

Mr. Morton Godwin:

Re: ^{1st} Announcement
of Reluctance

Re your inquiry of January 11. That was a common belief held widely among the appointed personnel immediately after the strike. Both Lighton and Spicer held that point of view. I don't know where they got the idea; they might have gotten from Kunitanis and their likes. I remember a good many of the Nisei on the fringes pointed out the inconsistency — Kunitanis, George Kuwahara, Hideni Ogawa, etc — after the strike. On the other hand, they might have been inspired by some A.P.'s, as these Nisei were closely associated with the Administration and ^{remote from} ~~the appointed~~ evancees.

^{never} The Bureau ~~and~~ nor the Community Analysis ~~also~~ division has ~~any~~ real account of the evancee politics and opinions and attitudes during, before, and after the strike. Those who knew did not reveal, those who revealed did not know. Even the Bureau members, who knew, refused to submit their strike reports. Many members left the Bureau in December; I also refused to talk about anything concerned about the strike. About a year ago Spicer wanted my verification for his hypotheses. He mentioned the effect of the conflicting speeches. I agreed with him with much enthusiasm, because it was innocuous to the Japanese and blamed the Administration for a lack of policy. If we contradicted with Spicer on this we would be asked "Then what do you think are the real causes?"

That would be disadvantageous to us, for the real causes would be best to ^{be} hushed up. I know what Rev. Mitani and S. Sakamoto (Sanitation) concurred with Spicer for that belief. This is the way I look at the effect of the two speeches.

1. Myer had been developing a program of relocation slowly within himself. On the train coming to Poston he thought he had developed it sufficiently to give a "public debut" for ascertaining reaction. He gave the speech, of which the appointed personnel here (Remember, they were mostly of the Indian Service and had settled down with the long range colonization plan of their Commissioner Collier) had no advance knowledge. They were greatly shocked. — Ted Haas is the informant for this. He had an intimate conversation with Myer after the Denver Conference in May riding with him on a same train.

2. There was a great big schism between the appointed personnel and councilors. Councilmen and Block Managers were also out of the community. One of the most difficult tasks was how to disseminate information from the Administration to the residents. Only few people heard Collier and fewer people cared to discuss it. Myer's speech was heard by Councilmen, Block Managers, whom the residents identified with the A.P.'s, and not as of their own. The content of Myer's speech

(That was on Nov 17, I believe) ~~had~~ ^{had} not reached the community when the strike began. ^{During} the strike I did not hear any comments or hear speeches. (I did not remain inactive during the strike by any means.) I believed that Spicer's interpretation was a conveniently innocuous ex post facto conjecture.

2. Everything was there; ^{to have the strike already} The atmosphere was already tense after series of beatings of alleged inns. When Fujii and Uchida had been arrested, the situation in the southwest section was getting out of control. A negotiation to free the two boys ^{had been going on} as early as Nov. 15. In the afternoon of the day Meyer spoke I was called in a conference by Leighton in his apartment. The general atmosphere was such that I was scared to be seen going with Leighton into his apartment.

Leighton conferred ~~on~~ me on the advisability of taking the Bureau members to the Navajo reservation for Thanksgiving. I advised him that he would be endangering the boys' welfare in the future, if not their physical safety, if he took them out of camp just then. I told him that the Administration was about to face its greatest crisis in a day or two, although I did not know just in what form. The Administration and the evacuees would clash head on, I said. I also added that the ~~decide~~ decision the Administration would make in

October 12, 1943

Dear Mr. Nishimoto:

Enclosed you will find 50 - 3¢ stamps and 15 Airmail Stamps. I am forwarding, under separate cover, 2 boxes of carbon paper, and have put in an order to the storehouse for the other supplies you are in need of. Regarding the large sized paper clips: we have been unable to get a supply of the large sized clips for some time now, but I will add them to the storehouse order and perhaps we will have better luck this time.

Regards,

Sincerely yours,

Secretary

October 20, 1943

Dear "X":

enjoying

This will acknowledge receipt of the sociological journals from September 22 to October 14. These are, as always, full of interesting and important observations. It occurs to me that we could save you some time in typing up items from the Boston Chronicle if we subscribed to the Chronicle. Then you can simply indicate in your journal which items should be clipped and pasted on to our copy, and we can do that here in the office. Also, you can save some time if you will just send us duplicates of mimeographed material, rather than keeping it. This, of course, you often do, and it is possible that in many cases you can't get hold of duplicates.

Tamie reported that you were somewhat disturbed at my mention of the several reports that you have in progress. I gather that you interpreted my comments as meaning that I was putting on the pressure. This was decidedly not my intention. I was simply expressing pleasure in anticipation of receiving these reports at some unspecified time in the future. I am indeed gratified with the accounts that you are sending in, and feel that you are more than fulfilling your obligation to us. Your reports represent one of the most valuable sources that we have to draw on, and if I seem over-enthusiastic in viewing these future reports, please do not misinterpret my reaction.

I sent the report that you and Tamie wrote on Gila to Rosalie Hankey. She commented on it in some detail, and I am sending you a copy of her notes. These, of course, are highly confidential, as is true of all the material collected for our study. Since her page references refer to those in the copy we have made, I am sending you one of the carbons, so you will be able to identify the annotations. Any further comments you can make on these will be appreciated.

I had a letter from Dean Redfield of the University of Chicago, in which he said that Dr. Leighton was anxious to place the material he and Spicer had collected somewhere where it could be of maximum use, and he suggested that we add it to our collection. I was somewhat puzzled by this offer through a go-between. I suggested that they wait until I come to Chicago at the end of November to discuss the matter with them.

