

Jan. 9, 1943

Jan. 2, 1943 - meeting in Mac Clogh's Office -  
 Committee of repr. from PMGO (Prov. Marshall Gen Office)  
 and MIS directed to study "by what means  
 Japanese Amer. + Nisei class may be released  
 from War Reloc. Centers, and, if released,  
 what disposition may be made of them."

Plan recommended by Committee.

a) Navy + Committee prepare questionnaire  
 "Answers to which will indicate to a certain  
 degree tendencies of loyalty or disloyalty to  
 the U. S. ...." To go to camps with  
 Army team.

b) WRA to help.

c) Answers of draftable males  
 will be sent without analysis ... to the  
 Assistant Chief of Staff, G. 2, who will  
 approve or disapprove such individuals  
 for induction into the armed forces.

d) } Disposition of other questionnaires  
 e) } to Army offices to determine whether  
 release of others into industry, etc.  
 f. - List of those approved for release to be  
 compiled



Meyer to McCloy -

Jan 15 - 43

announcements for Combat Unit &  
ready - for Pres. + for Stimson

Jan 15, 43

Meyer to Smith -

Indicates Combat Team... "the  
first step of the reinstatement of the Selective  
Service which was temporarily disrupted." ~~the~~  
Also plans for Army to clear large nos for  
defense plant work. This "will open the  
way for an all-out effort in our  
relocation program outside relocation centers..."



Jan 22, 43 -

In this day directive is organization  
of Japanese Combat Unit was  
issued by The Adjutant General,



WD FS  
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WAR DEPARTMENT  
The Adjutant General's Office  
Washington

AG 291.2 (1-19-43) OB-S-F-M

CJM/em - 2B-939  
Pentagon.

January 20, 1943

SUBJECT: Loyalty Investigations of American Citizens of Japanese Ancestry in War Relocation Centers.

TO: The Provost Marshal General; Director, Special Service Division, S.O.S.

1. A plan has been formulated whereby the War Department will, upon request of the War Relocation Authority, assist in determining the loyalty of American citizens of Japanese ancestry under its jurisdiction. The purpose of the plan is to determine (a) loyalty of American citizens of Japanese ancestry to permit of their release by War Relocation Authority from war relocation centers, and (b) whether those so released may be inducted into the military service or may be available for employment in plants and facilities important to the war effort.

2. The following administrative procedure is prescribed for accomplishment of the plan:

a. Questionnaires will be executed by American citizens of Japanese ancestry in war relocation centers.

b. The questionnaires will be distributed in war relocation centers by teams consisting of an army officer and three enlisted men, including one Japanese-American soldier of the Nisei class. The teams will assist the War Relocation Authority in supervising the execution of the questionnaires.

c. Personnel for the teams will be obtained by the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, War Department General Staff, and The Provost Marshal General from Service Commands or other sources. The teams will be trained by the Provost Marshal General.



d. The Bureau of Public Relations will have charge of all phases of public relations involved in the accomplishment of the plan. Material for exclusive use in relocation centers will be prepared for the Bureau of Public Relations by Director, Special Service Division, SOS. In formulating publicity plans and working up material, appropriate representatives of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, War Department General Staff, The Provost Marshal General, the Office of Naval Intelligence, War Relocation Authority, and Office of War Information will be consulted. No material will be released without the approval of the Deputy Chief of Staff.

e. The execution of questionnaires for male American citizens of Japanese ancestry within military age limits who are not in relocation centers and who make application for voluntary induction will be accomplished by the Selective Service System.

f. The questionnaires executed by male American citizens of Japanese ancestry within the age limits for military service who make application for voluntary induction will be forwarded immediately without analysis or evaluation to the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, War Department General Staff, who will approve or disapprove such individuals for induction into the armed forces. The Military Intelligence Service will notify The Provost Marshal General of the results of its action, and will transmit to The Provost Marshal General questionnaires for those individuals under the jurisdiction of the War Relocation Authority who are not inducted into the military service.

g. Copies of all other questionnaires, together with any information possessed by the War Relocation Authority pertaining to the loyalty of subject individuals, will be forwarded to The Provost Marshal General. A check of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Office of Naval



Intelligence records and an analysis of the answers given on the questionnaires will be made by the Provost Marshal General except for those individuals inducted into the military service under paragraph f. hereof. [In cases where it appears to the Provost Marshal General that an investigation by the Western Defense Command will be of probable assistance, a copy of the questionnaire will be referred to the Western Defense Command for such investigation.]

h. A Joint Board which by agreement with the Department of Justice, the Navy Department, and the War Relocation Authority will be composed of a representative of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Office of Naval Intelligence, War Relocation Authority, Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, War Department General Staff, and The Provost Marshal General will be created. The Provost Marshal General will transmit to the Joint Board the results of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Office of Naval Intelligence record checks; the analysis of the answers given on the questionnaires; and copies of the reports of investigation made by the Western Defense Command. The Joint Board will:

(1) Transmit the investigation reports and copies of the questionnaires to the War Relocation Authority, together with its recommendation concerning the release of subject individuals from relocation centers on indefinite leave; and

(2) will state whether the Joint Board has any objection to the employment in plants and facilities important to the war effort of any of those American citizens of Japanese ancestry who are released by the War Relocation Authority pursuant to its recommendation.

3. To assist in the execution of the plan, the Office of the Assistant Secretary of War will coordinate the activities of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, War Department General Staff; The Provost Marshal



General, and the Director, Bureau of Public Relations. The Office of the Assistant Secretary of War will also be the point of contact with the Office of Naval Intelligence and the Federal Bureau of Investigation on the formation of the Joint Board.

4. To prevent duplication of investigation, except where necessary upon receipt of supplementary information or for other cogent reasons, a list of American citizens of Japanese ancestry recommended for release by the Joint Board and their classification for employment in plants and facilities important to the war effort, will be forwarded to the Western, Eastern, Southern and Central Defense Commands, and all Service Commands.

5. The procedure prescribed herein is intended to supplement the leave regulations and Administrative Instructions No. 22, Revised, issued by the War Relocation Authority, and not to supersede those regulations or instructions except as may be ordered by the War Relocation Authority.

By order of the Secretary of War:

/s/ J. A. Ullo

J. A. ULLO,  
Major General,  
The Adjutant General

COPIES FURNISHED:

Office of the Assistant Secretary of War;  
Deputy Chief of Staff;  
Commanding Generals,  
    Services of Supply;  
    Defense Commands in the United States;  
    Service Commands;  
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-1, War Department General Staff;  
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3, War Department General Staff;  
Assistant Chief of Staff, Operations Division, War Department General Staff  
Office of Naval Intelligence, War Relocation Authority;  
Federal Bureau of Investigation;  
Office of War Information.



CONFIDENTIAL

February 14, 1943

MEMORANDUM TO: L. H. Bennett,  
Project Director

SUBJECT: Opinion Re Construction and Legal Effect of  
Certain Questions in Military Registration  
Questionnaire and Answers Thereto.

I have been informed that there has been widespread mis-  
construction of the meaning and effect of Questions Nos. 27  
and 28 of the questionnaire used in connection with mili-  
tary registration now in progress here. Inasmuch as it ap-  
pears that misunderstandings may be based, at least in part,  
on deliberate misrepresentations by subversive elements in  
order to defeat the opportunities present and future for  
Americans of Japanese blood and their families in this  
country, I believe that an opportunity should be given to  
all who so desire to rectify any incorrect, mistaken answers  
given, without penalty. Of course, every person has a right  
to make any true answer without coercion, but he should be  
fully aware of the significance and consequences of his  
act.

My opinion, submitted herein, is offered with the caveat  
that since the registration is a War Department matter, in-  
terpretation and subsequent action to be taken based on  
answers to the questionnaire are solely for the determination  
of the War Department and the Department of Justice. Never-  
theless, my opinion is supported, I believe, by legal  
principles of construction and by the laws of the United  
States.

A. Question 27 - "Are you willing to serve in the armed  
forces of the United States on combat  
duty, wherever ordered?"


No registrant who answers this question affirmatively can  
be called into military service as a volunteer because of  
his answer. He has not, by such answer, agreed to volun-  
teer. A separate, specific voluntary offer to enlist at  
once would be necessary before the Army could induct any  
citizen as a volunteer. An affirmative answer to Question  
27 in its ultimate analysis means only two things: 1) I  
am not a conscientious objector as defined by the draft  
laws; 2) I will, without reservation, obey the Selective  
Service Law of the United States and will not defy, violate  
or evade that law.

As a Draft Board official I have seen many completed  
questionnaires at this Center. I have not seen one which  
listed the registrant as a conscientious objector nor have  
I heard of such case. If there are any such objectors  
here, their number must be negligible. The draft ques-  
tionnaires are signed under oath and must be accepted as  
true on that point.

Since Question 27 does not call for voluntary enlistment




and since there are few, if any, conscientious objectors among the registrants, only one construction can logically and legally be placed upon substantially all negative answers to the question, viz that such registrants are unwilling to obey the Selective Service laws and will refuse to serve in the military forces of the United States if called in the draft and will therefore accept a prison sentence in preference to military service. In my opinion, no other interpretation of a negative answer to this question is possible, except in the case of conscientious objectors who have registered as such.

Any registrant who has knowingly and intentionally given a negative answer to the question when his true and honest answer would be in the affirmative, has, of course, falsified and misrepresented a material fact in a matter of concern to the War Department, and in so doing has made himself liable to a heavy fine and ten (10) years imprisonment as the questionnaire specifically states. These penalties attach to a false answer to any of the questions. 

B. Question 28 - "Will you swear unqualified allegiance to the United States of American and faithfully defend the United States from any or all attack by foreign or domestic forces, and forswear any form of allegiance or obedience to the Japanese emperor, or any other foreign government, power, or organization?"

There should be no misunderstanding as to this question. It seeks merely an affirmation of loyalty on the part of the registrant. The effect of an affirmative answer is simply that a presumption is thereby created that the registrant is not a traitor but is asserting his right and desire to be classed as a true American citizen and to enjoy his rights and meet his obligations as such.

A negative answer coupled with a request for repatriation constitutes an election of citizenship and nationality between the United States and Japan. While certain legal formalities would doubtless be necessary in order formally to nullify the citizenship of such registrant, it is more than likely that pending such formal proceeding he would be prohibited and prevented from exercising or enjoying any rights of citizenship and treated for all intents and purposes as an enemy alien. A negative answer to Question 28 not coupled with a request for repatriation is, in my opinion, a clear admission that the registrant is a traitor to the United States and as such is subject to the penalties provided for treasonous persons. It is difficult for me to believe, in spite of the indications, that there is any substantial number of traitorous citizens in this community and I feel therefore that there must have been misunderstanding of this question. A negative answer which does not constitute an election of citizenship in favor of Japan would invite the most serious penalties possible, and it is hard to believe that a number, if any, of the registrants de- 



sired to indicate that they prefer to accept such penalty rather than either elect to discard their United States citizenship or affirm their loyalty to the United States.

