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Had quite a full week-end and I didn't get the rest I had planned upon. I came down to the office to do some typing and then I walked home. On the way I stopped in to see Tamie and she is still waiting around for the notice to report to the WACs. She believed the rumor that she would not be taken until 100 Nisei girls were gathered together so that they could train for the occupation of Japan. She believes ~~she~~ this would take months because not more than 50 girls in all have joined the WACs up to now. I asked her what she thought about going to Japan to be part of the occupation troops and she said that she didn't believe that this would ever be done. She didn't think that the lives of any Nisei would be safe if they went to Japan under those conditions. Tamie said she is thinking of two plans in the event that she is not called soon. She will either return to Hawaii to have a family reunion or else go to New York to work for a while. She has been puttering around with her thesis but it is as still as in complete as it was six months ago. She didn't seem to be any more neurotic than before.

Emiko went out on a date and Jack was ill with a cold so that Bette and I went to the show. After we returned home we read the papers and Emiko came in and started making sandwiches so we ate. About 2:30 a.m. Emiko and I heard a screaming upstairs. We got curious so we went up the stairway to listen. At first I thought it was some sort of domestic argument. I heard a little girl screaming that her mother was dying because she was bleeding to death. I didn't want to go up but Emiko and Jack insisted that I go up and find out what it was all about. I was upstairs for the next two hours.

A Mrs. Keenan was visiting her mother at the apartment. Apparently they were either drinking or the mother was trying to



perform an abortion. A hemorrhage started and the grand-daughter was awakened and she got all excited and ran screaming out into the hall that her mother was dying. When I got up there, the noise had been going on for half an hour but nobody knew what to do. There were just a bunch of women and Mrs. B. for a change seemed to be the calmest of the group. I immediately phoned a doctor but he refused to come when I said that the woman had a hemorrhage. Apparently he felt that it was an attempted abortion so that he didn't want to come as he did not care to get involved. Mrs. B. then called another doctor but he refused to come also. I finally managed to get the name of the family doctor from Mrs. Keenan and I phoned there but he was out on a call. I said that I was going to call the police department and ask them to send a car to take her to the hospital but the women objected. In the meantime Mrs. Keenan was bleeding so profusely and there was nothing we could do. Mrs. Keenan was so sure that the woman could not be removed by any ambulance until a doctor's consent was given.

We sent the grand-daughter after her daughter four blocks away and another woman in the apartment took her down. In the meantime the police car came but the officers would not take the responsibility of removing the woman until consent was given by the doctor as they did not wish the woman to die on them and be blamed for it. The indifference of these officers really griped me because they stuck so closely to technicalities. All this time Mrs. Keenan was moaning that she was going to die and everybody was excited. Finally the husband came and he was in a drunken (?) daze. He gave the consent so that we carried his wife down to the police ambulance and she was taken to the hospital. I certainly hate to get sick in Chicago because there are too many



technicalities. The doctors are too worried about getting their pay. Mrs. B. said that she had an experience like that before when one of her tenants fell out of the window. Yesterday morning she thanked me for all of the assistance I had given and she said that Mrs. Keenan was going to pull through. She didn't know what it was all about but she suspected that the woman had been drinking too much and this caused the internal hemorrhage. I think that it may have been an attempted abortion or else they would not have gotten so excited when I said I would call the police department. I didn't get to bed until 5:30 a.m. last night.

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Emiko suddenly developed a severe cold this morning, and she was feeling quite ill. She was out rather late on her date and she felt the cold coming on when she came home. Jack was not feeling so well either so that the two of them slept most of the day. Bette got up early because she had a composition to write for her English class so she worked on it from 11:00 to 6:00. I got up at noon and studied for a couple of hours and then decided to cook the pot-roast dinner so Bette would have more time to study. I really got hen-pecked. Bette didn't want me to tie the roast up because she thought it was to be cooked flat. She thought that it should be cooked in the oven and I insisted that it should be cooked in a pot on top of the stove. Emiko finally got out the cook book and decided in my favor but she gave me all kinds of instructions from her sick bed. I was cooking for 4 hours but the dinner came out well so I was satisfied. I don't think I'll cook again with so many bosses around. I finally put the roast in the oven because the steamer pan was not air tight.

We were in a rush to have dinner early but Betty Jean arrived an hour late because she was busy on her composition too. We had



given Emiko's ballet ticket to Mariko and we wanted to get there ahead of her. Jack was willing to give his ticket to George but Mariko didn't phone back. Mariko was sore with George because he forgot to order the tickets and there were no more seats available for the rest of the Ballet Russe run. We ate dinner very hastily and then rushed down to the Civic Opera House. We were about 10 minutes late for the opening ~~xxxxx~~ but Mariko was not there yet so we left the ticket for her at the box office and she joined us about 20 minutes later. The ballet performance was very enjoyable and we were able to see it very well through our glasses as we had choice seats in the first balcony row.

We were very amused by Mariko most of the evening because she was in such an agitated state. Jack is continually surprised that any person could get into so many complex situations as Mariko. Mariko said that she had another argument with George. They have one almost every day because that is their way of being happily married I suppose. This time the argument was over the suki-yaki dinner. Mariko said she made enough for two people but George ate the whole thing. She didn't have anything to eat and she was in a rush to get to the Civic Auditorium. She flew in such an rage that George took her to a restaurant to eat and that was why she was late. George must take a terrible nagging and it makes Mariko mad when he doesn't argue back with her and goes into a silence mood. He went off to see his mother this evening. I guess he is pretty tied to his mother's apron strings yet. The Battle of the Century is certainly not over by any means. George would like to reconcile Mariko with his mother but both sides are stubborn. Maybe it is better that way.

There is a personality conflict between George and Mariko in addition to this mother-in-law squabble. Both of them have been



used to living independently for quite a while and they haven't determined who is boss yet. Mariko would like to be a queen and have her husband wait on her hand and foot. George would like to assert his position as master of the house so he expects Mariko to drop everything and wait on him. Result, conflict. Mariko has been trying very hard to domesticate George and she doesn't realize that he is a grown man and not a little boy. She wants him to run downstairs 3 times a day to empty the garbage while he believes that this could be done in one trip. Mariko objects because too many flies gather. They squabble about little things like this and then George goes out and gets drunk. What a life! I don't know if those two are compatible. They certainly argue over the trivial things and I rather suspect that a lot of it is fomented by Mariko because she does have a nervous disposition. George has to maintain some semblance of manhood because it is rubbed into him that he still clings to his mother. George wants to be the one to decide everything in the household and there has been some conflict about whose friends should be invited for social evenings. Mariko doesn't care for George's best friend, Bob Takame while George thinks that most of Mariko's friends are a bunch of chattering females. He feels the over-pondering weight of Mariko's relatives and he doesn't like that so well either because his side of the family is still having strained relationships with Mariko. We have been keeping out of the whole thing because we feel that it will take them quite a while to get adjusted to each other.

I think that Mariko is going through a period in which all young brides feel that they are neglected by their devoted husband. She doesn't want George to take their marriage for granted because she has many romantic notions about what married life should be.



Last night the conflict was over who should be invited as dinner guests. Tomomasa Yamasaki and his wife were invited over for dinner as they were passing through to New York. Then George wanted to invite Bob Takame. Then Yoshi was invited by Mariko since she knew Tomomasa's wife quite well. Then George decided to invite Cracker because he was a cousin to Ruth Yamasaki. The list of dinner guests grew and grew until Mariko had to cook for nine people. She was busy cooking and entertaining until midnight. Mariko was upset about this because she felt that on Saturday nights she would like George to take her out as the rest of the week she stays home. Evidently some fuss was made about this so that George took her to a night club and they were out until 5:00 this morning.

Mariko feels that George is trying to train her to get used to the idea of being without him on Tuesday and Thursday nights so that he can go out drinking or see his mother. He never tells her where he is going as he will not argue with her. Mariko feels that she should get his full attention on Saturday night since he gets out twice a week already. She feels that she is a neglected wife. I suppose that happy marriages are made out of little conflicts like this but I wouldn't want to be in a situation like this. Mariko loves George quite a bit but she wants to dominate and mold him too much and there is resistance so that sparks fly now and then. Mariko was a little worried this evening because she thought that she might have gone a little far in asking George to pick her up after the ballet as he may think that she is check up on his activities. She said that George just left her flat on Division and Clark Sts. Whenever she gets irritated with him. she uses the wrong tactics of telling him that he is getting fat. Naturally George doesn't like this and he is going to come back with some



comment of his own. Mariko should realize that George enjoys her good cooking and it is a compliment to her when he stuffs himself.

It appears to me that the basis for all of these little conflicts is due to a combination of the initial marital adjustment plus mother-in-law troubles. There is still a tug-of-war going on between Mariko and Madame T. over darling George. In many instances George is the innocent bystander altho it appears to be his weakness that he is strongly dominated by his mother, and consequently he struggles even harder to prevent being dominated by Mariko. George told his mother that Mariko was working now and this made Mariko quite sore. She practically accused George of being tied to his mother's apron strings and she didn't know why he should lie to his mother about whether she is working or not.

"Mrs. Taki is so worried that I am spending up all of George's money and she thinks that it is terrible that he is supporting me. She just won't recognize that we are married and she acts as if everything is the same as before. She'll probably wait and see for a few years to see how our marriage turns out and she will do everything to break it up and say, 'I told you so'. She thinks that I married George so I could get an Army allotment and bring my family out. I told George it was a very good idea and that's what I'll do so she can just put it in her pipe and smoke it. Mrs. T. still plans to live together with her two boys and she is so vicious because she was frustrated in this desire. She still thinks that this is the way it's going to be when George mentioned that we might go to New York, she said that she would go too. Then he said that we might go to Alaska because of better post-war possibilities and she said that it was a good idea for her to go too. When George said about going to South America, she said she'd



better study Spanish. She intends to follow us wherever we go. I haven't seen her once since we have been married and I don't want to make any moves of reconciliation. I know that if we reconcile Mrs. T. will want to move in with us and try to run the house and then if we have a baby she will try to tell us how to bring it up. George will listen to her too and I'm determined to make him stand on his own feet and get away from his mother's influence. I don't expect him to turn away from his mother entirely because he still can have good relations with her. The only thing I object to is that Mrs. T. quit dominating her son like that. What a mess! I'm not disappointed with our marriage because George and I get along very well when we are left to ourselves and all these things like emptying the garbage are just minor and we will straighten them out eventually. But I'm worried about Mrs. T. because I don't see how we can solve that problem when George is pulled back and forth like that."

I think that Mariko magnifies all of her little conflicts and it really isn't that bad. She and George will probably laugh about it after a few years. However, I think that Mariko is unreasonable at times and she wants George to make all of the adjustments without making too many herself. It has to be a mutual adjustments or else the marriage will have a very shaky foundation. That elation of love which they now possess will not last forever so that they have to develop a more stable foundation. George is only human even though he may lack some initiative when it comes to his mother. However, he has initiative in a lot of other respects because he was active in labor and union movement back in Seattle. It's a good thing in a way that he is so complacent because if he had a fiery disposition like Mariko, their marriage would be im-



possible as there would be dynamite exploding all over the place. If I get drafted, I know that it would be most inadvisable for Bette to live with Mariko and I'll do my best to make other arrangements. Mariko is well meaning and she has a big heart but it would not be good for Bette to be thrown into such a situation that now exists in Mariko's household. Alice is living with them right now as she moved in last Wednesday and that is another family conflict which has become rather involved. It's mostly between the Ikeda-Satow family group. Alice entered into it because she is a Satow now and Mariko has plunged into her protection because she is close to the scene. The rest of xxx the Drexel Avenue Kikuchis are keeping aloof from this family conflict. Alice didn't want us to know because she is rather defensive about all of her relatives but Mariko just couldn't keep the secret of family tensions which has developed in Toshi's household. Jack and I told Mariko that we didn't want to hear so she just burst opened and told us. It seems that quite a feud has developed between Toshi and Mrs. Ikeda, but Toshi is unaware of the whole thing also she feels that everything is not as smooth as it should be. Mrs. Ikeda has been carrying the thing underground and she takes her complaints to Yuri. Yuri does not feel that she knows Alice well enough so she tells Mariko. Mariko then told Alice and suggested that she move over with her because she was being made the unwilling goat at the Ikeda-Satow household.

It seems that Mrs. Ikeda is a very independent women and she wants to have all of her children under one roof where she is definitely the boss. She is not quite able to do this since the apartment originally belongs to Toshi. She did not know that Alice intended to return to Minneapolis. It was her interpretation



that Alice originally came down here to remain only for the week-end in order to attend Mariko's marriage. Alice had planned to stay for two weeks but she extended her stay at Toshi's invitation. Mrs. Ikeda then felt that Toshi and Alice were planning to live together so that she might as well look for her own apartment so that she could have her family together. She doesn't particularly care to take care of Toshi during her pregnancy. Alice made the mistake that all of the related Ikedas were her relatives too but Mrs. Ikeda doesn't look at it this way. Mrs. Ikeda feels that her house cannot become settled as long as unwelcomed guests clutter up the place. Actually this is only an excuse because the uncle is the disturbing force which keeps the apartment from settling down. Mrs. Ikeda feels that if Alice and Toshi lives together she would be left in the cold so she secretly hunted for an apartment two weeks ago according to Yuri's story. She gave 'too much company' as the excuse. Actually the various members of the Ikedas and their friends come up to visit and they are not Toshi's friends. Mrs. Ikeda also gives the excuse that Otto and Ted do not have enough time to study because of all of the distracting elements about the house. Dorothy, the other daughter, has been postponing her arrival into the household with the excuse that there is no room until Alice leaves. This creates further antagonism against Alice. Actually the reason for Dorothy not wanting to move in immediately is that she feels that she will be too restricted by her mother's influence. This conflict has been simmering for the past few weeks and it was only revealed to Alice when Mariko told her what Yuri said about her mother's reaction. Alice immediately moved over to Mariko's place and this tension has been removed. Alice is certainly smart in going back to Minneapolis where she won't get involved in the in-law issue.



Toshi still has to work these problems out with Mrs. Ikeda without bringing them into the open. I can't believe that Toshi isn't aware of what is happening. Her status in that house is that of a paying guest and Mrs. Ikeda has practically taken control over everything already. Toshi originally wanted her own mother to come out but Albert insisted in bringing out his mother after he was drafted. Now, Mrs. Ikeda feels that Toshi should move into the smaller room in back and let the Ikedas have the larger room up in front. The back room is very cold and it would not be good for Toshi's baby. It is going to be quite a problem to find space for four Ikedas and two Satows in that apartment which only has two bedrooms. Soon Toshi will have her second child. The situation is aggravated further when uncle grumbles about being forced to sleep on the couch in the living room. Toshi doesn't deserve all this and it would be better if she were with a younger person. However, they may be able to arrive at a satisfactory adjustment because Toshi is easy-going and she is able to adapt herself to almost any condition. I hope that Mariko doesn't stick her nose into this family mess and it is none of her business and it would draw the Kikuchi element into it. Mariko has a knack of worrying about everybody else's problems when she should be devoting her full energy to her own married life. I think Mariko will drop out of this Ikeda-Satow situation after Alice leaves for Minneapolis next Tuesday. Alice has Annie Fujimoto to live with up there since Annie's husband is now in the Army and he only visits on week-ends. It would be a mistake for Alice to move back down to Chicago again even though she may be lonesome for a while.



I guess I won't have to worry too much about the "analysis" now. Frank tells me that there is a chance that the Study personnel will be cut down quite a bit after next year. Morton, Togo, and Tom are to finish up their projects at the end of this year. Dorothy wants to carry the camp work on and Frank mentioned that my work on the case studies is to be a continuing project for the present. However, the study funds are limited and there will be a further reduction in the personnel after next June, I presume. I figure that Frank's work will be essential to pull the threads of the resettlement phase together and my function may be ended after I get enough cases, if Dorothy thinks that 100 are enough. I would like to get much more than that, but I don't suppose there will be the time. If I get drafted after my present deferment is up, the solution to my problem will be taken out of my hands. But it does not look as if I will get taken that soon so I will have to start thinking about something else, I don't know what yet. >

Bette and Emiko have often asked me if I were planning on family resettlement but I have been evasive about it due to the uncertainties of the future. I have more or less committed myself to bringing Tom out. I don't know when or how I will finish up my graduate work as I have been going along on it so slowly. Maybe I will have to postpone it for a while after next summer. I'm really not prepared for anything specific yet, but I suppose I can get some kind of a war job if the war is not over by then. <It's funny how one gets the funniest thoughts at times. Next year is a long ways in the future, but not that long. Put it off until tomorrow is one way of escaping disturbing thoughts, but it doesn't give any answers. > Maybe I should start investigating the possibilities of a civil service job. Wouldn't life be wonderful if one did not have to worry about making a living? Ordinarily I wouldn't worry too much but I have more responsibilities now and I can't very



will dismiss that so lightly.

My draft deferment is up on Nov. 4 and it will be up to the Berkeley office to decide whether there is going to be a request for extension. <That is one aspect of my problem which is out of my hands at least. Dorothy hasn't mentioned anything about it so I may be headed for the infantry soon. Tom is waiting around now and he feels that he will be ~~be~~ left in a terrible hole if he is not called by the end of the year. Frank seems to be "safe" because of his age.> If I am going to be drafted I hope that I will not have to go through a long period of waiting around in uncertainty. There doesn't seem to be much of a chance to escape the Nisei combat team. That is the one disturbing element, and I still object to it on general principles.

One of the questions I ask many Nisei is their plans for the future and they are pretty uniform in being vague about it, except for some idealistic goals. I can sympathize with them because it does seem to be one of those unanswerable answers that nobody can predict. When I realize that this work must draw to an end, as all good things must, I get the feeling of being a condemned man. I must be in a morbid state of mind today although I feel happy and carefree, I think. <I guess the case of the bleeding woman the other night made more of an impression on me than I thought. People in general don't care too much about others and they will calmly read a funny book while life is ebbing away right in the next room. However> I don't consider the future ~~that~~ hopeless as I am healthy enough and I can do manual labor even tho I may seem to have a lazy disposition. Whether that will give me any peace of mind is another question. Maybe I can get a social worker job if I get my MA.



It must be pretty hard for a person with a feeling for humanity to be a "boss" in our society since production is the main criterion in a capitalistic state and the worker does not count for too much unless he can produce the expected output. However, the Nisei and members of other minority groups have an added handicap because efficiency is only one of the minor factors.

Race is the emotional element which is important to too many employers and they hire on this emotional basis, unless there is a great shortage of manpower as at present. I suspect that most Nisei are conscious of this so that is why they are working entirely for money; they don't think that they have a future in their present place of work no matter how hard they work. This leads to the conclusion among practically every

Nisei, without exception, that they will be released from their jobs when the war is over and almost all of them predict a depression for themselves as they believe that they will be among the first released when the manpower shortage is

~~xxxxxxxx~~ softened with the return of the soldiers to peacetime jobs. So many Nisei have mentioned to me that even if the unemployment after the war is not too great, they will be among those out of jobs. Sometimes I think that their fears are not justified as they magnify their plight and look for sympathy--because they were evacuated and "kicked around." It gets to be a sort of neurosis when they think about it too much. Not enough Nisei realize that their horizons have been infinitely broadened since they were

"saved" from the Japanese town ghettos of the pre war days.

If they would look upon the present more as an opportunity than as an interlude, they might get much further. I suppose it does take a lot of self confidence out of a group when they



realize that they have been placed in a category of a second class American citizen. However, I believe that instead of admitting defeat, they should seek all the more harder to reestablish their rightful place in the American society instead of withdrawing into a limited segregated pattern from which they will never have another opportunity to break out. The more optimistic faith in democracy will expand the Nisei personality; the more limited pessimistic and negative solution can only end in bitter frustrations and a sense of not belonging to anything, a loss of all ambitions and goals.

<I was up until 3:30 last night helping Bette with her composition and I got up at 8:00 this morning so maybe I mistake my drowsiness <sup>for mental</sup> ~~to~~ depression.> Emiko stayed in bed today with <sup>a</sup> her cold and all she has been doing is eating. She got up for a little while and started to pack for the nursing school. <Emiko hopes that she will not be a patient in the hospital her first day out there> She is pretty excited about the whole thing. Jack gave her \$25.00 as a present for cooking for him all summer since he did not give her any allowance or other remuneration during this time. Emiko now has more money in the bank than Jack has been able to save after six months of work! She only had \$60 at the beginning of the summer but her work savings, the \$100 I gave her from the family pot, and her Kobe scholarships has brought her savings up to \$400 or more. That should take care of her in nursing school since she will get a government allowance there, unless an emergency develops. I wish that I had more of a guarantee for Bette. Her expenses at the university will be very large and we can only hope that she will get further scholarship assistance. I have a reserve which can be used otherwise, but



we shall attempt to exhaust other possibilities before we start digging into the reserve since it is not too much and there may be other family needs that <sup>have</sup> ~~has~~ to be met. No matter how much I try to shift the load of the family responsibilities to others, I can't stand by and do nothing if a need develops. Part of my vague anxiety to shift this load is due to my own uncertainties about being able to be in a position in the future where I will be able to help much.

When Emiko and Bette finish with their education, they will be in a much better position to help out so that is the important thing right now. A girl can't prolong education too long as they sooner or later start to think of marriage and I would like to have E and B enjoy the benefits of their earning capacity for the family while they are still single. Otherwise, it would not be fair to them.

Mom wrote a letter (appended) and in a few short words she made some comments about Jack's marriage which indicates that she is a little ashamed of the fact that he married a non-Nisei girl. She doesn't say so directly but she never did care for Dolores too much on account of her race. Jack was sore as hell and he said that she was not much of a Christian if she still subscribed to racial bias. Mom is willing enough to accept the marriage for Jack's sake, but she feels that it will be too hard on the children. Jack feels that mom should worry more about Mariko than him.

I suspect that there is a tone of hurt in mom's letter because she learned about Jack's marriage from another source as Jack did not write to her. He told her that he was married before and he did not think it was necessary to notify her when the actual ceremony was performed. The Issei



seem to have such a deep rooted pride in the Japanese blood as if it were superior to any other kind, and mom has not escaped this attitude entirely. <It arises out of the fact that the Japanese immigrants on the coast were driven into themselves because of the economic situation so that they have clung steadfastly to all aspects of their past culture. <sup>She</sup> ~~He~~ is much more broader in this respect than most Issei because of her life outside of a Japanese community and because of her many contacts with caucasians.> Unfortunately, she got a very unfavorable impression of the Filipino as she saw them in their most disorganized state in Vallejo. Emiko and Bette feels that the dislike for Dolores on mom's part is personal and not racial at all. When we were in Tanforan, Jack brought Dolores to our stable once and he locked the door so that the hospital ambulance was delayed in taking mom to the hospital. She did not think that Dolores conducted herself properly because she found out that Dolores was always sneaking over to see Jack as her parents did not know of Jack and Dolores deceived them out of fear of parental disapproval. Bette feels that Dolores brought this upon herself because of her use of such frequent deception, but she does not hold it against Dolores now.

We have all accepted her and I think that Mom will get used to it as it is not an <sup>major</sup> issue at all. I haven't heard Jack's reaction but I suppose he is quite burnt up to have any reflections cast upon his wife and I don't blame him. We will have to put up with his anger for a while. I bet the next subject for discussion will be on the hypocritical nature of Christianity and now Jack will change his tune and tell Bette and Emiko that religion is a creation of man and not to be swallowed by the intelligent person. All because Mom is a



Christian and she did not live up to the doctrines she is supposed to! Mom on the whole is pretty tolerant and I think that she raised the point now because she was hurt that she had to learn the news of Jack's marriage second hand. Since other Issei in her block are so intolerant about race, maybe it is just as well that she didn't go around telling everyone. It is this fear which primarily motivates her reactions as she is afraid that she will be ostracized if it is spread about that her son married a "Filipino girl." (Maybe Jack will see more of my point that it is better if the Nisei are no longer shackled to the conservative roots of a Japanese culture and that they attempt to break all of these ties now even at the sacrifice of some present happiness. He argues with me once in a while on this point just for the sake of argument.

The Nisei are started on the road to greater Americanization now but they have certain prejudices which they have acquired in the past through conditioning from the old folks. It is an unconscious and emotional thing in most cases, but they exist. As long as the Nisei stick to their own group they are going to pass these prejudices along, no matter how educated they are. That is why they seem to recoil from "ETAS" altho I would venture to say that they do not know the background of this group at all. It is the same way with many other conservative and intolerant traits which they have acquired during the years they lived in a Japanese community. These things can well be eliminated and it would be a contribution to the democratic process if done. It becomes much more difficult and exaggerated if the Nisei are in their own group where they become conscious of their own position and magnify this as the only problem of this country. They feel that they have



been wronged personally and they want to take it out on some other group or thing. They can't see the forest for the trees and this shortsightedness will increase as long as they confine their lives to the Nisei society. There is a pressing need for a greater disinterestedness in themselves as an individual and a more objective frame of mind which includes all people in this country, and in the world. If the Nisei can only see their little problem objectively as a mere phase of a greater problem they would not have so much of self pity for themselves as individuals. In order to accomplish this, they have to get out and see what life is like in the general American society and be a definite part of it.

Mom's case reveals how a narrow Japanese community can influence a person. Before the war, she was quite tolerant in her attitudes because she did not have a nosy Jap community imposing narrow thoughts upon her and she did not have to fear ostracism because she did not live with them anyway. Since going to camp, she has become conscious of the Japanese community sentiments more and the older children are not there to educate her because they had to escape that camp life. Consequently, there is some danger that the younger kids might be influenced. <Camp life is not a physical danger so much as a psychological danger to the younger Nisei as their minds are still in the process of being molded. It was this community influence dominated by the Issei which caused Mom to put pressure to attend a Japanese school, if established, and she kept after him until he rebelled fiercely. After that she left him alone. It wasn't the language alone which motivated this pressure but the community sentiment that they must maintain their Japanese traits as something to cling to. > I don't want Tom or Miyako to



continue to have these pressures as the Japanese element of camp gets stronger when the Nisei leave. It would be eliminated if the family were out here. < Mom is till liberal minded in most things but the strong influences of the Japanese camp is bound to force her to conform more. The process started while we were still there. That is why she was so uneasy when E, B, and the rest of us did not act in the orthodox Nisei manner as she was condemned for not bringing her children up in the proper Japanese ways. > Mom, at least, is wise enough to realize that her children's future means more to her than her personal comfort of being among other Japanese and she would be willing ~~to~~ to resettle if she felt that the conditions were favorable enough so that she would not be a burden on anyone.

Although it may be a humanitarian sentiment, it didn't make me feel so good this morning when I read in the paper that the Japanese of Tule Lake voted to send the Japanese soldier prisoners of war in this country a Christmas present. Why shouldn't they do it as they consider themselves closer identified with Japan than America? They plan to go to Japan after the war so they can be for Japan in the war if they want to. It doesn't matter if the Japanese soldiers do not even know what Xmas is as they are not of the Christian faith.

But I feel uneasy about the whole thing as Tule Lake stands out as the great inconsistency of democracy. The people there were forcibly rejected from democracy and they felt that they had no other choice. The good of democracy was outweighed by the weakness in their opinion and they chose to cast their lot with the Japanese way of life because of remote blood connections. In doing so, many young Nisei children were dragged along. That is the tragic part. I still don't think



want this penniless group of old Japanese people and young Nisei because they would not be of much economic value to that country and Japan is very materialistic. The Tule Lake people have been fooled into a distorted pattern of thinking because of the rejection of democracy. Those in the other camps must have some spark of hope left that democratic action will not completely desert them so that is why they did not choose to repatriate. I doubt if they think of it in these ~~xxxxxxx~~ idealistic terms as they made decisions on a practical basis, but the truth of it does exist. Even if they felt that it was the choice of the lesser evils, there does remain the vague hope that there might be a place for them in America after the war. The Tule Lake people gave up this hope when they chose to repatriate, and I only have sympathy for the young Nisei there who are being quickly Japanized because of the definite attitude and hope that Japan will win the war throughout the community. In the other camps, at least there is a little area of doubt, but the longer the people stay in camp the more the tendency will be to go in the direction of Japanization.

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The Allies have started another vast assault on the West Wall of Germany in order to finish off the war by the end of this year. There is a chance that it might go well into next year. Time Mag predicts that Russia will declare war on Japan as soon as the European war is finished. It appears that the Germans are pretty well entrenched and it will cost many more thousands of lives will have to be lost before victory comes. The general ~~attitude~~ attitude of Chicago is that the war is practically over and they are more interested in the coming World's series than the war. A lot of Nisei feel that



believe that they will not be drafted now so that this issue does not bother them so much as it did last spring. There are still many of them who use the excuse that they are waiting to get inducted so that they don't have to settle down and realistically work on their individual adjustments.

I certainly am waxing philosophical today! It must be an attempt to eliminate certain dissatisfactions about things in general which does not come out into the open except in my reflective moments.

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Bette is still having trouble getting registered for her Social Science course. They still want her to take the last third of Soc. Sci. I which means that she will be thrown one quarter off and she would not be able to graduate with the AB degree in two years ~~xxxxxxx~~ unless she went to a summer quarter to get the one course out of the way. I don't think it is necessary for her to take the course as Soc Sci II is more sociology and economic theory instead of history which she is supposedly weak upon. She is going to find out definitely what she should do tomorrow and losing time in her classes in the meanwhile. I have advised her to stick out for Soc Sci II without the preliminary course, but they will probably talk her out of it. The Chicago plan is supposedly set up so that a student can go at his own speed, but I am finding out that it is pretty rigidly designed if a student is foolish enough to <sup>interpret</sup> ~~take~~ it literally.



This evening I went over to finish my interview with Katsuko. She is either very naive or honest. I could have asked her almost any question and she would have told me the answers if she knew. She was telling me about how her boy friend was killed and the effect that it has on her. She said that this was the reason why she has hibernated for the past four months. Now she is looking around for another fellow to go steady with. She does not think she will get married until she is 22 unless she gets tired of working. Katsuko has been a rather disorganized person. Chiyo has been quite an influence on her. Katsuko reflects a lot of the same ideas only she does not understand things as clearly as Chiyo. She mentioned in one breath that she did not believe in Nisei groups and then turned around and wished that the Nisei USO would hurry up and start as she would take part in it. I asked her what the difference was between a civilian and an Army Nisei group and she said that "they are in uniform." This led me to conclude that the reason why many Nisei groups have not sprung up is this fear of public opinion.

