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February 2, 1942

Tolan

From : Harold H. Buckles
To : Congressman Tolan
Subject : Alien Control

I had hoped to have an opportunity to talk to you today about this question of alien control on the Pacific coast. I do not know what the sense of the delegation meeting was, but I am extremely concerned, and a number of other people here are also, because of the unfavorable publicity for the Pacific Coast area which is being generated by the statements which have been made regarding danger from within and from without on the coast.

Naturally and obviously, when a matter of public safety is involved it is extremely difficult to object to defense measures proposed. The fact remains that there is such little reason for believing there is great danger of successful air or naval bombardment from an invading enemy that no army or navy officer of responsibility has suggested the advisability of removing any west coast industries to the interior, or of withholding contracts from companies already in operation, although the general policy of the War Department at the present time is to discourage any construction on the coastal plain.

2 Neither is it possible to believe that all of the 186,000 enemy aliens in the Maritime States actually represent a danger now or potentially to the 12,000,000 citizens of those states. At least 3,000 enemy aliens believed to be dangerous are already in custody and several thousand others are under close surveillance.

Without exhausting the subject I think I can say positively that there are the following obvious arguments against such outspoken commitments as that of the California delegation and of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce.

1. The already widespread feeling that the hard-won industrial development of the coast is vulnerable to attack is increasing to such a degree that

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even clear-headed army and naval authorities will soon be forced to fall in with the hysterical cry ~~for~~ for abandonment of the Pacific coast industries.

2. Every time such a public pronouncement is made there is a new exodus on the part of workers, many of whom are skilled workers whose loss is a serious blow to continuous production of existing industry.

3. The actual forcible removal of all enemy aliens from the Pacific coast area would

a - Needlessly tie up a tremendous volume of rolling stock and other transportation facilities.

b - Needlessly consume fuel, gasoline, rubber oil and needlessly congest highways.

c - Disrupt not only the truck farming industry and agricultural labor supply but also seriously and adversely affect many ~~of~~ industries and businesses and the domestic employment field.

d - Be a violation of the traditional American respect for individual rights comparable only to the forcible transplanting of whole populations by Hitler and Mussolini.

4. I believe a byproduct of this unfavorable scare possibly would be to drive away what is left of the tourist trade and all investment of private capital and to feed the near hysteria of the more stable citizenry.

Out of all of the material we have received on this subject one postcard very sensibly suggests that the Army be given complete discretion and control of aliens without any encouragement of the public clamour to forcibly remove them.

Charlie Williamson of the California State Chamber of Commerce has suggested much the same thing except that he includes the F.B.I. as one of the agencies for control.

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He says that the Department of Justice is fully informed as to all possible dangers and in collaboration with the military authorities is prepared to take any necessary measures for control. He also concurs in the belief that the people who started this agitation have an eye on the possibility of picking up alien property at good prices through forced sales and foreclosures and adds that a number of out-and-out racketeers as well as a few sincere but somewhat overlyenthusiastic agitators who make a business of keeping alien alarms alive in the public mind have whipped up this agitation.

8

Among those who joined the saner view today is Miss Sasuli, representative here of the California Farmers' Legislative Committee, who is seriously concerned lest such arbitrary action ~~would~~ wreck the plans for increased agricultural production in the truck farm area. One big ranch, according to Williamson, is almost certainly facing liquidation if the delegation recommendations are carried out. Certainly the cost to the public in dollars and wasted time and in man-days lost would be enormous and much greater than that required by adequate control of the aliens.

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It says that the Department of Justice in Paris
 information to all possible sources and in collaboration
 with the military authorities in order to take any nec-
 essary measures for control. It also mentions in the
 text that the people who receive this information have an
 eye on the possibility of taking in their country
 good things which could be used for propaganda and
 that a report of the situation in the country will be
 a few days but without any political or economic
 and also a balance of health which is given in the
 article and which is in this article.

Some of the points the other side will be
 that the representative head of the G.I. party
 legislative committee, and in connection with the
 of military action which is being carried out
 legislative committee in the field of the
 the committee, according to the committee, is
 legislative committee in the legislative committee
 carried out. Certainly the way to legislative
 and some of the points which are being carried
 of the article.

HOUSE COMMITTEE INVESTIGATING
NATIONAL DEFENSE MIGRATION

Room 524, U.S. Court House
S.W. Broadway and Main St.
Portland, Oregon

February 20, 1942.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Robert K. Lamb

From: Herbert Roback and Charles Cockey

Subject: Interview with Dr. E.T. Hedlund, Postmaster, Post Office Bldg,
February 20.

The Postmaster indicated office space, and suggested several persons for interview. He stated that the community is quite agitated about the alien situation, and there is a one-hundred percent sentiment for complete removal of the Japanese.

Tolan Committee

203 Henry Bldg
Seattle Washington

Feb. 23, 1942.

Memorandum

To: Robert K. Lamb

From: Joan Pascal and Harold G. Tipton

Subject: Interviews February 21, 1942, with Russell Peters, managing editor, ~~R~~ Post-Intelligencer; Abe Hurwitz, editor ~~S~~ Seattle-Star; Russell McGrath, managing editor ~~S~~ Seattle Times.

Mr. Peters outlined for us the nature of the Japanese community in Seattle. There are a large number of Japanese in the city, also many Filipinos, but few Chinese. These people live in a fairly well defined area of the city. Of course a large number of them are engaged in truck farming between Seattle and Tacoma. The Japanese living in the city are employed in domestic service to a large extent. A number of clubs are completely staffed by Japanese. There are a number of Japanese hotels run by Japanese, and they also engaged in various activities ~~such as~~ serving the Japanese community, such as operating Japanese banks, steamship lines, shops, etc. Very few of the Japanese are fishermen. The Filipinos in Seattle are mostly either in domestic service or engaged in fishing.