C. Inducing Registrants to give Negative Answers to Questions 27 and 28.

Any person who by word, action or otherwise, directly or indirectly, intentionally causes a registrant to make negative answers to Questions 27 and 28 is thereby interfering with and obstructing a program of recruitment of the United States Army in time of war and is subject to the penalties provided by the Espionage Act of 1917 which imposes a heavy fine and up to 20 years' imprisonment for such activity. Physical interference or obstruction is, of course, not a necessary element of proof of this crime. A written or spoken threat, a question asked under circumstances which might constitute duress or coercion by fear, even a mere look or gesture inferring a threat, would be sufficient evidence to warrant a conviction. Furthermore, any person who, having knowledge that a violation of the Espionage Act has been or is being committed fails to bring that knowledge to the attention of officials of the United States Government, is chargeable with aiding and abetting the culprits and is subject to the same penalties as the principals in the crime.

The statements made in this opinion are merely statements and constructions of law rendered in accordance with my interpretation of the meaning and effect of the various laws applicable. The opinions are not in any sense intended as threats or prophecies of any nature, as you are well aware that it is merely my purpose and function to expound the legal significance of the issues upon which my opinion is given.

/s/ James H. Terry  
Project Attorney



P.D.F.

## REGISTRATION

## Item no. 1.

memo written in long-hand by Jacoby on Feb. 19, 1943

1425 applications for repatriation yesterday 2-18-43  
making a total of 1931  
214 filed papers up to midnight 2-18-43

## Item no. 2.

to Col. William P. Scobey-office of the Ast. Sec. of War

Dated Feb. 19th

Registrations Friday totaled one hundred seventy five. This is by far largest day so far. However consistent improvement cannot be expected because of inability to deal with trouble makers Internal Security force here so small that it is practically impossible to make arrests or escort obstructionists out of area Project Director has asked help of F B I San Francisco or of military forces here but same has not been forthcoming. Need of such help is manifest if registration is to be speeded up by elimination of ringleaders. Earnestly urge that War Department join with WRA in request for such assistance. Latest incidents center around resentment because colonists cannot avoid registration by signing repatriation papers but believe this trouble could be liquidated if project director were in position to deal with those who are leading resistance.

Signed Sam L. Marshall, Major

## Item no. 3.

Letter to all Project Directors from Myer dated Feb. 20, 1943

This letter ----the first of a series of confidential letters to you, is a progress report on registration. -----could not be put in a wire message.

-----evidence that we have tackled a tough job-----

-----I want to repeat: Nothing must be permitted to interfere with the complete success-----no interference with volunteering can be countenanced. Agitators seem to be at work in some of the centers. When you have reasonable evidence of interference, don't hesitate to make arrests. At Gila, LeRoy Bennett asked the FBI for help and on Feb. 16 placed 13 aliens and 14 kibeis under arrest. Coverley at Tule Lake indicates that there will probably be some arrests of trouble makers there.

-----Development at Manzanar is significant. Registration there has moved along speedily but about 30% of the citizens who have registered have indicated that they would like to be expatriated. Some of those who made this indication have changed their minds since, but there is still a large number who seem to think that they want to relinquish their American Citizenship. We would like reports if there is evidence of this attitude elsewhere.

Rate of volunteering has been extremely low in all centers. No publicity should be given to the figures on volunteering at the present time. This info must be regarded as strictly confidential.-----

Army has stated that induction through selective service will be resorted to if necessary. This has many things in its favor but at the same time, the voluntary enlistment gives the nisei opportunity to make a demonstration of loyalty which they should not pass by.

## Item no. 4.

Memo to the Planning Board from Bd. of Directors of the Planning Bd. Feb. 20, 1943  
In regards to the current registration problem, this is to remind you again as stated



## REGISTRATION (CONTINUED)

## Item no. 4

by Mr. Harry Mayeda, chairman of the City Council, and endorsed by Mr. Masahide Yamashita, chairman of the Planning Board at the first joint meeting of the City Council, ~~Planning Board~~ ~~at the first joint meeting of the City Council~~ Planning Board, and the Block Managers on Feb. 10, 1943 that the representatives of the above mentioned organization should make every effort to dissuade their block people from making any group decision. Registration is a matter of individual judgment, and the final decision should be left up to each person. The Planning Board members are instructed to refrain from occupying an instrumental position at meetings that attempt to formulate such a policy.

Yoshida - Exec. Sec.

## Item no. 5.

Teletype message to Coverley from Myer on Feb. 27, 1943

Confirming our telephone conversation Feb. 26 and your wire same date, FBI investigation should be completed and I hope they will be able to file charges against a number of those arrested. In the meantime have your plans definitely laid for disciplinary procedure by Project Director to dispose of any or all cases not covered by FBI charges. This may take the form of a sentence not to exceed 90 days for breaking of WRA regulations or you may determine that they should go to isolation center at Moab. Check recent administrative instruction sent you airmail letter this week concerning actions which are essential. These procedures have been signed since they were mailed to you. These actions should be announced in the center so there is no question regarding actions taken and the reasons therefor. You should proceed with the arrest and removal of any individuals who are interfering with the program or who refuse to comply with regulations. Suggest aliens mentioned your wire be processed for internment by Justice Dept. immediately if feasible. Steps must be taken to complete registration of male citizens by March. 10. Please outline for me in wire your proposal for completing registration by March 10 including detailed procedures as to how you would require registration in case of refusal. I ~~will~~ will either approve your suggestions or advise you immediately of counter suggestions. Suggest no further ultimatums be issued until cases of those not under arrest have been disposed of and results announced. It is my recommendation that after above steps have been taken that an orderly procedure be laid out block by block or group by group and arrest and removal of those who refuse to comply with orders as has been done with those now in jail. I would make this a small enough group to begin with so that cases can be handled expeditiously. This, I believe, is what you had in mind when we talked on the phone yesterday. I am assuming that questionnaires from draft boards regarding reclassifications are simply belated questionnaires in relation to classification in the 4-C category. This is the only explanation that Selective Service has to offer. Have just talked with Mr. Ladd of FBI giving him complete story of problem at Tule and requested that this be clarified with FBI agents working on the problem. Mr. Ladd has assured me that this will be done immediately.



P.D.F. Confidential

## REGISTRATION (CONTINUED)

Item No. 6.

Memo for the Adj. General dated Feb. 26, 1943  
from William P. Scobey, Col., S.C. Executive

The Sec. of War directs that you dispatch a telegram to the Comm. General 9th service command, Ft. Douglas, Utah, substantially as follows:

The Sec. of War directs that you temporarily increase the strength of the 320th MP escort guard company by one repeat one officer and fifty repeat fifty men so that upon request of the project director Tule Lake Relocation Center, a military guard may be established at Camp FWS-3 formerly Biological Survey BW-3 Tule Lake Calif. While there is no assurance that the WRA will require this guard, it is desired that the Army be prepared to execute the plan.

Item no 6. this is correlated with the above.

Letter to Coverley from Myer dated Feb. 27, 1943

Dear Harvey:

Attached is a copy of a teletype just sent to you. You may want to check it with the original which may have been garbled. (See teletype)

We get all kinds of reports and rumors here and, of course, there is much info we don't get. I had a report this morning that Major Marshall had stated there were 15 teachers at Tule Lake who had been teaching anti-militarism. You may know about this. If you do I would like to have the facts. If not, I would suggest that you quiz Major Marshall on any information he may have. It is also reported that four Kibei entered the registration quarters on Friday, a week ago yesterday, and tried to stop the registration by stating there would be no more registration. They gave a fifteen minute harangue on the subject and seemingly tried to entice Major Marshall into taking some physical action against them. The Army office here is wondering why they were not arrested on the spot. I am wondering what the facts are regarding this particular incident. We have been informed that they are among those arrested Sat. or Sunday but there is still some question in the mind of Col. Scobey whether action has been taken in the cases of those who tried to interfere with registration.

We also have reports that death notices have been posted in washrooms threatening death to all those who register, and that mimeographed memoranda have been put out urging people not to register.

All of the above reports have come to us through Col. Scobey's office as reported by Major Marshall. I am not being critical because we do not have all these details and I am presuming that you are fully informed about these reports, but I am sending them to you for confirmation.

I have just read Mr. Cook's report of Feb. 22 to Mr. Baker, and I note on Page 4 of this report a statement regarding the beating of Teiho Hashida on the night of Feb. 22. This definitely states that the beating was done by two Kibei. I am wondering if the perpetrators were apprehended and if not, why not, in view of the fact there seems to be definite info that they were Kibei.



## REGISTRATION (CONTINUED)

Continuing Item 6.

I fully appreciate the problems you are having to face as the new Project Director and we want to give you every assistance we can from this end. Communication is not easy but we will do our best to render services from here if we can be of assistance.

I am sorry we got you out on a limb regarding the arrests but I had been definitely informed that this was compulsory under selective service and was greatly surprised and disappointed when I was informed otherwise. However, you are still within bounds and I hope the cases can be cleared up rapidly and that you can proceed to get your registration completed by March 10 as outlined in my wire, or in accordance with any plans you and Mr. Cozzens feel are sound. It is now definite that the problem is ours to get the job done but I am sure we will have full collaboration of the Army in accomplishing it. We should check with them step by step but there is no question about where the responsibility lies under present conditions. It lies with the WRA.

From your info we are attaching copy of a memo dated Feb. 26, from Col. Scobey to the Adj. Gen. concerning military guard for the biological Survey Camp at Tule Lake. (See the above)

## Item no. 7

letter to Mr. Coverley dated Feb. 28, 1943 from the Residents of Block 13 signed with approximately 300 names.

Dear Mr. Coverley:

When the startling as well as an alarming words reached us, that Mr. Yamashita, our friend and neighbor was taken from us, we immediately became alarmed over his welfare. We wish to have you extend to the people in charge of his care to recognize the poorness of his health, the condition of which had demanded a special diet that he has been faithfully following here in camp.

We, the undersigned, the residents of Block 13, desires to have the sincerest attention provided for Mr. Yamashita's care.

Respectfully yours.

## Item no. 8

Western Union Telegram dated March 1, 1943  
from San Francisco, Amat, Spanish Consul

K. Yoshida, Planning Board, Tule Lake Relocation Center

Spanish Embassy just telephoned that it is sending memo from State Dept. relative to matter in question. As soon as I receive it will forward it to you.



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REGISTRATION (CONTINUED)

Item No. 9.

a personal letter from Gambara Imahara (Mrs. Imahara at Tule Lake to her boys Henry Imahara ~~and~~ and Frank and Hank Marubashi at the C.C. Camp at Tule Lake

How do you like your new camp? Is there plenty of wood? I'm very proud of all you boys and very happy.

P's mom came to kitchen to get her meal and boy does everybody yajiru. I whistle and everybody barks.