Katsuko only has about two close friends and her work keeps her well tied down as it is on a night shift. She went back to her job as she did not wish to start making friends at work all over again in another place. For this same reason she would prefer to stay on the night shift rather than change to the day shift. She mentioned that one of the reasons why she quit was because some of the caucasian girls disliked Chiyo and her sister and they made nasty remarks about them. She believed that it was more personal rather than racial even though the particular girls in question were quite prejudiced against the Jews and the Negroes. One girl was very



incensed because the company was thinking of hiring some Negro girls in the plants. The girl thought that the Negroes smelled and a separate restroom would have to be built for them. Katsuko's Jewish girlfriend turned around and remarked that the girl was very prejudiced and from the South. She had about (N.V.) the same opinion/until she got to know Katsuko. Now she wants to go to Chinatown with her to eat. Katsuko said that she never knew that there was so much racial prejudice until she came out here. In California she did not experience any of it as she was still in high school. She thinks that the Illinois people are more prejudiced than Californians but it was no use to go back to California now as it would be too hard to make a living. She feels that the Nisei might be accepted here more if they keep separated as they are without getting into too large a group. Katsuko would only like a small Nisei group for herself. Many of her ideas are immature and hearsay so that she shifts from one thing to another if pressed. The only thing she is quite certain about is that she is an American. But she feels that if Japan is crushed, the Nisei will be looked down upon because "the caucasians look on us as Japanese no matter what we do." That is why she feels that more caucasian contacts should be made. She has done this to some degree at work as she has more caucasian friends than Nisei out here, but she is still ~~is~~ disorganized over other things in her personal life. She seems to have such a nice personality even tho she is quiet. It is too bad that she has withdrawn into herself. She is disappointed with ~~with~~ resettlement because she is not having the fun she expected, "even if it is wartime and people shouldn't be having too good a time." I like her honesty in saying things as she does try to give a false impression of herself like many Nisei.



Oct 2, 1944

6092

The following is a translation of a letter written in romaji:

Sept. 28, 1944

Dear Emiko:

The picture frame which you sent was broken. It's too bad that it happened but Emiko was not very careful about wrapping it up.

I went to the Post Office immediately after opening the package and showed it to them and they told me that if there is any refund to be made, it would be paid back to Emiko. However, you will not have to send me another as if it is breakable articles I can have someone get it for me in Phoenix. Anyway I want to thank you for sending me something.

Tom bought a bike for \$46 and every day he takes it part and puts it together and that keeps him busy. He and his friends enjoy riding around on it, however, I don't see Tom ride on it too off. Ha, ha. I was very happy to received \$10 from Betty.

Mama is now working every day at the next nursery. It is only two blocks away. Mrs. Watanabe is leaving for Chicago so mama is taking her place. Dr. Iki told me that I could work if the work is not too hard. I don't know when I am to undergo my operation.

I received a letter from Jack but at present I have nothing special to write to him. I am very happy about Mariko's marriage and have told all my friends, however, ~~xx~~ I cannot tell them about Jack's marriage. Mrs. Sato heard the news from Toshi and she found out about it before me, however, she did not know any details about it. *no info later*

Tell Jack that no matter how much mama does not like the girl, if Jack loves her, it is all right with me. J

Mrs. Tuttle had an operation because she had sendesidous and she's still in the hospital. Nothing more to say so goodbye.

Love,

Mama

P.S. Tell Charles about Mrs. Tuttle. I will write to you later.



Emiko is still packing her things in preparation for leaving tomorrow. She has three huge suitcases filled already and I have consented to help her carry them so that I will have to do some hard manual labor tomorrow. She is being a dictator too as we have to please her in everything she does since this is her last evening here. Bette is out of the way as she has been studying for the past five hours. We have been trying to figure out how we are going to get those huge bags there tomorrow. Alice is going to come over tomorrow and stay over till Friday. She is returning to Minneapolis for sure next week.

Mariko did not get the suits finished (Sept. 17 deadline) so that Emiko is rather disappointed about that since she had counted on wearing it out there. She went over there this afternoon after finishing work to see if it could be completed, but she was not successful. Emiko said that Mariko and George had another argument this evening, all Mariko's fault. George worked very laboriously making a headstand on the bed, but Mariko blew up when she saw it. "She acted just like a spoiled child. I won't sleep in the bed if you don't take it off," Mariko said. She says, "Emiko is old enough so I can say this: how do you expect us to have our married life in bed if you have that old board there. I won't ~~xxx~~ sleep in that bed." Then she kicks the bed and starts to boil all over. What a spoiled thing. George got mad and he said that she had to sleep there. They were still arguing about it when I left. They sure have dumb arguments tho. #

I went over to interview Kiyoshi ch-53 this evening. I only ate did the preliminary work as he/late. He is going back to work at International Harvestors tomorrow morning, 7:00 to 3:00 shift. He and his wife have been hunting all over for an apartment during the past week, but they haven't had any success. "They all give



us the run around. They just say 'sorry, but it is taken.' We must have gone to at least 25 places. We got some leads from the WRA but they were the lousy places. I'm willing to pay \$40 or more for a place. We pay \$7 each for a room here and it is screened off so that people walkthrough to get to the back. We are so darned discouraged about it that we may stay on here as we won't have time to look for a place after we go back to work. They kicked us out of the last place where my wife was working doing domestic work. In Cincinnati we had a good set up because we lived in a Japanese boarding house and the expense for room and board for the two of us was only \$11 a week.

"I heard that Earl Yusa is running a rooming house which he least so I might inquire about that place. I would like to get into a coop like Concord house, but I guess they have too many Nisei there already. This housing problem is really tough. You can just tell that they don't want us but they tell us in a polite way. I got so mad in one place I looked that I tore the vacancy sign down after they said that the place had just been rented out. No wonder the Nisei are starting to live together; it's too hard to get a place when housing is scarce and the landlords don't want us too much anyway. One place said that they did not mind taking us but the other tenants would complain and move out and the value of the property would drop. As if we would be the cause of anything like that! It's going to be even tougher if I finally get called by the Army as my wife will be left all alone. Maybe we should get a flat and furnish it up as it would give us more of the feeling of settled down. All we have been doing since we got married last January is move from one place to another."

After dinner, I started the formal interview but I only



a little of the background data as Kiyoshi wanted to go to bed early as he has to start work once more tomorrow. Kiyoshi is one of those mildmannered fellows, polite and correct, but a good guy. He seems to be rather intelligent. He graduated from S.F. JC and he was not able to get a job afterwards so that he slaved on Grant Ave in one of the Japanese Art stores for two years at \$55 a month. He finally got disgusted with this so he went to work as a farm laborer at \$60 a month. At the time the war broke out he was working in a stencil company (caucasian) for a salary of \$100 a month. He did this work until the evacuation. Kiyoshi will tell me all about his experiences of working for a Japanese employer at a later interview. He feels that the evacuation lifted his occupational horizons and it gave him a chance to break away from the hold of the Japanese community. He has had quite a bit of background in the Japanese cultural training and he seemed to have consistently rebelled against it because his father continually stressed the point that he would have to go to Japan to have a chance economically. Kiyoshi mentioned that he would probably have had to have an arranged marriage if he had remained in San Francisco. He went to the language school for ten years. Kiyoshi was one of the church and YMCA boys in SF and he did not run wild like his brothers. Tad is in the Army while Al is running around with a bunch in Detroit and doing defense work. Kiyoshi has been doing a number of different kinds of work since resettlement but he has not found anything that he likes up to now and his only object at the present time is to make as much money as possible to leave with his wife when he gets called into service.

Davy has been staying home recently. He just received his saxophone from camp so that he practices each evening. That



Japanese rooming house has a number of interesting people in it and I made a couple of more contacts this evening which I may follow up. It has a floating and transient population so that the people move out fairly frequently. Those on the second floor seem to be staying there more permanently. The main topic of conversation appear to be the usual topics of jobs, wages, dates, housing problems, Army, etc.

I met Mrs. Watanabe and her husband. They are an older Nisei couple and they seem to have taken over most of the responsibility of seeing that each person cooperates in keeping the place up. Mrs. Watanabe is from Granada. She lived in Los Angeles before the war where she was some kind of an interior decorator. Her husband was a produce man. Now Mrs. Watanabe is doing some kind of art work. This weekend she is going down to Iowa to interview for an art teaching job at Grinnell College. Her husband is working for the National Tea company, but he said that he would follow his wife down. He seems to be much quieter than his wife. Mrs. Watanabe has a limp, probably from infantile paralysis. She is quite willing to be interviewed. I have been over there a number of times, but none of the Nisei of the house took any trouble to introduce me so I had to do it myself. The Nisei do not have good social manners in introducing company and they don't do it very well from my observations. It would be interesting if I could interview a good sample of people in that house as it is a good cross representation of the average Nisei, if there is any such measurement as this. I'll try to get at least a couple of more Nisei there to make case studies on, but I don't think the single fellows upstairs will be too willing as they have had some unpleasant experiences with FBI investigators and they don't like to be questioned. The second floor people are very



acceptable to me. Three of the girls work at the Stevens hotel at night so that I don't see them very often. I know ten of the people on the second floor now, but I haven't seen the others as new people move in and out. These ten seem to be fairly steady roomers there although Kiyoshi and his wife are trying to find a place of their own and Sunny wants to go in with them. The other two girls haven't had time to do much house hunting. They figure that if they go in together in an apartment it will be much cheaper than the \$7.00 each they are paying. The girls pay \$2.00 ~~more~~ a week as they have a little more privacy. All of the six or eight beds in the living room are vacant now as there is no privacy at all in them.

Mrs. Watanabe ~~has~~ been trying very hard to find her apartment but she said that it was almost impossible. They would like to stay on the south side. She mentioned that she knew some Issei families who have resettled out here and that may be a good lead for ~~me~~ in making new contacts if any of them can speak English well. I have to be much more cautious when interviewing Issei. I find now that it doesn't disturb me at all if any of the people I interview have bitter or greatly different and conservative viewpoints. It takes all kinds to make up the resettlement population and I can't go around trying to "reform" every one of them to my way of thinking ~~just~~ after the interviews are finished as they are not willing to act upon it anyway. I am greatly surprised at the prestige I seem to enjoy falsely among these Nisei just because I am connected with the University of California. >



Emiko entered nursing school today. I didn't go to the office during the day as I helped her get some of her things out to the school. Emiko was rushing around doing some last minute packing and then she sat around to do some finger nail gnawing while impatiently waiting for Alice to come over with her new suit. She had planned to leave by two, but Alice did not get here until 2:30 and they had to work for a half hour on some last minute sewing. ~~Alice~~ Alice said that she and Mariko stayed up until 2:00am last night working on it and they had worked on it all morning. It was a very good piece of suit making and it came out well. Mariko deserves a lot of credit for the fine work, but she certainly took a long time. Alice said that she had to spur her on because Mariko got distracted to other things so easily. Jack was not able to sleep too much because of all the noise. He kept telling Emiko to wear one of her other suits, but she just had to have a new one. These women!

Emiko's bags were so heavy that we took a taxi and <sup>with</sup> we got to the hospital just in time. Emiko was the last one of the 30 new students to report and she had to go to some orientation meeting immediately. She was so excited about going that her stomach was giving her nervous indigestion, she said. Alice and I took her bags up to her room. It is a very pleasant room, but small. <sup>Ann 6/17</sup> I don't know where Emiko is going to put her clothes. There are only 10 girls in her building so that she should get along nicely. At first she may get discouraged but I think that she will adjust herself fairly easily. The other student nurses were very friendly and they showed Alice and I around a little. There is one other Nisei girl in the entering class, and two others who entered



last year. They call the new students "probies" and they are addressed by their last names. The Mt. Sinai Hospital seems to be quite modern and it has a reputation of being among the better hospitals in the city. In a short time, Emiko should know all the ropes there. She phoned this evening to tell Bette what excitement it was. She is having her first class tomorrow.

I think that Emiko will enjoy this experience and she will have an easy time getting along with everybody as she has a lot of personality. She will learn some discipline and she won't be able to putter around all night so that should be good for her. All of the students get discouraged at times. She told Bette that she might get this weekend off. Most of the first nine months is spent in classroom work and one of the girls told me that they had to study pretty hard, but there was also plenty of time for other activities.

It will take Bette a little while to handle all of the housekeeping duties by herself, but she has been doing most of it for the past two weeks so she should not have any difficulties. Alice will be around for a couple of days to help out. Bette has been cooking Jack's dinner the night before so that she will not have to come home early from school to cook. She has a lot of reference reading to do and she has been busy with her studies the past few nights. We thought that the apartment would be empty when Emiko took her clothes out, but it doesn't seem to have made much difference. She still has a tremendous amount of belongings around and if she takes everything to the nursing school, she will have a terrific moving problem by the time she graduates. It only takes an hour to get out to Mt. Sinai so that Emiko isn't too far away. She is out on the west side and the stockyard smell may bother her when the winds blow!



I am glad for Emiko that she is finally getting started out. It's another milestone in her life. It doesn't seem that it is two and a half years since we were first evacuated. The chances are that Emiko might have been in domestic work if we had not been evacuated, altho she might have gone on and finished college. She was very uncertain as to what she wanted to do and there did not seem to be many possibilities open. Now she is sure in her mind and I have tried to encourage her as much as possible during the past two years as I know that she can be a success at whatever she gets her teeth into. I certainly am glad that she is not going in a dead end direction. Although Mt. Sinai is a Jewish Hospital, I don't think all of the students are Jewish. It should be a very broadening experience for Emiko to get into this group and I hope that she will like nursing.

I would be greatly relieved if Bette were all fixed up likewise. I'm pretty sure that I will be able to get her through next year in college, but after that is still a question mark. She will try to get into a nursing school too. There is really no hurry about it as I want her to enjoy the full campus life as much as possible. If I get drafted, it will be another problem but I am not going to worry about that until I find out what my status will be next month. I don't want her to live with Mariko as the latter is having too many marital adjustment problems to solve in the coming year and it would not be so good for Bette to be plunged into anything like that.

Bette was all excited today because somebody took the American flag down and put up the Communist flag on the campus. She didn't think that this should have been done, but she was very disgusted when some girl phoned the Chicago Tribune about it and it was announced ~~xxx~~ over the radio. She thought



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that it would give her college a bad name and the newspapers would accuse it of being a bunch of subversive and radical elements. At the same time, she figured that people would become more prejudiced against Russia who is our ally in the war. She wanted to know if she should have been angrier over the American flag being displaced or then the fact that a student phoned the story in to the Tribune.

This evening I went to interview Kiyoshi again. It will take a little time to finish him as I can only get him for about two hours at a time. He has to get up at six in the morning to go to work so that he can't stay up late. There has been some changes in the rooming house over there. Some of the fellows upstairs have moved out and Sunny is moving to the north side tomorrow. I don't know what Davy will do without her. He got his saxophone from camp so that he practices every night. He has not gone out much as he is anxious to pay up all of his debts. He will get a \$50 check tomorrow and he said that he was going to use all of it to repay the loans he had made. Davy said that he likes his work very much and it is now his ambition to become a foreman "if they don't say that only a white man can have that job."

Kiyoshi talks very deliberately and slowly so that our progress has not been too rapid, but I am satisfied enough. He gave me a long account of his pre war work history for Japanese employers and it certainly was a frustrating experience. He said that he would never work for a Japanese again if he could help it. Kiyoshi got his first rude awakening when he graduated from SF JC with a B plus average in the business courses. The Teacher promised all of the students jobs but when it came to his turn, he was given the cold shoulder. He was very dissatisfied



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by this but he still continued to try to get in American business firms. After being turned down a number of times, he finally took a job in Grant Ave. in one of the Japanese Art Good stores for \$50 a month. He was willing to work hard as he thought that there might be a future in it. But he was disillusioned with this sweatshop work after getting only a \$5 raise in two years. The employers attitude was that the Nisei should be grateful that they had a job and they should not grumble if they had to work 15 hours a day for six days a week because it was their duty to help the company out when it was busy.

Kiyoshi finally decided to get out of this work before he got into a rut so he quit and he went to work for the summer of 1941 up in the country. After he came down, he tried to get into Bethlehem steel company but he was not successful. He finally did manage to get a job with a stencil company, but the embargo of Japanese goods cut the work down and the war finished his changes. Kiyoshi had decided by this time that he was going to start a business of his own, but the evacuation prevented any ideas of this sort. He still is trying to find out what he is going to do for his lifework as he does not care to be a laborer all of his life.

Kiyoshi entered the Y work before the war and this was some compensation for his economic frustrations. His brother, Tad, had a different sort of reaction. Tad ran away from home a number of times as he could not get along with the old man. He went to the country to work and in the off seasons he loafed around with a gang in S.F. He took up all of the usual vices and all of the respectable citizens condemned him. He finally decided to volunteer into the Army before Pearl Harbor as there was no decent work for him. His father was furious at this action, but



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he became very proud when the other I ssei praised him for having a son in the Army. Tad is now at the language school in Snelling.

Kiyoshi is not too anxious to go into the Army altho he does not have any strenuous objection to going wwhen he is called. The thing that worrys him themost is what he is going to do with his wife. He does not want to leave her stranded out here alone. He also feels that he cannot plan for the future at all as long as the war is on as he does not know when his induction will come. He heard a rumor today that the Army plans to take all of the Nisei into the Army after Germany is deafxeated and that they will be trained as occupation troops to go to Japan for five years. He said that one of his friends got into OCS under this arrangement. Kiyoshi does not want to go into the Army for five years after the war was over and he was a little disturbed about that as he thought the rumors was true. Altho there is no question in his mind that he is an American, he does have some conservative trends of thinking once in a while.



Charles Kikuchi  
Insert:

Diary

Oct. 4, 1944

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Miyako letter.

Gila  
Sept. 30, 1944

Dear Charles,

Thank you very much for the gum you sent me. I enjoyed opening it because I was fooled so many times. I smelt gum so I ran hom with the package and opened it. I saw the Betty cracher soap box and I was fooled again. I opened it to see what kind of wrapping was on the inside and theré right in front of my eyes there was 105 sticks of gum staring right in my face.

Mama is working at the Kintergarden as amaidden? She works from 8:15 to 11:00 and from 12:30 to 3:00. She like it very much I think. Well it's 2:30 o'clock so I'd better close now so good by.

Love, Miyako.

Ps. Thanks a thousand times again for the GUM. Everybody calls me little Kikuchi because they know you, Bette and Emiko, even the teacher.



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Got up early this morning, but the day was uneventful as I just typed most of the day. My class in social investigation has not been very interesting so far and I almost fell asleep. I decided to come home early since I had an interview for the evening. On the way, I stopped at the Japanese store on 43rd street to buy some rice since it only costs about half the price in other stores. The Nisei fellow was so excited by the world series game that I had to wait for quite a while before I was served upon. The store passes out cards for one of the Japanese boarding houses on Michigan Avenue and the fellow wanted to know if I could send somebody down there. I asked him if he thought it was a good thing for all of the Nisei to live together like that. His answer: "Sooner or later all of the Nihonjin are going to live together and that is the best thing because the caucasians won't let us spread out. It seems that the Japanese are spreading out right now, but when all the soldiers come back they will have to give up their apartments to them. It won't be too safe for them to be scattered out anyway as a lot of the soldiers will be very bitter and they might attack a lot of the Japanese. It will be safer for them to live in a Nihonmachi."

I asked him where he thought that this Japanese town would be located and he said that he had it figured out that it would be centered around 43rd Street and that was the reason why the store was located there. He has quite a bit of business from Nisei who come from all over Chicago to buy Japanese foods. His theory was that it made the Nisei less lonesome if they had Japanese foods and therefore he was performing a great public service. It is only a little store and there are flies all over the food; positively unsanitary I thought.



Emiko phoned up again to let us know how much she is enjoying the nursing school. She is going to get this weekend off so that she will be home for her first visit. Bette did not do much studying this evening as she said that she had concentrated upon it this afternoon. She and Alice went to a show. I went over to interview Kiyoshi but he had a cold so that we decided to postpone it until tomorrow. I made arrangements to interview his wife in the afternoon. Davy was waving his check around. He cleared \$48.95 this week after all the deductions as he was able to put a lot of overtime in. He thinks that he will try to get a job there as a foreman now. Alice mentioned that George had quit his job now and he is looking around for a position with more future.

I studied for a little while this evening but I did not feel much like concentrating because my cold is catching up to me. I hope that I will not have to go to bed with it as I have several interviews scheduled and I don't want to postpone them. Guess I will go to bed early. The place seems a little deserted without Emiko bustling around and nagging once in a while. She has to be in bed at 10:30 every night.



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I stayed in bed all morning in order to try to shake off my cold. About noon I got up and I went over to start my interview with Violet Kimoto, ch-54. She has been married to Kiyoshi for about nine months now. They have been very unsettled since then because they have not been able to make housing or job adjustments. That is the main reason why they have moved around so much. Violet is very worried about what they will do now that Kiyoshi is on reserve. She wants to move to Denver where she has a married sister as she does not care to be left stranded out here. But she has heard rumors that jobs for Nisei are not so well paid out there so that they have not made up their minds.

Violet is 22 and she is very attractive, with a nice personality. She seems to have some tendencies of conservatism, but on the whole she is very Americanized. It is remarkable that she is this way in view of her background. Violet was reared in a very Japanese community (Turlock) and her folks followed a great many of the Japanese cultural ways. Her two older sisters were married off by the baishakunin system as her mother wanted them to have security. One of the marriages was annuled when the oldest daughter ran away from the husband of this arranged marriage and she later eloped with a Nisei of her own choice. The other sister was married off to a Kibeiish fellow and they are now in Tule lake expecting to be repatriated to Japan where they feel that they will have more of a chance.

Violet was able to escape much of this cultural clash when she went off to Junior college. By that time the family was not living such a hand to mouth existence so that her mother was not so insistent upon marrying her off for security. It was during her college days that Violet realized that she had no ties with Japan and that she did not like any of the Japanese ways which had been imposed upon her from her childhood.



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The evacuation gave her the opportunity to break completely from the parents dominance. She resettled to Antioch college where she was the dietician. It was there that she ran into Kiyoshi and they were married. Since then they have been moving around a great deal. Violet kept saying that her life story was most uninteresting and she did not realize that it was a very good example of the cultural clashes which went on in many pre war Japanese families. I was only able to get about half finished with her today as she had to prepare dinner. She is a very good cook as I found out. We had chicken with all of the trimmings. The people in that floor eat very well. Davy says that they buy from a store around the corner which does not charge points and it must be true as they have been eating steaks quite a bit. People who think that the Nisei have a low standard of living should see what kind of meals most of them eat. They seem to spend quite a bit on food.

Kiyoshi came home from work about 5:30 and he was very upset. He immediately began to tell us about his experience at the International Harvester plant. He quit his job there after working only three days because of an argument with the foreman. He was pretty angry about the whole thing and I listened to him for about a half hour before dinner. Kiyoshi does not know what he is going to do next and he wondered if he should not have taken it in order to keep his job. "I have been working on a 7:30 to 3:30 shift at the plant, but today the foreman wanted me to work until 4:00/ All of the other workers get paid for the time they take out for lunch as they are on a three shift schedule. My division only has two shifts so that the boss said that the company would not pay me for the time I took out for lunch. None of the other workers were asked to put in the half hour extra. I told him that I would do it if he gave me



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overtime, but he said that I should be grateful that I would get straight time. I told him that I was not going to put in  $8\frac{1}{2}$  hours of work in and only get 8 hours of credit for it. He got sore at that and he said that I should not be too independent because the company has given 'your people' a lot of chances and I should not do anything to harm the impression which has been created. I asked him what he meant by that as I explained that I was an American just like him. Then he says, 'Oh no, you are Japanese.' That burnt me up and I told him off. He said that if I did not like to put in the extra half hour, I knew what I could do. I told him that I quit because I was not willing to be put on the losing end and I didn't like the way he tried to throw a scare into me just because I was a Nisei. The foreman said that he would put on my termination card that I was insolent and he said I would not get any release from the job and that I would be blacklisted. It sure got me sore when he tried to make me feel that I should be thankful for the job just because I was a Nisei.

"First time I ever quit a job like that and maybe I made a mistake as that foreman will have it in for the other Nisei. But I think that we have to stick up for our rights just like any working man. If the Nisei workers start to cut throat the other workers and do extra time without asking for the overtime, they will get a bad reputation among the workers and they will be accused ~~kn~~ of lowering the working standards. The foreman thought he could take advantage of me because he figured that I would not put up a fuss.

"The whole thing worries me a lot and I've been thinking of it all the way home trying to figure out if I did the right thing. Ever since the evacuation I have been getting more



more independent. I would have been scared to stand up to a Japanese boss like that before the war, but now I just don't care and I won't let anybody step all over me. It take a lot to get me all worked ~~xxx~~ up to the point where I will lose my head and I think that I was in the right today. I'm certainly not going to be a 'yes man' to something which I think is wrong. Maybe I am one of those spoiled Nisei for quitting my job like that, but they can't make me work without giving me overtime like the rest of the workers just because I am a Nisei. I don't think it was exactly a racial thing, but the foreman figured that I would be submissive and he tried to pull something over on me.

"You know, the caucasian guys in my department make \$3.00 a day more than I do. Before I was called for induction, I was making a lot more doing piece work on the night shift. I wanted to get on a day shift when I was placed on the Reserve and they told me that I could make just as much. I found out a lot different and I was only getting .85cents an hour and I just can't make more than that the way things were.

"That foreman sure had a nerve when he tried to frighten me by saying that I was doing something which was bad for 'my race.' Where does he get that stuff? I think that I can get another job but it will have to be in a non essential place. I'll try to get a job in some kind of a grocery store like National Tea. I figure that maybe this is the best way as the defense jobs will not last forever. The only thing is that our expense are very heavy right now and we need the money so that maybe I did wrong by losing my temper. I think I was justified though.

"On the way home, I wondered if I were getting like a lot of the Nisei who just imagined that they are wrong. I know



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that I had a 'chip on my shoulders' today. But we are in a very tough position. If we act submissive, the bosses will take advantage of us and expect us to work for the lowest pay and feel that we should be glad to have it. But if we stand up for our rights, they get the impression that we are spoiled and stepping out of our position by making demands. Either way we get blamed. Right now the Nisei workers can afford to stand up for their rights, but I wonder how it is going to be after the war. There is bound to be a lot of cancellations in war contracts and many of the company will have to release workers. The bosses say that they take us as individuals right now, but my foreman certainly didn't do that today when he considered me as a Japanese worker. I know that I will be able to get another job, but I wonder if things will be so easy when jobs are more scarce. Then we might have to take a lot of guff because we will be afraid that we will not be able to get other jobs.

"The way I figure things is that the Nisei are not in a very secure position right now. Most of us are doing unskilled jobs even if we are making darn good wages. We won't have any Japanese community to absorb all of the unemployed so that we will be in a tough spot. Most of the Nisei workers want to be integrated into their jobs as individual workers but we are continually being shoved into a corner and the bosses don't really accept us as individuals, but they think of us as 'Japanese workers.' It is going to be very tough if this idea persists after the war.

"I know that a lot of it is the fault of the Nisei. There are many at International who still don't believe in democracy and they have sentiments ~~for~~ for Japan because they still have no faith in this country. But the funny part of it is that



they still ~~imixx~~ insist upon democratic rights without believing in it. There is a Kibei at the plant and he is very scornful of democracy. He got my goat so I told him off. He keeps sneering at democracy and he uses the evacuation to prove all of his points. Yet when his landlord tried to kick him out of his apartment he got so sore that he went to court and sued him because he said that they couldn't take his rights away like that. He just showed that he wants democratic rights at the same time he sneers at them. I don't know if this is the fault of evacuation or not. I still have a lot of faith in democracy and I am not crying that I lost my job on account of racial discrimination, but I bet anything that the foreman will always have it in his mind that the Japanese workers are not trustworthy or something like that just because I had a blowoff with him.

"I don't think that Chicago is a good place to resettle in. Since I have come here, they make us feel Japanese. It is the fault of the WRA for not taking more of an interest in the social adjustments and they do not do enough to help us get community acceptance. Even in the churches down where they tell the Japanese to go ahead and take a little corner by themselves. I don't like things like that. In the job placement, the WRA sends all of the Nisei to places where they know that a lot of other Nisei are employed. I don't think that is so good, but what can we do when we don't know much about jobs when we first come here?

"I believe that the Nisei should spread out, but I don't see how it can be done. If the Nisei start to go to places like the Aragon, the caucasians don't like it and they put a restriction on. The Nisei like to dance so that is why they are sponsoring the Nisei American Dance on October 22. Bob



Kinoshita is going to be the featured singer at that dance. There are three Nisei dances in all coming out this month. They come around to the plant and pass out announcements about it and naturally a lot of guys are going to go because they want fun. I just seem to be going along with the steam and I can't help it. I don't like to see segregation develop because I know how bad it will be in getting jobs if we have to depend upon a Japanese community. They will get all of the prejudiced ideas against us as on the Coast if we get together in one group out here.

"I've been thinking that the Nisei have put too much emphasis on socials but they are only normal and they do the things that other Americans do. But they are condemned for that. How can they be expected to ponder about the future when most Americans don't do that? They work ~~xx~~ hard and they are going to look for fun in their own circles if the caucasian places are refused to them. Pretty soon they will be stuck in a Nisei society and then they never will be able to get out of it. But I don't see how we are going to avoid it. The Nisei are too bitter about the past and they interpret everything as discrimination even if it isn't so that they are encouraged more to go into segregation. But nobody tells them how they can become integrated.

"When I was in Cincinnati, I thought that the Nisei were becoming much more integrated because nobody kept reminding them of the Nisei problem and the caucasians were much more friendly. They were invited to all sorts of churches and the WRA there did a lot more to get good public relations. There were only 500 Nisei resettled there and I hardly ever saw any. It was much better because we didn't get all together to complain



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about our troubles and blame it on discrimination. We were more willing to go out and face things because we didn't hear all of the exaggerated rumors that the Nisei here pass around and make them more afraid to go out on their own.

"Sometimes I don't know what to think and I get bewildered and confused. I can see the Nisei plight but I don't know exactly what can be done about it. I'm down in the dumps today and I don't know what is going to happen in the post war days. I think that I am going through a little of the mental torment right now that hundreds and hundreds of Nisei will be going through after the war when they lose their jobs. It may be even sooner than that as many of the defense plants will start to cut down when Germany is defeated and there won't be so many other jobs available. What could a Nisei do right now to work for the future? It seems that these things are not going to be left up to his decision. I tried my best to become integrated and I was very friendly with all of the caucasian workers at the plant, but it doesn't seem to do too much good. We are only human and when things start to get too tough, we naturally are going to stick to ourselves all the more because nobody else will help us.

"I'm kind of sorry that I will not be working at International's anymore as I liked the place and the work was not too hard. The other workers were good guys and I was almost convinced that it this plant was going to be one of the solutions to the Nisei problem as we seemed to be accepted as individuals, but I found out different today. The Negro workers seem to be getting a good break there though. Down in Cincinnati, the Negroes had to have their own shower rooms and toilets and they were not allowed to go into certain sections of the plant as the white workers



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would have walked out. At International, the white workers seemed to accept the Negro workers as equals and they did not have any pronounced feelings against the Nisei workers as far as I could see. The workers side of it seemed to be working out, but I did not figure that the bosses did not change their attitudes towards us very much and that they were not thinking of us as individuals at all. I'm afraid that this is going to be the way it will be in a lot of plants. I'm almost convinced that my only salvation is to try and get my own business someday as that is about the only solution as far as I can see."

After this release of his feelings, we ate dinner and afterwards I continued on with the formal interview. We still have quite a bit to cover. Kiyoshi is a very level headed fellow and quite intelligent so that he tries to figure things out in terms of the future but he can't see any final answers. He feels that the Nisei will have to organize into a body and try to work out their problems as a group.

