

SOCIOLOGICAL JOURNAL

*Tamie Tsuchiyama*

June 1, 1943

The initial meeting of the Community Council (i. e. the over-all council for the three units) was held in Mess Hall 32 in the afternoon with Tom Masuda, acting project attorney, as chairman. Ralph Gelvin, associate project director, administered the oath to the new councilmen. Unit I was represented by Nakamura of Block 17, Ono of Block 60, Nakai of Block 27, Iwatake of Block 22, Fukuda of Block 3, Sakai of Block 17, Hane of Block 16, and Kawasaki of Block 13. Nakamura (former C. E. C. member) was elected temporary chairman with Sakamoto of Camp II as vice-chairman. Since the members were unacquainted with each other it was decided to hold two regular meetings before selecting permanent officers.

Masuda at this meeting stated that the Community Council which is an over-all organization for the three camps will function under the project director while the local councils will be under the direct jurisdiction of their respective unit administrators.

Gelvin delivered the following speech to the council at this time:

Members of the Poston Community Council:

We all regret that Mr. Head is not present to join us, for today there has come together under the new charter, a Community Council representing all of the people of Poston. Today marks another milestone in the building of a community. I extend congratulations to the residents of Poston and to you gentlemen as their chosen leaders.

The first evacuees arrived here little more than a year ago: This first group, the volunteers, found the raw conditions of a new settlement. As additional groups arrived, it was possible to think only of the essentials of food and water and a place to sleep. But even during the first few weeks people began to beautify grounds and houses. The first months were difficult, but the people of Poston responded to the need to do the things that gave greater comfort and satisfaction.

As we look around us today, truly there has been remarkable progress. Within the blocks there are trees and grass and vegetables. Schools are being built. Farmland has been cleared, the land leveled and preparations made for producing our food-stuffs in great quantity. Chickens and hogs are being raised to produce meat. Many people have found productive and satisfying employment.

The progress made so far has been in response to the needs of the community. These needs are ever changing and a progressive community is one which is never satisfied with things as they are. The coming year brings new problems. Many hundreds of people will



"find new homes for themselves in other parts of the United States; but there will be many who, during the coming months, will continue to live here. For these people and their children, there must be schools, hospitals, and the opportunities for the enjoyment of at least the simple pleasures and necessities of life.

Upon you, as representatives of the Community of Poston, the responsibility for a well-ordered and a productive community rests heavily. There is one problem which we must be willing to accept as a major problem during the coming year. That problem is the production of a considerable quantity of food.

The food situation in the United States has become more critical with each passing month. The demand for food for our armed forces and for shipment abroad to feed destitute and starving populations is an increasing demand. The supplies of food are not adequate to meet all the requirements. As a result, rationing has been a step to insure the equitable distribution of foodstuffs. Naturally, the people of Poston are subject to the conditions of rationing in the same way as the people of any community in this country. Rationing, however, is no guarantee that we will be able to secure even those foods to which we are entitled. Shortages have developed as demands became greater. We may expect that for periods of time the supply, especially of meat and of fresh vegetables, will be greatly limited if not entirely lacking.

In some respects, however, this community is favorably situated. We have already taken steps to provide a portion of our meat requirements. There are many hundreds of acres of farm land which, with the application of effort, can be made to supply a sizeable proportion of our requirements.

For this coming year, a total of \$11,350,000 has been requested of Congress to buy food for all relocation centers. This amounts to about 31¢ per day per person. It has been estimated that the projects will produce five million dollars worth of food which is equal to about 14¢ per day per person. If we are to produce our share, it is necessary that during the coming year we raise \$483,000 worth of vegetables, pork, poultry, and eggs. This can be done but it can be done only if the community is fully aware of the necessity of cooperative effort in producing foodstuffs. It has been reported that there are some who have taken the attitude that since the government has put us here it is the responsibility of the government to feed us. Let me call to your attention that no matter what sum of money is made available for the purchase of foods, it may be impossible to secure the kind or quality that we want if these foods are not on the market, or if their use is required by the Army or in lend-lease. We may also expect that we will receive foods of lower quality than we should like. The solution to this problem is largely in your hands. The Community Council can accept as its first responsibility the informing of the people of Poston of the situation, but there is need for the full realization that unless we are able to utilize water, the soil and the manpower of this community in food production, that we are going to be without some foods we would like and need.

The task of producing for ourselves is not an impossible one. There are hundreds of men who have been successful farmers in California who know what to do and how to do it. You have been credited with being the best farmers in America. The task is one of making certain that all realize their individual responsibilities. We are faced with one of the most definite problems since Poston's beginning. The solution is also one of the easiest and clearest. We know the problem, we have the skill, the manpower, and the land. It is only necessary to show the people that the problem exists and that the solution is in our hands. The previous Council has already opened the channels of cooperation by meeting with the block councils. We would be a long way toward the solution of this problem if you would hold by the end of this week another series of meetings to discuss food production with the people of the blocks.

The agricultural committees of the Community Council and of the Local Councils



"might, also, begin to work out the details of utilizing skills and manpower. During the past few months community problems of this kind have been met and solved by the cooperative efforts of the Council and its affiliated boards, and for these efforts we are deeply grateful.

The problems and needs of Poston are common to all three units. In the past we have attempted to solve these by independent action. Today and in the future, however, we need to work together as a team with coordination of effort and discussion between the units. It is the challenge of this Council to merge the unit rivalries to work in unison for the benefit of all. In this effort we must respect the rights of each unit to solve its individual problems, and they will be many, but for those common problems we must ~~put~~<sup>4</sup> together as a team.

The analogy might well be made of State rights and Federal rights. This Council represents the Federal or common interests of all. The Local Councils are like the States and represent local interests.

The nice adjustment of relationships in this working agreement is needed for a well organized community.

Once again, I wish to congratulate you as the members of the first Community Council of Poston."

The Los Angeles Times and the Los Angeles Examiner carried a front<sup>t</sup> page article on the fall of Attu. People who read it remarked casually: "Oh, that's all right." Someone retorted that newspapers nowadays must claim that the article is based on a Japanese broadcast before anyone in the center will believe it's authentic.

A few days ago the police department ~~received~~ received an anonymous letter recommending it to pay attention to apartment 9-B in Block 3 between 1:30 and 11:00 P. M. The police took the hint and sent a squad there today about 3:00(p. m.) in the afternoon. They heard the sound of chips as they arrived at the south door. The captain of the squad knocked on the door and said in a familiar tone: "Oi, akeya." ("Hey, open up.") Thinking it was a regular customer, someone opened the door and remarked: "You're late." The entire squad pushed in and saw a group playing hana with a huge pile of chips. When the captain inquired what they were doing one of them answered, "We're just playing for fun." The ~~xxx~~ policeman asked: "Aren't these chips money?" They replied in chorus, "Oh, no." So ~~the~~ he gathered all the chips into a central heap and ordered them to stop playing.

Later in the evening the police was called to stop a fight in the bachelors' quarters in block 14. When they arrived on the scene, they discovered two men about sixty years of age seriously wounded. One had a deep cut in the wrist alleged to have been cut by a pair of pruning scissors. Spectators informed the police that this man had held a



hammer in his hand and <sup>had struck</sup> the other <sup>^</sup> on the head several times with it. The other man was lying on the floor with closed eyes and his nose was bleeding. His head was swollen and his eyes were black and blue. The police finally extracted the information that the two had been playing hana with 10¢ stakes. One of them lost heavily and refused to pay the other saying, "I lost, so what?" The winner in anger picked up a hammer and the other simultaneously grabbed a pair of pruning scissors lying nearby and both began to attack each other. The boss of the joint was summoned and he promised to settle <sup>^</sup> the matter amicably with the police later, while the injured parties were rushed to the hospital.

Later the boss appeared at the apartment of one of the policemen and pleaded: "Will you hush this thing down? We'll take care of you." The officer replied: "Since we're fellow Japanese we don't like to see this thing pushed to the end but the doctors cannot falsify their records too often and the project director will sooner or later hear about it and then it will reflect on our department. You must not repeat the incident." Afterwards the police officer consulted X and inquired whether it was safe to accept his bribe or not. X replied: "Go ahead. Take the bribe because you can't prosecute two men anyway. Tell them that we're fellow Japanese and don't want trouble among ourselves. Tell them that we don't want to send any Japs to Yuma but be sure this incident is not repeated. Then no one will know ~~that~~ you accepted the bribe. People will think you did the right thing <sup>by</sup> them by not prosecuting them."

X later managed to pick up some background data on the boss. He was a poor farmer in Delano and arrived in camp without much money. Somehow in the early stages he stole \$800 in cash which he entrusted to his friend in Camp 3 so that when he was suspected and searched the police could find no evidence on him. It was reported that one man knew of the theft and extorted the thief of \$200. The man gambled with the stolen money and managed to scrape up about \$4,000. At present he is reputed to be running three or four gambling spots.

June 2, 1943

Dr. Mary H. S. Hayes, Washington WRA employment officer, arrived this week to make an analysis of project employment. Dr. Hayes who was formerly chief of the employment division of NYA plans to remain in Poston for three weeks.



According to Mrs. Tom Masuda, head of the National Student Relocation Service in Poston, Dr. Hayes remarked that she could not understand the hesitancy of the Japanese in relocation centers in going out. They were receiving prevailing wages, the attitude toward them was favorable, etc., etc. She inquired, "What more can you ask?" Mrs. Masuda informed her that ~~it~~ was difficult for evacuees in the first few months to live because not only must they buy a complete new wardrobe <sup>but</sup> they also had to purchase furniture, etc. since they were starting out from scratch. If they had homes in the Midwest or East and received prevailing wages as other people the situation would indeed be favorable. Dr. Hayes, according <sup>to</sup> her, expressed surprise that such thoughts had not occurred to her.

June 3, 1943

I was informed via the grapevine today that the people are greatly concerned as to the future of the Japanese language school in Poston. It seems that about ten days ago a Caucasian taking Japanese lessons disappeared mysteriously. Now the rumor going around is that he was a representative of the Dies Committee and had been "planted" there to get a low-down on the Japanese language school situation. Today's L. A. Examiner carried an editorial stating that the residents of Gila are not relocating because they have been informed that Japan will attack the Pacific Coast shortly. The Postonese by connecting these two facts expect to get adverse publicity from the Dies Committee. regarding the language school.

The Community Council held its regular meeting in the Conference Room in the afternoon. It was disclosed at this time that beginning with the new fiscal year on July 1, the subsistence appropriation would be reduced by 35% resulting in about 31¢ per person per day. A committee composed of ~~Fukuda~~ Fukuda of Unit I, Terakawa of Unit II, and Kadotani of Unit III was immediately appointed to draft a resolution protesting such action to be sent to the project director and to Mr. Myer. Fukuda maintained that it was impossible to produce any appreciable amount of food here because of the lack of agricultural equipment as well as the intense heat during June, July, and August.

The formation of an arbitration committee consisting of three members from Camp I and two each from II and III to arbitrate disputes before bringing them into court was



unanimously approved by the councilmen. It was decided that the local councils will recommend the candidates who in turn must be approved by the Community Council.

(Sidelight on the Bureau of Sociological Research:

X informed me today that for the past few weeks Mizushima, former Issei advisor of Block 45, had been translating the history of Poston---a 35 to 40 (triple-spaced) affair written by E. H. Spicer. Hashima, the Japanese instructor, assigned to Leighton and Spicer ~~him~~ had translated it before but his superiors wanted some corrections made by Mizushima so the latter, feeling that corrections alone would not improve the article, offered to make a completely new translation. He learned today that his translations had been submitted by Leighton to Reverend Mitani for corrections. He was greatly disturbed to think that his translations needed checking and contacted X to find out the educational background of his successor--especially his knowledge of Japanese. Mizushima claimed that if too many corrections were made on his copy he will tear it up and let Mitani make a new translation.)

The night watchman on the adobe project reported today an "amusing incident." "The other night I sneaked into the little unused shack right by the old adobe shed. As usual I found a young man and a girl lying on the floor. I flashed my light suddenly and blew a whistle. The man jumped up and ran away leaving his trousers behind him. The girl, however, was calm and nonchalant. I looked at her closely and saw she was a girl whom I see quite often on the school grounds. I said to her: "Go on home." Without a word she got up slowly and left. I hung the pair of pants on the wall. Later the boy must have sneaked back and retrieved it because it's gone now. That sure was lots of fun."

Mrs. Kamiya, the wife of a former wholesale fish dealer in San Pedro, received a notice from Washington a few days ago <sup>- the first in Block 45 - notifying her that she had been cleared</sup> for indefinite leave as a result of the WRA alien registration last February. She came up to the block manager (x) and inquired: "What am I going to do with this? I don't intend to go out." Yesterday the husband of the fat, crippled lady in that block whom I registered last February received his clearance. His wife was greatly worried believing that it was a WRA order to leave camp. The husband came twice to the block manager's office to verify ~~the~~ its meaning and finally in



the evening requested the block manager to come to his apartment to explain its aim to his wife since she was insistent that it was an eviction order. She felt that her husband was u/<sup>n</sup>popular in the block and that the notice was a result of his neighbors requesting the administration to remove him from ~~the~~ camp. The manager explained to her that it simply meant that her husband was considered loyal by the U. S. Government and that the ~~ex~~ government wanted him to work in some job connected with the war effort on the outside. It did not mean that he had to go out against his wishes. She was greatly relieved at this point and laughed mockingly: "Ah, this old man is loyal. Ha! Ha! Ha!"

June 4, 1943

Dr. John Powell, director of Community Affairs, was selected by Ralph Gelvin, acting project director, to succeed Nell Findley, who has recently returned to Hawaii, as Chief of Community Services.

A girl about 25 years of age from block 44 was seen crying hysterically in the firebreak area between blocks 44 and 45 about 2:30 p.m. today. When passersby sympathetically inquired as to her trouble she fiercely responded: "Don't bother me." Finally she jumped into the canal nearby saying, "I'm going to ~~kill~~ myself." She was pulled out immediately, drenched wet.

During the night an Issei woman in block 2 (apt. 8-b) cut her wrists with a razor blade in fifteen places. She was hospitalized immediately.

June 5, 1943

#### Controversy over Noodle Factory

(Introduction: On May 25 an order came to the Noodle Factory from Snelson, Chief Steward, to close its doors from June 5 to July 5 because of excess stock of noodles in the warehouse. Immediately George Yasu<sup>o</sup>kochi, manager of the noodle factory, and Mr. Abe of Block 43, a worker in the factory, consulted Snelson as to the motive for closing the factory. The official claimed it was a request from the Central Executive Board and the Labor Relations Board and told them to contact them. The two representatives from the factory proceeded to the office of the Labor Relations Board but Nakachi, its chairman, denied any knowledge of the matter. They then contacted Nagai of the Central Executive Board but he also knew nothing about it. By this time the two men became annoyed



and demanded: "What do you mean? Snelson told us to refer to you and the L. R. B." Nagai asked them to wait a moment and consulted his colleague, Matsumoto. The latter replied: "I might as well tell you the whole story. Snelson said that he had too much noodles at hand and they were liable to spoil during the hot summer months. He asked the approval of our board to close the factory." The two men proceeded to explain the difference between fresh and dried noodles at great length and ~~then~~ <sup>threw</sup> in an elementary lesson in macaroni and spaghetti for good measure. Matsumoto finally replied: "I haven't eaten your noodles because I don't like noodles in general. If I had known there was such a great difference I would not have approved the closing. The only thing to do now is to take the matter to the newly formed Council for consideration."

Within a few days a great deal of discussion arose in the rural sections of camp. ~~concerning~~ <sup>concerning</sup> the quality of Poston-made noodles. The story was also circulated that George Kurata, former councilman from Block 38 where the factory is located, was the chief agitator against the noodle factory and that he was instrumental in inducing Snelson to close the shop. (It seems that Kurata wanted to get married sometime in February and desired a private apartment but because of the acute housing situation at that time none was available. He and his prospective father-in-law finally hit upon the idea of ousting the noodle factory from barrack 14 in their block and converting it into a private apartment.) Kurata <sup>immediately</sup> launched an intensive campaign against the noodle factory. He began by casting derogatory remarks about the factory to bachelors in the adjoining barrack and generally antagonizing the factory workers. About this time also he and his "father-in-law" circulated a petition to oust the noodle factory from the block for sanitary reasons. They also claimed that the 70 factory workers worked only two hours in the morning and received a full day's credit. They took the petition up to Evans who readily approved of it because he has always held to the idea that barracks should be utilized only for residential purposes. Kurata then took the matter up to Snelson (1)

(1) The agitation for eviction of the noodle factory from block 38 has died down somewhat since the ~~burning~~ <sup>burning</sup> of barrack 14 along with mess hall 44 on April 17. Apparently those people who coveted that barrack for living quarters are now afraid of residing next to the mess hall since two mess halls have burned down within a few weeks of each other.



who wished to transfer the factory to the Industry Department under Homer Mathiesen. The noodle workers objected to this since they desired to remain under the jurisdiction of the Steward's Department and not the Industry Division. It is claimed that Snelson made two attempts to shove the busk to Mathiesen. It is also reported that Snelson's order to close the noodle factory was partly motivated by a desire to get even with ~~Jim~~ Jimmy Yahiro, his former assistant, who several months ago called secret meetings of mess hall ~~clubs~~ <sup>chefs</sup> in an attempt to oust Snelson from office.

(Incidentally, George Yasukochi, the manager of the noodle factory, is a good friend of Yahiro, who was responsible for the founding of the factory. Everyone knows that the factory is Yahiro's pet and pride.)

Meanwhile the noodle ~~workers~~ workers heard that Kawasaki, the new Issei councilman from Block 14, was "dancing" behind the scenes with Kurata so they sent three delegates to interview him. About this time the workers became aware of political intrigue being attached to their problem. Kawasaki upon being contacted replied airily: "We closed your factory. When we say 'open' it will open." These delegates did not know that he was a "blabber mouth" so swallowed everything he said and ~~took~~ took pains to impress upon him the importance of the noodle factory. Kawasaki finally agreed with them that the factory should be reopened. The representatives believing that he was on their side returned home happily.

At the second meeting of the local council (June 2, I believe) the case was referred to ~~and~~ the food committee for investigation. Upon hearing of this the factory people elected Nakase and Abe as their representatives to contact the chairman and vice-chairman of the Council to air their views. Since they heard Nomura ~~was~~ the chairman, who <sup>understand Japanese, they decided to see</sup> ~~was~~ the vice chairman, who is an Issei. The two representatives then requested George Yasukochi and Jimmy Yahiro to intercede with Okamoto for their behalf. Yahiro answered: "Sure, He's a good friend of mine so I'll tell him what to do." It is reported that when Yahiro consulted Okamoto, the ~~latter~~ latter agreed that the factory should be reopened claiming: "It's a good idea to use government property as much as possible and to get government money for maximum wages because that is our contribution toward the Japanese war effort." Interestingly enough, the factory representatives did not consult Nomura. Meanwhile Nomura heard that they had contacted Okamoto.

*He is out in all probability could not*



Since it was agreed between the representatives and the Food Committee that votes would be taken by blocks to determine whether the noodle factory should be reopened or not Abe and Nakase began a round of blocks to present their side to the camp residents.)

