

June 19, 1944 -- (1)

Since I returned from the conference in Salt Lake City, I was told by many political leaders about the alleged graft of the fund belonging to the Hospital Committee. Their story runs like this:

In the Spring of 1943 the Hospital Committee was established by the local Council to take care of the grievances by the hospital workers and the evacuees against each other or against the Administration. As an outgrowth of attempt to sooth the grievances the Local Council voted to the Committee some <sup>ten</sup> ~~eight~~ thousand dollars out of the community dividend of the Camouflage Net Project. The Committee was instructed by the Council to give bonuses to the doctors and nurses, and to spend the remainder in the manner most appropriate <sup>for the welfare of</sup> ~~to~~ the patients. It has been found out recently that there is a balance of some twenty-eight dollars now, and the Committee proposed to undertake a fund drive among the residents to raise enough money for the coming year. There had been some rumors that some of this fund was used in misappropriated purposes by Kawasaki, a member of the Committee, who held "the string to the purse". Some evacuees claimed that he used part of the money to buy liquor in entertainment of his friends such as Okamoto, Onishi, Yahiro, etc. The Councilmen and other leaders who suspected Kawasaki of wrong deeds had opportunity <sup>to question him</sup> <sub>1</sub> in the last meeting of the Council, when the Hospital Committee presented the proposal for fund drive for Council's approval. Several Councilmen attacked the Committee of not making any financial report to the Council even for once in the past fifteen months. The Council ~~met~~ <sup>met</sup> on record that it would not approve <sup>1</sup> the undertaking unless its financial report for the past year had been approved.

It is told among those in the know that the books of expen-

JUNE 19 -- (2)

ditures are not in order, and Kawasaki cannot make a decent financial statement out of the books. They said that some two thousand dollars cannot be accounted for. "Oh, I bought Miso, Shoyu, and other things for the patients," they quoted Kawasaki as saying. They are not satisfied with this explanation of Kawasaki and are demanding invoices for all the purchases.

Simultaneously, a move is afoot now to unseat Okamoto, Onishi, Yahiro, and Kawasaki from the political positions they hold. This opposition movement is sponsored by Nagai, Aijiro Takahashi (the Red Cross), Frank Kadowaki (the Police Commissioner and <sup>the</sup> Food Committee member), Okabe (the Agricultural Department), and others. These people have some grudge or other against Okamoto and his gang, and are capitalizing on the precarious situation the latter are in at present. They are planning a meeting in the Red Cross office tomorrow evening to map out their plan, and are seeking supporters for their cause among those who do not like Okamoto and others. Both Nishimoto and Sumida have been approached by Kadowaki for their presence in the meeting. It was evident that they are wishing to consolidate their strength with the Block Managers, who have been unsympathetic toward Okamoto in the past.

It is interesting to note that the name of Aijiro Takahashi appears among those opposing Okamoto. He is known to be a man who is politically ambitious, but he has kept out of the Poston politics up to date. It might be interpreted that this opportunity was the one he was waiting for for a long time for his political coup d'etat.

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As reported in the Poston Chronicle George Fujii was acquitted of his charge for sedition in the Federal Court in Phoenix early

JUNE 19 -- (3)

this month. It was reported to me that several evacuees, including Nomura and Elmer Yamamoto appeared as the defense witnesses. I was also told that Roy Furuya was called by the prosecution as its witness all the way from Michigan, although he was not called on stand. The prosecution interviewed Furuya before the trial and found that he would not testify in the way he had told his story to the F B I at the time of Fujii's arrest. Fujii admitted that he had some connection with printing and distributing of the first and second "Voice of the Niseis" sheets, which were adjudged not seditious. Fujii denied that he had anything to do with the third "Voice of the Niseis" sheet, which was declared seditious by the court, and there was no one who could substantiate any connection between Fujii and the third note.

A few days after the acquittal, the committee for the Friends of George Fujii met to decide what to do with the <sup>a</sup> balance of the money which had been collected from the residents for aid of Fujii. Okamoto and Kawasaki, according to Sumida who attended the meeting, proposed to turn the money over <sup>to</sup> the defense of the boys who were taken out of Heart Mountain for their failure to report to their physicals. They argued vociferously for it, but Sumida and a few others objected strenuously, because, they said, "the money was raised for the sole purpose of aiding Fujii in his defense." The committee in the end agreed to return the unused portion pro-rata to the various blocks.

The statement attached to the check covering the pro-rated return to Block 45 reads as follows:

GEORGE FUJII'S CONTRIBUTION FUND

JUNE 19 -- (4)

TOTAL COLLECTION

Unit I	2,595.30	
Outside	8.00	
Unit II	501.90	
Unit III	160.00	
	<hr/>	3,265.20

EXPENSES

Attorney's Fee	32.40	
Bail Fee	500.00	
Court Expense	146.50	
Lawyer's Retainer Fee	250.00	
Attorney's Fee	1,000.00	
Appreciation Gift to Masuda and Yamamoto	50.00	
Evacuee Attorney's Travel- ling Expense	35.00	
Hotel and Meal for Defense witness	37.00	
Telegram and Telephone	5.93	
Miscellaneous Expense	5.46	
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Total Expense <sup>a</sup> 2,062.29

NET BALANCE TO BE REFUNDED TO CONTRIBUTORS 1,202.91

To the residents of Block 45, in care of Block Manager

Thank you evry much for your generous help. We are re-funding 37% of the amount your block donated in behalf of George Fujii's case.

Amount Donated	\$ 74.25
37% of \$74.25	27.47

Committee for The Friends  
of George Fujii

By Minoru Okamoto  
Secretary

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Because of criticisms of mismanagement and incompetence General Manager Kato resigned from the Cooperative Enterprises as of June 15. Many key leaders of the Coop followed Kato's action and resigned from the organization. Those who left include Ben Yabuno, the Assistant General Manager, Masaru Kawashima, the

JUNE 19 -- (5)

Executive Secretary, Nishino, the Supervisor, and the key secretaries in the Accounting Department. The Board of Trustees held a series of meetings and endeavored to name the successors in vain. There seemed to be no one who ~~were~~<sup>was</sup> willing to take over the key positions in the Cooperative Enterprises because of vulnerability of the positions to attacks and criticisms. "Why should I work head off and get bumped all time, because there are many jobs much easier that pay nineteen dollars a month," one of those approached by the Trustees commented.

After several attempts failed, the Board of Trustees selected one from each Unit from its members to ~~mange~~<sup>a</sup> the organization until permanent successors could be selected. At present, it is run by M. J. Noda of Unit I, Sakamoto of Unit II, and Hayakawa of Unit III. They are all key members of the Board of Trustees.

Gossip mongers are busy now claiming that the set up could not last peacefully too long. They say that the organization will crack from within soon. Beltt, the WRA representative in the Enterprises, expressed his disgust for the recent events which culminated in the resignations of Kato and the others and said that he would attempt to ask for transfer to some other project as soon as opportunity arises.

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JUNE 20 -- (1)

A regular weekly meeting of the Block Managers was held this morning from 9:30 in the conference room of the Unit Administration Building. Supervisor Nishimoto presided over the meeting for the first time since his return from the outside.

The Supervisor introduced new Managers --- Ishikawa of Block 21 who succeeded Frank Kobayashi and Fujimoto of Block 28 who succeeded Matoba.

Nishimoto, then, announced that the population for Unit I as of June 17 hit the low mark of 6,551.

He announced that during holiday season all departures from the project will be prohibited. (See the Poston Chronicle of June 20th)

Shigemura of Block 39 referred the meeting as to what procedures should be taken to eliminate stray cats and dogs. It was evident from the arguments of Managers that several other blocks have been bothered with these roving cats and dogs without owners. Nishimoto explained that the question has been bothering the Administration for a long time, but it could not find a responsible division to take the matter up. The Sanitation first attempted to handle the matter, but it failed because of lack of cooperation from other departments and from evacuees. The Internal Security Office then tried its hand in the matter, but it met resistance from the evacuee policemen, who did not want to work beyond the limit they themselves set. Now the question has been shifting from one division to another without any concrete action. "It's a regular run-around in the usual Poston style," Nishimoto commented. He, however, promised that he would report back to the body about the matter after he consulted either Harper or Morris Burge during the week.

JUNE 20 -- (2)

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50.

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The Block Managers and the members of the Local Council for Unit I held jointly a farewell party in honor of Unit Administrator Seichi Nomura last night in the Block 32 messhall. Nomura is leaving the project for Chicago tonight.

A successor to Nomura has not been named by the Administration yet. When I talked to Maras Burge on June 17, he believed he would leave the office vacant, because he could not find any person acceptable to all parties in the Poston politics. In other words, Burge believed that he could not find another person like Nomura, who was a coalition candidate and was acceptable to all political leaders. Burge explained that he would distribute the duties performed by Nomura to various evacuee divisions, most of the duties going to the Supervisor's office.

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The following articles should be noted in the Poston Chronicle of June 20th edition.

Commission of Three to Head Enterprises (page 1)

50 Inducted Last Sunday (page 1)

Morning Leaves Cease During Holiday (page 1)

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Twenty-five Japanese language student of the U S Army visited Unit I on June 17 to practice conversational Japanese with the residents here. They have studied for nine months at the University of Washington and are now engaged in a combat maneuver at Camp Blythe, California, which is about thirty miles from this camp. They said that they would return to the university in a few weeks to resume their study.

JUNE 20 -- (3)

One of the soldiers confided to me that they came here with their fingers crossed, <sup>because they feared</sup> that their presence in camp might be misunderstood, but they were jubilant that they have been treated cordially and kindly by the Japanese here. Other soldiers were enthusiastic about the benefits of talking with these residents in Japanese, and insisted that the ~~War~~ Department should undertake a policy to allow ~~the~~ language students to stay here for weeks at a time. The soldiers returned to their camp early in the afternoon.

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The Police Department of Unit I is running with a skeleton crew of five persons at present. The Department is allowed a personnel of thirty-five persons, but the full quota had not been reached. Since early this year it has been operated with about fifteen men. In the last three weeks most of the policemen have gone out of Poston on seasonal labor. Several attempts have been made to recruit reliable Issei into department, but the efforts of the Internal Security Office and of the Police Commission were of no avail. The Security officers and the Commissioners have found many Issei willing to become policemen, but they were not willing to work under the Nisei who are left in the station. They knew that Kariya, Sam Aihara, Kawabuchi, Fujii, and Kakimoto are left behind. These Nisei have been disliked by the community at large, because of their rowdy behaviors in the past, and are known in camp as irresponsible and overbearing. For example, many people were critical of Aihara and Kawabuchi when they caused commotion under the influence of liquor at a outdoor movie show some months ago. When they were told to keep quiet, they became indignant and packed a fight with men nearby. Some of these police-

JUNE 20 -- (4)

men were accused of causing commotions in the hospital after midnight on several occasions disturbing patients. The Issei refused to be placed with the Nisei of these and other unfavorable reputations. In addition, the present policemen have been in a constant conflict with Harper and other Caucasian members of the Internal Security Office. Harper especially hates Aihara and Kawabuchi, since they picked on him ever since he came here.

