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17. Housing
M. Nagai of the Executive Board asked me to come in his office. He expressed his desire to place ^{the} housing authority under one central organization. The authority has been vested in the Block Managers by an unwritten regulation, which had been strengthened soon after Nelson's advent into the Unit Administrator's office. A brief sketch with its focus on the struggles for the housing authority, deleting other factors, which are just as important in the housing question, for our purpose at present, will aid the reader in understanding ~~the~~ coming events over housing.

At the beginning of this project the authority over housing was excercised by the Housing Department, which was supervised by James Crawford until he became the Unit II Administrator and later by Nell Findley. In the early days the jobs in the Housing Department were considered by the evacuee workers as thankless and nerve wracking; they had to listen to incessant, excited, pugnacious protests from residents daily. The Block Managers, too, had to bear the brunts of complaining residents. Their grievances were chiefly based on

1. overcrowdedness
2. lack of privacy
3. ^{Civic} too or more families occupying one apartment

The delegates to the ^{Civic} Planning Board meetings (the predecessor to the Temporary Community Council) shouted these complaints and attacked the Administration. They also accused favoritism of the Housing Department, which, it was alleged, gave larger apartments to those who knew somebody in the Administration or who had argued with the housing authority ^{most} aggressively and loudest. (Roy Furuya, who was an assistant to the then almighty

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Block Managers' Supervisor, admitted recently that there was a considerable degree of favoritism over housing at the intake. This was recorded in this Journal sometime ago.)

Concession to these few individuals aggravated the situation. They had gotten larger apartments; now others in the block who thought they deserved larger living spaces more than the former complained. Some who had been denied their requests for moving to another apartments grumbled. The Block Managers who took a side in the housing issue were made the objects of attacks and accusations, sometimes resulting in the resignations of some of the Block Managers. Those who had larger than the average living spaces clung to their vested privileges, while other underprivileged ones fought to get what they wanted against whom ever might have come in the way. Jealousies and dissatisfactions made the underprivileged more aggressive.

In August, 1942, the Administration announced definitely that it would partition apartments to give privacy to each family. In September the Block Managers drew up plans ^{for} ^{respective} in the blocks to ~~give~~ distribute the barrack spaces equitably to each family according to its size. This distribution was much more difficult than it appeared on the paper. There were many physical difficulties; the old walls had to be moved, new partitioning walls had to be installed, some families had to be moved to other barracks, and every family who had to move protested. Others who believed they deserved larger spaces than average because of invalids in the families or of other special reasons ^{fought for} ~~stuck to~~ their "right".

The redistribution and partitioning plans were submitted by the Block Managers to the Housing Department amidst protests.

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These protests did not cease for a long time; the Block Managers referred the protesting residents to the Housing Department now, because, they claimed, the plans had been submitted to the Department and was out of their hands. The Housing Department was perplexed, and it did not know what to do. It referred the protests back to the blocks. They "shoved the buck" to each other. The partitioning materials were slow in arriving here; no one knew when the residents would get them. The residents ^{criticized} the WRA for ~~the~~ slowness, accusing it for a lack of efficiency. Meanwhile, they kept the attitude of "wait and see". The Housing Department and the Block Managers, too, crossed their fingers and waited.

The partitioning materials began to arrive here in January, 1943, and the blocks began to partition their barracks according to the submitted plans. But the protests, which had been quieted temporarily, were revived. The Housing Department yielded to some of the protestants, but this was done at the expense of some others. Those who had been affected protested now to the Block Managers and the Housing Department, which was confused all the more. In other cases where the Housing Department conceded it resulted in block squables --- "Jones have gotten what they had requested. Why can't we, too?" In still other cases the decisions of the Housing Department were unfair, although unintentional; the unfairness was the result of ignorance on the existing special conditions in the blocks concerned. ^{About} ~~To~~ these unfair decisions the more vigorous Block Managers fought bitterly with the Housing Department workers. It is not an overstatement to say that every block in camp at that time had some

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difficulty with partitioning. In February these battles for concessions by the protesting individuals assumed more serious triangular aspect--- the protesting individual vs. the rest of the block (including the Block Manager) vs. the Housing Department. In the light of the alarming condition the Executive Board formulated the maximum spaces allowable to families of different sizes. (The memorandum is in the file of Tsuchiyama.) The rule set down by the Board, ^{however,} _^ lacked the power to enforce. The more stubborn protestants did not heed the rule and were defiant. In the end, all housing controversies were thrown back to the individual blocks to be settled among themselves. The stronger Block Managers took the matter into their hands and settled them single-handedly. However, in ~~the~~ most of cases, the Block Managers asked the Block Councils to intervene. Thus, the blocks gained the authority over housing, and once gained they refused to relinquish it after the troubles were over.