On June 5 Nakase, the foreman of the noodle factory in company with Abe, the right hand man of Murata, visited the manager of block 45 to solicit his aid in reopening the factory. According to Nakase an order came from Snelson to close the factory until November. The workers however believed this was contrary to public opinion. They were certain that more than a majority of the residents appreciated the fresh noodles. In fact many of them were actively sympathizing with them saying, "We like noodles. Just because a few don't like ~~it~~ <sup>it</sup> they can't have their own way at the expense of the vast majority." Nakase at the insistence of his fellow workers had gone to see Snelson. He was informed that a large ~~quantity~~ quantity of dry noodles had been repossessed from several blocks where they had been hoarded and there was quite an amount remaining in the warehouses from the lot ordered by his predecessor, Earl Best. Since they were likely to sprout bugs during the hot summer months they had to be consumed quickly. However he was informed that the closing door did not originate with him but it came from George Kurata and his T. C. C. Committee. "And by that I understood block 38", explained Nakase to the manager of block 45, "since it has been anxious to oust <sup>us</sup> for some time. The residents of that block have <sup>been</sup> trying all kinds of trickery to evict us. Once they attempted to move us by a T. C. C. resolution but the councilmen were afraid of adverse criticism at that time so failed to pass it. Now Kurata is using the excess stock of

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(1) Murata is no. 12 in our Spanish Consul report and one of the four big leaders in camp.

(2) The first order was to close from June 5 to July 5, but somewhere between May 26 and June 5 it was changed to November. According to X more credence should be placed on the events described in the introduction rather than those accredited to Nakase in the ~~following~~ following pages.



noodles in the warehouse as an excuse to evict us." At this point he was interrupted by Abe: "Yes, George Kurata is an Inu . He is trying to suck hakujin's ass. Among ourselves we shouldn't do such things." Nakase then proceeded to explain to the manager that he had gone next to see Nagai, the chairman of the C.E.C., who in turn had sent him to K. Matsumoto, protesting his ignorance of the matter. Matsumoto informed him that as far as he was concerned he wanted the noodle factory functioning in camp -- that he appreciated anything which would benefit all of them. He continued: "After all we should assist our fellow countrymen. But here is his memo (displaying Snelson's memo) and I had to act upon it. If you wish to continue noodle manufacturing and if you believe that the community is back of you we should appeal to the people". He told Nakase at the same time that the newly elected local council was unwilling to settle this matter. Finally it was decided between Matsumoto and him to put the matter to a popular vote. Hence he was making a round of blocks to acquaint the residents with his side of the story.

On further questioning by the block manager Nakase divulged the following facts: (1) The cost of manufacturing is not included in the proposed 31¢ daily ration. Since there is an abundant supply of flour which block kitchens cannot consume they are planning to use this excess supply to manufacture noodles. (2) No record of the amount of noodles supplied to various blocks has been kept. (3) Kurata's chief opposition to the continuance of the factory was that the workers worked only half a day and were given a full day's compensation. Nakase defended his stand by claiming that his men were employed at piece work rate and consequently they produced more than could be obtained from a full day's work at a slower pace. (4) With reference



to manpower shortage in other projects he claimed that although some seventy men and women were employed in his factory most of them were over fifty-five years of age and that only 25 or so of them might be useful in other projects. Even these he contended cannot stand work which requires strenuous physical labor. (5) Kawasaki, the councilman from block 14 was pulling the wire behind Kurata.

The block manager assured the noodle delegates that as far as block 45 was concerned they could rest assured that he would assist them in their campaign in return for Mr. Murata's assistance in the past.

(1)

June 6, 1943

Nothing significant occurred today.

June 7, 1943

Noodle Factory: Nakase, Abe and Iketani called on the block manager of 45 in the morning and explained that the original proposal of taking a popular vote on the noodle question had been abandoned and their present plan was to sound out the opinion of the chef in each messhall in camp. Therefore they requested him to explain the situation to his chef. The manager assured the delegates that as far as block 45 was concerned there was no cause for worry since it was reputed to be the heaviest noodle consuming block in Camp I. It has consumed 1 3/4 ton of the 60 tons produced by the factory to date.

In a chance conversation I managed to pick up some background data on Mrs. Saito of abortion fame. I learned that ever since her arrival in camp last summer she has been carrying on an affair with Mr. Kodama, former chef of the hospital kitchen, in the presence of

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1. Murata is no. 12 in Spanish consul report.



her husband who is crippled and partly blind. Mrs. Saito is reported to have made pocket money by selling sugar stolen from the hospital kitchen to fellow block residents in 59. Late last summer two sacks of sugar and ten sacks of rice on different occasions disappeared from the stockroom of the hospital kitchen so the Subsistence Dept. called for explanations from Mr. Kodama but he denied any knowledge of the theft. Sometime in September at 2:00 a.m. the police raided Mrs. Saito's apartment in the hope of obtaining evidence of the theft but nothing was unearthed so they were compelled to drop the case.

June 8, 1943

At the regular block managers' meeting in the morning they were warned by Richard Nishimoto, Sanitation Officer, that malaria-carrying mosquitoes had been discovered in Poston. He solicited their aid in getting rid of stagnant pools of water throughout the block.

June 9, 1943

At the regular meeting of the local council the Food Committee consisting of Okamoto, Tsuneyoshi, and Ogi, reported that it had made a round of blocks in Camp I to determine the chefs' attitude toward the noodle controversy and had found 34 blocks in favor of reopening the factory. The only blocks opposing such action were 5 and 6. It recommended that the council take immediate steps to reopen the factory. Their recommendation was met by stubborn opposition on the part of Kawasaki, Joe Nakai, and Nomura who maintained that that was not a true picture of what the majority of the residents were thinking of Poston-made noodles. During the heated discussion Nomura exploded: "There is dirty politics in this. We can't let politicians run camp. I know there are lots of people who hate Poston-made noodles. Just the signatures of chefs are not sufficient. We have to take the



question back to the block residents to decide."

When Nakase, Abe and Iketani visited X in the evening they were boiling with indignation. The first statement extracted from them was: "Kurata is an Inu. We are letting Inu loose in camp. We should start taking care of them again. Nomura is with him too." The manager disagreed with them claiming that Nomura was a straight shooter. In the course of conversation he was surprised to learn that the noodle factory had been founded by Jim Yahiro. This clarified the issue for him. He said: "Now I know what it's all about. Nomura and Yahiro have been at odds with each other for some unknown reason since ~~Last~~ December. According to Nomura the administration knew too much about the evacuee side during the November strike. The only person he claimed who could have squealed was Yahiro because he had a pass to go through the picket line. Once he even boasted that he squealed everything to Townsend. Nomura once told me that Yahiro was the biggest Inu in camp." He explained that Nomura suspected Yahiro, Okamoto, and Nakamura operating behind the scenes in the noodle controversy. That was what he meant when he claimed he saw "dirty politics" in it at the council meeting. The noodle delegates vehemently denied the assistance of the three aforementioned politicians in their campaign. They explained that Yahiro was no longer connected with the factory and that Okamoto was the only individual contacted. Furthermore this was the first time any of them had ever seen Okamoto -- in fact they had to inquire where he lived. They entreated the manager to explain the entire situation to Nomura immediately.

Later in the evening the block manager encountered Nomura so inquired casually: "What is the noodle controversy about anyway?" Nomura responded according to his expectations. He immediately



proceeded to justify his stand against reopening the factory:

- (1) This is a political wrangling instigated by Yahiro, Okamoto and Nakamura.
- (2) People in camp don't want Poston-made noodles.
- (3) The factory is unsanitary.
- (4) People in the block (38) don't want the factory there.

The manager in his usual fashion proceeded to argue back point by point:

(1) "Let's assume that this is a political football and let's assume that those guys are behind the noodle people. Then you can't say that you are going to deny the rightful presentation of their case just because you don't like them. The question must be decided on its own merit.

(2) The people who do not care for noodles are the loud talkers.

You know yourself that agitators and dissatisfied people talk loud.

You just think that lots of people hate noodles because they talk loud and talk often.

(3) If you think the factory is unsanitary, tell ~~t~~hem to clean up.

You can't tell them to quit just because it's dirty.

(4) If the people in block 38 don't want the factory there, why don't you find another place for it? They are not producing noodles only for block 38."

Nomura replied savagely: "Yeah, but I don't like dirty politics. God damn those guys -- Yahiro, Okamoto, Nakamura. ~~T~~hem guys are a bunch of dirty guys." (This is a typical reaction of Nomura. He generally swallows<sup>w</sup> what X has to say, gets violently indignant like this, and the next moment you will encounter him expressing X's or any one else's arguments as his own). The manager felt his work was well-done so let him rave as long as he wished. "hen he was exhausted the



manager concluded: "Let's get them but not this time."

June 10, 1943

Abe and Nakase called on the block manager of 45 and wanted to know what he had done to Nomura. He described his encounter with Nomura the night before and told them not to worry because Nomura was a straight shooter.

June 11, 1943

Murata visited X in the morning and thanked him for his efforts toward reopening the noodle factory. Meanwhile the two delegates were seen going around camp feeling the pulse of public opinion regarding the issue.

June 12, 1943

Dr. Tep Ishimaru wrote to his classmate, Kitabayashi of block 59, whom he thought had applied for repatriation to cancel his application since he felt this would most likely be the criterion for the proposed segregation.

Confirming the rumor which has been making its round of camp for the past few days that Wade Head is to remain in Poston indefinitely the project director issued the following statement today:

June 12, 1943

TO THE RESIDENTS OF POSTON:

I have just returned from Washington D.C. where I attended the recent project directors' conference.

Needless to say, I am very happy to be back at Poston.

I am more than pleased to find you firmly resolved to do your utmost for this community, and the intelligent manner in which you are attacking the serious problems faced by this project. I am deeply impressed and profoundly grateful for your loyalty so eloquently expressed by your petition requesting me to remain in office here. May I assure you it is my intention to remain on this project as long as possible, and until such time as duty may call me to serve in the armed forces of this nation. I know you will assist me wholeheartedly in the work which lies before us. With your cooperation, I am sure we will not fail to achieve our goal. May I express my sincere appreciation for the



confidence you have clearly shown in me.

Sincerely,  
/s/ W. Wade Head  
W. Wade Head

In the evening an appreciation party honoring public school teachers of Camp I was held at the block 4 shibai stage by the Poston Parent Association.

June 13, 1943

An internee paroled from the detention camp in Bismarck, North Dakota, contributed the following information today: Last summer the Japanese internees in Bismarck wrote to Ambassador Nomura requesting information re the plans of the Japanese government for post-war resettlement of the Japanese in America. The answer came to them in the name of the ambassador but written by someone else. In essence it stated: No one can tell what is going to happen. At this time the Japanese government cannot commit itself in any way nor can it predict the outcome. However, I can cite what actually took place in China a few years ago. At the outbreak of the China incident Japanese residents were given 100 yen and evacuated to Japan. When the area became inhabitable again they were returned to China at government expense and their businesses were reestablished with government subsidy. This information was given in the hope that the established policy of the government be made known to the Japanese people in America.

X extracted the following information from Simida,<sup>(1)</sup> block manager of 16 and a member of the Police Commission in the course of conversation today: "Since the Police Commission has been established there has been no big-time gambling in camp. I know that small-time gambling exists. Whenever a gambler is apprehended by the police we first advise him to discontinue. We don't have a court hearing for these cases. If the advice is unheeded the offender is given a court hearing and placed on probation. If he violates his

u) No. 9 of Spanish Consul Report.



probation he is sent to Yuma. That is the set ~~pt~~ policy of the Police Commission."

With reference to juvenile delinquency Sumida informed X that delinquency was rife in his block until he decided to take drastic action against it. In a population of 245 in his block there are over 90 school-age children. On the evening of June 12 he called a meeting of all parents with school-age children and acquainted them with the deplorable acts ~~ecommitted~~ committed by their children to date. Among them he cited the following cases:

- (1) Some one stole a small sum of money left in the block manager's office.
- (2) Some boys were seen peeping through the windows of the women's latrine.
- (3) Boys of 13 and 14 ~~for, sex, gang, and~~ formed gangs and were destroying government property such as tearing off tar paper from barracks and breaking window panes.
- (4) Young boys were constantly fighting each other in the block.
- (5) The youngsters annoyed movie audiences by unnecessary razzing and throwing of rocks into the crowd. In one case he claimed that a pair of glasses had been broken by the flying missiles.

He then requested their permission to call a meeting of the block children and having the police chief deliver some sound advice. His suggestion was met with violent opposition on the part of some parents. They demanded: "Don't you think it's a shame for our block to advertise the bad deeds of our children?" "Don't you think it's a bad influence on the good boys in our block if they find out what the bad boys are doing?" "Why should we take action when the other blocks are ~~doing nothing about it?~~ doing nothing about it? It is not only our boys who are bad." After much wrangling they finally consented to the block manager's wish. So the following afternoon he herded all



all school-age children in the block into the mess hall to listen to a lecture by the police chief and his two assistants. The chief impressed upon them that his department would not hesitate to pick up any offenders. Looking at the husky figures of the police officers the children were sufficiently intimidated and remained well-behaved throughout the meeting. Since then, Sumida proudly informed X that his block has had no difficulty in curbing juvenile delinquency.

June 14, 1943

Six fights between individuals, including that between Hosaka and Tsukamoto of block 46 which will be discussed under date of June 16, were reported to the police department today. For the past few weeks numerous quarrels between block residents in all sections of camp have been noted indicating that frustrations which found a temporary release in the November strike are beginning to accumulate again. Since the administration after the November incident has been wisely following a "hands off" policy and trying not to interfere with camp activities the residents can no longer use Caucasians as scapegoats so their frustrations are finding a new outlet in squabbling among themselves. This in addition to appealing to the administration to remove obnoxious personalities from camp (which will be described later in great detail) indicates a new trend in camp behavior.



Tsuchiyawa.

June 15, 1943

At the beginning of the regular block managers' meeting Roy Furuya, executive secretary to the unit administrator, announced breathlessly that Len Nelson was coming to address the group with regards to the Dies Committee. At the close of the business session since Nelson failed to appear Furuya made the following announcement: "Mr. Head told me to tell you confidentially that the Dies Committee is coming to camp. This is a secret between Mr. Head and the Dies Committee so keep it under your hat. Be sure to let the people know. Mr. Head wants you to work 8 full hours while they are here. By the way I want the Japanese "hinomaru no hata" (i.e. the Japanese flag) hidden away."

"How about Japanese records?" someone inquired. Furuya answered: "Oh yeah, those better not be played, especially Aikoku koshin kyoku (literally translated "Love of Country" song).

Someone yelled: "Yeah, feed 'em lousy stuff." Furuya replied: "I'll see to it that they're fed lousy stuff." From the corner came lusty shouts of "Neckbones, neckbones." Furuya grinned: "Alright, neckbones then."

(1)

Someone inquired further: "When are they coming?" Furuya stated that the Dies Committee would not give the exact date but it was to be sometime this week. He also informed them that Mr. Head had requested them to destroy all block records on the November strike. (This was unnecessary since none of the block managers kept logs during that period).

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1. About three months ago we were deluged with pork neckbones. They appeared at least once a day. The complaints were so numerous that the chefs even held a meeting once to oust Snelson, Chief Steward, for ordering so much neckbones.



Ed Ouchi, manager of block 30, asked: "Don't you think it's better to cancel the appreciation party for the block manager's staffs to be given by the Community Enterprises?" Someone from the floor replied: "I think we'd better. We don't want to show them (i.e. the Dies Committee) that we're having a good time at parties". Furuya agreed to notify the C.E. people about the change in plans.

At lunchtime all the block managers announced the coming of the Dies Committee to the residents. Some of the instructions were brief; others were more detailed. The head of our block simply stated that the Dies Committee was expected this week and requested our cooperation in removing Japanese flags and other subversive objects to an obscure spot. The manager of 45 was more dramatic as usual: "The following is a confidential announcement: The Dies Committee is coming to greet you. They are coming sometime this week. They are coming to search for the food caches for the Japanese paratroops. The Committee itself isn't so bad but with them newspaper men and photographers from the Western States are coming. You know how these newspaper people are. You should expect them to pry around the blocks. Please see to it that you don't supply them with the kind of materials they want."

In the afternoon I heard a swishing sound outside and looking out saw my neighbor washing his tar paper walls. Aroused by this unusual procedure I looked more closely and found that the walls were scarred with swastika signs that his five-year-old son had scribbled in chalk. Apparently Mr. Takeda must have felt that pro-German sentiment would not meet with the approval of the Dies Committee.

After supper X overheard Nomura, Mizushima, and a few others discussing the impending visit. They were saying, "Oh, they won't come."

Later in the evening when X dropped in at Nomura's the latter



burst out: "I'll tell them, 'What do you mean we're pampered? If you think we're pampered, we'll change places with you any time. You stay one week here and see how you like it.'" His wife was indignant too. She had heard that someone had testified to the Dies Committee that in Manzanar they were eating ham and bacon all the time. She added: "Hell, if they think we're eating better than outside people, we'll change places anytime."

One high school junior asked X: "What happens if one of the members of the Dies Committee gets killed here?" Before he could reply another high school student answered: "Nothing. He's just dead." The first one added: "If that's the case I hope they get killed here."

Comments on the impending visit were grooved into two channels: food and weather. Concerning food they invariably hoped that the Committee could see with their own eyes that we were partaking the rottenest food available. Concerning the weather they hoped that it would be "hot as hell". Some further prayed that there would be a fierce dust storm like the one last summer which blew the roofs off. As far as I could gather there was no feeling of fear or dread concerning the impending "investigation." In fact the majority of residents were taking it as a grand joke -- that even the notorious Dies Committee could not possibly make Poston a worse place to live in. The only ones genuinely concerned appeared to be the administrative staff who began a series of conferences in an effort to present an united front to the inquisitors.

Noodle Factory: In the evening Abe and Nakase visited X and sought reassurance as to Nomura's attitude. They were confident that the vote would be carried through the Council but they feared that Nomura, Joe Nakai, Kawasaki, etc. might put pressure on Snelson



to refuse to recognize it. X assured them he was certain Nomura favored the reopening of the factory and that he would never play a dirty trick like that. The delegates appeared immensely relieved on ~~thxx~~ hearing this and said: "We must support a fellow like Nomura. We don't want politics-playing in camp. He is the real man for the chairmanship of the council. What we need is more fellows like him."

Meanwhile meetings were being held in several blocks to decide whether the noodle factory should be reopened or not. Blocks 5 and 6 opposed its opening outright declaring that at~~p~~ present they didn't need the factory. Block 14 through the active campaigning of Kawasaki turned in a "No" vote. In many blocks, however the final decision rested with the council representative. ~~Thms~~ in block 45 Nomura did not call a block meeting but voted "Yes" in the council next day. The delegate from 60 voted negatively without consulting his block residents. (The block manager of 60 was furious upon learning this since she knew that the entire block was in favor of having Poston-made noodles.) Joe Nakai of 27 reported that his block opposed the reopening of the factory although his fellow residents are still curious as to how he reached that decision. (It is reported that at lunchtime Joe requested that the residents vote on the question as they filed out of the mess hall. Before they voted, however, he delivered a long harangue "justifying" the discontinuance of the factory. He claimed that the workers worked only a few hours daily, that the cost of home-made noodles exceeded that of commercial varieties, that the quality of Poston made noodles was much inferior to ~~Av~~her types, etc.etc. The result of the voting was never made known to the residents and to this day even the block manager is ignorant of the outcome.)