- 2 -

If there are no strings attached, it might be well for us to obtain this material, although I believe that Tamie has copies of most of it.

Morton Grodzins has just sent considerable material on Poston which he gathered from the Washington files of WRA. As soon as we have a chance to sort and classify the material, I will communicate with you and Tamie.

Sincerely yours,

Dorothy Swaine Thomas

Enclosures

October 20, 1943

Prof. Thomas:

I have just received a letter from Tamie. She complained of having had an awful train trip. It is easily conceivable on the "Jim Crow" car. I think that is just a beginning of an "awful trip" for her; she intends to cover Poston pretty thoroughly during her stay in the East, but that's too big an order to hope for. Although I had not told her (I didn't want to discourage her) she would ~~be~~ have done her share if she should finish her report on the political structure alone --- that is, the political organizations, the appointed personnel - evacuees relations, one to one relations of the evacuees in the politics, and the attitudes of evacuees. In a month or so I am expecting to receive discouraged notes and notes expressing disappointment and incompetence. ^{from her} But I want to help her as much as I can, because she is the first person that I have met among all the people who are studying the Japanese who is best qualified to study the Japanese people. I say that because I found out that she is tolerant and she has no crack-pot prejudices and pre-conceived notions.

I mailed out the second batch registered this morning. For the very nature of the paper will you acknowledge receipt? Since the Mitani arrest a political upheaval is taking place underground and the Administration is very anxious to find what ~~is~~ it's all about. The A. P.'s are concerned about the evacuee reactions on the arrest, for it is quite evident now that they had had some hand in it.

Very truly yours,

Received:
Carbon paper, etc.
Stamps from the
mailing division

October 22, 1943

Prof. Thomas:

I have received your letter of October 20. Also the reports. I appreciate your encouraging words. I needed them, because I have lost Tamie's criticisms.

Leighton's suggestion is very amusing and interesting. It's an acknowledgement of his defeat. He has probably found the materials on hand inadequate. He tried to do something impossible. You can't analyze the evacuees by just coming to Poston at a moment notice and staying on the periphery for a year. That's too good to be true. After all, the evacuees' backgrounds dating back for so many years are the basis for their interactions and interreactions. Recently I have been told by some of the A. P.'s (Len Nelson, Ted Haas, and Nell Findley among others) that they withheld information from Leighton. Those evacuees who worked in the bureau ~~were~~^{were} young kids who didn't know the Japanese or the community. Two good evacuees who knew the community (Fukushima and Sasaki) wouldn't dare to write. Another thing --- Leighton knew and knows that Tamie has collected plenty of good stuff. He considered her as the rival. I would^{n't} trade any of Tamie's for his. Only thing which might be valuable to us might be his records of interviews with evacuees --- life histories and Leighton's analyses of personality. He should have about 25 to 30 of these. Even these we can get them eventually when we can come around to it and when the community is ready. I would say --- for a bargain, no; for nothing, yes.

It appears as if I must accept the vice chairmanship of the new Executive Board. Every political leader is putting terrific pressure on me to accept the position. They worked out a compromise with my block. The committee suggested and the Council, Nelson, and Nomura all con-

curred in making an exception --- an evacuee holding two full time offices. I must work as the Block Manager of 45 and the vice chairman of the Executive Board. "Unless you accept, the evacuee participation in the administration is going to fold up," this is the way they put it. Only thing - I don't know how I can manage all the work. As far as the Cal work is concerned it's swell --- going to sit at the vantage point. I hope I won't be a wreck.

I have received a letter from my informant at Tule Lake. He reported the situation there is tense. He has been there only ten days yet but already many troubles occurred. (Detail in the journal)

1. The workers on the farm struck.
2. About fifteen Hawaiian Nisei broken up a dancing party forcibly.
3. The widows of the Housing Department destroyed. A Caucasian office worker beaten.

"I had expected all these things before coming here, but I didn't think they would happen so soon. It makes me gloomy," he concluded.

COMMENTS ON "HANKEY'S COMMENTS"

#1 (page 1 - line 4) We discarded the opinion of Mrs. Kondo on this subject, because we knew that she was biased. We based ours on Mary Obata, John Morooka, Ken Nishimoto, and Kawamoto.

#7 Poston Strike. There were no pro-strike group ^{and} or anti-strike group at the time of the disturbance. I must admit ^{that} the group Hankey refers as the pro-strike group are all the Poston evacuees except a few Nisei on the periphery. ~~XXX~~ Tamie and I fully realize the John Doe effect. It is true we forget inadvertently to mention that the American public also exists outside the fence. No evacuee at the time thought about the outside effect. It was a question of life or death to every one --- couldn't be thinking of what the American public might say --- at the beginning. It was nothing like the attempted mess strike in Gila. We had about fifty

of that kind, finally coming to the climax in November. The situation leading up to it was so bad. The emotional stress and motivational urge became so great that the strike happened without premeditation. There was a complete unanimity of opinion and unity of action ^{among the evacuees.} It was a mass movement of peoples-- Spicer at the height of the incident cried, "A social revolution!" I never experienced anything like it except once ^{before in} *my life* --- the rice riots in Tokyo (Riots were all over Japan. I only saw those in Tokyo.) It must be very difficult for the outsiders to realize the value deprived. The prevailing sentiment here is that the advantages offset all the adversities. I wonder ^{if} any one can realize ^{our} ~~that~~ ^{having been} ~~sanity~~ ^{being} endangered by an accumulation of frustrations. The evacuees also feel that the public opinion is adverse to the Japanese anyway. It cannot be any worse. They believe that the Poston strike supplied ~~one more~~ ^{and no worse} topic to the race baiters and the pressure groups. If they didn't pick the strike, they would have found something else anyway. The evacuees feel that they received just as much adverse publicity from the derailing of the Santa Fe train on the Colorado bridge at Parker, which no Japanese was connected with.