There were at least two others struggles going on concurrently. The Housing Department sent families into a block to occupy an empty apartment without ^{the} _^ knowledge of the Block Manager. In many ^{of these} _^ cases, the Block Manager had committed himself to another party for the empty apartment and found himself in an embarrassing situation when the Housing Department had sent the strangers to occupy it. In many ^{other} _^ cases the transfers from another block who had been sent by the Housing Department without the knowledge of the Block Manager later turned out to be ~~the~~ uncooperative and incorrigible. ^{still} _^ In many other cases a Block Manager found new comers in ^{his} _^ the Block when he got up in the morning; this was not soothing and dignifying to his ego. In each of these cases the

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Block Manager fought against the Housing Department and by the end of 1942 they wrested a concession from it that it would not send any new comer to a block unless the Block Manager had been notified. But the Managers gained more ground by the spring of 1943; to transfer or to send a new comer to a block the Housing Department was required to obtain in advance ^a ~~the~~ consent ^{from} of the Block Manager. (This was a gradual developement. It was not decided by any meeting or by any administrative organization.)

Another struggle over housing going on concurrently was this: the residents of a block resisted to accept new comers. They did not want to accept unknowns, and they wanted to utilize the empty spaces to their own advantages. In some blocks the Block Councils gained the full power to grant or deny admission of new comers into their blocks.

As a result of these struggles, the full authority of housing was in the hands of individuals blocks; the Housing Department could not do anything over housing without approvals of these blocks. The department became an office keeping the records of housing and without power. This practice was further strengthened under Len Nelson as the Unit I Administrator. Under him it became an unwritten law that the housing problems are to be decided only by the individuals blocks. (e. g. The attempt of Kuni Takahashi to evict the Tsuchida family from Block 36)

As this practice of decentralized housing power continued, many flaws and abuses were brought out. The blocks refused to accept legitimate transfers; if they did not refuse, a great deal of persuasion was necessary for acceptance.

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With segregation approaching Nelson and others were worried over housing requests from residents. It was obvious that many blocks would have less than 150 residents each, but the tendency in these blocks was to divided all the available spaces among the remaining people. (From this point on events pertaining to housing were recorded in detail in my Journal.) Both the Unit Administrator and the Block Managers were perplexed and bothered by numerous requests for larger living spaces, even before segregation took place. Nelson froze housing. Then he went ahead to formulate a set of regulations to allow the residents to spread out within the blocks, considering at the same time the possible intake of residents from another center. (Cf: October 21, page 4) Nelson still believed in working through the Block Managers, and in keeping them powerful.

After Nelson ~~had~~ left, both Nomura and Nagai met a series of difficulties over housing. For instance, the nurses' aides had a difficulty in locating their dormitory in the proximity of the Hospital on account of the uncooperative attitude of neighboring blocks. Many transfers from other centers had difficulties in finding their living quarters. Nomura had an awful time in finding an apartment for the sex pervert-janitor to make him work in the Hospital. (Cf: January 13, page 3) The diet kitchen problem was tied up also with the housing authority. If apartments or barracks were gotten for the Employment Office or the Toy Shop, the problem would have been solved long ago. A very recent case of abuse of the authority was in Block 11 (Cf: January 11, page)

In the Local Council meeting on December 15 Nagai made

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an attempt to curb the housing authority of individual blocks. He argued to gain the authority in the Executive Board. Many councilmen spoke in favor of the proposition, because they had been troubled with the ^{proposition for} establishment of a diet kitchen in camp. I was present at the meeting as an observer representing the Block Managers and argued in opposition to Nagai's proppsal, citing case by case of abuses in the past when the Housing Department excercised the full authority. I quashed the discussion successfully, because Nagai did not wish to force the issue against me on the floor then.

Since the meeting many difficulties, such as cited above, have occurred and in each case Nomura had to act. I, too, was disgusted with the way some blocks and some Block Managers had acted in these housing situations. They had been entirely too unreasonable and selfish. Unless the situation was remedied soon, other blocks and other Block Managers would take similar selfish attitudes in the future. I was convinced that the housing authority should be taken away from the blocks, especially because we are likely to absorb residents of other centers.

When Nagai approached me today with the porpostion to place the housing authority under a central organization, I readily consented to support such a move.

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Housing
Jan 18
A rumor spread widely today that 250 families, another version said 250 persons, have arrived from Manzanar. My check with the Housing Division revealed that one family arrived here from Manzanar yesterday.

There is a persistent rumor that thousands of Japanese

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will arrive from Manzanar in the near future.

Housing
Jan 19
Nomura informed the councilmen that there is a regulation existing that every block with less than 185 residents must accept new residents to the block until the population reaches the number. Nagai added that he desired at some later date to organize a committee with the full authority over housing matters. (Cf: January 14, page 1) He heard many complaints and troubles over housing from several blocks and felt ^{necessity of} an immediate remedy of the situation. I informed Nagai that after he had talked to me about the housing control, I consulted Sakai and ^a few others, and they had agreed that Sakai should try his authority as the Supervisor in solving the difficulties at least for two or three months.

Nagai, then, asked me if the Block Manager has the full and unquestioned authority over housing in his block. As I replied in affirmative, I asked him if he had some difficulty in

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his mind. This was the story reported by Nagai: On account of segregation and relocation the number of occupants in an apartment (in Block 3 -- Nagai's block) dwindled to one; that is, the apartment, 35 feet by 20 feet, is occupied by an aged woman at present. The adjoining apartment, 30 feet by 20 feet, is occupied by seven persons, the youngest of whom is attending high school. Several attempts had been made in the past to give more space to the side with more occupants, but so far the old woman obstructed every attempt successfully.

