

January 6, 1945  
(Saturday)

Dear Dorothy:

Just a few items requiring immediate answers:

1. Please inform Hanky that I have received her m/s. I shall work on it as soon as possible.

2. I shall mail the record of Poston births on Monday. It has been completed by a girl in the Housing Dept. I have promised to pay her \$7.50. At the end of this month, I shall include the amount as a service rendered by my wife.

3. Leighton's files — I have no definite plan about them at present. Tentatively, I am toying with an idea of making a short trip to Berkeley in the spring to look over all the materials available.

4. Re: your letter of December 28 regarding my future plans. I believe I should stay here through March, unless you have some other plan. The initial stage here should be watched closely, I think.

Re: WRA rules on leaves — I will be able to think up something.

5. Re: the records of changes in population. My wife will work on them. But I advise against sending the cards, if you mean those thousands of cards. The project records must be used in the shortest possible time, and the method used before is best under the existing circumstance here.

6. I've received the letter regarding the Graduate School matter. I'd like to drop the matter for a time being.

Hastily yours,  
Dick

January 8, 1945

Dear Dick:

Thanks so much for sending the second installment of your report. It is excellently written and gives just the sort of data that I had hoped you would get. There are a few minor points:

On page 20: I don't understand the first two lines of the teletype. What does Myer mean, "there may be some people who may want to be removed from the army's cleared list."

Page 22, second paragraph: I think the word should be "unnecessary" rather than "necessary."

Page 32: There is a very interesting difference between Poston and Topaz in the newspaper publicity given to the closing of the centers. The Topaz Times has a headline saying that the center will be closed in six months. I have already had panicky letters from one or two Issei there who assume that they must come back to the Coast almost immediately.

Sincerely yours,

Dorothy Swaine Thomas

January 10, 1945

Dear Dorothy:

I have enclosed a copy of the letter from Blairdell. I am calling your attention to the paragraph on page 2. There is a girl here who is mailing her application for the job today. Her name is Miss Noriko Sawada, who answers every qualification asked for, except her age. She is getting to be 22 years of age next month. She has helped me for the past year as an informant on the administrative staff and the younger staff. In return for her generous service, I would like to ask you to put a word in to Blairdell for her. Or any other assistance you might see fit.

Sincerely yours,  
Ruck

January 13, 1945

Dear Dick,

I wrote the enclosed to Mr. Blaisdell. I hope it is satisfactory. Did you yourself apply to live there? I suggest that it might be a good idea.

I was glad to get more of your manuscript, and am awaiting with great anticipation the section on attitudes.

The situation at Minidoka seems rather disturbed. (Rumor throughout Tule Lake: so much resistance at Minidoka that martial law had been declared. Has that rumor turned up at Poston?) Inu reports are becoming more numerous: a tombstone was set up for the "grave of the national traitors", including Fujii.

Hankey reports confidential information to the effect that only 90 people are on the stop list at Tule Lake, although many individual exclusion orders are being issued. The Department of Justice representative said some 5000 requests for renunciation of citizenship have been received, but Hankey is not yet sure whether that covers all projects or only Tule Lake.

I spent two days listening to a lot of hot air at the Fair Play Committee conference. I met a good economic informant, one S. Kubo of Penryn. According to his record he is a jun nisei, although 49 years of age. Do you know anything about him? He was at Tule Lake, then Jerome, now Gila (block 45).

I am beginning the process of eviction of a Negro tenant of a house in Oakland for Najima. A very complicated situation. Also, significantly, I am beginning to get worried letters from friends of Issei friends. (Actually, I had only two Issei families whom I knew at all well). My contacts of this personal nature have suddenly, in two weeks, increased from two families to six. *fr* All seem to face the same problem: the Nisei children are in the Army or have relocated to the East. The children want the parents to come east. The parents would like to return to California, but feel very insecure about prospects.

Although they have not yet signed on the dotted line, the Rockefeller group have indicated that we will get further support from them.

I am engaged in devious political manipulations re sociology, developing a "scientific" pressure group to combat a "philosophical" pressure group which has suddenly developed and almost caught us unawares.

Sincerely yours,

January 17, 1945

Dear Dorothy:

Due to unavoidable circumstances, the fourth instalment of my report will not reach you until this Saturday or Monday. I have been busy covering several current events such as:

1. Deposition of the "name-lending" witnesses by Deputy District Attorneys ~~for~~ Los Angeles County in the Yamaguchi escheat action. Marion Wright, the defense attorney, was here too.

2. Several conflicts — mess hall closure resistance, the controversy over the shipment of 1500 sacks of brown "converted" rice, etc., etc. (Resistance to the plan of high school students to stage the operetta, "Mikado", is also interesting.)

Regarding your inquiries in your Jan. 8 letter:

Page 20: The original teletype has it in the same way. It looks like a mistake in transmission. It should be "stop list" instead

Page 22: You are right. There is no official transcript of the meeting, and it was taken down by my secretary. She made the mistake

Just received your letter of January 19 just now.

There is no such rumor regarding Minidoka. The talks have died down. My section on evanescence's attitudes will cover this point. The project policies have been sane and constructive up to now. I shall describe them in the section, which I will begin to write from tomorrow. I am completing the section on "The Army Hearing Board" tonight. That section took up too many pages — some 70 pages altogether, but I did not know how to cut it short.

No, I do not know Mr. Kubo

I have not applied for my room at International House. Everything is so undecided here, and I cannot make my own plans yet.

Sincerely yours,  
Dick

Dept. of Justice representatives are arriving here next week. For what reason, I don't know yet.

January 26, 1945

Dear Dick:

I am enclosing excerpts from a letter written by Dr. Suski to Louise. I don't quite see what we can do about this manuscript of Mr. Saegusa. On the other hand, I think we can definitely get Suski's own history and have Louise write up the whole family history, if it is considered desirable. I would be glad to have any comments from you that you care to make.

Morton is in Washington and is getting very important material on the administrative struggles that are now going on. There is a three-way conflict, with WRA, Justice Department and the Army all involved. The Justice Department is going to put considerable pressure to have Myer alter his policy regarding the centers and they are prepared to recommend a program that will allow residents of any center to stay under government custody if they wish to. The difficulty has been brought to a head by the situation at Tule Lake, where 6,000 out of a possible 7,250 citizens have applied to renounce citizenship. The Justice Department blames this directly on WRA policy in respect to closing the centers. They claim that the net result will be the closing of WRA centers but the filling up of alien detention camps. The Justice Department is very much worried for fear the wave of renouncing citizenship will spread from one camp to another. So far, there have been very few applications from any of the other camps.

The additional pages of your manuscript were received and read with great interest. You are getting extraordinarily important observations on the Army hearings. This report that you are writing is certainly one of the most important documents that anyone on the Study has yet prepared. I look forward eagerly to the follow-up. If there is anything that you want Morton to get for you from the Washington end that has not been mentioned up to this time, write to him, airmail, c/o WRA, Barr Building and mark the letter "For Personal Attention."

