

SEPTEMBER 1 -- (1)

JG.15 B7

Noodle Factory Controversy

Another attempt is made to shut down the Poston Noodle Factory. Charges and counter charges fly thick and fast, and it has been difficult to determine how the various individuals are aligned on the issue, for people that have been identified with one side are found in the opposing camp the next day and others are concealing their sympathies with either side in the open.

The spark for the new controversy was touched off by the resolution passed in the Chefs' meeting on July 19. The Chefs of the messhalls in Unit I resolved that night that the Poston Noodle Factory be closed in order to "alleviate the acute manpower shortage" in camp. The noodle workers were advised in the resolution to seek employment in the various messhalls.

To alleviate the manpower shortage, it stated. It was true that Poston was confronted with a problem of manpower shortage in the various departments. In fact, no department was free from the effects from relocation and army induction, which drained out the young and the able bodied. To study the labor situation and to recommend necessary adjustments the Manpower Commission had been created. The dictum to discontinue the manufacture of noodles here, however, did not come from the Manpower Commission, but from the Chefs. Indeed, the Chefs acted without authority in recommending the shut-down of the noodle factory to Clifton Snelson, the Project Steward. Snelson is the chief of the Mess Operation division, ~~while~~ where the Chefs belonged, while the factory is in the Department of Agriculture and Industries. Furthermore, the Chefs were ~~not~~ interested in closing only the noodle factory to relieve the labor shortage, although there were other divisions where the axe could fall legitimately and approximately. Speaking

SEPTEMBER 1 -- (2)

from impartial reasoning from the existing conditions, one would say that the axe should fall on the personnel of the Subsistence Division, if any division were to be curtailed. The Block 12 Mess-hall, for instance, employed 24 persons⁵ to feed the block population of 115 persons. If one wished to circumvent the adjustment of the personnel in the messhalls for political reasons, he still had other divisions from which manpower could be diverted. The Fish Culture Section, for one, has been under fire for a long time for not contributing to the welfare of the community. The Chefs, therefore, had other reasons than "to alleviate the shortage of manpower" in resolving to close the factory. Then, what were their motives?

Over a year ago, Project Steward Snelson made the first attempt to close the Poston Noodle Factory. Snelson, at the time, gave the following reasons to account for his move: (See The Report on the Poston Noodle Factory Controversy --- July, 1943.)

1. The noodles produced here were of an inferior quality; they could not be compared favorably with those purchased from the outside.
2. The cost of production was too high. In fact, the Poston noodles cost more than the commercially manufactured noodles.
3. The noodle workers failed to abide by the WRA work regulations. They worked only two or three hours in the morning and called it a day.
4. The factory employed fifty-seven persons, which was out of proportion to the amount of noodles they produced.
5. The factory was in an unsanitary condition.

With Snelson, his intimate subordinates danced to the tune. These included Sano, the Chef of Block 46 and now the chairman of the Poston Mess Workers Association, Saruwatari, the Chef of Block 27,

SEPTEMBER 1 -- (3)

and Kamimura, the Chef of Block 43.

The noodle workers, on the other hand, refused to abide by the dictum from Snelson. Because of the aggressive and militant personalities of their leaders, the matter became a great political issue as soon ^{as} they had appealed to the Food Committee of the Local Council, which was composed of Okamoto of Block 46, Tsuneyoshi of Block 37, and one other. The leaders, Nakase, Abe, and Iketani, visited the various messhalls and appealed to the Chefs for their cause. They were elated over the success of their campaign, as the Chefs praised the Poston made noodles and pledged an unqualified support. Actually the workers were naive enough to think that the battle had been won against Snelson; they erred in thinking that other Japanese were naive as they were. A Japanese pattern of telling one thing face-to-face ^{contrary to} ~~against~~ one's true conviction so that his listener's feeling might not be hurt was not considered by them. That is to say, some of the Chefs were not willing to use the Poston made noodles in their messhalls inspite of their expressed statements. This the noodle factory leaders failed to foresee.

It was a great surprise to them when the Food Committee members personally canvassed the various messhalls to determine their wishes as to whether the manufacture of noodles be continued and more than a few blocks were in favor of discontinuance. They took the opposition by these blocks as personal affronts and reacted belligerently. They threw insinuations and accusations against the Chefs of ^e ~~these~~ blocks; in some cases, they threatened bodily harm to the Chefs. This unorthodox countermeasure, in a sense, served its purpose, for the Chefs for discontinuance were silenced, although they were resentful and antagonistic.

SEPTEMBER 1 -- (4)

The state of confusion was further aggravated when a new fuel was added to the fire. Those that were in sympathy with the noodle workers or that were unfriendly with Snelson began to circulate many accusations such as:

1. Snelson was receiving "rake off" from the purchase of noodles from the outside. If noodles were produced in Poston, his profit would be affected.

2. James Yahiro, who had started the Poston factory, was one of those who had attempted to oust Snelson from Poston. The Steward was "taking it out on the noodle factory" as a retaliation.

Poston, then, was confronted with ^{the} grave situation. No one could foresee where the noodle factory controversy would lead to; it was feared by many that peace and harmony might be disrupted. The Local Council took cognizance of the serious condition and went on record to keep the factory open, although some of the Councilmen voted negatively. And its chairman, Seichi Nomura, prevailed on the Project Director to carry out the mandate of the Council. In this manner, the noodle workers won a costly victory, because they were compelled to agree to several conditions such as:

1. Its personnel should be reduced to a minimum.
2. All the workers should work eight hours a day.
3. The factory should be kept clean.
4. The quality should be improved.

(This brief account of the first controversy has been treated from a slightly different perspective than the previous report. The points pertinent to the present controversy have been emphasized.)

The first noodle controversy was settled to the satisfaction of the noodle workers, but it left deep wounds on many persons in the Subsistence Division. Resentment and hostility of the mess

SEPTEMBER 1 -- (5)

workers kept a smoldering fire alive. Those begrudged had different personal reasons from one another. It is necessary, therefore, to ^{at this point,} account ^{for} the resentment against the noodle factory of some of the Chefs, who were soon to take the leading roles in the later controversies. Sano, for instance, resented the fact that Okamoto, then the Councilman from Block 46 and his perenial enemy in the block quarrels (especially the famous Block 46 trouble), was a member of the Food Committee and supported the factory. He was, in addition, ambitious to gain a political prestige through the consolidation of mess workers, and for this he saw fit to ^{gain} favors from Snelson by siding with him. Saruwatari was aggrieved, because he was intimidated and threatened by the leaders of the factory. He was sharply criticized and defamed by Nakase and Abe, because he was suspected of instigating young Joe Nakai, the Councilman from Block 27, to undertake an aggressive opposition. Kamimura, on the other hand, was ~~attached~~ sentimentally attached to the Project Steward through their mutual friend, Charlie Kiuchi, Snelson's favorite assistant, and was indignant of the treatment both Snelson and Kiuchi had received from the noodle workers.

A first attempt ^{for} to revenge was made in the early part of this year when Kiuchi, Kamimura, and Sano ~~seemed~~ to shut down the factory. It, however, ended unsuccessfully when the news leaked to the noodle workers prematurely. The factory leaders, in their usual style, threatened to "bash" them. They might have been more perniciously in their move and might defied the threats had they succeeded ⁱⁿ corraling support behind them. But for a lack of support, they retreated ungracefully.

After the unsuccessful move, they added Saruwatari to their side, and initiated word-of-mouth campaign surreptitiously to organize

SEPTEMBER 1 -- (6)

with mess workers an anti-noodle-factory faction. Stories were spread that the Poston-made noodles were inferior in quality and not tasty. It was further alleged that the noodles were difficult to cook, because they were so floury that they either melted or ~~were~~ broken into small pieces while cooking.

Hearing these complaints, the noodle workers did not remain idle; they made counter charges promptly, and unwisely in retrospect. In retaliation, the factory workers complained instead that the Chefs did not know how to cook noodles.

"There is no use if the Chefs did not know how to cook noodles," Abe and others retorted to the rumors. "However well noodles are made they will break into small pieces, if they did not know how to boil them."

Abe challenged the mess workers that he could boil the noodles without breaking into pieces and expressed his willingness to demonstrate in the various messhalls. He emphasized that the noodles must be treated in a certain way, and that he did not have any trouble with them. He offered his service to the various Chefs to teach how the noodles be cooked. In so arguing, Abe antagonized many, because his over zealousness made him to say that the Chefs were ignorant of the art of cooking.

The cooks were told that they were incapable and ignorant of their trade. Although Abe might have been diplomatic enough to avoid direct insinuation, the veil was too thin to cover up the charge of incompetency. This charge was certainly enough to anger many of the Chefs, who now had enough grievances to pass on unfavorable comments against the noodle factory. The rumor campaign ~~was~~ was further accelerated surreptitiously by Sano, Kamimura, and others. As the anti-noodle talks were intensified, the noodle

SEPTEMBER 1 -- (7)

workers, too, became more vigorous in defending their product. Sometimes they selected ^{specifically} some of the Chefs ^{as} the objects of their accusations. Thus, Sano, Kamimura, and Saruwatari were criticized by them at various times that they were incompetent cooks or that they were "traitors of the Japanese race" in condemning the noodles manufactured by their fellow country men. Accusations and personal name-calling continued for several months in a vicious cycle. The schism between the messhalls and the noodle factory increased, and it was only ^a the question of time that the impasse would lead to a climax.

Out of this confusion, the resolution of July 19th was born. On July 21st, Sano brought the resolution before the meeting of the Manpower Commission. Sano, however, met an unexpected resistance from its chairman, City Manager Okamoto, who pointed out that the Chefs had no authority to legislate the closing of the noodle factory. Between the two, heated arguments followed. The chairman contended that the Manpower Commission alone had the authority to do so, while Sano insisted that the Chefs had a right to express their opinion on the food which they prepared for the residents. The Commission, however, overruled Sano and declared the resolution of the Chefs null and void. As the result of his stand during the meeting, Okamoto was considered as an ally of the factory. There is some evidence that the anti-Okamoto faction later instigated the Chefs to maintain their stand against the factory undaunted and push the matter further.