There is another source of complaints over housing in his block, as Nagai^{stated}. When Andy Sugimoto (the former member of the Executive Board) left for Tule Lake, he "gave" his ^aaprtment, 30 feet by 20 feet, to his neighbor. Sugimoto told the neighbor that he could have his apartment, because it had been given to him by the United States government. This neighbor bored a passage through the partitioning wall and made the apartment which had belonged to Sugimoto into a storage room for his property. The Block Manager attempted to take the extra apartment away from him, but he refused on the ground that the room was a property of Sugimoto, who gave it to him. Therefore, he argued on, it rightfully belonged to him, and no one had a right to repossess the room. The Block Manager is avoiding to force the issue with such an ugly customer.

I told Nagai that these matters should not be difficult to settle if the Block Manager had backbone and the residents supported him. I added that it was Nagai's responsibility as the councilman from the block to assist the Block Manager in such a predicament if he was considered too weak to handle it alone.

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"Dr." Suzuki of Block 35 asked me what he should do in this case: A bachelor had been occupying an apartment with two others, who relocated. Now he is refusing to accept anyone else in the room. I explained that it is ^A~~the~~ job for the Block Manager; it would never be solved unless he took a firm stand. In case the bachelor did not obey the manager, he can take it to the Supervisor.

Tsunishi of Block 37 (an underpopulated block) asked me if the Block Manager of an underpopulated block ~~or~~ its Block Council has the right to refuse to accept new comers into the block. I explained the housing regulation, which was decided on October 21, 1943 in the Block Managers' meeting. I told him that a block with less than 185 residents ~~has~~ no right to refuse. He then asked me what the block should do if it should considered the newcomers as incorrigible or undesirable. I said the block should take an eviction procedure setting ~~for~~^{for} the reasons for such an action.

Among several councilmen opinions were exchanged as to the different methods of eviction from a block. In the end, however, they agreed that an eviction procedure is likely to disrupt the unity of block, splitting it into two opposing camps, and that such an action should be avoided as much as possible.

The housing situation was left unsettled and was still in the muddle as ^{before}~~the time~~ when the long discussion had commenced. Only points carried to the councilmen were that the Block Manager has the full and unchallengeable authority over housing and that the blocks with less than 185 residents must accept new comers without protest. However, I was convinced that the councilmen were not satisfied with the present regulation, re-

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flecting sentiments in various blocks. I believed necessity of getting the Block Managers together and finding out their difficulties in their respective blocks. I am coming around to the point of view that a central committee with the full housing authority should be created to enforce housing regulations uniformly throughout the camp. There are too many new Block Managers and too many weak Managers who are afraid to do what they should do.

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Housing
This is the detail of the trouble over housing between Block 11 and the Supervisor. (Cf: January 11, page 7, the first paragraph) (Yanamoto, the Block Manager of 11, and Supervisor Sakai are the informants.)

In the spring of 1943 Block 11 formulated a rule that the Block Council must approve new comers before they could be accepted into the block. (Block 11 at that time was one of a few blocks which had vacant apartments, for many of residents had relocated on indefinite leaves. This block had been occupied by the "volunteers". It was one of a few blocks which had many of their residents working in the Administration. Kunitanis, Miss Tsukao, Miss Ichiyasu, and their likes were residing in the block. Therefore, it was not difficult to see why it had many early relocatees.) According to this rule Manager Yanamoto referred ^{to his Block Council} the matter that Supervisor Sakai had notified that he would be sending the Ishii family who would be coming in from Manzanar. Yanamoto did not know that his block, being one of the underpopulated blocks (less than 185 residents), had no recourse but to accept the family. Nor did he know that the Block Manager had the full authority over housing and not the Block Council. (Yanamoto blamed his predecessor for not informing the Block Council of the regulation.)

Accordingly, the Block Council one night at the beginning of this month met and discussed the matter. One of the Council members knew the Ishii family before evacuation. They are the parents of Mrs. Kiyoshii Shigekawa, the wife of the former Police Chief, he reported. He further informed the Block Council that Mrs. Ishii was neurotic and was considered as a trouble maker. He believed it better for the block not to accept them in it.

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On the strength of his information the Council refused the acceptance of the Ishii family into the block. Sakai was troubled when he was told of this fact. He advised Yanamoto that his block had no right to refuse them. The Manager insisted that he could not do anything more when the Block Council had decided ^{against it}. Sakai knew this would set a dangerous precedent, especially at this time when Poston must receive transfers from another center in the near future. But as Shigekawa, who is very unpopular in the camp, was involved in the issue, although remotely, he deemed it unwise to force the issue with Block 11. He, then, moved the Ishii family to Block 5 and the difficulty was smoothed over. Sakai, however, treated this matter as a result of ignorance of regulations over housing on the part of the Block Manager in order to avoid setting a precedent with this case, and he reiterated the regulations to the Block Managers in their meeting on January 11.

