returned to this country as a general manager of New York City branch office of South Manchuria Railway. And after the war was declared, I can not tell what happened to him.

Mr. Wade Head, a director of Poston Relocation Center has resigned and is going to be replaced by Mr. Duncan Mills from Washington, D.C. Of course, Mr. Mills also is or was a Indian Service man and a friend of Mr. Head. He is going to stay on under Indian Service by accepting a job as Superintendent of Papago Indian Reservation at Sells, Arizona. This action became necessary since Poston Relocation Center has changed hand since January 1, 1944 from Indian Service to War Relocation Authority.

There is persistent talk in the center that the War Relocation Authority will be transferred to the Interior Department under Secretary Ickes. And the transfer order already has been drawn and that it has been signed by the President. Announcement of the transfer is being delayed until this move can be discussed with Dillon S. Myer, W.R.A. director, who is now on the west coast and who won't return to Washington until January 28th. No words has been received on the project to date regarding the reported transfer.

West coast congressman had demanded the reorganization of the WRA after the recent Tule Lake incident, asking military or Department of Justice control of the relocation centers. But, seems that Myer, and the present W.R.A. staff will be given the opportunity of remaining with WRA after it losses its independence.

The general reaction by the majority of the resident of this communities to any of such evantuality will not be opposed as long as administratively carried out. In another words, they do not care whether the load be carried by the W.R.A. or the Interior Department as long as policy do not change drastically.

Now, going into local politics. Am enclosing the local paper for you, but, the under current of public opinion and the sentiment are much more serious than what appears on the surface or the newspaper.

The Butte Internal Security is having a same or identically same troubles as happened at Canal when you was here. They or the members of the department is dissatisfied with the selection of Norman Takusagawa as the captain by Mr. John Nichols, Assistant Chief of Butte Police. And Mr. Graves is taking a very same stand as Mr. Williamson did at that time. So naturally, the boys are quitting one by one and now only the skeleton crews remain in the Butte police force. And the funniest part is they (meaning the administration) never learn. And to make matter worse, the Butte Community Council charged the Internal Security with inefficiency and made a recommendation to the Project Director, Mr. Bennett, for the removal of two of the appointed staffs and two resident staffs from the Internal Security Section. Then the funniest of all is that on the very same day the Butte Community Council charged inefficiency to the Butte Police, they gave me an unanimous vote of confidence as an inspector of police of both communities, Butte and Canal and asked me to reorganize the Butte police to the efficient standard as at Canal. I have politely declined to accept such a responsibility at this time. Because, I want to see how Graves and Nichols are going to handle this delicate situation and

further more it is none of my ~~damn~~ damned business anyway.

On January 28, 1944, the Butte Community Council passed a resolution condemning Japanese militarist for the atrocities committed against the American war prisoners. And this started the under current of grumbling and may start a little fireworks. The contention of the people lies not on the resolution itself but, the method and the authority of the Community Councilman in taking such vote in the behalf of the people. And then, there is quite a problem which is coming up in line.

1. Removal of balance of the s egregees to Tule Lake which amount to about six hundred persons.
2. Receiving of about two thousand or more persons from other centers, probably Manzanar.
3. This project most likely a ~~3~~ first center to be called in for Selective Services. Without a doubt, there is number of persons who think this draft business is very unfair in-as-much as the very person who are being drafted are restricted and prohibited from certain zone and also their travelling is very limited. In other words, they are being treated differently from other American soldiers.
4. The food stuff that was sent to the residents of this community by the Japanese Red Cross has now strengthened the alien residents conviction that the Japanese Government has not forgotten them at all. And to make matter worse, handful of agitators are using this as a leverage to sway the peoples mind to their ways of thinking.

After thinking over very carefully, I have decided to resign from both Community Council and the Internal Security before March 1, 1944. At least some issue pops up.

"Ben"