Sincerely yours,

Dorothy Swaine Thomas

Enclosure

January 31, 1945

Dear Dorothy:

Re: The excerpts from Louise ----

I believe that it might be best to forget about the m/s by Saegusa. P.M.'s life story would be very interesting, especially in view of the paucity of case histories by Issei available for the Study. For a reasonable price, we ought to try to get it. Louise has followed Charlie's technique so long that she ought to know what are valuable in case histories. If she directed editing in order to eliminate extraneous material (Issei are likely to put a lot of junk in their life stories.), it would turn out to be very worthwhile. Of course, you must remember that P.M. was one of the "liberals" among the older Japanese and was atypical of his age group. Still, it would be of value as representing his <sup>own</sup> group.

Sincerely yours,

*Dick*

P. S. As I understand, the Issei doctors cannot obtain their licenses in other States because of enemy alien status. They have California licenses, but the reciprocal agreement of the State Boards does not apply to them, they say.

*The old man is bitter. But his passive reactions are amusing. With other personalities, violent anti-American reactions would be expected.*

Jan. 29, 1945

Dear Dorothy:

I am returning J 5 m/s without comment. Spicer in his Trend Report criticized Minidoka for what Stafford had failed to do. Have you seen the report? It is poor and superficial.

A point of interest: Len Nelson arrived from Chicago with Mr. Beatty, the Education chief of the Indian Service. Very confidential: The Indian Service is negotiating with the WRA for transfer of Hopi Indian families to Pactor sometime this summer.

Also a plan to utilize evacuees with farming experience for the proposed project.

Another point: Hideo Suenaga, the witness in the Yanaguchi escheat case was taken to the Juena Court by deputy D. A.'s from L. A. County. He was thrown in jail there for contempt of court — refusal to answer questions.

Sincerely yours,  
Wick

February 5, 1945

Dear Dick:

Additional pages of your report have been coming in and they are certainly full of significant insights. I am enclosing for your information a letter just received from Morton. Please return it for my files as I don't want to take time to have it copied. The reason I am getting the 26 forms is that I want to have data on the Kibei status etc. recorded on my cards, and since Washington seems willing to lend us the forms I think we can get other significant details in addition to those that we have. The real purpose of my enclosing the letter, however, is for you to note the other material that we are getting from Spicer which, apparently, should be sent back to him before too long. If your plans are really shaping up so that you want to pay a short visit to Berkeley, wouldn't it be a good idea to come here at the end of February or the first of March to look over this, as well as the vast amounts of other material that seems to be pouring in. Note also Morton's success in getting documentation on the important conflicts that are now taking place administratively.

Charlie is here for the month, and we are working hard on his case histories.

The copy of the DeWitt report which you ordered has just arrived. You owe me \$3.95. Unless you instruct me otherwise, I will hold the report here for you, but if you want it we can send it on immediately.

Sincerely yours,

Dorothy Swaine Thomas

Enclosure

February 6, 1945

Dear Dorothy:

Re: All Center Conference at Salt Lake City:

Things are moving fast here. Blocks held their respective meetings and approved the plan of the Community Council to send two delegates from Unit I to the conference. They also approved the plan of the Unit I Local Council to select the delegates. For the first time in the history, the delegates are to be elected ~~by~~<sup>in</sup> a general election ~~by~~ the residents at large. Eighteen men were selected for the nomination committee --- nine Councilmen and nine Block Managers. My name had been prominent for sometime --- some of the block meetings instructed their Councilmen to put my name on the ballots--- I am in a hell of a fix. So, I instructed the Managers on the Nomination Committee to erase my name from the candidates ~~list~~<sup>list</sup> --- seven candidates. They acted according to the order. But eight votes went in from the Councilmen on the committee and I got in among the candidates. The general election will be held on February 7 (tomorrow). I have Block Managers' meeting this afternoon. I have to tamper with the election by coaching the Managers so that I won't be elected. You will be surprised with the big names <sup>(Poston big names)</sup> on the ballots --- M. Okamoto, Ayaka Takahashi, M. Nagai,

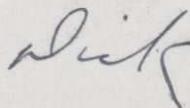
"Dr." Suzuki, G. Iseda, Yōshitaro Kato, and Nishimoto. The WRA is surprised now that the people here decided to hold a general election; they had thought that the people would not select strong, representative delegates. The delegates will be instructed to the conference by the block resolutions --- most of them went on record to request "status quo" (This sounds like Tule Lake.)

I will inform you of later developments.

Re: The representative of the Spanish Consul — Capt. Martin came yesterday and left this morning. He said that this was a routine visit. Most of the requests were those concerned with the closure of the center and the status of the enemy alien desiring to be detained. Martin consulted with the Spanish Embassy over telephone and agreed to attend the Salt Lake City conference on February 20. (The conference is from Feb. 16 to 23.)

This is a quite interesting world, this Poston, if you don't weaken.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dick".

February 11, 1945

Dear Dorothy:

Re: Morton's letter. Don't copy any of French's reports. I have every one of them with me. Besides, much of his trend reports are the result of my close collaborations.

Re: My trip to Berkeley. I would like to make it, but I can't for the sake of Poston and the E and R Study. Here is the reason:

On February 14 -- the Poston delegates leave for Salt Lake City

February 16 - 23 --- All Center Conference. The delegates are taking a secretary (Matsubara of the Executive Board) who will send reports daily by telegram and air mail. The information is expected to be disseminated by me to the Poston residents daily.

Probably March 1 --- The delegates will make a report to the residents from the Block 4 outdoor stage. I will probably preside unless I successfully avoid it.

March 6 - 7 --- Dillon Myer will arrive at Poston

I expect much repercussions after all these.

Re: The general election for Unit I to select the Salt Lake delegates. You notice from the enclosed election returns by blocks that I have successfully defeated myself. It was a close shave and had a scare for a while that I might have to go. Please note that I have a bunch of good Block Managers. They have helped me (for my defeat) by tampering with voters --- they were well instructed to do so. They were Managers of Blocks 2, 4, 5, 6, 11, 15, 16, 21, 22, 32, 38, 39, 46, 53, 54, 59 --- they complained afterwards that they had had hard time doing so. Several Managers tried to elect me in spite of my warnings, believing that I could not refuse to go if I had been elected. They were Managers of 14, 17, 18, 31, 37, 60. That's what I'd call a treason.

You also notice that 2839 persons voted. This was a big surprise for the appointed personnel. The WRA had thought that this would never happen. I have the last laugh on them. This corresponds to about 85% of the eligible voters in Unit I. Please congratulate me for my defeat and for having Okamoto in just <sup>a</sup> right place -- a poor second -- and <sup>for</sup> having successfully campaigned for Katow. Please note that I carried 101 votes in Block 45 --- after all, I could not afford to lose my own "State" for the sake of political prestige afterwards --- I took a big chance in Block 45 by letting it ride.

Re: My immediate plan. I am going to write a short report on the political developments leading to the All Center Conference and the visit of the Spanish Embassy delegate, Capt. Martin. Simultaneously, I expect to work on Hankey's revised report.

Re: Charlie. What happened to Charlie? Or should I say, what happened to International House? Tell!

Re: The Army report. Will you mail it to me? I will remit the cost as soon as I cash my check. It will be a few days.