Immediately after Pearl Harbor there was little local reaction against the local Japanese population. The newspapers made a special effort to play up the fact that many of the Japanese were loyal citizens and government officials assured the population that the situation was being properly handled by the federal authorities. As a result of this there were no anti-Japanese demonstrations. However, with the victories of the Japanese in the Pacific, there has been increased anti-Japanese feeling in the city. Most of the local American Legion posts have passed resolutions recommending complete evacuation, and in looking over letters to the editor, Mr. Peters finds an increasing number every day that are anti-Japanese. People are increasingly convinced that even the American born Japanese is really a dual citizen due largely to the ~~fact~~ patriarchal nature of the Japanese family. The Japanese truck farms are usually owned by the American born children because the Japanese parents are not allowed to own land, but the farms are actually operated by the parents.

A large part of the fresh vegetables coming into the Seattle market are produced by and marketed by Japanese. At the beginning of the war when all foreign funds were frozen this trade was temporarily stopped and at this time, in cooperation with the Seattle Produce Exchange, the Federal Reserve Bank made a study of the amount of produce controlled by the Japanese.

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Mr. McGrath of the Times had a little to add to what the other two editors had told us. He recommended a few more people for us to get in touch with. The reason for the lack of extreme anti-Japanese feeling in Seattle, according to Mr. McGrath, is partly due to the fact that commercial ties with Japan have been

Feb. 23, 1942

2- Interviews with editors

very close. Seattle has been the principal port for trade with Japan during past years. Local business men have been reluctant to fan anti-Japanese feeling for this reason.

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Room 524, U.S. Court House
Portland, Oregon

February 24, 1942

MEMORANDUM

To: Robert K. Lamb, Staff Director

From: Charles E. Cockey, Jr.

Subject: Interview with Ralph Peoples, Secretary Oregon State
Industrial Union Council, C. I. O.

Mr. Peoples stated that the policy adopted by the union with regard to employment of Japanese (alien and citizen) was that until the War Department decided otherwise they should be kept on their jobs.

On December 8, there had arisen a situation with regards to two local saw mill in which a number of Japanese (alien and citizen) had been laid off at the request of the mayor but that eventually the situation had been straightened out and that they were now back at work.

About a week ago a situation had arisen in a local saw mill, one other sawmill involved in the December trouble, in which the white crew there had demanded the removal of the Japanese, fourteen aliens were involved. They are all aliens and presumably will be removed.

Mr. Peoples stated that he did not envisage any great problem replacing the Japanese labor in the saw mills and logging camps should they all be removed.

His opinion was that the F. S. A. should look toward the resettlement of these Japanese. He said they might be used to replace white labor which had either migrated to defense areas or had been inducted into the armed forces.

He said his union would probably like to testify at these hearings, in reply to which I explained that we were limiting the hearing to one day, which would of course make it impossible to hear from every one interested in the problem, but that if he cared to submit a statement to be considered by the committee in connection with its report to Congress, we would be glad to accept same.

Tolan Committee

Room 270-E
1355 Market St.
San Francisco

Feb. 25, 1942

Memorandum

To: Robert K. Lamb

From: Leonard A. Thomas

Subject: Conference at Stockton with Growers

As a result of the phone call of Mr. Woodin, California Fruit Exchange, on Tuesday afternoon, the writer and Mr. Bates met with the following gentlemen at the Hotel Stockton at 10:00 AM on Feb. 25: P. J. McLaughlin, Lodi 540, Mr. E.A. Humphrey, Lodi 186, Residence 194, Mr. L.K. Marshall, Lodi, Mr. D.R. Ritchie, Lodi, Mr. J.C. Skinner, Lodi 1182, Mr. H.T. Woodworth, Lodi, Mr. T.J. Langford, Escampo 26F21, Mr. Wm. B. Parker, Lodi 1180, Mr. Burton Towne, Jr., Lodi 285J.

These gentlemen stated to us that Japanese labor causes approximately 75% of table grapes. That there was a serious shortage of agricultural labor last year which will probably be acute this year. If Japanese labor is taken away, there is every ~~possibility~~ probability that the growers would not be able to harvest the table grapes.

The pattern of Japanese agricultural labor in this area is migratory. The pruning season in the orchards which is just now being completed means that the Japanese laborers will go to the Delta to work in the asparagus fields until the middle of June -- they will then go to the tree fruit areas in Winters, Vacaville, Loomis, into Placer, and then back to the Lodi area to work in the harvesting of grapes. These same people work in the celery fields from August to middle November and again from March to August. The low period is about the month of February.

Mr. Parker stated that his company, the S.A. Griad Co., packers, is spending over \$5,000,000 this year to round up labor. While not directly asked, the writer is of the opinion that this company is attempting to recruit Mexican labor in Brawley, Calif, and in Arizona. He stated that about 20,000 Japanese laborers will be needed in this state. He says in Calif, crops will not be harvested because, as he says, other help could not be trained quickly enough in one season to do this. (Some of the members of this conference expressed a fear, not only that there would be a shortage of labor, but that some of the Japanese who are now working in agriculture might be moved out.)

It was the consensus of opinion of this conference that the alien evacuees from the Coastal area could and should be used in the agricultural fields of the state. They all agreed that the prevailing rate of wages should be paid. They all agreed that no serious opposition would arise from the people in the communities into which the evacuees were brought if the communities could be assured that the Federal Government or other authorities had the situation well under control and that the evacuees were under surveillance or proper guard. They felt that these people might possibly be settled in some sort of labor camp from hence they could be taken and

returned every day.

All felt that some clearing house was necessary to which information could be routed as to the number to be evacuated and to which farmers could send their requests for agricultural labor. Suggested that in all counties at the present time there was the nucleus for such a set-up, there being an agricultural committee composed of the County Agent, the Secretary of the local AAA and others.

As far as the camps are concerned and the fact that many of the workers would have to be moved to correspond with seasonal crop demands, they nevertheless felt that the movement wasn't over great areas and that it could easily be controlled from one camp

to another. As well, since many of the big growers handle several types of crops, it is possible that many of the evacuees could be kept on the same farm.