One day I got sore at mess and I told 2 lady off. (I can't write what caused it all) She asked me who can prove that she was guilty of what I was accusing her of, so I told her the proof is in jail and she said she never said such thing which I was accusing her of saying. Well, I told her to wait till you boys return from jail term. Boy, I had the nerve to tell her where to head for. I feel very happy that I told her off. Gosh, I wonder how bad our moth is going to get if this continues.

Marie and Shichan miss you because they can't see you studying on the porch every time they return from mess. Our block is really empty now that you boys are gone.

I saw a WAAC recruiter this morning at the Ad Bldg. WAAC, me eye, these Jap girls who register will be used for a soldiers omacha and not for nurses or anything like it. In every magazine you see a girl with a soldier. Especially in times of emergency American soldiers won't board a transport unless the girls board it first, so I hear. Besides look at the strikes they have in this country in times of emergency when they're supposed to be in cooperation in whatever they do. That's why I say this country's army and navy is all a waster time.

I had another dream 2 nites ago. I dreamed the whole Japan was in an uproar on account of you boys being taken by force. I dreamed that the people of Japan ~~was~~ are very grateful to those of you who didn't register. This is only a dream, but as I've said before, my dream is very peculiar.

Well, I guess this is about all I have to say for this time. Please take good care of your health. I'm still the same except that I'm lot tougher and still getting tougher day by day.

From Gambara Imahara

P.S. Best regards to all the boys.

Do you want me to send your eggs and butter up?



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REGISTRATION (CONTINUED)

Item No. 10.

a couple of wires sent to Harry Mayeda as follows:

March 4th

It is our considered opinion that citizens of Japanese ancestry in centers are subject to selective service regulations and as a practical matter we urge compliance with registration orders. We think the government's intentions were good but the method repetitious and otherwise poorly planned and executed.

Ernest Besig, Director Civil Liberties Union  
Northern Calif. Branch S.F.

two wires from the Friend's Service Committee

1st dated March 4

Unfamiliar with regulations. Insofar as they are questions of law would advise compliance if law not involved. Individuals ~~W~~ should take responsibility for own decisions.

C.Reed Cary

2nd dated March 6th

Re wire to American Friends Service Comm. regarding registration. Upon further inquiry find that regulations are applicable to American citizens of Japanese ancestry in relocation centers. We therefore strongly advise you to register.

C.Reed Cary and Clarence E. Pickett

Item no. 11. Then comes a teletype from Myer to Coverley as follows:

March 5th.

Pickett sending you wire immediately indicating Cary wire based on misunderstanding and urging full collaboration in registration.



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REGISTRATION (CONTINUED)

Item 12.

Memo to: Mr. Jo. Hayes, Asst. Project Director

Subject: Interview with Kohachiro Sugimoto

At my invitation Mr. K. Sugimoto, treasurer of the Tule Lake Cooperative Enterprises called at my office. In reply to questioning he admitted having made an announcement in Block 51 mess hall but emphatically denied having stated that there was no penalty for failure to register.

He stated that the question of penalty had been brought to him as a member of the Planning Board and that he had made a special trip to the Planning Board office and had talked with Mr. Ogi. On the basis of the info received there, and at other meetings which he had attended, he did announce that while the exact penalty for failure to register had not been stated, there nevertheless would be a definite penalty. He stated furthermore, that he urged everyone to register not in order to avoid the penalty but because it was the law.

I am inclined to take Mr. Sugimoto's statement at face value because of my past contacts with him in the cooperative.

Signed: Harold S. Jacoby-Chief  
Internal Security

Item no. 13.

Ward breakdown of Male Citizens eligible to register dated March 10, 1943

Ward L	411
Ward 11	427
Ward 111	397
Ward 1V	390
Ward V	499
Ward VI	463
Ward VII	361



P.D.F. Confidential

REGISTRATION (CONTINUED)

Item 14.

Memo to Harvey Coverley Project Director dated March 19th

Subject: Persons Removed from Project

The following persons were removed from the project to the Klamath County Jail on Thursday March 18th.

M. Nakamura  
Takusaburo Yamahata

Signed Harold S. Jacoby Chief of Internal Security

Item 15.

to Director ~~Tule Lake~~ 1231 Market St., S.F. dated March 15th

Dear Sir:

re: Fumio Kubo  
Tule Lake War Relocation Project

The following undated letter received from the above-named Japanese male by the Calif. Dept. of Public Health, Sac., and forwarded to this Service is quoted for your info.

"I do not desire to hold this useless citizenship any longer besides I have Japan citizenship."

Signed ~~Kubio~~ Fumio Kubo

"Please cancel this citizenship"

A certified copy of birth record issued by the Calif. Dept. of Publ. Health on Dec. 13, 1941 was forwarded with the letter indicating that Mr. Kubo was born at Sac. Calif. on Sept. 13, 1924.

Respectfully yours,

District Director, San Francisco District  
U.S. Dept. of Justice  
Immigration and Naturalization Service

Item 16.

Memo to Mr. Harvey M. Coverley Project Director from Jacoby dated March 17, 1943

The following persons were transferred today from the project to the Isolation Camp. All the individuals named are kibeis who have not registered and seven are individuals who failed to respond to notices sent them during the reg. period to come up for an interview. Of the others, Harada, was removed because of pro-Japanese signs and pictures in his room. Yamaguchi and Nakao were not on the original list of Kibei to be interviewed and hence can not be accused of having failed to come for an interview.

see next page



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## REGISTRATION (CONTINUED)

Item 16 contin.

T. Harada  
 Ray Ishibashi  
 Bill Kawakami  
 Takashi Hamabata  
 Genji Goto  
 Mitsugi Takata  
 Bobby Okuno  
 Isao Hayashi  
 Shigeto Yamaguchi  
 Tatsuo Nakao

Item no. 17.

Letter to Mr. Dillon Myer dated March 10, 1943

Dear Mr. Myer:

We are on the eve of the close of registration for male citizens and it occurred to me that a brief report of recent events might be of interest. As you may have noted from my last weekly report, the process of "Screening" the kibeis was begun a week ago last Monday. Each day since then a number of those interviewed have been removed from the center on the basis of their refusal to register, adamant defiance of project instructions and protestations of loyalty to the Emperor. As of the close of business last evening we had 105 persons in the isolation center. Of these, 34 represent the persons arrested in Block 42 on Feb. 21 and 22. Ten represent the persons arrested early Sunday morning, Feb. 28. All the balance (61) are there as a result of the "screening" process.

With reference to the group of 34 above-mentioned, we are still holding them awaiting a decision by the FBI as to whether or not they will recommend to the U.S. District Attorney that they be prosecuted in the Federal courts for violation of the U.S. Code provision against obstruction a recruitment program of the Army. The FBI agents left here on Monday, March 1 with the assurance they would let us have their decision as soon as possible. To date we have heard nothing from them. Mr. Anthony O'Brien our project attorney is in S.F. now attempting to expedite a decision. He has with him the sworn statements of each of these boys which were taken before a court reporter under oath and if the FBI does not intend to present the matter to the U.S. Attorney, he will do so, using the statements as evidence. In the case the U.S. attorney fails to take action we will have to resort to this group to ascertain what shall be done with them.

The group of ten above-mentioned have been interviewed by the FBI and by Mr. O'Brien but no sworn statements have been taken. The remaining 61 have not been interviewed since they left the project. Major Marshall, Mr. Cozzens, Mr. Harkness (Supt. of Education) and Mr. Wilder (High School Principal) who interviewed these boys have given me brief memoranda concerning each. This info is inadequate, however, to constitute a complete docket. Mr. Bernhard, principal attorney from the S.F. office, is now here and will spend his full time for the next few days in further interviewing



P.D.F. Confidential

## REGISTRATION (CONTINUED)

Item 17 contin.

all the prisoners and attempting to classify each in one of the following categories: 1. that he should be transferred to the isolation center at Moab, Utah; 2. that he should be referred to the U.S. Attorney or the FBI for prosecution; 3. that he should be tried before the Project Director for violation of project regulations; 4. that he should be transferred to another relocation center without additional punishment. The process of completing the interviews and classifying the prisoners will probably require two weeks. In the meantime we will probably have more than doubled the present pop. and the process of interviews and classifying the new arrivals will consume additional time. As fast as classifications are made, we will attempt to take appropriate action. If any large number fall into the third classification, that is, trial by the Project Director, I will probably ask you for a special dispensation which would excuse me from personally presiding over these trials. My reason for asking this is that I hardly feel we would be able to give many of these lads a fair trial unless we try each separately. In other words we would be unable to ascertain the degree of intent as compared with the force of social pressure unless we had a private hearing for each one. If we tried any mass trials they would all stick together and maintain their equal intent, participation and guilt. Assuming that at least fifty or sixty would fall into this classification the time required for the individual trials would be so great that it would be necessary for me to appoint someone else as acting project director and spend full time for possibly two or three weeks doing nothing else. I wish to suggest, therefore, that I be permitted to appoint a special board of three persons to conduct these trials.

As we approach the deadline for registration of male citizens, the rate of registration has declined in a very disappointing manner. I greatly fear that we will have possibly 5 or ~~500~~ 5 or 600 men unregistered, who will have to be arrested and removed from the 2,885 eligible male registrants in the center. Of this number 2,166 have registered up to last night. I do not anticipate over fifty tomorrow, the last day, bringing the total up to about 2,300. As indicated, another 100 are already in confinement. This will leave approximately 485 unaccounted for.

It will doubtless be necessary for us to secure additional facilities into which we can induct these additional men for detention. We can accommodate approximately 150 men at the present isolation center. We can probably obtain another CCC camp near Merrill, Oregon, which should accommodate most of the rest. I would appreciate your authorization promptly on receipt of this letter to obtain custody of this camp which is No. BR-43. If, of course, you have some other facilities available which you would prefer us to use, please so advise me. If you have not, however, I believe that this camp offers the best temporary expedient. We will be able to administer the camp and provide it with the necessary equipment without any undue strain on our organization.

We are going to try to complete the registration of female citizens by March 15 and that of Aliens by March 24. It will be appreciated very much if you will furnish us, as soon as possible, some sort of automatic mass penalty which can be applied to those who fail to register. I anticipate we will have two or three thousand people in this category and individual trials as outlined in the recent instructions would be practically out of the question. It would be my suggestion that suspension from work and pay privileges might be one type of penalty applicable to such an offense. Many of these persons, however, will not be employed and some other type of penalty should be devised for them. Clarification of these points is necessary as soon as possible.

Thus far despite all our difficulties the percentage of persons registering as disloyal does not exceed twenty-five percent. According to Major Marshall this is con-



P.D.F.. Confidential

## REGISTRATION (CONTINUED)

## Continuing Item 17

siderable lower than any of the other centers and justifies the statemt often made that approximately 75% of the evacuees are loyal.