Jan 25
Bk Mgr
Meeting

I made a report on the housing situation. I described in detail what had transpired in the last meeting of the ^{Local Council.} ~~Block Managers~~ (Cf: January 19, page 6, the third paragraph) After my explanation I reported that many Councilmen were dissatisfied ^{with the way} the housing problems were handled, and there was a desire expressed by many of them to place the housing authority in some committee. I asked the Managers if they have any difficulty with housing, and if they

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wanted to give up the housing authority. I told him that the Community Council had sent a resolution to Myer expressing their willingness to accept 3,000 - 3,500 Japanese from another center. I advised them this was a good time to give up the authority, as housing would be the major difficulty when those people started to come here. I asked them if they could ^{handle} the situation at such a time. I also reminded them that the quota of 185 residents per block would be increased to ^a much high^{er} figure, say, 225 per block. The older Block Managers, citing their experiences at the time of partitioning the apartments (Cf: January 14, page 2, the second paragraph), believed it was a good opportunity to relinquish the authority if a committee to be created would be willing to handle the "hot potatoes". The new ^{er} Managers said that they did not want to give ^{it} up, if they did the Managers would be just "stooges" without much power. They had had no difficulty with housing. (The Managers of Block 3 and Block 37 were silent and seemed embarrassed with the discussion going on.) The older ones argued that the newer ones were ignorant of real housing troubles, because they had gotten to be Managers after segregation.

After much arguing, Hiroto of Block 53 proposed that such a committee should be created to handle only those cases where Block Managers could not handle it themselves. I opposed to this plan, because it would mean that the authority would be divided into two separate bodies -- between the Managers and the committee. What would happen if they could not agree to a decision -- the Manager insisting on one idea and the committee on another? Both of them have the right to claim their solutions be enforced. I argued that it should be one way or the other -- the Block Managers retaining the full authority or giving it up entirely.

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Murakami of 30 suggested to form a Housing Arbitration Board among the Block Managers to adjust housing troubles, still keeping the full power among them. It was voted on and agreed unanimously.

The Board would be composed of five Block Managers, whom the Managers would elect ^{at} ~~at~~ their next meeting.

I conferred with the Managers on the matter of the Fourth War Bond Drive. Len Nelson, during his speech at the Managers' Get-Together party last Friday, reported that he would come to the Block Managers asking them to take the leadership in the drive. I suggested that Sakai should see Nelson advising him that the job rightfully belonged to the Community Council and the City Manager, and they should undertake it. Sakai was so instructed by those present against his displeasure. "I handled Powell last time. It was hard enough. Now you people give me this job. It isn't fair," groaned Sakai.

Murakami of 30 argued for a raise of the wages for Block Managers and their staffs. I informed him that such move had been made by the Community Council sometime ago, and that the Managers should not take an independent action.

Sakai announced that a joint meeting of the Councilmen, the Block Managers, and the Division heads of the three units would be held to hear Myer this Thursday at 1 P. M. in the school Auditorium.

Feb 8

The following persons were appointed on the Committee for Housing. (Cf: January 25, page 7) Jo of Block 32, Murakami of Block 30, Frank Abe of Block 37, and Frank Kobayashi of Block 21.

March 21
Block Mgr
Meeting

The Housing Committee of the Block Managers held its first meeting, Murakami reported, to formulate its policy. But it decided to follow ~~to~~ the rules which had been existing up to now. (Cf: October 21, page 4) The Committee believed that there were many new Managers who were not acquainted with the rules and it felt expedient to send copies of the regulation to the Managers at this time. The new copies, however, added one section: it provided that all disputes over housing should be referred to the Housing Committee of the Block Managers, which would have the final authority over said disputes.

(Len Nelson told me a few days ago that he did not expect any transfer from Jerome, nor any intake from any center this year.)

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Housing Difficulty

(See January 14, page 1; January 19, page 6, the third paragraph; January 25, page 6, the last paragraph) (Cf: August 8, page 11)

As described in the Journal in detail, the former Unit Administrator, Seichi Nomura, had a great deal of difficulty whenever he was faced with the problems of finding apartments for transferees from other centers or from other Units. He begged the Block Managers for the spaces. He had contacted several Managers before he found a Manager who was willing to accept the transferees. Sometimes this willing Manager returned to Nomura the next day and reported that he could not accept the transferees, although he had agreed the day before. He would say that he had consulted the Block Council and the body had refused to accept the ^{party} ~~admission~~ into ^{the} ~~its~~ block. Or he would say that several block residents had complained, having been told of the news from the Manager. In these cases, Nomura ^{would be} ~~was~~ forced again to contact other Block Managers in search for block that would accept the new comers.

The cases in the past clearly indicated that the Block Councils and the residents had a great control over the housing matters, although the authority had been vested in the Block Managers. This was true especially in the blocks where ^{the} ~~Managers~~ ^{were} ~~changed~~ frequently and the Block Councils exercised a full authority over the Managers. This was also true in the blocks where their Managers were weak and ^{introverted} ~~weak~~. Nomura often complained that the blocks exercised the authority too arbitrarily without due respect for the general welfare of the community.