Mr. Parker declared that his company usually has a pack of 7,000,000 in tomatoes. He stated that the Government has requested their pack to be increased to 10,000,000 -- he stated frankly and candidly that, unless the labor situation is completed, he did not see how the company could pack more than 5,000,000. All of the gentlemen stated that unless a tomato farmer knows he is going to get sufficient help for his harvest, he will not plant his crop.

That all argued against sending these people out of the state. As to the press story that sugar beet interests in Colorado were requesting large numbers of Japanese workers, Mr. Parker declared that in a recent trip to Colorado he observed that Colorado was now handling all the sugar beets they had facilities to process. They just could not process any more and, therefore, did not seem to be any need for further labor. (An off the record opinion was to the fact that other causes might have prompted the request the local press carried.)

All of the gentlemen were emphatic in declarations that the agricultural situation was serious, that the government was demanding increased crops, but that at the present, they greatly feared that usual production might be somewhat curtailed. All felt that the alien avacuation problem could be completely solved, that the agricultural situation could be greatly ameliorated, if only the growers and farmers could be assured that the authorities intended to do something. They deplored the fact that they are unable to make plans, without the risk of incurring serious financial loss, because they fear a shortage of labor and as yet no one of authority has made an attempt to help them out of their difficulties, "We do not give a damn what the government does, just so long as they do something, and will let us know so we can make our plans."

In response to a question as to what comment they might have on the story carried in the Sacramento Union on Fe. 24 that the Delta asparagus ~~growers~~ growers has sent out a call to Georgia for young Negro workers, the conference was of the opinion that no greater problem could possibly face Calif. than the importation of colored help. They seemed to feel that there was no situation under the sun that would warrant the importation of Southern negroes.

Your writer's personal observation of the meeting is that these men are surprisingly serious and practical in their approach to the problem ~~and~~ confronting them, and they are bewildered by the failure of the authorities to take any step whatever in an attempt to solve their problems. They want action. Many of them feel that unless some action is taken immediately they stand ready to lose their business. If this were necessary in order to win the war, they claim they would be ready and proud to do it. But at the moment not one of them felt that such was necessary because
o the Government's insistence that food is as important as tanks and guns in the

3-Conference at Stockton with Growers

war effort. You will note that practically all of them left their telephone numbers with the writer with the suggestion that if in any way they can cooperate with the Committee, they stand ready to do so on a moment's notice.

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Room 524, U. S. Court House
Portland, Oregon

February 25, 1942

MEMORANDUM

To: Robert K. Lamb

From: Charles E. Cockey, Jr.

Subject: Interview with Bishop Benj. D. Dagwell, Episcopal Bishop
of Oregon. February 25.

The Bishop said that the situation did not fill him with the panic evidenced by so many in the community, but perhaps it was because he was of a more trusting nature. He did not feel that the Japanese as a whole presented a more serious threat than any other groups, and should be dealt with on an individual basis.

He said that in his judgment the present hysteria with regard to the local Japanese was stirred up by the sentiments expressed by the American Legion, the women's auxiliary of the Legion and possibly even the D.A.R. Added to that were people who were professional jew-baiters and Ku-Kluxer types. He also blames the press for stimulating this feeling by its over-dramatic treatment of the subject.

He is a member of the alien-hearing board. Said when he went to hear a number of the cases he was prepared, from reading the papers, to experience a very thrilling affair, but that nearly all of the cases were proven to be completely harmless individuals. He recounted several examples to bear out his contention. He said that he had often championed the cause of Japanese who had been subject to mistreatment, such as firing from jobs.

He said that in the event of a wholesale evacuation the problems involved were great and he suggested that, where possible, to proceed slowly and carefully.

He had no clear recommendation to make concerning the disposition of the evacuees after they had been removed but said they might be placed in some section such as Yellowstone Park.

There is one small church in his diocese and he considers them all loyal to this country. He recalled the brutal evacuation of Poland by the nazis and said we must guard against brutalizing ourselves in our effort to win the war.

SEVENTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS

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Frank C. Osmer, Jr., N. J.
Robert K. Lamb, *Staff Director*

LA.

A/2.052

Congress of the United States

HOUSE COMMITTEE INVESTIGATING
NATIONAL DEFENSE MIGRATION

Washington, D. C.

Room 254 Federal Building
Los Angeles, California
February 26, 1942

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Memorandum

To: Robert K. Lamb

From: S. A. Lischinsky

Subject: Interview with Arthur J. Ryan, Commissioner of
Agriculture, Los Angeles County, 524 N. Spring
Street, Los Angeles, California

Mr. Ryan has prepared a survey of the extent to which the Japanese aliens and citizens control the production of vegetables in the County of Los Angeles. I am attaching a copy of the summary sheets. There are additional data as given by local map areas which I did not get but which will be presented in his statement.

I think that Mr. Ryan should be asked to testify and told him that Congressman Tolan will probably get in touch with him regarding his appearance.

The survey was made on the basis of interviews. On page 2 you will find an adjustment for the estimate of 7,000 to give the total crop acreage as 36,251. This is to be compared with the acres given on page 4 as 36,592. The fact that these agree so closely is urged as an indication of the accuracy of the estimate. The adjustment was reached by adding the individual adjustments for each area so that it may be presumed to have been made independently of the knowledge of the answers. The estimates on page 3 were arrived at by consulting distributors. You will notice that in the truck crops Japanese produce 90% or over of the following: beans--lima and string, cauliflower, celery,--white and green, table cucumbers, lettuce, peas, peppers, squash; and the Japanese control such a proportion of all but a few of the ~~important~~ market garden items. You will

Robert K. Lamb - 2/26/42 (Ryan interview)

recall that Mr. Rosecrans said that the shortages which will arise if the Japanese are withdrawn would occur mainly in relish crops. This, of course, is not borne out by the attached tabulation.

Mr. Ryan suggested that I get in touch with Mr. R. N. Pierce, State Department of Agriculture, whom I have already seen.