Despite statements which may be made to you by others, I still feel convinced that we have not yet overcome the strong and highly organized resistance within the center. I do not believe we have detected the real leaders as yet and until we do ~~have~~ and have removed them we can have no assurance of effective administrative control over the project. From my observation, I am inclined to believe that eh strong leadership of the opposition has been in the settlement almost from the beginning and has been instrumental in opposing the WRA long prior to the registration program. In my opinion the big job for the next few months is to ferret out, expose and punish these leaders. Until we do, I do not believe that such project institutions as the Comm. Council can be influential and exercise real leadership because the truth of the matter is that the real self-govt. of the project has in the past been in the hands of a sub-rosa machine manipulated from behind the scenes. At present, we are without any truly representative body of a prominent nature fo either the citizens or the aliens. Such other groups as the Fair Practive Comm., while still functioning, are without influence. I do not believe that nay of these institutions will amount to anything until we clear ~~the subversive~~ out the subversive leadership

Very truly y6urs,

Project Director



Regis. inc. FS

C O P Y  
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
Washington

Office of the Director

Mar. 1, 1943

The Honorable  
The Attorney General  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

You will remember our earlier conversations about the program of the War Relocation Authority. In particular, you will recall our conversations about the policy of encouraging evacuees to leave the relocation centers and become permanently established in various communities throughout the nation, as well as our discussion of the problem of segregating, in a separate center, disloyal evacuees who raise serious trouble in the relocation centers. You will recall, also, the proposal to organize a combat team of Japanese-American citizens soldiers for service in the Army. I am writing to advise you of some new developments which may have considerable effect upon these policies. When you have had a chance to consider this letter, I should like to talk to you further about these developments and about their relationship to internal security and to effective prosecution of the war.

There is now going on at all ten of our relocation centers a military registration at which all citizen evacuees of military age are being requested to fill in certain questionnaires. Other evacuees are also being asked to fill in the questionnaires as a step in expediting issuance of leave permits from the relocation centers, and in securing clearance for employment in war industries.

One of the questionnaires is DSS Form 304A, prepared by the Army and the Selective Service System. It is entitled "Statement of United States Citizen of Japanese Ancestry". Question 27 in this questionnaire reads as follows:

"Are you willing to serve in the armed forces of the United States on combat duty, wherever ordered"?

Question 28 reads as follows:

"Will you swear unqualified allegiance to the United States of America and faithfully defend the United States from any or all attack by foreign or domestic forces, and forswear any form of allegiance or obedience to the Japanese emperor, or any other foreign government, power, or organization?"

I am informed that a number of citizen evacuees have refused to fill in this questionnaire; that others have filled in the questionnaire but have left blank the answers to questions 27 and 28; and that others have answered "no" to question 28. (It was not expected, of course, that all would answer question 27 in the affirmative, since answering "yes" to that question is the equivalent of offering to enlist immediately in the Army.) Since the filling in of these questionnaires has not been completed at any of our centers, I am unable to tell at this time how many refusals to answer question



28, or negative answers thereto, we shall receive. The registration will be completed in all centers by about March 10, and I shall have the figures on the results immediately thereafter.

The present results show a disturbingly large number of negative answers to question 28 by citizen evacuees. At first glance, it is natural to assume that a citizen who answers question 28 in the negative is thereby openly confessing disloyalty to the United States and loyalty to Japan. Several persons have already suggested to me, therefore, that citizens who answer "no" to question 28 should be promptly segregated in separate centers, and that all applications received from that group for indefinite leave under the Leave Regulations of the War Relocation Authority should be denied.

There is some danger that the significance of a negative answer to question 28 can be missed, and the meaning of this phenomenon greatly over-simplified. For example, at the Heart Mountain Relocation Center a group of evacuees asserted that they were perfectly willing to fill in the questionnaires and volunteer for service in the Army but not when requested to do so from behind barbed wire. At the Central Utah Relocation Center a committee representing the citizen evacuees asked that the registration be accompanied by a restoration of full citizenship and civil rights to the evacuees. At these and other centers, the evacuees have asked whether the parents of boys who enlist in the Army will be able to return to California and other States on the West Coast from which they have been evacuated. They have pointed to the alien land laws of several States and have asked whether the parents, who are aliens, will be able to inherit title to real property now held by the sons, if the sons are killed in action.

Many of the evacuees, and particularly the aliens, believe the rumors that have been widespread in the relocation centers from the beginning, to the effect that when the war is over they will be deported to Japan in a body. Under these circumstances some alien parents are pleading with their sons not to answer question 28 in the affirmative, and not to offer to enlist in the Army, lest these facts be used by Japan against the interests of the parents when those parents have been forcibly deported to Japan after the war.

It is natural that the evacuees should be troubled and pessimistic about the future that they may have in the United States when the war is over. Nor can the War Relocation Authority or any other agency of the Government give them any positive assurance on this score, since that will depend to so large an extent on the decisions to be made by future Congresses and Presidents.

The more thoughtful reports that I have received from our Project Directors and others emphasize these various factors, and point out that a negative answer to question 28 given by a person who is suffering this complex of emotions, may have quite a different significance than such an answer would have if given by the average citizen under average circumstances. The fact of evacuation continues



to be deeply resented, with varying degrees of bitterness, by the great majority of the evacuees. They know of the hostile legislative bills being introduced in the State Legislatures and in Congress. They read the many hostile newspaper editorials. They know of the effort of the Native Sons of the Golden West to deprive them of their citizenship by asking the courts to reconsider the decision of the United States Supreme Court in U. S. vs. Wong Kim Ark. They know of the renewed activity in the field of alien land laws. They know of the hostile resolutions by various chapters of the American Legion. They are fearful, worried, and deeply disturbed. They are a prey to the wildest of rumors.

The very fact of eligibility to enlist in the Army presents to them a new source of disturbance. In the past they have resented the fact that Selective Service was not generally applicable to them and that their citizen sons were ordered to be classified in IV-C which is a classification established for aliens. The present proposal, however, is to organize a special combat unit of Japanese-American soldiers. Many of them resent this as being racial segregation. We have emphasized to them that the separate combat unit was decided upon because of its propaganda value, and that in addition to the special unit other Japanese-American soldiers would be dispersed throughout the Army. These explanations fail to satisfy them.

Denying indefinite leave to citizen evacuees who have answered question 28 in the negative would mean punishing such citizens with detention for the duration of the war because of that answer. There are obvious problems of legality and constitutionality involved. Segregating into separate centers those who have answered question 28 in the negative will break up families, and will compel a very large mass movement of redistribution of evacuees among the ten centers. Being moved around again is precisely what many of the evacuees fear most.

On the other hand, failure to take appropriate action under the circumstances may impede the effectiveness of the leave program by causing general popular distrust of the loyalty of the evacuees.

Because of the importance of these issues to the war effort and to problems of internal security, I shall be happy to have an opportunity to discuss these questions and lines of proposed action with you at your convenience, as soon as I have received and had time to tabulate the final results of the registration.

Sincerely,

*R. S. Myer*

Director

PMGlick:hb  
3-5-43



March 10, 1943

FS

Excerpts from

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. John C. Baker, Chief

SUBJECT: Near Riot Averted

A near riot took place last night (March 9) when the chief of Internal Security and three assistants attempted to pick up three men for blocking registration. When the members of the Internal Security appeared in Block 44 at 11:15 p.m., a gong was sounded which precipitated into the streets around the barracks in this block a crowd of from 150-200 people who milled about the appointed personnel threateningly.

The colonists who were wanted for obstructing registration are Eisaku Yoshida, 4402-D (56); Kaname Mitani, 4402-A (58); and Yoshihei Nakashima, 4403-A (57).

\*\*\*\*\*

Against these overwhelming odds, the members of the Internal Security left the scene and returned this morning to pick up the three men, which they did at 9:30, despite crowds milling about between barracks.

The writer witnessed the proceedings and tried to engage in conversation members of the block, but they looked daggers, said nothing. Someone in the block blew a police whistle repeatedly in various parts of the block in an apparent attempt to solicit crowds from adjoining blocks. The identity of this person is not yet known.

After being questioned by members of the Internal Security, Messrs. Mitani and Yoshida were sent to the jail in Kalamath Falls; Mr. Nakashima was released.

\*\*\*\*\*

The date of the reopening of the Tuel Lake Schools is still undecided. A great number of colonists are anxious to have the schools reopened so that no more time will be lost to students. On the other hand, the kibe and others are, apparently, not interested in having



the schools reopened.

A number of students have approached various teachers and principals with the suggestions that it would be better to replace courses in Problems of Democracy with courses in the German language because, as they explained, German will be of more use to them in Japan after the war. They have also asked that Latin be replaced by Mathematics. A number have suggested that the formal type of teaching as done in Japan would be more to their liking. Others have said they do not want to be taught in the democratic way of life as it will not be of use to them in Japan after the war.

Letters written by colonists to boys in the CCC camp said:

"We do not want to go to any more ~~Ynkee~~ schools to be taught b\_\_\_\_\_s\_\_\_\_\_."

Another writer, a girl, said: "since the police came down with the soldiers with machine guns to take away those defenseless young men, I'm no longer interested in going back to school."

"I am not going back to school, and neither are my friends."

During this whole registration period, the teachers, with few exceptions, have worked with the greatest efficiency against odds. During the first two weeks of the registration program they had practically nothing to do, but they sat long, tedious hours in their respective blocks to register colonists who did not come. A number of them were jeered at, but they stayed at their posts without complaint.

The registration program has, however, taken a toll of the teachers and their nerves. Three of them have left the project for short leaves because of frayed nerves and emotional upsets. There have been several other minor temporary casualties among members of the



appointed personnel, most of the others are tired because of extra work and all were somewhat disgusted at the colonists' program of non-cooperation.

Objections to teaching disloyal students is gaining momentum, championed by one teacher who is rapidly acquiring supporters. This teacher has openly said she will not ~~return~~ return to teach if the disloyal students, especially those who plan to return to Japan, are not segregated from the loyal students by the time school reopens.

"I know who the students are in my class" is the verdict of most of the teachers, and "I would no longer feel justified in returning to my work with them still in the class."

One teacher, during a singing period, heard one little girl singing loudly "Keep 'Em Burning," instead of "Keep 'Em Flying," the words of the popular song.

That some students have been disloyal from the beginning is unquestioned. Teachers have known who they were and visits to the parents have confirmed all that was suspected. During a recent snow storm children at play during a rest period threw snow balls at one teacher and every time the snowballs hit their mark the children laughed uproariously and shouted "Pearl Harbor!"

The names of twelve teachers avowed conscientious objectors or sympathetic to them was handed in to project officials two weeks ago. Before the reopening of the schools all teachers and assistant teachers will be required to sign a pledge of loyalty.

\*\*\*\*\*

Statistics at the close of registration March 9, 1943:

126a	2192
126 rev. (citizen)	1986
126 rev. (alien)	995
Total	5173

/s/ John D. Cook



March 12, 1943

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. John C. Baker, Chief

SUBJECT: Repercussions of the Registration Program

FS  
Tule  
✓  
From J. Cook  
Tule Lake  
Reports  
Office

Tule Lake wears a grim and belligerent face. Soon after the Army team announced the War Department's plan for selective service and mass leave clearance, the majority of colonist' faces have been sullen. Only a few weeks ago the faces of the overwhelming majority of evacuees would dissolve into smiles when these people were encountered anywhere at the village. Now, on approaching a colonist, he looks intently on the ground, oblivious of everything but the ground, apparently. Young men frequently jeer at members of the Administrative personnel and teachers, often cat-call, especially when in groups.