The Manper Commission's decision in overriding the resolution had little effect with Proejct Steward Snelson. He capitalized on the reolustion, which had been transmitted to him by the Chefs, and refused to supply to the factory the necessary materials. The

SEPTEMBER 1 -- (8)

factory workers were told that the operation had to be suspended temporarily until the issue was settled by the Food Committee (a committee ^{is a} subsidiary ^{of} ~~to~~ the Community Council and ^{is} made up of members from the three camps). They were ordered to see the Food Committee. Abe and Nakase, representing the workers, maintained that the issue had been decided in favor of the factory by the Manpower Commission, but Snelson ~~insisted~~ insisted that the matter had been referred to the Food Committee. Snelson contended that the matter involved ^a food product, over which the Manpower Commission did not have a jurisdiction. It is a matter to be decided by the Chefs and the Food Committee, The Steward stated.

Sano and other anti-noodle leaders realized that they could not afford to miss this opportunity in making a long awaited revenge ^{good}, although they had been rebuffed by the Manpower Commission. It is also suspected that Snelson was somewhere in the scheming, as his stand in not honoring the decision of the Commission would indicate. Another meeting of the Chefs ~~were~~ ^{was} ~~called~~ hurriedly ^{called} on July 31. The meeting adopted a new resolution by which the Chefs went on record to refuse to use the Poston-made noodles and demanded Snelson to supply the messhalls in Unit I with ~~the~~ noodles purchased from the outside. They charged that they were dissatisfied with the quality of the Poston-made noodles. Arguments were put forward that the noodles made in Poston were so inferior that much of them were usually thrown into ~~the~~ garbage cans. This practice, they argued, was in jeopardy with the interest of the community, since the money allocated for food was being wasted. Now, the mess workers came out in the open with the charge of inferior quality, instead of discussing "the manpower shortage".

It was hardly expected that the noodle workers would re-

SEPTEMBER 1 -- (9)

treat gracefully abiding by the dictum of the Chefs. Their lobbying became intense and tenacious. They visited the Food Committee every day thereafter to argue their cause, and at the same time they appealed to the evacuee political leaders. The old story of "graft" by Snelson and Kiuchi was revived. Ignorance and incompetency of the Chefs were viciously told. They presented a picture in which Chefs were led unwillingly by Sano and a few others to boycott "the product manufactured by ^{the} hard working, fellow countrymen". They pointed out that some of the messhalls were clamoring ^{for} to using their noodles, but these demands were silenced by ^{the} pressure from Sano and others. Every day they went over the grounds over and over in the office of the Community Council; if ^{there} they were more persistent lobbyists, the Food Committee members had not seen any before then.

In order to escape from the daily reception, and not from any desire to intercede in favor ^{of} the factory, the Committee held its meeting on August 10. Abe, Nakase, Iketani, and Mukai appeared before the committee and presented oft-repeated arguments. The representatives were as ^l usually ^o impassioned in defending their ^{workers} and product; by degrading the ability of the Chefs they attempted to ^{elevate} establish the quality of the product. Nevertheless, one thing must be said ~~that~~ their persistence won the public commitments from the committee members from Units II and III that the messhalls in the camps were satisfied with the Poston-made noodles and desired to continue to use them. The committee members admitted to the writer afterwards, ^{however,} that they had been intimidated by the pugnacious, militant attitude of the noodle representatives and had expressed the sentiment in contravention with the true wish of their residents. Fallaciously or not, the members ^{had} nevertheless

SEPTEMBER 1 -- (10)

expressed that Units II and III were in support of the Poston Noodle Factory.

The meeting of August 10 ended indecisively ; they agreed to hear an opinion from Sano. The Food Committee, then, met on August 14, when Sano was ^{called} ~~present~~ to explain the stand of the Chefs. The Committee begged Sano to withdraw the resolution, because the members wanted to work out some plan which would be satisfactory to the both sides. Chairman Yoshimine of the Food Committee stressed the fact that one group of evacuees was to boycott the product of another group of evacuees was a serious matter. He explained that the factory employed only fifteen men and women of the advanced age and could not supply noodles to all the messhalls. He believed, therefore, that the factory could ~~be~~ continued to supply those messhalls which would be willing to use the product. To these arguments, Sano replied that he could not accept the terms of the committee. The messhalls in Unit I had already expressed their intention of not using the Poston-made noodles, and the resolution had embodied the feeling. Sano doubted the information furnished by the factory leaders that some of the messhalls had expressed their willingness to continue to use the noodles; he could not see how these messhalls could say ^{any} other sentiment than that had been voted on.

Realizing that there was little hope for Unit I, Abe and others suggested ~~to continue~~ ^{of the} the noodle production for Units II and III, which had expressed through their representatives that they would ~~continue to~~ use them. The noodle workers were correct in diagnosing the situation for Unit I ^{as} hopeless, since the Chefs were ~~unified~~ ^{unified} solidly behind Sano and other leaders on this issue. Abe and Nakase had intimidated Sano and Saruwatari

SEPTEMBER 1 --- (11)

several days previously that they would bash them if they kept ~~the~~ belligerent and provocative attitude inimical to the factory. The pugnacious, irrational reaction of Abe and Nakase to the whole situation boomeranged rather than benefitted them, for other Chefs rallied behind Sano and Saruwatari, having heard the threats. The Chefs were more indignant than before, and aggressively cried that they would retaliate for Sano and Saruwatari if they were hurt. The mess workers were all the more determined to close the factory once for all.

Knowing the determined stand of the Chefs, Sano shrewdly took a conciliatory attitude toward the Committee in the meeting. He suggested that a meeting of Chefs ^{should} ~~would~~ be called so that the Committee could appeal to them for mediation. The Food Committee agreed to attend the meeting and selected Chairman Yoshimine and three others ~~with~~ as ~~their~~ its representatives.

By this time, the leaders of the factory changed its stand, and decided to fight for its existence relying on the support from Unit II and III. They continued their daily visit to spur the members of the Food Committee. They now emphasized that the temporary suspension of ~~the~~ factory operation be lifted immediately in order to supply those two Units. The committee, however, evaded them by replying that it could not grant the operation when the boycott resolution still existed.

As agreed, the meeting of the Chefs was called on the night of August 18 in the Block 46 messhall. Sano made a preliminary report in explaining the purpose of the meeting. Yoshimine, then, gained the floor and appealed to the Chefs to retract the resolution. In his speech, Yoshimine attacked ^{the Chefs for} the lack of tact and diplomacy. ~~on the part of the Chefs.~~ The Food Committee chairman

SEPTEMBER 1 -- (12)

was, however, tactless and undiplomatic himself, as he accused the Chefs of causing an unnecessary trouble and of not knowing the real wish of people. Some of the Chefs spoke impassionedly that Yoshimine had insulted them. Others cried out that they also represented the people and knew what the people wanted to eat. Further appeals by Yoshimine was useless in this atmosphere, as he was drowned by catcalls, hand-claps, and foot-stampings. Order was restored in the room only when the Food Committee members had left indignantly. "For the sake of peace and harmony of the community", as Sano put it, the Chefs voted to recommend that the factory be ^{re}maintained to supply ^{its} the product to Units II and III. This was a partial reversal in Chefs' stand, for they had been working to unite Units II and III with them against the factory.

Ordinarily a controversy would end at this point. But not so with this controversy. The Food Committee met ^{on August 22,} ~~the next day~~ and resolved to close the factory for three months. The Committee, not knowing the resolution of ^{August 19} ~~the night before~~ by the Chefs, reversed its stand. Now the situation was changed completely: the Chefs were in favor of keeping the factory open, while the Food Committee was for ~~the~~ shut-down. It is very difficult to ascertain what happened in the committee meeting to change its policy, but there is no question that the discussion was politically minded. The meeting was called secretly, as the noodle workers charged later, and ^{Onishi} ~~Okamoto~~ and T. Matsumoto were called in as consultants. They realized hopeless to influence the Chefs and ^v ~~a~~voided to collide directly with the powerful mess workers group. The Food Committee members, as many charged ~~them~~ later, were afraid to defy the Chefs, and believed they could get a full support of the Chefs' group behind them had they agreed to close the factory, which lacked

SEPTEMBER 1 -- (13)

a political strength. They thought they could gain the favor of the mess group, which they needed more than anything else. There are some who propose ~~a~~ hypothesis that the committee members received threats from some of the Chefs, but the writer disbelieves it. It is, however, true that the Chefs intimated ^{during the heated session} that they would resign en masse if the Committee opened the factory in defiance of the resolution.

Whatever might be said to account for the complete reversal, the Food Committee prepared the following memorandum and transmitted to the various offices as noted in it:

August 28, 1944

Memo To: Mr. C. E. Snelson
Chief Project Steward

From : H. K. Yoshimine, Chairman
Food Committee

For the past several weeks, the Food Committee has carefully and thoroughly investigated the noodle controversy from all angles to arrive at some conclusion for the benefit of all concerned. The committee and several members of the City Council met on August 22nd, and after serious deliberation, we have reached the following decision and are submitting it to you for your approval.

It is advised that the manufacture of noodles be temporarily suspended for a period of three months, beginning September and resume this activity from December 1, 1944. During this interval, the services of these workers may be utilized in those essential departments where a critical shortage of helpers is currently in existence. In accordance with our conversation held with you, the workers are assured of their full quota from December, at which time the noodle plant will again be in operation for the benefit of Poston residents.

The noodle problem has been a very delicate matter and many difficulties have been encountered before a satisfactory settlement could be made, but it is our opinion that the above recommendation is the best solution to this issue.

/s/ H. K. Yoshimine
H. K. Yoshimine, Chairman
Food Committee

CC: Community Council
Local Councils, Units 1, 2, & 3
Central Block Managers, Units 1, 2, & 3
Department of Industry, Noodle Works, Unit 1
Duncan Mills
F. M. Haverland

SEPTEMBER 1 -- (14)

By the sudden, unexpected action of the Food Committee, the noodle workers were taken by a surprise. The matter was further complicated by Sano's disclosure ^{to Abe and Nakase} that Yoshimine had restrained ^{from} ^{ing to Snelson} ^{on August 23} the Chef ~~to~~ transmit the resolution of Chefs of August 19 for ~~the~~ continuance of the factory ~~on August 23~~ when the Chariman found out for the first time the existence of such a resolution, which was in direct variance with the Committee's resolution of August 22. Abe and other noodle workers now charged the Committee members as "traitors", "Inu" and ^{with} other epithets. They stormed into the Council office and accused Yoshimine and others of double-crossing. They threw insults at them. They demanded an immediate reconsideration of the matter. Quarrels continued between the factory workers and the Committee members daily. If some of the members were not present in the office, calls were made to them so that they could not avoid the onslaught of the angry evacuees. The objectionable point ^{to} ^{Committee} in the memorandum was that the promise of Snelson or of other project officials for reopening could not be trusted. They believed that the factory would ^{be} closed permanently if it was closed even for a short while. They further argued that they had not asked the Committee for mediation ~~had~~ they known that ~~the~~ it intended to regard the temporary closing as a means of mediation. They specifically charged Yoshimine with trickery for destroying the Chefs' memorandum containing the official notification of the resolution for continuance of the plant. Some of the accusing words were beyond moderation and unpleasant to the ears of the rational; unpleasant were such words as "double-crossers", "traitors", "Inu", "persons with Japanese faces but not with the Japanese spirits", "deceitful ruffians", etc.