FARM OPERATORS AND LABOR MAN MONTHS

Map Area	Citizen Operators		Alien Operators		Total Operators		Labor Man Mos.	
	Number	Acres	Number	Acres	Number	Acres	Outside	Home
A	19	1360	38	2252	57	3612	4954	2175
B	68	1324	58	695	126	2019	1599	4648
C	72	1161	113	1269	185	2430	2319	6862
D	38	1317	83	1295	121	2612	3109	4941
E	19	657	21	640	40	1297	1394	1741
F	27	424	36	454	63	878	533	2126
G	11	234	12	161	23	395	512	829
H	52	999	16	334	68	1333	1327	2958
I	74	1822	11	291	85	2113	2485	2434
J	33	661	47	823	80	1484	3314	2479
K	41	994	21	433	62	1427	1385	2012
L	36	1079	26	503	62	1582	1092	2001
M	42	797	38	661	80	1458	1592	2753
N	3	72	2	56	5	128	88	181
O	8	189	4	23	12	212	325	548
P	79	1613	41	516	120	2129	3293	5063
Q	6	410	6	486	12	896	96	275
R	1	40			1	40	116	72
Total	629	15,153	573	10,892	1,202	26,045	29,533	44,098

February 5, 1942

(2)

FARM OPERATORS AND ACREAGE - LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Total for All Areas - A through R

No. farmers 1,202
 No. farms 1,391
 Land acres 26,045

	Nisei in charge of farm	Alien in Charge of Farm		Total acres alien in chg.	Total crop acres
		Nisei on farm 21 yrs old or older	No nisei on farm or less than 21 yrs.		
*Cabbage	1,623	482	750	1,232	2,855
*Cauliflower	1,465	305	576	881	2,346
Broccoli	60	1	20	21	81
*Green beans (inc. limas)	1,368	642	1,132	1,774	3,142
*Celery	1,289	465	745	1,210	2,499
*Peas	181	48	221	269	450
*Spinach	359	101	267	368	727
*Carrots	1,127	146	261	407	1,534
*Tomatoes	1,414	293	707	1,000	2,414
*Onions	914	180	233	413	1,327
Lettuce	95	70	67	137	232
Cantaloupes	324	150	186	336	660
*Squash	412	74	182	256	668
Asparagus	40	21	41	62	102
Sugar Beets					
Sweet Corn	23		15	15	38
Potatoes	24		13	13	37
Sweet potatoes					
Misc.	6,955	1,144	1,997	3,141	10,096
Total	17,673	4,122	7,413	11,535	29,208
Adjustment estimate	4,507	992	1,544	2,536	7,043
Grand Total	22,180	5,114	8,957	14,071	36,251
No. farmers	629	222	351	573	1,202
No. farms	757	247	387	634	1,391
No. aliens	1,047	412	690	1,102	2,149

*Total acres for these crops - others entered where 10 acres or more on farm, otherwise in miscellaneous.

HHW:is 2/11/42

February 11, 1942

TENTATIVE 1941 CROP ACREAGE ESTIMATES

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Total Acreage</u>	<u>% Japanese</u>	<u>Acres-Japanese</u>
<u>TRUCK CROPS</u>			
Asparagus	1,650	25	412
Beans - Lima	2,000	90	1,800
" - Snap	2,100	95	1,995
Cabbage	3,750	75	2,813
Cantaloupes	1,500	40	600
Carrots	3,950	75	2,963
Cauliflower	4,200	90	3,780
Celery - White	450	99	446
" - Green	2,500	99	2,475
Corn - Green	5,300	15	795
Cucumbers - Pickles	625	80	500
" - Table	575	90	518
Endive (Chicory)	700	75	525
Lettuce	1,175	90	1,071
Melons (Others)	325	80	260
Onions - Dry	725	40	290
Peas	700	99	693
Peppers - Chili-Dried	1,000	99	990
Potatoes - Sweet	725	25	181
Potatoes - White	1,350	10	135
Rhubarb	450	25	113
Spinach - Market	1,300	99	1,287
Squash - Winter	725	10	73
Tomatoes - Canning)	7,500	60	4,500
" - Market)			
Watermelons	200	10	20
TOTAL	45,475	64%	29,235

MARKET GARDENS

Beets - Table	750	99	743
Broccoli	685	99	678
Egg Plant	43	90	39
Mustard-greens	175	95	166
Onions-green	335	90	302
Parsley	225	50	113
Parsnips	215	75	161
Peppers-Bell	150	90	135
Radishes	510	99	505
Romaine	525	90	473
Rutabaga	250	25	63
Squash-Italian	325	90	293
" -Summer	450	90	405
Turnips	725	95	689
Miscellaneous	1,000	80	800
TOTAL	6,363	87%	5,565

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<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Total Acreage</u>	<u>%Japanese</u>	<u>Acres-Japanese</u>
<u>BUSHBERRIES & STRAWBERRIES</u>			
Blackberries	100	90	90
Loganberries	25	90	23
Raspberries	250	90	230
Strawberries	1,025	95	974
Youngberries & Boysenberries	<u>825</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>495</u>
TOTAL	2,225	81%	1,792
TOTAL TRUCK CROPS, MARKET GARDENS AND BERRIES	<u>54,063</u>	<u>68%</u>	<u>36,592</u>

2- John W. Abbott (Interview Commander Rinkle)

had thrown some of the Japanese out of his office on the ground that they did not represent all of the Japanese. He compared the United Citizens Federation of the Japanese with an organization of American people composed of the Knights of Columbus, the Masons, the Ku Klux Klan, the CIO and the American Legion. He suggested that I see officials of the International Institute, a Community Chest outfit providing welfare for non-citizens. He gave me the name of Mr. Herbert Davis, the Southern California Fish Packers Association. He gave me the name of Ayaki Takabash of the Cooperative Farm Industry of Southern California located at 3046 East Fifth Street, for data on volunteer evacuation. Dr. Robert A. Millikan of California Tech in Pasadena, who has made many special studies in Japanese problems. He referred me to Mr. Meyers, Superintendent of Schools, Palos Verdes, and Miss Byington, a school nurse, for a complete background on many Japanese children that these people have had under their supervision from the days they could first talk to the person.