While in the village, some colonists have shaken their fists at the Project Director or have given him a bronx cheer. The high school principal and, in particular, an assistant principal, have been roundly booed every time they enter or leave the school district. Other members of the appointed personnel have had similar experiences. The attitude of the loyal nisei and issei has not changed. They are as cheerful as ever, although somewhat embarrassed by these hostile manifestations.

Sgt. Tsukahara, of the Army Personnel team, has been the object of particular abuse. He has laughed it off when colonists shout to him in English or Japanese; the only thing that has annoyed him is being called a "Chinese soldier."

\*\*\*\*\*

How many loyal nisei young men and women who have not been allowed to register will probably never be known. One young man who wanted to register and answer "Yes" to questions 27 and 28 was absolutely forbidden to do so by his father. He himself was fearful of being beaten if he did register. One of the registrars posed the question, "Would you be willing to submit to a false arrest which would make those threatening



you believe that you have refused to register?" The young man agreed to do this and was taken to the apartment of a friend who, for two hours, tried to convince him of the wisdom of registering, according to his own wishes. The young man then agreed to come to the registration hall the following morning at eight o'clock. He did not come.

Change the pattern slightly and this young man's experience could be multiplied ad infinitum, it is believed. At any rate, numerous similar instances are known.

\*\*\*\*\*

The reopening of the schools is still a moot question. There are unquestionably many students of high school age who wish to return to school at the earliest moment. Every day's loss of schooling means a postponement of graduation day. On the other hand, there are a great many students who will refuse to go back to school and who will do everything they can to prevent others from returning to school. "When schools are reopened," the school principal said, "there will no longer be any coercion on the part of the teacher to see that attendance is regular. Any student who stays away from school three consecutive days will not be allowed the privilege of returning to school."

The Department of Internal Security believes that the wardens will insure protection of high school students who return to school, but this faith in the wardens is questioned by many who remember the lack of cooperation on the part of some wardens during this registration program.

Four Caucasian teachers have resigned in view of the uncertainty of the project schools' future. Others, as reported previously, are still more determined than ever to resign unless segregation of the loyal from the disloyal students is accomplished before the reopening of the schools. A petition now being circulated for signatures reads



as follows:

"We, the undersigned members of the Tri-State High School staff, wish it fully understood that we have no association with any Conscientious Objector's organization. Further, we earnestly desire to be relieved of participation in the education of anyone who will not swear unqualified allegiance to the United States of America."

Many colonist assistant teachers have intimated that they will not ~~return~~ return, having been forbidden by brothers who have refused to register or who have answered "no" to questions 27 and 28.

Elementary schools will reopen Monday, March 15. Whether or not there will be resistance from this age group, since they do not reflect so closely the attitude of their parents is yet to be proved. However, some students of all ages are anxious to return to school because they are bored for lack of things to do.

\*\*\*\*\*

Removal of the remaining evacuees who have refused to register will get underway as soon as a complete list of the names has been completed. It will be far more difficult to round up these young men than it was those who have already been removed. Resistance to the arrests on the part of colonists, as a whole, are becoming far more frequent. At first, no one resisted these arrests. Now, however, the colonists are more defiant, as previously reported, and concentrate in menacing groups whenever an arrest is being made. Arrests of the last few days were accomplished by some resistance of this nature. As if by magic, colonists enter the scene when the signal to do so was given.



To make these removals more difficult, a great many young men have left their own apartments and are bunking in other blocks. From ten to twenty sleep in an apartment, in some instances, with clubs and axes. "If you want us, come and get us," is their definate threat. A number of families have even exchanged apartments in an effort to hide out their belligerent progeny.



FS

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
Tule Lake Project

March 30, 1943

TO: Mr. Harvey M. Coverley,  
Project Director

SUBJECT: Evacuee Registration as of March 30, 1943.  
subject

Total Male Citizens Registered. . . . .	2294
" Female Citizens Registered. . . . .	2239
" Male Aliens Registered. . . . .	1795
" Female Aliens Registered. . . . .	<u>1430</u>
Total Registered. . . . . 7758	

673 Male Citizens answered "NO" to question #28.  
(Few of these cases disapproved because of repatriation applications.)

328 Female Citizens disapproved because of the same reason.

These figures are 70 under the total given last week as we found after checking that we could not compensate for the difference in figures given by Lieutenant Carroll. However, indications are that we will come close to the eight thousand mark after cleaning up on those unable to register due to illness and infirmities.

Frank C. Smith, Chief  
Housing and Employment.



regis      FS

Coverley's Files - Section entitled Jail

Letter from Myer to Coverley, March 31, 1943

Dear Harvey:-

I should like in this letter to tie up some of the loose ends in connection with the recent registration relative to the processing of the cases of those who refused to fill out the questionnaires in the recent military registration.

I understand that your investigations of the 130 odd cases of those arrested are nearly completed. 12 of those evacuees are now serving jail sentences in the Modoc County Jail in Alturas after pleas of guilty to participating in a riot. One evacuee has been transferred to alien enemy internment camp and 5 others are now being considered by the local US Atty. and alien enemy hearing board for similar transfer. 17 Kibei you are in process of arranging with Mr. Best ~~WALK~~ to transfer to Moab. To the remainder you propose to give disciplinary hearings and will impose jail sentences on them. I shall be glad to have ~~your~~ your further report when the cases of the remainder of the evacuees are disposed of.

In our telephone you asked me to consider what sort of uniform penalty might be imposed on the 400-450 other evacuees who likewise refused to register and who have not been arrested. The only penalties available to us to impose outside of transfer to the isolation center, seem to be confinement in jail or the denial of compensation and other privileges of a financial nature to which an evacuee might otherwise be entitled. I suggest therefore that you make an attempt to separate out from those 400-450 cases any cases which you believe to be more serious for one reason or another. These persons you could arrest, give them a disciplinary hearing and impose a jail sentence upon them in accordance with the regular procedure. For the remainder, or if you are unable to separate out any more serious group within the larger group, then for all of ~~them~~ them you might issue an order providing that because of the fact that they refused to register they are being punished by denial of all financial payments they would otherwise be eligible to receive from the WRA, other than the \$12, 16, 19 a month they will be entitled to receive if they work on the WRA work projects. This would mean that they would lose the cash clothing allowance, any unemployment compensation to which they would otherwise become entitled, and any public assistance grants to which they might become eligible.

If you had some basis on which to distinguish among the 400-450 cases you would not need to make the suspension run for the same period of time for all persons. Thus, you could make the suspension applicable in some cases for 60 days, in others for 90 days, etc. I should like to leave it in your judgement as to the length of time for which these suspension of payment privileges should be imposed...

You will notice that I have suggested that you do not suspend the payment of the \$12, 16, 19 a month for work performed. I would make this exception because if you suspend the right to receive that payment also, the evacuee will of course, refuse to work. Suspension from work even without compensation it seems to me, would simply give

*d. L. Luman*  
*problem*  
*Myer*



Coverley file -  
Jail

Letter from Myer re failure to register: - 2

these evacuees time and occasion for getting into trouble. I should think that denial of the financial privileges mentioned above would be felt very distinctly as a punishment.

If you issue an order making such a uniform suspension of compensation privileges for those evacuees who have failed to register, I don't believe that it will be necessary for you to give individual hearings to these 400-450 persons. The only fact on which the hearing could be held is that whether they did or did not register. This fact I assume you can determine adequately from your records. It is probable that it would be a good idea for you to announce that any evacuee can ask for a hearing if he has anything to say which he believes will excuse him from this penalty. There shouldn't be many of those and you could give them individual hearings. These need be no more than interview in your office and probably can be disposed of very quickly and you may then delegate these hearings to an appropriate member of your staff if you wish to do so and he will then advise you that you will make the decision.

~~XX~~ If you decide, however, to give jail sentences to any of these 400-450 people you should of course, in accordance with the procedure summarized by Admin. Instr. #84 & 85 give them a hearing before sentencing them to jail.

I shall appreciate your keeping me currently advised on your disposition of these 400-450 cases as well as on the first group of those arrested.

Yours, etc.

Myer



FS

Tule Lake Project  
Newell, California

PDO

April 2, 1943

Mr. Dillon S. Myer  
Director  
War Relocation Authority  
Barr Building  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Myer:

As you know, our scheduled registration period came to an end one week ago yesterday. Since that time, our employment division has been busily engaged trying to ascertain some of the statistical results of the registration. Oddly enough, this has not been as easy as it would appear. Due to the fact the military team did not clear all registrations through our office, considerable confusion has resulted. In other words, the military team left here with approximately seventy Forms 304A for which we did not have Form 126A. On the other hand, we have a number of Forms 304A, for which the military team did not have Forms 304A. Furthermore, our efforts to ascertain just how many people should have registered were complicated by the fact that approximately 250 persons had left the project since the registration period began and by the further fact that quite a number of evacuees reached their seventeenth birthday during the registration period. In addition to this, we have ten persons on the project whose citizenship is not known and cannot be ascertained. Seven of these persons are males and three females. The following table, however, sets forth approximately the correct results:

NUMBER OF PERSONS REQUIRED TO REGISTER

male citizens	2960	
female citizens	2784	
male aliens	3079	
female aliens	<u>2017</u>	
Total		10,840



Number Registered

male citizens	2294	
female citizens	2239	
male aliens	1795	
female aliens	<u>1430</u>	
Total		7,758

Persons Unregistered

male citizens	666	
female citizens	545	
male aliens	1284	
female aliens	<u>587</u>	
Total		3,082

Of all the male citizens who registered, 673 gave a negative answer to question No. 28 on Form 304A. Of the female citizens, 328 answered question No. 28 on Form 126 revised, in the same way. If we conclude that all of the unregistered persons would have indicated disloyalty by their answers to the questions mentioned above, then we may say that 1339 male citizens out of a total of 2960 do not owe allegiance to the United States. This is almost 50 percent. Similarly, in the case of the women, the total of those unregistered plus those who indicated disloyalty is 873, or approximately 33-1/3 percent of the total. Altogether this gives 2212 out of 5744 citizens who may be considered disloyal, at least on the face of things. Inasmuch as no direct loyalty question was presented to the aliens, we cannot draw any corresponding conclusion regarding them.

At this point, it may be remarked that as of this date a total of 435 persons have applied for repatriation. We have not yet had an opportunity to ascertain how many of these persons are among those who failed to register and how many are among those who answered loyalty questions in the negative. These facts will be ascertained as soon as possible.

With reference to the 666 male citizens who failed to register, we have as of this date arrested 106 and are now in the process of trying them for their failure to obey the Project Director's instructions. Naturally the remainder, consisting of 560 persons must be treated in the same way.