On August 29, the Food Committee met again to hear the final

SEPTEMBER 1 -- (15)

appeals of the representatives from the noodle plant. In this meeting, the Committee members gathered enough courage and became as vociferous and belligerent as their opponents. Those from Units II and III became outspoken for the first time and informed the appellants that their camps were ^{too} dissatisfied with their Poston-produced noodles. They demanded Abe and others to leave the conference room and reaffirmed ^{their} the recommendation of August 22.

The Food Committee, then, ^{received} an official confirmation when it had its recommendation endorsed by the Community Council ~~on~~ the next day. The noodle factory, however, succeeded in having their request for a review by the Local Council accepted in spite of the opposition by Minoru Okamoto, its chairman. The case will be heard on September 6.

As the matter stands now, the noodle men are visiting every member of the Local Council to "feel" him out on the issue before their appearance on the Council floor. The Chefs, on the other hand, are ^{slyly} slyly sneering, while the Food Committee feels relieved, as the storm moved over to the Local Council.

(I had more trouble in writing this account than any other paper. It is such a muddled, confused affair.)

SEPTEMBER 2 -- (1)

The four boys, who were involved in the first fight with Albert Kaniye, were charged with battery and assault as one count and with vagrancy as another count. They were arraigned before the Project Director this morning. All of them ^lpleaded not guilty to the charges and their trial was set for September 5.

#####3

The following articles should be noted in the Poston Chronicle of September 2:

Mad Dog Found in Unit I, Strays Will Be Destroyed (page 1)

Carter Handle Draft Problems (page 1)

Armstrong of Missouri Writes (page 1)

John Dillinger Rides Again? (page 1)

#

The long expected move to consolidate some of the messhalls due to the reduced populations in the blocks was initiated by Duncan Mills in his memorandum of August 31, 1944 to the Manpower Commission. It reads as follows:

Memo To: Manpower Commission

Subject: Recommendations

Some time ago the Manpower Commission recommended the establishment of priorities for certain activities on the Center which I approved. We now find that the increasing scarcity of manpower is placing in jeopardy the operation of certain of these vital activities including Health, Fire Protection, Motor Transport and possibly others. The Manpower Commission has done some valuable work in pointing out maladjustments in the distribution of manpower on the Center which require correction but as I see it, no intensive study has yet been made which might discover some sizable sources from which workers might be released to assure the continuance of vital operations.

Several times in recent months I have mentioned the possibility that some adjustment might have to be made in Mess Management quotas since this activity now engages the labor of approximately 40 % of our entire evacuee payroll. I recognize the essential nature of this employment but feel that we have not yet explored ways and means of reducing the number of employed in this operation

SEPTEMBER 1 -- (2)

without impairing its efficiency and without inconveniencing those who eat in the mess halls. Some time ago the suggestion was made that dining halls be closed and that residents take their meals to their apartments. This plan was discussed with Mr. Frank W. Harding on his recent visit to Poston and was disapproved by him because it is a basic policy of WRA that all food be eaten in mess halls; because of the menace to health which might be created by improper disposal of garbage, etc.

In the belief that some early action must be taken to avert the breakdown of essential project activities, I have again studied the question of combining mess halls in areas where block populations have fallen to such a point that the residents of two blocks could eat in a common mess hall without inconvenience. As an example, I have taken Blocks 5 and 12 and Block 6 and 11. The combined population of Blocks 5 and 12, according to the Unit I Housing Census of August 26, was 233. According to the latest available figures 48 persons are now employed in the two mess halls. By combining the mess halls the labor quota, according to present standards, would be 28 persons and the resulting saving in manpower would be 20 persons. Similarly, the combined population of Blocks 6 and 11 on August 26 was 251. There are, according to the latest figures, 26 persons employed in the two mess halls. For the combined population a quota of 29 should be sufficient according to present standards. This results in a saving of 17 persons. Additional savings will be possible through the simplification of deliveries and elimination of menu breakdown work as small kitchens require special delivery schedules and repacking of cased and boxed goods.

It is my contention that we must take advantage of such savings as these to avoid the disruption of vital services. I see no alternative except the drastic step of vacating completely certain blocks and distributing their residents among other blocks. This latter step I should be most reluctant to take since it will unquestionably impose a hardship upon many. I do not feel, however, that combined mess halls need impose a hardship on anyone.

I urge that the Manpower Commission give this problem its immediate and careful attention since some constructive action must be taken very soon if serious breakdowns in vital activities are to be avoided.

I shall await with much interest your recommendations in the matter.

/s/ Duncan Mills
Project Director

cc: H. K. Yoshimine, Chairman, Food Committee
Snelson
Cassilly
Haverland

September 5-

Blk Mgr
System
Employ

Okabe reported that the manpower shortage forced the department to decrease the acreage for the next year. This was a third retrenchment, he stated, and more reduction in acreage was expected.

September 5-

#####

Employment

It was reported to me that the various sections under the Department of Industry (the Tofu plant, the Bean Sprouts Section) held a joint meeting with the Noodle plant workers this afternoon. The noodle workers presented to their fellow workers in the same department the account of the noodle controversy. (Cf: September 1, page 1) As a result, a petition to the Local Council was prepared to protest over the matter.

Local Council
Meeting

September 6

City Manager Okamoto explained the Director's memorandum on messhalls. (Cf: September 5, page 5) His proposal to call for a meeting of ~~several~~ ^{NAV} block representatives, two from each block, was approved by the body. There were not so much arguments on the matter as anticipated, except skepticism expressed by a few Councilmen whether the plan would actually save manpower to relieve the shortage in other divisions. The date of the meeting was set for Saturday morning, September 9, at the Block 32 Mess-hall.

Employment

See also Relocation, September 6

Employment

SEPTEMBER 6 *- (7)

Employment
(continued)
Next, Okamoto introduced the representatives of the Department of Industry and of the Noodle Factory. (Cf: September 1, page 1) Okamoto gave a brief summary of the controversy. Then, Nagase, the Superintendent of the Department of Industry, and Miwa, his assistant, presented the petition of the workers in the Department protesting the action by the Food Committee in closing the Noodle factory. The petition had been signed by every worker in the Department. Nagase gave a verbal explanation to the petition that it had been motivated because the workers' status ^{was} ~~had been~~ jeopardized by the action of the Food Committee. To them it meant that they could be terminated at any time by an action of the Chefs or the Food Committee, for a precedent had been set with the Noodle Factory closing. They could not work in the present positions being subordinated to the whims of either the Chefs or the Food Committee, so to speak. The petition requested a review of the action taken by the Food Committee by the Local Council.

Abe of the Noodle Factory, then, gave ^a ~~the~~ detailed account of the controversy, emphasizing specially the negotiation with the Food Committee. During the discourse, Okamoto objected to some terms used by Abe, who was impassioned in delivering his speech. Okamoto's objections, however, met counter objections from the Noodle plant representatives. Heated arguments were exchanged between them.

When Abe finished his speech, Yamada of Block 2 questioned the propriety of the workers contesting the decision of the Committee. He raised a question why the Noodle workers could not have accepted the decision of not only the Committee but of the Chefs. He explained the labor shortage existing here and believed that it would be beneficial all way around if the noodle workers

SEPTEMBER 6 -- (8)

accepted jobs elsewhere. The contention by Yamada immediately drew ires of the workers. Abe and Nakase countered Yamada with angered speeches. They accused Yamada of not appreciating the detail of the controversy; they condemned Yamada of ^{not} recognizing the fact that Snelson had been the instigator of the whole trouble for his personal gains and some evacuees had been dancing to his tune and that the noodle workers had been insulted ~~by them~~ because of improper treatments by the Food Committee and the Chefs.

T. Matsumoto, the Councilman from Block 36, then, attacked the Food Committee and the members of the Community Council for withholding the information regarding the controversy from the Local Council until this time. He charged dereliction of duty.

Nishimoto also argued that the Community Council members had erred for not consulting the Local Council before the controversy reached this dilemma. The members of the Food Committee of the Unit I Local Council, especially Frank Okamoto of Block 53 and Tsuneyoshi of Block 37, protested that they had not been consulted on the matter. Frank Okamoto accused pointedly Sano of acting alone in matters involving the ^{Unit I} Food Committee and for not consulting the other members on the Committee.

The meeting was carried in confusion and disorder, and the Chariman had to tap the table repeatedly in order to regain order. Finally, a committee composed of Nagai, Suzuki, Shigemura, Okawa, Tanaka, and Tsuneyoshi were instructed to investigate the matter. The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 P.M.

#####

Major Davis, a staff member of the Chief of the Ordnance Division, and Col. Meek, representing the Commanding Officer of the Tooele Ordnance Depot, met with the community leaders and presented the following recruiting plan for workers. The news release was prepared by C. Carter of the Leave Office.

SEPTEMBER 6 -- (10)

basic furnitures. Schools are available on the project for grade school students, depending upon the number of students for the existing facilities. If there are too many students for existing facilities, school bus service will be furnished to the nearby town of Tooele, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles away. An excellent high school is located in Tooele for children of that age, and school bus service will be furnished. The housing project has individualized apartment housing, a supermarket, a large community hall, nursery schools, and all other facilities necessary in a community of that size.

The basic work hours are 40 hours per week, with the actual time worked being 48 hours. There is a possibility that in the near future this will be increased to 54. All work over 40 hours is subject to time-and-a-half pay. Workers are eligible for all Civil Service rights, including 26 days per year of vacation with pay, plus 15 days of sick leave per year when necessary. The appointments are for the duration and six months thereafter.

The possibility of Issei members obtaining work at the Depot will depend largely on the way in which they are assimilated into the community after their arrival. Provost Marshal General clearance is required, but a streamlined arrangement has been made with that office by the WRA and the Army through which clearance is expected within 20 days after application. Such clearance will be obtained by teletype.

All interested people should make application at their Unit Relocation Office.