June 16, 1943

Nomura dropped into the block manager's office for his usual morning chat with X and remarked: "I don't think the Dies Committee will come." X retorted: "What do you mean they aren't coming in? The Dies Committee notified the project director/ they are coming. That's sufficient isn't it?" Nomura exclaimed: "Yeah? Did Head say that?" He was highly indignant to think that the project director had tipped off the block managers without notifying the council. (This indicates that even Head is becoming aware that the block managers are closer to the residents than the councilmen). When X reminded him that he might be called to testify before the Committee he burst out: "I'll tell 'em, 'You guys are a bunch of dirtiest politicians on two legs.' If they ask, 'How come on two legs?', I'll tell 'em, 'You are not on four legs, are you?'" This is the dirtiest politics I know."

Nomura also disclosed at this time that when the F.B.I. confiscated the Japanese books from the Pre-Savage classes a month ago they also arrested a man in block 54. <sup>(1)</sup> The next day they ~~confis~~ - ~~seated~~ cated all of his Japanese records.

When the subject of Wickersham's recent testimony before the Dies Committee in Los Angeles came up for discussion, Nomura related an encounter with that official last ~~November~~ October before the Judicial Commission. At that time Wickersham had filed a complaint against five boys working in the Parker warehouse who had been

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1. About a month ago the F.B.I. confiscated the Japanese texts used in the Japanese classes here because they were mimeographed copies of textbooks used in the Jap. language schools in California. The instructors feeling that the Harvard texts required in these classes were inadequate had the Jap. readers mimeographed.



caught stealing oranges. A hearing was held before the Judicial Commission and the following facts had been unearthed: (1) After lunch it was so hot that the boys would go to sleep on the cement floor and at one o'clock Wickersham would come along and kick them awake with his foot. (Nomura when he heard this had exclaimed to Wickersham: "That's what they do down South; not here.") (2) Wickersham complained that the boys ate only half of their lunch and threw away the remainder. He complained that it was an awful waste on the face of food shortage. (Nomura's answer to this: "That is none of your God damn business. If you feed them the same bologna sandwich every day, you'll get tired of it too, and can't eat it. You'll do the same too.") (3) The main objection appeared to be that the five boys ate oranges which had to be inspected by the Arizona government before restrictions as to transportation could be removed. (Nomura defended the boys claiming that the restriction lay in not moving the oranges and the law did not say that they could not be eaten on the spot. He added: "When the boys get thirsty I don't blame them for eating one or two oranges. They don't get decent treatment anyway.") The Judicial Commission had laid the blame on Wickersham and had dismissed the case.

One of the warehouse boys reported today that when he had read of Wickersham testifying before the Dies Committee in L.A. he had gone up to him and said: "I thought you were one friend we had." According to him he looked embarrassed and walked away. The warehouse boys are now saying, "We didn't know Wickersham was like that. He's a dirty son of a bitch isn't he?" (Apparently the boys do not realize that Wickersham was subpoenaed and was compelled to appear before the committee -- that he did not voluntarily offer his services. He could not have said anything sensational because none of the news accounts credit anything to him. They merely state that he testified before the committee.



When I asked X later in the day what the Issei were saying about the testimonies given by the administrative officials to the Dies Committee in H.<sup>A.</sup> he explained that many of them had never heard of the Dies Committee and think it is just another ramification of the F.B.I. There was no violent reaction to Townsend's testimony -- on the contrary they pointed out certain sections in the document as extremely accurate, e.g. the portion on the police chief, Shigekawa. According to him the Issei have been so accustomed to this type of propaganda for the last three or four decades that they are not greatly concerned about it. Besides they have maintained all along (despite ~~the~~ the Dies Committee) that people should not be sent out of camp.

At the regular meeting of the local council today the question of what to do with the Central Executive Board and the Labor Relations Board came up for discussion. Nakamura contended that since these boards had been created by the T.C.C. which no longer existed they should be abolished inasmuch as no provisions had been made for their creation in the newly adopted Constitution. Nomura replied accusingly to Nakamura: "Now, listen here. You are not telling the truth. That's not the way the facts are. I don't want you guys to say what ~~by~~ you think here (pointing to his heart) but I want the real truth. The C.E.B. was created by the old council and at that time we agreed that when the permanent council was created we would retain these two boards. The new constitution says that the council has power to create commissions, committees, boards, etc. I put that in for the specific purpose of retaining the C.E.B. and the L.R.B. I received the Constitution from Rowher yesterday in which I noticed they had created a C.<sup>E.</sup>B. Poston is always ahead of other camps like this. WRA recognizes the advantages of what we create out there. They recommend the system we



we have out here to other camps because it is good. As long as I'm chairman I don't want those lies. We will discuss everything on the facts." Nakamura shut up like a clam. Okamoto, the vice-chairman, then made a speech to the effect that they did not need a C.E.B. since they had a permanent council which could handle everything. He then proposed that the council appoint a committee to investigate whether the community needed the two boards or not. Nomura retorted: You are not thinking of the benefit of the whole camp. You are just thinking of your own selfish interest. I don't want no politics. If you want a committee I'll appoint one. But it's going to be composed of people who have never been in the last council. They are going to be from the newly elected members who can pass judgment impartially without involvement in dirty politics." He then named the following -- all new councilmen -- to conduct the investigation: Inagaki of block 19, Iwatate of 22, Fujimura of 38, Sato of 54 and Yoshioka of 21.

The question of the noodle factory was decided 18 to 13 in favor of reopening the factory. According to X seven men contacted Nomura before the meeting and requested his permission to sit in as observers. Nomura considered that number too many but finally consented when they promised to keep quiet during the meeting. As the meeting commenced he told them to remain outside until they were called. When they were invited in they discovered that the vote had already been taken and the result was 18-13 in favor of continuing the industry. Nakase later informed X that if the vote had been adverse he would have protested the "illegal" elections in 21, 60, etc. but inasmuch as his wish had been fulfilled he refrained from doing so. Instead he had requested the floor and said: "If there is any question regarding the noodle factory I'm the best qualified person to give the answer." "



According to him the room was absolutely quiet for several minutes in contrast to previous occasions when the noodle question had come up for discussion. Apparently the councilmen felt the presence of the noodle delegates in the room. With the suggestion that the quality should be improved and manpower decreased the chairman instructed the Food Committee to contact Snelson and recommend the reopening of the factory. He explained: "We haven't got the power to order Snelson to reopen the factory but we can recommend him to do so."

The major portion of the regular meeting of the block managers' executive ~~committee~~ <sup>Council</sup> in the morning was dedicated to a discussion of "zoot-gangs" in camp. The discussion was provoked by the block manager of 2 who complained that during one of his block dances a young boy crashed the party and asked a waiter for something to eat. The latter knowing this boy belonged to a gang and desiring to avoid any trouble supplied him with ample refreshments. After a few bites he began to smoke. He was requested to cease smoking since it was against regulations. He replied: "Who are you to tell me to stop? I smoke if I want to," and slapped the waiter in the face. At this moment a gang of boys broke into the messhall and approached the waiter menacingly. The leader inquired belligerently: "What are you ~~doing~~ trying to do to our friend?" and pushed him around the room. In the ensuing commotion the party was broken up. The manager invited suggestions from the floor for stopping such gansterism. This led to a recital of case after case of "gang warfare" on the part of other managers. Ed Ouchi of block 30 maintained that his block no longer sponsored community dances because at these affairs <sup>are</sup> rowdies from other blocks created too much trouble. At present whenever block dances are held policemen are posted to prevent intruders from crashing in. Another



claimed that groups frequently waylaid their enemies returning from the movies and picked fights with them. The manager of 59 related that certain children fought incessantly in the schoolrooms in his block so one day he herded them into his office and scolded them roundly. Two of them answered back so he slapped their faces vigorously. Since then he claimed he has received no trouble from these youngsters. Another block manager recommended that something be done to break up the rough-necks who habitually hung around the Fire Department. He reported that they rode around camp in a truck and caused many disturbances. At this point the manager of 2 suggested that they seek the cooperation of the Fujinkai (Women's Club) in solving the problem. Someone declared that the Fujinkai and the P.T.A. were powerless to cope with such a situation and recommended contacting the C.E.B. This was immediately ruled out by one manager who claimed it was useless since they were attempting to hush-hush it as much as possible because the child of one member was a delinquent. "How about Community Enterprises, then?" inquired another. This was also dismissed because they felt the C.E. themselves were bickering with each other and could not be bothered with other affairs. Someone finally asked: "How about contacting the <sup>a</sup>prents of delinquent kids?" This was unanimously voted down because they all knew they would receive the same answer: "As far as my child is concerned, he will never do such a thing." To support the claim that no cooperation could be expected from parents of delinquents one manager cited a raping case in his block. When the father of the offender had been consulted as to what steps should be taken to rectify it he had retorted: "My son is already of age so what can you expect? There's nothing we can do about it."

As a last resort the block managers decided to call in Jumbo



Ota, the chief of police, and the Police Commission for consultation. The suggestion to form a vigilante group in every block to curb juvenile delinquency was dismissed because they felt that would be taking police power into their own hands.

Before the meeting broke up the manager of 59 caused some commotion by exclaiming: "I wish you'd handle girls at the same time." Someone inquired teasingly: "What's wrong with the girls?" He proceeded to explain that his block was located near a wooded section and girls frequently cut classes to take walks into the woods with their boy friends. At this point the manager of 27 interrupted: "In this camp the girls in many cases take the initiative in leading the boys into the woods." It was also disclosed at this time that whereas formerly boys of 17 to 25 formed gangs and roamed around camp, young boys of 13 and 15 were banding together and causing much trouble.

At lunchtime X encountered H, a policeman residing in his block, so inquired casually what the attitude of the Police Department would be if the block managers requested it to round up the delinquents. He replied: "The police will cooperate wholeheartedly and will even be willing to send anywhere around twenty boys to Yuma or to any detention home. In fact we have been discussing this a great deal but Jumbo Ota is a very peaceful fellow and doesn't want any trouble. He wants to settle this thing within camp."

Early in the evening a fight occurred in the block 21 swimming pool between Mat Kobayashi, an employee in the Leave Office, and a remnant of the Exclusive Twenties group shipped out of Santa Anita shortly after the notorious strike. The following is a detailed description of the incident as witnessed by Jim Yamada:



"On the evening of June 16, 1943 I was diving in the Block 27<sup>d</sup> swimming pool in Unit I. I became aware of trouble on the platform when I saw Mat Kobayashi facing a gang of kids, most of whom with pachuco hair cuts.

"What do you mean, 'You guys'?" one of the gang members demanded.

"I didn't mean all of you," Kobayashi said. I was talking to him -- Boner."

They pushed Kobayashi into the water. He got up while the gang jeered him. He was ready to fight, but some of his friends pulled him away. He climbed down from the platform and was walking out of the pool when three members of the gang dived in after him; they jostled him, then one slugged him.

Kobayashi and his assaulter (Katsy Nskamura) began wrestling. They were groveling in the ground under the shade on the west side of the pool. Kobayashi was on top of Nakamura; the gang yelled, "Let him go!" Keechi Nskamura kicked Kobayashi in the back of the neck, another member of the gang began slugging him in the face. Observers closer to the scene than I reported that several kicks were delivered to Kobayashi's head. The wrestlers rolled into the water. From there the fight shifted to the west side of the canal embankment, with Ben Nakasone, former runner-up in the 125# class, carrying on the battle for the gang.

Kobayashi was tired and groggy from the kicks in the neck, but he managed to hold his own. But when his back was turned, "Chino" (Eugene Inouye), a member of the gang, would attempt to get in a few licks. Yosh Okubo tried to prevent this, but was not always successful. Once when Kobayashi fell to his knees, the gang yelled at him to get up and asked him whether he was afraid to fight any more. Katsy was yelling, "Let me at him, let me at him."

The lifeguards, although they made an attempt to prevent the fight earlier (on the platform), were now helpless. So, also, were members of the police, who had driven up. All they could do was to make the fight as fair as possible. Even at that, another member of the gang in addition to Chino, took a few cracks at Kobayashi while he was engaged with Nakasone.

Meanwhile a crowd of spectators had formed. One said, "Hey, stop it. It's not a fair fight." Keech faced him: "If you think it's unfair, do you want to come in?" The objecting spectator shut up like a clam. No one else made any efforts to stop the fight until Isamu Uchida arrived.

Uchida took Kobayashi away from the gang and helped him wash the blood from his face in the pool. He tried to make him shake hands with the gang. The first one was Nakasone. Kobayashi said, "I'll never shake hands with guys that fight like you." Katsy put up his

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1. I think the pool is officially called the block 21 swimming pool.



dukes: "Okay, let's finish it then." Kobayashi finally shook hands with the gang members, but not enthusiastically.

After the forced peace, Uchida was going around yodeling, "Fair fight! Fair fight!" The police was disgusted. Uchida, however, had not seen the earlier phase of the encounter, only coming on the scene when Kobayashi and Nakasone were boxing in what appeared to be a relatively fair fight.

Consensus among the spectators was that fight was rather one-sided -- five against one. Even if Kobayashi had ~~kaken~~ Nakasone to the cleaners -- a distant possibility considering his physical condition -- he would have had to fight the other four not one at a time but as a gang.

Eyewitness ~~accounts~~ differ as to what started the fight. Yosh Okubo says that "Boner was spitting into the water just as we always do when we play tag." Then Mat, who was on the platform said, "Don't do that. It's un~~healthy~~." According to Okubo, Boner (Nakashima) said, "You're not the lifeguard." According to Mat and his friends, Boner said, "What's the hell's it to you?" with a few additional obscene expressions for color.

Then Okubo maintains, Mat said, "I'm not afraid of any of you yogores." Mat claims that he did not use the term, 'yogore'. The gang apparently resent Kobayashi's inclusion of all of them, for they stood up ready to fight it out. Another consideration which might have induced their ostensible resentment was the fact that Boner can't fight worth a damn.

Observers reported that after the smoke of battle had been cleared, the members of the gang bawled out Boner. They are supposed to have said in effect: "What's the matter with you -- always getting us in trouble?" Boner, according to the witnesses, was the epitome of humility."

Two nights ago as Tsukamoto <sup>(1)</sup> passed in front of 46-6-A, Hosaka, the occupant, was sitting on his doorstep carrying on a conversation to the effect that "they should stop them from making such

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1. Sometime in June X heard that Isamu Uchida had been expelled from the Judo Dept. last December for being involved in the November incident. It did not want anyone on its staff who had been suspected of indiscreet behavior. A few days later a group of ~~yshix~~ yushi had gotten together and implored the Judo leaders to reinstate him. At that time a compromise had been effected and the Dept. ~~promised~~ consented to let Isamu teach judo once or twice a week. In the last few months Uchida has become involved with the rowdies in the Fire Dept. (i.e. the Nakamura brothers, Ben Nakasone, Boner Nakashima, etc.) and the latest report is that a few yushi got together and advised him to leave the Fire Dept. for "his own good."

2. Cf. report on History of C.E.C. for identification.



rotten noodles." Tsukamoto overheard this and immediately assumed a belligerent attitude as both of them belong to opposing factions in the block and demanded hotly: "How dare you say they should close the noodle factory!" This initiated a heated ~~xxxxxx~~ argument culminating in Tsukamoto socking Hosaka twice in the face. By this time a crowd had gathered and the fighters were separated. Tsukamoto was forcibly taken to his apartment.

About half an hour later a neighbor of Hosaka rushed into the police station and appealed for protection for Hosaka since Tsukamoto is reputed to be a rough, irrational fellow and might attack his weak opponent during the night. About 9:00 p.m. Jumbo Ota visited Tsukamoto and ordered him to lay hands off Hosaka. Tsukamoto became indignant and exploded: "This is no place for you to show your head," inferring that this was no case for the police and that he should mind his own business. This resulted in an exchange of hot words between the two. In the excitement Tsukamoto boasted: "You are big but I can easily take on two or three individuals of your size at one time any day. I'm in my fifties but this arm (proudly exposing his right arm) is still dependable." Ota sensing the futility of arguing with him returned to the police station but he could not control his anger. Until 2:00 a.m. he kept on figuring ways and means to retaliate against Tsukamoto. The entire police force sympathized with him feeling that it had been insulted.

Next morning (June 15) Ota sought Nagai, chairman of the C.E.B., to advise him on handling Tsukamoto but he could not be found. About noon Takeshita arrived at the police station and said to Ota:

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1. A yushi of block 46 and one of the foremost leaders in the Judo Dept.



"I came to apologize for Tsukamoto. He used harsh words last night but he regrets them now. I am personally obligated to him and any leniency shown to him will be appreciated." Ota replied: "As<sup>far</sup> as I'm personally concerned that apology is sufficient but the police department has been insulted. Mere apology is not sufficient to erase that insult." The men on the police force agreed with Jumbo. When Nagai came in to see the chief late in the afternoon the latter informed him that his intention was to send Tsukamoto to an interment camp. Nagai assented to the proposition.

This morning Nomura, Sakamoto, H and X discussed the  
(1)  
Tsukamoto case thoroughly and attempted to find a solution to the problem. H-, the policeman, informed the group that the police was greatly annoyed with Tsukamoto because of his ungentlemanly behavior on several occasions. He cited a case a few days ago when Tsukamoto while passing near the shade in his block had slipped and in anger viciously kicked the block gardener who was dampening the area under the shade although he had profusely apologized for doing something he was not supposed to do and was genuinely sorry for having caused his fall. H- explained that the gardener was an old man of short stature. Sakamoto added that Tsukamoto was extremely unpopular with messhall workers throughout camp because of his arrogance while inspecting kitchens as the sanitation inspector. X felt that the trouble in block 46 would disappear if Tsukamoto could be removed elsewhere. To this Nomura replied that he and Nagai had agreed to request the project director to exercise the power granted to him in administrative instruction no. 34 and have him transferred to F.B.I. custody. They unanimously agreed that if Tsukamoto were to be taken out it would result in quieting the agitators behind him such as Mizushima of block 45, Matsumoto of 36, and Hamagiwa and Okubo of 28. The trouble in block 28 would then be



settled automatically.

It is reported via the grapevine that the capacity of Leupp, the isolation center in Winslow, Arizona, is 500. At present there are about 200 there including 27 from Tule Lake, about 20 from Manzanar, and 20 from Gila. <sup>(1)</sup> These are said to be directly connected with the registration disturbance.

June 17, 1943

Sometime in the morning a young man came puffing into the block manager's office in 45 and handed the following note to X:

MEMO TO: BLOCK MANAGER 45  
FROM: ADULT EDUCATION DEP'T  
DATE: JUNE 17, 1943  
RE: REV. MITANI'S WEEKLY CURRENT EVENT TALK

PLEASE ANNOUNCE IN YOUR MESS HALL THAT DUE to circumstances beyond our control, the Adult Ed. Department by its authority is canceling the Weekly Current Event Talk presented by Rev. Mitani this Friday, June the 17th. However, these presentations will resume from next Wednesday June 23rd at same locale.

P/S YOU ARE CALLED TO ATTENTION THAT THIS DIRECTIVE IS NOT TO BE POSTED IN BULLETIN BOARD EXCEPT ANNOUNCING ORALLY.