Nomura's predicament was acute when an attempt was made to establish a dormitory for nurse's aides from Units II and III. The blocks ² ~~joining~~ the hospital refused to accommodate them and

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the dormitory was established in one of the outlying blocks, viz. Block 5. The girls protested that their residences were too far away from the hospital, and many leaders realized that their complaints were justified, for the distance of one mile was too great for them to commute on foot every day. ^{As a result} ~~The~~ Hospital Committee went into action and contacted several of the leaders in Block 46 individually. The Committee members spent many a day in Block 46 in trying to get understanding from the residents ~~for them to have~~ ^{accepted} ~~accept~~ the nurse's aides. After about one month, the Committee finally succeeded in getting a consent from the block in April.

The supervision over housing was one of the most difficult and embarrassing tasks of Unit Administrator. The duty, however, fell into the hand of the Supervisor of the Block Managers when Nomura had left Poston. Within a few days after he had assumed the post, Supervisor Nishimoto was faced with a tough proposition. Charles Harper, the chief of Internal Security, requested Nishimoto to find an apartment for one Roy Mayeda, a transfer from Gila via the Florence jail. Mayeda was working as Steward in the messhall of Block 55 in Gila, Harper explained. One day he was involved in a quarrel with a resident over eggs. He had been acting nasty to Mayeda in the past and the situation had been reaching a breaking point. On this particular day the residents asked for some eggs. The Steward told him that he could not give ~~them~~ ^{the eggs}, because he was abiding by the government regulations strictly and he could not see any reason to give ~~the eggs~~ ^{them} to him. The resident got provocative, so the story by Harper ran, and used abusive words. "The man (Mayeda) being born in Hawaii was quick tempered ^{and} swung his fist into the face of this resident, who was floored," described Harper.

According to the stories gotten elsewhere the detail was a little different. Mayeda was known to be very "stingy" with

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government food. "He should give out food to residents when there are enough on hand," ~~said~~ one informant visiting Poston from Gila remarked. "He isn't losing anything. After all, it's for ^{our} fellow Japanese. He is a Japanese, too, isn't he? The trouble with him was that he followed the government instructions to the letters. He wouldn't give anything. He was stingy. He was 'Mr. Dog'. He swallowed whatever Keto told him to do. You know you can't get along with the people if you followed what Keto say. Specially if you work in messhall. In order to get along with the people you must fight for the Japanese against Keto. I know he worked in one of the toughest blocks. That is the reason all the more that he should have tried to ^{get} along with the people."

From this point on there were little discrepancies between Harper's version and that of the informant. The block residents could not tolerate the "rough act" of Mayeda. It became a block issue. A block meeting was held, in which angry accusations flew all over against the Steward. The ^{charge} of assault and battery was brought against ^{him} before the Judicial Commission. Both Harper and the evacuee informant agreed that much pressure was brought upon the Judicial Commission from the evacuees. The residents clamored that the beaten resident should be compensated to the full extent by meting out the heaviest sentence to the defendant. The Commission after weighing evidences that were all against Mayeda passed a sentence ordering Mayeda to serve in the Florence jail for three months, ~~the~~ a maximum sentence. "Mayeda got a raw, unjust deal. Nichols (the Internal Security officer at Gila) told me the sentence was a result of political moves," Harper reported. On the other hand, the evacuee visitor from Gila said, "He received what he deserved."

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In the early part of June Nichols contacted Harper with an idea to transfer Mayeda to Poston when he had finished his sentence at Florence. The Gila ~~man~~^{officer} believed that Mayeda was too nice a man to be made an object of ridicule and smear by residents if he returned to Gila. Mayeda would be certainly ostracized at Gila; his case had received too much adverse publicity. It would be unendurable for him to live in Gila, Nichols thought. Harper agreed with Nichols and promised that he would do everything within his power to accept him here. A few days afterwards, Keedle, the Project Steward ~~of~~^{at} Gila, visited Poston and met Harper here. Their conversation drifted to Roy Mayeda. Keedle said he liked Mayeda and was sorry that he had been persecuted just because he had carried out his duties conscientiously. Keedle asked Harper to give every consideration possible to Mayeda.

Now Harper's stand was reinforced by Keedle's visit. He presented the case to Mills and Burge. Both the Director and the Deputy Director objected; they did not want to accept anyone who "caused a trouble" in another center. They were afraid that the news would be soon known to the people here and he would be persecuted with whispering campaigns. They thought Mayeda would be much happier if he returned to Gila where he had some friends rather than coming to Poston where he knew nobody. Harper, however, was not willing to retreat. He presented the testimonies of Nichols and Keedle. He further argued that this acceptance would be advantageous to Poston in the future, because Gila would be obligated to accept a similar case from Poston when they be called on to do so. Mills and Burge in the end gave their consent to accept him. Now it was ~~the~~^a question of where to place him. The Deputy Project Director advised Harper to get in touch with Nishimoto for housing

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accommodation.

Accordingly Harper contacted Nishimoto with the request. When the Supervisor ^{heard} the detail of the case, ^{he} ~~Supervisor~~ realized it was very difficult to find a place for Mayeda. He knew that he was obliged to give the detail to whichever Manager he consulted for an apartment. He could not hide ethically from the Manager the fact that he was being released from the Florence jail. If the Supervisor informed the Manager of the fact, he knew that the chance of successfully finding a place ~~form~~ him was nil.