SEPTEMBER 9 -- (1)

The meeting of the block representatives for the problem of combining messhalls was held in the Block 32 Messhall from 9 o'clock this morning. Including observers there were about one hundred men ~~were~~ present. M. Okamoto, the City Manager, presided *over* the meeting.

At the beginning, Okamoto explained the memorandum from Director Mills. (Cf: August 29, page 5)

Employment
Then, he stated that the problem was twofold: first, the Poston residents could await directives from the WRA at Washington by ignoring the suggestion from Mills; and second, they could work out some plan to divert manpower from messhalls to relieve the shortage. He wanted the body to select one of the two alternatives.

Objection was raised by Yukawa of Block 5 that the meeting was held for the purpose of discussing messhall combination. There was nothing indicated previously that the problem of manpower shortage in general would be discussed. Okamoto overruled the objection on the ground that the suggestion had been made in order to alleviate the manpower shortage; if there were no shortage, it was not necessary to combine messhalls.

Another objection was raised by Yamaguchi of Block 16. He stated that the idea of letting Washington make a plan for Poston should not be voted on, because it was very obvious that the WRA would not plan in such a way where the residents would be benefitted. There was only one way to meet the problem, and that was to work out a solution among themselves. "If we let Washington make a plan to redistribute manpower on this project, it will go to the extreme. It would not consider our welfare; it will only consider what are good to the WRA. I am sure we would not be satisfied with it. Instead, we should work out a plan to solve the situation,

SEPTEMBER 9 -- (2)

It should be solved in such a way that all of us would be satisfied. Of course, our plan might not be acceptable. If so, we should fight to have our plan accepted. It is our duty to fight."

Kato of Block 42 (the former General Manager of the Community Enterprises) requested ^{Okamoto} to explain how the present quota for the messhalls was worked out. In reply, Okamoto narrated the history of negotiations for the quota, which was agreed upon in May-June of 1943. (23 persons for the population ^{of less than} ~~of 140~~ 160, 24 persons for the population of 160-180, ~~etc.~~) The City Manager explained that the quota was set because of abuses existing at that time; for instance, one messhall with a population of 250 employed 48 persons. The WRA was cognizant of the efficient operation of messhalls at Gila, where, for instance, a messhall feeding 300 people employed only 32 persons, and wanted to apply the same system to other centers. In other words, Okamoto stated that the first quota was established because of pressure from Washington, and Poston was forced to accept the Washington request.

One representative asked whether the Manpower Commission had any suggestion to solve the problem. Okamoto replied that the Commission had a "blanche carte" policy, and wanted to formulate its policy according to the wishes of people. The representative accused the Commission that it had failed to perform its duty, because some basis for discussion should have been supplied by it.

A representative from Block 26 moved that the opinion from each block be announced by its block representative in order to canvass a consensus of opinions.

It began with Block 2. Block Manager Sasuga stated that the block residents were in favor of combining messhalls if neces-

SEPTEMBER 9 -- (3)

sary. However, ~~the~~ block requested to pay unemployment compensation to those who would be let out of the messhalls. Later, this ~~turned~~ ^{turned} out to be an ^{minority} opinion of ~~minority~~.

Block 3 was represented by M. Oye, the Placement Officer of the Employment Office. He argued that manpower could not be obtained to other divisions by closing some of the messhalls. He explained that those employed in the messhalls were old men or old women, who could not do other works. The manpower shortage existed in the divisions where hard manual labor was required or where the linguistic ability in English was called for. In other words, the ~~acute~~ shortage was resulting from the paucity of young men and young women on the project. As far as jobs for older men and women were concerned, there were not enough to satisfy the applicants' demand. As long as the WRA encouraged relocation, Oye stressed, the present situation could not improve. On the contrary, the disproportionate distribution of the labor supply and demand would become worse. He concluded, therefore, that the problem could not be solved by closing those messhalls; it would only lessen jobs available for the older people. "We should try to get every cent the WRA would allow us," shouted Oye. He suggested as a solution that the young men and women now employed in the messhalls be released to other divisions and housewives and old men be asked to fill their places.

Block 4 followed Oye and stated that he was in agreement with the opinion expressed by him.

Yukawa represented Block 5 and stated that he also agreed with Oye. He added, however, that he was opposed to any plan to close messhalls under any circumstance. "Even when the block population becomes 50, its messhall should be kept open," said he.

SEPTEMBER 9 -- (4)

The rest of blocks respectively expressed that they were in accord with the opinion presented by Oye, except Block 19, which went little further. Its representative stated that ~~the~~^{his} block suggested to adopt^a new sliding quota, which had been worked out by ~~the~~^{his} Block Council. That is,

Block with	100 - 120	persons	18	workers
"	120 - 140	"	20	persons
"	140 - 160	"	22	persons
"	160 - 180	"	24	persons
"	180 - 200	"	26	persons
"	200 - 220	"	28	persons
"	220 - 240	"	29	persons

As it was approaching noon, Okamoto took up the proposal by Kato that a committee be formed to study the problem further. Each Quad was requested to select its representative to the committee.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Okamoto explained an immediate need of several men every day to work at the Parker railhead warehouse and to transport food stuffs; the work had been suspended because of a lack of workers for the past week. The special~~l~~ block representatives agreed to take turns in sending volunteer workers for the purpose from Monday, September 11.

SEPTEMBER 11 - (1)

employment

The Committee of the Local Council on the noodle factory controversy met this morning. Nagai was unusually vociferous in arguing that the committee could not arbitrate the matter at all unless the Community Council retracted the decision which it had voted. (The Community Council voted ~~to~~ endorsing the actions taken by the Food Committee.) He contended, and others agreed, that he could see only one way for the committee to act; that is, to return the matter back to the ^{Local} ~~Local~~ Council, reporting that the Community Council had acted on it and it was the proper organization to reconsider the petitions by the noodle workers and by the workers of the Industry Department.

In the end, the committee, however, agreed to ascertain from the members of the Food Committee their side of the story. It will meet again tomorrow morning.

SEPTEMBER 10 -- (3)

exemplifies this type. Born in Austria (Bohemia) of an Austrian (German) father and a Czech mother, Hitler grew up in a Czech frontier village where the Germans were in the minority. This meant that he was "teased and bullied by Czech boys and humiliated by Czech teachers. It ate into Hitler's soul; it gave him a fanatical devotion to Germanism and pride in being a German." In his own words he states, "I soon became a fanatical German Nationalist." (Quoted by Stonequist, op. cit., p. 75)

Therefore, as Stonequist correctly observes (Ibid, p. 157), the reconverted Westernized Orientals become the most zealous leaders of nationalistic and anti-foreign movements, just as the denationalized convert is plus royaliste que le roi.

SEPTEMBER 13 -- (1)

56.15 B7

A special meeting of the Local Council was held this morning in the conference room of the Unit Administration Building:

Chairman Okamoto announced that Kazuma Matsumoto of the Executive Board had accepted to become ~~the~~ new Chief of Police. Matsumoto planned to have three right hand men, whom he had already contacted and from whom he had received their consents. Okamoto expected the new Police Commissioners, who would be appointed by the Council soon, to aid recruiting the rest of the police force. It was deemed advisable to restrict the quota of of the Police Department to seventeen members in Unit I, a reduction of ten men. He believed that it was impossible to find any more than seventeen men, including the Chief, who would be willing to work for law enforcement; he doubted ^{if} it might ^{not} be difficult to find even the sixteen, excluding the Chief, because of the disrespectable reputation of the police. The purpose of decreasing the police quota, as explained by Okamoto, was that it was not economical for the Japanese to keep quotas unfilled. The project quota is set by the WRA at Washington, and it is the best policy to create jobs or to increase the quotas in the kinds of jobs most desired by the Japanese so that the evacuees might get ^a benefit of every cent the WRA has allocated, Okamoto reasoned. In other words, by decreasing the police quota by ten men, ten jobs might become available in other divisions where the older people could not have been employed because of lack of sufficient quotas. It is planned to redistribute the jobs to meet the demands of the Japanese here without appealing to the WRA headquarters.

SEPTEMBER 14 -- (1)

*Empx
Mump*
A second mass meeting of the special block representatives on messhall problem was held this morning in the Bock 32 messhall. The delegates received the following recommendation from the committee, which was selected in the meeting of September 9.

1. To adopt a new sliding quota.

For the messhall ~~for the~~ block population of 210 - 190
25 workers

For the messhall for ~~the~~ block population of 190-170
24 workers

For the messhall for ~~the~~ block population of 170-150
23 workers

For the messhall for ~~the~~ block population of 150-130
22 workers

For the messhall for ~~the~~ block population of 130-110
21 workers

For the messhall for ~~the~~ block population less than 110
20 workers

2. To limit the number of male workers younger than 65 to eight persons for each messhall. By this policy, it was expected that about sixty-five able bodied workers could be diverted to other jobs.

3. To discourage people from going out on seasonal labor on the outside.

The recommendation was passed by the meeting amid several loud oppositions. It became a resolution of the special representatives to the Manpower Commission.

There are various criticisms and comments on the method by which the messhall problem is being solved. In general, the "City Hall Gang", especially Okamoto, is taking the brunt of attacks from the residents at large. Some of the more moderated criticisms are as follows:

SEPTEMBER 14 -- (2)

"Okamoto is a coward. He should have made a plan. That's his duty as the Chairman of the Council and as City Manager. He has no business to call such a meeting of block representatives."

"Okamoto is trying to 'ass-kiss' the Administration."

"The whole thing was inspired by the Community Council. Okamoto says that the WRA might close some of the messhalls, but that's groundless."

"Okamoto is a sap. If the WRA is trying to close messhalls, it's our duty to fight against that. He is playing into the hands of the Administration."

Regardless
"Whatever Okamoto decides regarding this messhall problem, we don't have to follow it if we don't like it. If we say 'no', they can't do anything."

"Okamoto is creating an unnecessary trouble. Whatever plan we might make in our meeting could not be final as far as the WRA is concerned. When the WRA feels like, it will close messhalls in spite of all the plans we might work out."

See also Attitudes, September 24

Employment

SEPTEMBER 22 -- (1)

On September 19, M. Oye, the Placement Officer of the Employment Office, came to the Block Managers' meeting and announced that the Fiscal Section was urgently in need of ten workers for accounting works. He stated that the payroll and clothing allowance checks would be indefinitely delayed were the workers not found. Oye asked the Managers to induce prospects to get in touch with the Employment. At that time, I was under the impression that workers in the Fiscal Section had relocated whereby creating labor shortage.