Harper and Gorman stopped to recruit the new members as soon as they found out that the community itself was not in support of the Nisei policemen. They would like to capitalize on the situation and want to overhaul the entire personnel. They expect these Nisei policemen to quit soon, either because they could not operate the station with so few men or because they would relocate to the outside. In other words, they want <sup>to ease out</sup> the present personnel without taking any action on their part. They realize that it is impossible or undesirable to discharge them, ~~since~~ to do so they must file formal complaints of neglect and incompetence against them. They, however, are certain that they could accomplish their aim by abiding time.

In preparation for such overhaul Harper in the past few weeks have been "loading" the crew of guards (watchmen, exclusively Issei). He has expanded it to a crew of some thirty men from that of ten, it is reported. These guards are under the jurisdiction of Harper, but are not under the evacuee police department. Just as soon as time is ripe, Harper intends to step in and take over the station with this expanded crew.

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Nomura reported to me that Eddie Yamato, the famous figure of ill fame from Los Angeles and a former resident of Block 30,

JUNE 20 -- (5)

is serving a jail sentence in Denver on grand larceny under a federal indictment. This is the story by Nomura. Yamato sent for his car from Los Angeles sometime ago. He then applied for an indefinite leave to Chicago travelling to the destination in his own car. He was granted of his request and was given his expense money to go to Chicago. He left Boston, but he did not go to Chicago. He went to Denver, and opened a legal service office. The WRA charged that he had never intended to go to Chicago and he had claimed the expense money to Chicago to "pocket" the difference. This was substantiated in court and he was found guilty.

One resident who was listening to this story and who knew Yamato before evacuation commented, "Law caught up with him finally. He sucked enough blood out of Japanese, but this time he tried to suck blood out of too big a fellow (meaning Government) and failed."

JUNE 21 -- (1)

The WRA Information Digest of June 15, 1944 had the following interesting items printed:

The Japanese American Joint Board, organized in January, 1943, has completed its work and has been officially disestablished, according to a letter written by Assistant Secretary of War John J. McCloy to Secretary of the Interior Ickes.

During the life of the Joint Board, a total of 39,299 cases (mainly involving American citizen evacuees) were submitted to it for review. Of this number, 25,654 were recommended for indefinite leave, 501 were given clearance for war plant employment, and 12,254 were denied clearance. About 890 cases remain on which action has not been taken.

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Another 300 boys have received notices to report for pre-induction physical exams since the last Digest report. Of the 3312 boys called prior to the last of June, 1093 have been accepted and 669 rejected. A total of 192 boys are now on active duty, while 230 have been placed in the Enlisted Reserve Corps. The number of arrests has increased to 92.

The cumulative tabulation below shows the selective service picture at each center as of May 31:

	<u>Called</u>	<u>Acc'pted</u>	<u>Rejected</u>	<u>Inducted Active Duty</u>	<u>Inducted Reserve Corps</u>	<u>Vol- unt'd</u>	<u>Hold- out</u>	<u>Ar- rest</u>
Tule Lake	39	2	9				28	
Manzanar	116	66	43					
Gila	471	100	39	39	90			
Poston	526		52	8	3	7	9	9
Ht. Mtn.	490	187	182				69	64
Minidoka	705	349	151	53	37	2	9	2
Granada	315	56	20	43	20	2	21	11
Topaz	216	159	48	12	2	2	4	3
Rohwer	239	117	68	30	69	3	3	3
Jerome	<u>195</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>9</u>			
Totals	3312	1093	669	192	230	16	139	92

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Transfer of Jerome residents to other centers is well under way. The first motor truck movement of evacuees to Rohwer was made on June 6th. Other motor movements will continue until the 30th of the month, by which time it is expected that all Jerome residents will have been transferred.

Train movements began on June 12th with the transfer of 500 evacuees to Heart Mountain. Subsequent train movements of 500 evacuees each are scheduled for June 13, 18, 19, 23 and 24.

The inventory of Jerome equipment has been completed and distri-

JUNE 21 -- (2)

buted to all centers. Requests for the transfer of various types of equipment and supplies have been tabulated and approved, and shipments to other centers will begin shortly.

At this writing, about 50 of the 139 members of Jerome's appointed staff have indicated their willingness to accept assignments at other relocation centers or field offices. These persons, as well as others who wish to remain with WRA, will be transferred. Approximately 15 persons have declined to accept transfers and will resign at the end of the current fiscal year.

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Jo, the former Block Manager of 32, told me that recently on the outside wall of the block latrine a sign was posted saying, "Onishi --- Eto: Your days are numbered. Beware!" Onishi is the representative from the block to the Local Council. According to Jo, Onishi was threatened by unknown persons that they would bash him unless he did not behave. This is an outgrowth of the recent controversy between Jo and Onishi, which was recorded in detail in my Journal for the month of April.

Jo disclaimed any connection with these threats and added, "Both Onishi and Eto are sick in bed. Nervous breakdown, you know. That's what they have to pay for having tortured me. I begin to believe there might be such thing as God."

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A regular bi-weekly meeting of the Local Council was held this morning in the conference room of the Unit Administration Building. It was scheduled to begin at 9 A. M., but it failed to reach the quorum. It opened its meeting at 10 A. M. with 21 members present.

First, Kawasaki moved that the present Vice Chairman, M. Okamoto, succeed Seiichi Nomura. It was seconded and passed unanimously. "Dr" Suzuki was elected to become Vice Chairman.

Kawasaki of the Hospital Trust Fund Committee presented the following financial statement for approval by the Council (Cf: June 19, page 1):

JUNE 21 -- (3)

HOSPITAL TRUST FUND

Received:

Camp I	\$5,000.00
Camp II	1,675.00
Camp III	2,500.00
	<u>9,175.00</u>

Expenditures:

Hospital	\$200.00
Clinic (alteration)	25.00
Nurses (Mimai)	52.40
Mortuary	29.78
Entertainment (doctors)	30.00
Cooler Pipe (doctors)	5.67
Transportation Expense	
Trip to Gila (3doctors)	30.00
Movie (May, 1944)	3.00
Phonograph	50.00
Hospital Improvement --- Unit III	25.00
Radio (6 tube)	40.00
Christmas Party	
Hospital staff, 2 occasions	24.46
Christmas Presents	
19 doctors (\$5.00 each)	95.00
Employees (\$1.00 each)	<u>295.00</u>
	390.00
Dentists Association Fee	
(\$30.00 each)	240.00
Hospital Kitchen Supply	
Sept. 1943 -- Tuna (111 lbs)	38.85
December, 1943	
Dried Shrimp	
Ajinomoto	
Shoyu	186.00
January, 1944	
Shoyu (30 gals.)	82.50
Tuna	34.24
May, 1944	
Sea Bass (old-age home)	46.20
	<u>387.79</u>
Total Expenditures	1,533.10
Dividends paid to the hospital workers	7,654.83

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS

9,187.93

DEFICIT

\$ 12.93

HOSPITAL TRUST FUND COMMITTEE

By /s/ Y. Kawasaki  
Yukitaro Kawasaki

Immediately afterwards, several Councilmen spoke up all at

JUNE 21 -- (4)

once. One said that he could not understand why Camp II's receipt was marked as \$1,675.00, when he knew that it received \$2,500 like Camp III. Kawasaki explained that when he took over the Camp II fund as the Community Council had decided to pool the divided moneys together into a pool for hospital distribution, Camp II had already paid out \$825 to its hospital ~~workers~~ <sup>workers</sup>. Therefore, Kawasaki received only the amount noted from Camp II. Other Councilmen accused Kawasaki why that was not noted on the sheet. They clamored that they could not take this statement back to the blocks and could not explain to the residents. These items in the statement, they argued, should be explained in detail so that everyone could understand it by merely looking at it.

Another Councilman questioned where the radio, which cost \$40 was located. Kawasaki could not explain where it was now. "It must be somewhere in the hospital now," said Kawasaki.

Another Councilman asked why they had to buy cooler pipe costing \$5.67 when such a material could be obtained from the WRA.

Because of numerous questions and the belligerent attitude of several Councilmen, who insisted that they could not take the statement back to the blocks as is, Kawasaki withdrew it and promised that he would prepare a more detailed one by the next meeting. It was evident that even if Kawasaki could prepare a detailed statement he could not escape more severe questioning in the forthcoming meetings, since the Councilmen knew for certain that it had been doctored up to hide expenditures for liquor and parties. They are anxious to scrutinize every statement which may be presented by Kawasaki in order to find flaws in it.

Okamoto reported that the fund of the Local Council amounted

JUNE 21 -- (5)

to \$2046.24, of which \$869 belonged to Emergency Fund. In addition the Local Council had \$1169 as Scholarship Fund. Okamoto expected some income from the Trading Post transactions from time to time. Councilmen requested Treasurers for these funds, and an election was held. As the result Sasaki of 19 and Okabe of 28 were elected. It was quite significant that Kawasaki's name did not appear among those nominated.

The Boys Group and the Girls Group of the Community Activities requested donations from the Council's fund \$129.00 and \$121.55 respectively together with their itemized bills of particulars. They stated that these moneys were to be used as operating expenses of these organizations. Several Councilmen questioned wisdom of giving donations to these groups, for they were afraid that this might set a precedent and other groups might begin to ask for money from the Council. If such happened, the Council's fund would be exhausted in no time and it would not be able to <sup>replenish</sup> ~~raise~~ the amount in the fund easily, they contended. There were other Councilmen who believed that the fund should be expended for worthy causes and this was one of them. Nishimoto, representing Block 45, proposed that the representatives from these organizations be requested to appear before the body to explain their purposes and activities in the next meeting. This proposal was approved.

Okamoto reported that the transactions of the Trading Post netted the Council \$42.21 after one month's operation.

By request of Yoshikawa the Council selected Frank Okamoto of 53 and Sasaki of 19 to fill the vacancies on the Community Activities Committee.

The meeting adjourned at twelve noon.

JUNE 22 -- (1)

Last night Aijiro Takahashi, Frank Kadowaki, Okabe, Sumida, Howard Kakudo of Block 22, and Nishimoto met secretly in the Red Cross office and discussed ways and means of cleaning up the Poston political underworld. During the discussion Takahashi revealed that he knew with certainty that Kawasaki had been entertaining<sup>on</sup> several occasions various guests with the money belonging to the public. Takahashi obtained information from Toda of the Block 32 messhall that Kawasaki entertained guests as often as three times a week in some week. On one occasion, Takahashi was informed by Toda, the expense ran as high as \$135 but Kawasaki willing paid it out of his own pocket. Takahashi knew Kawasaki before evacuation as a poor man, and he could not understand how he could have that much money in his pocket. On another occasion when Takahashi was feted by Kawasaki, he remarked how he could be lavish. In reply Kawasaki said nonchalantly, "Oh, we are eating off the public. Why should we care?"