Mr. Dillon S. Myer  
Page-3

We expect to begin in the next day or two swearing out complaints against these persons and warrents for their arrest.

Sincerely yours,

Harvey M. Coverley  
Project Director



B  
April 3, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director

FROM: B. R. Stauber, Relocation Planning Officer

SUBJECT: Registration Statistics

As all of us in WRA are keenly aware, the recent Selective Service Registration has developed a number of new issues, and has brought more sharply to the fore many problems with which we have heretofore been wrestling, particularly those connected with the determination of loyalty.

I have, as you will recall, prepared instructions which you sent to the projects in a teletype of February 27 and March 3, for the partial analysis of the answers to Questions 27 and 28, including a comparison of certain background characteristics of persons who answered "Yes" to the loyalty question, in contrast to those who answered "No". This analysis was necessarily rather simple and included only factors which were considered a priori to be of outstanding importance.

As I have indicated to you from time to time, the pattern of characteristics of persons answering "Yes" compared to those answering "No" has fallen into fairly well defined lines. For example, among the "No's", the proportion of persons having relatives in Japan, those registered with the Japanese Consul and not removing their names, those who have requested repatriation, and those who have traveled three years and studied two years in Japan since 1934, is much higher, generally speaking, among persons answering "No" to Question 28 than among those answering "Yes."

I discussed this analysis with Major Lansdale of the War Department a few days ago. He expressed keen interest and welcomed it as affording the first substantive confirmation of some of the factors heretofore deemed important respecting the loyalty to the United States of persons of Japanese ancestry.

During the past week, as you know, I have sat with Elmer Rowalt's committee which is developing plans and procedures for Plan C, and is collaborating on the matter of criteria for determining which evacuees shall be considered for Groups I, II, and III.

It is inevitable, as we proceed with any classification of this character, that we shall want more and more to know how significant may be the various criteria that we use. Already it is clear not only that different individuals attach different weights to different criteria, but that they interpret the significance of the criteria in different ways.

So far, our judgments have been largely on a priori or empirical basis. The initial analysis carried out on the basis of your teletypes of February 27 and March 3 is providing highly useful evidence as far as it goes, but it is my belief that the WRA will be at a very definite disadvantage before long unless we can very soon have the benefit of a far more comprehensive analysis of the information pertaining to individual evacuees than is provided by our investigations so far.



MEMO from Stauber to Director

It is my recommendation that we undertake at once a comprehensive analysis of an adequate sample of the "804-A's" and of the "126 revised" forms, supported by the from 26's, and perhaps additional information. This should be done by use of punch cards, coding and punching answers on the schedules in such a manner that significant differences in virtually all questions can be analyzed, and the various inter-relationships of all factors thrown into bold relief.

I would believe that a sample of between 5,000 and 10,000, chosen so as to represent all centers, and suitably controlled as to other significant characteristics, should be adequate.

I recommend that such an analysis be started immediately and pressed forward to early completion.

B R Stauber

P.S. Attached is a very interesting table based upon a special tally of the Manzanar 304-A schedules. Note for example the increasing percentage of "No" answers with increased length of stay in Japan, and with increased schooling.

BRS



WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

April 13, 1943

CONFIDENTIAL

Philip M. Glick, Solicitor  
War Relocation Authority  
Barr Building  
17th and Eye Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Phil:

You will recall my warning that I was going to submit a report on aspects of my experience at Tule Lake which could not properly be included in a report of the legal situation.

In a sense this is a highly unofficial review of Tule Lake affairs. It consists of observations which are made to you personally--but with the understanding that you are free to do whatever you see fit to do with any part or all of what I say. Naturally I am hopeful that some of the points I make--if they are worth anything at all--will have some effect on issues that arise in WRA in the future; but if--knowing much more about the matter than I know--you think the waste basket is the best place for this report, I am altogether willing to accept your judgment.

I write this report because I cannot keep from writing it. When I was on the project, my first thought in response to what I saw and heard was that, after all, things do happen in the best regulated families and projects, and no doubt I was seeing and hearing exceptional details of no real consequence. As the days went on, however, and the irregularities multiplied, my blood pressure went up until about level with the altitude of Tule Lake. I have purposely let time go by--not because I thought that anything on my desk was half as important as some of the things in WRA, of which Tule Lake may be symptomatic--but just because I thought I ought to get a little longer perspective. In addition, my trip to Gila has caused a still further delay. I believe my blood pressure is somewhere near sea level now.



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I am sure you will understand that there is absolutely nothing personal in any of what follows. I name names because otherwise this report is worthless. However, I am sure you know that I am interested not at all in any action being taken against any of the persons I name, but very much in seeing certain situations corrected and certain practices eliminated. My purpose, in other words, is to try to help in preventing future trouble--trouble with evacuees, trouble among the administrative personnel, and trouble for WRA which it seems to me will result inevitably from public criticism and Congressional criticism if some of the things which are occurring at Tule Lake are allowed to continue to occur.

I fully realize that much of what I say will be said out of ignorance and inexperience in WRA. There may well be thoroughly adequate answers for many of the criticisms I am about to voice. To whatever extent you find time to do so, I would certainly appreciate being set right to whatever extent I am wrong. In fact, if you say to me that I am wrong about any of the points I make, for a reason you are not at liberty to disclose--even that answer will satisfy me.

I am also aware that, to some extent, I am second guessing. I have the great advantage of being able to look back and criticize what went before with the benefit of a view of the situation "after the fact". I shall try therefore to restrict my criticism to those acts which I think anybody in WRA should have been able to see in advance would result badly. That still leaves me plenty of area.

I came to the project on Friday, March 5, at about 8:00 o'clock in the morning. Tony O'Brien was at Alturas, so I presented myself to Harvey Coverley. He seemed very glad to have another attorney who would go to work on the evacuees being held at the CCC camp. I asked him questions and attempted to get as much background as I could in a short time. Hayes, the Assistant Project Director, and Jacoby, the Internal Security Officer, were also present for part of our conversation. After about ten minutes, someone came in and rather hesitantly interrupted the Project Director to say: "About 200 or 250 people are marching this way. I don't know what their intentions are, but they're coming across the project."



The lower half of Coverley's windows are made opaque, and the shades are drawn over the upper half. Coverley looked out behind a shade and said with a smile: "Oh well, maybe they're just coming over to register." Hayes and Jacoby then decided that they ought to go out and meet the crowd. They came back in a few minutes to say that none of the crowd seemed to be carrying sticks or stones and that they seemed fairly tractable; that probably they were merely coming over to congratulate the boys who were about to be sent over to the CCC camp.

The crowd took its place in front of the administration mess hall, where for several days the kibeis who had failed to register were being questioned individually by Bob Cozzens, some of the male teachers, and members of the Army team. Next door to the administration mess hall, and attached to it by a short connecting corridor, was a small structure where those who wanted to register were being handled by the rest of the teaching staff and a member of the Army team.

Thus far my familiarity with the whole subject was limited (except for my necessarily short talk with Coverley) to an examination of the registration blanks. Therefore, I decided that, before going over to the CCC camp, I ought to talk to Tony O'Brien, who was expected soon, and I also wanted to listen to some of the interviewing of the kibeis and see some of the registering. Accordingly, after some further conversation with Coverley and Jacoby I walked out of the administration building and over toward the mess hall. The ~~admin~~ evacuees engaged in the "demonstration" were gathered in small groups outside the mess hall and in the open area between the mess hall and the registration hall, and also around an automobile truck, standing nearby, which contained two or three kibeis who had been questioned and were about to be sent to the CCC camp. The crowd was fairly orderly--not menacing or unruly; they looked serious and somewhat independent though not exactly insolent, as I walked through and went into the mess hall.

At each of about eight or ten tables sat a young kibeis with from one to three of the appointed personnel questioning him. I inquired of several of the interviewers whether there was any objection to my listening to them. There being none, I strolled about and heard portions of a dozen or more



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interviews during the next hour. I also visited the registration rooms where the teachers were hopefully waiting for candidates--but no one was being registered.

During that first day I was at Tule Lake, I naturally talked to as many of the appointed personnel as possible, trying to soak up all the information I could in a comparatively short time. I checked my reactions with person after person, and to my astonishment certain suggestions which I very diffidently broached--being very certain that they were so obvious that they must have been considered and rejected for good reason--were received as brand new ideas which ought to be put into effect. For example:

It seemed to me to be utterly obvious that no evacuee would enjoy walking through that crowd in order to enter the registration hall. He certainly would have been booed and jeered, and he might well have feared attack. Since the crowd remained gathered around both halls to cheer the boys who were being sent to the camp, I had the stupendously brilliant idea--which anybody equipped with two eyes might have had-- of having the interviews take place in one building and the registering at another building some blocks away.



As soon as I could get to see Coverley I did so and told him that I felt that there was some difference in objective among the interviewers. I described some of the interviewing and suggested that perhaps he would like to call a meeting of all those engaged in questioning the kibeï so that he could bring about greater uniformity of objective and result. The meeting was called for the following morning at 8:00.

At that meeting Coverley said: "I thought it might be well for us to get together and talk over the matter of interviewing the boys. Major Marshall, would you outline for us how the boys ought to be interviewed and whether you think the interviews ought to be uniform?"

Major Marshall then described in general terms what he thought the approach ought to be, suggesting among other things that the person being interviewed ought not to be branded as disloyal or as "Japanese" too early in the interview; that it ought to be pointed out to him that others purporting to be his friends were pushing him into trouble and were not going to be there to help him after they got him into trouble, etc. He indicated that there should be a very reasonable approach until the person being interviewed gave definite indication of refusal to register. He also stressed the fact that any who were previously in the armed forces and had been discharged, or who had attempted to volunteer and had been rejected, should not be sent to the camp but should be told that they had "been pushed around enough and the Army doesn't want to push them around any more." Major Marshall added "But I do not think that we ought to impose uniformity of method of interviewing." Coverley answered, with a smile, that he didn't think so either, but that Bernhard had thought there should be. At this point, of course, I proceeded to explain, as carefully as I could, that I had only one thing in mind; uniformity of objective; that I could not imagine that any two interviewers should be expected to ask the same questions and make the same remarks, but that all who were interviewing should know whether they were trying to get as many boys registered as possible or trying to show the authority of WRA--either of which objectives I would accept if either were consciously determined upon.

When that was straightened out, I asked whether it might not be well to consider separating the place of registration from the place where the interviews were going on. Coverley said that he did not think there was any need for that. I then went into a little more detail in an effort to



explain the possible effect--on those who might want to register--of having to walk through the crowd in order to do so. I also suggested that today's crowd would probably be somewhat more unruly than yesterday's crowd--or at least that I thought this was a justifiable guess, since the evacuees could be presumed to be figuring out what to do next, just as we were. Coverley answered that there was no necessity for separating the registration from the interviewing; that the boys in the tough blocks had now been interviewed and that the demonstrating was probably over.