Engel
On the next day, unfavorable reports regarding the Fiscal Section ^{*begin to come in*}. Several Managers reported that young men and women that were suited to the work refused to work for the Fiscal Section. The place was full of anti-Japanese racists, they said, and Jim Crowism was flagrantly exercised there. There were enough jobs around without working in such a place, they complained. A further investigation among evacuee workers in the administration revealed that the trouble in the Fiscal Section started when Charles Taylor, the Disbursement Officer in charge of the Accounting Division, dismissed a young man as a disciplinary measure. This happened about one week ago. On the next day, three of his comrades quit the Section, saying, "You fired him. I suppose you've got too many guys working here. We'll quit, too." My informants told me that there was a question whether the dismissal was justified. The young man was dismissed, according to Taylor's story, because he went out of the office too frequently and he was found loafing in other offices. His co-workers, however, claimed that there was not enough work to do, and he went out of the Fiscal Office just because the place was not pleasant. He was not treated rightly, they complained.

On September 21, a little article came out in the Poston Chronicle. It read as follows:

SEPTEMBER 22 -- (2)

Labor Shortage Will Delay August Payroll

Payroll and clothing allowance vouchers for the month of August will be indefinitely delayed because there are no workers in the Budget and Accounts unit, J. W. Shepard, finance officer, reports.

It will be necessary that workers be found to audit time cards and type payrolls so that the vouchers can be completed, Mr. Shepard said. Interested persons are asked to apply immediately at the fiscal department.

Realizing that such a delay would create unrest among residents, and that some corrective measure be worked out so that people could work in the Fiscal Section willingly, I saw Burge and Mills on the matter this morning. Burge, too, realized the seriousness of situation should such a delay occur. He explained to Mills that the delay in payment of wages and clothing allowance grants was one of the factors causing the November strike. I explained that the Fiscal Section is known in the community as a nest of racists and my recruitment efforts had failed because of the reputation.

Mills called Shepard in the conference. I explained to the fiscal officer the reasons for the difficulty in recruiting workers. The Fiscal Section is carrying the reputation established by Empie, H. W. Smith, Moody Palmer, and others of the Fiscal Section, who were no longer here. (They were the proponents for using M. D.'s during the November strike. They were strongly anti-Japanese.) His office had much to be improved in regard to the Caucasian-Japanese relations, I told Shepard. Then, I brought out the dismissal of the young man. Shepard defended his position ^{by saying} that the young man was at fault. "If we can't fire anyone we don't like, we might as well close up our office," said Shepard. As to the suggestion of improving the relations in the office, he replied, "I can't serve them tea and cakes."

Moris Burge immediately came to my defense, and pointed out

SEPTEMBER 22 -- (3)

that some of the practices in the office could be eliminated. "For instance, I noticed that you have a time checking card for the evacuee workers. They have to sign it when they come in in the morning, and they must check out in the evening. I see that the system does not apply to the appointed staff. It doesn't matter when the appointed personnel come in the office. That kind of thing is likely to create misunderstanding."

Shepard did not like Burge's criticism. He stated that the system was necessary to keep the evacuees come to the office on time. "Unless we have that card, we can't tell when the workers come in," said Shepard.

Burge, in turn, pointed out to Shepard that the article in the Poston Chronicle could be regarded as a "threat". The tone of the article was better ^{have been} to be avoided, Burge believed. Shepard immediately retorted that he was misquoted. I suggested that it could be corrected in the next issue of the Chronicle. Shepard, then, replied that it was not necessary to correct the article, because it was a statement of facts.

Realizing that there was no use ~~in~~ talking with Shepard, I came out of Mills' office indignantly. Meanwhile, I made preparations to investigate the Fiscal Section. I contacted several workers in the administration to send every worker in the Fiscal Section with any kind of grievance to come to my office. Several former workers were also requested to bring their grievances against Shepard, Taylor, and others.

The fight cannot be commenced until the payments are actually delayed. Facts are to be compiled before such time comes.

Sept 26
B. & Mgr
Meeting

City Manager Okamoto explained the recently recommended proposal on the messhall problem thus: The Manpower Commission met to formulate one recommendation out of the three plans submitted by the special representatives from the ^{three} Units. But doing this, the Commission dropped the Unit I idea of setting ~~age limit~~ of 65 years of age as the upper limit of the quota for male workers. As proposed in the final plan, no special dispensation could be given to male workers in messhalls above 65 years of age. However, it was deemed impossible and inadvisable to terminate all male workers above the quota at once and to replace them with female workers. A staggered schedule was provided by which two male workers over the quota must be substituted by female workers

SEPTEMBER 26 -- (4)

during the period beginning on October 1 and ending on October 7, and thereafter one substitution every week until the quota was reached. (See the Boston Chronicle of September 19.) By this process about one hundred men would be released and would be available to other divisions, Okamoto estimated. With these one hundred male workers, ^{released} the Commission expected to fill the following sections. (In order of priority set by the Commission)

Hospital messhall	8 workers
Parker Warehouse	9 workers
Subsistence Warehouse	10 workers
Post Office	2 workers
Hog Ranch	25-30 workers
Slaughter House	7 workers
Chimney Cleaning	2 workers
Police Department	30 workers
Agricultural Department	15 workers

One Manager explained that his block did not have women available for messhall work. Okamoto replied that he should recruit women from other blocks. The Manager ~~replied~~ that women workers could not be gotten so easily as he stated. City Manager replied sarcastically that his block would have to get along without enough workers in the messhall if that was not possible.

Another Manager questioned Okamoto if he thought that the workers released from messhalls would willingly transfer to the sections as given by him. Okamoto replied that no evacuee could be forced to work here, and if he refused to work, there was nothing anyone could do. The Manager reminded City Manager that there were many people who had stated that they would not work when they were let out of the messhalls.

Supervisor Nishimoto concluded the discussion by saying that the plan proposed by the Commission was not so easily put into effect as it seemed. Blocks would face many serious troubles in carrying out this plan.

See also Law and Order, September 27, 1944
(Noodle Factory Controversy)

Employ

SEPTEMBER 26 -- (5)

*Emp
C. D. S. S.*

Ishikawa of Block 21, then, expressed his skepticism from another angle. He doubted whether Japanese people would work in the Hog Ranch and the Slaughter House. "The Japanese hate to work on such jobs because of custom. (He meant that these jobs were done by Eta in old Japan.) Even though there might be some ^{that} might be willing^{to} to learn the trade, many others would frown on the jobs."

Supervisor reported to the body that Supply Supervisor Akutagawa had been hospitalized due to nervous breakdown. He is a very conscientious man, who took his duty seriously. But because of red tapes and "bunglings" in the Administration, he brooded over many difficulties. Nishimoto announced that Unit Administrator Sumida would take his place ^{during Akutagawa's} ~~while his~~ convalescence.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 A. M.

September 29

#####

Employ. Kobayashi (not Kobayashi of the Tsubouchi case), the assistant to Clifton Snelson, the Project Steward, came to see me yesterday and complained that the volunteer system, which had been undertaken by the Community Council, to relieve the crisis in the Subsistence Warehouse (the Camouflage Plant now used as warehouse) was ineffective. He wanted the volunteer system be abandoned and substituted by forming a permanent crew of workers. He cited the following grievances:

1. The volunteers do not know the routines. Every morning

SEPTEMBER 29 -- (3)

they must be told how to do things. They themselves feel awkward for not knowing what to do. One day last week, one of the volunteer crews unloaded sacks of coffee, sacks ^{of} flour, and canned goods together and piled them up in one place all mixed up. These goods had to be rearranged after the volunteers ^{left}.

2. The volunteers do not feel responsibility. They do not closely watch and count those goods loaded on trucks for distribution to the blocks. It is not unusual at all that one or two boxes of canned goods or something else are taken out of the warehouse due to carelessness. On the other hand, the Subsistence Section is required to account for each missing item.

3. The volunteers take food provisions home with them. On one occasion, two hundred pounds of dried shrimp were missing after they went home.

4. They work ^{for} a certain amount ^{of time}, and after that they refuse to work. They do not care whether loaded trucks are waiting to be unloaded. They say that they are donating their services and can not be forced to work any more that they care to work. One of the crews went home around 10 A. M. for the day. They claim that those not unloaded can be unloaded on the next day by an entirely new crew.

5. They do not listen to the foreman's orders. They say that they are not hired in the department, and are not required to take orders. As a result, the skeleton permanent crew of four left their jobs in disgust. These permanent workers stated that they could not work with ~~the~~ volunteers.

6. The volunteers from Camp II and Camp III do not report to work until after 8:30 A. M. The subsistence delivery trucks go out of the warehouse at 7:30 A. M. ^{to} ~~for~~ their routes. The drivers

SEPTEMBER 29 -- (4)

and swampers refuse to wait for the warehouse workers to arrive. They load up goods from any pile and leave the warehoused goods in a disordered condition. They often take more than what they are supposed to take out.

9. Some of the volunteers from Camp III come as far as ^{the} Camp I bus depot, but they disappear after that.

Kobayashi stated that he had appealed to Okamoto and his gang repeatedly to set up a permanent crew, but they replied that he should be satisfied with the volunteer system until the reduction of personnel in messhalls ^{was} ~~is~~ completed and some labor could be diverted. They always say that the matter will be brought up in meetings of the Manpower Commission, but it does not go beyond the stage of discussion, Kobayashi complained. The Manpower Commission has failed to show any result in this matter.

"If I depended on them, it will take another year or two before we have a permanent crew for the warehouse. We cannot wait for that. Food must be supplied to the blocks regularly. We must consider the seriousness of disruption of delivery. Okamoto says that we should not deliver any food to the block which failed to send out a volunteer to the work. But I don't want to do that. Why should we let innocent women and children suffer by stopping food delivery. That's the trouble with them. All they do is to talk and threaten like that." Kobayashi stated that he would rather leave his job before he would resort to such intimidation as stoppage of food delivery.

As a result of this conversation with Kobayashi, I called a meeting of the Executive Committee of ~~the~~ Block Managers ^{this morning}. Kobayashi appeared before them and repeated what he told me yesterday. Many of the Committee members accused Okamoto and his gang of

SEPTEMBER 29 -- (5)

being irresponsible and incompetant. One of them ^{was} ~~sepcially~~ ¹ ~~was~~ of-
fended by the statement credited to Okamoto that he ^{had} ~~was~~ successfully
organiz~~ed~~ the volunteer system. The Manager wanted Kobayashi to
know that the Managers had ^{been} ~~da~~ been working hard to get volunteers
out of their blocks, and City Manager was not doing any actual
work.