Incidentally, we believed that the caliber of the evacuees at Poston is much higher than those at Gila. We withheld this opinion from the report because we were afraid that our ^{observation} ~~opinion~~ might have been biased. I have reflected upon it several times since then; I am still convinced of it.

#8 (page 5 - para. 1)

Shigeo Iwohara, the man who was in charge of the ration points, and S. Nakanishi, another member of the department, made those charges.

#9 (page 5 - line 11)

For the general statement at the beginning of the paragraph, John Morooka, the Evacuee Property Department chief, and John Yamasaki were

the informant. We presented this to make a contrast with Poston, where the A. P.'s presented Myer's teletype message within one hour after they had received it. They said, "Here is an order from Washington. What shall we do?" They had no staff conference to work out a policy among themselves first.

#16 (page 22 - paragraph 2)

Mrs. Mizuno is the sister-in-law of my neighbor in my block. She is not well-to-do. She knows d--n well why her husband had been taken away. She is sly and tough. Don't let her pull Hankey's leg.

#18 (page 29 - paragraph 4)

You must remember that was the ^{second} ~~first~~ week of September. ~~The~~ Segregation was still about one month away. The prevailing sentiment was not static. As the day approached the sentiment took a serious turn at Poston -- I presume it happened in Gila, too. She is correct with her criticism.

#18 (page 29 - paragraph 4)

This comment (the first line) didn't strike me so well. I am glad she doesn't agree with us. I didn't know that Tamie had slipped this paragraph in. I advised her not to put that in, because we are not ready to explain the background ^{to you} yet. It is not adequate. Let's keep it as an open subject a little while longer.

Another thing -- those accompanying "no-no" from their free will are not included in our term "disloyal" -- *they are just "accessories"*

#19 (page 29 - paragraph 7)

correct. I felt like spitting in his face. I distrusted him and disgusted with him thoroughly.

#21 (page 33 - line 5)

By pamphlets she probably means the booklets prepared by the WRA at Washington. We had the mimeographed instructions issued by the projects *here*

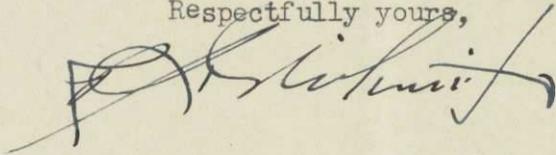
Tamie should have written "mostly" for "entirely" (line 6).

#22 (page 35 - paragraph 3)

By "defeatism" I meant more than what she commented. I also meant the feeling of predicament of being Japanese. Now I started something. Will you wait until a later date for detail?

These comments were given on good faith with sincere intention to help.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "P. H. Smith". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Respectfully yours,".

Copy sent to Tamie

Will you supply me some plain envelopes — legal size ?

September 22, 1943

Mr. Richard Nishimoto
Block 45-2-C
Colorado River Relocation Project
Poston, Arizona

Dear "X":

This, I believe, is the first time I have written to you directly. I want you to know what a deep appreciation I have for the work you are doing. I feel very strongly that you are one of the most valuable observers on our study, and I certainly look forward to your future contributions, including your own life history, the analysis of the background of the various leaders and behind-the-scene men in Poston, and a report that Tamie says you are writing on the intriguing subject, "Since we are all Japanese." I am particularly pleased at the subtle way in which you suggest relationships and inter-relationships. I must confess that at times the subtlety is a little too much for me, but I have a feeling that eventually I will get a much deeper understanding of how the evacuee is thinking, and how he is manipulating his environment on the basis of what you are telling me, and also what you are leaving untold.

I certainly look forward to your continued cooperation on the study, and hope that you will keep a running account of current events in addition to the other reports that you have in mind.

With very cordial regards,

Sincerely yours,

Dorothy Swaine Thomas

DST:mw

October 26, 1943

Dear "X":

The order for envelopes was sent through to the Storehouse today, and they should reach you in two or three weeks. It is becoming increasingly difficult to get supplies sent out in a reasonable length of time, as the Storehouse is understaffed and orders take longer to clear. Sending by express isn't helping matters very much, as express takes longer nowadays we are told. So, to help out our assistants in the field, we are making out a list of supplies, and we suggest you check the supplies needed and send in the list to us every month. This will ensure a more or less regular delivery and give you a stock of supplies on hand.

Regards from all,

Sincerely yours,

Secy. to Dr. D.S.Thomas

Attachment

SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR THE MONTH OF _____

Yellow chemical paper, punched	_____	Reams
Carbon paper, medium ___ or light ___ wt.	_____	Boxes
White Bond paper	_____	Reams
White Onion skin paper	_____	Reams
Manila Envelopes 10 x 13, heavy weight	_____	No.
Manila Folders, 1/3 cut, for Files	_____	No.
Typewriter ribbons _____ (Royal or Port.)	_____	No.
Pencils, No. 1 _____ No. 2 _____	_____	No.
Scotch Tape, 1/2" _____ 3/4" _____	_____	Rolls
Gem Paper clips, small	_____	Boxes
Gem Paper clips, medium	_____	Boxes
No. 1 Paper Clamps	_____	Boxes
Shorthand notebooks, Gregg ruled	_____	No.