After the people present exchanged informations regarding Okamoto, Kawasaki, and their group, they realized there was nothing they could do for the moment except to demand accounting of the hospital fund (Cf: June 21, page 3). However, they decided to give a full publicity on the misappropriation of the hospital fund, and to prepare the ways to unseat these Councilmen in the coming election in October.

They parted after they agreed to meet from time to time to exchange informations they might collect in the future, and promised to solicit other people who would be willing to work for this cause.

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JUNE 22 -- (2)

This mornigg I conferred with Moris Burge, the Deputy Project Diector, who returned to Poston late last night. He reported to me that James Yahiro came to see him this morning and requested him to consult the Community Council on selection of Unit I Administrator before the Administration announce the appointment. (Yahiro is the City Clerk. See also June 20, page 2) Burge told Yahiro that the Administration had no intention at present to name any successor to Nomura and would keep the position open.

I told Burge that I was planning to fill Nomura's place in the Local Coouncil from Block 45. I added that this was my plan for a long time to put Block Managers in the Local Council to gain some control of the body. Burge confided that he did not trust any of the Community Council, and the appointed personnel called them "City Hall gang". The Administration was very much aware of what the Community Council members have been doing, and it would be benefited if the Block Managers could succeed in forming its own bloc in the <sup>Local</sup> Council. Burge believed that an unified opposition against these "gangsters" would make them cautious before they would ever attempt to put over something detrimental to the community as a whole.

I told them that there would be six Managers in the Council and more Managers would be elected to it before long. Burge was afraid that the Community Council gang might object to this practice by basing their argument on the old regulation that no Manager could be elected to the Council. I told him that there was nothing to worry about, because Managers have been acting as Councilmen concurrently for sometime. In addition, Okamoto himself is holding the position of City Manager. He would not want to argue against his own status, I reassured Burge.

JUNE 22 -- (3)

Burge was elated that a strong opposition has been forming against "City Hall gang". "In this situation, unstable as is, it is a good sign that the opposition is being formed with the Block Managers as a nucleus. We wanted that check against ~~the~~ the gang for a long time. I see now that somebody is out for hood," Burge commented in a good humor.

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The following articles should be noted in the Poston Chronicle of June 22:

Manpower Commission Reaches Five Decisions (page 1)

First Group Now Stationed at Shelby (page 1)

22 Hogs Slaughtered (page 2)

JUNE 23 -- (1)

The following two papers were uncovered from the file of the Unit Administrator.

The first one concerns with the attempt of Ted Haas and Elmer Umamamoto to "put Harper in place" when he was new here and tried to take the judicial machinery into his hand. Harper tried to prosecute an Issei himself, who was arrested for immoral charge to a teen year old girl. (See my conversation with Ted Haas, January , page )

The second paper is the result of the survey conducted by David French, the Community Analyst here. (Cf: January , page )

December 16, 1943

MEMORANDUM TO : Mr. W. Wade Head, Project Director  
Attention: Mr. Harper, Director of Police

FROM: Judicial Council

SUBJECT: Functions of the Local Police Department

Heretofore it has been a source of keen satisfaction to the residents to know that the services of the evacuee police were being actively integrated in all matters relating to internal security. We believe it is common knowledge that they played a major part in reducing said problems to a minimum.

Of late we have noticed with some concern that the gradual change in the policies regarding the functions of the Internal Security Department, with particular reference to our Evacuee Police Department. While in the past, the said Department has been active in processing complaints in criminal matter occurring within the three units, we have been informed that such is no longer the case and everything is processed through the office of the Director of Police.

The members of the Judicial Council (an evacuee function) have discussed this tendency and feel that this might lead to a gradual loss of prestige on the part of the Evacuee Police. The residents having accepted the Evacuee Police as the guardian of law and order and having looked upon that department as responsible for the internal security of the units, may lose all respect for said Evacuee Police, and even question the necessity for the maintenance of such a department.

We point with pride to the low record of crime in this center, and attribute a great part of this to the efficient efforts of our Evacuee Police and to the prestige attached to

JUNE 23 -- (2)

them. If, however, all criminal matters are to<sup>be</sup> processed through the office of the Director, and the Evacuee Police do not actively participate therein, the residents may be led to believe that the Evacuee Police are not responsible for law and order, and hence need not be accorded the respect heretofore given them. This, we feel, might tend toward a deterioration of the prevalent feeling for law and order in this community.

Could not a policy be formulated permitting the Evacuee Police a more active participation in local affairs? This would not only continue to enhance their present prestige, but would be added incentive to the Evacuee personnel to improve on police work. This thought, of course, is relevant only when it is the intention of the administration to continue maintenance of the Police Department as such.

We would, therefore, appreciate a clarification on the purpose and functions of the Evacuee Police and also any policy governing same.

Judicial Council

/s/ Elmer S. Yamamoto  
Chariman

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January 6, 1944

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. LL L. Nelson, Assistant Project Director  
FROM: David French, Acting Community Analyst  
SUBJECT: Reactions to Mr. Head's speech of January 2, 1944

Yesterday you said that you would be interested in whatever could be gathered on the subject of reactions, particularly misunderstandings, following Mr. Head's speech at the shibai last Sunday night. Mrs. Chica Sugino, research assistant in Community Analysis, and I did not spend many hours gathering this material. She concentrated on unsophisticated Isseis, while I, not having contact with such people, talked with Niseis and English-speaking Isseis. We asked people to tell us not only what they thought about the speech, but also what they have heard. Together we seem to have gotten a pretty good sample in terms of age, sex, residence in the camp, and status. The statements we obtained were remarkably consistent. Women's reactions differed from men's, but the groups were consistent within themselves. We did not obtain data on Unit II and III; a single Nisei from Unit III that I questioned has heard no discussion.

Most Niseis that we interviewed did not hear the speech and have heard little comment on it since. The discussion seems to have remained on the Japanese-speaking level, which is that of the people who attended the shibai. We would have expected that the Niseis would have received more information from their parents, or neighbors, and would have begun to discuss the speech, too, but this has not occurred.

JUNE 23 -- (3)

The following is a summary of comments:

The shibai audience was surprised and pleased when Mr. Head was introduced. The speech and the translation took up nearly an hour. Had the speech not been favorably received the people would have resented the interruption of their New Year's program and would not have hesitated to express their displeasure. The fact that Head departed from the prepared text and added extemporaneous remarks that were not included in the Japanese translation bothered some of the people. When those that understood little or no English compared notes with those that understood the English version, the differences appeared. Of course, those that understood both languages noticed the differences at the time. Various interpretations of Mr. Head's plans in regard to staying at Poston, or leaving, have appeared: some think he will leave definitely in a few weeks, while others think he will stay if the people will cooperate with him. There was applause during the reading of the Japanese text at the point that mutual cooperation was mentioned. There has been some speculation as to whether or not devious motives lay behind the differences in the versions. Several of those interviewed expressed a desire to see a copy of the speech.

By far, the most talked-about point that was made in the speech the one about the length of the war. It seems to have jolted the people into thinking about relocation and the future. They do respect Head's opinions and while most are not willing to accept his figure of six years, they have really stimulated into thinking ahead. Many comments have coupled the above point with Head's assurance that there will be no forced relocation. (Incidentally, the latter was not stressed as strongly in Japanese as in English.) There have been some interesting negativistic reactions. A few are saying that if the war is going to be long and if the WRA is going to permit us to stay here, then we'll leave. The remarks which might be considered to be advice: the ones on child discipline, thrift, and idleness were very well received. There was no feeling that they were inappropriate, none of Head's business, or overly-paternalistic. No one has taken the remarks about idleness to mean that the WRA is going to make more jobs available.

During the course of gathering this material we received a number of unsolicited testimonials as to the respect that is felt for Mr. Head by the community.

In conclusion: As is usually the case, misinterpretations and unexpected conclusions have been derived from the speech. An audience was reached that had had little contact with Mr. Head before. Shibai performances could well be used in the future to transmit information to groups not reached through the newspapers, bulletins, school programs, council meetings, and block meetings. Announcements and speeches at the movies would reach just exactly the opposite group: young and English-speaking. It is apparent that quite strong feelings of insecurity still exist among the residents of Poston. The possibility of Head's departure worries the people because they feel sure that whoever

JUNE 23 -- (4)

would be brought into succeed him would not measure up to the same standard. A point that cannot be too strongly stressed is that, if it is at all possible, the English and the Japanese versions of a speech should be exactly alike. This will eliminate one kind of unnecessary and harmful speculation.

#####

A regular meeting of the Community Council was held in Camp II yesterday. The chief topic of discussion in the meeting was the question of whether to approve the financial statement presented by Kawasaki (Cf: June 21, page 3). (Kawasaki, as Nagai put it, was thick skinned enough to present the same statement which he had presented to the Local Council and <sup>had been</sup> rejected. He evidently thought, in Nagai's opinion, that if he had succeeded in getting the Community Council's approval he would be able to put pressure on the Local Council in its next meeting. That is to say, he could use an argument, "This has been approved by the Community Council, therefore, you could not question the integrity of the Councilmen of the other Units. If you did not approve this, it would mean that you distrust the Councilmen of the other Units." Incidentally, Okamoto left Poston to Manzanar for a short visit on June 21, and Kawasaki did not have his strong supporter in the meeting.)

It was obvious that the Councilmen from the other Units, too, have been aware of the criticisms against the Hospital Committee. They scrutinized and questioned every item on it in detail. One Councilman questioned why Camp II's receipt was noted as \$1,675 while the actual receipt amounted to \$2,500.

Many Councilmen questioned the purchases of Ajinomoto, Shoyu, etc. One Councilman criticized the later purchase of Shoyu especially sharply. He pointed out that the quality of Shoyu supplied by the project had improved already by the first of

JUNE 23 -- (5)

this year. He attacked that the Hospital Committee purchased Shoyu of the same manufacturer, ~~who~~ supplied the WRA, and he failed to see any good reason of the Committee to spend a public money in such a purchase.

Another Councilman argued that the purchase of \$46.20 for sea bass to fete the ~~patients~~ in the Old Age Home in May, 1944, was outrageous. He said how the seventeen patients could eat \$46.20 worth of ~~sea~~ bass. Kawasaki replied that it might have been eaten by the workers, too. The interpellator accused further that there are only a few workers with the Home and the total number of workers and patients could not exceed twenty-five at the most. Kawasaki, then, promised him that he would look into this item.

Insinuations and veiled accusations were ~~thrown~~ at Kawasaki for more than two hours in the form of various questions. Finally the Council refused to approve the statement and requested Kawasaki to prepare a better statement for its next meeting.