Because Commander Rinkle is engaged in confidential work, it will be necessary for us to arrange for his appearance through Admiral R.S. Holmes, Commandant of the 11th Naval District, San Diego. Commander Rinkle has not been invited because this office did not have the authority to invite him, but I believe that he would be invaluable as a witness.

TOLAN COMMITTEE
Washington, D. C.

Los Angeles, California
February 26, 1942

From: S. A. Lischinsky to Robert K. Lamb

Subject: Interview with C. V. Castle, County Farm Supervisor, Los Angeles County,
524 N. Spring Street, Los Angeles, California.

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I was unable to get any information respecting either the supply or the demand for labor from Mr. Castle. He was quite positive in his assurance, however, that that is a secondary question; the primary one is to get the Japanese out of the area. Nearly all of his remarks pertained to the menace and the trickery of the Japanese. His position was substantially that of Mr. Rosecrans, except that perhaps it was a little more violently stated. All this areas asks, he said, was that the Federal Government do its duty and take the Japanese out and leave the problems of readjustment to local initiative. He said that if DeWitt does not move very quickly, local citizens will ask his ouster. He said that this country was the original home of vigilantism and, if need be, they will be resurrected to keep law and order. Local residents, he said, have such means as stringing people to telephone poles if their security is threatened. He mentioned the possibility of the conscription of Japanese for agricultural labor.

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TOLAN COMMITTEE
Washington, D. C.

Los Angeles, California
February 27, 1942

From: S. A. Lischinsky to Robert K. Lamb

Subject: Interview with Mr. Walsh, Western Fruit Growers Exchange

Mr. Walsh is in charge of labor supply for the Western Fruit Growers Exchange and an operator in his own right.

He was very emphatic that he did not represent the Western Fruit Growers Exchange, but merely appeared as a private citizen, that he was in favor of evacuation of the Japanese much as it hurt him, that there would be a serious labor problem but that couldn't be helped, that he didn't like the Japanese, and that a good part of their business was obtained from the Japanese growers. He would not give me figures as to the proportions either of his own company or that of others of the business so obtained.

I was quite surprised by this point of view since he called at the request of Mrs. Ota, from whom I gathered that Mr. Walsh would describe the economic repercussions of any wholesale evacuation.

He appeared very much embarrassed and requested several times that nothing be said of his visit.

TOLAN COMMITTEE
Washington, D. C.

Los Angeles, California

March 2, 1942

From S. A. Lischinsky to Robert K. Lamb

Subject: Interview with Harold Kennedy, Executive Director,
Los Angeles County Defense Council,
253 Hall of Justice,
Los Angeles, California

Present at the request of Mr. Kennedy were Gordon L. McDonough, County Supervisor, who drafted the resolution put out by the County Defense Council, on Feb. 11th; Richard H. Miller, Assistant to Mr. McDonough; and Harold J. Ryan, County Commissioner of Agriculture, whom I have seen before.

Mr. Kennedy stated that a poll of public opinion here, leaving aside the hysterical ones, would reveal that the local citizenry are profoundly dissatisfied by the measures taken to date by General DeWitt, that the Japanese here are in sufficient numbers to burn our forests, contaminate our waters, sabotage our industries. He is looking forward to seeing the plan referred to in the papers, and he opined that the Tolan Committee could already credit itself with having forced the administration to take sterner measures.

... ..

In answer to a question whether the local people were disturbed about the Italians and German aliens, Mr. Ryan interjected that while the Germans individually are more dangerous than the Japanese, the Germans are so integrated in the community that the F.B.I. can adopt effective counter-espionage methods and therefore it is possible to treat this group on an individual basis. Neither Mr. Ryan nor Mr. Kennedy thought there was any great danger from the Italian group. It was their opinion that Mussolini would not have the follow-through that Hitler has.

... ..

Tolan Committee

Room 524, U.S. Court House
S.W. Broadway and Main St
Portland, Ore.

February 21, 1942

MEMORANDUM

To: Robert K. Lamb
From: Herbert Roback and Charles Cockey
Subject: Interview with Mayor R. Earl Riley, City Hall, Portland, February 21.

The Mayor has one very clear and unqualified notion: remove the Japanese, aliens and citizens, out of Oregon and east of the Cascades. He was very frank in stating that he doesn't care a whit what becomes of them. We suggested that certain problems might arise in the disposition of these people, both as to replacing useful functions performed by them here and in relocating them elsewhere. We commented as an example on the problem of how the production and marketing of produce might be taken over and maintained in cities such as Los Angeles where the Japanese are numerous. That, said Mayor Riley, is Fletcher Bowron's worry. He admitted that some slight disruptions might be entailed, but nothing serious or permanent in his city. As for their relocation, he opined (in response to a comment by us) that the Japanese should be provided with ~~sufficient~~ some sort of agricultural work, in which they are proficient, to maintain their productivity and subsistence. But all these problems he considered subsidiary to the pressing question of removal.

After the war started the Mayor ordered all Japanese, aliens and citizens, to remain in their quarters for two weeks. To date, there has been only a small evacuation from the Bonneville dam area of persons clearly suspect, possessing arms, contraband, etc.

file

Room 524, U. S. Court House
Portland, Oregon

February 23, 1942

MEMORANDUM

To: Robert K. Lamb

From: Herbert Roback, Charles Cockey, Jr.

Subject: Interview with Joseph K. Carson, State Commander, Oregon Department of the American Legion; former Mayor of Portland; former Inspector-General, Office of Civilian Defense (Recently resigned to accept Army post.)