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I am afraid that I lost an interview prospect this evening. During dinner I was discussing politics with Davy and urging him to go down and vote. He said that he was going to vote socialist, but he wondered if he should vote Democratic. I told him that it was up to him although I did not think that it was such a good idea to vote for Dewey. Mr. Watanabe who had been listening in got all excited and he wanted to know what was wrong with Dewey. I said that it was a matter of opinion, but I personally did not feel that Dewey was of presidential caliber. Mr. Watanabe exploded, "You mean you would vote for that Jew, Roosevelt? He caused the war and the depression. It will be much better if Dewey got in. Roosevelt was the one who decided that we should be evacuated. No Nisei should vote for him."



I'm afraid that I got a little excited and I didn't care to pacify him just for the sake of an interview so I told him that Roosevelt was not Jewish and besides it still would not make any difference if he were. I said that it was a very prejudiced point of view to hold and that voting meant more than giving vent to emotional dislikes. Mr. Watanabe did not like that so much and he said that no Nisei should vote democratic because they caused the evacuation, etc. etc. I told him that this election had a greater significance than trying to fix the blame for evacuation as the peace to be drawn up had to be done in a very democratic manner, if possible, and that there were many post war problems to be solved in this country and I felt that the democrats could do a better job of it than the Republicans, but I did not care how he voted. I then asked him if he were registered and he said that he did not find time to go register so that it was too late. That is the trouble with too many people. They make a kick about the existing order of things but they are not willing to do anything about it. I don't care if the Nisei vote Republican or Democratic but I wish that they would not be so damn foolish to think that they are going to fix the blame for evacuation by voting for Dewey. Most of them are not registered anyway because they do not feel that it is important enough. Jack mentioned that most of the Nisei at his plant are against Roosevelt because they are so bitter about evacuation, but none of them as far as he knew were registered voters.



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I had intended to get up early to go to the office, but my cold bothered me so that I decided that I had better stay in bed. I took notes for 10 straight hours yesterday and it was very hard on my back as I did not have a table to write upon. I felt all stiff this morning.

I got up about noon and this afternoon I spend most of the time listening to the world series and typing up some field notes. Alice left today after a visit of two or three days. Jack has been very appreciative about it because she cooked him some good meals. Bette has been doing a fine job so far and I think that she will be able to take over on her own from next week. Alice will stay for the weekend over at Mariko's as Mark will be coming in. She feels that she should get back to Minneapolis as she has to get back to see her doctor more often. Bette swears that she sees the baby kicking.

I asked Alice about her future plans but she said that they were very vague. It will be mostly up to Mark. He thinks that he may go to Detroit after the war and try to get a job with Fords. I may not see him for a long time after this weekend as he will not be able to get up to Minneapolis to see me too much. I don't want to move down here until I find out where he is going to be stationed. If he goes down to Texas then it will be easier for him to get up to Minn. than to Chicago. I will stay there until at least six months after the baby is born and I don't know what I will do after that. We are not in a position to do too much planning at the present time."

An insurance agent called this afternoon to try and sell me a policy and it brought out to me how undecided things are for me as I told him that I was not interested for the present as I didn't know what was going to happen in the future which was unsettled.



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Mark surprised us by saying that he was going to be shipped to Texas on Tuesday. He has taken out a \$10,000 Army insurance policy and half of it will be for his mother in the event that he does not come back. Mark felt that it would be much safer in the South Pacific doing M.P work than to be in Italy with the Nisei Combat Team. <He thinks that he may be shipped out in three months. It was a good thing that Alice did stay over as he does not think he will have much of a chance to see her again.> Mark was very anxious to go overseas for a long time, but he is not so enthusiastic now that he is going to have a child. Both he and Alice did not look so cheerful this evening. We played cards to pass the time, while Bette concentrated on an English composition. <Jack won the card game with his cautious playing. We had a very comfortable evening at home. Bette cooked a delicious dinner and she has been taking a lot of pains since she doesn't want her "two brothers to beat her up all the time and drive her to slavery in keeping the place up." Bette has been studying faithfully, but she still has to learn better methods of study. This business of letting things go over the weekend is not going to be so good now that she is going to the University. It is mostly a matter of planning her time well so that she can get everything done and still have sufficient time for relaxation. She wastes a lot of time just pattering around, but she is conscientious about her homework so that she will learn the best methods soon I think.>



When Emiko came in late last night, she was full of stories about her first week's experiences at the nursing school. She said that she was finding it most interesting and the studies were not very hard yet as her college work has come in very useful in the background work which they are on right now. She was quite proud of the fact that she has been given a great deal of attention at the school and that comments were made by many that she was the most attractive student in the class. We didn't want her to get a swellhead so we did not say anything, although we were glad that she has been so well received. <Emiko mentioned that there were several girls from Canada in her class. They had registered at Mt. Sinai as they heard that it was a very good school.> Emiko is living in a house with ten of the girls and she has taken over one of the Nisei girls as a sort of "stooge." The girl is just out of camp and she doesn't know anybody. <Emiko felt so sorry for her because the girl was the only one who did not get a weekend pass as she does not have a place to go too.> I suggested that maybe it would be better if the other girls in the school started to invite her so that she could make good caucasian contacts rather than to be introduced exclusively to Emiko's Nisei friends.

<Emiko is taking nine courses out there and she has to get up and go to bed at regular hours so that this is good training for her.> She is quite pleased with her room there except that the clothes closet is not big enough. <She said that she had bragged so much about the family that the students were all curious about us.> She seems to be getting in very well with the whole group from the comments which she made and I am glad of that. There is one Nisei student nurse out there which Emiko does not care so much for because the girl acted so



superior and told her ~~me~~ to be careful not to hurt the reputation which she had built up for the Nisei. <sup>Emiko feels that it is</sup> silly to emphasize such a thing when there is no barrier there but that it might be harmful if the Nisei girls started to group all together. She said that so far the four Nisei students and 3 Nisei nurses aid did not have much contact with each other as they lived in different buildings. <sup>There seems to be a great</sup> deal of rivalry starting among the girls about popularity. Emiko want s to get a lot of letters so that she will not be left in the dust and she instructed us to write to her even though she will be home almost every weekend. <sup>to 6131</sup> <sup>She said that even though</sup> she did live so close to home, she got lonesome. Her first night there, she was so excited that she got up at 5:30 for fear that she would be late to breakfast! I have an idea that Emiko will develop into one of the leaders out there as she has the personality to exert herself and she is likeable. Her "bullying" only comes out when she is home!

We didn't get up until late this morning. It was after three before we finished our breakfast. Davy came over and he wanted to take Emiko and Bette to a Negro theater to listen to one of the orchestras so they went off about four. Davy mentioned that his landlady has raised his rent to ~~fixxxxxx~~ seven dollars a week because the girls found out the boys were only paying five and they complained. The landlady said she wanted to be fair about it so she raised the rent of all to the upper level instead of lowering it. It is sheer highway robbery. Davy said that he might move out, but I doubt it. He likes the place as he can practice his saxophone and he has his friends in the same building.



Emiko, Bette and Davy did not come home from the show until about 8:00 so that we went on ahead to eat. Jack took a lot of trouble to cook adobo, a Filipino dish, and it turned out to be quite tasty. I didn't think that Emiko and Bette should have gone out like that when we were expecting dinner guests, but I didn't say anything to them. I wrote each of them a letter and they will receive it in the mails today. I don't think that they will take it wrong as they realized that they should have been home to entertain Mark and Alice and help Jack with the dinner. Alice decided to stay for one more day as Mark will come into Chicago before being shipped out to Texas. He has to pay his own way so I loaned him \$25. He will get reimbursed later by the army. Alice mentioned that she has to look for another girl to share her apartment in Minneapolis as Annie found a place of her own.

I took Emiko back to the hospital as she had a 10:30 curfew and we found a different way so that it only takes about an hour to get home. The west side is like another city and it has its own business district and everything. Bette studied late after all the guests had gone, so she fibbed to me about not having any homework. I want her to get her study habits well planned and organized so that she will not start to neglect her homework over the weekend.



I had two interviews scheduled for this afternoon and evening, but Violent phoned up to tell me that she was moving out. It was all on account of the housing crisis they had over there. I stopped by on the way to the office and she told me a little about it. "That landlady downstairs wanted to raise all of the rents and she wanted to move those of us on the second floor up to the top floor. We didn't like that as the kitchen up there was too dirty so she told us to find another place if we objected. We hunted all day yesterday. We went over to the Maple Manor, but they wanted \$80.00 for a three room apartment. That place is full of zoot suit Nisei so we didn't want to stay there. We finally found a place on Rush street. It is \$54.00 a month, but Sunny may move in with us. We will try to get a partition for the room as there is only one bedroom. We may stay there for a month and then look for a better place. It's so hard to get located because there is so much discrimination. We looked all over yesterday and we got turned out of about ten places and it was obvious that they didn't want any Nihonjin there. Most of them would not come right out and say so tho.

"We are going to rent a car to move all of our things as that will be cheaper than hiring a moving van. After that I plan to look for a job as a dietician in a hospital and Kiyoshi will look for a new job too. We have to go to work pretty soon as we are running out of money. I certainly will be glad when we will be able to settle down. The new place has an oven and I like that as I will be able to do some baking." This building has a lot of Nisei in it and Dorothy Ikeda lived there before moving over with Toshi. It is on the near north side, just outside of the loop. I arranged to interview Kiyoshi tomorrow night as he will be busy tonight fixing up his new place.



The rest of the occupants of the building are planning to move out also. Tom Nakase was there as he took a day off from work and he wanted me to help him look around so I walked around with him the rest of the morning, but we were not successful in finding a vacancy. Tom was scared to death to go make inquiries and he wanted me to do all of the talking. He would not go into houses where he thought there was any discrimination, but I made him go in anyway and I did the talking for him. Tom just wanted to go into the apartment houses where there were other Nisei as he said that there would be more chance. I told him that it was not all racial discrimination as the housing conditions in Chicago was very tight for everyone and many of the landlords did not know the Nisei so it would be best to talk to them and try to make a good impression. I was giving him a pep talk like this when I pulled him into a place on 5400 Drexel.

As soon as I asked for a vacancy, the old lady very nastily said: "We don't have any vacancy for you people."

Tom was already half way out of the door at this answer, but I tried to talk to the old lady to find out what her objections were. I didn't feel like getting turned out in this manner anyway so I asked her why she put ads in the paper if she didn't have any vacancies. The old man came out then and he started to get extremely nasty. He said he was going to throw me out of the place and that made me sore, but I calmly told him that he should be more civil as I only came into the place to ask for a vacancy. Then the old man shouted that there were too many of "you people" coming around and he wouldn't have any. I didn't want to let him get away with that so I told him that after looking at the dirty place, I wouldn't



even think of living there anyway. Tom is some kind of a Judo champion and I was expecting him to back me up but he had already made a hasty retreat so I thought that I should leave without any further words. On the way down, I took off the vacancy sign and threw it away. Tom thought that I was so brave. I told him that it was not a case of racial discrimination so much that made me sore, but the attitude of the landlady. Tom's comment was: "They are all like that. They are a bunch of Jews and they don't want any Nihonjin around. All of the places are like that. They want to charge us high rents when they do let us into a place so that we just haven't any choice. I hate to go house hunting because I know that it is going to be like this all day. I never talk back to them like you do, but I just walk out as I know that they are all prejudiced."

I tried to convince Tom that all of the landladies were not like this but he was very sceptical. We went to another place and the landlady was very polite and she said that she had so many people coming around but it was impossible to rent out more rooms than what she had. She blamed it all on to the OPA. She also said that she had one Chinese fellow living in her house and she wouldn't mind having us if she had the space. Tom was very surprised at her cordial reception, but he still believed that this was a rare case. We went on to about 8 or 10 more places, but they were all filled up. Then I left him as I had to get to the office. I don't know how Tom is going to find a place by himself as he is afraid to go into ~~the~~ all of the places with vacancy signs as he expects to be prejudiced against and he is overly sensitive. I don't see why he can't just talk to them in a normal way without acting submissive. If all of the Nisei go house hunting with the timidity which Tom shows, it is no wonder that they have a tough time. Housing



is too scarce nowadays for one to be backwards in hunting around. I know that in several of the places which Tom N and I went into, he interpreted it as racial discrimination and I didn't get that reaction at all. Tom N doesn't believe that caucasians have a hard time too and he thinks that the landlords just wait for the Nisei to come around so that they can turn them down nastily. It is true that a number of places are restricted as the Chicago people are more conscious of the fact that a lot of resettlers are coming into the city and they are very cautious about accepting them. A number of them are obviously prejudiced, but one should not be stopped by that. Tom wants to get into the neighborhoods where large numbers of other resettlers are living. I tried to encourage him to go into some other neighborhoods, but he didn't want to.

This afternoon I ran into Irene Silerman and I certainly was surprised to see her out there. She said that she was passing through on the way to Boston. Her husband is stationed at Great Lakes. He was teaching at the U. of California. Irene was connected with the Big Sisters Agency in S.F. after quitting her job with the Alameda County Charities. She is just as attractive as ever. We reminisced most of the afternoon at the office and I guess we disturbed Frank who is madly working on his Tule Report. I guess he will excuse us since Irene was one of my best friends on the campus at Berkeley. She said that most of the profs in the department are going into United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation work and that a number of our classmates were doing that also. Miss Greene will be going on a European Mission late this month. I wish I could get into something like that. Irene is going back to Berkeley to do some more graduate work if her husband gets sent overseas.



We were talking of the possible solutions to racial problems and Irene felt that dispersal and integration was the only way. She said that the Jewish group went through the same struggle and the most conservative body was the B'nai Brith which followed a "hush-hush" line. Sounds like the JACL. I think that the Nisei could follow much of the Jewish example in seeking answers to problems even tho that group has not solved it by any means. I still believe that integration is a better method than segregation and if large numbers of Jewish Americans can accomplish it, then the Nisei should be able to. After all the "Japanese face" of the Nisei is no greater an obstacle than having a "Jew" background. Irene mentioned that the Negroes in SF. were building up a terrific prejudice against the Japanese as they were afraid that they would come back and try to take back the former "Jap-town." Irene felt that racial tensions would be very severe after the war.

It was very ironical for me to receive a letter from the military intelligence language school about possible enlistment because I haven't the least chance to meet the qualifications. Jimmy Yamada must have been trying to pull some kind of a joke. When I get drafted, it will have to be into the infantry as there is no other place for me. I would flunk out of a language school in one day. Maybe the Nisei can make their greatest contribution to the war effort through the language school, but I will have to do it by some other means. I still think that my work is some contributions, especially in terms of post war possibilities for working out the "Nisei problem."



I didn't do very much this evening except a little reading for my course. I couldn't get too interested in that so I read "Crime and Punishment" for a while. Bette was studying from about 9:00 to 12:00. She says that it takes her up to 9:00 to cook ahead and plan the next days meal. It was very cold today so I had to haul my overcoat out of the closet. I still have not shaken my cold off.

I was very amused by a piece in the paper about a certain Judge Knight of Los Angeles who is going around giving speeches for Dewey as he has made some ridiculous claims that the Nisei were being relocated in pivotal states in the East so that they could vote Democratic and return the New Deal to office. He claims that 95% of the relocated Nisei are registered Democrats and he intimated that these votes might swing the election in such states as Illinois and Ohio.

This is how some of the fascists fools are trying to play up a racial issue into a political campaign. It is full of deception. In the first place, I think that the majority of the Nisei are for Dewey, if they register at all. There are only a handful of these and they could not <sup>even</sup> swing a block election. Judge Knight is probably trying to bring the explosive issue of race hatred into the election and I wonder at his mentality. Walt Godfry is out in California contacting all classes of people in order to sound out their attitudes and try to prepare them for the eventual return of the evacuees. From the comments he made in his circular letter, it doesn't look so hopeful as many of the distorted ideas are so deep seated that they will never be eliminated out there. Walt is being sponsored by the American Friends.



Charles Kikuchi  
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Diary

Oct. 9, 1944

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Military Intelligence Service Language School

Mr. Charles Kikuchi

c/o U. of Calif. Resettlement Study Group  
University of Chicago  
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Mr. Kikuchi:

T/5 James Shinji Yamada of this command was talking to me last night. We were discussing Lousi Adamic's From Many Lands and I told him about a friendly Japanese lady having passed it into the Internment Camp when I was held in Japan after Pearl Harbor. Corporal Yamada stated he knew you, that you had one time wondered if you were qualified for enlistment and study at this School.

I believe all qualified Americans of Japanese ancestry are making, and can continue to make, their greatest contribution to the war effort through this Service. A great many of us (I lived in Tokyo for 18 years) who know the Japanese well understand the big problem is to eliminate the military cancer out there and then proceed to restore the Japanese to a place in the family of nations. To this effort must go the very best we can send.

I note our files show no records of having had an application from you. If you care to complete the enclosed Personal History Statement we will give every consideration to bringing you here by 1 December, first for 8 weeks basic training, and then six to nine months of Japanese language training.

I might add that the 47 bankers, business men, teachers and clergy who were confined in the South Tokyo prison camp with me for seven months read Mr. Adamic's story of your life with considerable interest.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Paul Rusch  
Major, AUS  
Director of Personnel  
Fort Snelling, Minn.



7029  
6129  
Soc. Sci. Bldg.  
Room 12,  
University of Chicago  
October 9, 1944

Major Paul Busch, AUS  
Director of Personnel  
Military Intelligence Service Language School  
Fort Snelling, 11, Minnesota

Dear Sir:

Although I would be interested in enlistment and study at the school, I am afraid that I would not be able to meet the basic entrance requirements as listed in the prospectus. I do not have an elementary knowledge of the written or spoken Japanese language. I know more Spanish than Japanese and I took only one year of Spanish in high school in 1930. I have never been to a Japanese language school and I do not understand even the simplest greetings in Japanese. What I am trying to say is that I know as much Chinese as Japanese and that is nothing!

However, I will return the application blank, but it is with the understanding that it does not commit me to anything. As you may know, I am at present engaged in some important research work and I feel that it is a small contribution to the war effort. I appreciate the fact that you have taken time to inform me about the school. Under the circumstances, I do not believe that I would be a very qualified student.

Thank you very much for taking an interest in my case, but there does not appear to be any possibility that I could meet the qualifications of the military intelligence service language school at this time.

Very truly yours,

Charles Kikuchi  
Research Assistant.



I'm very tired and sleepy today as I only slept about 10 hours during the past two days. On top of that my cold has not gone away. Not ~~xx~~ all of this time was spent in working and I could have gotten more sleep. I completed Kiyoshi's and Violet's cases in this time so something definite was accomplished. Tuesday morning I was in the office until around noon typing up some things and attending my class. And then I decided to go over to Mariko's to see Alice off. I just missed her as she had to catch an earlier train. Alice and Mark both went up to Minneapolis since Mark does not have to report to the Texas camp until the 18th.

When I got over there, Eileen was the only person there. She got back into town a couple of weeks ago, but I hadn't seen her since early this summer. She has been taking it easy up in North Dakota until her return here. Eileen was quite disturbed because of her housing difficulties. She was staying with one of the Caucasian girls ~~w~~ from her music school but the landlady objected to having a Nisei in the place so that Eileen moved out rather than cause her friend any trouble. She came down here with the hopes of getting a job in the radio company, but it didn't turn out as well as she had expected. A couple of days ago she landed a job with a Swedish restaurant. It is a very exclusive place and they give operas with puppets. Eileen is doing this work and there are five other girls with her. She get \$25 a week for working from 6:00 until 10:30 in the evening. Later on she hopes to get an afternoon job through her music school. ~~x~~

Eileen's greatest worry right now is getting an apartment. She had a very nice place last year and she is most dissatisfied with the type of housing which seems to be open to the Nisei.



She tried to get Betty Jean to move in with her, but Betty Jean didn't want to go to the north side. Eileen has located another Nisei girl who comes from Nebraska to be her room mate but she is unable to find an apartment so that she is getting rather desperate. She doesn't care to stay at Mariko's place as she feels that it would be too inconvenient for both parties concerned. She has been hunting every day for the past week without any success. I had dinner with her and then I went on to my interview with Kiyoshi. His apartment is only across the street from Eileen's place ~~off~~ work so I met her about 10:30 to take her back to Mariko's place.

When we got up there we found that George and Mariko were playing cards. Mariko is just learning the game and she was so anxious to beat George. She got us into the game about 11:30 and we played until 3:30 in the morning because Mariko was so intent on beating George that she wouldn't let us quit. Her apartment is as cold as an ice box and we almost froze. They haven't bought an oil stove yet because George said that he didn't have \$35 to spare. Both he and Mariko have not looked too seriously for jobs. I had asked Mariko to phone Bette to tell her that I wouldn't be home to dinner but she forgot. It was too late to start home so I decided to stay over. >

I got up yesterday morning about 9 o'clock since I had told Eileen that I would help her look for an apartment in the morning. <sup>to 6133</sup> and then proceed to my ~~xxx~~ interview with Violet and Kiyoshi for the rest of the day. We walked all around but we were unsuccessful in finding a decent place. Most of the apartment houses on the Near Northside are quite dumpy and the good ones are all filled. We went into a couple of place where the landladies were most agreeable but Eileen did not care to live in such a dirty



room. After I left her she hiked around all afternoon trying to locate a place but she was not successful. Kiyoshi's place is located in the same building where Dorothy Ikeda used to live so I asked the landlady there if she had a vacancy but she said that she had a waiting list. I met Eileen again about 10:30 last night after my interview in order to tell her this and we went up to Division St. to eat. Mr. Thomas, one of Eileen's music friends, joined us as he has been trying to locate a place for Eileen also but he had no good news. He wasn't feeling so well because some food disagreed with him so he left early. He told us that the district around there was filled with real gangsters so I looked in a couple of the bars along the street to see them at their hangouts. That whole area is one of the stamping grounds for Chicago gangs. Most of the gangsters are out on the south and west sides. I've heard so much about the gangsters out here that I wanted to see some real ones in person but they didn't look any different from any other persons.

I took Eileen over to Mariko's about midnight and we talked for a while out in front. I didn't want to go in because Mariko might have pulled us into another card game and I was too sleepy for that. I figured that I needed to get some rest so that I would be able to make my class this morning. I only got about 5 hours sleep last night since I didn't get home until 2 a.m. so that I fell asleep during the lecture and I was greatly embarrassed to find that Prof. Wright's eyes were right on me. I guess it's not so good for a graduate student to fall asleep in class.

It's too much trouble to mix in an intense social life with my work and classes so I guess that I will have to concentrate on the most important thing even though Eileen is an interesting



person to talk to. She said that her father has been living in Minot, North Dakota for 23 years. He owns a restaurant up there and they used to have 6 cooks and 8 waitresses until the labor shortage made him cut his staff down. Eileen said that her father wouldn't let her work in the restaurant because he thought it would be a reflection on him. I was greatly surprised when Eileen mentioned that her father knew Frank's folks. When they first came to this country they visited the Miyamotos in Seattle and Mr. Miyamoto dragged his little sonny, Frank, age 8 out into the room and made him sing an American song to these new immigrants. This was the first time that Eileen's father heard an American song. I guess that Frank ~~must~~<sup>should</sup> have gone in for a singing career because he was a well known boy soprano in his youthful days and his father used to make him sing before company all the time. Twenty-three years later the boy soprano is the office director in Chicago. "What a small world this is!"

~~I don't think that~~ Eileen<sup>doesn't</sup> particularly cares to stay at Mariko's because sooner or later there will be temperamental clashes. Mariko is certainly a spoiled brat and she nags George to death. I've always heard her side of the story up to now, but I think my sympathies are for George hereafter. She continually belittles his masterpieces of furniture and she's always trying to start some kind of an argument. If he talks back she gets sore and if he doesn't say anything she imagines that he is thinking something against her. Either way he loses. <She was very cranky yesterday morning because I made so much noise and made her get up.> She never starts her job hunting until the afternoon and she blames it on George for not waking her up. If he does wake her up, she complains because she didn't have enough sleep. She even accused George of making her play cards late the night before when



she was the one who insisted upon it. George doesn't get ruffled too easily and he just says okay when she nags him. <He got his revenge when he remarked that the pancakes I made were fluffier than the ones Mariko made for him. Mariko exploded at this and she accused him of getting fat because she cooked so much for him. Then she said that she could put eggs in the pancakes too if he would give her more money for the food allowance. From then she proceeded to get after him for sitting around the house and reading the newspaper when he should ~~g~~ be out looking for a job. Then she had some remarks to make about him throwing his clothes over a shirt that had just been ironed so that it was all wrinkled up. From that point she proceeded to criticize him for all of his other weak points. Eileen and I got out of there and as far as we know she is still hen-pecking George.> I wouldn't be surprised if George took Mariko over his knees one of these days and spank her because she has it coming. She gets so unreasonable and she doesn't realize that she is the one who deliberately provokes an argument. It takes a very courageous man to live with her. I guess that is supposed to be manifestations of love during the initial weeks of marriage, but I don't believe that it's usually as violent as all that. Mariko usually cuddles up like a puppy after she lambasts George for an hour and he just forgives her and waits patiently until the next time she explodes. I guess they are happy though. He just says, "Yes dear" to everything and that infuriates Mariko because she knows darn well that he is thinking something else. If he does speak up in his own defense, she calls him a big bully. I guess they have to have their 2-round battle every morning in order to start the day right.

<When I got home last night Bette woke up and she wondered where I had been for the past two days. I told her what had



happened and she said that Jack was very suspicious of my recent activities. She scolded me for not phoning to tell her that I wouldn't be home for dinner. I had helped her write an English composition for the Freshman class and she got a D on it so she isn't going to let me help her any more. She said that Emiko phoned to tell her that her studies were getting very hard now so that she put in several hours each evening.

I've got writer's cramp now because I took continuous notes on Kiyoshi and his wife for 12 or 13 hours in the last day or so. I finished both of these cases. Kiyoshi has been hunting for a job but he feels that he will have to go into non-essential work since he does not have a job release from International Harvesters. He expects to be drafted in a couple of months anyway since he is now on the reserves. He is going to try and get into the class at Savage in December since he has quite a knowledge of the Japanese language. He would just as soon be in the infantry but his wife doesn't want to follow him down to Mississippi as it is too lonely down there. He figures that if he goes to Savage his wife can continue to work in Chicago or else go up to Minneapolis. Sonny is living with them now and Violet expects to take in another girl after Kiyoshi is inducted.

Violet is very worried about her husband's impending draft since they have only been married for six months or so. She was so worried when he didn't come in yesterday afternoon and she thought that he had been in an accident or something. I kept interviewing him all afternoon in order to keep her occupied and she had some very interesting comments to make about her attitudes. >

I interviewed Violet this afternoon.

Since her husband is going into the Army, she feels that she has to be definitely for America in the war and now she wants Japan defeated as soon as possible. She said that before ~~xxxxxx~~ her



marriage she ~~thang~~ sort of hoped Japan would hold out for a long time so that the Nisei would be respected. This is an interesting attitude because so many of the Nisei have it. Jack mentioned the very same thing this morning. He said that the fellows out at the plant still hoped that Japan will win the war or at least force a stalemate. "They think that it will make their chances better so they don't want to commit themselves to any side. The Nisei that I have contacted are not idealistic anymore. They see things in a realistic way and they know that they are not fighting for democracy. The only trouble is that they personalize the whole war and they think that the war is being fought on account of the evacuation. That is why they are so bitter. I think the real reason is that they just want to get out of the draft because they don't want to fight in any army. I can't exactly blame them for that."

*thru 6179*  
Violet felt that the Nisei would be accepted into the American society completely if they made a good war record. She said that it was Kiyoshi's duty to fight for this country since he had great hopes for the future and she didn't think that she could exactly stand in his way when he had a responsibility to fulfill. She said that it would be very lonesome for her but she would work and try to save a little money. She left her job as a dietitian in the St. Mary's Hospital in Cincinnati without a job release so she had to take a position as a domestic worker when she followed Kiyoshi to Chicago. In a day or so she plans to start looking for a dietitian job here. If she is unable to get this, she will look for a typist job, and if that fails, she will take a factory job. She is determined never to do domestic work again.

She said that she liked her job in Cincinnati very much but she felt that it was up to her to make the sacrifice and follow her husband since his job future was the most important. She did



not regret giving up her career because she had a husband.

Kiyoshi and Violet had quite an experience when they wanted to get married. The parents objected very much because the regular Japanese customs were not followed. They insisted upon a baishakunin and a formal investigation of both families so that the couple gave in to this formality but they were determined to get married anyway. Violet said that she had always listened to her mother until she went out to work at Antioch College as a dietician and she had to assume a lot of responsibility and make decisions on her own. Kiyoshi said that he was one of the "guys tied to his mother's apron strings" because he depended upon his parents so much before the war, but now he felt that he had to make his own way. He hopes to open up his own store eventually but that will have to wait until after the war. He made a comment that the future outlook for Nisei depended upon whether they remained for the duration. "They say that ~~United~~ we stand, but I figure that united we will also fall." Kiyoshi ~~xxxx~~ would want to become completely integrated, as most Nisei, but he is gradually getting into more and more of a Nisei circle here.

Sonny is the same way. She doesn't care for Nisei society at all but she feels that eventually the Nisei will be forced together. She had an experience at her job in the Stevens Hotel last night which had quite an affect upon her. "I was doing my work when a drunk hakujin came up and he started swearing like anything. He said that America was going to beat the Hell 'out of you blankety blank Japs'. I tried to tell him that I was an American citizen but it's no use because they still look upon us as Japs. All of the hakujin are like that no matter how sympathetic they are. They just don't understand us no matter how much we explain. I don't want to be pushed among the Nihonjin exclu-



sively. It seems that no matter what we do, we are still Japs to the hakuji and they are always surprised because we say we are loyal to America. That drunk man got pretty nasty with me and I just didn't argue with him because it's no use. At my job I know that the people either ignore me most of the time or they are indifferent. However, I can't get away from the feeling that they all look on me as a Japanese girl and not an American citizen. There are some hakuji who treat the Nisei equal but there aren't enough of them to count. I don't see how it's ever going to be much different for us altho I do hope the future will change things. But if things don't change for us for the better, I don't see how it's going to be any better after the war. When things are like this, they make us feel we are 'Japs'."

After I completed my interviews we sat around and talked for a few minutes about the future prospects of democracy. All three of them believed that this was the best system but they were rather skeptical of it ever being applied to them. They felt that they might eventually be forced into a segregated Japanese town because the housing situation was so difficult. Their present apartment is located on the near north side and the whole second floor is filled with Nisei. Kiyoshi pays \$52 a month rent. There is a small kitchen and a very large bedroom. Kiyoshi and Violet went shopping today and they bought a small bed and mattress for Sonny and they will have a screen so that she can have one corner of the apartment. Violet knew Sonny at Amache and she ran into her when they went to the Japanese rooming house on E. Drexel so they decided to live together. After Kiyoshi gets inducted another friend will be taken in. Violet worries so much about Kiyoshi because she would like to see him get a good job.

It seems to be a fairly happy marriage.



Last night I went over to arrange an interview with Mrs. Watanable. She was willing to start right after dinner as she said that she would not be available for the rest of the week. I was quite tired but I decided to start the case since the opportunity was available. I talked to Davy, ch-50, while she and her husband were cleaning up the dishes.