#####

It is currently talked about among the enemies of Okamoto that he decided to be away from Poston for a while until the controversy over the hospital fund and that over the labor shortage quiet~~s~~ down. In some other quarters his visit to Mansanar is looked upon with suspicious eyes.

#####

JUNE 24 -- (1)

David French informed me that the WRA has now been administering a ~~small~~ camp in upstate of New York for refugees brought over recently from Italy. They number about 1000 and include quite many refugees from Yugoslavia, who had ~~fallen~~ to the Adriatic Islands. The administrative set<sup>up</sup> of this camp is very complicated: the jurisdiction belongs to the War Department and the Navy Department, the administration is handled by the WRA, and the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration is responsible for its fiscal sides.

The conference of the Community Analysts, which was scheduled in Washinton in the latter part of this month, was postponed until August because of this newly added responsibility.

Speaking of the appointed personnel here, French told me that Moris Burge likes to be flattered that he has a very good rapport with all the factions of the Evacuees. In fact, Burge often reminds other appointed personnel that he is ~~the~~ most intimate with and ~~the~~ closest to the evaucees. Mills, on the other hand, likes to be told that the conditions here have become orderly and well arranged since he arrived here.

Nishimoto reminded French that many evacuee leaders knew these weaknesses of Mills and Burge and have capitalized on them whenever they dealt with them.

#####

For induction held at the Hospital last Sunday (June 18) 113 boys were called. Of these forty-six boys were out of Poston via relocation, one was hospitalized, and one cancelled. In other words, sixty-five boys were scheduled to appear for induction, but fifty of them were actually sworn<sup>in</sup> and fifteen refused to report.

The fifteen boys who refused to be inducted are distributed

JUNE 24 -- (2)

by camps as follows: Camp I, 9; Camp II, 2; and Camp III, 4. The geographical distribution of the nine Camp I boys reveals that they are well scattered throughout the camp. Nevertheless, in Harper's opinion, the occupational distribution of these boys reveals that they have had close contact among themselves. That is, almost all these boys are employed on the other side of the Highway (the Machine Shop, Garage, and the Motor Pool). Harper thought that there might have been some extensive agitation against the military service among them or by someone to them. <sup>did not</sup> I believed ~~that~~ any organized agitation took place among them. As one observes the condition for employment in this camp, he could see immediately that they were more than likely friendly to one another for sometime. An usual pattern of employment here is in this manner: A boy, say, obtains a job in the Machine Shop. He would tell his friends how his work is easy, or interesting, or that his boss is a very good fellow, or anything of this nature. His friends would become interested in the boy's job and would ask him if there are openings. The boy would persuade his friends to join him in the Machine Shop. Now, these three or four boys of <sup>the</sup> a congenial group talk about their jobs in the Machine Shop to other friends of theirs. Some of these other friends soon join them in the Machine Shop. Thus, it is probably safe to assume that some talks of evading the draft were exchanged among these draft dodgers, but I do not believe that they had been exposed to any outside agitation to influence their decisions. (See also the Poston Chronicle of June 20th, page 1)

Twelve of these fifteen dodgers were taken to Yuma to appear before the U. S. Commissioner on June 21. Six of them pleaded guilty and were held in jail awaiting their sentences. The re-

JUNE 24 -- (3)

maining six pleaded not guilty. They were brought before the U. S. District Court judge on June 22, when their bonds of \$1,000 each were set. Harper told me that the judge after consulting with the FBI agent set the bail at \$5,000. The FBI did not wish to release these Japanese defendants to the relocation center, and asked the judge to set the bond high enough so that they could not provide it for returning to Poston awaiting their trials. However, the defendants had already contacted a bond man, who was ready to post their bail bonds anticipating the usual bond of \$1,000 each. (It costs each defendant \$100 to have the bond man put up his bail of \$1,000. Harper told me that the bond man's profit from each defendant amounts to as much as \$87, and it is a very profitable business, since the defendant will be returned to the relocation center and cannot "jump" the bond.) The bond man immediately consulted the U. S. Attorney (Harper thinks that the U. S. Attorney and the bond man are intimately associated.), for the defendants were not prepared to raise the bond fees of \$500 each for \$5,000 bail and were threatened with possibility of remaining in jail until their trials. The U. S. Attorney obligingly asked the Court to reduce the bond from \$5,000 to \$1,000 and the Court granted the request. The six boys who pleaded not guilty were returned here early yesterday morning.

One boy out of the fifteen dodgers was taken to Phoenix for his hearing before the U. S. Commissioner on June 22. (See the Poston Chronicle of June 24, page 1, "Twelve Held for Evading Induction")

The last two boys out of the fifteen were arrested yesterday morning and taken out of Poston. I have not checked where they were taken to.

JUNE 24 -- (4)

Regarding the recurrent appearance of these Selective Service Act violators, Harper and others in the Administration suspect that George Fujii has been misguiding young boys. Harper received an information from some evacuees that Fujii was seen several times talking to young people advising them to evade the draft. Fujii was reported to have said, "They (the Government) can't do anything. It's unconstitutional to draft us from these detention camps." Harper said he is watching Fujii closely.

"Fujii seems that he doesn't realize he had gotten a break in the last trial (the sedition trail). I am sure he had some connection with the statements (the "Voice of the Niseis" statements). But I have always told these people (the appointed personnel) that he (Fujii) is <sup>not</sup> smart enough to do it from his own initiative. He was just a "fall guy". I know there were some smarter guys behind the whole things. But we couldn't get anything on them, although I knew just about who they were" Harper said.

"Somebody should advise Fujii to watch his step," continued Harper. "The trouble with him <sup>is</sup> that he is dumb. He can't see the consequence of what he does or what he will do. If he keeps on like that, he will be sure to get in another trouble."

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The following articles should be noted in the Poston Chronicle of June 24:

More Boys to Be Inducted (page 1)

Twelve Held for Evading Induction (pgge 1)

JUNE 25 -- (1)

Aijiro Takahashi of the Red Cross sent the following letter to Nishimoto in connection with the proposed scheme to clean up the Poston Councils. (Cf: June 22, page 1)

Poston, Arizona  
June 23rd, 1944

Mr. R. Nishimoto  
Block 45 - 2 - C  
Poston, Arizona

My dear Mr. Nishimoto:

Thank you very kindly for your attendance at the recent meeting.

An increasing number of residents of the same sentiment are continuing to participate actively, thus pointing to a very favorable outcome.

I am fully confident of the positive success of our stand in the matter and of its neat execution.

Notwithstanding obstacles, I know that a great many persons are backing our enterprise and eagerly awaiting its successful conclusion.

I myself am engaging actively toward our desired ends and carrying through a full share of responsibilities.

Trusting that you, too, will redouble your efforts to the achievement of our objective, I remain

Very cordially yours,

/s/ Aijiro Takahashi

#####

Since the middle of May the Labor Commission has been meeting regularly to solve the shortage of workers in the various divisions and sections. (Cf: May 12, page 3) In its second meeting held in the latter part of May the Commission voted to make <sup>it an</sup> ~~the~~ deliberations over-all <sup>organization</sup> for the three units. For this purpose the Unit I Labor Commission selected Yahiro, Matsubara, and Moritomo (later replaced by T. Matsumoto, when Moritomo had <sup>to represent Unit I</sup> relocated.), and requested the other two units to send two representatives respectively to the over-all Labor Commission meet-

JUNE 25 -- (2)

ings. (Nagai and other leaders claimed that this was the first and greatest mistake <sup>+hat</sup> the Unit I Labor Commission committed. A solution of labor shortage could not be satisfactorily worked out by talking with other people from the other units, they contended. They pointed out that there is no shortage of labor in Camp III. On the contrary, Camp III is bothered with problems of finding enough jobs to distribute among its residents. The Labor Commission has not formulated its final policies yet at this late date, and these men believed that the problems would have been worked out <sup>long ago</sup> if they confined themselves to the problems of Unit I only.)

Toward the end of May the Commission picked up some of the appointed personnel for its members, and at present the membership is composed of evacuees and Caucasians <sup>jointly</sup>. The members from the appointed personnel are John Powell, David French, Bob Rupkey, and L. M. Johnson (the Employment Division).

While the Commission was meeting to solve the various labor problems, many blocks were solving <sup>independently</sup> their shortages in their messhalls, which were created by selective service induction, seasonal labor, and relocation. In general the blocks took <sup>either of</sup> two common methods to replenish depleted personnel in their messhalls. The more common of the two was to hold a block general meeting. In the meeting the Block Manager made a list of those male residents, who held employment cards in the divisions and sections other than those within the block. Their names were written down separately on slips of paper and the Manager took one or two or whatever <sup>number</sup> of the amount the workers needed in the messhall out of the slips, which had been assembled, shuffled, and placed in a container. Those whose names had been withdrawn were compelled

JUNE 25 -- (3)

to transfer from their respective places<sup>/</sup>of employment to the messhall without protest. This method was devised sometime early in 1943 when the project faced the labor shortage for the first time. This was worked out to eliminate two major difficulties in getting residents to work in their messhall; (1) Many residents do not like to work in messhalls. They would rather be doing some work in which they are interested, (2) Each worker is convinced that he is doing some essential work for the project and when he is asked to work in the messhall, he feels his prestige has been impaired. (Let us suppose A is asked to come into the messhall, he is likely to say, "The Carpenter Shop won't release me, because I am an important factor in the shop. If I quit, the whole shop will be disrupted. Why don't you ask Mr. B, who is not doing such an essential work." When B is consulted next, say, he is likely to say, "I am the oldest and most experienced man in the Poultry Department. They cannot spare me. Why don't you ask Mr. A or Mr. C, who cannot be so important in their divisions<sup>3</sup>." And this argument is carried ad infinitum.)

The other of the two methods was to take turns<sup>by days</sup> equally among all non-messhall workers. When their turns came, the specified number of residents<sup>was</sup> required to stay off their regular works and to serve in the messhall. This also disrupted the smooth running of many divisions.

Thus, the blocks were successfully, more or less as far as they were concerned, replacing<sup>the</sup> departing workers in their messhalls. However, the divisions and sections from which these workers were extracted were not satisfied. They have been making protests meekly in the past, but the protest from one department especially became vigorous in the latter part of May when the Block

JUNE 25 -- (4)

5 incident.