After a lengthy discussion in deciding how to get men to form
the crew, the members of the Committee agreed to ^{request} ~~assign~~ the Managers
of each Quad to find one worker. It was, however, realized by all
that getting even one worker out of a Quad was very difficult under
the present circumstance.

October 2

#####

Messhalls are having difficulties in attempting to conform to the new quota regulation. First, they ^{can} ~~could~~ not decide which male workers should be terminated. In some cases, no male worker wish to quit. In some other cases, competent, desired workers expressed their desire to quit, while those that are not wanted are trying to remain in messhalls. Second, after the male workers are terminated, it is not possible to find female workers to replace them. Most of women who are capable of working are already employed somewhere.

Many of the blocks with such difficulties are not taking any action upon the matter at present. They are watchfully waiting further developments before they act in any way. On the other hand, the Manpower Commission has not issued any order to the Subsistence Section to conform to the new quota. The Com-

OCTOBER 2 -- (4)

missioners are reluctant to issue any order to put what they have decided into effect. They, too, are awaiting; they expect the Project Director to order the messhalls to reduce their male workers.

Accusations against the Manpower Commission, mostly against Okamoto, are heard all over camp. They are accused of starting a big trouble for every evacuee. The residents regard that Okamoto unnecessarily undertook the first step to meddle with the messhall personnel.

#####

October 3

Nishimoto ^{declared} ~~called the meeting~~ a secret session at this point.

Bela Nagy
Meeting

He made a detailed report on the Fiscal Section. (Cf: September 22,

OCTOBER 3 -- (2)

page 1; September 25, page 5) He concluded with an announcement that he reached a tentative agreement with Burge on the matter. Burge did not wish the nature of the agreement revealed to residents, and "That is the reason that I called for a secret meeting," Nishimoto stated. He explained the agreement as follows:

On September 28, ^{two of} the evacuee workers reported secretly to Nishimoto that 20% of the August payroll had not been sent out to the Treasury Department at Los Angeles. That is, the time cards had been left untouched, and they could not tell when these people might be paid for the month of August. As soon as he heard this report, he went to see Burge to protest. Burge requested Nishimoto to help the Fiscal Section ~~to help~~ get some evacuee help. Nishimoto told Burge that his investigation ~~through~~ ^{through} evacuee workers in the Section were bringing ~~out~~ many disturbing conditions out into the open. Burge wanted such reports brought to him so that he could act on them. Nishimoto refused to submit such reports to him, because they were given to him in confidence. However, the grievances could be bared in the Block Managers' meeting and a meeting of the Local Council. Burge, then, said that he did not like this matter brought up before the Local Council or the Block Managers' body. He added that it was not difficult to transfer Shepard and Taylor to some other place, but it was almost impossible to replace them. As the liquidation of the WRA was imminent, no capable accountants would accept jobs to come to Poston at this late stage of game. "We should have acted on them when we got rid of Charles Smith and Empie, but it is too late now," Burge lamented.

At the end of this conversation, Burge promised that evacuees' checks should not be delayed. In order to process the payrolls,

OCTOBER 3 -- (3)

appointed personnel would be requested to help the Fiscal Section whenever available, Burge committed.

Nishimoto said that the matter ~~was~~ temporarily settled. The matter might be revived if the checks for the month of September were delayed.

Supervisor, then, read an article in the Poston Chronicle of the October 3rd edition:

Janitor Employment Cut by Manpower Commission

All janitors, with the exception of those over the age of 60 years and those employed at the base hospital and clinics at Units II and III, should be released, it was decided at the Manpower Commission meeting, Friday, Sept. 29.

The recommendation, if approved by Project Director Duncan Mills, will be effective ~~by~~ towards the end of this month. It is hoped that this ~~step~~ will assist in relieving the acute labor shortage.

Nishimoto reported that he knew about this for the first time in this issue of the Poston Chronicle. He requested the Managers to express ~~their~~ opinion on this regulation. Cnavassing of the Managers revealed that only four blocks ~~were~~ ^{would be} not affected by this new rule. They were indignant. One said, "Those guys slipped this over on us." Another said, "The trouble is that the Manpower Commissioners don't know what's going on in camp. They are dumb arm-chair strategists." Another said, "They are a bunch of saps." Still another said, "I bet this is another scheme by Okamoto."

Horito, the Manager of Block 53, explained that he had not been consulted on the matter at all, although he is on the Unit I Manpower Commission representing the Block Managers. The over-all Manpower Commission had not reported this rule to the Unit Commission, although such a report is required .

Other Managers voiced their desire to protest to the Pro-

OCTOBER 3 -- (4)

ject Direcotr to stop such rule enforced on the Block Janitors. One of them said viciously, "You think our Janitors are cleaning our latrines for fun? They are not working for the wages. They are cleaning latrines, because they are unselfish and are public spirited. Of course, saps like Powell and Okamoto cannot understand this. They think that anybody will be willing to clean latrines. We ought to make them clean our latrines."

First, those four or five blocks which were not affected by this rule were consulted. They were asked whether they would be willing to take a concerted action against this measure with other blocks. They voiced loudly that they would follow any action taken by others.

Then, a Manager moved that the Block Managers ~~were~~ opposed to place any age restriction on Block Janitors. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously with much enthusiasm. The Executive Committee was instructed to convey the motion to the Porject Director.

The meeting was adjourned at 11 A. M.

October 3

#####

The Executive Committee called on the Project Director and Submitted the motion.

October 5

#####

A mass meeting of the messworkers in camp was held last night in the Block 28 messhall. There were more than one hundred men present in the meeting.

*a Emp prob
4 group*
many
Much arguments and accusations were brought out against the recently enacted regulation on mess personnel. The Manpower Commission was attacked by many speakers. Out of these heated speeches, two major points *can be noted* ~~were noticed~~:

1. Most of the blocks cannot find women to replace the male

OCTOBER 5 -- (3)

workers to be terminated under the new regulation.

2. The Unit I messhalls had agreed to exempt the male workers older than sixty-five years of age from the quota of male workers. The Manpower Commission ignored this provision in its final enactment without knowledge and consent of the Unit I messhalls.

At the end of this meeting, those present agreed to refuse to abide by the rules established by the Manpower Commission (already signed by Director Mills) pertaining to the mess personnel.

#####

October 10.

Blk Mgr
Meeting

Emp & Manp

Supervisor announced that the number of workers working for the Subsistence warehouse, through the efforts of the various Block Managers, had increased to nine. He asked the Managers to continue ^{with} their search for more permanent workers for the Section so that the volunteer system could be eliminated entirely. The full complement should number eighteen workers. (Cf: September 29, page 2)

October 11

Local
Council
Meeting

Emp
Mans

Chairman Okamoto asked Sano, The Councilman from Block 46 and the chairman of the Mess Workers Association, whether a Chefs' meeting had passed a resolution refusing to abide by the messhall personnel quotas, which had been passed by the Mappower Commission. He had heard rumors to that effect and wanted Sano to verify them, Okamoto stated.

Sano explained that the Chefs met together on October 4 at the Block 28 Messhall. (Cf: October 5, page 2, the last paragraph) In the meeting, a resolution was passed, Sano stated. He produced a copy of the memorandum from his pocket, and asked Okamoto to read it to the body. It said in part as follows:

OCTOBER 11 -- (4)

The mess workers learned about ^{this} new personnel quotas through the ⁿPoston Chronicle. There had been no official notification to the various messhalls. If what had been reported in the Poston Chronicle ^{were} ~~are~~ correct, the regulations were not practical and not applicable to the existing conditions. Many messhalls, too, had shortage of workers and were desirous of getting them. In the past, the messhalls had been cooperative with the Manpower Commission, and had consented to the ~~past~~ transfers of workers ^{in the past} from there to other divisions. Now workers available to other sections had been taken out of the messhalls. The Commission was not aware of the fact that all the male workers in the messhalls were not physically fit to do other works. Some ^{were} were cooking and their retention was indispensable to the blocks. The Commission had ^{ignored} ~~ignored~~ the recommendation of Unit I that male workers 65 years old or over be exempted from the rule. It had ignored Unit I's contention that most of these older male workers were unfit to do other works outside of the messhalls. This was, in effect, creating an unnecessary unemployment. The Commission also neglected to ^{see} ~~forsee~~ that women who could work had already been employed in some gainful ^{positions} ~~positions~~. Women were required to take care of their children and house works, and were not usually available to do regular works. There ~~was~~ nothing to be gained by enforcing this regulation at this time, and the messhalls should be allowed to conform to the new quotas gradually, without having any ^{specified} ~~specified~~ time limits. If the Commission desired to enforce the rule as planned, it should furnish women workers to the messhalls.

Okamoto was indignant. He said that the special meeting of the block representatives on this particular problem had

~~worked out the~~

OCTOBER 11 -- (5)

worked out this solution. Many of the Chefs had been present at the meeting. Therefore, the Chefs had no business to meet subsequently to abrogate what the original meeting had decided.

The age exemption from the quotas was denied by the Commission, Okamoto explained, because it was afraid that the exemption would have effects opposite of what had been hoped for. Many reports came to him that some messhalls had tried to get more male workers. They claimed that the number of male workers under the age limitation was less than the quota which had been set by the Commission, although they had several older men, exempted by the age limits, ⁱⁿ each of their messhalls. The Commission, therefore, was afraid that male workers would be drafted into these messhalls from other divisions, where labor shortage had already existed.

Heated words were exchanged between Okamoto and Sano for more than ten minutes. Okamoto stressed that such complaints should not be handled by the Chefs; instead, it should be brought before the special representatives from the blocks for their reconsideration. Sano rationalized in saying that the Chefs met to determine how they felt about the matter. The complaint was in process of being transmitted to a proper channel.

Because the excited arguments between the two ~~were~~ were not getting anywhere, Councilmen asked to drop the matter until they receive an official notification of the resolution from the Chefs. (The memorandum shown by Sano was addressed to Shelson, the Project Steward.)

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 A. M.

#####

October 18

Local Council
Meeting

Seko of Block 60 followed Sano with an appeal that his block could not find any women to replace male workers, who had to be terminated because of the new quota.