Davy mentioned that he bought a new \$50.00 overcoat yesterday. That just about breaks him again after he finishes paying back his debts. He did not say whether his father sent the money or not, although he had previously said that he planned to be entirely on his own from now on. The night before he had phoned Sonny that he was not going to work the next day. She was so worried about that so she came down from her night job at Stevens Hotel to check up on him, but Davy was not around. Sonny evidently thinks a lot about Davy, but he does not want to show that he cares for her. He is such an adolescent boy yet. Mrs. Watanable doesn't like him because he is so fresh about the house, and she feels that he does not cooperate enough in keeping the place clean.

About 10 or 15 people have moved out of that boarding house recently. Davy said that it was getting quite lonely with all of the people leaving. Tom N. found a place on 60th and Woodlawn, but he thinks it is too lonely up there so he is coming back to stay with Davy at the rooming house. Davy is holding the room open for him as he is very anxious that Tom comes back to live with him. Kiyoshi told me that the reason Tom did not want to be roommates with Davy any more was because he got tired of feeding him all the time he was loafing around. I took Davy aside and gave him a "lecture" about cooperating with his roommates hereafter. Davy went out



about 11:00 pm to go to the station to meet a friend who has just come in from Amache.

Tom Nakase was around last night as he said that he did not like the new apartment which he found. He said he was walking down the street the day I was with him and he saw some Nisei going into a building so he went in and asked for an apartment. He found a one room apartment so he decided to take it as it was only \$3.50 a week. His friend from upstairs moved in with him. They both took another day off from work to move. They were able to rent a car for .50cents an hour, plus expenses, so they rode around the city for a while after moving. Now Tom has decided to move back with Davy if he cannot find another apartment. He said that he did not feel free over there as there were hakujins in the building and he was not able to sit in the bathtub for a long time and sing songs. He said that he felt very cramped and caged in the one room and he liked 5010 Drexel much better. He is planning to rent a car and move back on Sunday and then ride around and see the sights for the rest of the day.

In a way, I can understand why a lot of these single Nisei go out a lot when they are living in small apartments. They don't seem to have much interest in anything except reading funny books so they get restless and want to go visit somebody. Tom and Davy did not go out too much while living in the rooming house because there were many other Nisei around and it was a big house in which they could wander around. As soon as a lot of people moved out, Davy got restless. He practices his sax for a while and then he sits around for the rest of the evening wondering what to do as the girls leave for night work at 10:15. I suppose there are a lot of single Nisei who have this problem.



It is too bad that they do not broaden their interests a little more. I stopped upstairs for a moment and the fellows were talking about girls. The landlady would like to force all of these fellows on the third floor out and put the second floor people up there, but there has been great objections to this. As long as they have a few friends around, they don't seem to mind it so much, but they get extremely restless if they are alone. One of the fellows upstairs said that the reason for this was that he was used to seeing so many people around in camp that he got used to it. However, he added that he would not go back to camp now as one gets used to the Chicago life. He doesn't know what he will be doing next week or next month as "I might even go to New York." The fellow is working at Cuneo press for .72cents an hour. I didn't get his name.

I interviewed Mrs. Watanabe for several. <sup>hours.</sup> She is quite a contrast from her husband. Mrs. Watanabe seems to be very Americanized while her husband is more conservative. He is a Kibei and definitely race conscious. He was saying that maybe it was better if he went back to Japan after the war as it was so hard for him to get started out here. However, he is much more broad minded than most Kibei and I suspect that this is his wife's influence. Mr. Watanabe is working for National Tea Company in the vegetable department. He is now getting \$40.00 a week as "I don't care to do any defense work for this country." He said that the best way as to work hard and try to make the best of things without complaining about the past. He was the owner of a produce store just before the war and he lost out everything. He estimated that he lost about \$8,000 with the evacuation and now he was a worker instead of an employer of 6 Nisei. He



said that the Jews were to blame for the loss of his business as they would not give him a chance when the going got a little hard with all of the unofficial boycott of his store. However, he felt that it was best to live for the future and he thought that he still had some chance in this country so that was the reason why he decided not to repatriate. He is about 35 or so I presume. In camp, he played goh (Japanese checkers) with the Issei all the time as he was a mess hall steward and he had plenty of spare time. Mrs. Watanabe said that she was a goh widow as she never saw her husband. He doesn't have many people to play with out here as the Nisei don't know the game very well. He said that the champion lives out here so he played a few times with him. The champ is one of the old time Chicago Issei residents.

Mrs. Watanabe, ch-55, has much more personality than her husband. She limps because of infantile paralysis during her childhood. She was working as an interior decorator before the war and they were doing very well. They had their own home completely furnished in Hollywood and she had visions of living there the rest of her life until the war came along. She has been married eight years.

Mrs. Watanabe is about 33. She was born in South Pasadena and her contemporaries were Nobu Kawai and that older group of Nisei. She was in a hospital for five years and when she came out she went to live with a Mrs. Heath and her husband and they became her guardians. She was given all of the advantages by them and taken in as their ~~own~~ own child. Mrs. Heath was a practicing doctor and her husband was a lawyer and amateur artist. Mrs. Watanabe had an early interest in art and they encouraged her to keep it up. They would take her all over the Western U.S. on art trips. When she was 17 she got to know



her family quite well and she began to get conscious of her race. Up to that time, she had mingled exclusively with the caucasian children of the upper middle class families. She took a deep interest in all things Japanese and I think that she is much more race conscious than a lot of the younger Nisei, altho it is more in terms of cultural appreciation rather than political. She says that her husband knows she has an intense feeling for this country so that he baits her once in a while about politics just to tease her and he takes a strong pro-Japanese point of view. I suspect that he means much more of it than he lets on as he seems to be a very glum sort of individual.

Two weeks before Mrs. Watanabe graduated from high school her family was killed in an automobile accident so that Mrs. Heath took outguardian papers for her. In order to help her get over the shock of this tragedy, they took her on a European cruise for six months in 1929. She went all over the Med. area and into Palestine. Then they stopped in Italy for a while to go on an art tour. From there they went through the northern European countries. After returning the U.S., they went to Hawaii to do some sketching. Upon her return, Mrs. W entered Pasadena JC and she was one of the organizers of the Japanese student club there. From this time on, she began to go more and more into a Japanese society and she knew many of the visitors from Japan. She learned Japanese art from one of the artists from Japan who came to this country to exhibit. She went on to art school after her graduation from JC and then she got a job as interior decorator. She started out at .25 cents an hour as it was during the depression, but she worked up to .85 cents. During the rush seasons, she made as much as \$75 a week but this was only for short periods. Her usual salary averaged around \$40 a week.



She was going around with Mr. Watanabe for about three years before she married him at the age of 25 or so. Her guardian was terribly disappointed with this match as they had higher hopes for her, but they became reconciled. They even helped Mr and Mrs Watanabe to purchase a home in the Hollywood residential area. Her husband started his store only about six months before the war so that it was not too well established when things began to get tough for him. After they lost out on everything, but the house which they still own, they had to be fed for a while by Mrs. Heath as they did not have any available cash. The house was saved by transferring it to Mr. Heaths's name. Mr. W's brother had a part ownership in the Olympic Hotel in Lil' Tokyo of LA, but he got TB so that Mr. and Mrs. W were paying for his expense at the sanitarium. They were frightened to death when the FBI raids came so they burned all of the brother's books and picture albums of prominent Japanese who had stayed at the Hotel. They did all of this burning in the kitchen as they were afraid to go out of the house. Mrs. W was going around exclusively with Japanese (Nisei) at this time and she belonged to some of the artist clubs.

In camp she taught art for almost two years. I did not get a chance to cover their experiences since evacuation. Since coming out to Chicago about four months ago, they have lived at the Japanese rooming house (operated by a Jewish lady) because they cannot find a place of their own. They have looked everywhere without any success.

Mrs. W never saw a bedbug in her life until she came to Chicago. "The first day we were here, a friend came to visit us. He put his hat on the table and all of a sudden I



saw this fat brown bug running across the ~~xx~~ table. I smashed it with my hand and I asked him what it was. He told me that it was a bedbug. It was the first time I had ever seen one so I got out my pencil and paper and drew a large picture of it so I would be able to recognize it the next time. A lot of my friends who had resettled told me that Chicago was full of bedbugs and that worried me a lot because I had an idea that they were great big things which took all the blood out of you when they bit.

"We have been trying so hard to find an apartment. We did move to one place up on 51st street, but the place was full of bedbugs. I understand that most of the Nisei are living in places with bedbugs because they can't get nothing else. The first night I slept in that apartment, I got 35 bits on my neck. My husband is very allergic to bedbugs and he got bitten so badly that his foot was all swollen and he could not put his shoes on. I had a wonderful tan from camp and I had planned to wear low shoes without stockings, but when those bedbugs bit me, I had to cover the bits ~~xx~~ up with my stockings. I had an idea that having bedbugs was a shameful thing to admit but most of the people out here talk about it as if it were nothing.

"We moved back to this place the very next day. We pay \$14 a week for this room and that certainly is high. I wish that we could get a place of our own. We have this room to ourselves but the price we pay seems to be too high. I went down to Grinnell College in Iowa over the weekend and interviewed for a teaching job in art down there. They told me that I could come anytime, but we can't make up our minds. If we can't find a place of our own here, we might have to go there. It's a very



nice college. I wish a lot of the Nisei girls could see it tho because the place is full of caucasian girls and the only men in town are those on crutches or with artifical legs. The girls complain about not seeing any men for months. The Nisei girls have a lot of fellows to pick from right now so that they are pretty lucky. If we want down to Grinnel, my husband could get a job working in the laundryx there. He would only get \$125 a month but he could work up. It will be up to him to decide because I wouldn't want him to go down there on my account. We wouldn't have any Japanese friends down there. That wouldn't bother me as I make freinds easily with caucasians but it might be a little harder for my husband as he is more used to Japanese. I don't know when we will decide. I have a very good job here in interior decorating and my husband is doing nicely with National Tea. The only trouble is housing. If we can get a good place to live in here, then we might stay."

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I have hardly seen Bette in the past few days. She seems to be extremely busy with her college work and nothing can interrupt that, she says. Bette mentioned last night that she was not joining a lot of clubs at the University until she got well established in her studies as she wanted to be choosy about what clubs shewent into. I wish that she would join a few right away as it would be too easy to let it slide. Bette knows almost all of the girls at Blake Hall and her friend has been elected the house president. Bette might go and stay overnight with BJ sometime. She is certainly enthusiastic about college life. She puts the University of Chicago sticker on allx of her letters in order to let her friends know that she is going to such a well known college, especially to her Vallejo classmates.



Bette and I went to a show last night. It was the first week day evening that I have had free for a while so I did not feel very much like studying. I thought I would have a lot of interest in my course, but it is pretty dry. There are a lot of useful suggestions to it though so I suppose I am benefitting a little. Maybe it will get more interesting later on.

Bette plans to go to church at the Rockfellow Memorial on Sunday with BJ. BJ is singing in the choir. Bette said that she would have gone out for it too, but it took three evenings during the week so that she felt she would not have that much time. She is planning to go to the Socialist Club meeting on the campus. She asked me if it were really as radical as some of the girls told her. I felt that it would be good for her to get broadened in her political thinking so I said she should go by all means. I told her that she would be able to decide things for herself better if she got a complete picture. She got interested in this group through her friendship with a Rod MacLeish. She said that he wasn't quite her boyfriend yet, but she was working on it. He is the nephew of Archibald Macleish, poet and Librarian of Congress. Bette said she has met a lot of interesting fellows at the university and that they seemed much more broadened than the Nisei. BJ wants her to go down with her to Georgia to spend the Christmas holidays. Next week she is going to spend a Sunday at the home of one of the girls she met at school who is supposed to be fairly rich. Bette wants Mariko to finish her suit by that time so she can wear it, but I doubt if Mariko will do it. The only reason why she finished Emiko's was because Alice pushed her on it.



I didn't go to the office today as I slept most of the morning. In the afternoon Jack and I went shopping down on Halsted St. and I finally purchased my hat with the Xmas order which Emiko gave me last year. We also bought some things for around the house. I still had a slight cold so I stayed home this evening. Bette was doing some reading. She is going to write another composition over the week-end. We read the papers until about 1:00 when Emiko came home. She had some sort of a rash all over her from a shot which she had received at the hospital. She was tired out because she has been out for the past couple of evenings so she went to sleep right away.



Oct. 14, 1944

Dear Mrs. Emlen,

After almost a month, I find that I am still very enthusiastic about the University. The system of education which they have here will enable me to get my AB degree in two years so that it means quite a bit of studying. I already have 30 books which I will have to read this quarter so you can imagine what big assignments I get. I like it though and I find that it can be done if one allots a fair proportion of time to studies. I am taking English III, Humanities II, Biological Science II, Social Science II. I have about 15 hours of class in all.

It is not all study at the University though. I have tried to enter into as many of the school activities as possible and I have made a number of friends. They seem to come from all over the country. The group I am in now come from Georgia, Massachusetts, Wisconsin and many other states. It is quite an experience to get acquainted with so many different types of students. I was going to try out for the University choir but it takes three evenings a week so I do not have the time.

Emiko is now at Mt. Sinai Hospital and she enjoys it very much. She comes home every week-end so that she does not get lonesome. She has made friends with everyone out there already so that she hardly has time any more to keep up her contacts with her friends from the City College where she attended last year. I have the responsibility of keeping up the apartment all by myself now and it does take a lot of work to do the shopping and cooking and other little details. However, I am free to spend most of my time with my school work and there is plenty of that!

I sent in the signed form for the scholarship assistance to you about a month ago and since I have not heard anything since, I wondered if it might have been lost in the mails. Maybe it was sent to the University already and I have not been notified. I certainly do want to thank your whole group for all that it has done for me. I suppose it is hard to say these things on paper. Maybe I will see you some time if you are out this way and then I will be able to thank you personally.

We are beginning to have winter weather here so that in a short time I will start my second winter season in Chicago. It wasn't so bad last year, but all my friends at school tell me that it was "unusual weather". One of my girl friends is from Georgia and she never saw snow before. She wants me to go visit her home during Christmas vacation, but I won't have the money to go way down there. The students are certainly a fine group and I am glad that I am having this chance to get acquainted with them and obtain a good education at the same



time. They never talk about my being of Japanese ancestry as they take me as an American and that is the only way that I would want it as there is no sense in calling attention to facial differences if nobody notices it any way. It is in college where real democracy is found.

Very truly yours,

Bette Kikuchi



We spent a very leisurely day at home since we didn't feel like going out. We were going to Mariko's to start building a book case but we figured that there would be too many people so we stayed at home. We slept until 1:00 anyway. Bette got up early to go to church with her friend but Betty Jean called up and said she caught a cold so she wasn't going. Bette thought she would write her composition while she had the opportunity so she was doing this most of the morning. She wrote about school life in camp for her English class. After we got up Davey ~~was~~ dropped over for a while to show us his new \$50 coat. He said that his father sent him \$100 for his suit and overcoat but sent it back. He said he had \$35 in back wages in camp so he used this for his coat. Last night he went to a Japanese gambling place and watched them for a while and then he went to a downtown show with some friends. After that he went over to a nightclub and had a few drinks but he said he didn't get drunk. He was around most of the afternoon listening to records and then about dinner time he decided to go home and eat and then go to the Baptist Church to see if he could meet any Nisei over there. I suppose it is a little lonesome now as many people have left his rooming house. Jack asked him why he didn't organize a Nisei orchestra but Davey said he didn't want to have anything with that. I thought he was acting wisely because I couldn't see how a Nisei orchestra would be of any advantage to him. Davey mentioned that he was going to try to get into some kind of an orchestra later on.

Emiko's rash had disappeared during the night so that she felt much better. She said that she had quite a bit of studies to do as she was going to classes all day long. She didn't find any of this work too difficult yet because her background at junior



college has helped her. Later on she thinks it might be a little harder. She likes it very much as she has gotten well adjusted to the hospital routine. However she gets lonesome once in a while. Next Friday Bette is going over there and stay over night. Emiko mentioned that a few of the girls are jealous of her as she is one of the few students there to get dates every week. However, she said the majority of the girls were swell and she really likes them. ~~Shexxxxxxx~~ They were concerned over her when she broke out with a rash. She said they would probably wait up for her so that they can get a detailed account of what she did over the week-end. Dorothy Ikeda (CH-39) is now trying to get into Mt. Sinai Hospital next semester. Her sister Yuri is waiting for the WACs to call her. Albert is now trying to get up to the language school at Fort Snelling as he doesn't want to be sent overseas so soon.

I took Emiko's records home for her and the heavy load almost pulled my arm out of its socket. I heard all of the girls at the hospital squealing with delight when Emiko walked up with her phonograph. The other Nisei girl there has told the girls that Emiko used to sing with an orchestra in camp so that Emiko has been asked to sing at the next party which will be held soon.

Instead of coming home directly, I dropped over to Mariko's place to ask her if she could pick up the radio at Aki's and if she could finish Bette's suit by next week so that Bette could wear it while visiting her friendsx on Sunday. I doubt if either of these two requests will be fulfilled. Mariko was all tired out because she entertained about 8 people during the day. She was complaining that they were all George's friends and that it wore her out. I said that it would be easy for her to establish a



better pattern and train her friends to come only upon invitation. She got angry about this so I decided to shut up. She then started to pick on poor George. Mariko just likes to be a suffering hero and she doesn't realize how irritable she can be. It is a wonder that George is so ~~patient~~ patient to stand for all this. I think all our sympathies are with George because he has to live with Mariko! Jack suggest that we write a letter to Mariko and tell her how irritable she is in the hopes that she will correct her faults but I backed out of this because I know Mariko will lay the blame on me and I don't feel like arguing with her. They had a couple of Caucasian friends over for dinner. Mariko has some nice dinner ware now because she traded in some of her other wedding presents to get this good set.

I asked her when she was going to work. She said that she had been hunting around and she had one prospect but it wasn't so good. "It's with an artist who wants me to do secretarial work for him. He seems to be a nice fellow but I'm not counting on that job at all. He only wants to pay \$15 a week. I think he illustrates books and he wants to publish a limited number for circulation. He said that he would train me into the work so I could become sort of a partner with him. I'm a little suspicious of him because I had one deal like that before the war and I lost money. Mr. Watanabe wanted me to invest in his necktie business and I went to Los Angeles for that but I got stuck because the silk shipments weren't allowed to come in anymore. I'm not taking this job offer seriously and I plan to start looking around for another office job tomorrow."

George mentioned that he hasn't found out yet about the civil



service job which he hopes to get into. It is with the War Manpower Commission. I think that neither one of them wants to work too much. Maybe they are still enjoying their honeymoon. The weather is getting quite cold and they haven't bought their oil stove yet. It is their own fault if they freeze to death this winter as they have had plenty of time to get it. The apartment is fixed up very nicely now altho there is a chilly factory smell which permeates the apartment 2 or 3 times a week. George has fixed up some nice book shelves and he said that he would make me one when he got the lumber. Mariko has put some prints up on the wall which gives ~~xxxxx~~ the room quite an artistic touch. Maybe she should have gone into interior decorating for her career. She got quite upset when I jokingly told her that I had heard a rumor that she was going to have a baby. She was so quite that Mrs. T. had spread it because "that old lady suspects that we had affairs before we were married and she would like to see me get into trouble".

I mentioned something about family resettlement to Mariko but she quickly changed the subject so I guess she doesn't want to do anything about it. I mentioned it to Jack today and he doesn't particularly care to take the responsibility. He is trying to get back into California. He wrote a letter to the Western Defense Command in order to get permission but he isn't too hopeful. He said that Dolores' father was even willing to make him a partner in the grocery store business in the event his medical plans did not turn out. Jack is still sending out applications but he has not received any definite word yet. He said that he would get a job with the merchant marine and go to sea after June in the event that he did not get admitted into a medical school or if he did



not get drafted. I find that I am less sure about family re-settlement now than I was six months ago. I would like to make some definite plans but I feel less secure now than previously. The draft situation still hangs over my head and I also have to consider the possibility of the study project ending by next June. I don't know what I will do in the event that this comes to pass. I haven't finished my M.A. work yet and there is not much possibility of completing it in the near future at the present rate I am going. It's quite a complicated situation because my future is so vague. I just figure that something good will turn out, or the study may continue a while longer if Dorothy received unexpected funds for the study and decides to keep me on. It's all so very indefinite but something that has to be considered since June is not so far off.

After a year and a half in Chicago, I am not entirely satisfied with life here. I know that I should be following more of the developments of the Nisei society but these things continue to irritate me and I wouldn't be too objective if I plunged into this phase of the study. My best bet is to continue along with the case documents. In doing this, I have sort of gotten away from the Nisei activities which have been going on recently. It seems that the Nisei society is slowly emerging at the present time but at not a too great speed. There is quite a conflict in the Buddhist circle according to Tom and this group is thinking of setting up 2 different churches. There is also the conflict in this group over the emphasis that the Buddhist church should stress. One group thinks that religion is the main point while the rank and field would rather stress social activities.

Some progress has also been made in the USO plans, according



to Louise. She said that last week the ~~YWCA~~ WRA called a group of girls together at the YWCA to initiate plans for this Nisei USO. About 100 girls turned up and around 40 of them were willing to act as hostesses. This afternoon another meeting was held and about 40 girls showed up. A representative from the service men's center told the group that only one Nisei soldier had ever gone to her center to ask for a date. She suggested that if a list of Nisei hostesses could be compiled, the service men's club would send to all Army camps for a list of Nisei soldiers who came to Chicago on furlough and they could be fixed up for individual dates. It was pointed out that at least 30 x Nisei service men visited Chicago weekly. It seems that the present plan is to fix up these dates on an individual basis and there is no immediate plan for having a segregated Nisei USO for a gathering place. I think that if this plan is carried through successfully, it will have its value of making Nisei soldiers happier but it wouldn't necessarily add toward the trends for segregation if these dates were made individually. They would go out to the established public recreational places after getting these individual dates.

Louise also mentioned that Ernie Takahashi was starting bridge parties and he had about 25 people at his house the other night. She was under the impression that this was to be a monthly or semi-monthly event. There are quite a number of small Nisei gatherings of this sort going on but we only hear of very few of them. It is only the large Nisei events which come to attention and that is the sort of development which I would not care to see because I fear that the implication of such a movement will be harmful for the future adjustment of the Nisei group. Various large Nisei dances are being sponsored once more after about six



months of inactivity. Jack said that he would like to Bette to one of these Nisei dances but I objected to that. I pointed out that he would not have met Dolores if he confined himself to Nisei circles during his college days so that he should allow Bette to expand her own activities without guiding it into the limited Nisei direction. I have an idea that this is going to be a point of difference sooner or later but I still maintain my point of view even though Jack feels that I am prejudiced against the Nisei. I don't think that this is necessarily true but I am concerned about the formation of a segregated Nisei society and I wouldn't want Bette to participate in this movement if it can be avoided. Bette is just getting started in her college activity and it would interfere too much if she mixes in Nisei society at the same time. This evening she was going to a Socialist Club meeting at the university but we didn't get through dinner in time. I told Bette that after this she should not let her home activities interfere with school projects as it would become too easy to slide into this pattern and neglect her other functions. She was rather disappointed to miss two events which she had planned upon.

I met Bob Kinoshita (CH-13) over at Mariko's this evening and he was in very low spirit because the dance last night was a colossal failure. Bob lost \$350 on the deal but he wasn't too willing to talk about it because it hurt him so painfully. I managed to get a little of the story: "My room mate, James Tera-nishi and I sponsored a dance at the Pershing Hotel ballroom last night. That's the hotel which the Army was planning to take over to convert into a rest home for Negro servicemen. We got the contract for the ballroom with the Army and suddenly the Army dropped its contract for the hotel and returned it to the civilian



owner. In the meantime we had gone ahead and signed up a Negro orchestra to an iron-clad contract for \$350. Last Wednesday the civilian owners of the hotel informed me that our ~~xxxxxx~~ plans for renting the ballroom was cancelled. It happened that another Negro person had been sponsoring weekly dances there for quite a while. As soon as the Army returned the hotel to its civilian owners, this person immediately printed 5000 hand bills and advertized the dance at Regal theatre and other places. I had no way of letting the Nisei know that our dance was cancelled. When the crowd began to gather last Saturday, they couldn't get in. What a headache it was! I think there was about 600 Nisei waiting to get in and we would have made plenty of money. As it is now, we have to pay the orchestra \$350 and there is no way of getting out of it. I was thinking of skipping town but I don't have the money but I guess I'll go down and see them tomorrow in order to see if we can postpone payment for a while. I don't know if I can get that money. I don't know if this news spread around because my name is already mud. The Nisei won't have confidence in a dance sponsored by Bob Kinoshita again because of this thing. It really wasn't my fault because we didn't have time to straighten out <sup>the confusion of</sup> /about who should get the dance hall. I bet that rumors will go around that I skipped out with the money, but the actual truth is that I am left holding the sack. It's a good thing that we didn't seel advance tickets because that really would have put us in the hole. Altho the rental of the hall is rather high, we could have made money if 200 or 300 couples showed up. I'm going to sing at the Nisei dance next week but I'm not behind that one."

Eileen was also there and she was moping about her housing



problems. She said that the Nisei girl from Nebraska who was supposed to be her room mate didn't like the place she found so she was left holding the sack. Eileen doesn't know any other Nisei girl to ask in with her so that she may have to look for a place of her own. She can't afford to pay more than \$30 a month since her salary only runs up to \$110. She works at the Kungsholm restaurant which is a rather exclusive place. She showed me some of the literature which this restaurant puts out. It specializes in Swedish dishes and specializes in puppet shows and caters mostly to society people. Reservations have to be put in a week or two in advance just to eat at that place. Eileen said that she will have to start her house hunting all over again.

Both Eileen and Bob were in the dumps so they began to console each other. It is possible that they will start going together once more. There is quite a strong attractions between the two but Eileen broke it up ~~as~~ previously because she felt that Bob was not dependable enough. However, they are both in the mood for sympathizing so that they will be ~~right~~ ripe for it. Bob has been running around with a number of different girls and spending all of his money on them but it was only a rumor that he was engaged to Sue Matsuda.

When I got home Bette was still typing her composition. It took her about 3 hours because she is just learning how to type. She really worked hard this week-end around the house and I think that it was a little too much for her because it interfered with the activities which she had planned. I told her that next week she should go ahead and place her school activities first of all. Bette is really engrossed in the University and so proud of the fact that she is a regular college student.



Dictated at the office most of the day, and now I am behind only four cases. I didn't have an interview scheduled for this evening so I stayed home and took things easy. Bette puttered around for two or three hours before she got down to studying and she fell asleep! She seems to be keeping up fairly well with her class assignments though. She was anxious to listen to Archibald Mac Leish over the radio as she is getting quite chummy with his nephew at the University.

I tried to line up another interview by phone, but it is still doubtful. I thought I might talk to Flo so I phoned over to Sugio to get her address. Hippe was the only one home. He said that Sugio never comes home anymore as he "lives at Flo's since her brother went back to camp. You know how it is." He said that Sugio has been saying that he will get married at any moment now.

Buddy is temporarily unemployed again. He went back to work at H.B Smith's company and he injured his hand in some way a couple of weeks ago so he had been drawing unemployment compensation. The first check came today. Hippe said that his brother went to work about a week or so after I finished interviewing him, but he only worked for two weeks. Buster is working at HBSmith's also and he goes to work regularly. He did take two weeks off but he hasn't missed time on the job for the past couple of weeks.

I went out to the corner to buy some cigarettes and bumped into Fred. K. He was just passing through town and he came up our way to visit some friends at the Japanese rooming house. After exchanging greetings, he remarked, "I'm keeping out of the Army's clutches right now. I'll be damned if I go in until they drag me. They have to catch me first. I'm no fool to go into the combat team and be sent overseas in two months. Hell, a lot of the caucasian guys have been in for two years or more and they are still in this country. They just want to put the Nisei up on the front to use them for cannon fodder.



I don't call that democracy. Let those who get it fight for it. I'm just not very much interested in the war effort."

Ok. "That doesn't sound like a very good attitude to take. It seems to me that you are enjoying democratic benefits right now even if you don't think so. At least you have the freedom to voice your opinion on the matter and you have been traveling all around for the past few months without any restrictions."

Fred: "Well, why shouldn't I travel around? I worked like hell to make the money for it didn't I? Nobody gave me a handout, I can tell you that. Hell, even if I go into the Army the only thing I have to come back to would be some menial work. Why should I do that when I can make a little dough now. I forgot all about that stuff of democracy when I went to camp. That's just a bunch of stuff they feed to the suckers.

You might think that I am one of the few who think like this, but I bet you that all of those Nisei who are in the Army now will come back and be disillusioned as hell and feel that they have been gyped. Don't think that they won't be kicked around after they take the uniform off. I know that there is an induction notice out for me, but I am keeping on the move until it catches up to me. I suppose it won't be too long now and I am not happy about it. I just came from Denver and I am on my way to New York. "

Fred K. was one of the Nisei boys that I worked with around Stockton one summer before the war. He comes from a rural community but his folks returned to Japan shortly before the war and he was left alone. He was working all around the state with the Japanese labor gangs at the time I met him. It is too bad that he has become so bitter about things. I certainly hope that this air of disillusionment does not grow too much among the Nisei. It won't help their future any to be whinning about Fate being against them while they are so young and just started out in life. It seems to be a growing tendency though.



I came out to class in the morning and typed for a little while before deciding to go over to the north side to ask Aki if he had finished repairing Emiko's radio. He wasn't home so I went over to Mariko's. It was about 2:30 when I arrived and they were just having breakfast. I don't know what they live on. George mentioned that he was still waiting for his Civil Service job. Mariko was very pleasant to start out with but later on she put on a terrific scene. Eileen had a stomach ache so she didn't get up early to go house hunting. While we were eating, we started to talk about Nisei dances. Mariko immediately dominated the conversation and she said that she didn't believe in Nisei dances but the young people liked dancing and something had to be done. Then she turned around and said that the Nisei were too clannish and they should make more attempts to participate in the established public recreational facilities. However, she said, it was very expensive to go out to the hotel dance halls as a fellow couldn't take a girl for less than \$10. George made the point that it was just about as expensive to go to a Nisei dance. Mariko wouldn't mind going to nisei dances if there weren't so many yogores around. She doesn't think in terms of a Nisei society development at all because she would just go to dance. George doesn't care to go to these Nisei dances because there would be too many fellows cutting in and he wouldn't get his money's worth out of dancing.

Mariko then began to talk about the Nisei job status. She felt that the Nisei should worry more right now about their job future. I immediately began to pick up this point and I asked her how she was coming along on her job hunting. I remarked that the Nisei seemed to be getting into a wide range of occupational choices, but their future certainly was not secure yet because the



majority were in unskilled jobs where many Nisei were misplaced. Mariko said that in her job hunting many employers used the Nisei because they could be hired at cheaper wages. She said she went to one employment agency where a couple of Negro girls came in and the interviewer remarked to Mariko, "We have nothing for those cheap niggers." Mariko got angry at this because she felt that the Nisei might be put in the same position after the war. The discussion was going along fine as long as we stuck to the academic level. However, Mariko began to personalize the issue and she said that she had never achieved her ambitions because she worked 10 years for the family and turned over two-thirds of her wages so that Jack and I would have the opportunity to go to college as this was more important. This statement was a gross distortion of the truth. I pointed out to Mariko (very calmly) that she had only contributed to the family for 5 or 6 years and I had never lived with the family before then and she couldn't use this argument. I also pointed out that she had been caught in a rut as a domestic worker because of the coast situation and it was no choice of her own. I had tried to get her to go on with her art training but Mariko was having too much fun to make this decision.