Manager of Block 5, Yukawa, held a block meeting and drew a lot to get two workers into the messhall from among its residents. There were much arguments against such a procedure, questioning whether or not the Manager had any right to draft workers against their own wishes into the messhall. The Manager was a man of forceful tactics and overwhelmed the opposition by saying that the residents must eat and they owed to themselves to regard the work in messhall ~~the most vital place of work~~ for each and every one of them. As the result of <sup>the</sup> lot the foreman of the Parker rail-head warehouse workers was compelled to work there. The foreman reluctantly agreed to transfer, but the Warehouse Division was not satisfied. The Parker crew could not be smoothly run without him, they argued. In fact, they said, the Parker crew <sup>had been</sup> ~~was~~ operated without this foreman, but it did not take any more two days to find that his <sup>presence</sup> ~~absence~~ was sorely <sup>needed</sup> ~~felt~~. The Warehouse Division appealed to the Labor Commission to step into the situation. The Commission, in turn, asked the block to allow the foreman to resume his old job. The block refused on the ground that it was the duty of every resident in the block to serve in the messhall when such had been decided in the block meeting. While the negotiation was going on, Okamoto made a mistake of arguing that the messhall of Block 5 should not be supplied with food and insisted that he could stop the deliveries any<sup>1</sup>time if he ordered so. The Block 5 messhall was angered and became defiant. The mess workers told the Commission, "If you think you can do it (stoppage of deliveries), go ahead and do so." The matter became worse.

Meanwhile, M. Nagai was called upon to patch up the difference. He contacted his friend in Block 5, who worked in the Poultry Department, and begged him to take the foreman's place in the

JUNE 25 -- (5)

messhall. Nagai's friend acquiesced and the foreman returned to the Parker warehouse.

The Block 5 incident was settled amicably to the satisfaction of all the sides after wranglings of several days, but its repercussions were felt in the subsequent meetings of the Labor Commission. The meeting held on May 27 spent a considerable time in discussion of this drafting. The members argued to eliminate this practice. Harding, who was visiting from <sup>the</sup> Washinton WRA office, argued for combining some messhalls. He reported that at Gila the messhalls of the blocks with the populations of less than 150 were consolidated with the adjoining messhalls and this merging turned out to be very satisfactory. Powell, on the other hand, proposed to establish some sort of nursery to take care of small children so that their mothers would be available for employment in the messhalls. In general, however, the members were <sup>a</sup> alarmed over the increasing tendency of drafting by blocks of workers into their messhalls and desired to curb the practice. As to the method of curbing they could not agree. As a temporary measure until they could work out some solution, they decided to ask the Project Director to prohibit the drafting. This recommendation resulted in the following instruction from the Project Director:

June 2, 1944

PROJECT MEMORANDUM NO. 27

TO: Division and Section Heads

SUBJECT: Mess Halls

I have been informed that evacuee residents of the Center who are employed in essential occupations in various activities are being drafted for so-called volunteer labor in mess halls and ~~at~~ kitchens. While I recognize the essential nature of mess hall work, the practice of taking workers away from their assigned duties to fill in at mess halls does not have my approval.

JUNE 25 -- (6)

All supervisors are hereby instructed to report to me immediately any instances in which their employees in which their employees are absent from their post of duty because of the requirement that they serve in the mess halls of their respective blocks. This information should be in memorandum form, including the employee's name, his residence address, and date or dates on which he is absent from his regular post of duty. Unit Administrators and Block Managers are being notified of this instruction.

/s/ Duncan Mills  
Project Director

In the meeting held on June 5, the Labor Commission adopted the recommendation from the Unit I Labor Commission and listed the following divisions as essential and from <sup>these divisions</sup> ~~which~~ no worker could be drafted into the messhalls. (The freezing order was lifted and workers were allowed to be drafted from other department which were not listed as essential.)

Transportation, Maintenance, Agriculture, Hospital, Subsistence (including warehouses and mess operations), Fire, and Police.

Inspite of the warnings and regulations, the blocks went on with their block meetings and draftings, as more mess workers were drained <sup>out</sup> of the blocks via relocation and induction. Block 35, for instance, in its block meeting drafted a resident who worked in the Fire Station. The Fire Department protested, but the block was defiant. Finally Dr. Suzuki, the Councilman from the block and serving on the Unit I Labor Commission, stepped <sup>in</sup> and reconciled the chef of the messhall to release the Fire Department worker from the obligation to come into the messhall.

On or about June 22, Block 54 held its block meeting and drew a lot to draft a worker. The lot fell on another worker in the Fire Station. He was told to abide by the decision. (He is a member of a large family, who <sup>is</sup> ~~are~~ not well liked within the block.) The block took "or else" attitude in this matter and the resident agreed to obey the ruling. But the Fire Department,

JUNE 25 -- (7)

as in the previous case, protested and refused to give an official release of employment to the worker. The block, however, is insisting that he must work in the messhall. The situation is in a deadlock.

Meanwhile, another complication developed on June 24, when Block 35 heard that Block 54 had succeeded in getting a worker out of the Fire Department (evidently erroneously reported to Block 35). They lodged a protest why they had been refused to get the worker from the Fire Department, while Block 54 had been allowed to do so.

The present situation indicates that similar occurrences would be developed often in the near future. It is interesting to watch where all this trouble would <sup>lead</sup> ~~end~~ up to. Nagai came into my office and urged to do something. I warned him, "Stay out of this thing. This whole idea had been conceived by Okamoto and Yahiro. This is their baby. It won't be long before they burn their fingers. You just sit back and watch. The community knows that the Executive Board has nothing to do with this."

JUNE 26 -- (1)

On June 23 the Block Council of Block 45 held its meeting and nominated Richard Nishimoto unanimously, unopposed, for the election of Councilman from the block to fill the unexpired term of Seiichi Nomura. The members of the Block Council were told by Nishimoto the necessity of cleaning up the Poston politics.

#####

Fujii complained to Sumida that the father of Roy Furuya had come to his father for more than twice <sup>and bragged</sup> that George could come out of the trial clean because his son Roy had refused to testify against George. Fujii was irritated by the elder <sup>^</sup>Furuya's <sup>^</sup>action, because he was forced to feel gratified toward the whole <sup>^</sup>Furuya family. (Cf: June 19, page 3)

#####

I was called into Burge's office and was questioned on two current problems. (1) Increase of selective service act violators. Burge was worried, because he thought that more Nisei were refusing to report either to physical calls or to induction calls. He was concerned <sup>as to</sup> about whether there was an organized agitation ~~had been~~ carried secretly in camp. I explained to him that these boys were those that would have refused to be inducted even if they had been called at an earlier date. I said, "These boys are afraid to be killed in war. What can you tell them when they are scared? You don't think arguing about virtues of serving for your own country would convince them to go to war willingly, do you?" Burge replied that he knew it was so. He said that those people talking about return of ~~the~~ civil rights, and the status <sup>^</sup> of citizenship, and so on, are <sup>that</sup> mostly ones who want to evade the draft somehow. I said which

JUNE 26 -- (2)

was quite true. I reported that <sup>the</sup> returning <sup>of</sup> the boys, who were arrested and released on bonds for their failure to report to induction, to Poston was not a good procedure. These boys would talk about their experience, and they would not talk in such a way to persuade others to obey the selective service act. These boys <sup>were</sup> ~~are~~ more likely to brag about their "courage" for what they had done. In other words, they would have a disturbing effect on the smooth workings of future pre-induction physicals and induction. Burge realized it, but he regretted that there was nothing he could do about it. As a conclusion, I said there was nothing ~~neither~~ of us could do about the situation, because there was no agitation by group by by organization. We could not trace friend-to-friend advices against the draft effectively. We agreed in the end that we should wait for a further development.

(2) Burge heard that there was an agitation against Dr. Pressman brewing. Dr. Pressman came back to Poston yesterday after a vacation to resume his duty here. The Community Council circle for a long time has been after <sup>his</sup> ~~the~~ scalp, and has revived the old agitation as soon as the leaders had learned that Pressman was coming back. Burge explained that Pressman was the only surgeon available for Poston and was not easily replaced by some other doctor. He said he must do something about it if the agitation was wide-spread. I reported to him that the community as a whole did not know that Pressman had returned, let alone the agitation to oust him from Poston. It was not serious yet and he need not be worried about it, I confided to Burge.

#####

The excerpts from a letter written by Robert Sakai, now at Camp Savage, to his elder brother Tom Sakai, the former Super-

JUNE 26 -- (3)

visor of Block Managers. Robert is a graduate of the University of California at Los Angeles. He served in the Temporary Community Council from his block. He also worked for the Bureau of Sociological Research, and later with the Department of Education as a teacher. The letter is dated March 14, 1944.

". . . Tom, as you say, Poston has been good to you, but it is only because you have been good to yourself. "God helps those who help themselves." In most cases those relative terms "good" or "bad" exist only in the mind, and that which one has in his mind put into action, makes the man. There are so many young people who thought Poston was "bad" and that's all they thought about. They had nothing but grumbling to do. There was nothing in the camp from which they could profit. On the other hand there were a very few people who saw some good in the camp and sought to make that "good" a part of himself, thereby increasing that "good" and being happier for it. It's great that you are studying every day, Tom. I don't see how you can do it. It really takes a great reserve of will power and a burning desire to advance one's self.

"As far as occupations go that doesn't make a man great or small. Whether he be a farmer, banker or laborer, it's the amount of service he does for his fellow men and the amount of happiness he tries to bring into this world that counts.

"Since I've been in the army I've often wondered whether I am doing the right thing by becoming a soldier. Was I an intellectual coward? Am I just taking the easiest course? But I have always come back to the conclusion of which I am now quite positive, that I am doing the right thing. It is my conviction --- at least at present --- that the military threat of Hitler and the Japanese army has to be met by force. I hope and pray for the day when force can be conquered by love, but today is not that day.

JUNE 26 -- (4)

The horrors of war are ghastly, and the most ghastly part of all is that hundreds of millions of people are taking it as a matter of course. If a 100 soldiers are killed, people don't bat an eyelash. If 50,000 are killed, perhaps they raise an eyebrow.

"There is so much evil in this world that I want to do all I can in any power to bring some good into this world. Heaven only knows that my puny efforts will be too little. People are mad at the enemy and they are mad enough to kill him, but deep inside each man and woman's heart in Germany, Japan, U. S. or anywhere else, there is a deep longing for peace and love and happiness. Why can't this longing for good all over the world be united in solid brotherhood?

"Listening to some of the orientation lectures on "Why We Fight" I have been quite dissatisfied. As is natural and to a great extent true, the lecturer emphasizes the evil intents of the enemy, his idea of the "master race" and "world conquest". We are fighting for all the ideals we cherish and the freedoms we prize so highly. Very true, but how I wish they would go a little further.

"There are some 11 million of us in the service and most of us hear the same things. Thus we will think alike. If all we are taught is that we fight because the enemy is bad, I fear very much for the post-war era. Why can't the army be intelligent enough to tell 11 million men that we too are to blame for this war ---that we must therefore fight and strive for a better world for everybody ---not just for us? The ex-soldiers are going to have a big say-so, if not the biggest, as to what to do to the enemy after victory is won. It is now that we must begin constructive ideas on building a better world.