Executive Secretary (can't read his signature).

When X inquired whether it had been issued on account of the Dies Committee the messenger replied, "Yeah." At this time X was also informed instructed to destroy all notices issued by the Adult Education Dept. <sup>to date</sup> because it did not wish to be investigated.

Later in the day X talked to a man in his block who attends Rev. Mitani's current events class regularly. He described in detail the subtle techniques utilized by Mitani to gain popularity among the Issei. He cited the case of Mitani translating a news item which claimed that the Americans had stopped the further progress of the Japs in the South Pacific. He had concluded: "The Americans are not stopping



the Japanese. The Japanese are consolidating for a new offensive." At this point the man informed X that the rural Issei clapped their hands appreciatively. It is reported that Mitani is very "choosy" in his selection of news articles -- always translating only those that are pleasing to Jap ears. I am told that his translation of "Queens Die Proudly" which was appearing in serial form in Reader's Digest a few months back was a "great success."

Senator McFarland of <sup>Arizona</sup> ~~Arizona~~ was a visitor in Poston today. It was reported that he did not want the Dies Committee to cop all the glory so had arrived in advance to appropriate some publicity for himself.

I was told that Parker after closing its doors to evacuees for two months on the pretext of curbing the spread of infantile paralysis in that area lifted the restrictions yesterday.

The police force made a round of blocks unofficially today to warn individuals to refrain from indulging in certain activities e.g. kendo, for the duration of the Dies Committee's stay.

This afternoon when I dropped in to pick up my copy of Townsend's testimony, Dr. Miles E. Cary burst out: "To think that a fellow American could tell so many lies in one page!" He informed me that many of the administrative departments were preparing affidavits discrediting Townsend's testimony to present to the Dies Committee on ~~their~~ its arrival in Poston. The attached is his reply to Townsend:

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1. The other night I had a long conversation with my neighbor, Mr. Mohri, a great admirer of Rev. Mitani from Bakersfield days. He was greatly perturbed with Mitani's participation in politics and wished his master would stick to the pulpit. He informed me that at one time he remonstrated with him but the latter had said: "I'm doing it because I want to make the people in Poston happy. Keeping the people happy is also my work as a minister." (I hope God approves the techniques he utilizes to make us happy!).



MEMO TO: Mr. W. Wade Head, Project Director

FROM: Miles E. Cary, Director of Education

DATE: June 16, 1943

SUBJECT: Inaccuracies in Testimony of Harold Halderman Townsend before the House of Representatives Sub-Committee of the special Committee of Un-American Activities, Los Angeles, California, May 26, 1943.

In this report I am confining my attention to those statements of the hearing report that have to do with the Poston schools and the school system. These statements will be considered as they appear, chronologically, in the report:

Page 24: "We had 400 teachers"

Page 34: "There are 100 Caucasians (teachers), and 200 or more Japanese."

On December 19, 1942, five days before Mr. Townsend reports he was let out of Poston (page 61), there were 203 teachers in the Poston Schools; 83 were Caucasian and 120 were Japanese. The term "Teacher" as here used included, besides elementary and secondary teachers, the director, 3 high school principals, 1 elementary principal, 1 elementary supervisor, 1 director of guidance, and 10 high school department heads.

Page 33: "Yes, Mr. Cary and .....were imported from Honolulu"

On May 18, 1942, John Collier, Commissioner of Indian Affairs invited me to take the position as Director of Education at the Colorado River War Relocation Project, near Parker, Arizona.

This invitation was sent through Mrs. Ruth Hampton, Assistant Director of Territories and Island Possessions, Department of Interior, and Governor Poindexter, Territory of Hawaii.

For the information of the Committee my background is:

1901-1909	Attended Grammar School, Edmonds, Washington.
1909-1912	Attended Edmonds (Wash.) High School.
1912-1917	Attended, somewhat irregularly, the University of Washington, Seattle -- A.B. 1917.
1930	Received the M.A. degree at the University of Hawaii.
1937	Received the Ph.D. degree at Ohio State University, Columbus.



1917-18	Principal, Morton School, Morton, Washington.
1918	U.S. Army -- 6 months.
1919-21	Principal, Ferudale High School, Ferudale, Washington.
1921-23	Teacher, McKinley High School, Honolulu, Hawaii.
1923-24	Principal, Maui High School, Maui, Hawaii.
1924-42	Principal, McKinley High School, Honolulu (except 1936-37 when I attended the Ohio State University).

I was granted a leave of absence from my position in Hawaii to take the Directorship of Education, at the Poston relocation center.

Page 33: "most of the Caucasian staff were imported from Honolulu",

Page 34: "Dr. Miles Cary and Mrs. Findley brought over most of the staff from the McKinley High School"

Actually, three teachers were "brought over" from Hawaii in the early fall of 1942:

Mr. Elmer DeSilva had been teaching at the Hilo High School, Island of Hawaii. His wife and boy had evacuated to the mainland. Mrs. DeSilva was interested in Poston and induced her husband to join her here.

Mr. Michael Sosnowski had been teaching at the Central Intermediate. Mrs. Sosnowski had been substituting in a number of Honolulu schools; but not in the McKinley High School. They were anxious to evacuate to the Mainland and had asked for work in Poston before I left Honolulu in June, 1942. Some other Caucasian teachers had taught in the Hawaiian Islands in previous years. A few had evacuated to the Mainland following December 7, 1942, others had been attending Mainland schools.

But the statement that "most of the staff were imported from Honolulu" is hardly in line with the facts.

Page 34: "he told me frequently that he was one of the few men that understood the Japanese and got along with them."

Actually, I do not recall having discussed this subject with Mr. Townsend. His statement suggests a conceit on my part that I do not feel and that is hardly consistent with my character.

I believe that my relations with our young Americans of Japanese ancestry have been quite satisfactory during the past 21 years.



However, only a student of sociology, who has worked with the older Japanese in Japan and in America, could affirm that he "understands" the foreign born Japanese. I have not made this sort of study.

Page 34:

"Dr. Miles Cary and Mrs. Findley were friends in Honolulu and they came over together",

Miss (not Mrs.) Findley and I had been friends in Honolulu over a period of years, having worked on various community committees together. The last activity in which we were associated was the Hawaii U.S.O. program.

However, our coming to Poston was a coincident.

Miss Findley left the Islands about a month before I did. She had no particular "pull" in Washington. She is ardently in this war to defeat the Japanese militarists who now dominate Japan. She is working ardently, too, to protect our American Japanese from persecutions that are clearly inconsistent with our American ideals of inter-racial respect and fair dealing.

Page 34: "Q"

"Do you know whether or not the teachers at Poston had to be passed on by the Arizona Board of Education?"

"A"

"No, Sir."

Actually the Caucasian teachers employed by Poston, and the other relocation centers, must be passed on by the U.S. Civil Service Commission, and must meet the requirements of that Commission.

Page 34: "Q"

"Does the curriculum in the school follow the same they have in the public schools in the state of Arizona?"

"A"

"No, it is a little different."

By special arrangement Poston is operating under a joint agreement of the Indian Service and the War Relocation Authority. His office has had few contacts with the Department of Education of the state of Arizona.

Page 34:

"It (the curriculum) is entirely set up in the camp by Dr. Cary and doesn't follow even the textbooks,"

The basic pattern of the curriculum for relocation centers was developed as follows:

a. During the summer of 1942, a graduate seminar at Stanford University, under the direction of Professor Paul Hanna, made a study of one of the evacuation centers and, in the light of this study, suggested a general outline of the new curriculum.



It is my understanding that Professor Hanna has been retained by the W.R.A. as curriculum consultant, part-time.

b. In July 1942, the directors of education of then established evacuation centers met in San Francisco to consider the broad outlines of the new curriculum.

Since most of our pupils had attended California schools, an effort was made to follow the general curriculum pattern of the schools of that state.

On the elementary level the course of study was built by the teachers under the direction of an experienced elementary supervisor: Miss Ida E. Morrison, a California-trained woman.

On the high school level again the general California pattern was followed.

On the high school level, the curriculum is a combination of required subjects and electives. The basic required course consists of English, American history, World history, Civics, and citizenship. The electives were those actually selected by the pupils. The latter consisted of courses either partially completed in California or those that probably would have been taken had the pupils remained there. The actual courses of study, that is, subject matters and procedures, were developed by the teachers under the direction of experienced teachers and supervisors. Since new textbooks did not begin to arrive until after Christmas (1942), it was necessary for the teachers to do much improvising.

Page 35:

"The textbooks were not the Arizona textbooks".

The first orders for textbooks were taken from the official textbook lists used in the Indian Service. (As mentioned above, the Poston schools are responsible to the Indian Service -- rather than the Arizona State Board of Education.) Shortly after Christmas the way was cleared to purchase textbooks through the local (Poston) procurement office. All textbooks used are standard textbooks used by our American public schools and printed by reputable printing houses. A list of textbooks and publishing companies is attached.

Page 35:

"part of them (textbooks) were secured through the Los Angeles School authorities."

Actually none of the textbooks used in the Poston schools were used or secured through the Los Angeles school authorities.

Page 35:

"Dr. Cary and his assistant ..... drew up the plan of education and put (it) into effect."



As pointed out above, the initial "plan of education" for the Poston schools was a composite of the Stanford study, ideas developed by the directors of education, the prevailing practices in American school system, and, on the high school level, the elective courses actually selected by the pupils. Naturally, as director of education, I have tended to give a certain direction to these developments. The supervisors, teachers and pupils have all had a share in putting the new "plan of education" into effect.

Page 35: "part of them (textbooks) were shipped in from Honolulu"

Actually, no textbooks were shipped in from Honolulu.

Page 35: "part of them (textbooks) were ordered through the ~~Los Angeles~~ School Board in Los Angeles."

No textbooks were ordered through the Los Angeles School Board.

Page 36: "A number of them (textbooks) were secured from various other schools throughout southern California."

Since the opening of school last October 5, the Poston project has acquired some 79,000 ~~school~~ textbooks. Of these some 28,800 were purchased from standard publishing houses (list attached) and some 50,000 were donated by 12 California school districts.

Mr. Townsend apparently has forgotten a certain oversight on his part in this connection. On October 26, 1942, I gave him five letters authorizing his drivers to pick up donated textbooks in Southern California. (Copies of memoranda attached). (We were needing any sort of textbooks badly as our purchase orders were slow in going through the procurement process.) About three (3) weeks after this, I checked up again and found that only one donation of textbooks had been picked up and that two of the letters, referred to above, had been lost. Finally, on Dec. 8, Mr. Townsend suggested that I use other means in transporting these donated textbooks. I proceeded with the use of government bills of lading.

Page 36: "there is no high school there yet."

There is a high school organization in each of the three camps with enrollments, as follows:

Camp I	754	(grades 9-12)
Camp II	107	"
Camp III	446	"

These schools are at present housed in barracks. In Camps II and III these barracks are of one block;



in Camp I, high school classes meet in recreation halls (barracks) scattered over a mile-square area.

Page 36:

"Many of them (Japanese teachers) are Japanese teachers and Japanese professors."

By "Japanese teacher" does Mr. Townsend mean a former Japanese language school teacher? If so, then none of the Japanese public school teachers may properly be referred to as a "Japanese teacher".

Page 36:

"I know that they do teach the Japanese language" (in the schools).

The Japanese language is not taught in the Poston public schools.

Page 36:

"Dr. Cary, he made some effort to get a part of the paper printed in the Japanese language".

Actually, I had nothing to do with this matter.

Page 55:

"In describing the strike Mr. Townsend reported that the "schools closed".

Actually, one or two (2) teachers out of a total of 101 in Camp I, dismissed classes the afternoon of November 18. The next day, and all remaining days of the strike, all classes were in session. Camps II and III did not participate in the strike.

Page 79:

"100 per cent (sympathetic toward the Japanese), and particularly through the school system".

What does the Dies committee questioner mean by the term "sympathetic"? and by the phrase "toward the Japanese"?

Does not democracy mean at least humaneness and fair dealing -- even toward our enemy prisoners? However, the aliens in these relocation centers have been cleared by the F.B.I. and Army and Navy Intelligence agencies.

Is it not intended that, in so far as our American citizens of Japanese ancestry are concerned, our duty as teachers involves maintaining and building a faith in our democratic values? This is the basic meaning which I read into the word "sympathetic".

I would say that Mr. Townsend's phrase "100 per cent" suggests a psychological maladjustment referred to as "compartmentalisation": that all teachers at Poston are bad.

/s/ Miles E. Cary



Meanwhile many of the administrative departments were holding a series of conferences to see to it that their answers to the committee in case of questioning would jive with each other. The attitude of the administrative staff seemed to me to be one of impatient waiting -- a desire to get over something unpleasant. This feeling is captured in an incident related to me by Nomura rather gleefully in the evening. As he was passing Len Nelson's office about 6:00 p.m. he found him hovering restlessly beside the telephone. He said to Nomura: "I've been sitting by the telephone for over an hour expecting a call from the Dies Committee. If they are coming in at all, why in hell don't they come in? "

X informed me today that when the block manager of 46 attempts to make announcements in his messhall, half of the residents put up sufficient noise to drown his message.

Nomura disclosed this morning that the WR<sup>A</sup> is greatly interested in what the Manpower Commission is doing in Poston. It had sent Mrs. Hayes to find out the minimum number of workers required to sustain Poston.

Noodle Factory: In the morning the Food Committee went to see Snelson armed with the council's recommendation to reopen the factory. The Chief Steward flatly refused to consider it. He maintained that there were 140,000 pounds of noodles in the warehouse and the cost of manufacturing was too expensive. If the council felt that the factory should continue operation it should consult Mathiesen because it rightfully belonged in his department. In the afternoon Abe and Nakase arrived in an indignant mood to consult X. They claimed that according to the original plan Snelson had requested them to close the factory for 30 days since he had sufficient stock to last that period. Since then he not only has increased the supply but is even refusing to open the factory at all. They also maintained that if the administration



is going to ignore the recommendations of the council, there was no necessity in having a council at all. The councilmen should resign immediately.

They then delivered a long harangue on why the noodle factory should be retained in the Subsistence Dept. They claimed that if it were transferred to the Industry Dept. the cost of operation would be added to the subsistence cost whereas if it remained where it was the workers would be considered a part of the kitchen crew and the factory will be charged only the flour and eggs consumed in manufacturing. In other words if they were a part of the Industry Division their wages would be added to the subsistence cost whereas in the Subsistence Dept. their wages will come from the same source as other messhall workers.

Finally they accused Snelson of obstructing the war effort. They felt that by producing home-made noodles they were helping make Poston a self-sustaining project and thereby aiding the war effort. Nakase continued: "The administration is always telling us to produce. Their policy in this situation, however, doesn't make sense. The Dies Committee is coming in here soon so we should present our case to them stating that the administration is obstructing the war effort by preventing us from producing our own food."

June 18, 1943

The Dies Committee, composed of Rep. Costello of California, Mundt of South Dakota, Eberharter of Pennsylvania, and Stedman, chief investigator for the group, arrived in Poston about 10:30 a.m. accompanied by several photographers and reporters from Los Angeles.

The major portion of their morning was taken up in being introduced to administrative heads. Contrary to expectations no official or evacuee was subjected to investigation. The only individual



who figured in about with the Committee was Ziles Zimmerman, Employment Chief, under whom the Leave Office functions. What especially provoked their ire was a new WRA order posted on the bulletin board of the Leave Office issued by Robert Wolins, WRA employment officer at in Washington, D.C. which stated that anyone interested in doing farm work in Washington, D.C., Maryland, Virginia and Delaware could go directly without having a definite job offer. They were also irked at Zimmerman's statement in the Poston Chronicle the day before that in his recent visit to the East he had noted that the Dies investigations in Los Angeles had "hardly caused a ripple further East?" and that "when the relocation program passed calmly through the turmoil caused by the execution of Doolittle's flyers, WRA was convinced that it had been overly apprehensive about public sentiment; that it had been too cautious!" (Consult attached article).

At noon time the Committee accompanied by Mr. Head and members of the press visited several messhalls presumably to find out for themselves whether the evacuees were really the "best-fed civilians in the world" as highly publicized in the L.<sup>A.</sup> papers. When they entered Messhall 30 they found the resident eating baked ham, potato salad, lettuce and tomato salad, bread, oleomargarine, and jello. According to one of my Hawaiian friends who lives in block 17 he happened to be there at the time and Eberharter asked him if they were ever served butter. Since he knew that block 17 is reputed to be the worst messhall in Camp I he wanted the Committee to see it so told him butter was served only in Messhall 17. Eberharter appeared very anxious to visit it and asked Head how long it would take them to get there but the latter seemed reluctant to lead them there. My friend then invited Eberharter to eat with him but he refused saying it was before his usual lunch hour and he was not hungry.



Post-Chronicle  
6/17/43

## EASTERNS FOUND TO BE FRIENDLY TOWARD EVACUEES

Giles L. Zimmerman, Chief of Employment, who returned last Sunday, after a month's trip to the East and Mid-West on official business sounded public opinion while on the trip and discovered that most people were either friendly toward the evacuees or blissfully ignorant of their existence.

Compared to the newspapers in the Western Defense Command, the press in other sections of the country devoted little attention to the Japanese-Americans, Zimmerman noted. But when Eastern and Miswestern newspapers did run a story, it was generally favorable.

The Dies sub-committee investigations which Los Angeles and Phoenix papers played up hardly caused a ripple farther east. "The Townsend testimony, for example, rated about five inches on the third page in the St. Louis Post - Dispatch, while the same story was being featured with banner headlines by some Western papers," Zimmerman declared.

According to Zimmerman, Washington officials of WRA now feel that the period hesitancy about public opinion is over. When the relocation program passed calmly through the turmoil caused by the execution of Doolittle's flyers, WRA was convinced that had been overly apprehensive about public sentiment, that it had been too cautious.



June 17, 1943

## PTA TO PRESENT HONOR AWARDS

Special graduation awards to the most outstanding students will be presented at the PTA general meeting tonight at Mess 4, from 8 p.m.

The awards will be given to the following honor students: Takeo Hirasawa, Lily Nakawawa, seniors; Thomas Jiri, Aiko Kubo, juniors; Michiyuki Nakamura, Mollie Ohashi, sophomore; Masaru Hara, Aiko Tashiro, freshman; Tadashi Matoi, Ken Kiyomoto, eighth grade; Peter Shizume, Mille Nakamura, seventh grade.

Mr. Wade Head will be the main speaker of the evening.

## APPRECIATION

To the residents of Block 330 and to all my friends, I wish to express my sincere thanks for their kindness and cordial hospitality which made my furlough here a pleasant and enjoyable experience.  
Pfc. Harry Kawamoto

We wish to thank all our friends for their kind association during our stay in poston.  
Frank Tsutsumi  
Willie Nakagawa  
Henry Kiyomura

## DEPARTURES

In various places where we depart for employment, many of the Caucasians have never seen a Japanese. To them, Japanese Americans are as newspapers and cartoons picture and every one of us will be a figure of mystery and interest.

As first impression is very important, let us all be careful in dressing decently and follow the trend that exists at our new location.