At this point Mariko began to get very excited and she acted like a "suffering hero". She said that she really had given up her art career for the family. I pointed out that during the past 5 years she had nothing to do with the family so she couldn't give that excuse. She then said that she didn't have the money to pay for an expensive education. She said that she had held 10 jobs within the last two years so that she had some qualifications. I asked her why she didn't specialize more to her interest instead of dilly dallying around with a lot of jobs which she became



bored with. She exploded at this and said that she had to earn a living. Then she began to take it out on George and said that he was always nagging her about going to look for a job so that she had to take something where she could get immediate money. This didn't get a rise out of George so she began to say that George was mad at me because I barged in and asked about Bette's suit when he thought the wife's place was closest to the husband. I said that George had the right idea and she became furious. She began to nag George about his large ash tray and said she would throw it out of the window if he didn't put it away. She then began to nag him about being so sloppy around the house. George still acted very amused and he told Mariko that the trouble with her was that she couldn't carry a discussion objectively because she always brought it down to the personal element. That's why, he said, he never discussed politics with her. He pointed out that she was always interfering in a conversation so that he and other persons never got in a word. He said that he would appreciate it if she would just tend to her cooking more and let him talk with his guests.

This was the final straw and Mariko really went up in the air and for 10 minutes she was chattering away like a machine gun. Eileen and I just started washing the dishes and we didn't say anything. I had already made my apologies to Mariko as she felt that I caused the argument in the beginning. Mariko is like a leech and she won't keep quiet until she gets everyone on her side. She got angry because George didn't take her point of view and Eileen refused to comment. That's why she took it out on George. After the explosion George tried to make up with Mariko and he held her in his arms. Mariko almost burst a blood vessel because she



was still in a temperamental mood and she called him a ~~GPD~~ S.O.B. They went into the bedroom and George started to talk to her calmly. He was telling her that it was her own fault for getting excited because she was too much on the defensive and she thought everything was directed at her when actually we were talking on a general subject. They kissed and made up and the air got calmer. That Mariko is worse than a Hollywood actress. She doesn't seem to realize that it is her herself which causes so much of these disagreeable scenes. I can't say anything around her anymore without her getting on the defensive. I guess that is why she has built up a resentment. She thinks I condemn her for being dumb and that isn't true at all. That's why she is so insistent on winning every point over me as if it were a matter of life and death.

After George and Mariko made up, Mariko began to belittle George's carpentry ability and she said that she was going to take full credit for designing the bookcase because he bragged so much about it. I don't see why Mariko won't give George the credit. It would be good psychology for her to make her husband feel more important. George is always pleased when I comment on his furniture building around the house so that he is going to build me a book case. He asked Mariko to let him alone so he could design and build it all by himself and Mariko remarked that it would probably turn out to be a awful job. I guess George and Mariko are going through their marital raptures right now and that is the way they all are. However, I think that Mariko makes it harder for herself to adjust to married life because she is such a dominating personality and an individualist. She takes advantage of her temperament and she blows off steam at the most irrelevant thing. It's surprising how nice she can be when she wants to. She then becomes an



entirely different and charming person. She has so many good attributes but that bad temper and emotionalism of hers is so childish. After all, she is 30 years old now and she should be grown up and not like a 17 year old spoiled brat. It's a good thing that Mariko isn't in Japan where a woman's position is nothing!

One of the remarks which Mariko made later on struck me as being rather significant. She was talking about the Nisei who bragged about their "Caucasian friends" when she thought that they were just ordinary. It seems to be true that most Nisei resent other Nisei who have Caucasian friends. It may be a similar attitude to that of the Negro who condemns another Negro for attempting to pass over the "color line". Mariko brags about her Caucasian friends herself. I told her that the Nisei are just beginning to know Caucasians a little so that they are not entirely discriminate in selecting friends. However, I thought that they would outgrow this immaturity and select friends because of common interests, I pointed out that this seemed to be a rather good trend and it was better than sticking entirely to other Nisei and being sour about those who made attempts to become integrated even though mistakes were made. I suppose that there are many Nisei who become rather obnoxious and try to flaunt their Caucasian friends in order to infer that they are better than other Nisei. That tendency is not abnormal and in time they will look upon these things as ordinary events. If the present tendency of condemning Nisei who cultivate Caucasian friends continues, it may be a drawback to the whole group because the more extrovert Nisei has hesitate to expand for fear of other Nisei condemnation.

I went out to help Eileen look for an apartment since my in-



terview was not scheduled until evening. While we were walking around Eileen mentioned that she was at her lowest ebb. She has great ambitions to become a music teacher in a public school. All of her classmates are in the field of their training now but Eileen has not been able to secure a position which she wants. She said that she had a chance to teach music and English in an Indian reservation school up in North Dakota. She would have been able to save \$120 a month but she turned the job down because she felt that it would be too lonesome teaching 11 months a year and one month picking tomatoes for the Indian children's lunches. She said that she tried to use any of her family contacts with important officials in her home state but nothing came out of it. She feels that she has a very good job now with the puppet show but she wants to ~~keep~~ teach music just once in order to satisfy herself. She said that she couldn't think of marriage or anything else until this ambition was achieved. She said that she had worked very hard during the three years in which she attended the Sherwood Music School and she felt that she should get some satisfaction out of this hard work. She didn't know whether her present job was a step in the direction of realizing her ambitions or not.

Eileen was further depressed because of her inability to find adequate housing adjustments. She said that it might be possible that Yoshi would be her room mate. Miki and her sister are moving into another partment with two other girls so that there wouldn't be room for Yoshi. (Not that Yoshi is too fat either.) Eileen feels that she will be able to get along with Yoshi if that arrangement could be made. We inquired at several places and Eileen thought she might even take a flat as she intends to stay in Chicago for quite some time yet. We went to one place to inquire and



an old lady who spoke broken English said that the place had just been taken. The lady went to great length to explain that another woman had reserved the place that morning and she ended up with "no hard~~ix~~ feelings, huh?" Eileen didn't know what she meant by that so I told her that it might have been because of the fact that many Nisei have been discriminated against in housing. Eileen exclaimed, "Oh, so that's it. I've been to a couple of places where they were rude to me and I didn't know why."

The interesting thing is that Eileen is just getting Nisei conscious now that she has run up against difficulties in her job and house hunting. Prior to this time she had already become Nisei conscious in regard to social activities. Eileen doesn't have the typical Nisei attitudes of bitterness because she has never been in a large Japanese community and she didn't go through the evacuation process. She doesn't have hardly any characteristics found among the Nisei. I hope that she does not develop a "race consciousness" as that would only be a frustrating experience which she can well do without. I don't think that she will because she is pretty well integrated into the Chicago life and she doesn't have occasion to know of the usual Nisei problems. She is learning these things though through her contacts with other Nisei and I hope it doesn't distort her thinking. She seems to be quite intelligent and objective in her reasoning. I will probably interview her after she gets settled down in housing.

After we had a bite to eat Eileen rushed off to work as she was a half hour late and I rushed on up for my interview. I was a little~~x~~ early so I sat around and talked to Davey, Tom, Cleo and Tomi for a little while. Cleo looks half dead most of the time. She is holding two full time jobs and I don't see how she keeps it



up. She works at the Stevens Hotel from 11 at night until 7 in the morning. Then she goes to work at some paper company from 9 until 3. She gets home about 4:00 and sleeps until 7:30 and then eats. She then goes back to sleep until 10:00 and then gets ready to go to work again. It's really a grinding life and I asked her why she did it. Cleo answered that she was one of these money mad Japs and she also had a large dentist bill to pay. She said that she might quit one of the jobs after she saved a little more money. She doesn't get enough sleep at all, and it is going to ruin her health eventually if she keeps it up.

Tomi is a rather attractive girl but very quiet. She never has a great deal to say and she is just beginning to unfreeze a little after I have seen her about 8 or 10 times now. Apparently she is quite popular because she goes out on a number of dates. Her brother, Sam, is living upstairs and I may attempt to interview him if he is willing. Cleo and Tomi are too sleepy to be interviewed so I'll have to let them go.

Davey mentioned that he was going to take Sunny out on a date Thursday night. He took me into his room and he said that he really cared a great deal for Sunny. She bought him ~~a~~ an expensive toilet set. Davey was over there for dinner last Monday. He said that he would even like to get married but he thought he was too young. Then he began to ask me if it would be bad for him to go to a house of prostitution. He said he wouldn't know what to do if he got a disease. Tom N. has been telling him about the different places where he may go. Davey isn't able to make up his mind so he reads a sex book. He said that if it bothered him too much he was going to go but he would try to refrain as much as possible. He said that when he put his full interest to his music playing and other



activities he never thought of such things. He never goes upstairs to talk to the fellows very much because they are always discussing sex and Davey hasn't decided whether to start up this activity or not at this time. He really wants to be a success of some kind and I think he is trying hard. He just needs to be encouraged. Every time he gets a little discouraged, he goes out and gets drunk. I don't think he has been drinking much in the last couple of weeks.

I interviewed Mrs. Watanabe for several hours this evening and it was quite fruitful. She has given me a different slant on camp life. Her philosophy is that there is beauty in everything so that she entered camp life with this spirit. She sees the Japanese as human beings and she said that a great deal of latent artistic talent came out of the people as the result of the tragic evacuation. She pointed out all of the art work which went on and the gardens which were developed. She taught an art class for almost two years at Granada and she was telling me of how her students made things out of discarded scraps, cantelope seeds and old fence posts. She said she had difficulty in speaking with the Issei women but this was overcome by a mutual love of art. She showed me some of the things she made in camp and they were rather beautiful. Mrs. Watanabe also taught people interior decorating so they could fix up their barracks into a more livable place. She said that perhaps this creativeness of camp life was only one small factor there but she was so involved in it that it took most of the sting out of living in such a desolate wasteland. Mrs. Watanabe then went on to tell me a great deal of her personal experiences. We did not get through her center life in the interview so I will have to go back again.

It embarrasses me because she keeps on calling me honey and



dear in a very natural way. I don't know how her husband is taking this as he is such a frozen-faced individual that I can't detect an emotion at all. He seems to be a pretty good guy though. But Kibei are so difficult to understand. I don't think Mrs. Watanabe would have ever married him ~~sm~~ if she did not have that limp. She mentioned that her Caucasian guardian in Los Angeles wrote to her two or three times a week and they did not want her to get too optimistic about returning to California. She said that she had received several clippings which told of the efforts of the California attorney-general to lift the civilian exclusion order. Mrs. Watanabe doesn't believe that too many Japanese will return to the coast. She said that the former Japanese town was filled with Negroes so that the returning Japanese would have no place to go. Mrs. W. owns a house in Hollywood but she doesn't think she will be going back ~~too~~ soon because of better economic opportunities out here. While I was interviewing her she received a phone call telling her of a job offer working in glass in some plant in Philadelphia. She said that it paid about \$350 a month but she didn't think she would take it because she has to think of her husband first. She has much more ability than her husband but she feels that it is more important that he get adjusted first of all. That is why they cannot decide to take the teaching job at Grinnell College or not. Mrs. W. is working as an interior decorator of some sort out here and she makes around a dollar an hour plus overtime. She makes more than her husband. In Los Angeles she was known as quite an artist.

Louise mentioned that she had heard a little of Mrs. W.'s background. I haven't asked Mrs. W. about her limp as I assumed that it was from infantile paralysis. It is always difficult to



ask a person about a physical defect unless the information is volunteered. Mrs. W. just told me that she was in a hospital for 5 years so I didn't inquire any further. Louise said that the story has been told that Mrs. W. was abandoned by her parents when she was a child. A Caucasian family which was very poor picked her up and they tortured her. They beat her up and as a result she was in a hospital for five years. When she came out her present Caucasian guardians had found her after she was abandoned the second time and they put her in the hospital. When she came out they took her into their home and reared her as their own daughter. Mrs. Watanabe did not go into these details when telling me her story and I didn't press the point as I felt that it might discomfort her if I got too noseey about her personal secrets. I'm getting a very good story from her as it is and I wouldn't care to spoil it. Mrs. W. invited <sup>me</sup> to come over for dinner on Thursday night and I will interview her again. It is taking a little time for this interview because we get side-tracked on points which are not relevant to her story and I don't take notes on it. I can't continue the interview when she brings on refreshments either as I would not want to take notes when she puts ~~notes~~ <sup>food</sup> in front of me!

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I got a card from the draft board saying that I was 2-A until April 12, 1945. The local board must have taken action without any sort of an appeal unless Dorothy sent in a request for further deferment without my knowledge. It was a complete surprise to me as I did not expect to be given an extension of the deferment. I don't know whether to feel relieved or not. Jack had pasted a "1-A" slip covering the 2-A so that my first reaction was that I would be drafted in a short time. Not too many Nisei over 26 are being drafted now anyway so I'll have to continue doing my best in my work in order to justify my deferment.



I was busy dictating most of yesterday. I didn't have an interview scheduled for the evening so I went to the show with Bette instead of studying as I should. I regretted it this morning because I was mystified in class about the subject being lectured on. It was something about statistical methods but it was so far above my head that I took a short nap. I'll have to really get down to studying this stuff one of these days. Bette was a little disappointed because she got a D plus in her English composition. She said that she had practically memorized the topic out of an English book and yet the young teacher marked it all up with notations about faulty sentence structure. However, Bette is not too discouraged because she said that the final examination that only counted so she is going to practice writing compositions as much as possible during the school year. Emiko phoned last night and said that she didn't know whether Bette could come over and stay Friday night because she was being invited out to dinner by one of the nurses at the school.

Bette has books piled all over the place and she wants to buy all the books assigned for reading in order to start her library. We have to get a book case pretty soon as George may not finish one until next Xmas. Mrs. B. has a swell book case upstairs which she may give us if her husband doesn't need it any more. Mr. B. is in the hospital at the present time under observation for nervous disorder. We have been piling our books all over the place and that isn't so good for them. Bette is very proud of her books and she wants to put them on display and also within easy reaching distance.

Louise told me this morning that she went to a USO committee meeting last night and the group decided to sponsor a Nisei dance



most likely at a "Y", in order to raise some funds to carry on the Nisei USO work. A Mr. Mukoyama was appointed the finance chairman. This individual has been getting his finger into a great many activities out here and Tom suspects that he is one of the Messiahs who want to be a big-shot for personal satisfaction. The man is reputed to be fairly well off and he owns an art goods store out on the westside. His wife is working for the Illinois Public Assistance Commission.

In speaking of Mukoyama, Tom suggested that I interview him. I wasn't so enthusiastic about it because I felt that he would be another Tashiro type. We got to talking about sampling for the case documents. I realize that I do not have an organized sampling to work from but I maintained that these individual cases would be revealing of the resettler's adjustment processes. Tom suggested that the scope be widened and that it was possible to get a more scientific sampling. We discussed it for about an hour and concluded that the limitations would be great since we had no idea of what the total population was composed of. I suppose Tom would approach the document collecting in a different manner since he is more scientifically minded. I don't think that I've made any claims that my case documents is representative of all Nisei since I have looked upon each case as individual. This is one of the problems that we have. I don't know how I could get a better sampling if the time element is considered. All I'm interested in at the present time is to get at least 100 documents. I have jumped from group to group and have not exhausted the possibilities of each group before moving on so that there is a vague element of the sampling process going on. I suppose I did get a little defensive about the methodological processes that I am using because



it is rather difficult to explain and it wouldn't be accepted by a sociologist or a statistician. It would certainly limit my output if greater control were exercised in the selection of cases. It's a helluva job to get cases as it is and I still don't see the necessity of getting too excited about the final sampling yet as it would take many more cases to fill in the gap and I probably will be working on it for years in order to satisfy the scientific methods. However, it did give me something to think about and I'll probably try to continue getting a wider coverage in the documents. Tom was thinking more in terms of a completed report whereas I haven't been too concerned about that up to now. If the study does end next June, I suppose there will be many incomplete gaps.

Tom mentioned that the conference would be held in Salt Lake on November 29 to December 6. I don't see how I could possibly attend ~~xx~~ without giving up this quarter's work. I'm hoping that my attendance won't be required since the emphasis will be placed upon the relocation center aspect of the study. Tom has been working very hard in order to finish up the project he has started and he doesn't think that he can possibly complete them by the end of the year. He feels that a conference may take up too much of his limited time and he is also thinking in terms of additional expense to the study. He would prefer to have the travel expenses referred to the extension of his work on the present project he is undertaking. He is working under a definite pressure and I certainly do sympathize with him because the future is so uncertain. He mentioned that he may try to get into the WRA so that he could save up some money for post-war graduate work. He is very ambitious to obtain a Ph.D. degree since he feels that he will not be



able to apply his sociological training in teaching until then. I rather suspect that his criticism of my scientific approach to the collection of case documents this morning was partly motivated by his own insecurity. Therefore, I overlooked it and I was as diplomatic as possible in trying to explain my position but I don't think I convinced him. Tom doesn't realize that my position isn't any more secure than his since my work may end by next June. I'm not as interested in getting a complete report since I feel that my emphasis should be on the data collecting right up until the last moment. I suppose this insecurity about future job adjustments hits all of the Nisei, including those of us on the Study. Togo hasn't mentioned his future plans lately but he has been expecting to go into Savage. Frank is about the most secure since he can always go into language teaching and I suppose Jimmy can do the same. Tom and I concluded that we were the least prepared to go out and face the cruel world. Tom has his M.A. but I still am a long way from finishing mine. I'll just have to worry about that when the time comes. At least I shouldn't preoccupy myself with it too much altho I do think about it every now and then when the fancy strikes me. I suppose the end of this work will be another turning point in my life. After that, it is a blank wall at the present time. Tom has to think about these things immediately since he feels that his work may definitely end in December unless he can get an extension of time to finish up his present projects. It may be a good thing for him to attend the conference so that he can explain his projects directly as it is always hard to do it through the mails. I hope that he will be able to work out something to his satisfaction and I realize that his scientific criticism of my approach has a great element of truth in it. At this stage, however, I don't like to see a complete revision of approach which will throw me off balance.



This evening I went over to interview Mrs. W again. (ch-55)

She had invited me to dinner so I ate a delicious meal of two steaks, baked potatoes, string beans, corn, salad, pickles, and olives. Mr. W. works in the vegetable department of a National Tea Co. store so that he is able to get his choice of the vegetables. He still doesn't talk very much so that it is hard to get a conversation out of him. We did not finish dinner until about 8:00 so that we got a late start in our interview. Mrs. W. gets up at six in the morning so that I had to stop about 10:30. Her husband usually takes a bath right after eating and then he gets into bed to read the papers. He wears a Japanese kimono and one of those clothes around the head. But he seems to be quite modernized. He used to help his wife with the laundry in camp and he cooperates with the dishes here. One of the reasons why the resettled was because Mrs. W. didn't like the old women of the block who criticized her for making her husband help with the work. It seems that some of the Issei women thought she was not any good as a wife since she did not have any children. Apparently the decision to come to Chicago was made by her as her husband seems to be agreeable to everything she does. He doesn't ever plan to go ~~xxx~~ to Japan to live. They did not start to think seriously about resettlement until their friends left and then they began to long more for a normal life on the outside. Mrs. W. wore heels out here so that she got big blisters on her feet from walking around as she had been wearing flats for two years. She likes Chicago as she thinks that there are so many things of beauty here. I don't see how she sees beauty in the tenement district. Maybe artists see things in a different way.



I received some news from Dorothy when I got home so that my mind has been relieved of some of the things I have been worrying about. She mentioned some things about the financial position of the Study and she said that she was in hopes of receiving further funds from the Foundation, but she intends to close down some segments of the Study anyway as she has to many administrative duties and she needs to spend some time in writing the the overal volume for publication. She plans to close down the work in camp as soon as it becomes definite that the Coast will be re-opened. Morton's Togo's and Toms segments will also be completed at the end of this year.

I was quite astonished, and pleased, when she went on to say that she would like to have me continue on the study for another year if she can get the funds. That is something that I really had not hoped for too much. It all depends upon the obtaining of the funds. She feels that a great many of the important observations on the resettlement of the Nisei will come after demobilization so that she wants me to start on "follow ups" of cases after I get "a certain number of new cases." After that I am to concentrate on the follow ups of the old cases and new ones will be on a more limited basis. I think that this answers my concern about "sampling" which Tom and I discussed this morning. It seems to be the logical procedure and I think that it is "scientific" enough if I can get the stuff. Dorothy also made the note that I should not have to be so worried about my own bias since I was aware of its general existence and on guard against it. She made the point that it does not necessarily disturb the ~~xxxx~~ collection of data.

Since all of these plans are tentative, she suggests that



I will not have to attend the Salt Lake Conference in November, but she would like me to plan on coming to Berkeley sometime next March to go over the future plan of work that I will have to carry on, regardless of whether I stay on after next June or not. I will have to make some arrangement of fixing up my class schedule so that I can be absent for several weeks. I hardly think that the break between quarters will be that long, but I may be able to make some arrangements with SSA. They have usually been most helpful so I had better not fall down on my work this quarter altho it is a tough course for me since I don't have the statistical background.

Bette read the letter and she thinks that it is obvious that Dorothy considers my work as "outstanding." Naturally that does make me feel very good, but I think that I have been fortunate in selecting a topic which needs a great deal of time for completion. Maybe there might be a chance for Tom to be extended if he finishes up his project to a near completion point. He has been doing some first rate stuff on the Buddhist groups.

The thing which makes me feel good is that there is some possibility that I will be able to complete my 100 cases as a minimum basis and that Dorothy thinks that this data can be useful sociologically even tho we have not stuck to a rigid sampling, not knowing the Universe. (a word I learned from my class today!) I suspect that when some of the gaps are filled in, it will be representative of Nisei adjustments in some respects. We couldn't get "types" anyway since there is not such a thing as a "typical Nisei" altho we use the term glibly. I certainly would ever hate to pose as an expert on the resettler adjustments as the more I learn, the less I feel I can say anything ~~xxx~~ about them with confidence. >



I didn't get home until after 3:00 last night and I was dead tired from the day's activities. I went house hunting with Eileen as I thought it would be a good opportunity for me to check up on all the stories about housing discrimination. I haven't experienced much of it myself since I got my place the third day we were out here. Eileen has been tramping the streets everyday for the past two weeks, but she has been unsuccessful in finding anything to her liking. She just starts out in a different direction everyday. Once in a while she looks up an opening listed by the Tribune. She has all of her friends keeping their eyes open, without any success.

Her housing situation is complicated by the fact that the girl she had relied upon to share an apartment is very fussy. Eileen's expectations were also high, but she has lowered the standards after all that walking around without getting anything. She does not have another roommate in mind, but she is thinking of asking Yoshi. Yoshi is doing domestic work on the north side now, but she wants a place to come to on her day off. She has been paying \$5.00 a week for a sleeping room in the same building where Miki lived. Eileen thinks that she will be able to get along with her since she would only see her occasionally. Eileen would like to get an afternoon job, but she can't start looking until she gets her housing problem settled. She feels that she is putting Mariko out by staying there even though she does share the expenses.)

We hiked all over the north side and the loop area without any real prospects resulting. Eileen does not want to get too far away from her work since it would mean extra carfare when she started an afternoon job. She has been considering a flat as she is reasonably sure that she will be in Chicago



for quite a while. However, she does not think that she could furnish a place up by herself. Flats are much cheaper in rent and roomier. She feels that if she finds a decent single place she will take that. We started out hiking and we must have gone to about 25 places during the course of the afternoon. >

W 11 I think that it can safely be said that there is discrimination in housing. We ran into several definite examples. I tried to view the whole thing as objectively as possible. In many cases, it appeared that the areas where resettlers tended to concentrate were more difficult to canvass and the landladies were slightly antagonistic. A few were downright rude, but it may have been due to the fact that they have the upper hand now that housing is so scarce. < to 6194 In the districts which had flats, the reception was usually more cordial altho we did run into several places where the landlady seemed to be too nasty. Only in a few places was the matter of race directly mentioned.

In one flat up the street from Mariko's, the landlady seemed to be very nice and they were willing to rent but they said that somebody had already left a deposit. Later when Eileen went back, the person absolutely refused to consider her and she said that the reason why the vacancy sign had not been taken down was because she was old and it was too risky to stand on a chair to remove the sign. Mariko had a slight suspicion that the change in attitude was due to the fact the the real estate company which owned the building refused to rent to any Orientals.

In about one-third of the places we did look at the apartments, but Eileen did not care for any of them since they were too dirty and cramped. The surprising thing is



was that so many of the places did not have any bath facilities. I don't know what the tenants do for baths. One landlady said that the only possibility was to sponge oneself off. We didn't even consider those places with no bath. I had a feeling in walking around that many of the curt refusals could not be traced directly to discrimination. In some places there was no response to the ringing of the doorbell even tho we heard someone walking around inside. Eileen thought that they had seen us coming but wouldn't answer. However, that is reading into a situation and not necessarily true. I suspect that many Nisei who come out of camp and look for apartments are more sensitive than those who have been out for a while so they ascribe everything to prejudice, and these stories get around. I am convinced that there are places if one looks around. Of course, the main difficulty seems to be in the standards. It is likewise true the that dirtier places seem to be more willing to rent. On the other hand, the good places are limited because there is such a demand for housing.

We looked at one flat for \$25 but the landlady was very evasive. Right down the street we found another one for \$20 which was just the thing but somebody had put a deposit down on it. The landlord showed us around anyway and he suggested that Eileen call him todayx in case the other party cancelled the deposit. However, Eileen felt that she could not take a definite step like this until she found a roommate.

We then began to walk more towards the cheaper housing areas down Clark Street and vicinity. It was in one of these places where the element of race was definitely a factor. We knocked at the door and Mrs. Zepprich answered. She asked directly: "Are you Japs?" Like a fool, Eileen made the mistake



of answering in the affirmative. The lady shook her head and said that she was very sorry but she could not rent to her. I immediately raised the point that we were Americans. The lady became very sympathetic and she said that she was of German descent herself, but she had to think of her tenants. She said that there were 18 families in the building and some of the fathers had been killed or wounded in the South Pacific so that it would be too uncomfortable for any Nisei to move in. I told her that we would be willing to go around and talk to the other tenants to see if they would object, but she answered that it was not use.

Mrs. Z. then went on in a very apologetic voice that she knew that we were educated and born in this country, but she couldn't do anything about it. She said that her family had been in this country for 100 years but they were still considered Germans during the last war. I then said that she should be willing to get other Americans better understood since she knew what it was like. She said that she would like to do it but she was in business too. "Before the war, I had a Mr. Shoji living here for many years and he was a very nice man. It's too bad that the war has made things so unpleasant for you people. I know out on the Coast, the Jewish people will not rent to Germans in the same position as you are in. It's just the way things are."

I then began to tell her that the Nisei were Americans too and they were fighting in the war to win the principles of democracy and there would be no progress if Americans on the home front continued to discriminate against certain segments of the population. Mrs. Z. then started to give a very illogical argument that she knew we were American citizens but "your country is fighting against the U.S. right now and people don't



understand that you are for us." It was impossible to make her see the light so we finally departed with her apologetic voice following us down the stairs. Eileen remarked that it was no use trying to waste time to change opinions, but I thought it was worth the time as it might get the lady to thinking a little more clearly.

We then crossed over into Dearborn St. There was a vacancy sign in a quite modern building so Eileen went up to inquire. A young woman with a cigarette dangling out of her lips came to the door. When Eileen asked about the vacancy, the woman shook her head and said that the place was for girls only. Eileen said that she was looking for herself and a girlfriend.

Then the woman said, "We only take Gentiles here."

Eileen, "But, I'm a gentile."

Woman: "Sorry, but we can't rent to you." She just closed the door so that we had to leave. Evidently the woman mistook Eileen as Jewish!

Right down the street, we ran into another landlady who suggested that the government buy a section for "you people." She said that there was a Japanese rooming house down the street so that the other landlords did not rent out to Japanese who came around and tried to get into other places in the block. Eileen did not care to live in a place filled with Japanese. We must have walked miles and miles during the course of the afternoon. Eileen treated me to a barbecued rib dinner and she made me lose "face" by insisting upon treating me! Afterwards we started to look for apartments again until she went to work at six, but the prospects were definitely bad. There were places in the near north side, but all of them were too dirty.

One of the amusing incidents we had was to be stopped by 2



I went over to Kiyoshi's place to make a follow up on his progress. Both Kiyoshi and Violet have gotten jobs now. Kiyoshi ch-53 is working as a shipping clerk in a wholesale house, while Violet has just started to work in the office of the National Research Institute. She insisted that I stay for dinner in spite of the fact that I had just eaten. I helped her fry the chicken. Violet is beginning to worry about budgets since their income is no longer as great as it has been in the past. She keeps an itemized account of her food expenditures, but she has not been able to cut the bill down as they eat very abundantly. She invited me over to dinner again next week. After a brief interview with Kiyoshi, we played cards for a couple of hours.

Kiyoshi was worried because he has just found out that there is a Japanese prostitute living in the same building. He said that he noticed it first when the ~~fa~~Nisei fellows started to come in and wait around in the halls. He sees all different Nisei coming in. He was not aware that the girl was in business until Tom N. told him that some of his friends had been to the room. Kiyoshi felt that it would cause the Nisei to have a bad reputation if it were called to the attention of the police department. At the same time, she does not think it will be so good living there since rumors might start about Sonny being with them. However, he does not feel that he can move again. There are other single girls in the building and Kiyoshi felt that it would not be such a desirable setup for them either. He hopes that the Nisei prostitute will move out soon. The landlady is unaware of what is going on and none of the other Nisei in the building feel that it is their business so nothing is done except to talk about it.

Sonny mentioned that she went to a nightclub with Davy on



Thursday night. She paid for all the bills. Kiyoshi said she came home tight as it was the first time she had ever taken a drink. "I don't know what this modern age is coming to, but I can't say anything to her as she just lives here with us. Davy is a nice kid and I don't think he would do anything too bad." Sonny said that she had a lot of fun: "I'm only young once and I won't get into any trouble. I didn't really get drunk tho. I just had a couple of drinks. Davy behaved himself very properly. Davy didn't want to go at first as he said that Charlie would get mad if he found out, but I said it would be okay just this once. Davy is beginning to save his money now." I would interview Sonny but she works at night and sleeps most of the day so that I don't have any opportunity. When she is up, she is busy with washing and ironing and other things of that sort.

Kiyoshi had the following to say about his present job status and other plans: "I'm going to get to work all day Saturday this week so that I will get a lot of overtime. I started working last Monday. It wasn't very hard for me to get the job. I just the the job leads through the newspaper ads and then I checked off a few which seemed to be in non-essential work. The first place I went was a wholesale house. The job was for a shipping clerk and they hired me after I told them that I was waiting to get into the Army soon. That was last Saturday and they told me I could start on Monday. In the interview they told me that they were not particular about what race I was as long as I was a good worker. The pay is low, only 65 cents an hour. In my present condition, that is okay as I don't have a work release and I couldn't get into essential work. Another thing is that I only expect to be doing this work for a couple of months at the most as I will get called for induction after that. I'



pretty sure that they will not keep me on Reserve much longer than that.

