

NOVEMBER 9 -- (1)

David French returned from Los Angeles last night after having escorted Ken Yoshioka, the Nisei Coordinator of the Community Activities. Yoshioka spent two weeks in Los Angeles straightening ^a ^{out} the evacuee property stored in the Tenrikyo Temple in Boyle Height.

Survey
French was permitted to escort Yoshioka by a special arrangement with the Leave Office, which was anxious to find out the community sentiment in Southern California in regard to the future return of the Japanese to the Coast. Carter, now in charge of the Leave Office, is said to be a graduate of the Anthropology Department of the University of California (Berkeley), and is now proposing to send the Community Analyst ^{to the Coast} from time to time, if such a plan could be approved by the Washington office.

French found through interviewing many Los Angeles residents that they are indifferent to the issue of the return of the Japanese. Most of them expect the Japanese to return there sooner or later, French observed. Many people living in the Boyle Height section, however, were more enthusiastic about the probable return, for they have known the Japanese for a long time on intimate terms.

French met his friends in the newsroom of the Police Department, and had an occasion to meet other reporters. They, too, were not interested in the problem, and were indifferent ^{either} one way or the other about the problem. He met many Negroes in the city. They were very much concerned with the Japanese problem. They wanted to have them return to the State as soon as possible, and wanted to have the exclusion orders declared unconstitutional. Many of the Negroes declared that the same thing could easily happen to them, too, unless such a step as exacuation established

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as unconstitutional. *be taken.*

In summarizing his survey, French stated that only 5% of the California people were strongly antagonistic to the Japanese. It might be said that they are fanatically prejudiced. About 10%, on the other hand, were favorable to the Japanese, although they were not very vocal in supporting. The rest did not care either way.

In some quarters it was believed that the Japanese would return to California beginning November 15. This information was given in a Negro newspaper, and other papers also reported it. The Negro paper had gotten the information from a woman connected with some State agency in Sacramento.

French thought that there would be no obstruction for the Japanese to return to Los Angeles, although they might face a serious housing problem. He stated that it was very easy to interview Los Angeles people on these questions, and was surprised to find that researches in relocation centers were much more difficult than he had realized, because the evacuees were not communicative.

April 21

Letter to The Times

'Persecution' of Japs?

When Ickes spoke of "the vindictive, bloodthirsty onslaughts of professional race-monger" he may have had the Los Angeles Times in mind. You know the tenor of its Russell Cartoons, its editorials predicting trouble for evacuees so bold as to return to their homes, the news distorted in selection and presentation.

No wonder he got under your skin as your "Straw Man" editorial shows he did.

An ever growing number of your readers realize that they have been influenced by you to participate in a persecution that has, as Fortune for April says, furnished proof by which Japan is convincing China and India that even at home we Americans limit liberty and justice to the cream-colored men. You are guilty, by promoting this persecution, of prolonging this war and helping prove to the world that we are unfit for neighbors.

Newspapers have power -- to use or abuse. Would that there had been a Star-Bulletin in California on Dec. 7! California is ripe for one.

WILLIAM C. CARR

Pasadena

(Editor's note) For more than a year The Times has been receiving letters such as the above from Mr. Carr, a real estate dealer at 1360 W. Colorado St., Pasadena. This letter is published because of Mr. Carr's persistency, not because of its merit.

April 21

The English Section printed the following articles:

Civil Liberties Union Reject Request by Fair Play Committee

New York, April 15 -- The American Civil Liberties Union on April 6th rejected a request by Kiyoshi Okamoto, chairman of the Heart Mountain Fair Play Committee, to provide legal aid to the committee in projected test cases to question the legality of selective service application to Nisei and validity of WRA leave regulations.

In a letter addressed to chairman Okamoto, Roger N. Baldwin, ACLU national director, held that F.P.C. members who resisted the draft have "a strong moral case, but no legal case at all."

The advisability of bringing another test case involving the leave regulations was questioned by Baldwin in view of the pending Endo Case now before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Baldwin added, however: "It may possibly be that a criminal prosecution ~~off~~ violating the leave regulations might raise the issue in another form, but our lawyers doubt it."

The ACLU director disclosed that his organization intends to get a suitable case to test the methods of determining disloyalty and therefore the detention of a large number of American citizens without trial.

"It is possible," he said, "that your case might offer the opportunity for such a test through application for a writ of habeas corpus, since we understand that you have been transferred to Tule Lake and were previously cleared as loyal.