Last night I met a gal from Washington who works under Rex Lee and Bob Dolins in Relocation. The appointed personnel regard me as the authority on Poston (no conceipt intended), and they expect me to entertain every visitor from Washington when the presence of an evacuee is needed in informal meetings in the evenings. There ~~is~~ <sup>are</sup> advantages in that, and I don't mind. But I still remember that stinking Kimball and I am careful as hell.

Sincerely yours,

Dick

Feb. 19

Dear Dorothy:

I am returning Morton's dispatch. I've talked with several "para-proopers" from Washington. They too have verified Myer's irrevocable stand on the closing of the centers. As I've stated in my report, I expect 5000 (for three camps) residual evacuees on Sept. 1. What will happen to them will depend on the WRA policy then. WRA has a 50-50 chance of cleaning up, if it decides to use "force". Some A. P.'s are already talking about it. It will be "evacuation in reverse".

I have started on my new report — with a slow start. I always have a great difficulty with the first several pages.

Received De Witt's document. Also enclosing \$4.00 for same.

Sincerely yours,  
Dick

Poston, Arizona  
March 5, 1945

Dear Dorothy,

I have received your letter of March 2, 1945, regarding the All Center Conference. I shall write a full report in time. There is the minutes of the conference in complete detail; however, this is in Japanese and owned privately by the secretary to the Poston delegates. This is the only document available "in this country". I am looking for an opportune moment to get hold of this. I understand that it is about fifty pages long, entirely in Japanese. It will be a lot of work to translate it in the short time that the document will be available to me.

Several points of interest regarding the Conference:

1. The delegates at the Conference voted against inviting the Spanish Consul after heated debates on this issue.
2. Myer admitted that he has an alternative plan when the present WRA policies fail. It is interpreted that he expects quite a number of residual residents and the WRA will announce a new policy to take care of these people.
3. The delegates reported to the block managers and to the Council. It is not expected that they will speak before the residents at the Block 4 Outdoor Stage. The most surprising thing is that Okamoto came out in public with a statement to the effect that he is all out for relocation. He stated, "What the hell are you guys doing here? Get the hell out of here as quickly as possible!", although not exactly in so many words. This statement has caused excitement and commotion in the community. The after effects have not fully developed. *what has Myer got that I don't have? - starts, and now Okamoto.*

Sincerely yours,

*RSN*  
*RSN*

*Enclosed the resolution passed by the conference. It has not done much of anything else. No answer from Myer yet.*

Confidential

March 9, 1945

Dear Dorothy:

On the evening of March 7, I had a private interview with Dillon Myer with Duncan Mills, Corlies Carter, and Arthur Harris as "gentlemen in waiting". This was held in Mills' office from 7:30 to 9:00. I gave everything I had without holding out, and Myer came out with everything he could tell. As Carter pointed out later, it was a grand "man to man" talk. Myer ~~talked~~<sup>spent</sup> half of the time asking my opinion on several things --- he was mostly interested in predictions; and ~~he~~<sup>he</sup> talked the rest. The other men sat there and listened to the conversation without interrupting. Carter's comment was interesting, although somewhat over-complimentary. He stated that Myer treated me as a scientist and not as an evacuee. "It was marvelous the way the two minds met. . . . I was surprised that you could carry conversation with Myer naturally without any uneasiness. . . . Myer was deeply impressed by you . . . etc. etc."

Carter made a comparison between my interview with the one one Fujisawa (Unit III) had with Myer earlier in the morning. As Carter put it, Fujisawa was treated as an evacuee appealing to an administrator. (Fujisawa is dreaming of a government-sponsored corporation with \$500,000,000 capital --- the government assuming ~~for~~ \$125,000,000. Myer replied that he could not conceive that the Congress would approve such a scheme. He would support as much as possible if the evaucees were able to subscribe the whole capital. Fujisawa then proposed that

the Community Council and the Local Councils be abolished and substituted by such bodies like relocation advisory committees --- there are no such committees|at present here. According to Carter, who sat through the interview, Myer flatly refused to listen to this kind of talk. Myer said, "I am not a dictator.") But "you were treated as his equal. With Fujisawa, he seemed <sup>to be</sup> ~~like~~ a Project Director dealing with an ordinary evacuee problem."

I shall jot down the content of the interview at random:

Don't let Myer fool any of us. He knows the difficulties ahead of the post-exclusion program. In spite of his statement that "~~he~~ <sup>I</sup> ~~does~~ not expect any evacuee left in any|of relocation center on January 2, 1946", he is not fooling himself either. He is aware of the fact that quite a number of evacuees would be left at the time of closing. He said that he had no plans made for these people, but I received an impression that the problem is constantly in his mind. He is thinking of several plans, although nothing definite yet. It seems that he wants to see how successful the present policy will be by the summer before he formulates|any plan definitely.

He wants all young people out --- that is his primary concern. He is not worried about Issei. He believed that <sup>old</sup> Issei couples and Issei bachelors will be hard to relocate. I corrected him <sup>by</sup> saying that the Issei bachelors would not be difficult if they were in any way fit physically. They would relocate on farm contracts|from farm industrial corporations in California, especially in San Joaquin, Kern County, Kings County, etc., as fruit pickers and <sup>a</sup> ~~for~~ other similar jobs. They were used to being migratory farm laborers, and they would

take such opportunities to return to their former status. Myer agreed that that would be more plausible than the way he had been thinking. (In another conference with Carter, Myer said that such farm contracts would be coming in from California in a great number shortly.)

I explained to Myer that Carter, Bob Dolins, and I had together planned the relocation program for Poston the first part of January. We had divided the period into three --- first period roughly covering January, February, and March for dissemination of information and digestion by the people of the policies, checking meanwhile obstructions to relocation and organized resistance to the program; the second period covering from April to August inclusive for active campaigning and active relocation; the third period beginning with September 1, when the relocation program under the present policies would end for all practical purposes.

Myer was very much interested in this, because it had been reported to him by Dolins, I understand. (When Myer had Dolins' report in the latter part of January at Washington, he had complimented Dolins highly. He was quoted to have said (reported by Miss Moore of the Relocation Division at Washington), "How could you get so much? It's a very good report." Since then, Dolins began to regard Poston as his pet project and has nostalgia for Poston, according to Miss Moore.) He asked me ~~how~~ the program is progressing. I replied that it was going just as well as we had planned in spite of <sup>only</sup> 517 persons leaving Poston on Terminal Departures (including soldiers and conversions from short terms) for the months of January and February. Myer said that was fine. He

~~did~~ <sup>had</sup> not expect~~ed~~ any better result. That was just about what he had anticipated.

I said that the sentiments in California would take a turn for better within sixty days. Myer said that he believed so too, although some weeks ago he had thought that such a turn would take place before the end of March. Now he was certain that things would be much better within sixty days.

I told him that there would be 5,000 residual residents here on September 1. I called them as "casualties of war" as Dolins and I had agreed to ~~use~~ <sup>say</sup>. I used the term, because I wanted to find out how much Dolins' report had had effects on Myer. He was very much familiar with the term.

He wanted to know from me what kinds of people they would be. I gave the five classificatory groups on motivational deterrents (See my report.). Myer was very much interested in this. He asked me how many persons were here who ~~would~~ <sup>were</sup> really desiring to go to Japan, forsaking the United States. I said my guess would be about one thousand, including the secondary repatriates. He was not surprised about the number; in fact, he thought the number would be larger.