50¢ Stamps _____
 25¢ Stamps _____
 10¢ Stamps _____
 3¢ Stamps _____
 2¢ Stamps _____
 Airmail stamps _____

_____ Signed

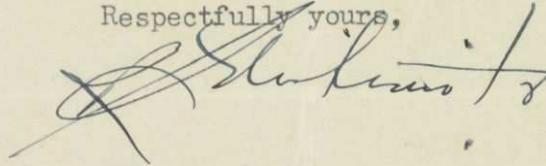
October 27, 1943

Prof. Thomas:

I mailed the Journal from October 20 to October 26 this morning.

Tule Lake must be in a bad shape now. The farm crop is remaining unharvested and there is an imminent danger of being destroyed by frost and ~~clod~~ weater. Tule Lake sent an emergency wire to this project asking us to recruit harvesters immediately and send them to the northern California center. The Community Council met this morning and decided to have the Employment Division issue a call for the workers. They are to pay the prevailing wages of 90 cents an hour.

Respectfully yours,



*Poston receives vegetables from
Tule Lake.*

October 28, 1943

Dear "X":

I was delighted to get your criticism of Hankey's comments. This sort of thing is extremely helpful to us, and I hope we will be able to have more of it from all persons concerned.

W.I. has been reading your recent reports, and is annotating a couple of items. I will send you his comments as soon as he is finished.

I am enclosing a copy of a letter I have written to the Chicago staff which raises some questions of more than local interest. I have omitted the first page, which deals merely with budgetary matters. If you have any comments to make I should be happy to receive them.

Sincerely yours,

Dorothy Swaine Thomas

Enclosure

October 30, 1943

Dear "X":

This will acknowledge receipt of your journal from October 20 through October 26. In regard to your request for Dollard's book, I regret to inform you that there are no copies available.

I am sending you, under separate cover, two monographs on the use of the document, which I think will interest you. We have given these to most of the members of the study and, therefore, you may keep these. I think the one by Blumer has some particularly important insights, and that you will enjoy it.

It occurs to me that you might like to have the privilege of using the University library. This we can arrange for members of our study on the inter-library loan basis. You send us a list of the books you want to borrow, and the University library will mail them to you. One month after receipt of the books you should mail them back to the library unless you want to keep them, in which case you, yourself, send in a list of the call numbers and ask to have them renewed. Ordinarily they can be renewed indefinitely, provided you keep sending in the call numbers.

Following is a comment made by W.I. on your last journal:

"Among the interesting items in the report of "X" for October 15, 1943, two should be further elaborated at a later time:

Pp. 21-23 treats the thesis that the "core" of the Japanese is the same in all the relocation centers. To what extent, for example, was the core of the Japanese in Los Angeles and Seattle the same before evacuation, and to what extent have the circumstances in the different relocation centers modified the core? Is the core of the Hawaiian Japanese the same as that of the Japanese from Japan? This approach to group psychology is of first-rate importance.

P. 19. The term "Messiah complex" is used. This seems

an important concept or at least an interesting term, but it is not plain what is meant. The "Caanan complex" would be intelligible if the Japanese, like the ancient Jews, were seeking more "Lebensraum," -- the Dutch East Indies, etc. But is it meant that the Japanese were expecting a "savior?" Or what sort of a Messiah is meant?"

Very sincerely yours,

Dorothy Swaine Thomas

November 1, 1943

Prof: Thomas:

I received your letters of October 28, 29, and 30. I have not enough time to write the replies in detail at present; I will do so as soon as I can spare time to write.

This morning I was called into a conference of Wade Head, Len Nelson, Chairman Nomura, the members of the Executive Board, and Roy Furuya. Head revealed that he is beginning to reorganize the administrative set up here in preparation for the transfer to the WRA. The first step, as Head put it, is to appoint Nelson to the office of Personnel Director and Crawford the Relocation Director (both positions were formerly held by Zimmerman) as of Nov. 8. Nomura, the chairman of the Local Council, was appointed by Head as the Administrator of Unit I. This move was made to insure Nelson's and Crawford's stay at Poston, because the WRA does not provide the Unit Administrators. "Before the WRA comes in I want fix everything so that when they come in they cannot do anything about it," Head stated. The news is to be broken to the community tomorrow morning. There is bound to be repercussions which we must follow closely. I commented to Head, "I 've been to Gila and found out how the things are going out there. This is ^avery interesting step, because Gila is going the other way." "This is just between you and me; I hope Poston will be going on the other direction all the time," Head replied.

From now it will be very interesting to watch conflicts between two major groups of evacuees --- the corroboratorists and the "Tule Lake" type. By corroboratorists I mean those people who "try to make the best of circumstances"; and by "Tule Lake" type I mean those who possess the characteristics of the core in the Tule Lake center. The struggle has been going on sometime, and after segregation the corroboratorists ^{have been} ~~are~~ coming to the foreground more and more. I must also record those sentiments pertaining to the subjects on which W. I. commented in your letter of October 30. My duty for the present is

to record as much and as fast as possible. There is no other method but "free association" is available in the relocation centers to observe the attitude and sentiment of the evacuees, which makes it very time consuming. I am also working along this line, too --- there is a direct correlation between the intensity and frequency of anti-Japanese overt expressions on the outside and those of anti-American expressions and manifestations of the evacuees. Before the evacuation it had been an inverse correlation. (I am quite sure about this; *however,* this must be proven at a later date.)

Regarding your letter of October 28: I would like to make a few comments on your letter to the Chicago staff, which I will write up at a later date.

