

July 26

Soon after the visit of the Spanish delegate one Prather,
the Business Manager of the hospital, was dispatched to Phoenix
and a contract was consum^mated by which all bridge, crown, and
plate works could be initiated in the dental clinic here soon.

JULY 18 -- (1)

The following memorandum was sent from the Community Council to the Supervisor's office: (Cf: July 15, page 6)

INFORMATION REQUESTED BY JAPANESE GOVERNMENT
REPRESENTED BY THE SPANISH EMBASSY

Poston, Arizona
Camp Number One

Co 1) Any difference or dispute between camp authorities and Japanese internees? Its development and results.

- 58 a. The case of the Chief Medical Officer of Poston --- The dispute between Dr. Pressman and the evacuees of Poston has been of a long standing one. Dr. Pressman has been found to be very uncooperative toward the evacuee doctors and the staff of the hospital. There are many complaints being brought up by the patients stating that the diagnosis made by Dr. Pressman has been at many times incorrect, and that treatments, in numerous cases, have been controversial to those which they had been receiving prior to their evacuation into this center with the result that very little improvement has been shown.

Several cases of cancer of the stomach which had been brought to the hospital has been diagnosed by Dr. Pressman as incurable and with only a few weeks of their life remaining, the patients has been discharged with such statement as, "It's no use spending any money on that patient because he will not live more than two weeks, whether operated on or not." Those persons having been reluctantly issued permits to receive treatment from an outside doctor have had very satisfactory results. Those patients have paid their own expense to have operations performed and are now back in Poston enjoying normal health. There are also several cases of eye ailments which have been given attention and treatment by Dr. Pressman, but with very little result. Many of these cases were also sent outside to be treated by an eye specialist who was surprised that the patient wasn't totally blind due to insufficient attention ~~was~~ and treatment received in Poston.

The evacuee physicians are trying to alleviate this situation as much as possible but due to the policy and the attitude of Dr. Pressman, which does not improve the situation any. The policy of Dr. Pressman does not permit him to confer or consult with the evacuee doctors in any matter and has always been authoritative in commands and orders, and has never shown a bit of sympathy toward the patients of those under his supervision.

The attitude and the feeling now existing in this hospital is at a point of breakage. The evacuee doctors of whom two are remaining will resign if Dr. Pressman is to be retained as the Chief Medical Officer of Poston. The general public sentiment of the Poston residents is very unfavorable and they have very little respect or trust in

JULY 18 -- (2)

him, but the faith and the trust in the ability of the evacuee doctors have been practicing medicine in the State of California for more than fourteen years. The majority of the evacuee residents are very doubtful as to the ability of Dr. Pressman as the Chief Medical Officer of this center.

The development of this controversy has come to a point where it is now a major issue as the WRA and the local administrative officials are definitely supporting Dr. Pressman in retaining him as the Chief Medical Officer of this center. This has a very disheartening effect in that we are on the verge of losing the services of our more competent and skillful evacuee doctors; therefore, we are making an urgent request for your assistance in retaining our evacuee doctors.

2) Any corporal punishment inflicted and on what ground?

None

3) Any complaint or request made by Japanese internees and detailed thereof.

See Petition on Requests made by ~~Japanese/internees/and~~
Unit I Residents

4) Any punishment inflicted upon or any threat made to punish Japanese internees who made complaints?

None

5) Any insult or humiliation given to Japanese internees by Camp authorities and any wanton treatment accorded to them for satisfying public curiosity?

None

6) Any labor imposed on Japanese internees which is dangerous or harmful or not related to administration management and maintenance of camp?

None

(Okamoto reported that the last two ^{answers} ~~questions~~ have not been answered completed yet.)

JULY 19 -- (1)

(continued from July 18, page 2 --- the questions by Spanish Delegate)

7) General remarks upon food, sanitary equipment and condition of health of Japanese internees.

- a. Food - Food ^{is} supplied by the WRA is far from adequate but due to the fact that much of the food desirable to the Japanese taste is raised by the evacuees on the project, the food situation is now fair.
- b. Sanitary Equipment - Condition of sewerage disposal is very poor as sewerage is led out to an open lake which is located close to camp, causing much disagreeable odor and the main breeding place for mosquitoes and flies. This is a most unhealthy condition and should be taken care of immediately.
- c. Health Condition of Evacuees - Only emergency cases are handled by the hospital; therefore, the percentage of the camp health is high as shown on the hospital records. But, there are many chronic sicknesses existing in camp which are not reported to the hospital as there are no adequate facilities to handle these patients and even if these cases were brought to the clinic, the number of wards is insufficient to hospitalize them; therefore, to our regret, they are confined and cared for at home.

SP
CO

Through the public health survey on part of the residents in camp, it was found that there was a very high percentage of those stricken with tuberculosis. It is assumed that after the completion of survey for the remaining of the camp, the percentage of tuberculosis patients among the evacuee which had not been detected would become higher.