In order to get out of the predicament, Nishimoto took an easiest way out. He immediately saw Sumida, the Supply ^{Supervisor} who was also acting as the Manager of Block 16, then, and prevailed on him to ^{admit} Mayeda in his block. Even the best and ^{only} ~~last~~ hope of Nishimoto was doubtful. Sumida was reluctant and refused to give a definite answer. Nishimoto pushed the matter with Sumida for the next three days. Finally Sumida said he would take ^{up} the matter with the chairman ~~to~~ the Block Council.

The next morning Sumida reported to Nishimoto that the Chairman approved the admission and Mayeda be told to come to his block when he arrived here. (Much later, Yamaguchi, the ~~chairman~~ of the Block Council told me that he had never been consulted upon this matter by Sumida.) The Manager of Block 16, however, wanted to add a condition to the acceptance; he insisted that Mayeda might be requested to move elsewhere after ~~thirty~~ ^{the day of} days from ^{the day of} his acceptance in his block. This condition was agreed and Harper was notified accordingly.

Mayeda was brought to Poston by Nichols and another Internal Security officer of Gila in the beginning of July. He looked about forty-five years old, about six feet tall, and about two hundred

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pounds in weight. He had curly hair and thick lips; he was dark-complexioned and burly boned. He spoke with a thick Hawaiian accent and his diction was not refined. He spoke Japanese with a slight accent, which was remindful of the Hiroshima dialect, and his choice of Japanese words was coarse. He spat the words out of his mouth with a great force with some visible effort; the words did not flow from him.

One week passed after Roy Mayeda had been admitted into Block 16 with the condition that he be on trial for one month. Symida came to Nishimoto and requested to remove Mayeda to some other block. The Block Manager had this story to tell then. Mayeda was given a small apartment to live in alone, but he did not bring anything except one suitcase. The block people were quick to notice his unusual appearance and the paucity of his belongings. They were curious. Some of the residents approached Mayeda and began to carry conversation with him to satisfy their curiosity. The Gila transfer obviously was not conversant with the cultural characteristics of the rural Japanese in California; he did not realize that the proper method of initial approach under such a circumstance was to present his story as a pitiful predicament so that their sympathy be drawn to him. Instead Roy narrated his experience with much bravado. He bragged how well he obeyed the government instructions and the orders of the appointed personnel and how forcibly and effectively warded off the "selfish" block residents that sought constantly "something for nothing". He related the story of the brawl with much dramatic effect picturing himself as a strong man who could beat off any Japanese assailant or assailants. He told his experience in the Florence jail. The gossip mongers got busy immediately; they labelled him as "jailbird", "excitable, unbalanced

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crackpot", or "dangerous, pugnacious Hawaii-born". The women in the block were more active in this campaign; they talked about Roy Mayeda in twos and threes, here and there. This gossiping among the women, however, soon transformed into fear; they began to fear the man and to avoid him. Not only they were afraid, the women worked on their husbands so that something be done quickly before Mayeda could set his root in the block.

In order to alleviate the "naggings" from the wives, the members of the Block Council met together informally one evening without the Block Manager and agreed that the "jailbird" be removed from the block. The next morning Chairman Yamaguchi sought out Sumida and requested him to work on the removal of Mayeda.

Sumida and Nishimoto went see Harper and told him that he should find some other place in the other Units to transfer the Gila steward. Harper resented the reaction of the block and protested that it was unfair and unjust; he reiterated that the man had been railroaded by the Judicial Commission at Gila. The Managers insisted that Harper had agreed to the optional condition when Mayeda had been accepted. Mayeda was immediately dispatched for.

When Roy Mayeda came into Harper's office he, too, protested that the block residents were unjust. He had not provoked anyone in the block, he insisted.

"I aint done nothing. I just tol' em, becuse they asked me. They can't do this to me," Mayeda protested vehemently.

All of them, because they could not reach any agreement, went to see Moris Burge for his decision. Burge attempted first to persuade Sumida to reconsider, but having been informed of the optional clause in the original arrangement Burge acceded to transfer the Japanese either to Unit II or Unit III.

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"I am ashamed of them (the residents of Block 16). I hope they will pay for this sometime," said Burge.

Sumida reported to the Block 16 Council that Burge had agreed to remove Mayeda out of the block. The news was known to the people soon. Then a queer twist was put on the whole situation. Three men individually approached Mayeda and informed him that they had nothing against him. "We didn't do anything to kick you out of here," they said. "We have nothing against you here."

The next day Mayeda saw Burge with this information. "I don't think the block people are/against me as the Manager had said. I don't think it is necessary for me to move."

Burge informed Nishimoto of this fact and suggested that he was willing to talk to the members of the Block Council. In fact, he said, he had written to the Council notifying of his intention.

Nishimoto reported the matter to Sumida. The latter said that the persons who had gone up to Mayeda to "white-wash" themselves were the ones who had initiated the whole ousting move. They were afraid now, Sumida believed, to anger Mayeda, and had "double-talked" (ni mai jita o tsukatta) to the Hawaiian Nisei. The Manager was irritated and said that he would not do anything on this matter, because he had acted in accordance with the decision of the Council to oust the man.