"We are not, however, familiar enough with the facts to be sure of that," he added.

In reflecting the Fair Play Committee's request for legal representation, Baldwin stressed the importance of bringing test cases "under the most favorable circumstances."

"You fellows certainly have a strong moral case," he declared, "but it is not helped by refusing to comply with the requirements of the draft act."

He told the committee that the ACLU did not think that it

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could stand "solely upon logic or justice" in order to get results.

Amache Petition Reported Still Being Considered

Amache, April 11 -- Replying to the 11-point request of Feb. 22 for restoration of Nisei rights as a prelude to military service sent to Vice-President Henry Wallace by the Amache Community Council, Dillon S. Myer said ~~it~~ had been referred back to his department.

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"Please be assured," he added, "that the points you raise are receiving the consideration of responsible officials of the government. Their validity generally is sound, but each of the items you mention must be weighed in relation to many other factors in the wartime situation, and the opinions of many officials with responsibilities for various phases of the war effort must be given consideration."

"Hence," Myer concluded, "action along the lines you suggest, however justifiable, probably cannot be immediate."

Fair Play Group To Continue Fight

Heart Mountain, Wyo., April 13 -- Despite the fact that some of their outstanding leaders have been removed from the Heart Mountain Relocation Center, remaining leaders of the embattled Fair Play Committee have expressed themselves as willing to continue the fight initiated by chairman Kiyoshi Okamoto, who, it is reported, was railroaded to Tule Lake by Project Director Guy Robertson.

Okamoto, founder of the Fair Play Committee, was said to have been denied leave clearance by Project Director Robertson and the Leave Clearance Review Board in Washinton and was summarily sent to Tule Lake, segregation camp for disloyal Japanese. Isamu Horino, another Fair Play Leader, accompanied Okamoto on a similar charge.

Fair Play Committee circles considered this move as an effort on the part of Robertson to demolish the organization. It was understood that other committee members were being ordered to appear before the Project Director for leave clearance hearings in spite of the fact that many of them had been previously cleared.

The decision to carry on the ~~work~~ laid down by chairman Okamoto was reached at an open meeting held on April 5th. The committee, at the same time, condemned the WRA officials at Heart Mountain and termed as "bare-faced falsehood" the alleged accusations of subversive activities said to have been lodged by the administration.

April 14

The following editorial appeared in the Same edition.

Secretary Ickes Assails Straw Men at San Francisco

*out group
Pacifist
Fungus
Attitude*

A defense of the War Relocation Authority, which now is under his jurisdiction, and an attack on its critics were combined by Secretary of the Interior Ickes in a speech to the Commonwealth Club at San Francisco yesterday. In his attack the Secretary set up a number of straw men and knocked them over with characteristic violence and his usual misunderstanding of the situation.

If Mr. Ickes would stop yelling at the top of his lungs long enough to listen to rational explanation he would learn that West Coast opposition to the return of persons of Japanese ancestry to this coast during wartime has a rational basis.

"I hope that the clamor of those few among you who are screaming that this situation should be resolved on the basis of prejudice and hate will soon be overwhelmed by the stern remonstrances of those among you --- an overwhelming majority --- who believe in fair play and decency, Christianity, in the principles of America, in the Constitution of the United States," said Ickes.

No one who is listened to on the Pacific Coast has ever proposed a basis of prejudice and hate for the settlement of the Japanese problem. And the people who have been urging that the enemies and not coddled or pampered are getting a bit tired of being accused of race prejudice every time the Ickeses and the Dillon Myers open their mouths.

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Among the Japanese removed from the Pacific Coast by military action is a substantial proportion of persons who are unquestionably loyal to Japan and not to the United States. Such persons would be dangerous at large among the extensive military and war plants of the coastal region, or in any other part of the United States where military work is going on. We who know the Japanese better than does Mr. Ickes doubt the thoroughness of the sifting process by which the War Relocation Authority has been attempting to separate the good from the bad Japs.

That is the meat of the matter and it is what Ickes does not discuss. Instead he fights creations of his own imagination.

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Mar 8

*Outgroup
Relations
(Japan-war
relations)*

A few days ago, according to my informant, Niiseki was showing a note which allegedly contained a short wave broadcast from Japan. It stated that the Japanese Government had a plan to ask the U. S. at the end of the war an indemnity ~~for~~ \$700,000,000 for the Japanese nationals in America. "See what it says," Niiseki was quoted to have said. "The Japanese Government asks for us \$700,000,000 from the United States. You people objected to me when I asked the Spanish Consul for \$200,000,000. This shows that I was right in asking the indemnity. I had a foresight then."