Then we talked about the opportunistic groups. He said he could understand that these people were opportunistic. He could not blame them ~~he~~ <sup>he</sup> said.

When I said 5,000 <sup>would be</sup> left on September 1, Myer said, "That's a little more than fifty percent <sup>relocated</sup>. I will be very happy" if more than fifty percent of the people relocated by September 1. I reminded him that it was <sup>almost</sup> impossible to relocate the casualties after that. He did not mind that.

I said that a poor house might be necessary for them. I told him that the most of the younger married people with <sup>small</sup> children would be out of the center by that time. For the small children of the older Issei (say, ones past fifty), a separate institution might be worthwhile considering, I said. The older people would not have any more than 10 years left for them. It might be a good idea to care <sup>them</sup> for another 10 years and "kill them off". Myer said that he did not like the idea of poor house if he could help it. He did not know what to do with the school going children left behind after September 1 (He began to talk about September 1, too.) He was very much concerned about them. He asked me how many such children would be left behind. I said I would not be surprised if there were 1,000 children or more.

Again Myer mentioned that he wanted all Nisei and Sansei out of the centers. I agreed with him and told him that we were doing everything for the purpose.

I added that I was avoiding any chance of "political allegiance" used again for the purpose of remaining in a "shelter center". I explained what I meant by "political allegiance", and Myer caught on quickly. (About here, I was so charmed by his insight into the Japanese problems.) He said he did not notice any trend for renunciation during this trip. I said that was quite so up to now (Carter reported that there were less than fifty applications for renunciation up to two weeks ago from Poston according to the latest Department of Justice report.), but he must watch out for it when he gives the three month in advance notices for closing. He said that was true. When he was preparing for the post-exclusion program,

he tried to close every possible path for evacuees <sup>to</sup> ~~from~~ identifying ~~ing~~ themselves with Japan for the purpose of gaining "security" by remaining in government operated centers. He is doing everything possible with Department of Justice to prevent renunciation used as such a means. He would work hard on it as soon as he returns to Washington. He thought Department of Justice could not accommodate the family members of "ren<sup>o</sup><sub>u</sub>ncees," because it did not have facilities.

He also expected an increase of mental cases --- neuroses and psychoses-- as the closing day approaches.

During this trip, he noticed that rumors were not rampant as he would have expected. During his other trips, he was deluged with questions on rumors. This time, questions were more on facts. People were anxious to know facts.

He said he did not like segregation of 1943. He was especially concerned with the youngsters who went to Tule Lake. I said that segregation was necessary. He said that it might be so, but he still did not like it.

On Registration, he was not surprised with the result. He had somewhat expected it. (I took this with a grain of salt. It sounded like an afterthought, although I am sure he was honest when he told me this.)

He was concerned with the fear of these people in the centers regarding the outside. They have fear of insecurity. They are afraid of the outside. I suggested that the visitors' rules should be changed in such a way that Caucasians and former evacuees be allowed to visit centers at any time. He asked if such Caucasians might not advise the evacuees not to relocate immediately. I said that the kind of Caucasians visiting the

centers would not do so. On the contrary; they would favor immediate return. (I was told by Carter confidentially before this meeting that Myer was toying with an idea of free ingress of visitors, Caucasians and evacuees. I wanted to enforce his thinking here.) Myer agreed heartily.

Myer asked how many people would be left here on September 1 if the American forces were in China and Japan by then. I said that the American forces being in China and <sup>they in</sup> Japan were ~~two~~ two different problems. He said, "All right. How many people <sup>will</sup> ~~would~~ be left here if the American forces <sup>were</sup> ~~were~~ in China by that time?" I was surprised that Myer understood what I was implying. I said, "Three thousand <sup>and</sup> five hundred." "If they are in Japan?" Myer asked. "One thousand and five hundred," I answered. He was very much impressed here.

Myer said that very few understood the Japanese problems. Many people claimed that they knew the problems because they lived in California and saw enough of Japanese. "They didn't know anything," Myer said. Myer here meant that he found out a great deal after coming to the WRA and now knows about the Japanese much more than anyone else (meaning Caucasians). He read many books on Japanese, and found out later how little the authors knew. He said that even Cary McWilliams did not know the Japanese completely, although he was better than the others.

He wanted <sup>me</sup> ~~to~~ to tell him "frankly" what mistakes <sup>a</sup> ~~he~~ he made here by his speeches. I said that he did not make any mistake. In fact, he clinched the first period program we had planned by Myer his speeches. He came to Poston at the right moment. His speeches were the final convincing statements veri-

I must add more here. }  
fying what we had been telling them. That is to say, the WRA was really going to close the centers.

He wanted to know how he was received by the evacuees here. I said, "You are old enough to take a compliment without getting conceited. So I'll tell you." I said the reactions could be summarized in one sentence. I placed the finger nails of my right hand to my teeth and made a love lorn look. I said in an awesome adoring tone, "Gee, what a man!" He smiled genuinely. He liked it. (*I wasn't kidding him here.*)

I told him that no center would be closed before January 2, 1946. I said he did not have to commit on this statement. He came out with a statement that he might be able to close two or three centers before the date. I said Topaz might be the first center, because they were mostly from the Bay Area and were more accommodated than other evacuees from California. I believed that these people at one time or another in their past were domestics. (He said that Topaz had many merchants and might be difficult.) Domestics were in demand and they could be doing the work until they find some other jobs. Myer said it might be so, but he thought Granada was easier to close. There are many from the Merced Center. They are likely to return to the valley (I believe he meant the Stockton area) in hordes, because they were loyal to one another <sup>and sentiments were good where</sup>. Then the Los Angeles people at Granada would not be so difficult to relocate.

I talked about my idea of progressive relocation. He thought it in term of profession, business, and trade. He talked a little while about the difficulty of relocating small scale merchants. I said I was talking about relocation in terms

of the degrees of acculturation. I was going to draw the bi-cultural chart. (Note to Dorothy: Yes, I am still monkeying around with that red-blue chart) I came to the blackboard. He said he knew what I was talking about, because Spicer had once explained it to him. (Here I was very much surprised that Spicer is still using it.) He agreed that it was a very sound approach to the relocation problem. He realized that it would be very difficult to relocate those ~~with least~~ <sup>least</sup> acculturated with the American culture. He agreed that the approach to them must be revised accordingly.

I told him that we were not concerned at present with those with "Japanesy" cultural characteristics. We considered them as the problem we must deal with at a later date when we had relocated <sup>the</sup> more "Americanized" population. He agreed that was right.

Myer said he wanted my opinion on a certain thing. "I am trying to get the right for the Japanese people, at least for the parents of Nisei in services, to become citizens." (Here I failed to grasp certain parts, because I am not familiar with the national politics.) He said he had been working on this for a long time. Before he left Washington, Senator from New Jersey (or New Hampshire?) introduced a bill. In it the Senator included unostansively a clause which would give <sup>the</sup> right for naturalization. Myer had been consulted. He saw it, and found out that the clause was not quite right. So Myer told him ~~how~~ to phrase it so that the Japanese could be included without attracting a notice. The Senator saw Ferrington (Hawaii), who was all for it. In fact, according to Myer, Ferrington had been

Here, Myer talked as if ~~he~~ he expected ~~that~~ I knew Senators and Congressmen

fighting for it for a long time. Judd (I understood him as a representative from some Midwestern State) was all for it, too. Myer said he needed a fellow like Judd (?), because he had a keen mind and <sup>was</sup> a very good speaker and fighter. He promised that he would take care of the House and Myer was to take care of the Senate. They promised that they would not do anything about it for thirty days until Myer comes back to Washington. He was considering of lowering ~~of~~ the educational requirement to take care of the Issei.