Also, tremendous amount of ulcer cases are occurring with the chief cause being our diet. These cases are not taken care of because they are not emergency cases and, also, due to the lack of hospitalization quarters.

8) Other matters to which representative's attention has been drawn.

None

July 17

Moris Buarge took the Spanish delegate and the official of the State Department (Eberhardt) to as far as Barstow yesterday afternoon. There they were to meet a car sent from Manzanar, to which they would transfer to reach the center.

Suzuki related that complaints against Dr. Pressman were brought out in the conferences throughout the three Units. The Spanish delegate took the matter seriously and investigated the hospital with the official of the State Department. The State Department official took the complaints against Dr. Pressman over to the local WRA officials and requested them to look into the matter. The hospital matter suddenly took on an international flavor.

JULY 16 -- (1)

This morning Captain Antonio Martin, the representative from the Spanish Embassy, came into our messhall for breakfast. (He came to attend Mass at the Catholic Church in Block 45.) I had conversation with him for about one hour. The highlights of the conversation were as follows:

1. Last night he allowed personal interviews to the Japanese nationals here. (Cf: July 15, page 6) There were so many people who wanted to him, and some of them had to be turned away. He spent more than four hours --- from six P. M. to a little after 10 P. M. --- seeing individuals.

2. He was surprised that no one in any center talked about ~~the~~ financial losses arising out of the losses of fishing boats, say, at Terminal Island. He wanted to know why. He was sure that the Japanese who were in fishing lost terrifically. I told him I thought the Japanese nationals could not own fishing boats under the California law. Therefore, the Issei did not own any fishing boat. I was not quite certain and I promised him that I would find out about it and let him know.

3. Speaking of property losses, Martin believed that the Japanese Government handled the property of the American citizens in the Orient with a minimum losses. He believed that the American Government failed miserably in this respect --- that is, due to the failure of the American Government to cope with the situation quick enough, the losses of the Japanese in this country were unnecessarily too high.

3. Speaking of conditions of these camps, Martin believed the American Government was maintaining much higher standards than the Japanese Government. He thought the camps in the Philippines were deplorable. The Swiss Government, on behalf of the

JULY 16 -- (2)

United States, protested to the Japanese Army and the Government without any result.

He heard that the camps maintained by Japan in China were bad, too.

4. "After all, this is wartime. These camps are for enemy civilians. So these are concentration camps. They can't be good."
--- Antonio Martin, *regarding relocation centers*.

5. The talks about that the Japanese Government wanted to have doctors, college graduates, engineers returned to Japan on the exchange ships have no foundation. The Japanese Government has never sent such a directive to the Spanish Embassy. They do not have any priority over any other *for repatriation*.

6. Captain Martin heard that so many people are complaining about Pressman. He heard from many persons that they wanted Dr. Pressman removed from the Poston hospital. He wanted to know the specific charges against him. I told him that I did not know much about the hospital situation. But one thing I was certain --- he could not get along with the Japanese doctors and Japanese nurses. He was very poor in getting along with people. He was very arrogant in dealing with the Japanese people here, said I. "He is a Jewish, and" I ⁵stated to talk.

"Ah, a Jew! I understand!" said Martin as if I did not need to continue.

7. He asked me how the people here liked Moris Burge. I said, "He is a British. He acts like a British about whom we read so much in books on the Orient. Shall we say Burge acts like Viceroy of India?"

"Ah! (with much gestures) Viceroy!"

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July 15

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Antonio Martin, the representative from the Spanish Embassy, arrived here in the company of a State Department official from Gila late last night. It was reported that several members of the Community Council met with Captain Martin last night. During the course of conversation Captain Martin revealed that ~~eight~~ ^{Spanish} ~~questioned~~ the Japanese Government had submitted eight questions of the to be answered by the evacuees in each relocation centers. He said he was not willing to divulge the questions until all representatives from the three Units were assembled.

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From 9:30 A.M. (one hour behind the schedule) at the Block 32 messhall the evacuee representatives and other evacuees who were interested in meeting with the Spanish representative assembled to confer with him. There were about two hundred Japanese in the hall and P A system was utilized.

Onishi acted as the chairman of the meeting as Suzuki was held up in the hospital unavoidably. Nishimoto acted as interpreter. (I was surprised to see about fifty Issei women among the audience.)

Onishi read to the representative the prepared list of requests point by point. (July 12, page 4)

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Re: Cash advances and clothing allowances. Martin said that the rates were set by the Congress, and he could not do much about it. Of course, he said, he would present ^{the request} ~~them~~ to the WRA through the Embassy.

Re: Housing. The request for coolers and ceiling materials are new this time, he noticed. He could not tell how the WRA would regard the request, but he was ~~was~~ willing to take this up.