Nevertheless, the Council held a meeting on receipt of Burge's letter and reconsidered its stand. Yamaguchi, the Chairman, pointed out to the rest that if Block 16 removed Mayeda, he would be branded as an undesirable person. The stigma would prevent him from being accepted by other blocks. "He is a Japanese, too. We should give him a better treatment. We should feel sorry for him."

Yamaguchi's sentiment prevailed and a new arrangement was worked

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out thereby the transferee was given another chance to remain in the block. The block, however, retained the right to demand his removal if the block considered him undesirable after three months from the date.

In the middle of July, ~~after~~ a few days after the Block 16 case had been settled satisfactorily, Nishimoto received another request for admittance. It came from Gerry Wumino, the Unit III Administrator. He said that an agreement had been reached between three Units to exchange the undesirable residents whenever necessary. This had been concluded when Nomura was trying to find a place for Kuni Takahashi and his family, who had been voted by Block 36 to move. According to this agreement, he said, he was asking Unit I to accept an old bachelor Issei, who was in the Old ^{Folks} Home. The Issei, Wumino reported, had been sent to the Home, because a block in Unit III had evicted him. The block residents objected to his presence in the block, for he refused to take showers and to wash his clothings. He was filthy. When he was voted out of the block, Crawford, the then Unit II Administrator, placed him in the home to instill health and sanitary habits in him. The Home officials now contended that he had been cured and demanded Wumino to take him back. But the block people refused to accept him back. Wumino was in quandry as to where he could ~~be placed~~ *place the man*.

Nishimoto consulted two or three Managers, but they were not willing to accept the Issei bachelor. He finally consulted Horita of Block 6. He said he had one bachelors' barrack occupied by only five Issei, and was willing to accept him.

"The trouble with these Managers is that they let the Block Councils have too much say and power. I run the block myself. I abolished the Council. That's no good. The Manager should run

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his own block anyway he sees fit. He shouldn't let the Council or residents interfere with his work. There are too many Yaji (irresponsible agitator, with connotation of "trouble maker" and "heckler") on the Block Councils. There is no end if the Managers listened to them and took orders from them."

Nishimoto was glad that the difficult case had been settled. He played up the fact that he, Horita, was proud that he was the dictator in his block and that he was a member of the Housing Committee. But Nishimoto knew that he could not have these good lucks all time; he realized that he would hit a snag soon with housing.

On July 29 Alice Cheney of the Family Welfare Section requested Nishimoto to find an apartment for a young man who was transferring from Tule Lake. According to the information from Tule Lake, he was a mathematic student who had worked under O'Day in the Statistical Section. As O'Day was transferred to Poston to succeed Marjorie Collins, the chief of the Statistical Section here, the boy was following him. Cheney said the young man must reside in Unit I, because he was to work under O'Day in the main office. On inquiry Cheney said that he had no family or friends at Poston.

Nishimoto sought the Manager of Block 4 to accommodate the transfer from Tule Lake. He was not anxious, but he was reminded of the rule that the block with less than 185 people had an obligation to accept new comers without protest. (This rule was established in October of 1943.) He consented in the end to receive the young man.

The next morning the Manager of Block 4 came to see Nishimoto and informed him that the Block Council held a meeting ^{the} a night before ^{and} ~~that~~ declined to receive the man. The ^{Council studied the} ~~problem was studied~~ from

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all angles, that is, they thought up all kinds of argument against the admission. Several Councilmen believed that anyone who came out of Tule Lake at this time would not be trustworthy. "He might be an Inu," said one of them. "Maybe that's the reason he is coming here. Tule Lake got to be too hot for him."

"A loyal Japanese from Tule Lake?" another remarked. "I don't trust loyal Japanese." (This man forgot that those remaining in these relocation center are technically loyal to the United States.)

"He is a young man, nineteen years old. When a youth of that age is ~~not~~ coming here with ^{out} his parents, there must be something wrong with him," still another Block Councilman remarked.

"His presence in the block would not be good for the young girls of the block," another man stated. "You can't tell what he might do. He might be a bad influence to the young girls."

"This man is coming with a Keto from Tule Lake. The fact that he is coming from the segregation center with a Keto is suspicious."

"We won't take him," another man was more aggressive. "If the Administration wants to put him in this block, just let it. We will show what will happen."

The Block Manager (This man was elected in May.) finally bowed to the will of the Council and begged the Supervisor to find another place for the Tule Lake Transfer.

Cheney was pressing Nishimoto for housing accomodation for the man, who was leaving Tule Lake on August 1, and there were not many days left before he would arrive here. The Supervisor took the case with several other Block Managers in succession, but every one of them refused to accept him. Their reason for refusal was invariably that their block residents would not like it or their Block Councils would not approve the admittance. Nishimoto lost his

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lost his patience and temper. He informed Cheney that he was not accepting the boy in Unit I.

Miss Cheney was offended by Nishimoto's decision and protested to Burge. Burge called Nishimoto in his office and inquired ^{him of} the detail. The Supervisor was still mad. He related his difficulty and added, "I am willing to return~~in~~ the housing authority to the Administration. You handle the matter. In the next meeting of the Block Managers I will ~~to~~ have them vote a resolution by which the authority be thrown back to the lap of the Administration."