JUNE 27 -- (1)

A changing trend in the block organization has been observed recently. A notable example is found in the change in the set-up of the Block Council for Block 35. In the past the Block Council was composed of a male representative from each of the fourteen barracks. Lately because of so many people relocating it became more difficult for some barracks to select their representatives. In the block meeting, which was held at the end of May, it was decided to <sup>do</sup> ~~get~~ away with the Council of fourteen men. Instead, they formed a committee of three to take over the duties of the Council. This committee was composed of the Block Manager, the representative to the Local Council, and ~~the~~ representative at large, Ajiro Takahashi. Minor matters are to be decided by this committee of three, and <sup>the</sup> <sub>1</sub> more important matters are to be decided in block meeting.

#####

A regular weekly meeting of Block Managers was held in the conference room of the Unit Administration Building from 9:30 this morning.

Supervisor Nishimoto announced that the following arrangement has been made to control stray dogs and cats: (Cf: June 20, page 1, the last paragraph)

1. Block Manager is to catch stray dogs and cats within his block.

2. Block Manager is to notify immediately the Chief of the Internal Security Office through the Supervisor.

3. The Chief of the Internal Security Office has agreed to dispose said animals as he sees fit.

In this manner a problem of long standing has been solved.

The Supervisor, on behalf of the Leave Office, has announced

JUNE 27 -- (2)

as follows:

(1) Those leaving for Phoenix on June 28 for their pre-induction physicals will not be inducted until a later date, contrary to a popular camp belief.

(2) Because of an overflow relocations on June 27, a special thorough car to Chicago was prepared for June 29 to accommodate all those who wish to leave Poston before the freezing of all departures from here.

The Supervisor announced as follows by a request of the Agricultural Division:

Children between 8 to 15 years of age have been seen pilfering, damaging, and destroying melons and watermelons being grown in the field in Section 34. Because of serious damages to the crop, the Agricultural Division has placed guards at the place. About two days ago five boys from Block 43 were caught damaging melons with their knives. Their names were taken and their parents were warned. The Division feels that these offenders, if such practices continued, must be prosecuted by law. The Division requested the Managers to warn their residents about these mischievous acts.

The Supervisor read the following letter to the Managers:

June 23, 1944

To: The Block Manager's Supervisor

From: Dr. J. F. West  
Acting Principal Medical Officer

Will you kindly convey this message of appreciation to your Block Managers at your next meeting on June 27, 1944.

The Medical and Public Health Departments have appreciated very much the cooperation of the various block managers during this past year, in carrying on the health program for the residents of Poston.

Our records show that Block Managers have, as occasion required, taken part in the following activities:

- Reporting early signs of contagion.
- Posting and releasing of quarantine.
- Conveying of information on communicable diseases to families affected.
- Establishing of isolation tubs in laundries.
- Distributing blanks for vaccination.
- Announcing dates for various health services in mess halls.
- Making Block Managers' offices available for regular block weighing of babies.
- Taking an active part in raising money for the infantile paralysis fund.

JUNE 27 -- (3)

Assisting in improving sanitation of the block.  
Reporting special needs of sick old or disabled persons.  
Assisting ambulance drivers in conveying patients to hospital.  
Surveying and recording names of children of varying ages  
for the mild allotment.  
Cooperating with teachers in carrying on studies of health  
conditions in the blocks.

As a result of this cooperative effort the contagious disease  
rate for the past year has been very low. No epidemic of communi-  
cable disease has occurred, and no life has been lost because  
of a "catching" disease. Health conditions have improved and  
hundreds of corrective treatments have reached the people who  
needed them.

We hope we may continue to have this fine assistance from the  
men who are in such important and responsible positions in their  
blocks.

Please be assured of our hearty appreciation and accept  
our thanks for this service.

Yours truly,

/s/ John F. West, M. D.  
Acting Principal Medical Officer

The meeting was adjourned at 10 A. M.

#####

Yesterday Nagai has been in my office and orated on the  
importance of eliminating the Local Council entirely. He felt  
that the Block Managers could very well carry over the duties  
of the Local Council. He wanted to propose that nine members for  
the Community Council should be elected at large from Unit I.

Today Dr. Suzuki was in my office and expressed independently  
his opinion that the Local Council was outdated. He believed  
the Council was not doing any important works, which could not  
be taken over by the Managers. He argued that since the Managers  
were elected by the block people, he could not see any reason  
to have another group of elected people in the Council.

These and other men have more frequently been expressing  
similar point of view that Managers and Councilmen should be  
combined.

JUNE 27 -- (3)

Suzuki informed me that the Community Council yesterday approved the financial statement of the Hospital Trust Fund Committee, which had been slightly revised by Kawasaki. (Cf: June 25, ~~page~~ 1) (This must be verified from other leaders.) He wanted to know whether or not the Council and leaders of Unit I would be willing to approve the statement. I informed him that residents were getting the news rapidly now and were clamoring for a thorough investigation. There was an indication that the community feeling might result in a mass meeting of these people, I added. He was perturbed because, he said, he was involved indirectly in the expenditures of the fund as a hospital representative. I assured him that he was not suspected of any misappropriation, but Kawasaki was. The community wanted to get rid of Kawasaki, and his close associates if possible at the same time.

Suzuki thought there was no likelihood of the statement being approved by the Council in the near future, and reflected if it might be <sup>wise to</sup> table it for a while. At least, he said, he would not do anything about it as Vice Chairman until Okamoto returned to Boston. He might suggest then to organize an investigation committee of the expenditures composed jointly of the Council and the Managers. I quarreled that the Managers had nothing to do with this matter and it was the responsibility of the Council to clear the suspicion.

Suzuki further reported that Kawasaki had just about given up a hope of raising a new hospital fund from general subscription by the community for a while.

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JUNE 27 -- (5)

A large number of Issei have been jubilant for about a week about alleged news from Radio Tokyo. In the early stage the rumors were conservative. I heard the rumors which might be summarized as follows in general substance:

"American forces failed to penetrate on Saipan after they had failed to land twice."

"One battleship, 35,000 tons, and several other warships were sunk off the Marianas."

"A huge <sup>naval</sup> battle is going on and Japan has an upper hand."

Lately the rumors became more fantastic.

"A new Japanese forces landed behind the American forces which had succeeded in landing at their third attempt. Now the American forces are sandwiched between two Japanese forces and are being annihilated."

"Twelve battleships; nineteen aircraft carriers, and forty-three cruisers and destroyers were sunk by Japanese navy in the water between the Marianas and the Philippines."

These rumors have been spread with much individual colorings of the "town <sup>r</sup> criers". These people seemed to have taken a sudden lease on life with these news of "victories". Many of them have been turning into arm chair strategists, discussing these battles with their own conception of how they would have been fought. And these "experts" are finding ready audiences at various places in camp. (These news, reported by these Issei, were verified by the articles printed in American newspapers as those broadcast by Japan two or three days after they had been circulated in camp.)

#####

The following article should be noted in the Poston Chronicle

JUNE 27 -- (6)

of June 27:

Sentiment Towards Japanese Better on Pacific Coast Area  
(page 1)

61 Scheduled for Induction (page 1)

#####

David French was listening to a Nisei woman commenting on the Nisei who refused to be sworn in for induction. She said in part, "I don't blame them for not going to war. Who wants to get killed?" French remarked immediately, "That's funny. It must be a cultural trait. These Japanese seem to think going to war is synonymous with getting ~~XXXX~~ killed. We Americans go to war thinking of coming back safely soon. This may be a factor that accounts for so many Japanese refusing the service."

French informed me that a source connected with the Friends Service had told him that about 1000 Japanese would be sneaked into California by the WRA with a clear understanding of the Army. After election, he added, the WRA would announce this new policy of lifting of the California restriction and Japanese would be returned to California in great numbers.

#####

JUNE 28 -- (1)

Originally 61 boys were scheduled to leave early this morning to Phoenix to be sworn into the enlisted reserve. But only forty-four boys actually left for Phoenix this morning. One was excused, because the Leave Officer could not locate his leave permit. The other sixteen refused to report for induction --- fourteen from Camp I, one from Camp II, and one from Camp III.

Besides these boys to be inducted, there were 118 boys who left for Phoenix with them for their pre-induction physicals. There was no violator among those called for physicals.

In the morning I received an urgent call from Mill's secretary to come into his office. When I arrived I found Burge with Mills. Burge immediately informed me that sixteen boys did not leave Poston this morning to Phoenix. (Cf: June 26, page 1) He wanted to know what we could do to prevent this tendency. I said I was surprised so many of the boys actually left Poston for induction. I expected several boys would refuse to be sworn. Burge asked me how come. He said, "Don't you think ~~sixteen~~ <sup>thirteen</sup> out of sixty is pretty high? That's more than twenty-five percent." "Yes, that's more than twenty-five percent," I said. "But did you stop to think that so many boys who would have been inducted this time with these boys had been on the outside long ago. If these boys had not relocated and remained here, they would have been inducted with the others. If this happened, the percentage would have been much lower. It is natural that we have quite many violators from among those remaining in camp."

"It might be so, but still sixteen violators at one time are too many," said Burge.

"You should listen to groups of boys talking on streets

JUNE 28 -- (2)

or at their places of work. Nowadays they talked about the imminent draft calls, and they don't talk much about anything else. To that degree they are concerned about what are going to happen to them in the near future. To these young boys going to war means getting killed. They don't see practically any chance of coming back. This may be a cultural peculiarity. But we must take this as a fact with these Japanese. Their conversations center around advantages and disadvantages of going to jail at for hard labor for three years in term of going to war and getting killed. The reactions to these two alternatives are naturally different with different personalities. Some regard going to jail better than going to war. Others would rather go to war rather than go to jail for three years."

"There were six boys from my block who were called to Phoenix to day," I continued. "I studied them very carefully last night. You should have seen them. They were sick thinking about the prospect of going to war looming so large in the immediate future. They said, 'We don't have a chance to come back. Only one guy out of ten will come back. And maybe even this one guy might not come back at all, because we Japanese will be used as a spearhead anyway. I don't know what we are going to fight for. But I don't want to go to jail either. I guess we are taking an easy way out.' That conviction was prevalent with the six boys. They couldn't eat their dinner. They said they didn't feel like eating. After the dinner they were moping around in the block. I could see easily enough that they were despondent. They stayed up, without going to bed, until the time of departure at 3 A.M. this morning. Around midnight I met one of the boys in the latrine. He said, 'Gee, I hate to die yet.' So you see

JUNE 28 -- (3)

it's a wonder that so many boys have been reporting to calls."

"Yes, but you must consider the stigma attached to going to jail," said Mills.

"That is the trouble with all of us. You and I have educational background and we are sophisticated. We would worry about the stigma. But we cannot analyze these boys in term of our own convictions, experience, and reactions. Most of these Japanese here are unsophisticated. They can consider their actions only in terms of rewards and punishment in the immediate future. I don't think you would succeed in conveying <sup>to them</sup> the significance of that stigma."