I said I had anticipated that for a long time and told him how I had been preparing the evacuees here for it. (I'll skip the detail explanation of mine. It will be in my report.) Myer was surprised about this and showed a keen interest.

Myer said that for the first time he was approached by evacuees on this question twice or three times during this trip. He had never heard this question brought up before. He said he could not reveal his hand in this legislation yet, because he had too many enemies. But he said I could tell it to the evacuees if I wanted to.

He said he wouldn't give up his experience with the WRA for anything. If he had to do it all over, he was willing. About January of 1944, "I was hanging <sup>on</sup> by this much" indicating the half an inch ~~space~~ he made with his thumb and first finger. "And up to April," I added. "No, not so much in April," he said.

He said he was a close friend of Milt Eisenhower. He was scared stiff after the Governors' conference at Salt Lake City and quit the WRA, Myer said.

He said he enjoy playing ~~with the~~ politics with ~~the~~ mem-

bers of the Congress. He spends every Saturday afternoon on "the Hill".

He had been working on a plan to bring back the 100th and 442nd ~~in~~ the United States for sometime, but the plan had not materialized <sup>due to</sup> ~~for~~ some difficulties. He wanted to use these soldiers to sell the Japanese to the people of the United States. He said he would be able to succeed with the plan soon.

By September, there would be no more excludées, Myer thought.

The test case of Yamamoto, Shigekawa, Ochikubo at Los Angeles would be decided favorably by Judge Pierson Hall. Myer was very much interested in this case. If, for any chance, it was decided unfavorably, the WRA wants to assist the plaintiffs to appeal their case to the higher court.

We parted by saying that we have to keep on fighting. Myer added, "And we can't afford to make mistakes."

-----

I don't think I covered everything here. But other things will be covered when I write a report on this. I paid a terrific price for this interview, because I did not withhold any information, for which I had worked hard for many years. But I am satisfied with the return, because I became to know Myer intimately and found out what he is thinking. We ended the interview with mutual admiration.

\*\*\* \*\*\*\*\*

Corlies Carter is leaving Poston tomorrow for a jaunt in California. He has nostalgia for <sup>the</sup> Berkeley campus (he is Anthro, '35.) I told him to drop in your office. Please don't be surprised if he does so. By talking with him, you might get valuable information on Poston. He is honest.

Sincerely,  
Duk

02712  
2498  
1210  
2399

March 20, 1945

Dear Dick:

I am indeed glad that you are planning to come up here for the month of May. I assure you that we will find you some place to stay, although it may not be exactly what you would want. I called International House and they asked me to check again with them in about three weeks. Charlie was very happy there, even though he was living under what might be called dormitory conditions. I don't know whether you are sufficiently gregarious to put up with that or not, and I wish you would let me know what your preferences are. The only other type of thing available would be accommodation with some private family which, I think, could be arranged through the Berkeley Interracial Commission which has quite a list of such rooms. You would undoubtedly have a private room in such a case but there are, as you know, disadvantages to living in the houses of these "men of good will" or more particularly "women of goodwill." Hotels will be quite out of the question for there are simply no rooms to be had at all.

Corliss Carter telephoned the other day but, unfortunately, could not get over here to see me. He said that you were somewhat worried about having had to postpone your trip to Berkeley. Undoubtedly, you have in the meantime received a reassuring letter from me. I don't want you to come unless it is absolutely convenient. On the other hand, you have sized up the situation correctly in your last letter when you say that we have a lot of planning and hard work ahead of us in order to meet the commitments that I have had to make.

I look forward to receiving the final pages of your report, and will send you some comments soon.

Sincerely yours,

Dorothy Swaine Thomas

Phew! At last, I am finished with the report. I am proud of the concluding pages (the last 10 pages or so), because they are the result of real hard work, (let me boast a little; wait you?).

I think I have succeeded in verbalizing clearly (I hope!) some things that had been in the back of my mind vaguely for sometime. I hope some of these generalizations would give you new slants on the picture (Scoop!).

RSN  
Your severe criticisms are in order  
to deflate my ego!

Gerald Hagar.

Ed. ~~Montgomery~~

Clark, Nichols & Weston.

March 24, 1945

Dear Dorothy:

I received two letters --- one dated March 20 and the other dated March 22.

First, re your letter of March 20. I would prefer to live at the International House. I think I can <sup>make</sup> <sub>my-</sub>self sufficiently "gregarious" to be adoptable to dormitory life. Only I am afraid whether I can concentrate on my work on evenings, but I cannot be too particular. I cannot picture myself leading "virtuous life" in a home of "women of Christian good will", although such no doubt is desirable for all of us. Please let me know about the International House situation at a later date. I can revise the date of my departure accordingly to suit the accommodations there.

Corlies Carter has come back. He brought back a favorable picture of California except Salinas, Watsonville, and Imperial Valley.

I spent two nights with Burling --- in fact, both nights until after one A. M. Then I spent one afternoon with Chapman and Burling. I couldn't expound fully on the "Japanese problem", because (1) Chapman did not have basic knowledge of California's "Japanese problem" and (2) I am not a good lecturer on the fundamentals. My summary --- Chapman is a liberal "bureaucrat". Burling is intelligent and is fortunate in having observed the

problems in abnormal and exaggerated forms at Tule Lake. The only trouble with him was that he was obsessed with the abnormal conditions of the Japanese à la Freud with abnormal psychological phenomena in dealing with more normal segments of the population.

I also met Gordon Brown, the Gila Community Analyst. I spent two nights on him. He is quitting the WRA and was quite outspoken about the WRA. Said he, "In my optimistic moments I estimated the residue population at Gila as 4,000."

I also talked with Rex Lee, the chief of the Relocation Division at Washinton. As Burling described him, he was a WRA spy attached to the Chapman-Burling itenary. Lee is a stupid and asinine. When I met him first (before my conversation with him), I described him as "a travelling salesman of a wholesale hardware house." I still hold the same opinion of him.

Re: Your letter of March 22, which I have just received. I have spent the whole this week on "field work" with the various "paratroopers". I am beginning <sup>today</sup> to organize the material on the aftermath of the All Center Conference. I shall title it "The Developments After The All Center Conference and The Visit of Dillon Myer." Because of the lack of time, I shall not cover the conference itself. Please tell Jimmie that I shall not use the material until some future date. This report will probably be the last report before my Berkeley trip.

I am certain that I can work on Hankey when I see her.

I often wonder whether Troelich's bias against feminine anthropologists is justified.

Shall we call it "the pathology of a research worker in a concentration camp?" It is perfectly understandable that she is behaving in such a manner; it is easy to lose our sanity in places like these (Tule Lake and Poston).