Re: Subsistence. Martin asked whether the general food condition had improved since last December. The chairman replied that it was not easy to make a comparison as he was called for, but he could state that the condition was fair.

Re: Combination plates. Martin reported that the plates were used at Santa Fe Detention Camp. When he visited there, the internees, however, complained about the combination plates and wanted them replaced by small individual dishes.

Re: Fund for recreational purposes. The Committee on Community Activities submitted a list. It itemized amounts for various activities such as football, baseball, etc. The total amount of \$3,500 annually was asked of the WRA through the Spanish Embassy. (There is no budget allowed for the recreational activities.)

Throughout the meeting Captain Martin avoided to make any commitment. He stated only to the extent that these requests would be submitted by the Spanish Ambassador to the American Government.

At this point the meeting was opened for general questions by the residents.

First, Dr. Suzuki related the condition of dental care. He explained that there was only one dental chair in Unit I to take care of some 6,500 people. There was no equipment for bridge, crown, and plate works. He emphasized this was affecting the

JULY 15 -- (3)

general health of residents.

Masaki read an article in the July 7th issue of the Rocky Shimpō. The gist of the article was as follows:

The Japanese Government requested a ~~sur~~vey of destitute Japanese nationals. Subsequently, Mr. DeAmat, the Spanish Consul at San Francisco, sent an inquiry upon this matter to the Committee for Negotiation with the Spanish Authorities (evidently an evacuee organization) at Topaz. The letter stated that the Japanese Government was requesting certain information regarding destitute Japanese nationals who needed financial aids. Therefore, He wanted the assistance of the Topaz organization to compile the names and addresses of the organizations representing the Japanese nationals in relocation centers and in large cities in Utah, Idaho, Wyoming, and Colorado.

Masaki pointed out that he had not heard about this matter in Poston. He wanted to know why Poston had been neglected. To this question Martin replied that a form letter had been mailed to every relocation center, and he believed that it had been sent to Poston too. If it had not reached here, there must have been some mistake some place. However, he added, he believed that the Japanese in relocation centers could not be classed as destitute persons, because they were cared by the American Government. The WRA had provisions made to care for the destitute people in camp, and they could not be termed as ones who needed financial aids.

Masaki, then, began to question the Community Council whether they had received such an inquiry from the Spanish Consul. Mr. Martin stated that it had been sent to Poston, and it was difficult to understand why it had ^{been} not received ^{by} the Council. If it had reached, and the Council had failed to inform the residents of the matter,

JULY 15 -- (4)

the responsibility for negligence must be accounted by the Councilmen, Masaki argued.

Kawasaki replied to Masaki immediately. He stated that the letter had never reached the Community Council and he was willing to investigate where it had been held up.

A feeble looking old man (appeared about seventy years old) stood up and asked for the payment of clothing allowances to all evacuees, whether working or not working. He cited the case of a family --- a widow with five children. The widow has not been working, because she has had no time to work after caring for her small children.

To this case, the Spanish representative replied that the Family Welfare provisions were existing to take care of these people, and they should contact the department. Suzuki added that the Block Managers would be glad to aid in these cases.

The old man was not satisfied. He pointed out that all applications for public assistance were not granted. Even though her application was granted, he further argued, she would be compelled to come into the office for interview every month. The routine hardship could be avoided if every one received a clothing allowance of \$5.00 a month alike.

The meeting was highlighted by the presentation of ^a protest by an Issei woman. She ran up to the microphone and began to shout into it with a high pitched voice. She complained that the films shown here were not wholesome --- not good to the welfare of youngsters. She asked the Spanish delegate to do something about the situation. (The films are selected by an evacuee organization, and not by the WRA.) She drew a great applause when she finished her oration.

JULY 15 -- (5)

Suzuki, now acting as the chairman of the meeting, had to remind her that the problem she presented was an intra-camp one, which should be brought to the Local Council.

An Issei requested a detailed explanation of the bill signed recently by President Roosevelt to withdraw the citizenship of people of Japanese ancestry "whose loyalty to the enemy marks them as Japanese nationals". He specifically wanted to know if those Nisei who had applied for expatriation would be subject to this legislation. "My son applied for expatriation. We want to go to Japan. If we can go to Japan right now, we don't mind if the government take the citizenship away from him. But there is no way of going to Japan right at present, and my son's citizenship might be taken away. I don't think it is fair."

The Spanish delegate reported that he did not know much about this bill, and promised that he would get in touch with the Spanish Embassy in Washington over long distance telephone soon to find out.

The meeting was adjourned as it was 11 o'clock. The hall was cleared and a selected group of Councilmen continued the conference with the Spanish delegate.