Mr. Carson was very emphatic in stressing the need for complete and immediate evacuation of Japanese aliens and citizens from the coastal areas for three main reasons:

- (1) It was difficult, if not impossible to tell the good from the bad.
- (2) Local feeling was such that any overt act would call for immediate reprisal by the local citizenry, working injury to loyal Japanese.
- (3) Any maltreatment of Japanese nationals by Americans, in a period of aroused passions, might result in similar reprisals being taken on our own citizens residing in Japan.

To these reasons he later added several others; for example, the problem of distinguishing Japanese from Chinese or Filipinos who might be innocent objects of persecution.

Mr. Carson ventured his opinion that all the Japanese should be located in the Mississippi Valley in a huge cantonment and farming project. The enterprise might cost more than 25 million dollars, a real cost but a worthy one in view of the present circumstances. He favors a humane course in transplanting the Japanese. Provision

Robert K. Lamb - 2/23/42

should be made for their welfare, maintenance, utilization of labor and skills, etc. This country is too rich and vast in natural resources to have insuperable barriers in the mass removal. Similarly, no difficulties should remain in replacing the productive functions of the Japanese in Oregon; our forefathers tilled the soil before the Japanese ever came to this country.

He expressed some concern over the refugee aliens from Germany, Austria, etc., and felt that some special consideration must be given their problem. Theirs was not an ordinary immigration; they had, in most cases, actually fled the tyranny of Hitler.

He was of the opinion that a "semi-martial law" as Biddle seemed to recommend, permitting court writs of habeas corpus against military orders, would establish dangerous precedents. Straight martial law was clearly preferable.

There were a few Bundists around, but their original enthusiasm for Hitler was dissipated and they would not take up arms against this country. Mr. Carson mentioned the problem of anti-Semitism which came to the surface some time ago, when he was Mayor, over a showing of two movies, one nazi, and one anti-nazi.

Mr. Carson introduced us in his office to Nan Wood Honeyman, ex Congresswoman, bridesmaid and friend of Eleanor Roosevelt, and recent appointee as collector of customs for the district. Harking back to her experience with the House Committee on Migration, she felt that a complete re-writing of the immigration laws was necessary. Their present anomalies compelled good persons to depart for unfriendly home countries and permitted undesirable persons like Harry Bridges to remain. Mrs. Honeyman was unqualifiedly in favor of complete removal of the Japanese, who could not be distinguished in their loyalty as between citizens and aliens.

hr/ea/nd

Tolan Committee

Room 270-E
1355_r Market St
San Francisco
Feb. 24, 1942

Memorandum

To: Robert K. Lamb

From: Leonard A. Thomas

Re: Interview with Chief of Police Alec K. McAllister and Assistant Chief
Fritz Kominsky, Sacramento, Calif.

Very.....

Many Japanese interviewed by the police have publicly declared that in the event of an invasion by the Japanese military they would either not fight against their own people, or that, if possible, they would assist the invasion in every way possible. On the contrary, these same people have stated that in the event of an invasion of German or Italian armed forces they would stand ready to assist the United States, in combat, if necessary. Both men insisted that the Japanese have never been informers.

.....

Both men felt that Police Department and F.B.I. had the situation in Sacramento well in hand, but both felt that public opinion was aroused or allayed in direct proportion to the success of Japanese arms. Personally they advocate removal of all Japanese from metropolitan areas or where they are in close proximity to defense posts. Everyone in community very surprised when F.B.I. made first arrests.

TOLAN COMMITTEE

2/24/42
San Francisco

From: Leonard A. Thomas to Robert K. Lamb

Re: Interview with Walter F. Jones, Managing Editor, Sacramento Bee

The Bee has been flooded with letter from people both within the metropolitan area and from the nearby agricultural regions demanding that action be taken looking toward the removal of all Japanese citizens and aliens alike. At first, this flood was tempered by many proposing that constitutional rights be preserved, but since Pearl Harbor and after certain of the FBI arrests the letters have been unanimous in their suggestion that the Japanese be moved up into the fruit-growing and packing areas, away from the city.

It was the opinion of Mr. Jones that in the asparagus, tomato and other garden crops in the Delta, as well as among the tree fruit and vine areas, there would be a serious shortage of agricultural labor. This labor has normally been carried on by Japanese and Filipinos working together, but of late the farmers have had to arrange new set-ups to keep them separated, for the Filipinos will not work for the Japanese, who often occupy the position of either lessee or as foremen. Stated definitely that there would be a serious unfavorable public reaction to any hodge-podge infiltration of a large number of Japanese into the Sacramento metropolitan area. He hastened to add, however, that if the people thought that the Government was either guarding or keeping the evacuees under close surveillance, there was little likelihood that the community would be aroused. The attitude of a local community is largely determined by how the Japanese are faring in the war.

At first the people wanted to give the Japanese the benefit of every doubt, but as the war has gone along, the popular expression along the streets in Sacramento is, "The only good Jap is a dead Jap." Community attitudes are gradually changing as spying and espionage activities are disclosed and F. B. I. arrests are made. Many of the letters indicate that the writers would rather not see the Japanese put to work, but that they be moved completely without the state.

Mr. Jones stated that there was evidence of labor shortages in the agricultural areas, because many had been drawn therefrom to the war industries on the Coast. He felt that an orderly movement of evacuees into the agricultural areas of the valley, if under Government control and supervision, together with assurances to the public that such movement was properly controlled and guarded, would result in little unfavorable comment. It was his opinion that if the people of the metropolitan area should suddenly see a large number of Japanese on the streets of a morning, without knowing the why or wherefore of their presence, conceivably there might be a repetition of the situation Tulare.

People have resented the attitude of the Japanese locally, who have been getting more "cocky" as the war has progressed. As far as Germans and Italian are concerned, local residents do not seem to feel that they exist, and so far no public expression of indignation at their presence or demand for their removal has been noted.

Mr. Jones suggested that on a trip through the valley we might interview Mr. McLaughlin, Managing Editor of the Fresno Bee, as well as Mr. Harry Conway of the Modesto Bee. He also suggested that we interview Mr. Russell Graham, Sr., of Walnut Grove, Cal. (about 25 miles from Sacramento, in the Delta) who is one of the oldest, most respected and most successful farmers in that area.