The Committee then proceeded to block 31 and found the residents eating boiled cabbage, boiled wiener, tomato and cucumber salad, bread, jam and cinnamon roll. As soon as the delegation appeared the people began to drift out in twos and threes carrying their leftovers home to eat. They apparently did not wish to be photographed and escaped before the photographers could set up their cameras. One high school student sitting next to me inquired worriedly: "What will they think of us carrying food home?" I laughed: "Best evidence of hoarding food for Japanese paratroopers." The block residents without exception were happy that the menu today was "lousy". As I was going out I noticed Mundt and Costello engaged in a conversation with the chef. I later learned that they wanted to know whether we were ever served cafeteria style as they ~~were~~ had been led to believe by the L.A. papers. It was their understanding that the residents had a choice of meat or fish entrees regularly. In block 3 they found the evacuees consuming pork and cabbage cooked in soy sauce. The messhall, to be expected, smelled frightfully. The residents were highly pleased thinking they had "put something over" on the Dies Committee.

After lunching in the Personnel Messhall the Committee drove around camp presumably in quest of evidence of "hoarded food for Japanese paratroops". According to witnesses the first car was driven by Head, the second by Gelvin, and the third by Snelson. These were followed by automobiles "bearing California licenses" -- presumably ridden by reporters and photographers specially sent to cover the story. First of all they visited the main canteen and then dropped in at the police station next door. At the entrance to the station Costello was attracted by a miniature castle in the Japanese garden. He asked the captain in charge of the shift: "Where did you get the model? This is an unusual castle." The captain nonchalantly replied, "Oh, that?"



That's modeled after a famous castle in Japan. I have never seen a castle in this country, have you?" Costello then wanted to know the number of men on the police force and how each shift functioned. After the captain's explanation he inquired: "How can men on the night shift sleep during a hot day like this?" The officer had a ready answer: "We can't. It's too hot for anyone. The only thing we can do under the circumstances is to dig an underground basement. Would you like to see one?" He led the delegation through block 28 to block 22. As they passed through 28 the linoleum-laying crew was at work so the meagre furniture of the residents was exposed to full view. outside. They watched the linoleum laying a little while and peeked into apartments whose doors were open. When the delegation reached the basement in 22 they descended the stairs one by one. They found one army cot in it. Costello remarked: ~~It's impossible~~ "It certainly is cool in here. It's possible to sleep during the daytime in a place like this." The captain immediately retorted: "You people were talking of our hiding food in dugouts like this. If you know of any, I sure would like to see one myself." The Congressmen laughed at this remark and dropped the subject. As they were returning through block 21 the Committee decided to take a picture with little children. It is reported that Len Nelson at this time muttered under his breath: "If they kiss those babies, I'm going to scream!" At the station the captain took a picture with them.

The delegation then drove to the warehouse<sup>s</sup> section. They were especially interested in the subsistence warehouses. Snelson took them through the refrigerated warehouse where they found an abundant supply of meat which had arrived the night before. He then led them to two semi-trailers filled with decaying spinach explaining that vegetables often came in that condition and had to be thrown away.



A warehousemen who witnessed this scene remarked later: "Those guys were making funny faces as the rotten stuff sure stink like hell. But they didn't say ~~anything~~, though." (It was reported later that the spinach was to have been destroyed in Parker as usual but Shelson had purposely brought it in and had it standing in the warehouse area for the benefit of the Committee.

Somewhere in the course of their snooping around in Camp I the Congressmen came upon two crates of plums stored in a messhall cellar. They immediately had a picture taken of them -- presumably as evidence of hoarding. They also discovered several jars of coffee in the stockroom of a messhall so had a picture taken with one of the Congressmen dramatically pointing a finger at them.

Late in the afternoon they took a hurried ride through the other two camps. When someone in Unit I called up <sup>B</sup>Burge, Unit III administrator, to warn him of the coming of the Dies Committee it is reported that he answered gleefully: "Swell, send them over right away. The wind is blowing and the dust is beginning to come up."

The Congressmen took the night train at 10:30 for Los Angeles. It was rumored later that the party had intended to make a week's investigation but had been ordered back to Washington by the main Committee because it feared its sub-committee was raising enough stink in the West ~~to hang~~ "to hang" all of them.

It was reported unofficially this morning by a member of the police force that Wade <sup>H</sup>Head had acceded to the request of Nagai and Jumbo Ota to certify Tsukamoto ~~thextx~~ to the F.B.I. in accordance with Revision No. 2 of Administrative Instruction No. 34. This is going to be done as soon as the Dies Committee leaves the project.

The Arizona state senator, McFarland, visited a classroom this morning and exchanged ideas concerning the loyalty of the Nisei in



camp with the teacher. One student remarked later: "Good thing we had an American flag pinned on the wall in front of the classroom!" The senator later visited the swimming pool in block 37 and took a few snapshots.

NoddleFactory: The Food Committee accompanied by the delegates from the factory contacted Mathiesen this morning and acquainted him with the situation. Mathiesen declared that he was in favor of reopening the factory and requested the names and ages of the workers employed as it involved the question of manpower. He told them that if they wished they could resume operation from Monday.

June 19, 1943

The main topic of the day was the visit of the Dies Committee yesterday. People regretted that the day was extremely cool (only 104 degrees in the shade) and that dust storms which frequent camp were also absent yesterday. When they heard that block 30 was serving baked ham when the Committee visited them they were indignant and declared that something should be done to punish the block manager and the chef. They chorused: "Where did they get their ham? We haven't seen ham for ages." They invariably condemned them as "saps" or "fools". X later informed me that the block managers were planning to put Ed Ouchi, manager of 30, over the coals at the next meeting of the block managers.

When the people heard that the Congressmen had left last night they smiled knowingly: "We knew they couldn't take the heat and inconveniences of camp life for a week. Besides there's no swank hotel in Parker for them to stay."

People were also curious to see what write-ups they received in the L.<sup>A</sup>. papers and hung around the canteens in the hope of purchasing one. To their disappointment no story appeared in the L.<sup>A</sup>.



Times and the Examiner carried only a one column article on the disapproval of the Congressman of the new WRA order permitting evacuees to go out on farm work to the Washington, D.C. area without a definite job offer. (Cf. attached article).

Noddle Factory: The factory delegates called on Mathiesen with the list of employees. To their astonishment the official presented a complete round about face declaring: "That was my mistake. We don't need a factory in Poston. We are not going to open it. " As a last resort they contacted Snelson but he would not listen to them. As they were leaving his office he inquired casually, "Who's<sup>o</sup> backing you up?" This was the first time the delegates were convinced that personal feelings were involved in their problem. During the morning they encountered Kawasaki in the hallway of the city hall and ~~xxxx~~ he registered astonishment on learning that the factory was still not operating. Then he remarked knowingly: "Maybe so. Kurata has been single-handedly campaigning actively against you." The noodle delegates ~~find~~ found out at this time that Kurata had been seeing Snelson and Mathiesen frequently during the last few days. As the delegates parted from the Food Committee at noon Okamoto said: "This is a difficult problem. I see no hope in it." Abe and Nakase interpreted this to mean that Okamoto also had been "bought out" by Kurata and when they consulted X in the afternoon they wanted to know Okamoto's connection with Kurata. X explained that Kurata as chairman of the Hospital Committee had frequent contact with Okamoto, foreman of the Paint Shop, during the last two months when the hospital was being repainted. They were said to be on very friendly terms. Abe was furious at the turn in events and talked despairingly of wanting to return to a detention camp which to him was infinitely better than a relocation center split up into jealous factions.



L.A. Examiner  
6/19/43

# WRA RELAXES RESTRICTIONS ON JAPANESE

New Order Comes as Dies Group  
Makes Inspection Tour of  
Poston Relocation Center

By Carl Greenberg

Los Angeles Examiner Staff Correspondent

POSTON, Ariz., June 18.—While a Dies subcommittee plodded through the Japanese Relocation Center here on an inspection tour, the War Relocation Authority today issued new orders making even more lenient the provisions covering release of evacuees.

Congressman John M. Costello of California, subcommittee chairman, promptly branded the modified instructions, issued from Washington as "unjustifiable," and at the same time criticized the lack of agricultural development for employment of the Japanese here, who now number 15,925.

Concurrently, Wade Head, project director, taking cognizance of protests by Arizonans against infiltration of Japanese into the Salt River Valley, admitted the state cannot be expected to take more Japanese than it had before the war.

## DOLINS ISSUES ORDER

The new WRA order which provoked Costello's blast, came from Robert Wolins, WRA officer at Washington, D. C., and stated that "anyone interested in doing farm work in the Washington, D. C., Maryland, Virginia and Delaware (may) go directly without having a definite employment offer and he will see to it that placement will be made immediately upon arrival."

"The invitation to evacuees who have no definite employment, to go to these areas, in spite of the fact they are already overcrowded seems ill-advised," declared Costello.

"The already acute housing situation in these areas would not be helped in the event any large number of evacuees were to accept the invitation.

"The release of Japanese from centers who have definite places of employment is a problem that requires serious consideration. To release evacuees who have no places of employment and no means of providing for themselves while seeking employment is unjustifiable."

## EVACUEES 'WELL FED'

Costello said conditions generally at Poston, based on a quick survey, "are reasonable satisfactory and there evacuees are well fed."

"However," he added, "there appears to be a lack of adequate opportunity for employment of the evacuees. Only 300 acres are under cultivation, although possibly 20,000 acres are available for development for agricultural use.

"Sufficient farm machinery and equipment has not been made available to the center, which should be done in order that all evacuees may be afforded an opportunity for continuous employment."

The temperature was 104 degrees in the shade as the subcommittee, including Congressman Karl Mundt, South Dakota, and Congressman Herman Eberharter, Pennsylvania, inspected well-stocked kitchens, sampled food and peered into cellars the Japanese have dug under their barracks.

Although camp officials contend they are used only for sleeping and storing personal supplies, the Dies group heard testimony the cellars were caches where food was hoarded for Japanese parachute troops "on invasion day."

## DIES INQUIRY CRITICIZED

A visit to the office of the "Chronicle," camp newspaper, disclosed a story had been published by the Japanese yesterday claiming the Dies investigations had "hardly caused a ripple farther East" and that "when the relocation program passed calmly through the turmoil caused by the execution of Doolittle's flyers, WRA was convinced that it had been overly apprehensive about public sentiment; that it had been too cautious."

It was learned that during the last seven weeks 1190 Japanese have been released for "resettlement" in the Middle West and East.

Head told the committee informally that "we welcome any thorough and complete investigation at any time and that includes an invitation to all interested parties."

Arizonans have voiced concern that the Roosevelt Dam and other important installations vital to the war efforts might be destroyed by disloyal Japanese gaining entry to unguarded areas.



He claimed that he was going to push this matter "to the limit" so that he would be sent to an interment camp for being an agitator.

X then sent them over to see Nomura to explain the situation to him in great detail since he was unacquainted with the underground movements. The delegates impressed on Nomura the fact that they had no contact with Jim Yahiro and that even when they had requested him and Yasukochi to intercede for their behalf with the vice-chairman of the council a few days before they had later learned that he had failed to do so. If they had known that Nomura could speak such fluent Japanese they would have sought him out instead. They informed him that Snelson had claimed that their noodles were expensive and wanted to know why this was so. They were being paid only \$16 a month whereas outside workers were receiving prevailing wages. Snelson wanted to transfer them to the Industry Division but this was illogical since their wages would then be added to the cost of subsistence. Snelson had originally claimed that the factory was to close for 30 days because of excess stock in the warehouse but since then according to his statements the supply had increased. The Food Committee, moreover, in their investigations had found less than Snelson claimed. They also informed Nomura that Mathiesen had accused them of agitating because they wanted to work as a group but this was not so -- they were doing it for the welfare of the people. Mathiesen had continued: "Well, if you want to work together I'll shift you to the ~~Agriculture~~ Agriculture Dept. where I need more men." Nakase concluded: "This is the last straw. I'm telling you the whole thing because I don't care now what happens to the factory. Kurata is the one playing politics. I know for sure that he's been seeing Snelson and Mathiesen after you voted on the question. I'm not hiding anything or holding back anything." Nomura swallowed all of this and promised to work for



their behalf when they entreated: "We can't do anything more. Please do something for us in your capacity as chairman of the council."

June 20, 1943

Noodle Factory: The delegates reported their conversation with Nomura to X next morning. X replied: "That won't ~~do~~ work. You have to take members of the Food Committee -- Okamoto, Tsuneyoshi, and Ogi -- to Nomura's and hand over the job to him in their presence. Otherwise the Food Committee might say later that Nomura butted in and that might not work out so well." They explained to X it was unnecessary to contact ~~Tsuneyoshi~~ because he had told them earlier in the morning: "Don't worry about me. Take a free course of action". Finally they decided to take only Okamoto~~s~~, chairman of the Food Committee to see Nomura. Okamoto was reluctant in relinquishing his authority to Nomura because he felt he had been insulted by him at the time the Food Committee had made its report. Nakase reviewed the difficult time they had with Snelson and Mathiesen and finally convinced Okamoto that Nomura as council chairman was the only person who could cope with them.

A rumor is afloat in camp that Tule Lake is to be closed soon and its residents evacuated to Poston.

In the evening Spicer and Ted Hass, project attorney, dropped in for a chat and supplied some valuable corroboration<sup>D</sup> to our Strike Report. (Hass returned to Poston Friday morning after a two month sojourn in L.<sup>A</sup>. where he underwent two major rectal operations). The chief topic of conversation was the Townsend testimony.

Commenting on Townsend leading a force of 200 evacuees toward the motor pool (Cf. page 62 of Townsend testimony) Spicer declared:

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1. Cf. page 13.



"That incident is documented. I saw it with my own eyes. There were only six boys involved -- all policemen lead by Higekawa, chief of police. They had received authorization from the administration and were going toward the motor pool. The M.P. on duty told them to halt. The boys shouted that they had received permission to go to the motor pool and started to cross the highway. The M.P. shot into the air. The boys laughed heartily and walked back jauntily to Evans' office to inform ~~for~~ him of the incident."

As far as Col. Main is concerned (page 65) Spicer claims he is a myth. He never existed in Poston so Townsend must have been seeing visions. A Capt. McFadden was sent down from San Francisco as a personal observer for Gen. DeWitt but he arrived on Saturday so he would be too late for "Col. Main".

Captain Daugherty was commanding officer of the M.P.'s. at one time but he left Poston a few days before the riot. The only M.P. officer present during the disturbance was a Lt. Young(?) but he scarcely showed his head in administrative quarters during the entire period. Yesterday, according to Spicer, an M.P. came in to file an affidavit that soldiers in civilian clothes did not man the ambulances armed with machine guns as claimed by Townsend. (With reference to this Dr. Pressman filed a 10-page affidavit stating what the ambulances were doing at that time).

Spicer asserts that no threats were made against the American flag (page 50). People were too preoccupied to waste their time hauling an obscure American flag down. On the first day of the strike I reported that I saw Leighton hoisting the flag and ~~every~~ after that the janitor of Ad 3 put it up every morning for the duration of the incident. (At this point we laughed heartily to think ~~what~~ Evans would say



how amused Evans would be to read "he didn't believe it was worth the battle to keep it up").

According to Spicer affidavits discrediting the Townsend testimony have been prepared by several departments including Engineering, Agriculture, Irrigation, ~~Health~~<sup>Health</sup> and Sanitation and Education. As mentioned above Dr. Pressman wrote a 10-page affidavit particularly to explain about ~~bodies~~ mysteriously "disappearing" from the hospital as charged by Townsend.

After the sensational testimony appeared someone in a playful mood placed a copy of it on Mathiesen's desk along with an apple and a potato bearing appropriate <sup>P</sup>~~signs~~ to identify the objects. (page 36). Later someone switched the signs to "confuse" Mathiesen.

— All of us were greatly amused at Townsend's tendency to conveniently "forget" the names of colorful personages -- including that of a Japanese "admiral" serving as chef in a Camp III messhall. (Incidentally, when I asked Spicer whether the Dies Committee had bothered to call on the admiral he claimed he couldn't be found).

When Jim Yamada (who joined the group later) questioned Haas how he liked the statement appraising him in Townsend's testimony (page 43) he laughed gleefully and said that if Townsend had wished to belittle the Japanese lawyers his testimony deflected that. He continued: "I thought as a matter of routine ~~the~~ WRA solicitor in Washington should know what an incompetent assistant he had in Poston so I merely stated in the course of a letter to him, 'Here is a quotation from the Townsend testimony concerning me ...'".

When asked by Spicer how he liked his description in the longer version sent to the WRA in Washington by Townsend (of which our testimony is a minor part) referring to him as "an alien born in Russia, therefore had alien sympathies", Haas almost rolled with laughter.



We all agreed at the close of the evening that Townsend was a psychotic -- a paranoid of the first degree. If he could be located the administration would like to see him committed to an institution.



4. 22  
V+

Sociological journal from June 21 -  
June 25.



"CC



June 21, 1943

Noodle Factory: Nomura contacted Nelson, Unit I administrator, in the morning but could get nowhere with him. Nelson told him not to bother Mr. Head at present because he was busy -- that they would meet later to decide the issue.

That evening Mathiesen sent the following memo by special messenger to the block managers of 38 and 43:  
(1)

TO THE RESIDENTS OF POSTON:

It became necessary to discontinue the manufacturing of noodles in Poston on the following reasons:

1. We have on hand 140,000 pounds of noodles, spaghetti and macaroni in the warehouses, and these must be consumed before spoiling.
2. Cost of local made noodles is excessive. (Poston made noodles cost 9¢ per pound, whereas, noodles can be bought in open market at 6¢ per pound).
3. Block # 38 petitioned to have the factory removed due to the unhealthy and unsanitary conditions detrimental to its residents.
4. Considerable dissatisfaction of local made noodles by the residents.

We feel that it is our responsibility and interest to supply the residents with best available varieties of food stuffs at the least possible cost.

The factory will be re-opened if and when that is justified.

/s/ H. A. Mathiesen  
Chief of Industry

June 21, 1943

Late in the evening Abe and Nakase brought a copy of Mathiesen's memo to X so he sent them to see Nomura. At that time Nakase refuted all of the claims made by Mathiesen. He maintained that 140,000 pounds of noodles in the warehouses were a gross exaggeration -- they couldn't

- 
1. ~~Xjr~~ The noodle factory is located in block 38, and Abe resides in block 43.



possibly have that much. Secondly he claimed that they couldn't buy commercial noodles for 6¢ a pound -- if they were actually buying ~~them~~, them at that price they certainly were not charging that figure in their books. To them it was incredible that those produced domestically should cost more than commercial varieties. He felt there was some misappropriation in the books and that Washington should be notified of the fact. Regarding the third complaint Nakase claimed that the Public Health inspector had never complained to them of unsanitary conditions in the factory. Block 38 had drawn up that petition simply because a few individuals coveted that barrack for living quarters. Now these persons have been transferred to roomier apartments in other blocks so the petition was unnecessary.

When X encountered Nomura later in the evening he inquired: "What's happened to the noodle controversy?" He replied: "It's plenty tough. Those guys don't know that Jimmy Yahiro has doublecrossed them and has been advising Snelson and Mathiesen to keep the factory closed." He believed that Yahiro had done so to regain favor with the two Caucasians.