I am in a complete agreement with you. In fact I was surprised that you have insight into the Japanese problem, more than I have suspected. (This is not an empty compliment, although it's a kind of funny for me to pass a compliment to my superior.)

Regarding your letter of October 29: 2nd paragraph on page 1-- Many of us expected the "about-face" by WRA. We discussed this with the segregants before they went up for their hearings. There is an interesting episode which I didn't think much of at that time. It was in the latter part of July; Nelson called me in his office and asked me, "Do you think we will have firework here because of segregation?" I replied, "Not while they are at Poston, but watch out when they get there." To this Nelson said, "We got ^{to} treat them (the segregants) as one of us, at least until they leave Poston." All the appointed personnel avoided carefully to use the term "disloyal" here (I think this was covered by Tamie's report on segregation). Myer's statement to you is very significant, because it verifies my contention that no WRA official can gauge probable reactions of evacuees in advance. This is where Nelson succeeded somewhat better than John Evans, because he tested his policies beforehand with several

evacuee personnel.

3rd paragraph-- It seems to be an explosion of pent up emotion. The grievance expressed is just a front. I knew many of Poston segregants who said before they left, "Wait till we get there."

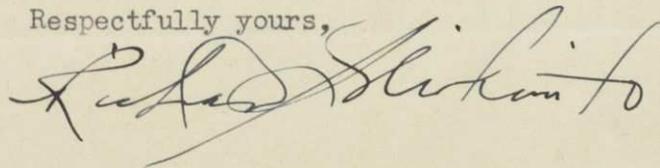
The article in the Topaz Times is being circulated among the residents right now. I read it yesterday. I will record any reaction resulting from it. Ted Haas thinks that Manzanar and ~~Rohwer~~ Rohwer will be closed, (He informed me last night.)

Regarding your letter of October 30: We would be gald to eleborate on those items which have been commented by W. I. It was our trial balloon. We are delighted that they attracted your attention. Tamie and I have been working on them quite sometime and are still at it. Probably Tamie can give you the detail in the forthcoming Chicago conference.

Mrs. Kondo is visiting me from Gila. She informs me that Kadomoto, the driver of project car to Sacaton, was arrested for selling liquor. Will you refer to my journal of October 8--page 1? He is the one who bought the store from Mrs. M. It might be valuable to Hankey.

Letters from Tule Lake are not mentioning ^{the} strike. I wonder if they are afraid of a mail censorship, as we did in Poston ^a 1st November.

Respectfully yours,



November 11, 1943

Prof. Thomas:

Yesterday I mailed out the Journal, November 2 - November 9.

I recieved a copy of the Sociological Bureau's article in the Annals of The American Academy of Political and Social Science, "The Japanese Family in America". Leighton sent it to me from his Chicago office. I was surprised that we, Tamie and I, have contributed greatly to their observations while we were with them. It seems that they have not gained much after we left the Bureau. Probably you would be interested in my comments, which I will send to you shortly.

I received a letter from Hankey asking advisability of visiting Poston at this time. I intend to answer her to postpone her trip until Tamie returns to Poston. The comments to Leighton's and the precise reasons for postponement of Hankey's visit will be sent to you over this week end.

Hastily,

Lubna D. Shikhi

Received: From the Supply room

- Stamps*
- Office supplies ordered for me by Tamie.*

November 17, 1943

Prof. Thomas:

I have mailed the Journal, November 9 to November 15 inclusive. For a latest Tule Lake letter please turn to November 15 -- (8). I remember you said that the sending of harvesters would create more troubles. You were right.

The administration issued an instruction to the residents to turn in their short-wave sets if they have ^{any}. I asked Nelson, "How come? This excitement all of sudden. The Hearst papers got you jittery, did they?" He replied, "Oh, no. We had that instruction from Washington long ago. We just didn't have time to come around to it." Dispensing of oversea news have been too ostentatious among the residents lately. As I reported sometime ago, Gelvin was always aware of presence of short wave sets in camp.

I will be able to write a few notes on Leighton's ^{in a few days, I hope.} article. He sent one hundred copies to Mrs. Sugino, a former BSR member, to be distributed here.

Hastily,

Richard Siskin

Lambert Davis
Harvest

November 25, 1943

Dear X,

Fortunately I am a Professor in this University; unfortunately that means that I have to devote a great deal of time to things in which I am not greatly interested and must often neglect my primary interest, which is the Study. The past ten days have involved a complete diversion of my activities, and I have not acknowledged receipt of your Journal from November 2, through November 15, nor your letters of November 14, 17 and 21.

First as to your letters. November 17, p.4. I certainly want you to look over the material we are collecting on the other centers. Rosalie Hankey is now revising her large report on Segregation at Gila. This is one of the first things we want you to criticize. Frank Miyamoto will soon have a draft on Tule Lake, and Sakoda likewise will be able to complete his report on Segregation. These will all be of interest to you, and we shall certainly benefit from your criticisms. Also, when I get to Chicago, I shall be able to tell you what Togo Tanaka has worked up ~~on~~ some of his pre-evacuation material. He kept very careful notes of certain developments in Southern California before evacuation, and you, of-course, will be able to throw a great deal of light on this whole situation. Finally, Charlie Kikuchi is working out a remarkable series of case histories on Nisei resettlers. I shall come to some agreement with Tamie about making this material accessible. Because of budgetary limitations, we have not had many copies made of our reports and documents, so I shall have to devise a system whereby we can send some of the materials along and have them returned to us. One other thing in which I believe you will be interested is Morton Grodzins' study of WCCA and WRA, from the administrative and policy-forming angles. Grodzins is working very rapidly now, for he is afraid he will be drafted before many months have passed. His manuscript, therefore, should be ready, in first draft, very shortly.