"The job is pretty convenient for me as it is located only five minutes away by bus. I get overtime after 40 hours and I expect there will be a lot of that as the Christmas season is just starting and we will have to work at least 54 hours a week and maybe more. I will get my first pay check tomorrow.(Sat.) The name of the company is Cody Incorporate. It is a whole-sale outlet for cosmetic goods. There are not any other Nisei in the place as I am the first one to ever get a job there.

"There are four young Negroes there and they get too damn fresh. They have a chip on the shoulders and they are always trying to loaf around. I just don't trust them anymore after what happened today. One of these Negroes stole some money out of my wallet. The boss was going to prosecute them, but I told him to forget it. He wanted to fire the four negroes, but I didn't want to be the cause of them losing their jobs. He said that he never had a crook working for him before.

"It was partly my fault that I lost the money. I was changing my shirt for work and I left my wallet on the table. I walked off and about ten minutes later one of the Negro fellows brought it up. It was empty. I thought at first that I had left my money home, but I found out after phoning that I had brought it to work. When I told the boss he said that a lot of things had been missing in that place ever since he hired the last three Negroes. He said the other one who had brought my wallet back was an old employee and he was okay. This Negro sounded so sorry that one of his race had pulled a dirty trick on me. The boss said not to trust anyone in the place. I sure lost faith in the Negroes tho. Those guys work sloppy and they make



make a bad reputation for all the rest, just like the Nisei zoot suiters.

"The other workers in the shop are three old men and they are past their prime for work. They don't speak much English very well. I guess they are foreigners, but they got citizenship and sons in the Army. There are two typical Americans there too and they are young. None of these workers have much education but they seem to be decent and I get along with all of them well, except the Negroes and I am not going to have anything to do with them anymore as I don't trust them.

"The boss is a nice guy and he is not too bossy. He makes me feel like working for him. I just do my work and I try to get along well with everyone. The old men there consider me a part of them and they are sympathetic to me. They won't say it but they sort of avoid and segregate the four Negroes who are not accepted like I am. It's a good enough place to work in considering everything.

"I plan to work at this job until I get called into the Army. I think that I'll get called for Military Intelligence about December 11. I wrote a letter to Major Rousch like you said and I mentioned that I was on the Reserve and that I would like to try out for the language school. He answered me in a week and I have to fill out these application blanks now. I don't know if I can pass the qualifications though. I can't read all of that Japanese writing they told me to translate. Miolet can read it better than I can. (Short stop here while they discuss who knows Japanese better.)

"I don't know if I would want to go to Japan with the Army of occupation. The only reason I want to stay in the US and not get shipped overseas so quick is because of Vi. Suppose I



volunteer for the language school and then I find out that I would not have been called for the combat team anyway--I would feel gyped. I don't feel like going over to Europe to fight as the casualties are too high. But I heard that the Reserves are getting called in pretty fast now so that is why I sent for the language school application. If I go to Snelling, I'll be in the Army for quite a long time.

"It's not so hot to have to be sent to the Pacific to fight against the Jap Army, but it can't be helped. There is too much complication to it and I might even get shot by one of my own men. My life won't be worth a plugged nickel. I think that if a Jap sniper has a chance to shoot only one American soldier, he would shoot me first. But that's the chance of war. I think that I am taking just as much chances for danger by going into Snelling than if I were in a combat team in Europe. The only difference would be that I have a little more time to see my wife.

"I wonder what the Chinese Nisei are doing in the Army. I never heard of any Chinese Nisei hero yet. I bet they are just cooks and in the laundry in the Army. I think some of them are in the Navy now. I bet the Chinese Nisei are segregated just like us. The hakujinds don't hear anything about us and they don't know what the 100th Infantry and the 442nd Central Postal Directory are doing. I heard that the Nisei troops are in France now as they were pulled out of Italy. They were the only ones to make any advances in cracking the German lines so that the Army decided to put them on the France front to see what they could do there.

"Well, Mac Arthur is now invading the Philippines, but I don't see why they have to say that God is helping us. The Army with the best men and arms are going to win out. I have a hunch



that Japan is trying to pull some kind of a trap. There is something funny going on as things look too easy. It's just fishy to me. The U.S. Navy showed up near Japan and the Japs didn't do anything. Maybe it's some kind of a strategy. I think that the war with Japan is going to last quite a while yet and I will have to stay in the Army until the end. I met one of my friends on the way from work and he said that some of his friends in camp told him that Japan said over the short wave two weeks ago that she was working on a grand strategy to defeat the Amer. ~~army~~ Navy at one blow and maybe that is what is going on now. I wouldn't want to see the war prolonged so I hope the heads of the Navy do not make any big mistakes and get to cocksure. It won't be that easy to beat the Japs as they are determined. They can put up a good fight too.

"I just plan to make the most out of the days I have left before I go into the Army. We are more settled right now. Our apartment is not perfect, but it feels like my own home and I can do what I wish. It's comfortable enough for me."

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Sonny: "Some of the girls at work told me that the Filipinos on Clark held a big celebration when the Philippines was invaded by the U.S. Army. Some of them got drunk and they wanted to go after the Nisei, but all of the zoot suiters on Clark Street were conspicuous by their absence. The girls said that the Filipinos always tried to take it out on the Nisei and they are getting a little worried about going to work at night as you just can't trust them. I go right to the car line so that I don't have to walk on any of the dark street. I think that they would go after the boys before the girls anyway. They all carry knives."

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Jack: "A lot of the Nisei at our place are heading back to camp. They think that it might get tough for the Nisei now that the invasion of the Philipines has started. I think that most of them are just tired of working. They all believe that the Japanese Navy is going to come out of these days and a decisive battle will take place. I can't figure them out. I don't think that they exactly want Japan to win the war. They all talk about going to Manchuria or some other place as they don't see much hope in sticking around this country. I guess they would like to be well accepted, but they don't think there is much chance for it. I don't exactly blame them for their bitterness as they do get discriminated against. Some of those streetcar conductors and ordinary workers do get pretty nasty. You don't come up against any of that in your work. I think that you are being rather naive in holding your idealism. If you were a worker, I don't think you would feel the same way. Those Nisei I work with are very demanding and they feel that the government owes them a living."

ck; "I don't think it necessarily follows that one's <sup>position</sup> ~~position~~ would determine whether a person is "idealistic" about the future of the Nisei and the hopes that they may have if they take this opportunity to get roots into the American life. What is the use of doing nothing. At least a positive stand will give some personal satisfaction even if the objectives are out of reach. I don't think that all of the Nisei are as cynical as you think they are. If they are all resigned to their position, then they would not be so demanding. They must recognize in some way that it is worth while to fight for certain principles and freedoms. The only difficulty is that they are so wound up in themselves that they can see the thing in an objective light. Nobody can give them all of the answers. This will have to come out of their



respective experiences. All ~~of~~ that I am saying is that they will have a fuller life if they hold a hope in the future and not become disillusioned too quickly. I suppose it is hard from becoming cynical, but I still have that faith and hope that democracy will succeed someday if we all work towardsx it. If we reject it now and don't do anything, it is expected that it will fail. But it doesn't have to be that way.

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After I left Kiyoshi's place last night, I went over to Yuri's place. She is still waiting to join the WACS. She had a dinner party for Mariko, George, Cracker, and two caucasian girls who work at McCluggs with her. Later on Conrad, Eileen and I were over. Cracker mentioned that he was going to New York just before Christmas. he would like to go there to see if he can line up a similar job. In that case, he will stay out there as he feels that there are more cultural opportunities there. But he will come back to Chicago if the chances for jobs are not so good. Then he will get a flat with a bathtub.

We spent a light evening telling about funny experiences we had. Evidently, Mariko must have been dominating the conversation all evening. George suddenly got up about 11 and put his coat and hat on and said that he was going to see a friend, but he would be back later. He just walked out and he did not return.

Mariko began to get worked up as the hours passed, and George did not return for her. She was sore because she felt that a husband should be more courteous. The more she thought about it, the more furious she became. We decided to leave about one so I took Mariko and Eileen home. She could hardly contain herself at this point and she kept saying that there would be a big blowoff. I did not want to miss the main event so I went



on up with~~x~~him them. Bob K. and his friend were there so Mariko asked them to leave soon as there was going to be works flying around. Eileen went down to the hall to talk with Bob. In order to keep her occupied, I asked her for something to eat so she heated up some stew. Not a word had been said to George all this time. He went to bed so Mariko started to tell me that maybe it was Eileen's fault that she was on edge. She said that she did not want to tell Eileen as it would hurt her feelings. "Bob comes up to talk to her late every nite or so or else it is Mr. Thomas. They go out into the kitchen to talk so we can hear them. Naturally we can't get to sleep until late so we don't get up the next morning. I haven't lined up a job yet, but we have our stove now. (Eileen and I had found the oil heater for them and put \$10.00 deposit down on it so that Geo. still has \$20 to pay.) I don't like to yell at George but I'm not going to let him get away with a trick like walking out on me like that."

I suggested that she should ask him casually what the matter was as he might have walked out of the gathering because of sickness. Mariko was sure he went out to drink at the bar.

Mariko went into the bedroom then and the argument began. Geo. was very calm but determined not to be pushed around and I think that Mariko realized this after she yelled at him for a few minutes. George said that he had told Mariko before about butting into all of the conversation so that nobody could say anything. "I listen to you all day here and then I go out to listen to other people, but you don't give them a chance. I didn't get to talk to Cracker like I wanted to. Sometimes I like to talk about politics, but you are always interfering so that nobody else has a chance. It just got on my nerves so I left. I told you I was going to do that the next time you



talked too much."

They began to whisper so I couldn't hear anymore even tho I strained my ears. They must have made up because pretty soon George came out and he began to apologize to Eileen and me for leaving the party. We said that it didn't make any difference to us. George said he has been very nervous lately. I think the reason is that he is worrying about his job and Mariko is hounding him all the time. He is getting a little jumpy about it as that is one thing that a man has to hold up his self respect in. He can take all the ribbing about his carpentry work, but it doesn't go over when mention is made that he lacks ambition, etc. I suspect that they will settle down as soon as they go to work. It is just one ~~xxx~~ of those marriages that has plenty of spicy fights to it. We have decided to call Mariko "the Big Tongue" from now on. Since the big fight was over much sooner than I expected, I departed for home and arrived about 3 am exhausted from the full day of activity. That is why I slept until noon today.

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Jack dragged us off to a show this evening. He received a letter from Western Reserve U. saying that he could not be admitted into the medical school there because of low results in the aptitude test. This burnt Jack up because he didn't even take the aptitude test! He said that he is losing hope as the outlook for medical school is not so bright. He thinks that he might be able to get back into California soon and then he would try to get into either Stanford or U.C. Since he got married, he has been very faithful to Dolores and he has not gone out once as "I don't trust myself." He spends his time writing her long letters and she sends one almost



every day. Jack does not care to change his present job since he is mostly interested in saving money. He doesn't think that he will do it for many more months anyway as he has made up his mind to go to California to be with Dolores. < Jack has not received any notice from the draft board yet so that he does not think he will be called for quite some time. He mentioned that he has a chance to get a job as an organic chemist since a friend of his is leaving for the Army soon, but he does not care to start that until he is ~~i~~sure about the possibility of going to California.

Guess I will read the papers for a while before going to sleep. Emiko should be coming home shortly as it is about

1:00 am now. >



I am feeling very tired out today, but it is my own fault for not getting more sleep. It started out to be a very peaceful and quiet weekend, but I ended up by getting less rest than I expected. Sunday morning, Jack got up with a great deal of noise at the ungodly hour of nine to go to the Baptist church up the street. <Morikawa is the assistant pastor there. Jack came back to wake me up and tell me that there were only about seven Nisei at the services, but around 200 came to the special meeting on Friday nights when various recreational activities took place. Then he decided to go out to the park for a while to have a workout so he left us to sleep for another hour.>

At Around noon, Bette got up to cook breakfast and she was busy in the kitchen the rest of the day. She was not able to get started on her homework until about 10:00 so that she did not finish her composition until 3:00 am. When I came home about 7:00, I began to type it up for her so Bette got out of bed after sleeping only four hours to supervise the job. I finished about 8:30 this morning and then went to bed. <Bette has been keeping up with most of her homework at school, but she should have more time on weekends. She is getting into quite a few activities at school and during this week she has several evening engagements with a group of her friends. They are going out to dinner, theater, roller skating, etc. On Saturday nite, she would like to go to Soldier's Field to listen to President Roosevelt's speech so that we have made tentative plans to go, depending upon the weather. We heard Roosevelt's foreign policy speech last Saturday evening. It was a little surprising to hear him state that the U.S. representative in the post war world organization should have the authority to act promptly ~~inxxxxxx~~ to prevent war by the use of force. It has been traditional in this



country for Congress to declare war so that Roosevelt had plenty of courage in making this proposal on the eve of the election. He feels that this will enable democracy to function better to meet any risk that may endanger democracy again in a world war. He proposes more than lip service to world peace: "We cannot attain our great objectives by ourselves. Never again, after coo-operating with other nations in a world war to save our way of life, can we wash our hands ofmaintaing the peace for which we fought." This seems to be a pretty realistic statement and I hope that it does not get swept aside in the rush to get back to "normalcy." Although this foreign policy talk is not entirely satisfactory, at least it offers much more than the group around Dewey have proposed. I was reading some literature on this issue put out by the PAC and it seems that the isolationist still have a strong control over the Republican party. Maybe there isn't much difference between the two major parties, but the Democratic administration seems to be the lesser of the two evils. Jack said that many of the Nisei at his plant are now considering Roosevelt as they have heard a rumor that if the Republicans get into office, the camps will all be close and the people tossed out and California will never be opened to the Japanese again. As if that is the main issue of the election! Jack said that most of them seem to have a personal resentment against Roosevelt for causing the evacuation. He said that very few of them have actually registered to vote in spite of all the talking they did about the denial of their rights. Here they have an opportunity to use their right of voting and they do not take advantage of it. Such things are hard to understand, except that a conclusion might be reached that the majority of the Nisei are just not that interested in politics.



Bette was a little irritated yesterday because Emiko did not offer to help out with more of the cooking and I don't blame her for that. <Bette is not completely adjusted to her studies yet so that she feels a pressure on her. She is having the most difficult time with English. She tried to get down to studying several times yesterday but there were interruptions.

Emiko had an easy time of it yesterday. She was showing off her knowledge of anatomy all day long. She has received her first check from the Cadet Nurses--\$5.40. Emiko said that a lot of the girls are always in her room and they listen to her records so that she has to chase them out in order to get her studying done. Friday night she and Bette went to a downtown movie with some of the girls so I don't see when Emiko does all of the studying she talks about. She never looks at a book over the weekend when she is around here.>

Wof I wish that Emiko would not try to act so much like a guest as she could easily help Bette more. <Maybe it just happened twice in a row so that it was brought to our attention.> She went out with Davy this afternoon and left all of the cooking up to Bette. Later when we suggested that she take ~~her~~ letter box to the hospital, she got a little huffy and muttered that if we didn't want her here, she would go spend the weekend with Mariko. I don't know what brought that on; we just didn't say anything. <<She has to learn that she can't act like a princess when she comes home and it is a little childish for her to interpret any mention of this as an attempt to get rid of her completely. I guess it is all a part of the adjustment process and she certainly is doing well so far at Mt. Sinai in getting integrated.>

Jack's college friend, Albert Mineta, visited us most of Sunday afternoon and he had dinner with us. <6201> <Albert just finished



Drew University several months ago and he is now working as a chemist at the Dietzen Company here in Chicago for a beginning salary of \$50.00 a week. He feels that there are many post war possibilities in that job as the company is expanding, but his particular field of interest is in medicine. He recently was reclassified to 1-a so that he has volunteered to go to the language school and he thinks that he will be inducted in early December. He will leave his medical studies until after the war.

Albert is living up in Evanston with his family. He is a rather serious looking chap with nice quiet manners. He appears to be more mature than most Nisei of his age. His father is teaching at the U. of Chicago. Before the war, the family lived in San Jose and his father was a life insurance agent in the Japanese communities. Albert Mineta's sister is married to Mike Masaoka of the JACL. Another sister is married to Min Endo. He has a 13 year old brother who attends school in Evanston and the youngster is perfectly adjusted to life out here. He belongs to the Scouts and a number of school clubs. He brings his friends home to play; he is just like "any other American boy." Albert said that his mother speaks very little English but she likes it fine.

We started to talk about the possibility for full adjustments to life out here, and Albert maintained that it was possible. He said that he knew only about 10 Nisei out here so that he could not speak for the others. He does not have the time to look up his other friends but he does not particularly feel the urge to do this. He said that he was making good progress at his job and he never had any difficulties with the other workers. Albert brought out an interesting point which has a lot of truth to it. "We don't have much of the Nisei who are more assimilated;



but we hear a lot about the more maladjusted ones. I don't know just what the extent of this maladjustment is, but I suppose it would be more among the single Nisei who is working in unskilled jobs so that they have no roots here. I know that it is going to continue to be hard for the, but I don't feel that it is necessary to start a segregated Japanese community all over again and wreck everybody's chances for the sake of the maladjusted ones who would have a difficult time no matter what the circumstances were.

"I think that the day of the JACL is finished. The Nisei can speak and understand English so that they do not need an organization to go around to speak for them. The speakers of the JACL are not representative of the Nisei anyway, and I say this even though my brother in law is one of the top officials. I believe that too many of the Nisei leaders are only interested in their own prestige. The thing to do is for each individual to become concerned only about his own adjustments and not waste his time worrying about all the rest as it will not be appreciated or heeded anyway.

"I think there are plenty of successful cases of Nisei adjustments out here which we never hear about. Ben Ijima is doing okay for himself. He is going to Harvard Law School now and some law firm is backing him so that he will have a job ~~xx~~ when he finishes. It is too bad that not so many Nisei go to college now as it could help them a lot. At least it helps them to have a better frame of mind about things and that is the main element of becoming integrated into Chicago life. I believe that most of the Nisei have actually gained by the evacuation so I don't see why they are so bitter. They work for \$50 a week now and before the war they were only getting



\$50 a month. They always want to look on the dark side of things and they don't recognize the advantages they are having now even though it is right in front of their noses." >

with Emiko and Bette wanted Albert M. to take off his shirt so that he could expose the hair. Jack has been bragging that Albert has more hair than I on the chest, but Albert was too reluctant to stage a showdown. Jack is just jealous because he only has a few fuzz on his chest. He says that he will rub onion juice on it to make it grow. Davy is absolutely hairless so that he had to hang his head in shame.

< We had a very good corn beef and cabbage dinner and I ate so much that I got a stomach ache! That Bette is getting to be a very good cook and Jack said that she was more economical than Emiko. He just said that to make Bette feel good, but it is true that we have been living on much less in proportion than when Emiko was doing the cooking, but that is because the added food expense for a fourth person rises pretty sharply. Emiko would get sore if I told her that Bette seems to be managing more efficiently so I had better not say anything. Emiko is already feeling rejected for no reason at all.

Davy, ch-50, mentioned that he went to see Suanders King playing at the Cafe de Society, a Negro night club on 55th st., on Saturday night. He said that he only had a couple of drinks as he was more interested in the music. He used to hear King play in S.F. Davy claims to have only about \$20 to his name now. He said that the week before last he only worked 2 days as he had to entertain some of his friends who came to town from camp so that he lost out on his work. All of his stories about being drunk so often have to be taken with a grain of salt. He goes to the Negroes' night clubs to listen to the hot music and



he has to buy a couple of drinks in order to stay there. After Davy took Emiko home, Bette started to study while Jack, Albert and I went over to Mariko's.

George and Mariko were getting along well yesterday and no arguments. They were telling "sophisticated" jokes when we came in. Mr. Thomas left soon after we arrived. Eileen said that she went house hunting in the afternoon. At one place she went to she had an experience of possible discrimination: "The man told me that the place <sup>was</sup> ~~ix~~ <sup>rented</sup> already, so I suggested that he take down the 'vacancy' sign so that he would not be bothered with people coming around. He said that it was a good idea so he took the sign down and I left. I was still a little suspicious so I went around the block and sure enough the sign was back up again. I saw the man peeking out the window so I took out my notebook and made off that I was going to take the address down just to worry him a bit. There is nothing I can do about it."

George went on to tell us that he has been attending some political meetings and one democratic asked him to round up Nisei votes. George has been reading a lot of literature on the elections and he is following the labor line. I am afraid that Eileen is a dyed-in-wool Republican and she may even vote for that isolationist ~~xxx~~ Nye of N. Dakota. She has an absentee ballot. She really doesn't know why she is voting for them except that the whole state of N.D. seems to be very Republican and she said that she played the piano at a Rep. Senators house once. I guess I had better not argue politics with her anymore or she will get sore. She reads the Trubune faithfully too. No wonder! She should be re-educated away from that news-slanting, reactionary paper. I guess she did not



get much of a liberal background at the music school.

We talked about politics and the war for about an hour~~x~~ and then Jack and Albert M. left so that Geo., Mariko, Eileen and I started to play cards. It was midnight and Mariko had a job interview for the next day so that Geo. suggested that she go to bed while the three of us played. Mariko didn't want to do that so she got into the game. We played until about 5 am as M and E kept on insisting that it be prolonged so that they could catch up to my score! What fools, but it was fun. We ate breakfast and then I came home.

Mariko and George claim that they are just about out of money so that they have to get work soon. I bet she did not get up at 10 this morning! She said that she would have to borrow some money from Eileen soon if they did not get jobs. I think that is dramatizing things too much as M. has about \$500 in the bank and George has a considerable sum. His old lady got \$5000 of his too so he won't starve. Jack said that he was not going to waste any sympathies as they were both too lazy to work and it was all their own fault.

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I didn't get home until after 7 this morning so that I slept until noon. I have been typing field notes most of the afternoon and evening. I tried to get a contact for another interview, but I did not have any luck. I could not get my parties in the phone calls so that the nickels were wasted. I phoned Chiyo, ch 48, and she was all excited about the USO which is organizing here. She wants to cook Japanese foods for the "boys." She said that she goes out to ~~xxx~~ Vaughn General Hospital several times a week to visit some of the wounded Nisei soldiers. She feels that the USO here could make the boys happier and she thinks that



it would be better segregated as the "hawaiian boys are pretty bashful." Chiyo is very anxious to get into the USO here as it will justify her failure to come to a decision about ~~xxxx~~ joining the WACS and it will give her something definite to do. She has been living in a sort of vacuum for quite a while. Now she goes to the hospital to visit the boys. She said that the Nisei USO should be for other things than dancing all the time. Chiyo invited me over for dinner but I did not feel in a mood to accept.

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Mom wrote a letter (appended) to Mariko in which she expressed the fear of many mothers in camp that her youngest son is going to be taken by the Army if he is there when he turns 18. Tom is only 16 now, but Mom is willing to resettle as she feels that those in camp will be drafted first and she does not want to lose Tom. She also mentioned in another letter than Miyako was getting different from her other daughters so that she is realizing the harmful effects of camp life. If I still have some hope for my job after next June, I will bring Tom out here. I don't know what I can do about the others. Mariko does not feel that she is in a position to do anything and Alice definitely has stated that she is to be counted out because of her coming baby. Jack is thinking in terms of going into medical school or back to California. Emiko and Bette will not be finished schooling for several years yet. That doesn't leave much choice and I will have to do something if I am in a position. Tom is the most urgent problem and I'm pretty sure that I will be able to take care of him now that Emiko is in UCadet Nursing.



Oct. 17, 1944

Dear Mariko:

How are you and George? Betty and Emi said you made nice sweet home for George. That is very good news from Chicago. I am very glad to hear that. We are all right every day and I am working at baby school now. This is good job and fun too.

(The following is a translation of the section written in romaji.)

Mariko, why don't you go to work? I think it is better for you to work and save money before you have any children. It doesn't have to be an office job does it? It could be some kind of a job where you don't have to worry about clothes. How about the place where Betty was working?

I don't think I can stay here very much longer. The reason is that Tom is now 16 years old and I think we will have to leave here next year. When Tom is 18 years old he will be drafted, however, if we were on the outside, I think there may be a chance that he may not go too soon. That is why every once in a while I think about it and wish I could leave here.

We have many morning glories growing in our garden and every morning they are so pretty when they are in full bloom.

Please give my regards to George.

Good-bye

Mom



Insert

Copy of Alice's letter.

Oct. 20, 1944

Dear Chas, Jack, and Bette:

Life is back to a semi normal routine now that Mark has departed for Texas after a five day stay here. May moved in the following Monday, but works from 12 pm to 8 am-so we don't see each other too much. Her brothers Johnny and Isao live over on the next block and are glad she moved here, I think, for they have invented all kinds of excuses to drop in. They leave early and are no bother, so I don't mind.

Yuri's husband Nob Tanabe was visiting here on a six day furlough, and left the same day Mark did, so we all had dinner together at the new Japanese restaurant--the Liberty Cafe--and ordered Chinese food.

Went down town today and bought a nice chest of drawers --for baby things only--it's been all fixed over and only cost \$8.00. It's Oak finish and has 2 <sup>small</sup> ~~xxxxxx~~ drawers on top and 2 big ones below as it is part of a chiffonier that has had the mirror cut off--and modernized. I also bought 2 little undershirts and it seems incredible that we used to fit into something as small as that.

I visited the doctor last monday, and, according to the heartbeat, he thinks it will be a boy--but only time will tell. After all, the doctor told Yuri Ekinaka she would have a boys too and she had a girl.

We are having lovely Indian Summer here--and although the nights are cool, the days are grand. How is Chicago now, pretty cold?

By the way, Charlie, I am sending you a check for



\$16.00 and will send you the rest I borrowed a little later on as May hasn't paid her share of the rent as yet--since she didn't get a check in the place she works yet. Let me know if you would rather have the balance in cash or money order. If it is money you were going to put in the bank, that check will be all right, won't it. We both appreciate the loan and thanks a lot for helping out.

Have to write Mariko now, so I'll make this short and write more next time. How is everyone? My regards to all. I am fine and in good condition--no worry--the doctor says. Let me hear from you.

Love.

/s/ Alice.



Dictated most of the day at the office and completed another case. Mr. Lawson, the insurance agent, came in and wanted to sell me a policy but I was undecided. Louise said that he had been trying to sell her a policy too. Mr. Lawson said that the NY Life Company was willing to cover Nisei as there were some companies which refused to issue any policies to Nisei. Louise said that a Nisei fellow who sold insurance on the Coast tried to get into NY Life as an agent, but the company would not consider it. They will only sell the policies, but not hire any Nisei. I sent Mr. Lawson to see Jack and I think he did take out a policy although I have not talked to him. Jack wanted to get some insurance so that Dolores would be protected in case anything did happen to him.

Bette is now anxious about buying a new dress as her school friends are inviting her to a lot of parties and she says that she has nothing to wear. She is giving up hope on Mariko finishing up the dress and she thinks that the cockroaches will eat it up before Mariko gets around to completing it. We have been eating corn beef and cabbage for three days now and I don't think that I can stand another day so I will have to make some kind of an excuse and eat out. I don't want to hurt Bette's feelings, but I couldn't stand four days of it. Bette made a slight miscalculation and bought an enormous amount so that we have not been able to eat it up. Too bad Emiko is not around. Bette thinks that Emiko is mad at us because she has not phoned. I think that the reason is Emiko is getting well adjusted into the school and it takes up most of her time so that she doesn't get lonesome. I wrote a letter to her today to bring up the point about her being more cooperative with Bette when she comes home. Bette doesn't mind if Emiko helps out with the work or not, but she doesn't like it when Emiko mentions that she should be thankful for being helped.

I also suggested to Emiko that she write Miyako and Tom letters about her attitudes so that they will not get too "race conscious" in camp. Emiko and Bette write pretty faithfully and in this way they keep the morale of the kids up.



This evening I went over to interview Mrs. W (ch-55) again. While I was waiting for her to finish dinner I talked to some of the fellows. I lined up Sam for a possible interview. He is working at Cuneo's. I had a couple of other prospects lined up but they have left town. That makes about five prospects that I have lost in one way or another during the past couple of weeks. I still have two possibilities to work ahead on so that I hope to have made new contacts by the time I finish them.

I met a Bill Tanaka at the rooming house. He seems to be a young fellow with a lot of ideas. He was telling me that he and his friends were going to have a Christmas Eve party up on the third floor and 25 or 30 couples would be invited. He is going to try and get chickens for the occasion. He and his friends are willing to put out \$50 for this event. The landlady has okayed the plan and she will even give them some wax for the floors so that the company will be able to dance.

Tom N. was looking a little dejected. He has been job hunting for three days now. He quit his other job because of a disagreement with the boss. He said that he did not like the way the foreman bossed him around: "I wanted to take the afternoon off from work. The foreman got sore and he said that I was taking too many days off so I would have to make up my mind if I wanted to stay there or not. It wasn't me who was taking all those days off but another Nisei guy. There are six of them in the Battery company. I didn't like the way the foreman acted nasty so I quit. I was getting .85 an hour in that job so I will have to get at least that much in another job. I went up to the Chicago Motor Coach Company today and they offered me a job at .75 cents an hour but that was not enough. They are going to phone me tomorrow to tell me if there is a better paying opening there. I don't care what kind of work I do. I think I may try to get some light assembly work as there are plenty of offers in the Want Ads.

"A lot of the guys are quitting their jobs now. Some of them are heading back for camp as they heard that California was going to be opened up soon. I



don't think that they will ever go back to California though because they have nothing back there. They were just tired of working and they wanted to go back to camp for a vacation. I bet they will be coming back here pretty soon. The guys I know save their money pretty good and then they go off to camp or some other place and have a good time spending it all at once. Then they come back to work and stay on the job steady for a while longer until they get another urge. I can't blame them because a lot of the jobs the guys have are monotonous as hell. Every once in a while you just have to break out and go on a spree. I haven't done anything like that as I have been on the job pretty steady since I came out last summer.

"I am seriously thinking of volunteering for the language school at Snelling. I went over to talk to Kiyoshi (ch-53) last night and I helped him fill out his forms. I know Japanese better than he does as I went to school in Japan. I'm still 4-c but I figure that I will get reclassified pretty soon. I heard that the class in December at Snelling will be the last one so I might volunteer for it and not wait for the draft. I'd rather go there than into the combat team. I haven't anything to lose as I am all alone out here and just working at a dull job. It doesn't mean anything to me and I'm not saving too much for a future and I don't have to support a family. If I go into the Army, nobody can sneer at me because I will be in a uniform. It will be better for me after the war too. But I haven't made up my mind yet, although I am writing a letter to Major Rusch of the Language school to find out the possibilities."

Davy was also around blowing on his saxophone. He stopped long enough to tell me that he had proposed marriage to Sonny. I asked him if he were serious about it and he said he had nothing else to do so he just asked to see what the response would be. "She knows I'm not serious but she wants to have a talk with me tomorrow night. Hell, I couldn't marry no chick now. I don't really want to get married to any dame but I just asked for the hell of it." This would indicate the immaturity of Davy as he does not have a sense of responsibility yet. He seems to be doing fairly well at his job though.