Advised us that since calling in the morning for our appointment with him, he had had lunch with Mr. Irving Woodin, General Manager of the California Fruit Exchange, and Mr. Fred Reed, Assistant General Manager, both of whom expressed a desire to have a chat with the writer.

* *

TOLAN COMMITTEE
Washington, D. C.

Los Angeles, California

March 2, 1942

From: S. A. Lischinsky to Robert K. Lamb

Subject: Interview With Vergil J. Morris, Sec.-Mgr.,
Farmers Public Central Market,
6151 West Pico Boulevard,
Los Angeles, Calif.
Phone: Wh. 7276

Mr. Morris called at the office, this morning, and asked for permission to appear before the Committee.

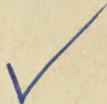
He has apparently for some time been interested in the subject. He had with him what appeared to be a complete file of newspaper clippings. He informed us that he had a few weeks ago appeared on an open forum, in which he had counselled against wholesale evacuations. He showed us a plan that he had submitted to Clark, in which he suggested the segregation of aliens into three groups: 1. Those known to be disloyal - such to be put in concentration camps; 2. Those doubtful, at least to be under surveillance; and, 3. Loyal aliens, to be allowed to remain at their present duties.

His position is similar to that of Mr. Cunningham, namely: that the Japanese is an excellent farm laborer, who will not be replaced if evacuated. His interest in this question stems from the fact that he manages a retail market, in which he rents stalls to Japanese salesmen. His experience with various nationalities has convinced him that the Japanese are without peers in retail distribution of vegetables. His more general interest, he stated, to be that of concern for the continuity of production of essential foods. In answer to a question as to whether there was any central association of retailers, he replied in the negative.

On a matter of appearance, we advised him that the Congressmen determine such matters, but that we would be glad to receive a written statement, and would notify him if a place could be found for him on the schedule. He has been in this area for twenty years.

S. A. L.
RBA-IH

*Plans for weevils
Joseph Weinblatt*



Tolan Committee

Room 254, Federal Bldg
Los Angeles, Calif
March 3, 1942.

Memorandum

To: John W. Abbott
From: Francis X. Riley
Subject: Interview with Joseph Weinblatt

Mr. Wienblatt's business is loaning money. Mr. Weinblatt now has an arrangement whereby he can make a loan at a profit and be patriotic at the same time. Some time agosome temporarily pecunious people from Chicago purchased 200,000 acres of land in Utah, specifically in the Escalante Valley. The land was subsequently turned over to Mr. Weinblatt for the purposes of selling it. According to Mr. W, this is the first inquiry he has had about it in the many yearsx that he has held it.

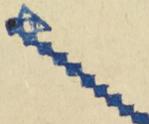
This inquiry came from the Pioneer Club, an organization of alien Japanese. The Club was voluntarily disbanded Dec. 8 but the individuals themselves are interested in moving out of California. Mr. Peter M. Kanno of 1350 West 35th Place in the one who made the original inquiries about the land. Mr. Kanno owns an oil well and met Mr. Weinblatt in the course of financing the business. Mr. Kanno cam to Los Angelses ~~xx~~ 38 years ago and has lived at the present address for 16 or 17 years. He has never returned to Japan.

There are 200,000 acres in the valley for sale by these people. About 70,000 acres of this land is over a water table. The water table is ten feet down. The soil, with well-pupm irrigation, according to Mr. Weinblatt, is very fertile. The Union Pacific Railroad has agreed to build a station in the valley because vegetables grownx in this valley are only 10 hours out of Los Anglese by rail. ~~Thatzisxxxxxxzxtakzxxxxxxzizk. . . .~~

The land is to besold for \$ 25 an acre. Each individual will enter into a separate contract of purchase for a given number of acres. The potential purchaser would pay rent for 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ years. If the tenancy terminates during those years the payments shall be construed as rent. If the ~~the~~ state of Utah passed laws preventing non-Caucasians from owning land, the payments shall be construed as rent. If neither of these contingencies occurs, at the end of 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ years thex payments shall be applied to the purchase price and ~~the~~ title shall vest in the Feoffee.

The Governor of Utah, the Mormon Church, and the Union Pacific are amenable to this shceme. The Farm Security Administration will furnish the funds and the impounded Japanese funds shall serve as collateral for the loans.

Mr. Weinblatt believes that 10,000 people and 1,500 farmers will be acc@mmidated and



2-Interview with Mr. Weinblatt

under this plan. Because of the lack of time, the Issei go first and will live in the improvised shelters that will be taken with them. Subsequently the families and the citizens will follow.

Mr. Weinblatt would be a witness and could testify to the character of the Japanese with whom he could do business and could also elaborate on the details of what the governmental agency has done to make this plan practical. Mr. W. may be reached at 215 West Seventh Street, Los Angeles, TRinity 2556.

*John
Cunn*

Room 270-E
1355 Market Street
San Francisco, California

March 10, 1942

MEMORANDUM

To: Robert K. Lamb

From: Herbert Roback

Subject: Topics for discussion in alien report

1. Introductory statement outlining scope and purpose of the committee's present investigation.

2. Brief recapitulation of events to date in the matter of alien enemy control, including analysis of the executive order and summary statistics on the magnitude of the problem.

3. Re-affirmation of the military procedure in determining strategic and critical areas to be evacuated. This approach is generally acceptable and obviates the necessity of our taking a direct stand on a delicate and highly emotionalized issue. The recommendations of the Committee begin where the work of the military leaves off. To charge the military with the job of transporting and re-settling large numbers of persons is a burden that interferes with their primary duties and indeed falls outside their competence. The responsibility of the military is to say where people should not be

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and not necessarily how they should go, or where.