Nov. 17, p.4 I appreciate your position in regard to getting material from the administrative personnel. I think we will now be able to get all the major statistical material directly, for WRA is setting up a project in Topaz to bring all the materials together, and they have asked for some advice from me in regard to types of tabulations, etc. Also, I agree with you thoroughly as to your value to the study by remaining close to the "core". You are quite correct in saying that most of the workers on the study were very unsympathetic to the core, and were in no position to get the sort of data you are getting. On the other hand, they were able to build up the background and to get the reactions of the "periphery" of which they themselves were a part.

Those workers who left the Projects are doing a much better job on the outside than they ever did in the camps. For one thing, they are able to work much more freely and without suspicion. For another, they have a much greater understanding of the types of problems involved in resettlement particularly the resettlement of the Nisei (and, as you know, there is practically no other type of resettlement). Of all the research workers, except of-course Tamie, James Sakoda is the only one who has been able to settle down happily as an observer in the Project. Sakoda is, of-course a Kibei (although he doesn't like to be called one!), he speaks good Japanese (so I have been told: I wouldn't know, myself); he likes and understands the Japanese, even though he himself is a good American.

Nov. 17, p.5. Re Embree's claims: my memory was not quite accurate re the emphasis in his article. I had mixed up statements he had made to me with what he actually printed. Under separate cover, I am sending the article (which is, I think, rather a feeble effort in the light of the length of time he spent on the job), also one of the S.E. Post articles which I have unearthed. I am ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ sending also, for your information, a report of Dillon Myers' report to his staff, and a report on Radio Tokyo. Re Dillon Myers' report, I don't know whether he was as confused as he sounds, or whether our informant, Evelyn Rose, was confused, but I suspect the worst. I am trying to arrange to get current reports of Radio Tokyo, for I think these may be useful to you. Tamie has, I believe, wanted them for some time.

Nov. 21: Thanks for your comments on Leighton's article. They will be most helpful when I see Leighton. I shall, ofcourse, arrange to talk with Tamie before I have my conference with Leighton. Just one comment on this letter at present, on p.2, re economic losses. One of the most difficult sections of the Study will be that concerned with economic losses. It is perfectly clear that we cannot expect to get any representative sampling of losses. I am convinced a Caucasian could never get the truth by merely asking. Not that I think the bias would all be on the side of overestimating losses: it is far too complicated and emotionally tone a situation for that. Would you, however, know enough about the background of everyone say in your block, to build up (eventually) an analysis of what happened to one segment? Or have you any suggestions as to how the thing could be approached. I shall, of-course, analyse the records from the Evacuee Property Division, and other similar sources. I believe that I can now get access to the records of Farm Security and Federal Reserve Bank. Colonel Bendetson "froze" all these records until the report he wrote for General De Witt on WCCA is released. This

has now been approved for release, and I have seen an advance copy(together with twelve volumes of supplements which will not be published) at the Presidio. It is a horrible example of whitewashing, and I am very much afraid that the FSA and FRB separate reports will have the same tone. On losses, it implies(and as I remember--I looked at it hastily, but can have free access whenever I want it--states explicitly) that there was no real economic hardship connected with the evacuation. Incidentally, one of the worst features of the report(from the standpoint of honesty) is the pictures. It is lavishly illustrated with charming scenes of life at Assembly Centers. I assure you the Centers look like country clubs, and you never saw so many happy Japanese in your life. There is an amusing contrast in this report and Embree's statement of P.240 first column, of the article I am sending you.

This letter is in the nature of a major digression. I shall postpone comments on your Journal till later(I'll take it to Chicago with me). One minor item only: Dr. Hashiba is alleged to be one of the chief "agitators" in Tule Lake. Was he a segregant? If so, how was it arranged that he should come to Poston? Why did he eventually change his mind, or was it changed for him?

Our address in Chicago is Room 12, Social Science Building, 1126 East 59th Street, Chicago 37, Ill. We look forward to seeing Tamie. Her last letter indicated that she was much happier, but she seems rather impatient to return to Poston. I hope she will decide to stay out a while longer, but I realize that things are moving so fast at Poston that she wants to be there to follow them.

Keep up the good work!

WI sends cordial regards.

Sincerely yours,

December 12, 1943

Prof. Thomas:

I shall answer the questions in your letter of November 25.

Re: losses of evacuees. I have a considerable amount of material on the losses of the residents in my block. I have collected them piecemeal by free association. (Japanese like to gossip about the financial conditions of others, whom they had known before evacuation. Men, too, are guilty of this offense.) However, all the residents gave some information regarding their earnings in the census (Not WRA Form #126 - it's the very first one). If we can get their census records we can check and recheck with what we had ^{collected} and will collect on their economic status. I have the family number of every resident in my block.

The farm losses will be more difficult to gauge. Through December, 1941, to January, 1942, the Department of Agriculture of the County of Los Angeles made a survey of types of crop and acreage of the Japanese farmers. I was told also that the Department of Agriculture of the State of California made a similar statewide survey about the same time. These records can be checked against the records of Farm Security. (also the Los Angeles County organization headed by Rosecrans).

Also, the Japanese Chamber of Commerce has its record stored for duration. So does the J A C L of Los Angeles and elsewhere. They have a great deal of information we want. (Didn't Morton Grodzins contact Ishimaru in March, 1942, in Los Angeles, for the J A C L records? The name is familiar. There was a man from Berkeley "prying" around Little Tokyo at the time.) Also the records of various organizations --- such as the association of Japanese hotel owners, that of Japanese restaurant owners, that of Japanese produce commission merchants, that of landscape gardeners, the Southern California Flower Market, etc.--- will be available eventually, as they have not been destroyed.