X also learned during the course of the day that the article on the noodle factory which appeared in the June 19th edition of the Poston Chronicle (cf. attached news item) had been written by George Murata, a son of No. 12, with his father's permission. Sometime during the day George Fujii visited the Press Building and complained bitterly of the inaccuracy contained in the article and demanded corrections in his capacity as executive secretary of the local council. He particularly objected to paragraphs 2, 4, 5, and 6. In the evening George Murata contacted Abe and requested to see Mathiesen's memo which he knew the former had wrested from the block manager. Abe threatened at this time that if he published it in the Chronicle he would demand correction on



## **RESIDENTS DEMAND POSTON NOODLES**

The Unit I Local Council instructed the food committee and also a three men committee from the noodle factory to confer jointly with C.E. Snelson, Chief Steward, and recommend the reopening of the noodle factory. It was stated at the weekly Unit I Local Council meeting held in the Conference Room, June 16.

This recommendation was agreed upon after it was clearly shown in a survey taken by the councilmen of their respective blocks, that the majority of the blocks liked the noodle, manufactured here in Unit I. 18 blocks were in favor of noodle and 13 blocks in opposition, with the remaining 51k undecided or not having any representatives as yet on the Council.

In an earlier survey conducted by the food committee, 98% of the mess halls were in favor of the reopening of the noodle factory, with one mess hall opposed and another undecided.

However, it was disclosed that there was a difference in question asked by the food committee and the councilmen. The food committee based its survey upon the question of, if the mess halls wanted the noodle factory to reopen again, but the councilmen asked their blocks, if the residents liked the noodle manufactured here in Unit I.

The noodle factory was forced to close some three weeks ago, upon orders of the Chief Steward, who stat-

ed that there were some Canton noodle and egg noodle in the warehouse, which must be eaten first.

But as one source stated, it just doesn't seem right to close the factory, when subsistence for the coming fiscal year, beginning July 1, is to be cut from 45 cents to 31 cents per person per day.



## ARTS & CRAFTS SELL CARDS

Scenes depicting  
amplife will be "brou-  
ht to life" on post-  
cards which will be  
out out shortly by the  
Department of Arts and  
rafts.

Artists Gus Nakagawa  
and Harry Yoshizumi  
are currently engaged  
in compiling materials.

## BACCALAUREATE SERVICES

Baccalaureate serv-  
ices for the class of  
3 of the Poston Two  
gh School will be  
ld Sunday morning at  
30 a.m. at the Chri-  
ian Church.

Invocation and bene-

## TO AND FROM

Leaving Tuesday eve-  
ning for Cosad, Nebra-  
ska on seasonal leave  
were Wataru Eto, Tsu-  
tomu Hironaka, Kazuo  
Mizutani, Edward Ma-  
chida, Frank Menda,  
Kiyoshi Sera, Sataru  
Muramoto.

With Cozad as their  
destination, William  
Furuya and Volunteer  
Kazuo Tokiwa departed  
Tuesday night.

Early morning depar-  
tures included Tsuto-  
mu Fukuda, Chicago,  
Shuki Hayashi, Milford  
Utah, Harry Sakasegawa  
Rockford, Illinois.  
Hardy Tsuda, Ogden, U-  
tah, Mrs. Fujiye Sumi-  
da and Kenneth, Fort  
omas, Kentucky.

Pfc. Frank Ogawa who  
loughed here left  
Keenesburg, Colo.

Wednesday leaves by  
vate auto were Mr.

Mrs. Tatsumi Sue-  
o, Mrs. Nellie Imo-  
and children for  
sas City, Missouri,  
r. T. Yuhara and  
Charles, Salt Lake  
y, Utah; Pvt. Ikuye  
ra, Camp Robinson,  
nsas.

Thursday evening en-  
e Detroit, were  
Kuwabara, Kuni  
Jim Sakamoto, and  
Hatanaka.

turning early Thu-  
y morning to his  
ly in 215 was Tsu-  
Yokoyama from Lor-  
rg, New Mexico.

Torakichi Ichi-  
joined his family  
14 from Crystal  
Texas.

h destination at  
and Colorado Sp-  
, respectively,  
am Ishihara and  
Kanemura left Fri-

seasonal was Mas-  
Ishibashi, Cor-  
Utah. Akira Yon-  
shigeto Fujimoto,  
rus Iwasaki were  
go-bound.



his part because he claimed it contained nothing but falsehood. This instigated the curious correction in the June 22th issue of the Chronicle (cf. attached news item).

The Los Angeles Examiner which arrived today showed a front-page editorial in the Sunday edition entitled "Poston Camp Hearing Bares Shameful Facts". Apparently the Dies Committee could not discover anything sensational during their visit so the Examiner had to resort to a reiteration of the more dramatic portions in Townsend's testimony (cf. attached article).

The following petition was delivered to all block manager's offices today to secure the signatures of block P.T.A. representatives and those of parents with school-age children to be eventually handed to Dr. Miles E. Cary in appreciation for his year's services in Poston. The pattern for drawing up petitions to request the remaining of a well-liked administrative official (more as a gesture of appreciation for their work than anything else) was started by the one handed to Wade Head in May. (More recently they drew up another for H.A. Mathiesen, Chief of Agriculture and Industry, who is scheduled to leave here July 22 to become superintendent of Indian schools in Phoenix).



6/20/43 1st page int. 4. *Blanner*

# Poston Camp Hearing Bares Shameful Facts

**I**F THE story of conditions at the Poston Relocation Camp in Arizona had not been told under oath by responsible witnesses, if it had not been spread on official records and if the events described had been open at least to a single question—then the account could well be credited to a fiction writer's unrestrained imagination.

The testimony by Harold H. Townsend, former officer at the camp, drawn from the hearings of the Dies subcommittee and released for publication by Congressman Costello of California, is an astounding story.

The amazing details include a Japanese unit of 1000 "officers and men" openly training in tactical problems; admissions by camp inmates that this unit was organized at Terminal Island to fight with invading Japanese formations; thefts of \$100,000 worth of supplies from camp warehouses; a reign of terror by Japanese strong-arm gangs against countrymen suspected of pro-American sentiments; open rebellion and mob rule during riots once described officially as "disturbances"; caches of food and supplies hidden in the desert for the use of expected parachute troops and invading raiders.

**AND ALL WITHIN THE BORDERS OF AN AMERICAN WESTERN STATE, LITTLE MORE THAN A STONE'S THROW FROM ONE OF THE LARGEST TRAINING CENTERS FOR AMERICAN DESERT TROOPS, UNDER THE OBSERVATION OF F. B. I. MEN WHO COULD NOT BEAR THE CODDLING OF SUBVERSIVE PRISONERS AND LEFT THE CAMP IN DISGUST.**

**W**HAT is the reason for this incredible but all-too-true condition?

Is it because Americans are naturally soft-headed and stupid, so indifferent and pusillanimous that they wish their country's enemies to be coddled, allowed to run loose, permitted to plan and operate a deadly fifth column inside our very front lines?

Not at all.

Americans want these camps to be run in a humane but strict manner.

But Americans most definitely do not want the enemy to organize, with our money, our food, our supplies, under our protection and under our noses, military and subversive groups openly dedicated to join the Japanese attack should such an attack ever break on our shores.

**T**HE reason for the shameful, the fantastic situation, can be laid directly at the door of Administration bungling, confusion, irresolution and every-day plain idiocy.

Townsend's testimony, not yet contradicted and obviously well borne out by the facts, brought out that there was no central authority that would or could assume responsibility.

The War Department, the Department of Justice, the Indian Service, the War Relocation Authority, all shied away from the simple job of taking command and sternly repressing the insolent threats and actions of the Japanese "prisoners."

That job still remains to be done.

In the meantime, Americans at home will be wondering whether they might not have to take care of a second front in our own backyard, if the Federal Government has neither the intelligence nor gumption to clean up the unbelievable mess at Poston.



# Italian Isles Blasted Anew

(Continued From Page One)

bomb carrying P-40 Warhawks," the communique continued.

"Thirty-nine enemy fighters were destroyed in combat during the day. Eight of our air-

craft are missing from all these operations."

The communique from Cairo revealed that in addition to the heavy bomber attack on Comiso, R. A. F. long range fighters attacked a large Axis schooner and four sailing vessels off the west coast of Greece.

Many hits were scored but the damage could not be observed, it was said.

A railway engine on the mainland also was attacked, the communique added.

Additional details of the new attacks disclosed that one ship was set on fire and two others wrecked at Olbia, while the two main docks were blasted.

Warehouses, jetties and railway tracks were hit at Golfo Aranci. In Southern Sardinia Warhawks hit the Sangavino Railroad station, destroyed aircraft on the ground, damaged landing areas, silenced machine gun emplacements and strafed many troops marching on the roads.

Olbia offered slight anti-aircraft resistance, scarcely interfering with the Marauders which attacked. Axis air fighters gave their greatest opposition over Sardinia, where mixed Italo-German types pounced out of the clouds over Golfo Aranci and stubbornly clung to the bombers in fierce dog-fights.

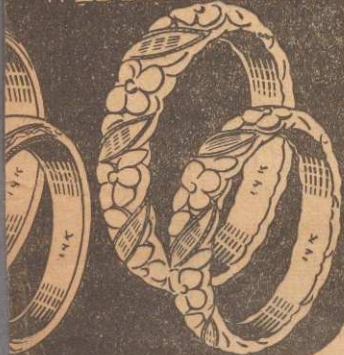
## or the Navy



RICAL installations are made at a General Electric Company the radar will aid both ship and presence of either enemy planes to the human eye.

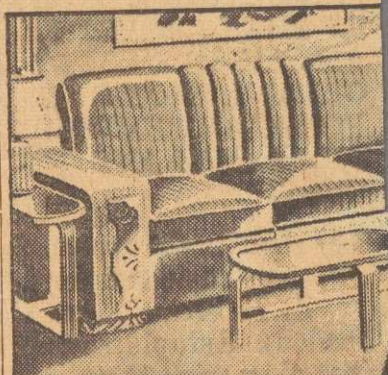


## WEDDING SETS



BOTH

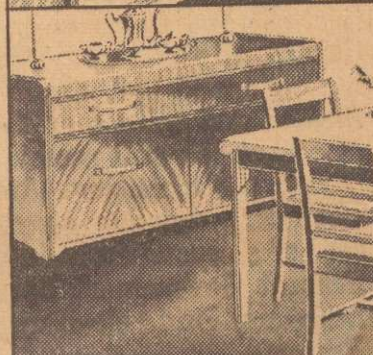
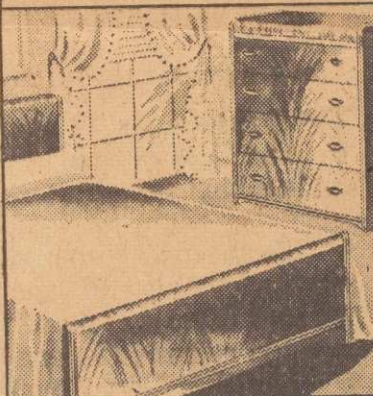
## ● INVEST IN



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AND KITCHEN**

Deluxe quality . . . substantial construction . . . modern styling. Specially priced because of huge reserve stocks. Outfit includes coil spring, mattress, pictures, lamps, throw rugs and occasional pieces. Purchases held for future delivery if desired. Buffet extra.

OPEN  
**SUN**  
AND EVENING





# REOPENING OF NOODLE PLANT REPORTED



Due to a misunderstanding, the Saturday, June 19, edition of the Boston Chronicle carried an article, stating that the Unit I Local Council had instructed the food committee to confer with C.E. Snelson, Chief Steward, and recommend the reopening of the noodle factory. According to Geo. Fujii, Executive Secretary, the Council did not recommend, but had only stated the result of the survey taken.

6/22/53



になつて居る  
法案が議會を通過  
迄には排日屋の側  
動の跡が偲ばれる  
月半以前にアリゾ  
ナ在住の池田勉君  
はスタンダード会  
リギヤソリンを農  
用に買求した廉で  
され正式裁判にな

矛盾した法律の存在消日  
滅せんと決意しジヨン  
ソンプラス商事会社を  
相手取り告訴した  
ケースの内容は五月十  
八日に同会社が二十封  
度の大根種子を池田君  
に敗売する旨協約した  
が九日後これに対し法  
令を理由として敗売拒  
ド大辦イ



Petition to Dr. Miles E. Cary

We, the parents as well as residents of the Poston War Relocation Center, Unit I, are distressingly disturbed to hear of your leaving this Project in the near future.

Our children who shared in the turmoil of evacuation with us in this wilderness and who were stripped away from their intimate school a year ago found ~~solace~~ solace in knowing you as the Director of Education.

We, the parents and other residents found SINCERITY, UNDERSTANDING, KINDNESS, and SYMPATHY in you and your administration, and now realize there is no better man for our school director, and we pledge our absolute faith in you and do need you in these trying times.

We therefore humbly sign this petition and beg you to remain here, although we realize your sacrifice in your family life. We want you if humanly possible to share with us together the heartaches, tears, and joys, for the duration.

P.T.A. representatives, Block No.:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Parents and Residents

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____



June 22, 1943

At the regular meeting of the block managers in the morning George Kurata, chairman of the Hospital Committee, thanked the block managers profusely for their continued cooperation in sending needed workers to the Hospital. He then requested the sending of two to three female applicants from each block to be interviewed by Miss Vickers, chief senior nurse, for the nurses' aide class.

Joe Nakai of the L.R.B. next appealed for volunteers for the hog slaughter house. He announced that at present they were slaughtering about six hogs a day but it was vitally necessary that they start killing about 25 to 30 daily. Unless they were slaughtered at this rate the <sup>h</sup>ogs would become too old to eat. At present they weighed about ~~400~~<sup>400</sup> pounds each but if they gained further they would become un-~~fit~~ palatable and ~~the~~ people on the outside would condemn the residents for wasting food.

The next speaker was Mr. Barrett, the WRA field representative for Nevada. He reported that in those sections touched by the L.A. papers the feeling against Japanese was very marked but there were areas where they were accepted 100 % and treated as one of them. The Japanese coming to Nevada were tending to congregate again -- an especially noticeable trait because the total population of Nevada is only 110,000. He claimed he was greatly surprised in encountering antipathy in Nevada after working in Idaho and Montana where out-group relations were much more satisfactory. He recommended for those desiring to relocate in Nevada to go there on seasonal leave rather than on indefinite leave.

The major portion of the meeting was taken up by Len Nelson who spoke "off the record" to the following effect:



Excuse me, Mr. Barrett, but you should have been here last Friday when the Dies Committee was here. They certainly snooped around camp. They had a hell of a nerve after criticizing us based on falsehood and coming here so brazenly.

Let me explain to the block managers what the Dies Committee is. Martin Dies of Texas created a committee to investigate the Gointern. When Stalin announced that the Gointern had been dissolved Dies publicly stated that their work was finished. Within five days after he had issued that statement he came out and cried that he had been misquoted. Since then they have been picking on minority groups to capitalize on racial hatred. The Committee which was in Los Angeles and came into camp afterwards is a fact-finding sub-committee composed of Costello of California, Mundt of South Dakota, and Eberharter of Pennsylvania. They came in here and then left for Washington. I don't know whether the whole Dies Committee will be gullible enough to swallow everything they found. I don't know what the fact-finding committee will report. But I am certain of one thing: the American government cannot tolerate racial persecution. It is behind the Nisei. It is our duty -- yours and mine, since we are all in one family -- to stick together and make a firm stand against any unjustifiable attacks. That is the American principle. We know we have all made mistakes in the past -- it means you, too. But this is a gigantic undertaking and looking back at what we have done we can say that we have done pretty well. To show that the American government is behind you I'll cite one case in Arizona.

One chap who never evacuated to camp bought fifty gallons of gas from the Standard Oil Company and thereby violated the newly enacted Arizona code that if anyone wishes to trade with anyone of Japanese ancestry he must advertise three times in ten days and also must file his intention with the Secretary of State. After consulting the regional office in San Francisco, a WRA representative was placed behind this Japanese to test the constitutionality of the law. We all knew that this was unconstitutional. The WRA hired Judge Lockwood and took the case to court. He saw to it that the court fined the maximum amount prescribed under the law which is \$1000, so that there would be no slip-up later on. The San Francisco office immediately ordered the representative to pay the fine. Now the Attorney General has sent his opinion on the case and we are taking it to the highest court. This is one illustration that the American government is behind you to protect your rights.

Yes, we made a mistake in relocation, too. We had originally intended to allow only 18 indefinite leaves to the Salt River Valley region but we later found that we had issued 180 leaves. The Japanese congregated in that area and the residents became alarmed. That was our mistake. You have been seeing unpleasant articles in the L.A. Examiner. It is arguing on something entirely untrue. Dillon Myer is having a scrap with the head of that paper now. But don't think that other papers are all like that. To illustrate, I'll read you an editorial from the Minneapolis Star-Journal of June 14, 1943:



### FROM BAD TO WORSE

"At its best the Dies Committee to investigate un-American activities has been performing a job which ought to be the responsibility of, and could have been done much better by, the federal bureau of investigation and the courts. At its worst -- which is to say, most of the time -- the committee's ~~ram~~ fanning of ugly hatreds, its wholesale smearing of the innocent along with the guilty, and its typification of the American fascist mind, have made the committee itself a phenomenon as un-American as the Salem witchcraft trials. For these reasons the ~~Star~~ Star-Journal has consistently opposed the Dies committee.

But now it has found a field in which it has a good chance to work new and more serious mischief. It is investigating the Nisei -- those 70,000 American citizens of Japanese descent most of whom are being held in relocation centers.

When Stalin dissolved the Comintern, Congressman Dies, apparently caught off guard, said the committee could now be disbanded. But a few days later he was declaring he had been misquoted, and now a sub-committee is sitting in Los Angeles, tossing fuel busily and happily onto the ugly fire of American racial bigotry and hatred.

The problem constituted by Japanese citizens of United States is a serious ~~and~~ one and highly complicated. Probably it was militarily wise for the army to move all persons of Japanese origin, whether American citizens or not, out of the west coast area right after Pearl Harbor, in order to guard effectively against the espionage and sabotage of a few Japanese agents. Probably it was inevitable that serious mistakes would be made and grievous wrongs done in such hasty handling of a perplexing situation.

But the Dies Committee is not interested in examining the Nisei problem objectively, or trying to ameliorate ~~injustice~~ injustice to loyal Americans and to relieve wrongs which can have the most dangerous repercussions in our dealings with the Asiatic peoples as a whole and with the race problem in the United States as a whole.

The Dies Committee is tearing at an open wound, trying to make political capital of racial suspicions and to perpetuate jobs for its pseudo-investigators and win new kudos for its committee members from the ignorant, the fearful and the bigoted.

Now there not only exists no further reason for the Dies Committee's activities; there is every reason why the committee should be disbanded before it does us irreparable harm, domestically and in our foreign relations. Congress as a whole cannot ignore responsibility for the committee without serious consequences to its own prestige."

Nelson then claimed that Poston was not the only rumor factory. He was in ~~Harper~~ Parker last night and a number of people came up to him and remarked: "I hear the Dies Committee is laying off people left



and right." The fact in this <sup>case</sup> is that Wra is ~~dis~~ continuing its policy of employing temporary workers. He concluded: "People are prone to talk without finding out the facts. Will you block managers endeavor to make the residents understand that they shouldn't listen to these crackpots. They are not the only Americans in this country. Mr. Head appreciates the fact that you cooperated so closely while the committee was here."