4. A permanent civilian Federal coordinator of alien enemy control is required to handle the job of evacuation and resettlement. The coordinator should work in close cooperation with, but not as a part of the War Department. He should have complete authority to commandeer the services and equipment of all federal agencies, and to allocate functions and delegate responsibilities to them. A Coordinator already exists, but his authority and relation to both the military and civilian agencies should be clearly defined. The complex ramifications of the problem demand that the coordinator be an outstanding administrator trained in social and economic disciplines and experienced in the problems associated with large scale population movement. The present coordinator, on his own admission, lacks these qualifications and was appointed only on an emergency basis.

5. Effective performance of the coordinator's duties depends upon a speedy realization by the military that strategic areas for the whole country must be delineated as quickly as possible. The scope of the job will thus be established, and uncertainty and fear among aliens now resident in these areas will be minimized.

6. Concurrent with the determination of evacuation areas must come a definition of alien groups formally exempted from evacuation orders. Such exemptions may require congressional legislation or they may be set up by administrative order of the coordinator, with the approval of the F.B.I. and military intelligence, e.g. aliens with sons or relatives in the armed forces, aliens over a certain age, etc.

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7. Supplementing categories of exempt persons, legislation should be sought which liberalizes citizenship eligibility requirements and speeds up the machinery of naturalization. Such legislation will apply to Germans and Italians, since foreign-born Japanese are now excluded from citizenship by law. Material introduced into the record by the latest (closed) hearing will demonstrate that the technical status of enemy alien is in considerable measure due to the laxity, inefficiency, and red tape of existing naturalization machinery. The Federal government is directly responsible for the condition and is obligated to remedy it. Savings in difference between cost of enlarged and renovated naturalization personnel and cost of evacuating persons with second papers can probably be shown. This is also a powerful human interest story. Persons on the verge of citizenship who are forced to evacuate will lose accumulated rights and will need to start all over again.

8. An immediate requirement accompanying evacuation orders is the establishment of Federal alien property custodians operating under the direction of the coordinator to handle property left behind. Brief examination should be made of the alien property custodians in the last war and subsequently to determine exactly their duties and responsibilities, and whether these are applicable to the instant problems. New and complicated problems are presented because the properties of citizens (Japanese) as well as aliens are now involved. The committee's recommendations must proceed beyond the mere appointment of area custodian offices, because aside from the title and value of properties left behind, there is the crucial problem of

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maintaining needed production functions. This is true particularly in agriculture. There are undoubtedly a large number of agricultural interests which are seeking to take over valuable lands and equipment at bargain prices. The best way to separate the patriotic claims from the self-seeking motivations is to recommend that the property custodians arrange with some other Federal agency, possibly the Farm Security Administration, for provision of operators with the required skills and with governmental assistance to maintain farm production. Some of these operators may be drawn from evacuees readmitted as described below. The Farm Security Administration can be justified here because of its experience in assisting farm families and in supervising the mobility of large numbers of people. Governmental supervision of production can be justified in terms of the food for victory campaign. Arrangements should be made to guarantee that persons evacuated are compensated for the value of their investment, by obtaining a share of crop returns, or otherwise.

The Federal Reserve Board offices designated by Secretary Morgenthau to act as custodians should be subject to the supervision of the coordinator, and to the military only through the latter.

9. Integrated with provisions for care and maintenance of evacuated properties, there should be established machinery to achieve as quickly as possible re-entry of evacuated persons to their former homes and occupations upon the verification of their good character and loyalty to the American cause. Such machinery should be decentralized and afford persons an opportunity to be judged by their

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local pliers, subject to approval by the F.B.I. and the military intelligence. The draft boards may possibly serve as models for these alien enemy hearing boards. The personnel of the boards should be appointed by the coordinator from the locality, and such personnel not already employed by the Federal Government should possibly be given per diem compensation.

Re-entry of persons should be considered on a purely individual basis, without regard to race or nationality. This procedure will complement the categorical exemption of persons by legislation or administrative order described above. Some order of priorities in readmission will probably be necessary, and among other criteria, dependency and urgency of productive contribution to the war effort may be considered. All persons re-admitted will carry identification cards, as will other persons living in the strategic zones.

Persons not re-admitted will not bear the stigma of disloyalty. There will be hearing delays, and opportunities in resettlement areas conceivably may be more attractive. However, it is essential that the hearing privilege for readmission be extended to Japanese as well as other groups.

10. Financial assistance, including transportation should be provided automatically by the Federal Government to all evacuees to points of main destinations. Similar assistance should be provided to cases of readmissions.

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11. Temporary assignment quarters should be provided by the Federal government for the initial reception of all evacuees who desire to avail themselves of such facilities. Presumably the Owens Valley project is of this type. The experience of the Farm Security Administration is essential to insure proper facilities for housing, health, sanitation, and camp management. These quarters should be constructed for successive groups of evacuees and to provide a haven pending more permanent resettlement or readmission to evacuated areas.

12. Relocation sites and resettlement projects in suitable areas should be established by Federal lease for the duration. These projects will receive all evacuees who are unable or unwilling to be readmitted to evacuated areas. The core of economic activity should be agricultural production which is vital to the war effort and which at the same time properly utilizes the skills of the project occupants. Many non-agricultural evacuees will find employment in servicing the community. Government advice and financial aid should be provided where necessary, but these projects will compete in the commercial market and be to a large extent self-supporting. The partial solution of the Japanese problem appears to be in this direction. The best answer that can be given to the burdens and inequities of evacuation is the guarantee that these people will be reintroduced to the going economy through productive endeavor.

13. For those people who require special assistance or who cannot fit occupationally into the resettlement communities, a Federal public welfare program integrated with the public employment service operating through national clearance machinery, should be

R. K. Lamb.

-7-

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established under direction of the coordinator. These services will advise evacuees of their existing public benefit rights, will supplement these benefits, and will take responsibility for finding jobs in any part of the nation acceptable to both applicant and receiving community. Acceptability should be determined in advance of job referrals. Presumably the employment service will function largely for non-Japanese evacuees.