I then asked whether there should not be further explanation of questions 27 and 28 in the course of these individual interviews, since some of the boys seemed to be at sea as to the possible result to them if they answered "No" to either or both questions. Coverley's answer was that the boys were just using 27 and 28 as a bluff; that those questions were not the reason why they were refusing to register.

I then inquired as to whether each of the interviewers should not have a registration blank with him for the purpose of explanation if needed, and in any event for the immediate registering of those who wished to register. (I was making this suggestion partially to get away from requiring the boys who did want to register, to go from one hall to the other in the presence of the crowd after being interviewed. Also, however, it did seem peculiar to me that not a single interviewer had a registration blank with him! It was a little like a salesman asking for an order without having an order blank.) Coverley's answer was that he didn't think that was a good idea because it would take so long to register a boy who said that he was ready to register right there. I then suggested that one of the interviewers be assigned to handle such registrations, but this suggestion was not followed.

I had previously asked Major Marshall whether he thought this arrangement was worth trying: That the truck for taking the boys to the CCC camp be parked outside the project about half a mile down the road; that a passenger car--not an open truck--be used to take the boys (who were to go to the camp) from the mess hall to the parked truck; that the boys be taken to the truck one at a time; and that when seven or eight were in the truck, it then be driven to the CCC camp. Marshall saw at once that this would go far toward discouraging the crowd, giving them less to become excited over, restrict their goodbyes to one person instead of six or eight at a time,



and cut down the goodbye to a minute or two from fifteen or twenty minutes, thus substantially reducing what might develop into mob spirit, etc. He immediately called over one of the men and told him to change the procedure. As it worked out, the man misunderstood the directions and therefore changed the method only slightly, and when I next had occasion to see what was happening I found that the old procedure was being followed unchanged. Marshall had left the building and I did not feel that I should be giving anybody orders. Therefore I brought up the matter again at the meeting, but it was not very well received, and I did not press it because by that time I had somehow become slightly tired of the meeting.

However, I finally said: "Before the meeting breaks up, I would like to renew a suggestion I made earlier. I have been here only one day and therefore know all too little about this situation. Every man here knows very much more about it than I do, and I am certainly very ready to bow to your judgment. You seem to feel that you have seen the worst of the difficulty and that it will ease up today. As an outsider, I get no such feeling--but my feeling is not worth anything alongside of yours. In spite of that, however, I'm wondering if you don't just want to play safe--and also perhaps encourage registration--by separating the two places." The answer was "It's getting pretty late and the interviewers ought to be over at the mess hall by this time. Let's let it go at least for today--and you'll see that it will be all right."

At any rate I felt that a little had been accomplished; and I went off to the CCC camp. I returned at about 6:00 o'clock that evening, and then learned that during the afternoon a much larger crowd had gathered. They had been much more unruly than the day before, had shouted "Banzai" at the boys who were sent to the camp, had cheered them on their way, etc. The following morning a place was designated for registration about a block away from the mess hall.

After that meeting I saw Coverley only a few times. I went into see him to advise him against keeping any of the men in jail. I have covered this in my previous report. I also saw him on the subject of possible escape or attempted escape from the CCC camp or from the center--to tell him that the soldiers were misinformed as to what action they ought to take. I reached this latter conclusion in the following way;



Colonel Wilson happened to reach Tule Lake when I did. I sat in on a meeting at which Coverley had Colonel Wilson meet Captain Maples, who is in charge of the soldiers at the project. One matter touched upon at that meeting was that if the soldiers were told that aman had escaped they were not to go out looking for him. I met Captain Maples by chance at a dinner an evening or two later. He made some remark about possible escapes from the CCC camp. Some hours later when I was thinking back on our conversation, it occurred to me that Captain Maples was perhaps of the opinion that he had no obligation, and in fact no authority, to stop an evacuee who was attmpting to escape from the center or from the camp--even though he were present at the time the escape was being attempted. And thinking back on the meeting with Colonel Wilson, I could see how Maples might have come to such a conclusion.

Naturally such a misunderstanding, at such a time as this, could well make for trouble. Early the following morning I went to Coverley and told him that I was pretty sure that Captain Maples was under the impression that the soldiers had no authority to prevent escape, and that perhaps Coverley would like to make sure that Maples had not misinterpreted something Colonel Wilson had said. Coverley replied that he was sure Maples understood and that there was no need for talking to him about it. He added, however, that if he saw Maples in connection with something else, he would remember to speak to him about that.

The following afternoon at the CCC camp, while waiting for one of the men I was to question, the Leiutenant in command of the soldiers at the camp, struck up a conversation with me. "I never thought the Army would bluff," he said, "but we're bluffing." I said I did not understand. "Well," he went on, "I don't see why they give our men guns. They ought to disarm us--unless we need the guns for self-defense maybe. Do you know that we can't stop a man from running away from camp? If one of them tries it, we can argue with him but we can't stop him."

"Where did you get that?" I asked.

"From Captain Maples," he answered. I told him that Captain Maples had perhaps been given some wrong information by someone; I said I felt sure that at least one reason for the presence of the soldiers was to make sure that the evacuees would remain at the center and at the camp; that I should think



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that if a man tried to escape, every effort should be made to prevent it, using only such means as were necessary--for instance, that the man would certainly not be shot at unless he could not be stopped any other way, and only after he had been given full warning and after shots had first been fired in the air, etc.

"No," said the Lieutenant, "we can't stop anybody. This is the first time I ever heard of the Army bluffing; but that's what we're doing."

That evening, on my return to the center, I went to Coverley's office and told him that the Lieutenant was under the impression that he could not prevent escapes and that now I was sure that Captain Maples had misunderstood Colonel Wilson. To this Coverley answered that he was sure Maples thoroughly understood; in fact, he, Coverley, knew that Maples understood, but that if he saw him he would speak to him about it.

So far as I know, this matter was never cleared up, and I made a point of this in my previous report to you because, as I think you will agree, it could become highly important.

As you know, I was prepared to leave the project, Friday night and to have Kent Silverthorne take my place. I was convinced that with no evacuee in jail, with policy pretty well worked out, and with a procedure set up for interviewing the evacuees at the camp--I was no longer serving any special purpose at Tule Lake. When I explained to Coverley what my plan was, he astonished me by asking if I could not stay over a few days more. "We want you here," he said. "Your advice is good and we need it. Won't you work it out some way so that you can stay at least until Monday or Tuesday?"

Somehow I could not reconcile my experiences of the preceding several days with this appeal, but naturally I agreed to stay on, and made arrangements with Kent accordingly. Coverley seemed very pleased and thanked me for my decision!

From my first day on the project, I had the feeling that Coverley's consistent resistance to other people's ideas and suggestions came from a notion that to accept someone else's proposal implies some admission of failure on Coverley's part. It is as if, psychologically, he were saying to himself that if the suggestion being made is a good one, then he should have thought of it himself--and, therefore, the



suggestion must be rejected in order that there may be no such admission of failure. I really think that if some psychologist could get across to Coverley that no one man can think of everything, that to listen to suggestion is a sign of strength not weakness, and particularly in a time of such stress as he is experiencing, any constructive suggestion ought to be welcome, his whole attitude could be changed.

This resistance on Coverley's part extends even to advice on strictly legal matters. At first, I did not fully understand Tony O'Brien when he told me--among many other things--that I should not be too disturbed if Coverley acted first and then consulted me afterward. I had come from the San Francisco office where Russell Robinson and Vic Furth, alike, consistently consult first and act afterward. Imagine my astonishment when Coverley told me one day--after I had advised against any more arrests and had suggested that whenever segregation was necessary it be handled by use of the CCC camp--that two men were in the jail at Klamath Falls. What is more, they stayed there even after my very specific warnings as to the risks involved--to WRA and to Coverley himself.

As to the mere fact of Coverley's acting contrary to the advice of his advisors--I have no fault to find. If he comes to his conclusions after listening with an open mind--even in the face of the urgings of everybody on the project--I would expect his conclusions to have the wholehearted support of every man on the place. But if wholehearted support is lacking at Tule Lake, it is, I believe, because the conclusions are arrived at without listening at all. Also, when the conclusions are arrived at, they are put into operation without thinking ahead in detail as to their possible effects--what problems they will produce, what resistance they will encounter from the evacuees, what the next move of the evacuees may be, and how that next move, if it occurs, will be met.

All of this has application to the way registration was carried out at Tule Lake. As I understand it, a lieutenant from the Army team read a statement--which had been previously prepared and approved--to a meeting of evacuees from each ward. But it had been previously decided that if questions were asked, the lieutenant's answer was to be that all



My basic objection to some of the happenings at Tule Lake is the absence of willingness to think through the problems and their possible solutions, the absence of willingness to weigh one element against another, to figure out possible risks, and think out in detail and in advance how best to meet those risks. If registration were the last important problem which is to fact that project, there would be no need of looking back and finding fault; but we all know that next week and next month some other critical situation will arise. If registration at Tule Lake had been a failure because of some unforeseeable turn of event, or even through some error of judgment, I would not be disturbed; but I think registration blew up because of failure to look ahead, to plan ahead, to think through, and to prepare in advance for what might happen--and that kind of failure will be equally fatal when the next important problem arises.

Now let me pass to a phase of the administration of Tule Lake which at first glance seems to have nothing to do with registration. Actually, the longer I was there, the more convinced I became that the registration fiasco was only one phase of an underlying and pervasive breakdown in morale at that project. Let me list some of the phenomena which are illustrative of and, I think, contributory to that breakdown. Any one of them standing alone is of practically no consequence. Each of them amounts to little more than a nuisance, or a mistake, or a petty personal tiff between members of the staff--but all together, they signal a serious sag in the whole spirit of the project. And it would be difficult for me to believe that such a condition is not very well known to the evacuees and reflected in their own lack of respect and unwillingness to cooperate.

Now with full realization that each of the following is, in itself, perhaps only a detail, let me list a few items:

(1) There is a guard at the entrance to the center--on duty 24 hours a day. Anybody who drives in or out of the project has to stop his car and account for himself. How does he account for himself? That depends on who happens to be on duty. If guard A is on duty, you have to give him your name, your WRA identification number, the name of the person who signed your card, your automobile license, your destination, etc. If guard B is on duty, he says "okay" and waves you on. Please bear in mind that I was unknown to all the guards. Yet I had both of these types of treatment the first two days I was on the project.



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questions would be answered at the place of registration!  
How's that for thorough preparation, careful thinking through,  
and detailed readiness for the reaction of evacuees?



It may be that the guard is under the jurisdiction of the Army and not under WRA--but I am sure the average person visiting the project (and the average evacuee) identifies him~~sself~~ with WRA. And in any event the project administration could certainly be instrumental in tightening up what is now very loose procedure.

(2) The school teachers were pressed into service to help with registration. Two of them were conscientious objectors and therefore said they could not register men for military service. They were asked for their resignations. Twelve other teachers then threatened to resign unless the first two were reinstated. They were reinstated.