At the close of Nelson's speech the block manager of 45 stood up and delivered the following answer: "Mr. Nelson, you've talked about the Dies Committee so I'm going to talk about the Dies Committee, ~~xxx~~ too. I'm surprised that you are concerned with the possible reaction on the part of the residents. Let me tell you that this is nothing new to us. The history of persecution dates back as early as 1906 when the Japanese "school boy incident" occurred in San Francisco. Since then we have been taking this sort of thing right along. I was once stoned by a White man. Before the war I was on Terminal Island for a short while and there I was supposed to be a Japanese naval captain trained ~~xxx~~ in ~~the~~ highly technical tactics in the guise of a fisherman. The Los Angeles Examiner has been playing up this sort of thing for years. We have been taking it right along. Now we've taken the Dies Committee in our stride. I want to thank Mr. Head for hanging a storm sign in advance through the grapevine. That is what I call real cooperation on the part of the administration."

Nelson jumped to his feet at the close of 45's speech: "I'm going to answer that. I didn't know there was another Japanese admiral out there." Pointing to Roy Furuya, his executive assistant, he exclaimed: "I thought he was the only Japanese admiral we had." Then dropping his jocular tone he continued seriously: "That's the kind of thing we've



been getting. I'm mad and I'm going to stay mad. Before the Dies Committee started its investigation of the Japanese I could have left this place if I wanted to. Now no one can kick me out of this place. I'm going to stay here and fight to see that you people are treated decently. I want you all to fight with me." Then, ~~xxxxxx~~ according to X, he became "sentimental" and said: "There are lots of new faces in the block managers' meeting now. I want you to come up freely any time to talk to me. I'll be glad to have you come up. We are worried about young people in camp. I'm spending nights with Dr. Powell to think up something for them. We will eventually come up with some definite plans."

Today the Employment Division issued a memo to all block managers to discourage east-bound travel until June 29. It had received word from Santa Fe officials advising curtailment of all civilian travel east-bound on the Santa Fe main line to Chicago and points between. The reason for discouraging travel was due to the fact that heavy military shipments are being made over the line during this period. Persons contemplating traveling during the restricted period were advised that they must do so at their own risk and their own expenses for any inconveniences and delays involved.

There is some talk of "flattening out" Joe Nakai for "squealing" to the Fish Commission of Arizona. According to certain disgruntled individuals Joe was directly responsible for the setting up of the Fishing Commission in Poston to see that no one violated Arizona fishing laws. (For details read attached Poston Chronicle article).

Via a policeman: "There is a bunch of yogore nisei in block 26 but in block 27 many Issei are yogore. They live on gambling, going from block to block without working."



# GAME WARDENS TO PATROL FISHING SITES

6/27/4

Effective within two or three weeks, residents of Poston must have a fishing license, or ~~it~~ will be considered a misdemeanor, it was disclosed at the Manpower Commission meeting recently.

According to the Fish and Game Warden of Arizona, who recently conferred with Wade Head, Project Director, there seems to be a great deal of agitation by the Caucasian people in Arizona, because evacuees have been exempted from obtaining fishing licenses.

A Fish and Game Commission Office will be setup in Poston, and deputized wardens will patrol the community. Their duties will be to see that the licenses are properly issued to see that people at the river and slough have fishing license, and to see that they do not catch more than is allowed.

It was disclosed that each unit will have two wardens, who will receive arm to badges, and other equipments necessary to be a warden. They are also to receive top WRA wage.



申上ぐが本意ですばぬ

三一〇 舞台に於て

# アリゾナ排日法に挑戦

商事會社の販賣拒絶で  
池田勉上級裁判へ告訴

アリゾナ通常ヤロンのギヤソリンも  
過し新しい法即時に買小事が出来な

る前に会社側が服罪し

千弗の罰金を支拂つた

のでこの排日法が州内

全般に徹底し今やア州

在留同胞の生活が根底

から覆されんとして居

る。この秋に於り池田

君は奮然と起つてこの

絶したに依る

告訴に關はる池田君の

主張は即ち新排日法は

アリゾナ州及合衆國憲

法に違反して居る、何と

ならばこの法令は米國

市民の權能を無視し、法

律を正當に実施せぬ故



"The police department is not concerned with small-time gambling where there is no house-take, and where the players have steady jobs and play for pleasure outside of working hours."

An employee of the Community Enterprises parked his car near the oil tank in block 26 this evening and went into the mess hall for supper. When he attempted to start his car a few minutes later it refused to budge. Becoming suspicious he looked around and saw three husky young boys -- reputed in that area to be delinquents -- sitting on the steps of the recreation hall nearby and laughing mockingly. Sometime ago he had seen these same boys monkeying around with another car and twisting the ignition order so suspecting the same trick lifted the hood and noticed that his ignition order also had been tampered with. The car started after a while but since there was no air in his tires he was compelled to walk all the way down to the Maintenance Garage in the administrative area to borrow an air pump. He was furious and reported the incident to the police. About 11:00 p.m. the three boys were rounded up and taken to the police station for questioning. Meanwhile their parents having heard of the incident arrived at the police station to apologize for their sons. The officer in charge finally released them about midnight with the warning: ~~"Xxxxxx"~~ "You denied it and maybe you didn't do it this time. But it is known that you committed a similar ~~xxxxx~~ crime previously. Like this time you will always be suspected if anything wrong happens out there. I'll let you go this time, but I'm going to place your names on the black list."

The following "rumors" are credited to a Japanese short-wave radio broadcast heard here recently:

The mayor of Manila now visiting in Japan made the following statements in a radio broadcast from Osaka: "Until the Japanese conquered Luzon we were suspicious of Japanese intentions because for



years we had been swallowing American propaganda. I realize now that Japan is our real friend. I'm happy to know that we are to be granted independence which under American domination we would never have had. Theirs was a false promise. We, the peoples of the Philippines are full-heartedly back of the Japanese war aims. We must crush and get rid of the "Whites in the Orient."

The battle for Guadalcanal is still undecided. There was a great naval battle recently in the valley side in which Japan lost 19 naval ships. However, our loss has been more than compensated. We destroyed 20 odd naval ships and ? merchant vessels. We also captured an American destroyer which had been incapacitated in battle.

Since the beginning of the war we have destroyed approximately 50,000 enemy airplanes of which 9,000 are accounted for by the Navy.

Noodle Factory: Mathiesen's memo delivered last night only to blocks 39 and 43 was distributed to the rest of the block managers at the regular meeting of the block managers in the morning. Those blocks which opposed the reopening of the factory are reported to have translated the memo into Japanese before posting it on the bulletin board.

In the morning the noodle workers met in block 38 to hear a report of progress from their delegates. (It is claimed that the workers have been constantly bothering Nakase and Abe as to what was happening. They are too old to work in other projects except in the mess halls from which many of them had been fired or had quit and are anxious to get paid again). One of the workers reported at this time that Kurata had declared in the bachelors' quarters in block 38: "I don't give a damn what the council decided. I won't let the noodle factory open." They immediately sent three men to verify the statement. They reported back that the bachelors were willing to tell anyone that Kurata had made that statement. At this point three hot-tempered Issei requested permission to leave everything up to them. They wanted to beat up Kurata and Joe Nakai. Abe and Nakase reasoned with them: "You promised us in the beginning that you would have complete faith in what we did. If you do such a thing now it would be a ~~big~~ calamity. The matter is now in Nomura's hands so please have confidence in him."

Nomura in his capacity as chairman of the local council sent a



memo to Wade Head today recommending the reopening of the noodle factory. He lightly touched only the first argument in Mathiesen's memo completely ignoring the others. He claimed it was unbelievable that the stock on hand should increase so suddenly and that the project director could not expect the residents to believe such a story. Inasmuch as the council had passed a recommendation based on the wish of the blocks he suggested that he reopen the factory to avoid dissension in camp.

June 23, 1943

At the Executive Committee meeting of the block managers in the morning Len Nelson expressed great concern over the alleged delinquent acts of young people in camp. He wanted some concrete evidence to back it up since he could do nothing with just heresays. He has been riding around camp after midnight for many nights in the hope of digging up something but so far his search has been fruitless. (A policeman reported recently that Nelson came into the police station twice in one night). He traced down a rumor that a girl had been raped and found that what really occurred was that two boys on one side and several boys on the other had fought over a girl. He didn't want that ~~kind~~ kind of evidence -- he wanted some incriminating evidence. The committee after some discussion decided to have each block manager bring in eye witnesses or victims of gang activities to testify before the administration.

Kishi, the errand boy for the unit administrator, who had separated a gang fight in block 35 the night before, was the first to be called to testify before an administrative group made up of Ernest Miller, chief of Internal Security, Ken Sato, his assistant, and Ted Haas, project attorney, who were closeted in the office of the executive



secretary to the unit administrator. The second witness was Mat Kobayashi, the victim of the block 21 swimming pool incident on June 16, who was brought in by the manager of 39. The third was the victim of the block 2 party described in detail under date of June 16.

Immediately after lunch by pre-arrangement between Len Nelson and the block manager of 45 Kishi was sent to fetch N. Morikawa, the night watchman for the Adobe Works. The manager of 45 was permitted to sit in the hearings ostensibly to give moral support to the witness but more accurately to prompt him since he ~~knew Miller~~ knows Miller is stupid. Morikawa testified that while he was on duty certain boys always hung around the Adobe Works committing destructive acts. They delighted especially in throwing rocks at electric light bulbs. On Sunday, May 30, they came to the adobe grounds in broad daylight and smeared excrement that they had defecated all over a small building and when he had scolded them one of them had retorted: "Do you want to fight?" He had replied: "I can't take five or six of your kind at one time so I'll let you go this time but if you do it again I'll take all of you to the police station." He claimed he could not identify ~~the culprits~~ the culprits since he did not know who they were. (Previously he had informed X he had told one of the boys: "I knew your father well in L.A. and I know who you are." He had also told X they were K. Nakamura, Boner Nakashima, Ben Nakasone and a few others). Miller was perplexed at the witness' failure to identify the boys. The block manger of 45 aided him by extracting a statement from the night watchman ~~at~~ that he had witnessed the gang fight at the block 21 swimming pool and had noticed that the aggressors were the same boys who annoyed him in the adobe grounds. During the questioning Miller was especially anxious to know whether Isamu Uchida was present at the block 21 ~~swimming pool~~



fight. When answered affirmatively he wanted to know whether he had actually participated in the fight. Ken <sup>S</sup>ato was particularly<sup>L</sup> interested in finding out if policemen were present because he had heard the rumor that they had purposely failed to stop the fight because of Uchida. Morikawa contended that a policeman attempted to stop the fight when he first noticed it.

Miller and Haas desired to contact the lifeguard on duty at that time so 45 immediately sent Kishi to fetch E. Uyeda of block 45. He testified that he identified one of the boys in the fight as K. Nakamura but he did not know the rest. He was in the tower when <sup>w</sup>to<sup>1</sup> boys began fighting on the diving board. He had told them to stop claiming: "I'm lifeguard here and I don't want any fight." They had then gone off to the firebreak nearby and continued their fight. Whenever Kobayashi was placed in close range of the gang members they had jabbed him in the ribs. The lifeguard claimed it was not a ~~fix~~ fair fight.

The cross-examining of witnesses took place until five o'clock. According to Nomura about thirty individuals were questioned during the day. The testimonies were taken down in long hand by Haas and Miller and handed to Mrs. Palmer, secretary to Empie, senior administrative officer, who had been borrowed for the occasion, to be typed in another room.

A policeman reported late in the evening that Len Nelson had brought two large trucks to the police station about 7:00 p.m. and had said: "I got these trucks for your use. I told them these are to be used for an emergency." The police department was ready to round up the bad boys as soon as Head issued the orders. It was arranged that the police pick up the delinquents and hand them over to the M.P.'s at the motor pool.



After Ben Nelson left the Executive Committee meeting in the morning to round up witnesses for interrogation, Dr. Harris, principal of the Camp I High School, and Miss Cushman, guidance director, were called before the block managers to assist them in eradicating juvenile delinquency in camp. Both stressed the fact that the parents of each delinquent should be contacted and the problem ~~discussed~~ discussed with them. The block manager of 45 interrupted: "The time element is involved right now. Some of what you propose is tedious and time-consuming. The leaders must be taken out immediately because they are known to have long records of delinquency." Cushman replied that even if the leaders were removed new ones would spring up again. 45 maintained that if ~~the boys~~ legal and social sanctions were increased by taking such a drastic step delinquent acts would in all probability decrease. They would think twice before committing a bad deed and besides some time would elapse before new leaders crop up. During this period the Education Dept. in cooperation with block managers and the Council would be able to work out a preventive program. He continued: "With respect to interviewing parents of delinquent boys, they ~~in~~ most likely will say: 'Not my son of all persons.' That's a Japanese cultural pattern." Cushman answered: "That's not only with Japanese -- it's ~~true~~ for all races." 45 replied: "If that's ~~the~~ case let's call it human nature. But let me ask, what do you propose to do after you interview the parents." Dr. Harris answered: "We'll advise the parents to relocate because this camp is not a healthy place for their child." 45 argued: "You are assuming a priori that these boys have become delinquent after coming to camp. Another fallacy of your argument is this: You can imagine ~~that~~ some causes of delinquency are traceable to families themselves. Don't you think that that's exactly the kind



of family we don't want relocated outside." Harris agreed: "We have to investigate each family. We can relocate only good families."

45 challenged: "Well, then you have to admit that what you are proposing as the solution is not really a complete solution, is it?" Harris replied, "No, but it should help."

45 continued: "Then I take it that we're in perfect accord as to sending some leaders out immediately. We only disagree then as to the steps to be taken after the ousting."

Cushman replied: "Oh, yes, we agree that they have to be taken out. But what we have talking about concerns young high school students only."

45: "Well, then we agree that there are two types of delinquents in camp: First, those who are incorrigible, and second, those of temporary duration who became maladjusted in camp. We have been speaking of ousting the ~~second~~ first group and you have been ~~talking~~ talking about correcting the second group. We are expediting the transfer of the first group today to which you have no objection, I presume." Both Cushman and Harris chorused: "Oh, no, we haven't." "Then," 45 continued, "we'll discuss the second group. What would you propose for this group?" Harris suggested a juvenile court. He wanted to call it "Youth Counseling Board". Tom Sakai, block manager supervisor, immediately began to ask technical questions such as the number of judges, their duties, etc. 45 interrupted: "Just a minute. You are talking about duties and functions of something that we have not yet decided to set up. Let's ask: 'What's the purpose of this juvenile court?'"

Harris explained that it would call in the delinquent and his parents and discuss the problem with them. 45 countered: "I take it that the discussion is going to solve delinquency <sup>in</sup> the child. I'm very



skeptical of it. What can a court do without being able to enforce its findings?" Harris replied: "It's alright to enforce it by such things as transfer." 45 retorted: "Isn't ~~that~~ what we've been talking about this morning among ourselves? Well, if that's the case we are not disagreeing on anything. As for the ~~juvenile~~ juvenile court, we'll set up a committee to find out what should be done and we shall consult you then."

Dr. Cary, Director of Education, dropped in after supper for a gab-fest with X and me and during the course of the evening mentioned that relations between the <sup>g</sup>Washington WRA and the Indian Service are at the breaking point and that ~~the~~ is going around administrative quarters that the WRA will take complete charge of Poston within a few weeks. When X remarked that the WRA could not well dispense with Head, Cary thought that it would in all probability retain Head. This will mean that Head, a career man, will not have to be tied down to Indian Service traditions and will have greater opportunity to express himself. Cary also mentioned that it appears as though the appropriation requested for schools next year will be granted and in such a case they will be able to accomodate more Caucasian teachers so the Nisei teachers will have more opportunity to relocate since the obligation to remain in Poston will be considerably lessened. The adobe buildings which were originally intended for the grammar school will be used for the high school next year so their plan is to vacate at least three barracks in three sections of camp to house the elementary and nursery schools. With large numbers of people relocating he believed it possible for some blocks to vacate three barracks which can be remodeled for classroom use.

The local council in its regular meeting today voted to retain the Central Executive Committee and the Labor Relations Board on the



recommendation of the five-men committee specially appointed to find out whether the community desired such organizations or not. With the addition of two members the committee was charged to amend the rules and regulations of the two boards and to recommend their chairmen~~y~~.

June 24, 1943

Noddle Factory: Len Nelson and Nomura conferred for a few minutes this morning on the noodle question. Nomura presented two proposals: (1) let the noodle factory operate as before supplying the needs of all three units, or (2) let it supply Unit I only thereby cutting down the number of workers. Nelson declared he was too busy with problems of juvenile delinquency at the moment to concern himself with the noodle controversy and agreed to talk to him again on Saturday.

When Nomura reported the results of his conference to the delegates they were incensed thinking this was another stalling game being played by Mathiesen and Snelson. At that time Nomura told them not to worry -- that the factory will certainly be opened in a few days. The delegates in turn reported to the workers that they would receive the formal o.k. on Saturday and that work would be resumed on Monday. Nomura and the del<sup>eg</sup>ates were on the spot <sup>and so</sup> each in turn committed more than was called for.

When the noodle delegates visited X in the morning he tried to reason with them not to be impatient by impressing on them the fact that the administration was too concerned with other more important problems at the moment to bother about the noodle factory. In the course of the conversation he reported confidentially that several boys ~~extremists~~ were going to be picked up and transferred elsewhere.



Isamu Uchida and the sons of M. Nakamura, the chairman of the Community Council, would most likely be in the group. Nakase protested that the block managers were not taking the proper step -- they should have consulted the parents of the delinquents first. He advised for the good of X to lay off Isamu Uchida because he has lots of relatives and friends in camp. It might turn out to be a dangerous matter and might result in physical reprisal. X retorted that the parents have been aware of the delinquency of their children but have failed to cope with the situation. He continued: "We have no time to consult them. Action must come first. I'm not afraid of any physical reprisal because I'm convinced I am doing the right thing. Whatever action to be taken is for the good of the people. When it is for the benefit of 8,000 people I won't hesitate to send a few incorrigibles to the 'slaughter house'. You aren't aware of the situation in camp. It is kyoki yakko no jotai (i.e. the condition is that of "one hundred devils walking freely at night"). I'll give you a few examples. It is reported that these youngsters were responsible for the raping of a 13-year old girl in turn. Do you think parents can sleep peacefully at night with such things going on in camp? You, yourselves, know that these gangs are picking fights all over camp every night. You must have heard about the fight at the swimming pool near your place. They always pick on weak boys." Nakase interrupted: "I saw that fight. That wasn't a fair fight."

X continued: "Alright, I'll add ~~then~~ that these boys are the ones who were beating up country people coming to Little Tokyo every Saturday. They are the same bunch. Do you still think we should have consulted their parents? You've heard about parties being broken up by gangs. These are the ones."



Then he cited the case in block 30 where young boys come into the latrine to take showers and then wiping their bodies with paper towels which they carelessly strew all over the floor. He concluded: "The janitors out there are crying because they are afraid to complain." Nakase added: "The same thing happened in our block. I saw three husky boys doing just the thing you described. The janitor was there and said: 'I'm working awfully hard so that we can win first place in the latrine sanitation contest. Look at this. This has been happening so often.'" Nakase had advised him to tell the block manager to bar these boys from the block. X interrupted at this point: "I don't think Frank Kobayashi told these boys because he used to work in the canteen and knows how tough they are. I'm sure he's afraid of them." He concluded: "When I'm convinced I'm fighting for a righteous cause I do not stop at any obstacle. The community criticism of being an Inu or physical reprisal that you speak of -- let them come. I'll take care of the community." Nakase and Abe appeared greatly moved and said: "We cant to thank you for working for us. Right action wins in the end. <sup>W</sup>hatever people may say we are back of you 100%."