My interview with Mrs. W (ch-55) was very enjoyable. She is really a charming person and so cheerful about everything. She kept on bringing things for me to eat--apples, cake, cookies, grapefruit juice, candy--so that I had a difficult time taking any sort of notes. She rambled on for about three hours as she talks very easily. She has a nice personality. Mrs. W brought out some of the samples of her art work and I was amazed at the workmanship. She should open up her own linen shop. She said that she could sell some of these hand painted things for \$10.00 each and she could make four or five in a day easily. She said that she did a lot of this work for Hollywood stars before the war.

Mrs. W has quite an extrovert and aggressive personality and she is the drive behind her husband. It is surprising that they get along so well. It seems that he fairly worships her so that he never has much to say in the way of criticism. Mrs. W has a knack for handling people diplomatically. She is having some difficulty with her present employer who is a noted interior decorator but she is going through the menopause stage so that she has all sorts of tantrums in the shop. Mrs. W. said that she took her employer out to lunch today and the lady started to dance on Mich.Ave and drew an amused crowd. Mrs. W was embarrassed so she drew ~~the~~ the lady back and she got very angry.

Mrs. W. has had all sorts of employment possibilities out here as she has a talent to commercialize. At her present job she is making about \$50 a week. She said that she was insulted once in her job hunting because Carsen Pierie Company offered her \$20 a week to do hand painted linens. Mrs. W. believes that she benefitted in many ways from the camp experience as she got more confidence in herself and she was able to create some of her own designs. The prints which she showed me were made of ordinary cheesecloth and they were really remarkable. Before the war she did not have the opportunity to experiment around. She said that the job possibilities out here were much better for her as she is starting off at a higher level than before the war and



there are unlimited possibilities ahead. The only thing that bothers her is her husband's adjustments as she feels that this is most important. She said that her husband was little better off than before the war. The Nat'l Tea company is very pleased with his work and some of the different stores in this chain are fighting over his ~~services~~ services as they are so impressed with his vegetable displays. Sales have increased so much at the store he is working in now on 69th and Stony that he has received two raises and he is in line for another. He is making about \$45 a week now but he puts in longer hours than Mrs. W. He is still very quiet and he goes to bed and reads the papers and soon falls asleep while I am talking to Mrs. W. I think I could make a very good informant out of Mrs. W but her husband would probably object as he does not like her to mention names of people they know as he is still a little suspicious of me. I don't think that he has forgotten the argument we had on politics either as he seems to have a strong feeling against Jews. His company is owned by Jews and they are determined to keep the Japanese competition out although they are willing enough to hire them. Mr. W can't go much higher in his job as the promotions are limited. His wife said that their lawyer friend investigated and he found out that the Jew produce group has made a definite stand about keeping the Japanese competition out.

The W's still have not made up their minds about the Grinnell College offer. It happened that Dr. Stevens the president of the college was a dinner guest of Mrs. W's guardians while on a speaking tour in California. He looked Mrs. W up when he came to Chicago and offered her a job. She went down there for a weekend visit and was very impressed. Mr. W was offered a job in the college laundry with a chance of working up to manager. Mrs. W. is quite excited about the possibility but Mr. W. has some objections. However, he is not holding back on it as he would pick up and go there if his wife wanted it that way. Both of them cannot make up their minds and they are waiting to talk it over with their lawyer friend who is away in Florida right now. The job offer is indefinitely open. The lawyer is Mrs. W guardian's cousin and quite prominent. He is a graduate of Grinnell and Pres of the Board of Trustees



of the College.

There are a number of pro and con factors which makes the decision difficult for the W's:

Pro. 1. The job offer is for a lifetime.

2. The job is in a field which Mrs. W has talent and it offers definite prestige to be connected with a college faculty.
3. The college staff is very congenial and friendly, with one exception.
4. The town is nice to live in.
5. They can get a 5 room apartment for \$50 a month, all furnished.
6. No transportation costs.
7. There is a job waiting for her husband.
8. Food costs down there runs 30% cheaper.

Con.

1. Mrs. W. can make a greater wage if she sticks out here as the opportunities seem wide open.
2. Her husband has never done laundry work; it might be bad for his health.
3. They get choice vegetables and meats at a discount because Mr. W. works in a grocery store now.
4. Housing is difficult there, but they think they can have more privacy as life in a college town takes up all the leisure hours.
5. They cannot drink in a college of Methodist sponsorship.
6. Mrs. W does not like the head art teacher, but likes all the rest of the faculty.
7. They would have to be isolated and leave all of their old Japanese friends behind. (This is more of Mr. W's concern)
8. They like city life in general.
9. Her guardian has advised her that she can do better here.
10. Mrs. W has hopes of returning to Calif.
11. They do not have sufficient clothes.

Thus, the indecision goes back and forth.



Mrs. W has definitely passed up the chance to get a job as a glass designer in Penn. as it is too far away and she is more interested in fabrics. The job pays \$350 a month. Mrs. W has several more job possibilities here in Chicago if she gets tired of her present place. She seems to make each decision on the basis of: will her husband be happy with the change? She is more worried about his adjustments than about her own as she feels that she can always get some-~~th~~ thing. Mrs. W has suggested that she open up her own business but she said that she did not have enough capital and materials were hard to get. She has not specialized in Oriental work at all as she does not think it is commercially feasible at the present time.

Mrs. W. mentioned that the Oishi's have bought ~~two~~ apartment houses--one on the North side and one on the South side. They are out here to make as much money as they can and all of the members of the family put their money into a common pool, including the married sons. (Jiro is one of them (ch-2).

In contrast, Mrs. W mentioned a Kibei girl with 3 children who lives in the basement of that house. The woman cannot speak English very well but she came out for the sake of her children. She is working as a seamstress. (more details in case document of Mrs. W.) It is too bad that she has a language handicap as I would like to interview this family group.

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Bette was elated this evening because she got an A minus in her Eng. composition on schools in the center. Up to this time she was getting D's so she was a little discouraged. Now she is worrying about her first Soc. Sci. exam and she feels that she might have a hard time because the course covers so much. I see her all over the campus with different friends. Thurs nite she is going out to Chinatown with 15 of her school friends, and next Tues. Olga, who comes from a rich family, is going to take her to dinner and a play and then visit her home. Bette says that she hasn't seen Rod MacLeish lately. She has a crush on him.



It was a very quiet day today. Tom was dictating so that I did a little typing and studying. Went to the bookstore and bought several books, including Mc Williams' Prejudice: Japanese-Americans--Symbol of Racial intolerance. I suppose that this book will have a large sale among the Nisei as they want to read about themselves. I hope that they will be able to read it objectively and not feel sorry for themselves. It looks like a very good book although I only read a few pages so far. Now that I know I will not be drafted for a while, I can start to buy a few books now and then. One of these days will build the bookcase for me.

In the late afternoon, I ran out of cigarettes and there is none to be bought anyplace. I had to walk all the way up to 63rd Street to get some. It will be pretty hard to be forced to quit smoking and I don't see how I will be able to do it. But if there are no cigarettes to be had, I suppose I would get used to it in time. While I was up there, I ran into Frank Kusaka. He said that he had just quit his job. We started to talk about the defeat of the Japanese fleet which was being headlined, but he was skeptical about it. "You know how they propagandize things. Japan is not going to get beaten that easily even though I don't have any sentiments for her. I just think that it is funny that Mac Arthur, an Army General, was the one to announce the news. What does he know about the Navy activities? If Japan loses her fleet, then she will be practically out of the war. I can hardly believe that she would be so foolish as to send the fleet to the Philippines as that is taking too much of a chance. I think the war with Japan is going to last until 1947 at least."

As I was walking around, I got to thinking that I could not eat corn beef and cabbage for the fourth day in a row so I



some chicken and Bette and I had a very good dinner. A doctor came to give Jack a physical examination as he has taken out a policy with New York Life. He figures that the amount he pays out will be a good investment. He gets about one war bond a month as the company deducts it out of his pay. Jack is starting to reach his goal of saving \$100 a month or more now. I wish I could save that much.

I have been getting a ride down to the university about two or three times a week. On the mornings I get up early for classes, + usually hitch hike. The Negro drivers stop quite often. I rode down with one this morning and he mentioned that the evacuation was one of the "dirtiest tricks the white man has ever done in this country. It's enough to make anyone want to stick a knife into somebody." Bette said that most of her friends have never heard of the evacuation as they were so young when it happened. "There are a few though and they all get mad as anything when I mention it. Usually I don't say anything about it, but the teacher in the English class gave me an A minus and she said it was about the 'concentration camp' so some of my friends wanted to read it."

Bette is getting interested in politics. She said that most of her friends are Democrats. She can't understand why the Nisei who are Republicans get so secretive about it. Bette is wearing two FDR pins now. She is trying to get some tickets to go hear Roosevelt speak at Soldier's Field on Saturday nite.

This evening, Bette and I went over to Mariko's as I had to deliver a package to her and Bette wanted to push her about the suit. It looks like the suit won't be done for some time yet as Mariko said she was busy job hunting. No definite prospects for jobs yet. Eileen is still hunting for an apartment.



Very busy today. I went to class feeling very sleepy as I had four hours of sleep. Bette puttered around too much just because she only had one class today and she swished around too much. I didn't notice it too much in class but when I started to dictate, I almost put myself to sleep by talking in such a monotonous voice. I managed to get out 60 pages today so that Louise worked quite hard.

I had to cook my own dinner when I came home as Betté when out with some of her school friends. I managed to get over to Mrs. Watanabe, ch-55, in time. Her husband must have quite a grudge against the white man as he was angrily saying that I should never trust one when I got insurance as they would cheat me out of everything. I suspect that he would never have left camp if he were along.

Davy was bustling around and he said that he was going to move out to the Near north side, on Clark street. "I have a room for \$6 there and I have to phone tonight and find out if I can get in. It's at the Newberry Hotel and a lot of Boochies live there. I have some friends there and I can eat with them upstairs. I'm going to pull out of here and not pay old lady Reynolds my rent this week because she raised the rent on me.

"When I move over there, I plan to stay home for a while and not see anybody. I'll stay in for a whole month. If my friends are not around in too many numbers, I won't be dragged out to the shows and things like that. I won't be able to play my horn over there though, but it is near to the Casablanca and I can drink. I'm just going where I won't know many people and see if I can get ahead in cash a little bit. Sunny and Joyse live over that way so I can see them. I don't care if it is in Boochie town because I won't be seeing all those guys. Maybe I won't be able to get that room though."



I finished my interview with Mrs. W, ch-55, this evening. She was telling mostly about her friendship groups. She feels that she would be able to integrate easily, but she feels the pull of her Nisei friends and she thinks that it would be difficult to keep out of a Nisei society unless she went down to Grinnell. However, she feels that the Nisei girls who go to school do the best job as she has seen a number of them with caucasian girls. She thinks that the young Nisei students in the elementary classes are doing the best job.

On the whole, however, Mrs. W. believes that there will be a Little Tokyo down on Clark street because the majority of the Nisei really do not wish to integrate. She said that the Jap town was already there. She said that she has tried her best to get a better understanding and she always tells caucasians that she is Japanese because she wants to explain that not all Japanese people are militarists. I asked her if she didn't consider herself as an American, and she answered that she knew she was Americanized but it was no use to try and hide her race. She has an idea that the next war will be a race war. She tried to paint an optimistic picture for the future, but she was fearful that there would be a severe depression after the war.

The W's live on Mr's salary now and they are saving all of her salary so that they can get some winter clothes. Mrs. W is quite anxious to get an apartment of her own so that she can start to entertain her friends. Her husband is an old sour puss and he never says anything all evening. He just goes to bed and reads the paper. He doesn't have much personality so I never know what to say to him. I guess he can't help it if he is a kibe, but he seems to be rather colorless and he does not have the personality his wife possess. Mrs. W. is so enthusiastic about everything; she



just likes people. She said that she still has not found any prospects for an apartment but she is still hoping. She feels that it definitely is discrimination as she has been going around for weeks now. However, she is not bitter about it. She said that people just seem to think the worse of a strange group. ~~Er~~ For example, she has tried not to build up an unfavorable attitude towards the Jews, but she says that the ones she has met just rub her the wrong way as they are so uncouth. I suggested that she probably has not been meeting the more cultured and educated ones and she granted that point. Her husband is definitely prejudiced against the Jewish and he speaks with contempt when he mentions them. Other than comments on not trusting white insurance men and on the Jewish people, he did not have anything else to say the whole evening. I think he is a prune and I have a very unfavorable opinion of him because he is so colorless and he has too many Jap traits even if his ideas are Americanized much more than the majority of the Kibei. It is guys like that who would pull all of the Nisei back into a Jap town, but maybe I am being too harsh on Mr. W because he compares so poorly with his wife. >

W 9 While I was interviewing Mrs. W., the kibei woman from the basement came to visit and I was surprised to find that she had a very good personality even tho I hardly understood anything she said. She doesn't speak English too well but she doesn't have an accent. She has good ideas though and I have to admire her for the way she has resettled her three children out here. Her name is Sally Yasui and I don't believe she is over 30 years old even tho she has three kids. She is a sort of Japanese beauty. < Prior to the war she was living in Gardena and Holly wood.

Mrs. Yasui was very worried because the freight company has



not delivered her 300 pounds of freight and she has to pay a large charge each day that the company keeps it. She said that she is out working during the day so that she is not able to be home to accept the freight. Mrs. W went out for a few minutes to phone the freight company and ask them to deliver the box on Saturday afternoon. After that Mrs. Yasui came in and talked for a while. She doesn't see very many people outside of her children so that she was rather anxious to talk. She was quite proud of her name "Sally" and she said that she was not going to use her Japanese name again. Mrs. W was able to follow most of the conversation, but I only got snatches. Sally Yasui is willing to be interviewed, but I am afraid that the task would be too great for ~~him~~ me. She is a very good example of a real cultural conflict and marginal individual. She has lived the first 15 years of her life in Japan and the rest in this country. She has a sort of grudge against Japan because her experiences there led to unhappiness ever since her marriage at the age of 15.

Mrs. Yasui has a 11 year old daughter, Marie, and another girl and younger son, Bobby. It is Bobby's birthday Saturday night and she wanted to give a party for him. The only one she knew to invite was Mrs. W although some of Bobby's friends may also be there. I have seen the children skating and playing around with a whole gang of Caucasian kids and they seem to be the leader of the group. Bobby is secretary to his Sunday school class. Those children are becoming well integrated and they have no race consciousness at all. It is a little more difficult for Sally but she brought her children out of camp as she wanted them to have a good education and she is willing to do anything for them. She is working as a power machine operator. Sally can understand English quite well, but she uses a lot of Japanese when



speaking so I had a hard time following her. Mrs. W doesn't understand Japanese very well herself but she has gotten used to Sally's speech so that she interpreted some of the remarks. I took some notes on some of the things Sally said in English and I regret for once that I don't have a command of the Jap language as I know she could give a darn good interview. She is quite frank and not secretive like most kibeis. Her face has expression and she has a personality seen in few kibeis. It is surprising how the life in Japan has changed her whole personality. If she had not been sent to Japan for an education she would be just like many other attractive Nisei girls. >

Sally said that she was born in California but her parents took her back to Japan for an education when she was five. She didn't ~~xxxxxx~~ know any English at all. Later on, she liked English in high school and it was her favorite subject as she felt that she had something in common with America. < At the age of 15, she was like a tomboy. She was living with her uncle at the time. > All of her training was in strict accordance with the Japanese way and she was taught to be obedient. The man was placed in the highest position and she was taught never to talk back to one.

[with whom she was living]

One day her uncle called her from upstairs. "Johnny come from America. He wears nice suits. I never saw any Japanese man dress like that. My ~~uncle~~ uncle tell me that I marry him the next day. I don't know what he means but I don't ask questions. I don't like Japan way; I like America way better now. It takes me long time, but I never go back with Johnny. He treats me very mean. Can't live Japan way no more. In America free to think like all people; in Japan, you obey man. But I want my children to marry Japanese boys as it is no good to mix them all up. Pretty



soon, ~~fourth~~ fourth generation, no more Japanese if mix up. But I want them for this country. I don't know. I can't decide yet which to live, but my children believe more happy in America. They can't get along in Japan and they can't stand Japan way, like me. Some way, Japan good. I don't know what to do after the war. Family in Japan and they want children. My husband he try to take children there. He working in glass factory now and he come visit every week, but I no go back to him no more even if he say so. All time his friends say it is duty to go back to him and they push me, but I don't go no more.

"When I first marry him, he good to me. Everything so different in Japan. When got married, they put marriage Japan clothes on me. It so tight that I can't move. Then they put lipstick and powder on me. Japan high school girl don't wear lipstick. Then they put my hair up like a lady. They tell me I am grown up now and to be a wife. This the second day after I meet Johnny so I don't know what to say. He kibe and he going back to America.

"When I look in mirror to see how I fixed up, I start to cry. I shame. I thought if I marry him, I live like his sister, but he made me follow him in everything after we go on honeymoon to hot springs in Japan. They make me very funny when they put my hair up. When I go home, my three brothers look at me and go hide. They scared of me. My face all white with powder and my lips all red. They don't know me. They never see me like that before.

"I know then I can't live like before no more. The baishakunin tell me I have to obey my husband. No romance at all. I never know romance. Just marry and then do everything husband says. When I go on honeymoon, I put hair down, but I get scolded be-



cause they say I am now married and wife. I only 15 and I feel like little girl. I want to go swim but I can't do that no more.

That time my husband good to me and he treat me like little girl. I never have love to him. I only know him three day when I go to honeymoon. I don't like it but Japan way and I do as they tell me and be obedient. I only girl in family so I don't know anything. They promise me I go to America high school. I very ambitious for America education so that why I say I glad to marry johnny. I think I be like sister to him and that all.

I don't know nothing about why I have to sleep in same bed with him third nite and I don't know what he do to me. They don't tell me about that. That's why Japan don't do nothing good for me. I don't like that kind life. It too hard for me and I can't say anything for myself.

"When we come to America, Johnny tell me about my rival and he shows her to me. I don't know he love her but she is given away to another man by baishakunin. For 10 years, I don't know he love her and go sleep with her all time. I nver ask my husband. I don't like rival after that. That why I separate from husband. He only give me \$25.00 when separate and I take it.

"When come to America, I think I go to America high school but Johnny say no. Pretty soon baby comes. I like learn English so I teach missionary lady in Oakland and she teach me English. After I separate I learn many things. Husband keep me down all time before. I learn lot and I think Japan style no fun for lady. Only good for man. I no allowed to talk to husband friends. I just serve tea and go sit in corner. Japan style followed by husband. I like to live natural way. That why I leave camp as better for my children.

"My children like much better out here. They make lots



friends. When they young I start to teach them write Japanese, but I stop after it mix up their education. Bobby don't know how to talk Japanese. He understand what I say. Other two talk Japan little bit, but they tell me to speak English so I think that it best. I leear quite lot English here. I go to store. I work and I use English all time. I speak it better than befofe now. When married, husband no want me to speak English as he say it is not good. That why I don't learn good.

"Children don't eat Japanese food now. They say 'looks bousy' Food allmixed up Japan style. They like Amerca style. Carrot, peas all separate. Look more pretty. They don't use chopsticks. They don't know Japanese so good since come out of camp. Pretty soon forget is all. If I stay America, that is good. But I don't kn w. Government might say go back to Japan. I won't be happy if that comes. My children won't go as they won't like it too.

"I work in <sup>factory</sup> ~~factory~~ and white women embarrass me. They call me sweetheart and think I little girl. They don't think I have three children. I think I stay out here. It much better for me and children. No more go back to Johnny if he say so. I too kind before and I don't say nothing when he hit me and knock me down. No more that because I live America style and I say no and he can't made me obey any more.. That way much better. In Japan, Johnny say come and I come right away. I too kind and I feel sorry for him, but he never change. No more use live with him."

----- thru 6238  
When Bette came home, she said that she had a very enjoyable time in Chinatown with the 10 girls from college. None of them



had ever been to Chinatown or eaten Chinese food before. All of the girls from Betty Jeans dormitory were supposed to go, but they were not notified in time so only 10 went. Bette was appointed to reserve the place and order all the food. Bette reserved a place in the Chinese place which was reputed to refusal admittance to Nisei but there was no difficulty.

Bette said that all of the girls were from other states: Geo, Okla., Tenn, Mass, Wisconsin, etc. They were so excited about eating in Chinatown that they insisted on having Bette teach them how to use chopsticks. Bette said that she ordered a wide variety of foods and not the one dish which tourists usually order. Afterwards they wandered around to all of the Chinese stores and Bette advised them to buy things and reject others which she thought were too high. She said that they charge tourist prices to caucasians so that .15 straw slippers cost .50 when a caucasian buys them. "All of the girls bought the bamboo back scratchers as they were so fascinated by them. Betty Jean bought some earrings rings. The girls all want me to take them down again. We had so much fun. Tomorrow the whole bunch of us are going to activities night at the University and go roller skating. This winter we plan to go ice skating together. Gee, college life is a lot of fun. I'm so glad that I'm having this chance because these things are the things I will remember about college. Don't worry, I'm studying hard too! One of the boys was going to ask me to a fraternity dinner but Olga decided to accept Phil's invitation so that he said he would take me to dinner some other time. One girl said she would like me even better if I didn't wear the Roosevelt button so I tried to convert her for a while. Her father is a rich businessman so I guess she gets her ideas from him! She is pretty broad minded tho so she will learn."



Oct. 22, 1944

Dear Betty:

How are you and E.C.J.? We are all right. I am going to kindergaden every day and Monday to Friday to work but not so hard now 8 okrook to 11:15 a.m. and 12:45 to 3:30 p.m. that all. I made 85 to 90 orang to cut 8 slice, than wrap it ap to paper, that is about one hour take time and same time I make orang juice about 2 gallons but I dont like that work so hard so this 2 time I made for one month. Monday Wed. Fri. is mild day so not such hard work. I like any way for this job.

How is school? I know you like school but I tell you dont work so hard every day.

Say tell me where is Mariko's addles? Mariko's letter (from here on is a translation of the part written in romaji) said 2210 W. Halstead St. but yesterday Miyako got a ~~letter~~ present giving the address as 2110 N. Halstead St. Who lives here? Mariko does not write very often and I could not understand where she lives soe I gave Miss Okazaki your address at 4743 and she sent Mariko's two dresses there. She said that the other will be done shortly. She said that the Navy blue suit would be hard to make without Mariko's being here so she sent it without making it so can't Mariko make it herself? That material is very good so she'd better be careful in cutting it out and not spoils the suit. Will you tell this to Mariko when she comes over to your place? The other day I wrote to Mariko and sent it to 2210. Is that the right address?

I am going to church now so I shall close now. Goodbye.

Mama

Will you thank Emiko for her letter and tell her that I will write to her soon.

-----

Thank you very much for the nuts. Will write Tuesday, okay.

Love,

Miyako



I didn't get to bed until about five this morning and Bette aroused me at ten so that I am very sleepy. She said that I have to get ~~my~~ my notestyped up. I went over to Mariko's yesterday to help Eileen look for a place. She just hasn't had any luck at all and she is getting so worried because she only brought one suitcase of clothes with her from North Dakota and she hasn't anything to wear. She does not wish to send for her luggage until she finds her own apartment. She can't find a roommate and that complicates the problem as it would cost too much to take a place on her own.

We went into the German neighborhood today and their attitude really is different. They were very friendly and not one place turned us down without at least looking at the room. I can understand now why the Nisei say that the German landladies are the kindest to them. They probably feel that they are allies! We looked in several places which had possibilities but there was no running water in the room. In one of the places, the apartment was quite large but the kitchen sink was out in the hall and there was no closet. We walked around most of the afternoon and then headed for the near north side again. We must have walked around for five or six hours. We saw quite a few Nisei going around househunting. It seems that many of them tell each other when they move so that their friends can take over. Eileen does not care to live in a place where there are too many Nisei. She can probably find an apartment at Maple Manor but there are too many zoot suiters living there. I took her over to meet Irene Satow to ask her if she were looking for a roommate. Irene said that her husband was in the Army and she would have to consult him. She pays \$42.50 for a single room, pullman kitchen apartment with a small



private bath. She got the apartment from Dorothy Ikeda who is now living with Toshie. Irene said that she would ask another Nisei girl in the same building if she were looking for a roommate. Eileen had planned to move in with another Nisei girl from Nebraska but the girl is too fussy and she is letting Eileen do all of the house hunting. Yoshie is planning to go to New York so that she does not wish to take a flat and furnish it all up. All of the girls that Eileen knew at the Music School ~~xxxx~~ are established already. Winter is coming on and Eileen would like to get settled. She found some bedbugs in her room so that Geo sprayed it. Irene will let Eileen know in a week or so if her husband will object to her taking a roommate in. It will be a problem if he gets a furlough. Irene said that she did not have any space to store things so that it might be too crowded. I have only met her once but I asked her for an interview after she said that she had heard that I was the "perfect Nisei." (!!!!!) If Bette and the rest of the clan ever heard that one, I'd never be able to live it down! Anyway Irene did agree to an interview. She is working at MC Clurgs. She said that two-thirds of the workers there were Nisei now. She has been there two years, and she wishes that the Nisei would branch out more.

Irene also said that a girl, Kazu Kuwahara has re-opened the Mark Twain Beauty Box up on West Division Street near Clark. It is owned and operated by Nisei and it specializes in permanent waves and hair styling. Cards have been sent out to about 1000 Nisei girls but Irene didn't know where they got all the names. The same handwriting appears on the announcements for Nisei dances and Japanese stores. Irene mentioned that there was



going to be a Nisei dance at the Stevens Hotel this evening and it was sponsored by the Nisei employees there. She said that she had heard that the Nisei dance last week was not so successful. She said that she had been out here two years and she did not care to see how the "Nisei were bunching together so much. A certain amount of it is too be expected, but I don't think that they should have to get into such large groups. You know, the Nisei are funny. A lot of them at McClurgs follow the news of the Pacific fleet battle because they feel that it is going to effect them personally." Jack mentioned that there was a 17 year old Nisei boy who was determined to go to Asia after the war on account of the great discrimination out here and the boy told Jack that he was even willing to fight for Japan. "The funny thing," said Jack, "the guy thinks he is doing the government a favor by working in defense work. His example is true of many of the Nisei at work. They haven't gone to college like you have so that they have not met the better class of Americans so that they think all white people are against them. "

~~xxxxxx~~ Eileen and I dropped in on Toshie during the course of the afternoon. Toshie is expecting her baby in three weeks and she is as round as a barrel. She hopes that Albert will be able to come up on his furlough about that time. She gets quite a few letters from Albert and she might give them to me eventually. That house over there is certainly crowded now. There are six living there. The place only has two bedrooms. Toshie, Dorothy and Lucy sleep in one bedroom and Otto and Teddy sleep in the other. Mrs. Ikeda sleeps ~~xxx~~ in the front room and there is a screen in front of it. The dining room has been made into the living room. Every week, the Uncle comes down from his cook job in one of the suburbs and he sleeps with the boys. The congestion is terrible. I don't know what they



will do when Albert gets a furlough and the new baby arrives. That place will be a madhouse. Otto has to lock himself in his room in order to get any studying done. He works for a couple of hours in the afternoon so that he does not have too much spare time. That apartment has even less privacy than a camp barracks, I think. Dorothy doesn't like it too well and I think that she will get into Cadet Nursing just to get away from all that crowd for a while. Yuri still maintains her own place, but she visits several times a week. It's quite a definite group now and Toshie is stuck in spite of her attempts to make caucasian friends. A group of her neighbors did give her a shower recently altho. Toshie had a dream that Mariko would be having a baby in nine months. Everybody has been telling Mariko she should have a baby, but Mariko doesn't want to risk it.

Mariko's ~~xxxxx~~ cold was rather severe today, and she was having George wait on her hand and foot. Geo certainly is a patient guy. He got up early to look for a job but he was so worried about Mariko that he fussed around her all day to take care of her. (Jack thinks this is just an excuse as both of them are lazy and don't want to work.) George is very interested in politics and he has been reading a lot of literature on the presidential elections. I think that he will go to hear Roosevelt speak tonight if Mariko allows him out of the house. Eileen is quite Republican and she is going to vote the Republican ticket. I get her sore when I say anything about Dewey as I call him the "American Fuhrer." I said that this was just as asinine as calling Roosevelt a tired and old man. Eileen might vote for Roosevelt though. I persuaded her to come with us to hear Roosevelt talk this evening at Soldier's Field so she will be coming over later in the afternoon. Eileen is a Chicago Tribune fan and she thinks it is the best paper in the world so



she will need some education on that. She is getting convinced that a strong Nisei society is not so good. Eileen has many conservative streaks and I don't know why I waste time trying to "enlighten" her as it makes her a little sore. She seems willing enough to listen though so some progress has been made. I think that she is a pretty nice person and I like her quite a bit as a friend because she doesn't have many of the usual Nisei attitudes. I suppose that is because she wasn't brought up in a Japanese community in North Dakota. She is very neat about everything and she does the lion's share of the housework about Mariko's apartment as far as I can see. I took her to a midnight show after she finished work so that is why I did not get in until five this morning. I certainly am neglecting my studies altho I seem to get my work in okay. I guess I will have to settle down soon and get back to business. She likes the Robert Taylor type so that there has been no attempt at romantic interests altho to be truthful, Eileen has caused me to act like a schoolboy and I can't seem to help it. On the other hand, I feel like a silly ass trying to be romantic so we have kept it more on a friendship basis. I don't have time for women so I guess I will have to get back to the normal life before I get too involved. I've got too many other responsibilities for the present and my work is more important. I should be getting my MA too since I have gone this far. I think I had better glue this page together because if anyone ever read this, I would be in for a terrific ribbing!

I spent about five hours at Kiyoshi's and Violet's apartment. Sunny was just going out to the store when I arrived so she gave me the key. Violet would like me to get interested in Sonny and she gives hints about double dates, but I act dumb. I just want to get an interview out of Sunny eventually. Tom N. and his sister dropped in later so that I cooked the tempura dinner



for the party. Tom and Kiyoshi almost got drunk on the wine and Violet got a little worried. We ate leisurely, talked for a while, and then had a game of social cards until I left. It was a rather pleasant evening. I would like to interview Tom but he doesn't feel that he has anything to say and he said that he could not express himself. His sister is very quiet, a kibe type, so there is not much possibility there for an interview. It is so difficult to draw this type of individual out. Some comments made during the evening:

Kiyoshi: "The Japanese Fleet finally came out. I bet if the reports about its defeat is true, the war will be shortened quite a bit. I have an idea that they will hold out for quite a while yet and I will have to go to Japan with the occupation troops. I bet my life won't be very safe then. I am making only \$35 clear now but I might as well stay in that job until I am called in. I haven't heard yet whether I will be accepted to Snelling. Maybe I'll have to go to Shelby and train for the Europe war. It's no use getting too worried about it now as I know my time is coming to get inducted so I might as well enjoy the time I have left."

Violet: "I don't know what I will do when Kiyoshi is drafted. I think I will stay here and take in another girl to live with us. I like my job pretty well. I've been doing office work with the National Research Institute for about a week now and the work is pleasant enough. It is just a routine job and I file things and type. My hours aren't too long. We are making enough between the two of us to live comfortably, but I will have to keep a strict budget from now on as our income has been cut down and I do want to save a little money for emergencies if that is possible."