(3) The cashier in the administration mess hall is an alert, pleasant-looking, young fellow. I was told he refused to register. Yet he still holds his job--a very good job. For him, refusal to register has carried no penalty whatever--at least for the several weeks which had elapsed between that refusal and the day I left the project.

(4) You may get some idea of how the dining room account is kept from this: When I first arrived, I asked the cashier how much I should pay for my meals. At his suggestion, I paid 50 cents per meal, for one or two meals--until I found out that the correct amount was 35 cents. When I told him that, he nodded and accepted 35 cents from me thereafter. My wife was at the project during part of the time I was there. I paid 50 cents per meal for her, for several days. When I told him her meals should be 35 cents apiece also, he agreed and thereafter accepted 35 cents, and at my suggestion, credited me 15 cents per meal for each meal for which I had paid 50 cents. He kept very close account of the matter--on a little slip of paper, which he threw away when our accounts were even again.

I am guessing that the accounts were as well kept the day his cash register was broken and he could not ring up receipts as when his cash register was in good order.

Either his accounts are not very carefully kept (and certainly not very carefully supervised) or the boy is a mathematical genius who, registered or unregistered, ought to have a much better position.

(5) I was on the project eleven days. Two days out of those eleven, the electric lights were burning during a



good portion of the morning as if it had been midnight. This was true of lights just outside the door of the administration building as well as elsewhere. I tried to find out, on the second occasion, where to turn them off but the first two people whom I asked did not know and were utterly disinterested.

(6) All the time I was at Tule Lake I saw not a single evacuee guard on duty, either in the vicinity of the houses occupied by the appointed personnel or in any part of the sections occupied by the evacuees. I was in the latter area on three occasions at night; and I was in the section occupied by the appointed personnel every night, of course. This fact crossed my mind several times only because of the tense situation in the center. I did not know that at other centers evacuees are on guard every night as a matter of course. On the two nights I was at Gila, I twice saw evacuee guards on duty.

(7) I am told that the coal-handlers went out on strike--wanted more pay. I am told that the Assistant Project Director settled the strike by accepting the terms offered by the strikers: instead of working eight hours per day, they were to work four hours and were to be given their regular eight hours' pay. The fiscal man, when informed of the settlement, told the Assistant Project Director that he would not be able to okay the pay vouchers, since to do so would be a violation of his duties and of his bond. He was told that that was the settlement and that he had no discretion in the matter except to follow orders. He followed orders for a while, until he could no longer stomach the situation; then he put on his own strike and refused to make further payments to the coal-handlers except for hours actually worked. I am not informed as to the outcome.

(8) There has been a succession of petty crimes. The administration has thus far given an impression of weakness and vacillation in this connection which I am afraid is not very discouraging to wrongdoers. Apparently those responsible for internal security do not want to prosecute anybody unless somebody from Washington orders them to do so. Jacoby, Chief of Internal Security, told me that there was at least one house of prostitution flourishing at the center. Perhaps in this case no action has been taken because Jacoby does not have sufficient evidence thus far. But there have



been cases in which the evidence of crime was inescapable--culprits were caught redhanded--and yet nothing was done. For example, evacuees have been caught in the act of stealing; they have been caught in the act of running away, with the stolen goods on their persons; they have been caught in the act of gambling for sizable stakes. In the gambling case, names and addresses were taken, the money was returned to the gamblers, and nothing was done. In the other cases, names and addresses were taken, and the stolen goods repossessed, but nothing else happened. It is not surprising therefore to learn that goods have been taken out of storage, that warehouses have been broken open and goods stolen, that Government property (tools, etc.) has been taken, and even that railroad cars have been broken into and some of the contents stolen.

(9) I know that Tony O'Brien's unsatisfactory office space is an old story to you, but I wonder if you have ever heard the full tale. Tony's desk is out in a large open room containing perhaps 20 other desks. During his absence I sat at his desk seldom, and only for short periods. Nevertheless I had an opportunity to see under what difficult circumstances he must work. At income tax time, when I was there, the situation was of course particularly bad. Evacuees were being interviewed by two or three evacuee lawyers at the same time, within eight feet of Tony's desk. But the real point is that Tony has for months been asking for a partition behind which he can have his office, but the Assistant Project Director has somehow never been able to get the material.

With that fact, consider the following story--hearsay, but told to me by the principal person involved, the fiscal man who has been on the project for about ten months. During that time he has been attempting to get housekeeping quarters so that he and his wife can cook their own meals. The Project Director has somehow never been able to assign such quarters to him. Meantime a number of others of the appointed personnel have been assigned to such quarters within that period--and every man in this fiscal man's department who has requested such quarters has been able to get them. All of those people have been at the project a shorter time than the fiscal man has been there.



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The latter finally suggested that he and his wife could stay in their present quarters if a very small addition could be built to house the kitchen equipment, which they apparently already own. The Assistant Project Director said he would be glad to do that but it would be impossible to get the material; however, that if the fiscal man could get the material, the addition of course could be built. The fiscal man then arranged with another Governmental department to furnish the material. It lay on the ground beside his quarters for a considerable time before anything happened. Then when the fiscal man was out of town, the Assistant Project Director took that material and with it built himself an addition to his own quarters because his wife was expecting a baby.

(10) Senator Wallgren was to arrive at the project the day after I left. About noon of my last day there, Tony O'Brien heard--I think from the person who picks up visitors at the station--that the Senator was on his way. Coverley was in San Francisco, and, therefore, Tony went to Hayes at once to ask him whether the staff had been informed. It had not, and apparently Hayes was not thinking of informing them. Under pressure from Tony, however, he agreed that when he talked to Coverley on the telephone he would suggest a staff meeting so that the staff could be told. I understand the meeting was held.

I can understand that the administration would want Senator Wallgren to see the project in operation under absolutely normal conditions. It would seem to me that he would see them under anything but normal conditions if the staff did not know he was there until he walked in on them. Also, of course there would be no chance to think ahead as to what data the Senator might want, what information in somebody's desk or files or mind ought to be brought out, etc. In addition, does it contribute to the morale of the personnel not to inform them of something like this?

Mark Twain once wrote a book (wasn't it "Following the Equator"?) in which he omitted all reference to weather. He added an appendix consisting of descriptions of every variety of climatic condition--and in a preface invited the reader to dip at will into the appendix whenever he felt the need, choosing whatever kind of weather he felt would be appropriate. In a similar way, I have tried to leave out some



Philip M. Glick, Solicitor--18

of the stronger adjectives which occurred to me, and I am tempted now to add an appendix consisting of epithets and invective of every description--but perhaps you do not need any such artificial assistance and have been supplying your own as you went along.

In conclusion let me say again that I am ready to be informed or corrected. I would, in fact, welcome facts which would make me change my mind because my experiences at Tule Lake did not tend to make me feel great pride in WRA. In addition, I believe very thoroughly that if conditions there are not soon corrected from the inside, they will be corrected from the outside--and justifiably.

Sincerely,

/Signed/ Edgar  
Edgar Bernhard  
Principal Attorney



RESTRICTED

April 23, 1943

To: John H. Provinse  
From: Community Analysis Section  
Subject: Registration

There are a number of basic facts in relation to the results of registration which should be kept in mind in connection with any policies developed in connection with it. The evidence for the reality of these facts may be found in WRA documents--in letters, teletypes, evacuee petitions, reports of field appointive personnel, and special field studies. An analysis of these is now under way in this section.

1) The presentation of registration varied widely between project

At Rohwer it was first voluntary and later compulsory, while at Tule Lake it was compulsory to start with and people were arrested with the aid of armed soldiers for refusing to register; at Minidoka a discussion of several hours on the subject was held in each block, while at Tule Lake there was no discussion by neighborhood groups--the Army announcement was read and that was all; at some projects the Army registration was done first, then WRA registration, while at other both were run simultaneously; at Manzanar Question 27 for aliens was different from the 27 used on other projects; which affected the answers of **aliens** and in turn those of citizens; the Army team at Manzanar told citizens to answer Question 27 "No" unless ready to volunteer right away, and even advised some married people to say "No", while at other projects the Army team said to say "Yes, if drafted."

These very great differences in presentation mean different understandings of and reactions to registration on the part of evacuees at the different centers. It means that the results in terms of oversimplified yes and no answers are not comparable between projects. Any comparative tables based on numerical counts of yes and no answers is therefore fallacious.

(2) The basic issue which created discussion and dissension at the centers over registration was that of civil rights (not loyalty)

Some typical issues of and objections to registration are given below. These were, and are, real burning issues to residents of the centers.

a) Registration twice for Army service. Most young men had already registered with local boards. Many had even volunteered before evacuation and been refused. These last were especially resentful of re-registration. A recent reclassification of Japanese Americans as 4-c created additional objections to re-registration.

b) The registration form was marked "for citizens of Japanese ancestry". Many citizens objected to this as discrimination and felt that to fill in the form would be submitting to this discrimination.

c) The questions on the form were largely framed around the subject of loyalty. Certain questions, such as No. 28 asking Amer-



ican citizens to "for swear" allegiance to the Emperoro were objected to on the ground that it implied some previous allegiance to Japan. This whole allegiance question was especially objectionable to many who argued that they had been told to show loyalty by peaceful evacuation, by buying war bonds, etc., and they had done all these things--they wondered if there would ~~ever~~ be an end to this persistent questioning of their loyalty. Many felt that they were singled out for such treatment simply because of their ancestry.

d) Many objected to the circumstance of filling in the registration form for military service and signing an allegiance oath while behind wire fences (and many of them are of barbed wire) and armed guards.

Since the issue of civil rights was such a strong one, various groups often intimidated individuals to answer "No" to 28, just as organized labor groups threaten a strike breaker who by his action weakens the strength of the group protest. Pressure for or against yes was not necessarily subversive--unless we are to interpret all group pressures in American life as subversive (e.g. labor unions, National Association of Manufacturers, American Legion, etc.)

#### Recommendations

In light of the above facts, the following is recommended:

1) Because figures based on answers to registration questions at different projects are not comparable, they should not be set up in comparative tables.

2) Since civil rights was the main issue on the projects in relation to registration, no repressive measures should be taken against persons who, through their objections to registration, were attempting to defend their civil rights. These include a number of people who answered "No" or gave qualified answers to question 28.

(It is Machiavellian to thrust self-respecting citizens into concentration camp conditions and then call them disloyal for protesting this treatment by refusing to pledge allegiance in this situation, and then turn about and say to the public that this proves we were right in detaining these people, they were largely subversive in the first place.)

3) A national policy should be formulated quickly. Different projects are now treating the problems created by registration in different ways and the longer things are left to drift the worse the situation will become. Provision should be made to review individually each case involving qualified and "No" answers to 28. This reviewing should be given highest priority at the project level.

Recommendations 1, 2, and 3 are all closely bound together.

4) The full story of registration should be given to OWI and some attempt should be made to enlighten Congress on the subject as well.

John F. Embree