As a corroboratory material, the various published history books of the Japanese from different prefectures might help--- e. g. The Fukuoka Kenjin Shi (The History of the Japanese from the Fukuoka Prefecture), The Hiroshima Kenjin Shi (The History of the Japanese from the Hiroshima Prefecture). These, however, are not reliable.

Re: Dr. Hashiba. The Poston Red Cross exerted a considerable pressure on Dr. Hashiba to come to this center, because he is not an applicant for repatriation and had to move ~~to~~ out of Tule Lake. I was told by the Chronicle reporter that the doctor had reluctantly agreed to come to Poston. He has been in a constant disagreement with the Caucasian doctors at Tule. As soon as the difficulty brewed there, he decided to remain there. I don't know whether he was allowed at Tule Lake on some special ground.

Hashiba is a colorful character, known widely among the older Japanese. He was married to an English woman, who had ran away from a noted playwright in Japan, Shiko Tsubouchi. She subsequently ran away from Hashiba and married a Chinese. That was in the early twenties. The "scandal" was treated lavishly by the newspapers in Japan and by the vernacular papers on the coast.

Re: Myer's report via Evelyn Rose. From the ^{segregants'} letters and this account it is getting more obvious that the patterns for the Tule Lake disturbance are similar to those of the Poston strike.

page 2, the fourth paragraph: According to my informant, the Japanese were told to get to the Administrative area to stage a demonstration in support of their representatives. They didn't know that Myer was to speak until much later. I don't believe "These people had been bragging before the people, and they had to do something about gaining concessions from the administration." I believe these representatives were chosen by the Ward people because they had been outspokenly anti-Administration

leading agitation of their grievances.

I don't believe ". . . he could hardly speak for two minutes. It was quite evident that he didn't know what to say." This should be compared with J. Omori of our strike delegation, who acted very much alike. (Cf: Tamie's strike report.)

Page 3, the first line: "He said he could tell from the blank surprised look on all the men's faces when they heard the news that they hadn't expected anything like this to happen . . ." I am not surprised if this is an erroneous observation on the part of Myer. If the pattern should run true to form, the delegates were aware and afraid that might happen. They should have been in a close touch with the more extreme element, which would like to lay their hands on Caucasians at the first signal. These representatives, I conjecture, had known this element and had exercised their restraint on them. They had hoped against hopes that no overt action be undertaken by them. They showed "blank surprises", because they were disappointed and worried for its consequence, which they had discussed and rediscussed among themselves.

Page 3, the second paragraph. "Myer thought that this whole thing was a hoax that had been started by a well organized group largely of the . . ." I don't believe they had a "well organized group". The delegation was formed by the Ward elections without previous arrangements whom to select. Of course, once it had started, the Judo group and other hotheads exerted their pressure on other residents to keep them in line.

Page 4, the second paragraph: I don't think the presence of Webber was Myer's "smart move". His presence is not significant. No Japanese would say through a public address system what they are not supposed to say. A Poston resident who returned from the funeral service at Tule reported to a friend of mine that the people out there have been afraid of presence

of Japanese "inu" among them for a long time. They have been careful of what they say.

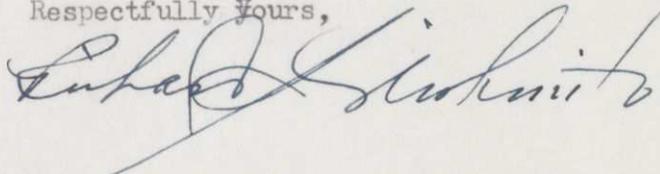
page 4, the last paragraph: "Only a few minutes after the whole thing ended he said that there wasn't a soul around the place." Note the similarity with the Poston strike. The Poston strikers cleaned up their camping ground in no time when it was all over.

Ted Haas told me a couple of days ago that Ned Spicer had been ~~r~~ushed by Myer to Tule Lake on the strength of his report on the Poston strike.

I shall return the Embree's and Alsop's articles in a few days.

Your notes on the short wave news verified those which had been circulating in camp.

Respectfully Yours,



December 17, 1943

Dear "X":

This is to acknowledge receipt of your Diary. Dr. Thomas asked me to tell you that she will send her comments in the next few days, when she gets back to the office. I am sorry to say she came back from Chicago yesterday with a very bad cold and has had to give in and go home to bed.

I sent off Haygood's Statistics for Sociologists to you this morning. This is Dr. Thomas' own copy, and she wants you to keep it as long as you need it.

Best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Dorothy Swaine Thomas

December 23, 1943

Prof. Thomas:

From Miss (probably) M. Wilson I received a letter. Also a copy of the textbook on statistics by Hagood, which I shall return in the future.

I have received the articles by Leighton from Tamie. I have read them. I was intending to make comments, but finding that I must make adverse criticisms I am hesitating. I have made several unkind remarks about Leighton and his Bureau, and I am reluctant to repeat it. His "SAMPLE OF RESEARCH RESULTS" for the month of April 1943, for example, "stinks". I shall keep the copy here until I ~~shall~~ hear from you, although I had been specifically instructed by Tamie to return them to you as soon as I finish reading them.

The attempt in the Congress to disfranchise the disloyal Kibei was ~~first~~ for the first time revealed to the community in the last ~~few~~ days; the news has been reported by the Japanese newspapers, which reached here recently. Until then there has been no talk in the community on this subject.