Sonny: "I'll probably grind away at my job at Stevens for years and years. There is no future in it, but I don't like office



work. Gee, I wish the war would hurry up and end. I don't like this uncertain kind of life. I heard that we would be allowed to go back to California pretty soon, but I am not dying to do that as I couldn't get anything but a domestic job. Maybe I will go into Cadet nursing later on, but nothing is sure. "

Alice N. (Tom's sister): "I have two jobs. I work in the office all day and then in the evening I go and help with the dishes in a home. I get my room and board for this. I have to stay in and watch the children in the evening tho. I don't mind as I have nothing else to do. I've been out here for about a year now and I don't like it very much. I never see anybody." Alice N. is a kibe.

Tom N.: "I'm starting work tomorrow at the Central Wire company out on the west side. It pays .80 cents an hour and we work nine hours a day. Saturday is overtime so it pays time and a half. If we work sundays, we get double time. I plan to work seven days a week for a while as I need the money. I don't throw my money away foolishly but it seems to go away like nothing. Living costs are pretty high, you know.

"I don't like to say anything about Davy as he is my friend, but he sure tells me a lot of lies. He got \$140 from his father a couple of weeks ago and that is almost all gone now. He just throws his money away. He drinks a lot too. He is getting in with a bad bunch from Amache and that will be the end of him. It is too bad that he has to be so wild. He is going to the gambling place now and he plays the horse bookies too. He made me promise not to say anything about this to you as he knew that you would bawl him out, but I don't like to see him go to the dogs like this. I am really disappointed with him. There are some zoot suit guys on Clark street who don't like Davy so he



had better watch out or they will beat him up. It's no good for him to move to Clark street. I don't know if he is moving or not. He has been trying to get a place, I know."

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Bette had a very enjoyable time at the skating party. She was so stiff this morning that she could hardly hobble around. She certainly does enjoy the college life. I am glad that she is entering into it so well. She has so many friends out at the University. In a couple of weeks the first tests will be coming up and Bette is a little scared of that. She doesn't want to fail any of her courses so that she has been studying quite faithfully and her study methods seem to be improving. She doesn't listen to the radio anymore while studying as she finds that she is not able to concentrate. I give her a lot of credit for managing so well. I would like to give her a bigger allowance than \$3 a week, but I can't right now. She will be receiving her \$300 scholarship from the Student Relocation next week.

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We did not get to the Roosevelt speech after all. There was too big of a crowd there. Eileen started over to our place after work but she could not get on a bus because of all the crowd. We waited and waited for her as we did not know what had happened. Bette was very impatient since she had counted so much on going to see Roosevelt. Eileen finally arrived in a taxi cab. She said that it was impossible to get on any of the streetcars or subway. We had not anticipated that there would be such a traffic jam. After dinner, we hurried down to the Field, but the bus only crawled along. We decided to walk the rest of the way but it was hopeless. There were mobs of people streaming back from Soldier's Field because they could not get in. When we got there we found that the gates had been closed about two hours before. Even if we had started earlier we would not have been admitted. There must have been about 100,000 people who were left out. The stadium inside was packed. We could hear the roaring of the crowd when ~~walked~~ when Roosevelt was introduced. Apparently the Democratic Committee printed about three times the number of tickets than the Stadium could hold just to make sure of a capacity crowd. There was no need for that as thousands of people were interested enough to brave the ~~very~~ biting wind just to hear the speech. The papers said afterwards that this was one of the greatest ovations which Roosevelt had ever received. It was too bad that we could not get in.

We decided to leave after being pressed in by the crowds for about a half hour. Jack and Bette went on home while Eileen and I went to a show. Jack took Bette to a Nisei church party. I don't particularly feel that it is necessary for Bette to go to Nisei gatherings and she would not go unless Jack drags her along. He is not exactly being fair to her. Jack is married and he does not care to play around with other Nisei girls out here now so he wants to take Bette to the Nisei dances. I don't think that this is such a good thing for Bette now that she is getting established in the social activities at school. However, I did not say anything and I don't know if I will. I just don't like it though. I don't think that Bette is going to turn back into a



Nisei society exclusively yet, but there is no need for Jack to encourage this sort of thing now that she is going to college. He just doesn't see things the way I do about the possibilities for integration of the Nisei even tho he did marry a non-~~Nisei~~ Nisei girl. I wonder if he expects to drag Dolores back into a Nisei society after she had practically become integrated into the American life out on the Coast. I don't think that she would like that so well. Bette has her own group at school and maybe she made a mistake by not going to the speech with them as she lost out entirely because she wanted to be with us. This is the sort of conflict which will arise the more she gets into a Nisei group and I am afraid that her school activities will be the one to be sacrificed. Either that, or else she will let down on her studies and try to keep both of her social groups. This isn't an unnecessary fear because I have seen the same thing happen in many Nisei cases out here. Even Emiko went through the same thing and she definitely is in a Nisei group. I have noticed too that she has a certain amount of that Nisei consciousness which I think reflects from her groups. It is just an ordinary crowd and we don't see much of them because there is no common interest there. Emiko just can't see it though and it is no use trying to tell her because she only gets angry. Even Mariko, Jack and Alice have said that same thing so that we cannot all be wrong. I had thought that Emiko would grow away from this group, but she seems to cling to it because it is the only Nisei group she knows and she doesn't care to eliminate all contacts. That is natural enough and it is unfortunate that she did not meet a better group out here. I have heard a lot about the activities of her group which Emiko thinks I am not aware of but I don't say anything anymore. It doesn't matter too much although I would not like Emiko to change her attitudes towards being Nisei conscious. She is a long ways from that, but the influence is there. I hope that Bette will get into a much better Nisei group if she has to get into one. What the hell, who am I to judge anyway! It only makes me unpopular to voice my opinions so I might as well keep quiet about it. I just feel that Emiko and Bette will make better adjustments than most Nisei and that is a good thing to look forward to.



After the show on Sat night, Eileen went to Pixley's for something to eat. We just sat around and talked for about an hour and a half. Eileen was supposed to phone Mr. Thomas about midnight and she forgot all about it. He was a little sore for being kept waiting at home, but Eileen told him that it could not be helped. She invited him over to dinner on Sunday to make up and I guess that appeased him. Mr. Thomas is a voice teacher, and a bachelor. I think he is rather anemic but he seems to be a pretty good guy. Eileen was a little talkative ~~ix~~ and she told me about the fun she used to have while going to the music college. She said that she worked her way all the way through and she never did get enough sleep, but she thought that it was worth it in the long run, even though she has not achieved her ambitions yet. She would like to teach in a public school. She got a job offer to teach in a small rural school in a town in So. Illinois, but she decided not to take the job since it only paid \$127 a month and she felt that she would get stuck. She said that other music students used that job as a stepping stone to a better job, but she felt that this would not be true for her. Eileen would like to get a teaching job in the public schools here in Chicago and suburbs. She hasn't given up hope yet although she feels now that it will be a more difficult task than she had expected. She said that it was this sort of thing which brought her down to the level of thinking of many Nisei. She said that prior to the time she had met any Nisei, she had the idea that she was so different from them. "But when I go house hunting or job hunting, there is not any difference as far as the other people are concerned. At the same time, I still don't feel close to the other Nisei." I understood that viewpoint because I have felt the same way. There is a great difference in psychology. One who is brought up in a Japanese community is more race conscious than one who is not and the resettlement hasn't erased this feeling in the minds of most of the resettlers. Eileen doesn't have this sort of feeling because she hasn't been touched by evacuation or even discrimination. She never approaches a place in an ~~apologetic~~ apologetic manner which is so characteristic of the Nisei. It is these little things about Eileen which is noticeable to me. She was telling a



little about her life in Minot and it was no different from any other small town American. Saturday night shows and coke dates at the drug stores, friends filling the house, excitement over the first dance, going to football games, church activities, etc. All of these things were a regular part of the town life. There was no Japanese community there which cut the Japanese residents off from the rest of the town. Eileen is a little defensive about Minot and she calls it a big city because it has 30,000 population. I said that this was still a ~~town~~town to me.

Another good point of Eileen that I have noticed is that she is rather generous in everything she does. She is always wanting to treat and she is very considerate about others. She does a lot of work about Mariko's and she seems to be getting along well there although there are remarks sometimes about putting the guest out. It is all in a joking way, but just the same it does make Eileen feel uneasy at times. George likes her around because she acts as the safety valve and Mariko won't be inclined to blow off as much if somebody else is around. She blows off enough tho. The two of them seem to have settled down a lot in the past month and they are getting along quite well now. Both are worried ~~xxxx~~ about jobs, but nothing definite has come up.

On my way home, I saw some boys pulling holloween pranks. They were going around and smashing all of the penny candy machines. It took me about two hours to get home because of the slow service late at night and I got furious about a fight in the Negro district so I went over to watch and I missed my car. A Negro fellow was giving his rival a terrific beating for playing around with his wife. He cut the guy up pretty badly. The rival was pleading for mercy and he said that he did not know anything about the girl being married. The husband is in the Navy. When I got there he started to beat his wife and cut her up too. By this time a big crowd had gathered and they seemed to be sympathetic to the wronged husband. They told him to beat it before the police arrived as he might get a court martial for being AWOL from his station. The ambulance came roaring up and they took the bleeding couple away to the emergency hospital. Pretty rugged justice. >



Emiko came home for Sunday after her date Saturday night. She was in a very good disposition this week. <sup>I</sup> She said that the reason she complained last week was because she had not been feeling so well. At least she is open to suggestions eventually. I would like to make the home atmosphere as good as possible for her, but I wouldn't want to spoil her to Bette's disadvantage. We have felt that she ~~should~~ be willing to do part of the work even though she is not at home all week. She did have the idea that she was a guest so that Bette was doing most of the work. <sup>She</sup> Emiko helped out quite a bit yesterday without anybody saying anything. We had a stew dinner which Jack and Bette cooked up and it was most tasty. Emiko enjoyed it very much as she said that the food at the hospital was not too good. <sup>he</sup> He said that it was mostly roast beef and they rarely got other meats. They never get pork or ham!

Emiko likes the nursing school very much and she seems to be getting along quite well. She is getting a habit of talking loudly but I suppose that it because the nursing students all chatter and one has to talk loudly in order to be heard. Emiko turned on the radio so loudly that it almost burst the eardrums. She said that at the hospital that was the only way she could hear a radio program as the girls were talking so much. <sup>to 6266</sup> Davy came over for a while to show us his new jacket and shirt. He said that he was not going to move to the Newberry hotel now as he saw that the place was too dirty. I asked him if he really did send the money back to his father and he said it was true. Last night he went to several nightclubs to hear his favorite orchestras, but he only bought "expensive chicken sandwiches" and no drinks. Davy said that he now has \$38.00 in the bank. That is pretty good for him, if true, as he throws his money away ordinarily. He took Emiko to see a Negro stage show in the afternoon and then went home early.

Jack decided to go to a show by himself and Bette finally got down to starting her English composition. She procrastinates too much about her compositions so that is the reason why they are not finished until the last minute. I typed it up for her after I came home at 2:30. I took Emiko part of the way home and then stopped in at Mariko's to pick up a red suit for Bette. Bette wants to wear this suit for the party she is going to with one of her school friends next



tuesday. I don't mind her going out to any of the school affairs as long as she gets her studying done, but I don't particularly care for her to go to Nisei affairs. That would be too much. Bette went to about three school affairs last week and I think that she is adjusting very well to the college life. It is so exciting to her yet. I hope that she makes out well in her first test. Bette knows all of the girls at Blake Hall. Betty Jean is quite enthusiastic about the college life also. Sat night she went to the Aragon for the first time with a caucasian boy which she has a crush upon.

It appears that my dictation schedule will be disrupted for the next two weeks. Tom received his notice to report for induction on November 15th so that he will be working under terrific pressure until he goes in order to complete his work. He will need Louise most of the time and I am not unwilling to give up the time since it is important that he finishes up. I hope that Dorothy will not feel that I am deliberately slowing up because I plan to keep on with my interviews. I have three rather long cases to finish dictating yet, but it will not be any hardship to postpone this for a week or so. I am keeping pretty well up to my schedule in spite of the greater difficulty in contacting new cases. I suppose I am more conscious of a spread in sampling so that I am trying to get different types of individuals. The interviewing process seems to be coming along so that I can get the individuals talking better and I get more complete case documents, I think. I have a new case to start this week, and possibly two. Both are recent contacts, Sam and Irene.



There is such a cigarette shortage that I have finally resorted to smoking Bull Durham. I don't know what I'll do if no more cigarettes are available because I don't think I would be able to quit smoking so easily. It's a torture to have that gnawing feeling inside. There has been quite a shortage in cigarettes because more cigarettes are sent overseas and civilians are also smoking more. I went into one grocery store and asked for cigarettes and the clerk started to give me a lecture about the evils of smoking and he said that now was the best time to quit! When I went to class, all I did for two hours was to think about how delicious it would be to smoke a nice camel and I tortured myself in this way. The two hours just dragged along.

I lost another interview this evening. Sam just started working on a night shift so that I will not be able to interview him. He works from 4 in the afternoon until 2 in the morning. He gets home about 3 and sleeps until 1. Then he eats and relaxes a short time before going to work again. I don't think I'll have time to squeeze in any interviews. There are only 12 left in the Drexel home and they are all working on the night shift so I don't see them. I did meet Tom Sato last night but he said he was being drafted on Nov. 15 so that he had a lot of personal affairs to take care of before he is inducted. The Watanabe's went out to do their first shopping so that they were not home either. Cleo and Tomi work at night at Stevens Hotel so that they would not have any time for interviews either. They sleep after eating dinner. That is one of the difficulties of interviewing night shift workers and even defense plant Nisei. They put in so many hours that they don't have too much time to be interviewed. When they do have free time, they go out. Davey was the only one home last night. He practiced his saxophone for



a while so he wanted to go out and drink. I went down with him to the Hollywood Lounge bar and he spent about \$3 on drinks in a half hour. He said that he usually goes down and has a couple of drinks every night. He talks to the bar-tender, Johnny, about Negro orchestras. Davey saves the sticks from each drink so that he can keep track about how much he spends on drinks each week. Last week he saved 25 sticks so he spent \$12.50 on drinks alone. He said he was starting to save a little money though and now he has \$28 in the bank. He has loaned out about \$30 to friends at his place of work. Davey gave me about a pound of sugar to take home since we had run out.

Bette was studying most of the evening altho she took time out to fix Mariko's red suit which she is going to wear to the party tomorrow night. I talked to her about her general college life and Bette felt that she was getting along fairly well with her studies and her social activities. She said that it kept her pretty occupied and she didn't see how all the students could do all the reading required and keep up the nightly rounds of parties. Bette is thinking of joining a couple of more clubs at school altho she doesn't know whether she will have time for them. I mentioned that with all of these activities she would hardly have time for additional Nisei social activities and she agreed. She said that if she were working full time she could see the reason why the Nisei might want to have their own activities. She was a little disgusted at one Nisei fellow that Jack knew because the fellow was so positive that 89% of the Nisei would vote for Dewey. Jack told her that she shouldn't sneer so obviously even if the fellow didn't know what he was talking about. Bette takes her politics very seriously because she happens to know a group at college who have debates on the relative qualities of the Republicans and Democrats.



I got up early this morning for my morning class and then came to the office to dictate. I finished up the case about mid-afternoon and I did not start another case since Tom will be using Louise continuously for the next week. Louise is taking two more days of her vacation to go to Indiana to visit friends.

I decided to go over and help Eileen hunt for an apartment again. I don't know if she is using the right methods or not. She reads through the want ad columns and then starts out walking. She has been canvassing mostly on the near north side. The rents are higher in this district and the houses and neighborhood is poorer. There are few vacancies. It is part of the tight housing situation in this city. Eileen has covered most of the near north side now. I am pretty sure now that there is a feeling against having "Japanese" tenants in many of the places. The landlords don't say so directly as they are very evasive. I can't resist the urge to make a remark about taking the vacancy sign down if the place "has just been taken." In one place, the lady was very hesitant so I began to give her a line about how I was teaching at the University and Eileen said that she was in show work. The lady was impressed so that she showed Eileen a crummy room for \$8 a week. She added that she would not allow her to have any male visitors. This burnt Eileen up so she just walked out of the place.

I suspect that many of the landlords do not have any real feeling against Nisei as such but they are hesitant because they are afraid to have Orientals in general in their buildings. They would break down in many cases if one could talk to them for a time. I know definitely that the owners have more of an attitude now than when we first came to Chicago a year and a half ago. Many Nisei are trying to get unfurnished flats as they feel a



little more settled here. But the common complaint is that the flats in the good neighborhoods are closed to them and only the worst ones are offered. I wonder if all of this is any indication that the forces are working to crowd the Nisei back into a ghetto condition. Not all Nisei would be so persistent about spreading out so that is the reason why there are so many apartment houses here which have a number of Nisei in them. I ran into Toshie Miyamoto and she is living with about 5 of her relatives and 15 or so other Nisei in a building just off Clark Street. The house right next door will not take any Nisei. I asked the lady why not and she said that we could go to the "Japanese house" next door. Toshi M. said that her landlady likes "Nihonjin" because they keep the place clean so that is the reason why she would prefer to give the vacancies to them. I just don't like to see the development of these "Japanese houses" though because it seems to me that it only gives that much more impetus to the trend of segregation. Another difficulty is that many of the apartments which are open are definitely sub standard. I suspect that all newcomers to Chicago are having a hard time since there seems to be a great deal of overcrowding all over. In the want ads, very few notices are posted.

A lot of the Nisei would take ~~the~~ unfurnished flats but they feel that it is too much of a risk when everything is so uncertain. Many of them have a feeling that they will move on to some other cities, while others are waiting for the draft or else they have some idea that they will be going back to California. A few of the families who are better off are buying apartment houses and that solves their problem. The married couples are the ones who are more inclined to take the unfurnished flats. Victor and Sessu took a lease on an unfurnished flat on Larrabee



Avenue and they placed a deposit on it. When they went back the day before yesterday to take over, the landlord told them that the real estate company had told him to cancell the lease so he gave the money back. Mariko believes that the real estate companies have reached some sort of an agreement not to lease to Japanese. The unfortunate part of the whole thing is that the vast majority simply refuse to recognize the fact that there is a housing shortage in general and they too readily believe that everything is discrimination. I couldn't truthfully say that Eileen and I went to over five places today where the attitude of the landlord definitely was a race feeling. A lot of them are curt but there may be other reasons for that. It is only when they start to get overbearing that I begin to suspect a race attitude. I'd like to stop and talk to them but there is no time for that. I can't figure out what Eileen's reactions are altho I think that she interprets a lot of the refusals as discrimination. I know in one place we heard somebody moving around inside but nobody would come to open the door so that Eileen remarked, "I bet they saw us coming and that's why they don't answer." On the whole, Eileen is very patient in spite of the fact that she has a conservative streak. I don't think that she is race conscious. She is just a Republican! I finally got her to admit that she was going to vote for Dewey. I don't know why she should be so ashamed of that! She is just reflecting the general atmosphere of North Dakota, I guess. She votes Republican because she knows some of them back home. I'm trying hard to "convert" her but it's not much use. I just like to tease her about it. I do wish that she wouldn't read that damn Chicago Tribune though. She thinks that it is the best newspaper in town.

I rather suspect that Eileen is anxious to find a place of



her own as Mariko is getting on her nerves. She can't say anything because Mariko let her come in the first place out of the kindness of her heart. The only trouble is that Mariko lets her know about it in subtle ways and that is irritating. I wish Mariko would shut her jitterbug mouth up sometimes. George said that Mariko's chatter tires him out more than anything else, and I don't doubt that. Mariko just has to get in on every conversation and put in her two cents worth. She asked me to explain a little about the PAC. Before I got started she kept interrupting and making comments so that I gave up. She doesn't have much political consciousness so she can't say anything about the other Nisei. George has a lot of literature around the place, but Mariko never has the time to look at it. She always got some excuse that she is busy. Now she brings up the point that I stayed late over there a couple of times so that she did not get her sleep, etc. etc. Poor George has to take this everyday. Mariko reminds me of one of these highly tempermental movie actresses, very difficult to get along with. She practically has a temper tantrum if anybody doesn't give in to her dominating will. Eileen acts submissive around her because she feels that she has no other choice. Actually Eileen is quite an independent individual. She said that if Mariko had not taken her in, she might have gone back home to North Dakota. She only brought one suitcase of clothes so that she is anxious to settle down in a place of her own so that she can send for the rest of her clothing. She doesn't want to move all around so that she would like to find a permanent place. I know that Eileen appreciates Mariko's kindness, but I can't blame her for having a little resentment about the little ways in which Mariko takes advantage. She lets Eileen do all of the dishes and take the initiative in cleaning up the house. Of course, Mariko is starting job hunting in earnest, but that is not a conclusive excuse.



when Mariko gets irritated (about 5 times a day) she can be very nasty. I really have to restrain myself as I want to continue going over to visit Eileen now and then. Otherwise I wouldn't go over at all because it is much better not to listen to her continual chatter too often. She can't help that because she is naturally a talkative person. Usually she is interesting, but she does just a little too much talking.

Eileen and I fixed things up before we went ~~jan~~ apartment hunting. We stuffed George's bathrobe and pants and hung it on the ceiling with a suicide not<sup>e</sup>. Then we left a lot of buckets by the door. We also put a stuffed figure on the toilet seat. Mariko was scared stiff when she came in. She got a big kick out of it so that she and George dressed up to have a little party for Hallowe'en when Eileen came home. George and Eileen wanted to get some drinks but Mariko decided against it since she said it was more important for them to eat than to drink. I don't think George liked it very much when Mariko went on to say that it was her money coming out of the bank that they were using to eat on.

George would like to get a civil service job with the War Labor Board. He said that he would have to wait for his clearance but that he might have a chance as a Junior interviewer. He said that he just walked out on his last job as a shipping clerk because it was a small firm and he did not think he would get anyplace with ~~xxxxxxx~~. He was able to get his certificate of availability but he said that he did not plan to take an essential job in case he wanted to pull out in a hurry. He said that he was just interested in making some money for the present. Mariko is trying to get a clerical job with the



Civil Service also. She has an application in for a post office job but she said that she would have to get a special clearance from the Civil Service which would take six to eight weeks. Mariko felt that this clearance was only asked of Nisei, but I am not so sure of that. I think that everyone connected with a governmental agency has to have a Personal Security clearance. I wish that Mariko wouldn't talk like that because it makes her sound too race conscious. I suppose that this feeling is justified in many instances, but what's the use of being a defeatist?

I asked Mariko why she didn't take a domestic job until her clearance came in and she thought that was a possibility. She asked George if he would be willing to do it and he said yes. Immediately, Mariko began to look through the want ads and she found one opening for \$225-250 a month for a couple. She began to figure out if she would be able to save anymore by doing this kind of work for the next six months. She said that George could probably make about \$150 and she could get \$100 in a regular job. Out of this taxes and social security would be deducted and they would have to pay carfare and buy lunches. Food and rent would run about \$75. By skimping, she said, they could save \$80 at the most. In an domestic job these incidental expenses would be eliminated and there would be no tax deductions. On top of that they would get their food. They would still have to pay for the apartment unless Aileen took it over for the month. In this way, Mariko had it figured out on paper that they could save about \$150 or more. She got enthusiastic as she said they would be saving twice as much and they could do it for six weeks and then quit. In that way, they would have enough money for Christmas shopping and they could take it easy over the holidays.



George was willing to go along, but he was more interested in eating a sandwich so Mariko blew up and said that he had no worry about the future and that she would have to do all the hard work in a domestic job so he should at least cooperate in the planning. George kissed her so that she got into good spirits again and she made him the sandwich and then said that she would look into the domestic job situation tomorrow so that they would have to get a good nights sleep. Eileen and I started to play cards and George joined in so that Mariko got mad again about visitors who stayed late, etc etc. I took the hint so I decided to go on home. It was supposed to be a party anyway. We got revenge on Mariko by short sheeting her bed. She jumped in and she caught the joke and started the laugh so that the evening ended in harmony. Eileen was scared for a moment that Mariko would get mad and throw her out of the house.

For most of the evening, I went to visit Aki and Masako, ch-37 and 49. Aki had fixed up an old radio for me so that I could give it to Emiko. He said that he put completely new parts into it as it was only junk. One of the tubes cost \$5 and he put in coils, transformer, condensor, knobs and other parts into it. He only charged me \$6 for the job. I paid him half of it and promised to bring the rest tomorrow. The radio is worth about \$15 now. Aki said that he wanted to help Nisei out and he would fix up their radios and not charge them for labor because he knew how they got gyped in the radio shops. He said that he fixed a \$1000 radio up and the only thing wrong with it was that some dust was in it. He brushed it off and charged \$50. He said that the boss usually quotes all of these prices and he had never charged such high prices himself when he was in business for himself in California. Aki said that another trick was to barely



make the radio run and then charge \$7.50 if it were a small radio and \$12.50 if it were a large set. He said that once in a while some Nisei brings a radio into his shop but he has to charge them the high price, but he would do it for much less if it had been brought to his home. He gave me some cards to pass out but he said that he did not want to repair too many as he is making a good salary as it is. He said that his reason was to help the Nisei out and he also likes to fool around with radios at night and experiment. He has made a workbench for himself and Masako thought he should build some of the other household things first.

The children--Barbara, Kay, and Diane--were just finishing up dinner when I arrived and they were all excited about going out with their friends to scare people and play "tricks or treat." Barbara seems to have developed a lot of personality since I last saw her. Masako said that the kids are always out playing and that they just love it here. She said that her daughters bring so many of their friends home. She would like them to come home first after school to change their clothes but they often go off to visit friends at their home and they don't get back until dinner time. That family seems to be making very good adjustments and they certainly are back in the normal way of living even though there are certain unanswered problems facing them. If all of the Nisei could get integrated like those three children are doing there wouldn't be any Nisei problem.

Masako has managed to fix the apartment up very nicely. All of their records have arrived from camp so that Aki has fixed up several phonograph players for the house. Masako has put up curtains and rearranged the furniture. She bought a new coffee table and some unfinished dresser sets which she is going to paint.



I remarked that it looked as if they were going to stay here permanently, but Masako said that she was not so sure of that. She wanted to know about the possibility of California opening up as she was definitely interested in going back:

"I heard that it is possible to go back there soon. Some of my friends have told me that the WRA has quietly allowed almost 1000 Japanese to go back already. I think that most of those with property will go, but not many of the others. They may go just for curiosity and to have the satisfaction of seeing the state once more. I think that the only ones who will have much of a chance will be those with property. That's why I believe that we could make out. We would like to go back to our home town to live. That is why we still subscribe to the Arroyo Grande Register. It keeps us up on all of the local news. MY brother in law was rejected from the army and he might go back pretty soon if he can as he owns two farms there. Aki could give up his radio work for a while and I'm sure that he could do farming although he is not enthusiastic about that. His brother owns all of the farm equipment back there. The farms are leased out to a caucasian until next June and maybe we could take it back after that. In that way, Aki could take his father out of camp and back there with him. I still have a sister in a sanitorium out there and I could go and visit her once in a while.

"I would like to take my parents out there with me and the rest of the kids in camp with them. I had quite a discussion about all of this with Muri (ch-36.) She and Ike(ch-35) want to bring the folks out here to Chicago but I don't think that would be so good for them. Ike said that Dad could get a job as a maintenance man in his garage and Mom could help about the house. I don't think that they would like this kind of a life too well. In camp, my



mother has been working on a farm project for almost two years and she just loves it. If she went back to California with us, it would be much better for her. The problem is getting back there pretty soon. Maybe the Republicans will let us back if they get into office. Somebody from camp wrote and said that the Republicans were going to close up the camps so I don't know what to believe.

"It looks like Ike and Yuri are planning to settle down here. Yuri's new baby, Eileen, is five weeks old now. She said that they could make a go out of it even if Ike were drafted. He is still 1-A and he has not heard a thing since he was reclassified. At least that is better than being a 4-c as I doubt that anybody with that rating could get a job after the war. My younger sister and Ike's uncle are staying over there too so that there are six in that family household. If Aki gets drafted then I would have to go back to camp as I could support my family on \$120 a month unless I went in with Yuri or somebody. Then I could go to work and we could manage. That is why I would like to learn dress designing. My younger sister is doing that and she makes a pretty good wage. She didn't know very much about it when she first started out.

"Ike would like to get into refrigeration work after the war just for his own satisfaction. He said that he can always go back into mechanic work if that does not turn out well. It's pretty hard to decide on permanent things on account of the draft. If I were sure that Aki were not going to get drafted, I could do a lot more planning."

Arthur came to visit them at this time so that the conversation turned into other channels. Arthur is a kibei but he has been around Chicago since 1932. He said that he went to



Japan when he was four and he came back when he was 14. He speaks with a decided accent. His brother does not have this accent and Masako wasx wondering what caused the difference. She thought it was because the brother went out to play with the caucasian kids more, while Arthur had to study his music lessons.

Arthur said that he did not mind all of the Nisei coming out here because it gave him a chance to get married. However, he said, it was not so good for them to hang together in large bunches. He said that he confined his social contacts to his friends and that he had many caucasian contacts. He wondered why the other Nisei could not do the same thing as he said that this was not too difficult a thing to do. Before the war he worked for \$15 a week as a dishwasher but now he is doing general work with a large company and making about \$50 a week. However, Arthur said that he wanted to prepare for post war so that he is going to Central Y college now. He is 30 years old. He went to one of the music schools out here for quite a while. When the Nisei orchestra started up, he joined the group. But he said that it broke up because the individual players could not take any criticism and they were fighting about who should be the leader and what type of music to play. Arthur is trying to find a flat near Masako's so that his wife will be nearby when thaxx she has her operation. Masako said that they were living in a very cramped apartment now. She would invite them to come and stay with her until Yoneko is recovered from her operation but she feels that this would not work out so well, knowing what happened at Toshi's. "Why Toshi is just a paying guest at her own house now! She just got crowded out by all her relatives!" What Tomita and wife would also like to find an unfurnished place in that neighborhood as he is also a part of the group.



Arthur felt that the German landlords in that neighborhood were much more receptive to the Nisei. He said that so many of them have come in and a lot of the zoot suiters have made a bad reputation for all the rest. "That is why Japanese who live here long time don't care for Pacific Coast Japanese to come too many numbers. Too many zoot suit gangs they hear."

Arthur went on to say that he heard that some zoot suit Nisei was stabbed by a "curochan" (~~Negro~~ polite way of saying Negro.) last night and that some of the Filipinos were going to start out after the Clark street Nisei if they kept on taking ~~the~~ white girls away from them. Arthur felt that this demoralization of the Nisei fellows was due to the fact that there were not any parents around to guide them. He said that whole gangs of them lived in some of the cheap rooming houses in that neighborhood and they were hanging around the bars and gambling places all the time. Many of them move back and forth to other cities. Arthur would like to see a nice Japanese town <sup>where</sup> ~~where~~ the young people could gather occasionally. He thinks that this will give them a more normal atmosphere and then they would be encouraged to integrate more. I didn't bother to argue with this point of view even though I did not agree with it. I might want to interview Arthur later on even tho it is difficult to understand him. The group were all for Dewey too! It is very rare to find Democrats among the Nisei except among the more liberal minded ones. I guess this is another aspect of the basic conservatism of the Nisei group.

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Bette went to a party this evening with some school friends but I did not talk to her as she was asleep when I got home.