"Then we should give much more credits to the boys who report to the army calls," said Mills.

"That's right. I admire their courage and conviction of going into the Army after the bitter experiences they had gone through."

"Still we must do something about the situation," Mills and Burge jointly said. They explained that they decided to declare a half-day holiday for the Fourth of July. A celebration is being planned. Its program will be composed of baseball games, movie show, etc. It will be highlighted with the formal opening of the USO quarters with some sort of recognition given to the boys who had been inducted and awaiting for active service calls. The Community Activities under supervision of Walter Balderston is arranging the program with a full participation by the appointed personnel. Incidentally, it had not occurred to neither Mills nor Burge to have any celebration for Independence Day until this morning. They conferred this morning and decided hurriedly on this plan. When I inquired Mills on June 26 whether

JUNE 28 -- (4)

he would declare the day a holiday, he answered positively in the negative.

"Up to this time I shied away from fostering Americanism here," said Mills. "I let the community take its own course on this matter. I did so, because I could not promise anything to them as to their future in this country. I cannot guarantee anything to them. Their future is so undecided. But now I am convinced that the time has come to take some action to foster Americanism. That is one reason we have planned this celebration."

"I am not objecting to your plan. I think it is a good idea. But the whole Americanization should be done in a subtle way. Your motives should not been known to them. These people are mostly naive, and they would not detect your motives in your subtle Americanizing propaganda. If you had obviously waved the Stars and Stripes in front of them, you are sure to fail in your purpose. I am certain they would rebel to an obvious propaganda. That is, it is better not to irritate their sense of security. A good example is the relocation program. The best thing the Poston administration <sup>has</sup> ever done is its policy of "You are not being shoved out. If you want to stay here, do so. We like to help only those who want to go on to the outside." As the result of this policy we are faced now <sup>with</sup> much accelerated relocation progress. The population in Unit I during last week decreased by 103 persons. We will see many, many persons go out in the ensuing weeks. More people are talking about relocating now. Americanization propaganda should be handled in sophisticated style like this relocation policy."

Both Mills and Burge agreed to this idea of mine, but they added, "This bothers us all the time. That is, we can't see

JUNE 28 -- (5)

why so many are relocating from Gila and why there are no violators of the selective service act there."

"As to the progress of relocation at Gila, I can say one thing off hand," said I. "That is, it is such an unpleasant camp to live in that they don't like to remain there. Every person who visited Gila from here comes back with an impression, 'I wouldn't want to live there. It's a lousy camp.' Do you know what Elmer Yamamoto (the evacuee attorney here) <sup>said</sup> after visiting Gila? He said, 'It is a British colony in the Orient.' I don't blame Gila people skipping out of the camp as fast as they can. Of course, there are many other reasons."

"As to the success of the Nisei draft there, I suppose we have to take our hats off to Bennett and Terry in spite of all the derogatory remarks we have been making about them, <sup>said I.</sup> "As I understand it, the people there are afraid of the Administration. They are in a constant fear, so to speak, of punishments by the Administration. Bennett and Terry took out some twenty-eight vocal Japanese out of the camp by the FBI one day in February, 1943, in a single sweep. I understand that terror reigned among the residents, and they have not forgotten it yet."

"A sort of blood purge, eh?" interjected Mills.

"That's right," I continued. "You know yourself that we could decrease the number of violators if the court imposed twenty years' jail sentence to them instead of three years."

"This is a democratic country and it should not happen here," Mills said.

"There you are. That is the reason I say that we must bring along the public slowly to the end you seek. We should hope for the best in the future. I am certain that the situation

JUNE 28 -- (6)

will improve soon, for from now evacuees from the Los Angeles city area are to be called in. I don't expect much trouble with these city people."

"Let's hope so," said Burge

I pointed out that blocks have resumed the pre-evacuation practice of Soko-kai, a send-off party for soldiers leaving for active duty. I knew several blocks which gave parties to the boys who left for Fort Douglas last week. I advised Malls and Burge to encourage these events as much as possible. I explained that this is one way to raise the prestige of leaving for the Army. They both agreed and promised that they would encourage such a practice.

#####

Last night I saw some of the mothers of the six boys leaving for Phoenix <sup>from</sup> ~~in~~ my block crying, because their sons were to be taken into the Army. (The fact is that these boys were called for pre-induction physicals.)

#####

An informant reported that his friend in Block 44 had received a letter from his son, who had refused to be inducted and now is serving a jail sentence in the Yuma penitentiary. The letter said, according to the informant, that the boys regretted that he had come to the jail. He is breaking stones everyday and does not like the hard labor, which he is not used to. He further stated that he is being ostracized by other Caucasian convicts, because they had found out that he had refused to join the Army.

Exactly contrary information was given by another informant. She said she knew a man in Block 42, the father of a boy also

JUNE 28 -- (7)

serving in the Yuma jail told her that the son wrote to him and said that the jail was not so bad as he had anticipated. He further stated to his father that other boys should not be afraid to refuse induction, because three years in jail is better than going to war.

#####

Chief Kariya of the Police Department notified Harper that he was leaving Poston tomorrow, and informed him that Sam Aihara had been selected to serve as his successor.

Harper, however, told him that he wanted to terminate all the remaining policemen in the department at this time. (Cf; June 20, page 3) He told Kariya that he wanted to form a new police force with an entirely new crew of Issei. The evacuee chief pointed out that he could not tell the four boys left in the station to resign, and asked Harper to go down to the station and tell them personally.

#####

The close friends of George Fujii are advising him to resign from the Mortuary. They do not like to see Fujii associated with Kawasaki, Okamoto, and Yahiro. They know that he is used as a stooge by them in embarrassing circumstances, and are trying to take him away from the unwholesome influence. His wife, too, is afraid that Fujii might again be involved in some legal difficulty if he had remained in the same clique.

It is understood that Fujii himself wishes to withdraw from the group, but he thinks he is too deeply obligated to them in the last sedition trial.

#####

JUNE 29 -- (1)

Poston <sup>residents</sup> have become involved with the various escheat actions of the District Attorneys of the State of California. A resident of Poston was named some weeks ago in an escheat action by the District Attorney of the Los Angeles County. (See the article in the Los Angeles Times, copied in the Journal, , page )

It is known that similar legal actions have been undertaken in the San Quocuin County (one case), Sacramento County (presumably three cases), and Fresno (two or three cases) in addition to this Los Angeles case. A tendency is to get more of these escheat actions into courts. As the cases became known to the Japanese and more cases are sure to be filed against many land-owning Japanese, the Poston residents became worried. They do not know where the whole situation will lead to. At the worst, they are afraid, every land owning Japanese will be subjected to escheat litigation by the State of California. There is no question that de facto owners are uneasy, and at loss as to what they should do. (Many of them are without cash, and the land they own cannot be offered as security for loans.)

In this situation the following circular arrived from the JACL about a week ago. The Supervisor of Block Managers read it to the Managers in the last meeting.

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE  
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
Beacon Building  
Salt Lake City 1, Utah

PRESS RELEASE  
Immediate Release

WRA Asked to Advise Residents  
of Their Legal Rights

National JACL headquarters wrote a letter to Director of the War Relocation Authority, Dillon S. Myer, at Washington, D. C. pertaining to the investigations being made by the State

JUNE 29 -- (2)

of California on alien land law violations. The letter called the attention of Mr. Myer to the fact that the investigators were interviewing center residents on the pretense of checking over income tax returns and then prying into real estate dealings.

The JACL Letter stated in part as follows:

"In view of the criminal elements involved, we believe that every residents who is to be interviewed should be informed that he cannot be compelled to testify or submit to any questioning by such investigators.

"Any violation of the alien land laws should be prosecuted. On the other hand, we believe that those who are prospective defendants to escheat or criminal proceedings should not be compelled to testify and thereby furnish the evidence for their prosecution under false pretenses on the part of the investigators of the State of California."

All persons who are being interviewed on such matters should consult the project attorneys or a private attorney if residing in the "free zone".

Subsequent to the arrival of this letter, it became known to the evaucee leaders here, through the Legal Department, that Mr. & Mrs. Ikeda of Block 15 were sued by District Attorney Anthony , of ~~the~~ Monterey County, to cause to escheat their land. The following allegations were made in the petition filed by the District Attorney:

1. The land is about 73 acres in size. It was bought from a Caucasian party by Mr. & Mrs. Ikeda in 1928 in the name of their infant daughter. (She is now about 21 years of age.) This contract of sale was a method of circumventing the Alien Land Act of California.

2. Later in 1939 the land was sold to one Hanazono, a citizen of the United States. (She lives in Unit II of Poston.)

3. All these years until the time of evacuation the land was used for agricultural purpose by the Ikedas. The State contends that Ikedas are the real and true owners of the land

JUNE 29 -- (3)

in violation of the Alien Land Act. Therefore, it prays to the court, the land should be caused to escheat to the State of California.

According to Elmer Yamamoto, the evacuee attorney, who had been consulted by the defendants of the case, the land<sup>s</sup> located near the City of Saminas. Its valuation is somewhere around \$25,000. The defendants believed that they have a good defense and have a fair chance of winning. (The burden of proof of the Alien Land Act violation falls upon the State of California.) But, they appealed, they did not have any cash to hire an attorney. Their money had been tied up in the land and in farm equipment, they said. Yamamoto was worried, because this case if lost might set a precedent disadvantageous to other Japanese land owners in later cases. The evacuee attorney appealed to the leaders to do something to aid the Ikedas in their predicament. Yamamoto expressed the following opinion:

The Umaguchi case is all right. The party has money and hired Marion Wright (a first rate attorney in Los Angeles) to defend the case. But this Ikeda case needs our attention. They don't have enough money to defend the case. I am sure an attorney will charge at least \$1000. We have to have a good attorney for this case, because this is a political case after all. The District Attorney realizes it is very difficult to prove all his allegations he set forth in the petition. First of all he must prove that <sup>Ikeda</sup> ~~he~~ is an alien who is not eligible for citizenship. This is very difficult to do, because it cannot be gotten out of the defendants themselves. What the District Attorney probably anticipate is that the defendants might default the case. He might be figuring that the Japs could not come back to California

JUNE 29 -- (4)

or that the Japs won't have money to defend the cases. In another way it appears this way --- that is, the District Attorney might be only interested in filing this sort of case to bring a political prestige upon himself, and might be afraid of losing the case if defended. Anyway, if the case were not defended and defaulted, similar cases will come up one after another. In order to protect the Japanese land owners, these early cases should be aided by others and defeated. They should get together and form some kind of a protective association to protect each other. This Ikeda case must be taken care of immediately, because the hearing is set for August 15th. I know the WRA is supposed to protect the property of evacuees. But you know as well as I know that the WRA will not do anything for you. All it probably will do is to recommend an attorney for you. (At this point I suggested to talk to the Project Director anyway. The owners when assembled in a meeting will ask what the WRA will do to aid them.) There is no harm in asking Duncan Mills about it. But you saw Administrative Instruction 100. It is not saying anything. It <sup>is</sup> merely stating that the Project Attorneys will give advices on questions pertaining to Alien Land Act litigations. You should get hold of the land owners together to work out some aid for this party.