"No, we can't handle housing. I think it ~~is~~ well handled now. We don't have the facility ^{to handle} housing ourselves," Burge stated definitely.

Nishimoto offered a solution. He said he would call a meeting of the Housing Committee of the Block Managers and would present the story. He would argue~~d~~ from two points; first, he would point out the disadvantages should the authority be taken away by the Administration, and second, the messhalls might be combined if the blocks were kept in the present slimly populated condition. Nishimoto told Burge to take a position that the Administration was anxious to take away from the evacuees the housing authority. "Don't reveal your weakness when you are questioned on this matter," Nishimoto told Burge. "Pretend that you are very anxious to take it over. If anyone asks the question, tell him that the Administration could handle housing much more smoothly and effectively."

Burge replied that he was willing to ~~play~~ his part in the game. Nishimoto immediately sent notices out to the members of the Committee calling for a meeting.

The meeting of the Housing Committee was ~~held~~ on August 3. Nishimoto presented the background of the housing difficulties

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and the detail of the recent cases. He, then, presented the following figures:

Block Census of Unit I as of August 3, 1944

Block 2	192	Block 28	182
3	205	30	161
4	172	31	194
5	119	32	197
6	128	35	169
11	128	36	192
12	117	37	144
13	221	38	210
14	195	39	174
15	123	42	139
16	180	43	182
17	230	44	174
18	172	45	188
19	193	46	166
21	130	53	179
22	157	54	216
26	218	59	164
27	165	60	180

The Supervisor pointed out to the committee members that there were twenty-three blocks with the populations of 185 or less. These blocks must accept new comers to their blocks without protest according to the rules and regulations adopted in the meeting of the Block Managers on October 27, 1943. Nishimoto present^{ed} his twofold arguments.

1. If the block enforced its "isolation" policy, the housing authority will be taken away by the Administration. If it happened, the Manager will not be allowed to move his block residents according to the^{ir} needs. He ~~would~~^{will} not be permitted to enlarge the apartments. In each of these cases, the Manager will be required to ask permission from the Administration. As it was obvious in the past, the Administration will say "no" to the request more than it will say "yes". Inconveniences resulting from this practice then will be great.

2. There are two factions in the Administration over the question of consolidating^{the} messhalls in the camp. One faction has

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been fighting to close those messhalls accommodating less than 150 people. The second faction, however, has been fighting against this proposal to keep all the messhalls open for the sake of the children and women in the blocks. At present the second faction is having an edge over the first faction. But it is unknown how long this condition will continue. If the blocks refused to accept new comers in and kept their populations way down, the first faction will have a stronger argument to close the messhalls. (This ^{explanation} ~~argument~~ is an exaggeration of the ~~actual~~ situation.)

The committee members agreed with the Supervisor that the Managers could not afford to let the housing situation to continue. One of them spoke belittlingly of some Managers. "The trouble is that some of us are weak kneed. They don't have the guts to tell the people off. They take orders from the Block Councils and the block residents instead of giving orders to them. They don't deserve to be Managers. They should quit their jobs as Block Managers and should be washing dishes in the messhalls."

Another Manager on the committee (Horita) commented that he was proud of the fact that he had gotten rid of his Block Council. "I run my block myself," said he. "I don't let anyone butt in my affairs. I don't let any Yaji have any chance."

Other committee members shared the opinions of these two outspoken members. The committee formulated the following recommendations to be presented to the Block Managers' meeting.

1. The blocks with the populations of 185 or less shall admit new residents without protest. The Supervisor shall have the full authority to select where they be placed.

2. The blocks shall have turns in admitting the new residents. That is, the block with the least population shall admit them first, and the block

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and the block with the population ~~of~~ next to the least shall admit them next, and so on until each of the blocks with the populations of 185 or less has taken its turn in admitting the new comers. When the cycle has been completed, it shall be begun again from the first block.

(The Housing Committee is composed of Horiat^A of Block 6, Murakami of Block 30, Shigemura of Block 39, Sakon of Block 59, and Supervisor Nishimoto.)

to the Block Managers in their meeting
On August 8^A Nishimoto again explained in detail the housing difficulties and the recent cases. He also related the probable consequences. He presented his two fold arguments, which were much convincing than he had anticipated. Murakami, then, followed with the report of the committee findings and recommendations. No Managers put up any argument and the recommendations were adopted unanimously in toto by them.

These regulations must be tried out before one knows how effective they will be. The blocks inherently abhor to accept strangers into their apartments. The Supervisor does not believe the problem solved, but he thinks that it might be easier than before.

SEPTEMBER 7 -- (1)

Housing

A difficulty is developing among the appointed personnel living in the Rainbow Village (the quarters for the appointed personnel) over housing. Some of the residents are not satisfied with the space distribution and asking for larger apartments. Improvement of the condition, however, is quite impossible, because it would require exchange of apartments among the Village residents. The ones with small apartments are contesting on the ground that Wade Head had promised them that corrections would be made sometime this summer.