~~the~~ Sentiments of defeatism are more frequently heard lately. One dependable Issei (about 45 years of age) said that he didn't care what happened to him and his family any more. An Issei woman, a widow whose relatives are now at Tule Lake (the male relatives at Tule Lake have renounced and have been interned.), came to me crying and poured out her worry regarding the center closure. An Issei, paroled and later released, went to the Family Welfare Counselor and antagonistically requested her to inform the DJ that he believed that Japan could not be defeated and that he had not desired to be paroled. This pattern is increasing now; to what end it will reach I have not estimated.

Under a separate cover I am mailing Myer's speech before the mass audience and Myer's meeting with the representatives. Also, a copy of the result of an interesting survey I took through the aid of the Block Managers.

Sincerely yours,

*Dick*

Sometimes letters are coming without scotch tape. Please make it sure that the envelopes are well sealed.

April 9, 1945

Dear Dorothy:

In reply to your letters:

1. I shall report to Berkeley by May 1. As to the exact date, I shall notify you later.
2. I have gone over your comments on Hankey's ms. I am in agreement with your points. I do believe that Hankey should be advised while in the process of revising, section by section, so that she won't have to go over the whole thing again. As you noted the ms needs revision considerably --- especially as to the continuity and for comprehensiveness. On the question of the various interpretations, I feel that she is on the right track --- although some parts need toning down. Most of the interpretations in the revised report are good to excellent. After all, Tule Lake is one of the most important segments of the Study, and we should not hesitate in spending all ~~the~~ time necessary for completing it. I don't know how much time is required for this, but we should discuss the ms in a joint session, page to page. I am willing to spend whatever time necessary for this; in fact, I can extend the length of my stay, if necessary.

I am mailing under a separate cover the second installment of my third report for this year. I doubt very much if I can finish this report before I leave Postno. I have at least thirty pages yet for the chapter on "the reports made by the delegates." Then, as the present plan goes, it should be followed by the following chapters:

Director Myer's Visit.

Aftermath of Myer's Visit

The Attempt by ~~the~~ PTA to Resist School Closing

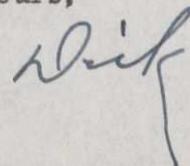
The Trend of Relocation

The new war trends in the Pacific, the fall of the Japanese Cabinet, and the abrogation of the neutrality pact are having profound effects on the Issei and some of the Kibei. It is very interesting. In cases, the reactions are pathological.

*Some of*  
The AP attempted, failed, and again attempted to organize a Jim Crow Recreation Club. We call it the Colorado River Appointed Personnel Society ---- CRAPS for short. The democratic faction has lost out, as the "prejudiced" faction pulled a political coup and railroaded a discriminatory restriction, "Appointed personnel only" meaning "No Japs allowed --- No Jap guests". Carter, French, and myself started working immediately. I threatened with withdrawal of my support from the project, particularly for relocation and taking of this coming census. That did it, and Mills interceded. Mills called the "prejudiced" committee members this morning and put them on the carpet. He laid down the rule that there shall be no discrimination on the project, and Democracy has won.

In cidentally, I have tendered my resignation to the Block Managers this week, but it was rejected since they found out that "I was leaving only for a short while in order to attend the summer session at UC." So---- again the same old story, Unit Administrator Sumida is to be Acting Supervisor during my absence. There are lots of things *to be done* ~~to do~~ around here before I leave, for they requested that "things <sup>be</sup> put <sub>1</sub> in such a way that they could coast along for one month or so."

Sincerely yours,



April 16, 1945

Dear Dorothy:

Thank you for the check covering travel advance. Also, I appreciate your offer of coming down to the depot to meet me.

My plan to <sup>t</sup>stop at Los Angeles is off because of transportation difficulty. There is no way of getting a reservation for berth on the Southern Pacific from here; I must take a chance of getting it at Los Angeles. Corlies Carter and others, who have visited California, advised me against going through the coast route because of congested trains. I believe it will be better for me to stop in Los Angeles on my way back. (Therefore, I am not getting a round trip ticket.) There is no Pullman accommodations. (There is no advantage of getting a Pullman berth from Parker to Barstow, where I must change train, as you will see from the following schedule.)

9:25	pm	lv	Parker
5:00	am	ar	Barstow
7:40	am	lv	Barstow on The Scout
12:30	pm	lv	Bakersfield
9:35	pm	ar	Berkeley <u>Santa Fe</u> station

*only one train  
daily*

I am planning to leave Poston on the evening of April 26 (Thurs.), reaching Berkeley on April 27 (Fri.). However, the date of departure can be changed, for I have not applied for a short term permit yet. Since I am getting in Berkeley very late, I wonder whether it might not be a better idea to go on to San Francisco and stay there overnight. I can come back to Berkeley next morning. 9:35 p.m. is rather late to bother you to come down to the depot. Besides, there is the question of whether a room is available from the night of April April 27. The two questions need a reply from you. I appreciate if you would wire me

via night letter on

1. International House arrangement. Whether it will be all right to get there on April 27.

2. Whether I should go to San Francisco and come back on April 28. In this case, whether International House is all right from April 28.

I am asking your reply via wire, because I must apply for leave right now.

I am sending out via express collect a large package. It contains the roster cards, which should have been sent out long ago if not for difficulty of sending anything via express here.

I am mailing the succeeding pages of my report under a separate cover.

I see that Mrs. Wilson has reverted back to "M. Wilson" signature.

Sincerely yours,

*Dick*

April 17

Dear Dorothy:

I forgot to ask my letter yesterday whether it is necessary to take beddings along.

John Province is coming here on April 22. Robert Dolin, the liaison officer, is coming on April 29. I will see Province, but will meet Dolin.

Sincerely,  
Dick

4  
April 20, 1945

STRAIGHT WIRE

RICHARD NISHIMOTO  
45-2-C  
COLORADO RIVER RELOCATION PROJECT  
POSTON ARIZONA

APRIL TWENTY-SEVENTH ALL RIGHT. WILL MEET YOU. BEDDING  
NOT NECESSARY.

D.S.THOMAS

Evacuation & Resettlement Study  
Sent: 11 a.m.

June 14, 1945

Dear Dorothy:

Bad news! Something we had anticipated happened. Myer wrote to Mills about two weeks ago notifying him that I was working for the Evacuation and Resettlement Study while on a short term leave and requested that I be converted into terminal leave status. God damn thing is the result of the memorandum by Burling. This makes me damn mad. I must think some way out of this quickly. Mills questioned me on this this morning, but I did not admit anything. He says that the instruction is from Myer and he cannot ignore it. Carter claims that <sup>(Carter)</sup> he is bound to request the Oakland office to make an investigation to ascertain whether I worked for DST during my short term or not. He advises me to lay the cards on the table and tell Mills that I am going to relocate permanently on July 11 anyway, and should ask him to stall the reply to Myer until then. He believes there is a good chance. At any rate, I have to think fast, because my status hearing will be held in a day or two.

I am not worried about paying the visitor's fees while I am here, but to be converted suddenly from the resident's status forcibly in this manner will not be good for myself and my family. This is a mess that I have walked into just as soon as I returned. Myer seems to be going all the way in getting after us.

The trip back to Poston was exceedingly nice. I have appreciated the luxury of travelling first class. But I am in no mood to elaborate on it at present.