The Chef of Block 44 accused the Manpower Commission (specially pointed at Okamoto) that it had formulated such impractical quotas. In his messhall, there were eleven male workers, and three of them had to be terminated under the new quota. But there were three male workers among them who were semi-invalid and could not do any hard work. If any of them were to be terminated, these physically unfit persons ^{had to} ~~would~~ be let out. The Chef argued that the purpose of the new quota regulation would be defeated. The Chef thought Okamoto and the Commission used high pressure tactics in trying to enforce this regulation. By such tactics Okamoto antagonized the messhalls and it became dif-

OCTOBER 18 -- (2)

difficult to get cooperation from the Chefs. The Chef went on to say that if the Commission did not want to amend the regulation, it should furnish women workers to the various messhalls.

Kimura, representing the Block 45 messhall, explained that there were 12 males working in his messhall. It was necessary to terminate four men under the new quota, but four female substitutions could not be found.

Okamoto replied to several accusations. He said he did not take any part in formulating the new quota regulation. It was worked out by the special block representatives ^{who were chosen} for this particular problem. Each block sent two representatives to the meeting to discuss the Project Director's memorandum to combine messhalls. This body in turn selected a committee of nine, which deliberated the solution. The committee plan, then, ^{was} ~~more~~ approved by the body, and was submitted to the Manpower Commission as Unit I proposal.

Sano accused then that the Unit I plan had not been honored by the Manpower Commission. The final regulation adopted by the Commission was not anything similar to the Unit I plan.

Okamoto retorted that there was no difference at all except that the age exemption was ignored. The chairman, then, attacked Sano by shouting that he had watched carefully ^{how} ~~what~~ Sano acted during the meeting. He saw Sano raise his hand signifying that he was in favor of the committee plan. "If you are opposed to the plan, why didn't you get up and state your opposition. I saw you raise your hand. This is no time for you to start agitating against the plan. You are cheap and back handed."

Both Okamoto and Sano were angry. They were endlessly exchanging heated words. It lasted for more than five minutes.

OCTOBER 18 -- (3)

Sano insisted that Okamoto was dictatorial and that the final plan was not identical with the Unit I plan. Therefore, there was no reason that it be enforced in Unit I. Okamoto retaliated that it was a compromise out of three different plans from three Units respectively. He said that Sano could not see a clear reasoning and ^{was} selfish.

Since there seemed to be no end to the quarrel, Nishimoto interrupted by saying that many of the messhalls ^{had} ~~face~~ difficulty in conforming to the new quota regulation. There would be no objection by any of the Councilmen, Nishimoto stated, to re-examine the situation and make some sort of amendments.

Nishimoto's suggestion received considerable support from others. It was obvious that they were weary of the quarrel. Okamoto, too, saw the prevailing sentiment of the meeting and stopped his arguing. (It became clear that Sano had been misrepresenting facts on the messhall personnel matter to the Chefs' meetings. For another thing, the Chefs at one of the meetings requested the presence of Okamoto, and Sano was told to get in touch with him. But Sano reported back to the next meeting that Okamoto had refused to come. This morning, however, the Chef of Block 44 condemned Okamoto of not coming to the Chefs' meeting when he was invited. Okamoto, then, vehemently replied that he had never been invited to attend any of the Chefs' meetings.)

As a solution of this troublesome situation, each Councilman was instructed to consult respective Chefs and Block Managers and to bring ^a ~~the~~ consensus to the next meeting of the Council. This matter would probably be amended in such a way ^{that} ~~by which~~ some of the messhalls would be exempted from the quota regulation, at least for a time being. The messhalls which had reduced the number

OCTOBER 18 -- (4)

of male workers to conform to the regulation would not be benefitted by this attempt to balk.

The special committee on the Executive Board (Cf: October 11, page 1) submitted its report. It recommended that the Board be retained by selecting new members. Another special committee was chosen to select the chairman for the Board. The members were named as follows by Okamoto:

OCTOBER 25 -- (1)

A special meeting of the Local Council was held this afternoon from 1:30 o'clock in the conference room of the Unit Administration Building.

*Emp - 1
Mang*

The first major business was to work out a solution for the strike of the Subsistence Warehouse crew. Although the difficulty of forming this crew has been recorded from time to time in this Journal, a brief history shall be sketched here. The crew in question is one of those crews that work in the Subsistence Warehouse. This particular crew is in charge of rice, onions, potatoes, coffee, canned goods, etc. About two months ago, the number of workers that handle these staples dwindled to three men, some of the former workers had relocated and others had sought employment in other sections because the work was not easy. The meeting of the special representatives who discussed the problem of combining messhalls agreed then to send volunteers from their blocks, by taking turns, to replenish the labor shortage at the warehouse.

The system of sending workers, one each from every block, continued^u for several days, but their work habits were not satisfactory. Some of these volunteers did not feel responsibility of their duties; they went home at odd hours. Or some others took canned goods and other provisions home with them. Some others grumbled too much and were a disturbing cause to the rest. One of the most popular arguments advanced by them was, "We are thrown in here. We did not come here by our free wills. We don't have to do this kind of work. The Government promised to feed us. So it's Government's duty to get Caucasian workers if there weren't enough Japanese workers available." The original three workers on the permanent basis had had an addition by this time. Finding

OCTOBER 25 -- (2)

that the volunteers were too difficult to work with, they threatened to quit the work unless more steady workers were sent. As a result of this threat, Kobayashi, the Assistant Steward, appealed to City Manager Okamoto and to the Executive Committee of Block Managers. The members of the Executive Committee worked hard by interviewing prospects individually, and succeeded in getting a few more permanent ^Workers for the crew. The crew now numbered twelve. In addition to these twelve men, the crew was augmented by five or six volunteers everyday from the various blocks.

The crew, however, continued to complain that the work was too hard for them, since all of these people were past fifty years of age except one or two. Handling of sacks of potatoes, rice, and coffee were not an easy matter for the old people. There was no platform at the warehouse, and these sacks had to be lifted from the ground to load ^{on} trucks. (The building belonged to the Army and the WRA could not make any improvement on it.) They kept on with their appeals to Kobayashi and Okamoto to get more men out there --- they wanted at least twenty men to this crew. Sano was also appealed to in his capacity as the chairman of the Mess Workers' Association. In view of the fact that the mess halls were required to let out some male workers under the new personnel quotas, Sano was asked to see the Chefs to divert these discharged men to the ^Warehouse. But this, too, failed, because most of the messhalls refused to enforce the quota orders, and some of these discharged men refused to go ^{to} the warehouse.

To combat this tendency and to regulate the employment of those returning from seasonal leave, the freezing order of employment was issued by the Project Director after consulting evacuee

OCTOBER 25 -- (3)

leaders. But this step also failed in attaining the desired result, because those that returned from seasonal labor did not wish to seek project employment right away. Most of them claimed that they had earned enough money and wanted to take rest for sometime.

Meanwhile, the blocks which were sending volunteers (those blocks which had not sent any permanent worker to the Subsistence Warehouse) were facing difficulty in carrying out their assignments. The block people were getting tired of going out to the warehouse and to do hard works among strangers (permanent crew). Some of the blocks began to slack down.

In other words, the regular crew were getting more insistent in asking more men to augment them. The community, on the other hand, was getting tired of assuming the responsibility of doing something about loading and unloading of their own food provisions. The condition reached a crisis ^{on} October 24, The crew members met and voted to strike. They argued that the only way to awaken the community was for them to leave their work completely and stop the delivery of food to the blocks. Thus the workers failed to come to their work this morning.

Bunya, the ~~off~~reman of the crew, appeared before the Council and explained that a crew of twelve old men could not handle the work. He said that they were called on ^{to} ~~on~~ unload as many as fifteen hundred sacks of rice at one time, and one thousand ~~sacks of~~ 100 - pound ~~sacks~~ of flour at another time. Yesterday, they had to unload six hundred and fifty sacks of potatoes. ^{The unloading of} these sacks of potatoes ignited their grievances into the strike.

A long discussion followed among the Councilmen. After each of deliberating several methods, ^{each of} the Councilmen agreed to assume

OCTOBER 25 -- (4)

the responsibility of sending at least one worker to a new crew, which would be reorganized with the old crew as a nucleus.

Nishimoto pointed out that such an agreement was easy to reach for any group of representatives, but there would be some blocks that would not abide or carry out its assumed responsibility. He wanted to know how this problem ^{could} be solved. One Councilman presented a resolution that in case a block failed to send a worker either to the Subsistence Warehouse or to the Parker Railroad Warehouse, food deliveries be prohibited to the block. Many other Councilmen thought it was a good idea. Nishimoto questioned whether the Council could voted to prohibit the food deliveries to the block, because it ^{had} failed to furnish a worker to the required section. He pointed out that the food provisions belonged to the WRA, which guaranteed food, clothing, and shelter to each and every evacuee. Many others agreed that the Council had no right to prohibit the deliveries. Okamoto, however, pointed out that the warehouse crew could refuse to load food provisions to certain blocks as they saw fit. They could say that they forgot to load and deliver to the blocks, by forgetting purposefully. The Councilmen thought the idea worthwhile presenting to the blocks meetings, which would be held ~~either~~ tonight or tomorrow night to solve the problem of getting one worker from the blocks respectively. It was remarkably evident that the Councilmen took the matter seriously, and were determined to take the problem back to their blocks to solve this difficult labor situation.

Next, the problem of the mess personnel quotas was taken up. Okamoto first asked each Councilman to report his block problem in complying with the new regulation. The result showed that twelve out of thirty-six blocks had complied with the new

OCTOBER 25 -- (5)

quotas, while the rest had various difficulties. Most of these blocks, which failed to ^{con}form to the rule, thought that ^etheir problems could be solved if male workers sixty-five years or over could be ~~eliminated~~ ^{exempted} from the quotas for male workers. These blocks, however, were over the quotas by either one or two male workers respectively. There were several blocks that claimed that they could not find any women available within their blocks to replace the male workers to be let out. ~~These~~ complaints were heard from the blocks where three- five male workers had to be let out. The examination of individual block problems revealed that Block 26 was the highest with the necessity of letting five males go. The blocks that needed to terminate three - five male workers in favor of women were as follows: Blocks 3, 13, 22, 26, 27, 43, and 45.

Chairman Okamoto asked the body how this problem be solved. Two proposals were adopted without much discussion, and these were to be presented to the Manpower Commission as an Unit I Council's request to modify the quota regulation. These proposals were as follows:

1. To exempt male workers in the messhalls sixty-five years old or over from the quotas of male workers.

2. To require those blocks that could not replace male workers on account of the paucity of employable women in their respective blocks to present their cases to either the Manpower Commission or to the Executive Board (being organized now). Either one of these organizations (The Council is to name one of these two as an official hearing body later.) should hear these cases and should decide on their merits.