Captain Martin informed those remained that the Japanese government requested a list of the Japanese nationals died since the outbreak of war. Such list, he said, should contain name, place of birth or place of civil registry, date of birth, place of death, civil status, occupation, circumstance of death, address of the nearest relative, buried or cremated, and statement of estate.

Captain Martin, then, revealed the eight questions, which he said had been transmitted by the Japanese Government.

1. Is there any dispute or difference between the camp autho-

JULY 15 -- (6)

rities and Japanese internees? Its development and result.

2. Any corporal punishment meted out to the internees? If so, why?

3. Any complaints or requests by the Japanese internees?

4. Any punishment inflicted upon or any threat made to punish Japanese internees who made complaints?

5. Any insult or humiliation given to Japanese internees by camp authorities and any wanton treatment accorded to them for satisfying public curiosity? (This was interpreted to mean whether any insult was poured on the Japanese by the camp authorities to satisfy the anti-Japanese agitation on the outside, for instance.)

6. Any labor imposed upon Japanese internees which is dangerous or harmful or not related to administrative management and maintenance of camp?

7. General remarks upon food, sanitary equipment and condition of health of Japanese internees?

8. Other matters to which representative's attention has been drawn.

The evacuee representatives promised that the ^{answers} questions would be prepared before the departure of the Spanish delegate tomorrow evening.

At 11:30 Captain Martin was taken by Chariman Suzuki to inspect the sewage plant and pools at Block 59, which have been a source of much complaining by residents for the past two years, and a few messhalls.

In the afternoon Captain Martin would meet with the Unit II representatives.

Later in the evening he would give personal interviews to those Issei with special problems of importance.

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July 13

It was reported by Suzuki that the Administration had decided to limit the number of individuals who would be allowed to see the Spanish Consul representative to a few evacuees. The Administration was unwilling to hold a large meeting of evacuees and the representative as in the former visits.

July 12

The meeting of the Local Council was adjourned at this point and the body functioned^{then on} as a meeting of the representatives from blocks to prepare for the conference with the representative of the Spanish Consul. Suzuki read off from the list prepared by the Council committee. (The committee compiled the list from the various demands submitted by the blocks in Unit I in April, when it was reported that the Spanish Consul was soon to arrive here.) There was a little revision made on the list without much discussion. The Councilmen agreed to present to the Spanish Consul's representative the following demands:

1. The cash advances should be revised as follows:

\$19 to \$30 per month
\$16 to \$25 per month
\$12 to \$20 per month

And the clothing allowances should be revised to give every evacuee, young and old, worker or non-worker, \$5.00 per month.

Reason: The commodity prices have risen. The evacuees lost most of their possessions at the time of evacuation. They came in with some money, but they used up the money by this time.

2. Improvement of apartment

a. Install ceiling in every apartment

Reason: protection from dust and heat

b. Install one cooler in messhall^{and} the Block Manager's office. Also one big cooler should be supplied to each barrack.

(At this point Suzuki proposed that the ^{Spanish} representative should be taken to the messhalls without coolers to impress upon him the

JULY 12 -- (5)

evacuees are experiencing here. The representatives from the following blocks requested that the representative should be taken to their messhalls: Block 11, 15, 16, 14, 21, 38, 43.)

3. Subsistence -- Milk at present is given only to those under six years of age. It should be changed so that those in Junior High School and the old be supplied with milk.

Soap should be supplied to the residents.

Combination plates should be supplied. Now salad, meat, vegetables, etc. are dished up on one dish. It is not appetizing.

Improvement of drinking water --- too high content of chlorine.

Sewer system --- The sewage plant is incapable of handling the load.

4. Fund for recreational purposes should be allocated by the WRA.

5. Hospital --

Japanese doctors should be obtained from the Internment camp.

Dental ^gequipment for bridge, crown, and plate works should be supplied.

Men and women patients are placed in same wards together. They should be separated.

6. The moneys of the evacuees deposited with the Yokohama Species Bank should be freed.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 A. M.

April 26

Local
Council
Meeting

Sp. Com.

3. Okamoto announced that he had recieved a letter from the Spanish Consul notifying him of his contemplated visit here. He requested each block to transmit various requests and complaints, which residents wish to be transmitted to the Consul, in writing in quadruples. These requests then will be taken up by the representatives of the Council, who will meet the Consul. The Council also requested each block to send the list of names of those who are nationals of Japan, both in English and in Japanese. These lists will be given to the Consul for eventual transmission to Japan.

April 25

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It was reported by Nomura that the Spanish Consul had notified the Community Council here that he would visit Poston in a few weeks. The Council wants each block to send its requests and complaints to the Consul in quadruplicate.

Spanish
Council

April 27

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The announcement of imminent visit of the Spanish Consul has excited the residents ~~very~~ little. They have received the news with indifference. The sentiment in general can ^{be} summarized as, "He came here before, and we told him what we wanted. But nothing happened. He can't do anything anyway."

SP
Consul