I am enclosing my return ticket to Berkeley. Will you give it to Mrs. Wilson, for I understand that she has to have it when she calls for my Pullman reservation? The original plan was to leave Los Angeles on the night of July 12, and I believe I should stick to this date in spite of the unpleasantness. I will make a reservation for Parker - Los Angeles at this end. However, for making this reservation on the Santa Fe train, it will be necessary to get the ticket ~~back~~ as soon as possible *(although too much of hurry is not necessary.)*

In case of emergency where a telephone call is in order, please make a person-to-person call --Richard Nishimoto, Block 45. The long distance operator on the project will notify me.

I pulled in about four hours ago --- the train was ~~three~~ hours late. I haven't had time to find out what's what here, except above mentioned crisis. It's too bad <sup>that</sup> things are happening in this manner in succession -- *Hank's, Jimmie's draft, etc.*

Harriedly,

*Wick*

June 18, 1945

Dear Dick:

I wrote you the enclosed letter on Saturday but for some curious reason overlooked mailing it. I had thought of writing to Mr. Chapman to get the story of what is happening on record but, after talking it over with W.I., we decided that it was a dangerous procedure and that we had better let well enough alone. I had no idea that Mr. Myer was such a vindictive person and I am naturally worried about other steps he might take.

I am enclosing also a letter from Mr. Wilcox. Please do not spend any amount of time on trying to get those things for him as he is just a collector.

The check for your travel advance is also enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

Dorothy Swaine Thomas

Enclosures

P.S.

The clerk in the Business Office just telephoned that she has managed to reserve a lower for you on the "Owl" on the 12th. We will send your ticket and the pullman reservation in a day or two.

June 29, 1945

Dear Dorothy:

I have received yours of June 25. Re my conversation with Spicer, my letter of June 25 has pretty well covered it. There are however a few items that I have forgotten to mention in it.

1. It seemed that Spicer is interested in seeing Morton's ms. I said that it is locked up and I can't see how Dorothy can manage to get it out.

2. Spicer's major mission to Berkeley is to settle the question as to who should get the complete set of the various WRA final reports that are being prepared by section and division heads on the projects. Bloom of UC LA is after it. Also the UC Berkeley Library has shown an interest in it. There is only <sup>one</sup> set available, the original going into the National Archives. He is receptive to the idea of making the Bancroft Library as the depository. But the dispute, he said, must be settled between Berkeley and UCLA.

3. The WRA has a high regard for Morton. He did a good liaison work between the Justice and the WRA. The WRA appreciates it. The WRA also appreciates Frank Miyamoto and Nishimoto. The former for the work on Chicago resettlement, while the latter for his work on the project as an aide to the Project Director. Spicer said that Jimmy is not quite popular with the WRA. Hankey hit the all time low. He said, "Hankey made a fool of herself."

4. Spicer knows that I have been working for you for a long time. No fancy explanation on this matter is necessary.

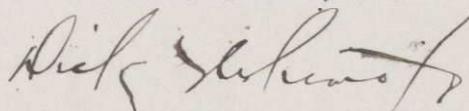
5. I told him that the study has been refinanced for the next two years, but the scope will be much smaller. No specific explanation on this, except that I will be with the study for the coming period.

6. I told him that our relations with the WRA seemed strained "somewhat" at present, but as far as we are concerned Spicer is the top. "The Community Analysis is not a part of the WRA, because it is too decent," said I.

7. Everything is covered now in my letters -- this one and that dated June 25. My time with Spicer is being spent in comparing notes on centers other than Tule Lake.

Regards to all.

Sincerely yours,



P.S. The remaining content of your letter has been noted.

I agree.

$$\begin{array}{r} 375 \\ \times 4 \\ \hline 1500 \\ 375 \\ \hline 1875 \end{array}$$

June 25, 1945

Dear Dorothy:

I have spent several afternoons and evenings with Ned Spicer. The parts of the conversation pertaining to our relations with the WRA are as follows:

1. The report on Hankey's letter was submitted by the censor at Santa Fe, requesting that the WRA act immediately upon it. As far as the WRA was concerned, they didn't think the content was <sup>too</sup> serious, but the censor being as he is was greatly perturbed in realizing that the University of California was "involved in a subversive activity." Spicer believed that we acted wisely in taking Hankey out immediately, because the authority was ready to "intern" her. He claims that her internment was not a remote possibility. Now the Washington WRA regards the matter closed <sup>as</sup> ~~and~~ a matter of minor importance.

2. Nishimoto eviction was a news to him and surprised him greatly. He wanted to find out who was behind the move. According to him, many at the Washington office had known my connection with the Study for a long time. Although he did not make it clear, he was speculating among Provinse, Kimball, and Rex Lee. Kimball, says Spicer, has a special interest in not having the Poston history written. He is now writing the organizational history of the Community Councils, for which he had spent much efforts in the early days, and does not wish <sup>anyone to report</sup> that his Councils had failed. He (Spicer)

knows the reasons why I had not wanted to be converted and is aware that I am resentful over the matter.

3. I have learned the criticism of the WRA against us. One of the major objections is that we have been too possessive and have refused to supply information to the WRA. My reply was that we are not running a service organization. In order to be scientific and honest, such information (e.g. monthly report) must necessarily contain restricted or confidential information from the sources other than the WRA. This would not be fair to the sources. For instance, I said, I would not like my data used in such reports to the WRA. I said, "If that was the arrangement, I wouldn't have worked for Dorothy." Spicer seemed to have understood this.

Spicer then commented why Dorothy spent so many hours with Chapman. "She could have written a memorandum to Myer." I replied that Chapman was courteous enough to come over to Berkeley seeking her scientific information. Chapman came, while with Myer it has been a different story always. He has not shown much interest in seeking Dorothy's information. Dorothy has been forced to go over to San Francisco, and at that, Myer wouldn't give her any more than thirty minutes or one hour for such interview. "How can one talk the complicated problem in thirty minutes? Don't be silly. You know that yourself."

I mentioned that the WRA is not the only agency we are living with. We are cooperating with other governmental agencies and must be fair and impartial on all matters.

Spicer then said that Myer is sore because Dorothy told Chapman that the County Supervisors would be opposed to the return of Japanese to California. I understand that Myer had informed Chapman exactly to the opposite and it made a liar out of Myer. "Of course, Dorothy was vindicated on that score, but she could have told Myer before." So I replied, "Don't think that Dorothy doesn't work hard herself. That's her part; she interviews many people. On the Supervisor matter she worked hard and had ~~a~~ good data, which forced her to come to the conclusion. Did Myer ask her about it? No, he wasn't interested in what Dorothy thought about it. If Myer asked her, she would have told <sup>him</sup> it. One thing you must remember: Myer would not have agreed with her conclusion, because Myer does not listen to anything contrary to his own beliefs.

4. Spicer wants an access to our data. I said I couldn't see how that could be arranged. He said he would try anyway.

5. Spicer accuses Hankey of copying Opler's documents.

*Spicer:*  
"When are you going to publish Opler's data?" I replied, "We are not going to publish Opler's Tule Lake data for many years, because they are too hot. If any person has any interest in the future of the Japanese in the United States, he should lock it up. I certainly wouldn't make Opler's data on Tule Lake available to you, and I doubt if Dorothy would."