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The Executive Committee of the Block Managers and the Committee appointed in the last Managers' meeting met this morning with Len Nelson. The Acting Project Director explained about the plan of the Administration as to the Managers' staff . (Cf: March 8, page 1) He told the Managers that he did not care how the other projects were operating the Block Manager system, but here it was the main spring in the community Administration. The Managers were doing some of works done by the appointed personnel ^{elsewhere}, he commented. He reiterated that the Administration would work out some other plan to retain one secretary to a block if the Poston proposal was rejected by Washington.

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The Los Angeles Examiner in its March 24th issue carried the following articles:

Salt Lake City, March 23 -- (AP) --- Dillon S. Myer, director of the War Relocation Authority, asserted today that when the military situation permits "there can be no question" that Japanese Americans moved from the Pacific Coast states "should have the right to go back to their former homes if they choose to do so."

"There are groups on the West Coast," he said in an address prepared for delivery at a luncheon meeting of Salt Lake City Civic Clubs, "who have been campaigning for months to stir up sentiment to keep the evacuees permanently excluded from their former homes."

"The plague of intolerance which they have fostered has spread into other areas; well organized efforts undoubtedly will be made to spread it still further. The efforts will be carefully disguised in the cloak of patriotism."

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"I find it hard to believe that the American people will tolerate for very long the fostering of hatred for fellow Americans and the destruction of American ideals when their sons are giving their lives to protect those ideals."

Solution of the problem of relocation, he said, "is national in scope, and no one section of the country can shirk its responsibilities."

"There is no logical reason," he went on, "why the 115,000 people who were evacuated from their homes in the Pacific Coast area cannot be absorbed into the national life in such a way that their abilities may be used and that the people become inconspicuous individuals rather than members of a problem group."

"For two years, emphasis has been placed on the ways in which the people of Japanese descent are different rather than on the many ways in which they are like the rest of the people of America. The result has been a vicious circle; the evacuated people are outside regular communities because they are different and because they are different it is difficult to get them reestablished in normal communities."

Fort McClellan, Ala., March 23 -- (INS) --- Twenty-five Japanese-American inductees today were held in the camp stockade at Fort McClellan for court-martial following their refusal to accept training under the U. S. Flag.

Brigadier General Wallace C. Philoon, commanding general of the Infantry Replacement Training Center, said the men were members of special battalion formed March 1. Personnel of the battalion consists mostly of second generation Japanese-Americans. All other members of the battalion accepted the training willingly, General Philoon said.

Cheyenne, Wyo., March 23 --- (INS) --- Draft evasion charges will be filed against 12 Japanese-American evacuees at the Heart Mountain (Wyo.) Relocation Center who failed to appear for pre-induction physicals, U. S. Attorney Carl L. Sackett said in Cheyenne today.

Meanwhile, officials at the camp remained silent regarding reports that a group of evacuees known as the "Fair Play Committee" had been circulating mimeographed messages urging refusal of induction and threatening bodily harm to other evacuees failing to comply.

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March 25

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The following articles appeared in the Rocky Shimp of

March 20, 1944:

*Out group
Rela*

The Heart Mountain Relocation Center was reported Saturday to be on the verge of a camp-wide strike in protest over what was termed as the dictatorial attitude of W. R. A. administrative officials toward camp internees and internal disorders were said to be spreading, according to a special news dispatch released to the United Press, Chicago Tribune, The Denver Post and the Rocky Shimp.

The report said "all possible means of negotiation with the Administrations" had almost been exhausted and that small hope was held for preventing "a camp-wide strike."

The Fair Play Committee, which recently asked Sec. Ickes to discharge Project Director Guy Robertson for incompetence, has now gone on record calling for an impartial investigation of the War Relocation Authority by a "truly disinterested body."

The pre-institution of selective service is said to have precipitated the current pending disturbance. The dispatch charged a "sinister political plot" by the W. R. A. administrative officials in conjunction and in conspiracy with the Japanese American Citizens League. It also charged the Heart Mountain Sentinel, an administration-controlled camp publication, with being a tool and mouth-piece of the W. R. A.- JACL conspirators.

The Fair Play Committee, which has rapidly gained strength for its stand on the selective service issue, has petitioned for "a judicial or congressional clarification" of Nisei citizenship status and is demanding full restoration of rights, including full restoration of rights, including return to the west coast, as a prelude to military induction.