Immediately after the conference with Yamamoto (June 28) Nagai, Dr. Suzuki, Nishimoto, and Sumida worked out a plan to call the land owners secretly (They cannot reveal that they are the real owners of land in California.) the first part of next week. Meanwhile Suzuki arranged a meeting with Duncan Mills to determine what the WRA will do for the litigants. This meeting was set for this afternoon, and Unit Administrators, the Chairmen of the Councils, and some members of the Community Council were

JUNE 28 -- (5)

asked to attend.

This afternoon the meeting of the leaders was called in the Mills' office. Those attending the meeting were Suzuki, Kawasaki, Yahiro, T. Matsumoto, Nagai, Nishimoto, Yamamoto from Unit I; Sakamoto, and Uyenô from Camp II; Wumino, Namiki, and Kubota from Camp GGG. The early discussion revolved around the question whether the WRA would give monetary aid to these Japanese defendants. It was definitely expressed by Duncan Mills and Scott Rowley that the WRA would not aid them in defense <sup>of</sup> these cases. After a subsequent lengthy discussion the following agreements were reached:

1. It is essential to warn the residents here. They <sup>h</sup>ould immediately contact the Project Attorney when they were served with court papers. They should not make any voluntary statements, nor should they sign any paper without consulting the Attorney.

2. Every effort~~s~~ should be made to postpone the trial dates of these cases until after the war. Mills agreed to write informally to Myer if it would be possible to have Ickes influence the Attorney General of California so that these cases might be postponed until after the war.

3. Rowley would write to Cozzens and Bernhart (?) to induce the Attorney General of California to postpone the cases.

4. The leaders should assemble the land owners to raise money to defend the Ikeda case, for their turns would soon be coming if it were defeated.

#####

A resident of Block 13 informed me as follows:

Soon after the boys refused to report to the pre-induction physicals on March 19 (Cf: March 20, page 1) Okamoto contacted

JUNE 29 -- (6)

one of them residing in Block 13 (Kawasaki's block). Okamoto said to the boys something like as follows:

I don't blame you for refusing to report to the physical. You have been kicked around by this country long enough. They can't draft you without returning you your civil rights. If you are willing to fight the case in court on the ground that those in the relocation centers should not be drafted without returning the civil rights to them, I can promise you the full support of the Community Council. We are willing to finance your fight."

To this the boys and his parents said that they did not want to bother other Japanese. It might bring a bad reputation upon them, they said. The boy contended that he was doing it from his own personal conviction, because he believed he was doing a right thing by refusing to serve in the Army. He refused any aid from the Community Council.

#####

The following articles should be noted in the Poston Chronicle of June 29:

WRA to Care for Italian Refugees at Fort Ontario (page 1)

Second Group of Inductees at Shelby (page 1)

Sanger Killing Only Rumor (page 1)

JUNE 30 -- (1)

It is reported that five more boys refused to be sworn into the Army at Phoenix on June 28.

#####

The theft of cooler from the Carpenter Shop has been investigated and is having a repercussion all over the camp right now. The case developed in the following way.

The cooler installed at the Carpenter Shop in the ~~Warehouse~~ area was stolen during the night of June 27. It was not reported to the Administration until late June 28. I was called in by Burge in the morning of June 29. Burge told me that the cooler was missing and the Carpenter Shop crew made a report to the Internal Security Office. He said he knew where the cooler be found. I asked him where. He said it would be found in the Fire Station. I said, "Why don't you send Harper over to the Station to find out whether the cooler is there or not. He said he would.

About the same time an investigator (evacuee) of the Internal Security Office was already on its trail. The investigator, H, interviewed Yamashita, the foreman of the Carpenter Shop, and found out that the cooler was taken to the Fire Station during the night without his knowledge. Yamashita told H that two of the Fire Station boys had confessed to him the day before that the cooler had been taken away by some of their colleagues. They refused to reveal their identity, but they added, "Kawasaki (the same Kawasaki of the Community Council and the Hospital Committee) told the boys that he would take care of the consequence and told them they had nothing to be afraid of when the Community Council was behind them." Yamashita said he was embarrassed, too, because he must account for the theft from the Shop which he had

JUNE 30 -- (2)

charge of.

H. and Gorman, the Internal Security officer in charge of Unit I, together with Yamashita went to interview one of the two boys who had confessed. This fireman, Uyeno, said that the cooler was being installed in the Fire Station. He said that Chief Fien had been asked by the boys for a cooler since April but he had been making empty promises and no result was obtained. The boys, he said, could not stand the heat any longer and brought the cooler over from the Carpenter Shop. He knew that the Shop was to be closed soon and did not need it in a short while. This was a transfer of government property from one division to another. If any one was to be punished, the boys at the Station had agreed to go to jail altogether.

H then went to see Miyake of Block 15, whom he knew for a long time. Miyake gave a similar story. He added that the Fire Department had believed it had an understanding with the Carpenter Shop. One of the Fire Inspectors had gone to the Shop, he reported, and asked if the workers objected should the cooler be taken away. The foreman of the Shop did not give an answer in any definite way, but the Inspector thought it was all right to take <sup>it</sup> away anyway. H argued that the Foreman would not have reported the theft if he had agreed to give it to the Fire Department. Besides, he retorted, the Firemen would not go out there to bring the cooler in the evening if the agreement had been reached between them. H warned him about the grave consequence of stealing a government property. Miyake said he knew about it. He added he was willing to return the cooler if another one was given by the Administration. The boys had agreed that they would not return it unless a cooler in place of it was given.

JUNE 30 -- (3)

If the cooler was taken away, he reported, the boys would quit the Station. That was what they had pledged among themselves. In case any of them must go to jail, they all go to jail, they pledged. H's advises and warnings as to the seriousness of what the boys were doing fell on deaf ears.

Because of the serious nature of the matter, H came over to Nishimoto asking for his advice. Nishimoto said he could not do anything about the matter. A crime had been committed by the Firemen, and there was nothing to ~~undo~~ the crime. If the boys were willing to return the cooler and asking for leniency, it might be a different story, he said. This was a simple controversy between the Internal Security and the Fire Station. H should report what he had investigated and should leave the rest to the Internal Security officers, he said. H, however, said that this might become a big trouble and wanted to avoid it if possible. He wanted to find out the opinions of the Police Commission and of the Council. Nishimoto advised H to see Suzuki, the acting Chairman of the Council, and Sumida, the Executive Secretary of the Police Commission.

When Sumida and Suzuki were appealed to by H, they agreed to come to H's home in the evening to meet representatives from the Fire Department. They wanted to talk to the Firemen once more before the case was turned over to the Internal Security. H during the afternoon contacted the leaders of the Fire Department and received their consent that they would send representatives of the Fire Department in the evening.

At the scheduled time of 8 P.M. Kawasaki appeared at H's apartment. Then Sumida came over. H asked Kawasaki what business he had. <sup>a</sup>Kawasaki said he was asked by the Fire Chief and Fire

JUNE 30 -- (4)

Captains to represent them, because they could not get away from the Station, for they must be prepared for emergency all the time. H said that there was no reason that the Fire Chief and at least two Captains could not get away from the Station. As H understood, the Station was run with three squads and two of the squads were not on duty. If the Chief and the Captains had any intention of talking this thing over, they would be willing to come over. This was a clear indication, H said, that the Fire Department was not interested whether they be prosecuted under law. H told Kawasaki he had no interest to talk the thing with him. He reminded Kawasaki that his investigation revealed that he was the one who had instigated the theft. He boasted to the boys that he with the Community Council could fix the thing up, H reminded him. "Because I have known you from the Los Angeles days, I am going to warn you as a friend. You have a very bad reputation with the Internal Security office. They know that you were behind the various past cases. They know you are pulling the wire behind the scene. I am not going to tolerate the Fire Station boys any more. I have been doing this, because I did not want to see them prosecuted. I thought I could settle this matter amicably. It's a shame for the Japanese. Now that they are not interested is quite apparent. I will report to the office tomorrow morning. One thing I will tell you now. It is certain that you will be called into the office to account for what you had told to the boys." The meeting ended up abruptly, as H stood up and bid him good-bye by saying, "There is nothing more to discuss with you."

This morning H still had some hope of settling the matter without prosecuting the boys. He knew that this would become a

JUNE 30 -- (5)

camp-wide issue if the boys resigned. He saw the squad of Firemen practicing this morning near Block 36. He sought out the Fire Captain there and again told him that it would be wiser to return the cooler to the original place. The Captain said, "If we are forced to return the cooler, we are going to quit the Station altogether. Don't you think it would be a grave problem for the camp if we quit?"

"That is the reason that I have tried so hard since yesterday to reason you out. I am afraid you people would be arrested if I reported my investigation to the Internal Security."

"What is the Council doing anyway in this whole thing? Isn't it the job for the Council to mediate a thing of this sort?" the Captain said.

H believed it was useless to argue with him further, and went over to the Internal Security office to report his findings.

Nishimoto was called in to interpret the verbal report of H to Harper and his subordinates.

The findings by H was in turn reported by Harper to Mills and Burge. Mills and Burge immediately called Fire Chief Fien and Popkin, the chief of Operations. Between them the following alternatives were agreed:

1. Fien and his Caucasian assistant should try to induce the boys in the Fire Station to return the cooler.
2. Popkin to ask the evacuees in his division to take off the cooler from the Fire Station.
3. Failing with the first two methods, Popkin should send Caucasian workers to the Station to take off the cooler.

Burge called me in his office in the afternoon. He told me about the three alternatives. As I was telling ~~the~~ him that

JUNE 30 -- (6)

the first two of the three would not work, the telephone on Burge's desk rang. After the conversation ~~with~~ over the telephone concluded, Burge said, "That was Mr. Mills. He said Fien called up and said, 'The Boys in the Station say that they will quit.' So Mr. Mills told Fien, 'That's fine. Let them quit.' That's where we stand now"

I continued to comment on the proposals of the Administration. "If you take the third plan and send out appointed personnel to dismantle the cooler, it would be regarded by the evacuees as a victory for the Fire Station. Don't ~~believe~~ me if they started to laugh at the appointed personnel."

At the time Harper came into the office. He reported that "Billy Goat" (Kawasaki) was the instigator. He said that he would call the Fire Chief (evacuee) and Kawsaki into his office and would begin his investigation immediately. Burge warned Harper then, "Don't call James Yahiro. Be sure to use some other interpreter."

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