The shooting of the demented "I-am-the-President" Sansei by a M. P. at Gila has been unknown to the residents until one Frank Sakamoto (a resident of the Butte Camp) had brought the news here.

The current topics are the oil shortage, the planning for New Year and Christmas, the visit of the Spanish Consul, and the private enterprises. Tarawa and other war topics are remaining in the foreground yet.

I have not received my check from the Accountant's Office yet this month. If it is a simple matter of delay, I don't mind it at all. If it had been mailed out and lost in the mail, it is something else. Will

you find out about it?

One Dr. French came to see me at my apartment in the company of Ted Haas a few nights ago. He told me he must first live down the reputation established by Leighton here on things research. He was surprised to hear disparaging remarks from many sources about the Bureau. French told me he had been advised by Ned Spicer to see me, and Ted Haas also brought him here without knowing Spicer's recommendation. French expressed he was very anxious for my cooperation and assistance. Of course, I did not promise nor did I tell him what I am doing. I enjoyed the evening "pulling his leg"; I know I should not have done so.

French stated to me that the voluminous documents showed an evidence that Leighton had gone after quantity. There was very little to help him understanding the community. He was told to make ^{his} study of the community by "block basis"; he was told, "This block is like this and that block is like that." He could not see how he could make the study on this basis.

The day before yesterday I met Spanish Consul deAmat. I also met one Mrs. Wagner, a representative from the State Department, who came here with the Consul. These are recorded in the Journal.

May I wish you and W I a merry Christmas?

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "L. P. ...". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Respectfully yours,".

December 27, 1943

Dear X,

I have many communications from you which require answer and comment. I hope to get around to the matter seriously tomorrow. Unfortunately, I had incipient flue all during my last week in Chicago, and it got worse upon my return. The papers say it is a mild flu, but it makes one feel not only rotten but stupid. Now WI has it also, but has been without temperature for the past two days.

There are many things I want to discuss with you, but they will have to wait a day or two. Tamie has told you of Leighton's strange behavior. I enclose a letter received from him today. It is about what I expected: I don't think he will really be willing to make his files available. The "offer" from me to which he refers was to arrange with the Bancroft library to be custodian of the material. I was not anxious to accept it personally, because of possible complications, but I did indicate that I should be happy to have access to it. Tamie was very anxious to see the report for administrators. I hope I can keep it long enough to find out what it is all about. Incidentally, he did not seem to have any "deal" in mind in regard to his material. His only proposal was that I take some of his staff members on to my study but I explained that I had no money. Please return this letter so that I will remember to answer it.

I am sending you a book with an article by Redfield. Return it at your convenience. No hurry about returning the Leighton articles. And Hagood you may keep indefinitely. You will have discovered that the first 100 pages of Hagood are very repetitious, but the rest of the book is really first rate. The book with Redfield's article in it is on the whole lousy, but I thought Redfield had some good, if necessarily superficial, comments.

Enclosed also a program of the Sociological Society, with WI's picture on it. Thought you might be interested in knowing what he looks like.

Hankey has sent a most interesting report on the Gila shooting incident. Would you care to see it?

Best wishes for the New Year.

Sincerely yours,

December 28, 1943

Dear "X":

It was through my error that we failed to send you your usual stipend for the month of November. I apologize for this mistake. Today, I am sending through a voucher to cover both the November and December periods.

Sincerely yours,

Morton Grodzins
Research Assistant

December 29, 1943

Prof. Thomas:

These pages enclosed herewith will be the last for my Journal. The Indian Service has pulled out most of its typewriters from this project. I had been using one of them; now I am out of a typewriter, and there is no prospect of getting or renting one.

I have been pounding on the keys directly making three copies — one for you, one for Tanie, and the third for myself. From now on I can make a single copy in long hand. I don't know how fully I can record events in long-hand because of time element. I shall try it from tomorrow.

I have written to Tanie for an instruction as to what to do with the single copy of the Journal. I shall despatch the copy awaiting her instruction.

The Community Council in conjunction with the requests of deLamat and Wade Head decided to undertake a public opinion survey regarding relocation. The

questionnaires have been printed and ready for distribution next week. Every one 18 years or older are requested to answer them. There are 10 questions. One question asks if he will remain on the project for the duration. Another asks if he wishes to repatriate or expatriate. Another on what condition he is willing to relocate. I shall report more fully later. Also, the result will be available to me.

F. B. I. agent George Smart of Phoenix office will be here shortly to check up the radios owned by the evacuees. The Administration again warned them of the short wave sets. I was told that the Zenith sets (5 tube table size) used to be sold by Sears, Roebuck & Co. for about \$25 could be converted easily to receive oversea broadcasts by merely attaching one extra transformer. There are many of the kind right here on the project, I was told. The Administration warned the F. B. I. agent will go around apartment to apartment.

The electrical transcriptions of the O. W. S. short wave broadcasts in Japanese beamed to the Orient were tried out before the Block managers yesterday. Mr. Powell wants to present them weekly to the Japanese speaking residents here in Poston. It created an excitement

among the managers. They could anticipate the probable reactions of residents, but they could not tell Powell outright. Powell, first, wanted to try them out in some measure. But they wiggled out of the proposition adroitly and suggested to use the newly built Auditorium. The managers felt embarrassed and ticklish about Powell's proposition.

The reactions of Block Managers, who expressed their opinions freely among themselves after the meeting was over, shall be recorded in the Journal fully. It varied from "they will bump our heads" to "my block will wreck and bust the records."

Sincerely yours,
L. J. Schmitt