The long standing controversy over the mess personnel reached a tentative solution.

#####

#####

In order to recruit a worker for the Subsistence warehouse,
one from each block, the blocks held block meetings last night.
Some of the blocks succeeded in finding willing workers and re-
ported so to the Supervisor of Block Managers this morning.

Copy

OCTOBER 26 -- (3)

Emp. Mgmt

There were several Block Managers who reported that they failed to get anyones during the meetings. Supervisor, however, told them that most of the blocks had succeeded in getting workers as they had agreed, and those blocks which failed would be condemned by others as sluckers. "The crew could very well refuse to deliver food to those blocks from which no workers are represented. It can happen very easily when most of the blocks in camp ~~are~~ represented on the crew." These Managers invariably decided to reconsider the problem, since they did not wish to be criticized by the other blocks as the ones that had failed to live up to their promises. There were, in addition, about ten blocks that had not reached any decision yet, and ^{these} ₁ were still endeavoring to get someones to take the jobs.

The problem being a food matter, every block is seriously endeavoring to solve the trouble of labor shortage in the warehouse. Because the crew had struck, the community for the first time became aware of the situation, and were awakened to actively participate in solution instead of taking an usual "let-George-dopit" attitude.

October 27

#####

For recruiting the Subsistence warehouse crew, some blocks held block meetings for the second time last night, because the first meetings had failed to produce any results. Reports coming in to the Supervisor of Block Managers today indicated that

Emp
man

OCTOBER 27 -- (3)

twenty-five blocks promised to send ^aworkers each to the Subsistence warehouse. Four blocks are excused, because they are sending workers, one each to the Parker railhead warehouse. Five blocks promised to send volunteers every day until they could find permanent workers. Two blocks failed to get desired result; viz., Block 30 (Okamoto's) and Block 46 (Sano'). Both Okamoto and Sano are still working hard to live up to their assignments.

The result of this recruiting showed that every block had conscientiously endeavored to solve this labor impasse. This is one of very few occasions where the blocks united in getting one common aim; that is, to form a crew to load and unload their food provisions. The new warehouse crew will begin ~~work~~^{working} from October 30. The striking of the old crew had had a great effect in educating the public as to the acuteness of labor shortage in various sections. It would also help toward getting more working hours per day from the workers in other sections. (The Director had warned the appointed personnel that the WRA regulation of eight hours per day must be strictly observed. Of course, no one expects that the evacuees will work full eight hours per day because of the Director's order. Nonetheless, those who ^{might} have been working only three hours a day and ^{might} have called it ~~as~~ a day might be receptive to an order which would require them to work, say, five hours a day.)

October 30

#####

The garbage crew of Unit I (composed of six Issei. They are belliose and lack rationale. All of them are around fifty years of age. They were either small scale farmers or farm hands before evacuation. They are not educated nor are they intelligent.) went on strike today. The reason given by them was that one of the three garbage trucks which they had been using had been taken away from them. If they could not have three trucks, they were not willing to work. It took too much time to go around the camp with two trucks.

The contention of the crew was not verified by the facts. Okabe and Ito of the Agricultural Department who investigated the case reported as follows:

Six men were divided into three teams, each having one truck. The original agreement was that ~~each team divide~~ the camp ^{be divided} into three sections and each of the teams take charge of one of these sections. Such tempting offer had been given to them, because no Japanese wanted to handle garbage. They began their work about fifteen months ago. But soon they found that each team needed to work only two hours per day to do the assignment. They agreed among themselves that the two men of a team take a turn and each of the two work on alternate day. Even this new arrangement was easy. Although originally they had been expected to empty garbage cans at the messhalls, they refused to do so. Instead, they drove their truck to the platform at the rear of the messhall where the cans are placed. Then, they tooted the horn and waited someones come out to empty the cans into the truck. The messhalls usually were obliged to

OCTOBER 30 -- (3)

do as they asked. If, however, a messhall refused to assist them or failed to send out helps when they sounded the horn, they drove away without taking garbage.

When they reached the Hog Ranch, they were not required to do any labor. The garbage loads were emptied by the hydraulic lift. Thus, they could finished their duty in two or three hours every day. In other words, each of the crew had to work only one to one and a half hours a day, for only one of the two on a team worked at one time and the other of the two was taking the day off. They had too much time on hand. They often gambled with mess workers in some of the messhalls. If they were not gambling, they were driving empty trucks around. Sometimes, they carried children and women on their trucks. Other times, they were known to have gone to fishing at Lake La Paz (about 12 miles south of Camp III) or at the Parker Bridge. They were also seen often driving around after the working hours.

People did not complain against these practices until the uses of motor vehicles became rigid. Soon, the amounts of gasoline to ~~each car~~ ^{all project} ~~were~~ were rationed. The evacuees could not use automobiles so freely as before. These people felt the inconveniences of tightening rules, and the freely moving garbage trucks became more conspicuous. Coupled with their resentment against the crew's method of garbage collection at the messhalls, they began to point out the practices of the crew. "How come they have enough gas to ride around as they please?" they questioned to the Caucasian, when they were admonished to conserve gasoline and eliminate private uses of automobiles. "How come they have their trucks twenty-four hours a day, while we have to turn ours in the Motor Pool after the working hours? Why can't we, too, keep

OCTOBER 30 -- (4)

ours?" they asked. The evacuee leaders were told of them, but they could not make an issue out of it for fear that garbage crew might ^{not} be able to be replaced.

As the project became determined to correct the transportation situation here on account of the criticisms from Washington, the garbage crew was ordered to give up one of the three trucks in accordance with Horn's recommendation. The crew was told that Units II and III could get along with one truck each and there was no reason that Unit IX could not get along with two trucks. The crew, then, refused to collect garbage from the messhalls on the route belonging to the relinquished truck.

As these affected messhalls complained and the Sanitation Department objected to the burying of garbage by them underground near the ~~barracks~~ ^{blocks}, ^{the} leaders of the Agricultural Department (garbage crew works under this department.) met with the men and reached a compromise (October 25). The compromise was as follows:

1. The trucks should be put in the Motor Pool as soon as they are finished with their work.
2. The crew will be assigned with three trucks as before.

The crew began their work again the next day, but they ignored the agreement that the trucks would be brought into the Motor Pool. They kept their trucks all day and night and rode them freely as before.

The climax came to this difficulty on October 29 (Sunday). One of the three trucks was seen in Unit III and Gregg chased it. The Internal Security officer impounded the truck in Unit III, and the driver (one of the crew) was taken home. But the driver kept quiet about this, and reported that his truck had been taken away by the project.

OCTOBER 30 -- (5)

Because this man failed to reported to his colleagues that he had been in trouble with the Internal Security officer, the crew believed that one of the trucks had been taken away in violation of the agreement. They ignored the fact that they themselves violated the gareement in not returning the trucks to the Motor Pool. As a protest, they refused to report to work this morning.

The leaders of the Agricultural Department were happy over the strike. They had been waiting for this opportunity. (It is for an evacuee a taboo¹ to discharge another evacuee.) They regarded the matter closed and went ahead to recruit an entirely new crew. They said, "We can't afford to leave garbage uncollected. We must think of sanitation and of the hogs that we must feed."

#####

Local Council
Meeting
November 8

These new members were told to attend the weekly meetings of the Manpower Commission, that will be held every Friday morning.

Okamoto explained that he ^{had} submitted the following recommendations, in accordance with the resolution passed by the meeting of the Local Council on October 25 (Cf: October 25, page 4, the last paragraph), to exempt certain males from the mess hall male workers quota:

1. That all those in the following categories be exempt from the cut-down:
 - a. Male workers 65 years and over.
 - b. Male workers physically unable to perform any other work and holding a doctor's certificate to the effect.
 - c. Those blocks having difficulty in securing women replacement may submit their reasons to a Special Investigating Committee. If the reasons are found to be justifiable, the committee will then present them to the Chairman of the Manpower Commission or the Project Director for final decision.
2. The formation and method of appointment of the Special Investigating Committee will be left to the Manpower Commission.

Okamoto, then, reported that the following ^{action} ~~reply~~ ^{taken} was ~~received~~

NOVEMBER 8 -- (3)

by the Manpower Commission:

Regarding Section 1a, objections were raised against automatically exempting all male over 65 as age alone ~~cannot~~ determine whether a person is able bodied or not as many of the older men are more energetic than the younger ones; furthermore, if they are physically weak, it would be covered in part b. It was decided to ~~eliminate~~ this phase as it was considered unnecessary and that able-bodied men over 65 should be accounted against the quota; that they would already be covered in b if disabled or, if there were special reasons for exceptions, their case could be considered by a Special Investigating Committee contained in 1-c.

Regarding Section 1b, this recommendation was unanimously accepted by the body.

Regarding Section 1c and Section 2, these two recommendations were jointly considered. Numerous amendments and revisions were proposed to broaden the reasons for exemptions. Questions were raised as to the most appropriate group to be designated as the Investigating Committee as many of the suggested bodies were on non-pay basis and could not devote sufficient time to consider requests for exemptions. The Unit Executive Board was believed by the evacuees to be the proper group in studying the facts for each individual case. After due deliberation, a revised 1-c and 2 was introduced as follows: That all requests for exemption be first referred to unit mess hall committee which would carry the matter to Unit Executive Board if necessary. The Executive Board will be empowered to either grant or refuse the request. The decision will be notified to Mr. Cassilly for transmittal to the Manpower Commission. This was carried by the Commissioners unanimously.

NOVEMBER 8 -- (4)

Councilmen argued on these points submitted by the Manpower Commission. They insisted that an automatic exemption for males 65 years and over should be granted. It was evident that ^{because} this original Unit I proposal had been denied by the Manpower Commission previously without referring back to the Unit I Special Delegates on the Mess Problem, the Councilmen wanted to override the Manpower Commission on this point. The Chiefs, too, they knew, were unanimously in favor of establishing this automatic exemption. Some Councilmen pointed out that there was no such body as unit mess hall committee in Unit I, and argued for a direct investigation by the Executive Board. Okamoto, then, stated that these revisions of the Manpower Commission were worked out by the Caucasian members, because the evacuee members failed to understand the discussion in English. The tenor of the Council discussion suddenly changed, and ^{it} voted to reject the counter-recommendations of the Commission. ~~The Council voted to reject the Commission's recommendations.~~