6. Spicer and Leighton came to ~~the~~ parting of ways last November. Spicer wants an access to the Leighton files.

Camp I closure will be on Dec. 1. The announcement will be made sometime before Sept. 1. Granada will be closed on Oct. 1.

But he can't get them from Leighton. He asked, "One set is deposited with the Bancroft Library, is it?" I answered, "Yes, that's right."

"Did you see it?"

"I glanced through part of it. Not all of them."

He will negotiate with you on this matter. I don't know what he wants to do with it. One thing definite is that French must write a final report on Poston, and is quite annoyed over the fact that he can't get hold of the files.

Spicer, I understand, promised that French would be detailed to Berkeley in the fall *for looking over Leighton's data.*

According to his present plan, Spicer will be in Berkeley sometime around July 4. He will try to bargain, but as I see it we don't need much support from the official WRA from now on. However, Spicer believes that we can't get along without the support that has been given by the Washington, <sup>WRA</sup> He thinks he is in a better bargaining position, while I think we are in a better position.

The announcement of closing of Units II and III was made on June 23 (Friday). What luck! I had never hoped to have this luck when I had planned this trip. I am getting good data on this. By the way, my original plan during my stay here has necessarily been completely revised. There are only two weeks and half left until July 11. I have made a reservation on the train from Parker to Los Angeles on July 11.

Sincerely yours,  
Dick Roberts

*Handwritten notes at the top of the page, possibly a signature or date.*

on July 11.

were a revelation on the flight from Berkeley to Los Angeles  
the only two weeks and half left until July 11. I have  
will say here was necessarily been completely reversed. There  
time good date on this. By the way, will certainly bring things  
to make this look when I had planned this trip. I am con-  
fused on June 53 (Berkeley). What look: I had never noted  
the announcement of crossing of Davis II and III was

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"I advised you about this of it. Not all of them."

"Did you see this?"

"Yes, that's right."

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but he can't get them from Georgetown. He asked, "One set

*Vertical handwritten notes on the left margin, including the word 'check' and other illegible scribbles.*

June 28, 1945

Dear Dick,

I was certainly glad to get your long letter of June 25th.  
Re the points made by Spicer:

1. I have tried to get from Hankey just what she did say to Yoshiyama. Apparently she listed a series of happenings at Tule Lake( I can imagine in what sort of language), and this could be interpreted as "giving aid and comfort to the enemy". In reply to a question from him she said" You know what I think of Mr. Best." This was followed by the remark about censorship about which she told us.
2. Re RM eviction, I strongly suspect Province as the man behind the scenes. Remember he was in Poston while you were here. And he has never forgiven me for going direct to Eisenhower to get permission for the Study.
3. Of-course we are "possessive" about our data. This was understood from the beginning by Mr. Eisenhower( but not by Province et al). It was the basis on which we got our money, Sproul's support, and the honest collaboration( as you well pointed out) of the evacuee staff members.

Re Myer, the only time I ever had more than fifteen minutes with him was the day I took him to the Mark Hopkins for drinks. At that time, I tried to give him the "benefit" of my observations, but instead had to listen to what a great man and what a martyr he was. I don't see any reason why I should not have talked to Chapman, nor did I say anything indiscreet, unless raising questions about the feasibility of the closure program can be considered so. I laughed about the County Supervisors item and your noble defence, which would have been excellent had I said anything about them! What actually happened was that Burling and Chapman had themselves met with the Supervisors in LA County and obtained a very unfavorable report. This they discussed at my house when Cozzens was present. Cozzens remarked that they should never have seen or talked to these prejudiced people and that their slant was all wrong. How the story finally got attributed to me is a great mystery. Cozzens of-course reported everything that was said at my house( as I knew he would) and probably twisted the whole story in transmittal.

4. No, Spicer cannot have access to our data. I shall try to be amiable and make him understand our position. You have done a good job in giving me a build-up on this.
5. This paragraph is completely obscure to me. The only data of Opler's we have are those which Spicer himself loaned Morton from the Community Analysis Files. What do you mean by your statement " I certainly wouldn't make Opler's data on TL available to you and I doubt if Dorothy would". Isn't Spicer Opler's boss?

I am really in a complete fog about this. It isn't important for you to take time now to explain in detail, but if you can give me a better lead on what he means, I will be prepared for his "charges" if he makes them.

6. Leighton's ~~st~~ data are not yet deposited with the Bancroft Library, but are a personal loan to me, not to be seen by anyone except a member of our staff (and specifically not to be seen by Tamie). He has agreed to deposit his materials with Bancroft eventually, but I assume that he means to deposit all his materials (i.e. the original Washington files, of which we have copies of only part) Spicer must know damned well that I wouldn't let him have access to these files without Leighton's written permission. What sort of louse does he think I am, anyway? As you remember, I fought with Leighton for unrestricted use of the material by my staff (excluding Tamie), but I certainly did not say I would show the stuff to Tom, Dick (pardon me, I mean the Dick who is not on the staff!), Harry or---Ned.

I don't quite see what bargaining power Spicer has now. I would like to continue to get confidential data from WRA, but I suspect we have already lost that possibility. Eventually, I think I shall want Merton to give us a couple weeks of his time and clear up the final administrative documentation in Washington. There is no use facing that problem until we need the data. Otherwise I honestly don't know what else we need from WRA, except, as I said, their full and free cooperation, which they have obviously already decided we are not going to get. The only way we can get it is with time and inevitable personnel changes.

I certainly don't want to antagonize Spicer, but I simply don't see any way out of the dilemma. Do you think Spicer has been sent here with definite instructions to get access to our data---or else?

I agree that you are in luck in being at Poston when the closure of the two camps was announced. And the "penalty" you have had to pay for working seems to be all to our advantage.

.....  
 Minor news item: I had an enforced association with the liberal "upper-upper classes" of SF yesterday, and discovered that it is considered a prestige matter among them to have former evacuees in their homes as servants--sort of like having a European refugee in your home. They gush enormously about the matter. Also, my antagonistic nextdoor neighbor is considering taking in a Nisei woman and child into her home because her heart has melted when she heard about all their troubles. Straws in the wind.

Sincerely yours,

July 2, 1945

Dear Dorothy:

I am enclosing my filed notes. This is the only copy I made, and I will be using it when I write a report as soon as I return. Please pardon the fact that typographical errors are not corrected. No time.

Spicer left for Los Angeles and San Francisco last night. He had originally intended to visit Tule Lake, but has now revised his schedule and is skipping the segregation center. From Berkeley he is going directly to Topaz. He has left Poston with "mellow and tender feeling toward Dorothy and her Study". A ground work on him has been laid, and it's your job now to work on him. Spicer doesn't think much of Provinse now. "He is getting callous," was his remark on Provinse.

Re: Your letter of June 28. Spicer "believes" that most of Hankey's data on Tule Lake are those copied from Opler, with and without his consent. I just laughed and told him that that might be true, and that isn't my business how Hankey got her data.

Please get in touch with the International House regarding my housing.

Hastely yours,

*Dick Vandenbent*

*I shipped two boxes via  
Express Collect this morning*