Five Fair Play members have refused to report for pre-induction until clarification is ruled upon and they are still at liberty. The Fair Play Committee charges that the W. R. A. is issuing termination of work notice to these individuals and

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to these individuals and contends this act is "unfair and unrelated" to the issue of non-compliance with selective service.

Dissatisfaction with the Heart Mountain administration was said to have been ignited when Superintendent of Education Cliff Carter "struck four fist blows" upon a lad of 16, Shigeru Yoshida, for having been truant. Yoshida's injuries necessitated a hospital X-ray. Carter was said to have subsequently left the center and is now believed to be in Wahington.

The editorial, "The Sentinel Reverses Its Stand", by Jimmie Omura :

The Heart Mountain Sentinel, which only recently stepped forth to nobly criticize the War Department's intent and purposes in re-opening selective service to the Nisei, makes a right-about face in its editorial of March 11th. It now urges docile submission to selective service and lashed out at groups which are courageous enough to demand a restoration of rights as a prelude to induction.

It now has the audacity and brazen ego to support efforts to crush and destroy such militant organizations as the Fair Play Committee, which has drawn administrative disapproval because it has distinctly indicated that it would refuse to serve as a cat's-paw for the administration. The Sentinel, an administration-controlled publication, would like to see the Fair Play Committee dispersed, because the Fair Play Committee thinks in terms of justice, fair play and equal rights and its membership --- from its leaders down to the least of its members --- is not afraid to incur the wrath of the relocation center overlords.

The Fair Play Committee makes no pretension to cull the favors of the administration or federal authorities. It presumes to speak merely for its membership and not for anyone else. It is fearless in its espousal of wrongs, and though not always diplomatic, works on a sound footing. The editorial condemns the author of the Fair Play committee as "one of the center's most persistent and clever trouble-makers." That is an appellation given to anyone who is brave enough and courageous enough to fight a difficult battle.

The vicious attack upon the Fair Play Committee also contends "the only purpose of which is to confuse and distort selective service." The charge is in itself nullified for this is just a clever piece of generalization. The distortion and confusion are on the part of the Sentinel, which beautifully inveighed against the restrictive and discriminatory features of the draft in Selective Service Limited and now supports a turn-coat policy of cart the protestors to jail.

What tongue-in-cheek words are these:

"In our mind there is no issue in the reinstatement of selective service for the Nisei. There is only one answer and that

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is to respond when called."

Strange words are these to come from the mouths of evacuees, stranger still in the light of the Sentinel's earlier battle cry of "Jap Crowism." We can only assume from the nature of this editorial that the Sentinel has reserved a berth on Selective Service Limited. It has purchased a seat in the great gallery of bigots, hypocrites, racists, demagogues, the autocrats and the fascist-minded. Its reason is so indoctrinated and saturated with the soothing syrup of admonitions from administrative officials that it has obviously deserted justice, fair play, equal rights and all that are revered in our Constitution and in the government of our United States.

The attack upon the Fair Play Committee is neither justified nor reasonable. It is vicious, malignant, despicable and wholly without support. The federal authorities are charged with apprehension of wrong-doers in relocation centers who encourage resistance to the draft. If the Sentinel's members who refused to report for contentions are proper, it would seem that the five Fair Play Committee members who refused to report for induction would now be in custody. The fact that these five are at liberty is in itself substantial evidence of the propriety of the policy, daring as it is, pursued by this organization. What the Fair Play Committee is entitled to is a hand; not a stab in the back.

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Feb 8

Out Group
Relations

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R is an injured marine who had been returned from Guadalcanal. His father is an evacuee residing in Block 35, while his mother is a Mexican, who had been granted to return to California alone. R and his mother are visiting R's father now. The residents are naturally curious to know what had happened in the South Pacific and question the marine. But he is refusing to tell anything about the war. It is understood by some that R and his mother had signed a promise that they would not talk about the war while they are visiting here. On that condition they were allowed to come to Poston.

February 14

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Ted Haas has been to Los Angeles for medical care. On the way to and back he met many people who discussed the problems of the Japanese in America. He argued on behalf of the WRA and the Japanese, but he thought the listeners judged him biased because of his ^cconnetion with the WRA. After he goes into the Indian Service, he thought, he could do more effective public relation works for the Japanese, with whom his interest lies. He accepted his job with the Indian Service on the condition that he would be permitted to campaign for the WRA and the Japanese whenever ^ehis time allowed. It was granted by Commissioner Collier.

Outgoing
Relation