When X encountered Mizushima at lunchtime he commented: "We have to go to the limit with this thing. They were discussing the rape case in blocks 59 and 60 this morning and one fellow said angrily: 'We should lynch them!' Of course that's only talk but you can see how angry the people are."

In the morning Wade Head held a conference with the police commissioners, the chief of police, Nelson and Nomura and acquainted them with the administration's intention of removing these boys. There was no dissension from the assembled group -- they were anxious



to settle this matter once and for all. Only one commissioner, Kadowaki of block 37, feared adverse criticism on the part of the residents. Sumida and Masukane were the strongest proponents of taking all thirty out while Kadowaki favored the removal of only (1) five or six gang leaders. The others opposed Kadowaki claiming that the transfer of only a few might create another situation necessitating further removal. They finally decided to leave everything up to Head promising at the same time that they would support any move on his part. They also recommended that after their eviction he would issue a statement explaining his action in the Poston Chronicle and in a memo to the block managers.

After the meeting Head called in all the suspects one by one and interrogated them in the presence of Miller and Haas. All of them flatly denied any connection with the rape case claiming it was just another Poston rumor. In the afternoon it was agreed that they would handle the rape case separately as it is a criminal felony and to handle the rest of the offenses in conformity with Administrative Instructions 85 and 93. The cases were then referred to Washington for confirmation.

Pachuco hairdresses have disappeared overnight from camp. One high school junior who had a pachuco cut reported today that when he was in camp 3 a policeman stopped him and handing him 20¢ said: "Here, get a haircut."

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1. Sumida is no. 9 in our Spanish consul report. He is block manager of 16 and a member of the three-man committee planning the Youth Counseling Board. Masukane is no. 7 in our S.C. report.



Our policeman friend reported today that when one member of the force asked the chief, "Are you going to forget about ~~that~~ Tsukamoto?" he answered, "Hell, no!"

The first commencement exercises in the history of Poston was held in the Cottonwood Bowl amphitheatre this ~~was~~ evening when the senior students of the Camp II High School received their diplomas in an elaborate ceremony.

June 25, 1943

When the block manager of 45 dropped in to see Len Nelson this morning he was holding a conference with Roy Furuya, his executive assistant, and Tom Sakai, the block manager supervisor. Roy was saying, "Now they are talking that the block managers have squealed." "Hell, so what?" joined in 45. "That kind of remark is coming from only a small section of camp. People are back of us. If they are not back of us we'll get them behind us."

Nelson agreed: "Yeah, Dick is right. The community is behind us. Yesterday I was stopped on the street three times by old folks. Each time they said, "Thank you, Mr. Nelson. You know you are saving our camp."

45 added: "The rumor is that the administration would not take any action because a big shot's son is involved. They say that the administration is afraid." Nelson hesitated a moment and then answered: "Oh yeah? They'll find out they're mistaken."

Concerning the rape case Nelson reported that he was the one who had sent Jumbo Ota to see him before contacting Morikawa, the night watchman for the Adobe Works. (X was not in his office ~~so~~ at the time so Jumbo interviewed Morikawa without consulting him).

45 inquired: "What did Jumbo want to see him for?" Nelson replied:



"The night watchman is supposed to know something about the rape case. You know that Ed Ouchi told us in the Executive Committee meeting that a young girl had been raped. When he was closeted with Miller, Haas, Furuya and me he told us that the rape actually had taken place but he did not know the victim. How the hell did he get that way? He can't tell me that a block manager doesn't know about what has happened in his block. (Nelson believes that the rape occurred in block 30).

Furuya chimed in: "What's the matter with him, anyway?"

45 replied: "Oh, he's afraid to talk."

Sakai added: "Yeah, that's it."

45 continued: "It's understandable, isn't it? You know what happened to him during the strike." Furuya and Sakai nodded understandingly.

After supper X cornered Morikawa and questioned him about Jumbo's visit. He informed X that the chief of police was interested in the rape case. He believed that the crime was committed in the adobe grounds but actually it occurred behind the small canteen in block 18. After the movie Thursday night in block 18 a gang of seven boys had kidnapped a girl of thirteen from the movie crowd and had taken her to that spot. She had screamed and screamed but no one had come to her rescue. He continued: "The father of the victim does not want to prosecute these boys because he is afraid that a bad reputation might cling to his daughter for a long time and furthermore the gang might retaliate. He especially fears their gang tactics. His neighbors are advising him to let the police handle the case but he will not listen to them. They are concerned because a similar crime might be committed if this incident is ignored. I told Jumbo to investigate



around block 4, Meanwhile I promised to do some investigation of my own among the adobe people."

A committee of three composed of Tom Sakai, and the block managers of 16 and 45 met in the conference room in the afternoon to draw up plans for the establishing of a juvenile court in Poston. They decided to seek the advise of the following people: representatives of the Education Department, Dr. Powell, the chairman of the P.T.A., the chairman of the Fukei Kai ( Parents Association), a representative of the Fujin Kai (Women's Clubs), Christian and Buddhist leaders, and the chairman of the local council. Their plan was to draw up a framework for the court after consulting these leaders and then presenting it to the block managers for approval. From there they would take it to the local council in the form of a block managers' resolution. As Sumida, the manager of 16, contended: "The council is no good. They are fighting among themselves for power and prestige. We can't depend on them at all. We'll give it to them as a finished product."

The first to be called before the committee were Dr. Harris and Miss Cushman. They advised the handling of all cases involving youngsters under twenty-one first. Their proposal was as follows:

- (1) Bring in a delinquent for investigation and then call in his parents. The presence of one of the municipal judges will be optional according to the importance of the case.
- (2) Establish a probation officer.
- (3) When a juvenile is found delinquent let him report to the probation officer for the time prescribed by the commission.
- (4) Set a curfew for delinquent boys. If they fail to observe it let them report to the police and let them sleep at the police station every night.



- (5) Establish a foster home in Camp III for incorrigibles. (According to Harris if the idea of the foster home had been adopted six months ago we could have avoided the present unpleasantness).
- (6) Set up recreational activities as preventive measures. (45 believed that this should be initiated by the Education Dept. rather than the juvenile court, and handled either by that department or by the Recreation department with the cooperation of the block managers).

During the conference the school representatives acquainted the committee with some of the difficulties they were encountering in their struggle against delinquent students. Harris cited the case in block 59 where the youngsters fought constantly in the school yard during recess. Their teacher, Ray Franchi, made no attempt to stop the fights and instead went to the block manager one day and requested him to handle the case because he felt it was not under his jurisdiction.

In block 2 the children remained outside refusing to enter the classroom. They jeered and swore at the teacher. Soon some began to throw rocks at the building. Others chewed pieces of paper and rolling them with their tongues spat them on the window panes. The poor teacher could not hold classes so called on the police department for help. The next day a squad had to be sent down to maintain discipline.

Once a gang fight occurred in block 19 and Harris was called to stop it. The boys reputed to be bad were getting the worse of it so he let them "finish it up".

Cushman claimed that they were encountering 4% absenteeism in the high school. In some cases students remain away from school as much as 28 to 30 days. In such a ~~case~~ case Harris orders them to report



to his office and tells them that they will be expelled. Contrary to expectations they become indignant and refuse to be evicted. They ask, "Why should we be evicted?" When informed that any school on the outside would expel a student absent for more than 28 days they retort, "That shouldn't be any reason." In extreme cases they ignore the summons to appear so the police must be sent to fetch them. Some promise to return to school and resume their studies for about three days but drop out again. Cushman concluded despairingly: "We can't be chasing around these boys all the time."

In block 12 four boys were expelled for being absent from school for a lengthy period. The block manager usually cooperates in such a case but this block manager was rather young and inexperienced so shortly before expulsion he had gone to their parents and threatened: "If these boys don't go to school we'll have to send them to a reformatory school." The parents felt insulted and soon the rest of the block residents began to cast derogatory remarks about the block manager. They characterized him as a "namaiki na yatsu" -- a conceited or insolent fellow.

They also cited the case of five boys belonging to one gang all enrolling in the junior class because one of them happened to belong there. When the transcripts arrived from California the school authorities discovered that some of them were seniors while the others were sophomores.

X reported this evening that the parents of two delinquent boys in block 45 who will not be picked up this time were duly warned by Mr. Head to discipline them. Both parents claimed that they were unaware of their children's behavior and promised to keep a watchful eye on them.



- In the evening <sup>+</sup> had an interesting conversation concerning the block anniversary party scheduled for tomorrow night with two fellow block residents -- Mrs. Miyata, the wife of a former Seattle newspaper editor, and Mr. Mohri, Issei advisor in pre-strike times. Mohri who is on the Finance Committee informed us that the residents had contributed about \$250 for the affair, the majority of families donating five dollars apiece. Both he and Mrs. Miyata deplored the idea of "high-pressuring" the residents into contributing a third of their monthly income to celebrate the first year of incarceration. Mrs. Miyata could see no basis for rejoicing in a concentration camp and furthermore felt it was an inopportune time to be celebrating when we had no idea which side would emerge final victor. She claimed that many people in other blocks were ostracizing us for planning such an elaborate affair. Her friends had said to her mockingly: "People in your block must be all wealthy to donate 250 bucks for a party." She continued: "If we must celebrate, why can't we do it quietly and graciously as in block 30 and block 19 with what the Steward's Department can supply us? In block 30 they had a feast with the material available in the messhall while in block 19 the manager simply announced at suppertime that it was the first anniversary of the settling of the block and let it go at that. That's the trouble with country people -- they like to do things too ostentatiously." (Mrs. Miyata is very conscious of the fact that she is one of the few urbanites in our block).

When I casually mentioned that Mrs. Ito of the Food Committee had asked me before my departure for Phoenix on June 10 to ~~xxx~~ smuggle in eight to ten quarts of whiskey for the party, both of them threw up their hands in horror. <sup>+</sup> This instigated a harangue on the



part of Mrs. Miyata on the utter stupidity of country people -- how totally unaware they were of the inconveniences they were causing people when they requested such unreasonable favors. She concluded: "The people in this block are all kuzu anyway. (i.e. scum, dregs, etc.) -- the worst kuzu in camp. They just don't know any better. The only reason we don't have any open dissension in the block is because we permit the nitwits to run it as they please. Anyone who wants to become a "big-shot" in the block is a nitwit to begin with. No sane person would want such a job." She then proceeded to analyze our block "personalities". She characterized Mr. Takahashi, our council delegate, as "tetched" in the head -- "Why he can't even make announcements without glancing at a slip of paper!" She summarized Mr. and Mrs. Ito, two of our worst block gossipers, as "nine-tenths muscle and one-tenth brain".

When I casually informed them that Mrs. Ito had requested me in the morning to go to the administrative quarters to find out whether all members of the Dies committee had really left camp so they could start erecting the stage for the party, Mr. Mohri evinced great indignation. He felt that if they were afraid to go through with the affair they shouldn't give such a "subversive" program. He also wanted to know where the committee had gotten such good lumber to build the elaborate stage. He continued: "If they stole that lumber to build that stage I'm going to object even if I'm the only one to do so and be evicted from the block as a result!"

After he left, Mrs. ~~Miyata~~ Miyata remarked: "Mr. Mohri may talk grandiloquently in private but he has no guts in public. He is slightly tetched in the head, too."

The third contingent of ~~twenty~~ <sup>twenty</sup>-five volunteers for the nisei combat unit left late in the evening for Fort Douglas, Utah, for their physical examination.



Sociological Journal from June 26 - June 30.



June 26, 1943

Noodle Factory: Since Wade Head had left for Washington yesterday and he was busy with problems of juvenile delinquency, Nelson told Nomura he would have to wait until next week for the answer promised him today. When Nomura informed the delegates of the change in plans they felt this was the last straw -- that there was no use in stalling further and that they should drop the negotiations. Nomura assured them that the factory would be reopened; if it failed he would resign from his position.

The two delegates visited X in the afternoon and informed him that they could wait no longer since they had promised the workers an answer by today. X impressed upon them that there was something more important than the noodle factory in the air and they simply had to wait for their turn.

After supper Nakase accompanied by George Yasukichi, the manager of the factory, appeared at Abe's apartment. During the course of conversation Nakase lost his temper and threatened to round up all the workers who desired to beat up Kurata and Nakai. He was through with political negotiations! All three then left to visit another personage among them. When Abe failed to return home for sometime his wife became worried and hurrying over to X's pleaded with him to do something since she feared something drastic might be committed. X ~~XXXXXXXX~~ soothed her as best he could and told her not to worry about Nakase.

The committee to formulate plans for the Youth Counseling Board conferred with the following this morning: Mohri of the P.T.A., Hayano of the Fukei Kai, Rev. Kowta of the Christian Church, Rev. Ishihara and Rev. Sogabe of the Buddhist Church, and Nomura of the Local Council and Judicial Commission. Rev. Kowta maintained during



conference that the policy of the Christian Church was not to commit itself decisively on any issue concerning juvenile delinquency in camp. It preferred to admonish the offenders and give them another chance. The Buddhist leaders, on the other hand, felt that the gang leaders should be dealt with severely. For those left behind some corrective and preventive measures should be applied. They then informed the committee that the Christians in collaboration with the Buddhist were planning to set up summer camps for boys. When the block manager of 45 inquired what would be done in case gangs upset these summer camps Kowta replied that that was exactly what they hoped to eliminate in these camps by channeling their energies into more socially acceptable lines.

The P.T.A. and the Fukei Kai leaders had no definite suggestions to offer. However, they were willing to endorse any plan formulated by the committee. They talked of recreational activities as a panacea for juvenile evils in camp.

Nomura informed the group that as municipal judge he had consulted Miss Findley last September on the establishing of a juvenile court. She had heartily approved the suggestion and offered to set up a division in her department to handle juvenile delinquency but the strike had occurred and nothing more was heard about it.

It is interesting to note that with the exception of Nomura, all of them did not appear to be aware of camp conditions. Every example of juvenile delinquency cited drew a surprised expression from them. This indicates to some extent that the religious leaders in camp do not touch the core of society in camp.

Block 31 held its first anniversary party in the mess hall at 8:00 p.m. The program was entirely in Japanese except for some recorded music played a few minutes before the entertainment actually



got started. The program included Japanese nursery songs sung by pre-school children, fancy fan dances in Japanese kimonos by teen-age girls to the accompaniment of samisen music, Japanese athletic stunts by teen-age boys dressed in white judo blouses and pleated skirts, and naniwabushi singing and comical dances by Issei. I was amazed at the "Japanesy" atmosphere of the party. Nisei sitting near me appeared restless and uncomfortable and kept looking at their watches since refreshments were announced for 10:00 p.m. "Why don't they serve the eats so we can git?" they kept on repeating at 10-minute intervals. One high school girl sitting next to me confided: "I didn't realized how Japanesy this block was." I could not help but reminiscing as the program rolled on: "So evacuation is exacting its price already from little children. When I first came to the block last September those same children now singing "Momotaro", "Otete wo tsunai de", etc. constantly annoyed me by sitting on my doorstep and singing lustily such American hits as "Rose O'Day", "Deep in the Heart of Poston", "God Bless America", and "On the Shores of Tripoli". Come to think of it I haven't heard those songs for months. Also, they speak nothing but Japanese now. The backward step in ~~Ameri~~ Americanization is already well on its way."

While engaged in conversation with Sakamoto, Kimura, and other Issei leaders in his block in the evening X managed to pick up some interesting Issei attitudes on sex. Kimura related that when he visited his friend in block 5 last August he had acquainted him with the "deplorable ~~xxxx~~ behavior" of the Nisei in the block 5 park every night and invited suggestions as to how the community could curtail it. He had also informed him that Dr. Murakami had reported that there were over sixty pregnant unmarried girls in camp. Kimura had replied there was nothing they could do except give them sex education to



prevent pregnancy and the spread of venereal diseases. He also told the assembled group how Paul Kanno (no. 14 in our Spanish Consul report) and Mr. Komai, former publisher of the Rafu Shimpo, deciding that a young man should lead a life of abandonment before marriage had sent the latter's son to Japan for the purpose. The young man, however, was of a different turn of mind and returned to L.A. with substantial savings. Kimura then went on to tell the advice he gave an Issei woman with reference to her "erring" daughter. In the boarding house where he resided before evacuation there lived two university men and one attractive Nisei girl. The young girl returned home at one or two every morning so her worried mother came to consult him one day. She complained that whenever she chided her ~~and~~ daughter about coming in late her retort was: "Don't worry, mother. I know how to take care of myself." He had tried to comfort her by saying that when a California Nisei declared that she knew how to protect herself against pregnancy it was a safe proposition.

One hundred and twenty-two seniors were graduated from the Poston III High School this evening at the commencement exercises held in the new amphitheatre in block 310 firebreak.

June 27, 1943

The baccalaureate services for graduating seniors of Camp I were held in the block 5 park at 6:30 A.M.

In the afternoon the high school annual "Mohave Notes" was distributed to high school students in block 18. It was a simple mimeographed affair containing the list of graduates and a few articles and poems by high school students. They were going around busily after its distribution collecting autographs from their school chums as in pre-evacuation days.



In the evening Mrs. Miyata and I hiked down to the southwestern corner of camp to view the exhibits of the Fujin Kai which were being displayed in the recreation halls of blocks 59, 60, 53 and 54. The show included elaborate pieces of needlework such as quilted bedspreads, crocheted tablecloths, raggedy Ann dolls, knitted sweaters, and embroidered pillow cases. As the climax of the two-day exhibition Rev. Mitani delivered a lecture on "The Role of Women in Wartime America as portrayed in Current Events" on the block 59 shibai stage at 8:30 p.m. He spoke at great length on the duties of the WAACS and WAVES and the proposed drafting of 400,000 women for the labor battalion to be inaugurated shortly. Most of the audience apparently had come thinking it was another shibai show so seemed disappointed and bored.

Wm. A. Barrett, Chief Dispatcher, issued the following order to the police department today with reference to privately owned cars and trucks:

"This is to advise that all evacuee privately owned vehicles are to be impounded in the Motor Pools, Camps I, II, or III and are not to be allowed to operate on this project.

In accordance with Colorado River Relocation Project Administrative Order No. 25, evacuees leaving equipment in Motor Pools must sign Government release Form 223. No vehicles will be permitted to be impounded in Motor Pools or anywhere within the Project confines without first signing Form 223. Any person refusing to sign this form must find storage facilities for his ~~equipment~~ equipment off the territorial limits of the Project."

Reasons for refusing to relocate collected at random by X:

"Suppose we go out and get beaten by the hakujin -- that sure is tough."

"It is much more comfortable to remain here and receive \$16 a month plus \$3.50 clothing allowance. This will buy tobacco and other necessities. It is better to live leisurely and be fed by the U.S. government."

"If and when Japanese bombers come over to America the relocation centers will be the safest spot."



"To live or die -- that's the life of a human. There isn't much left for us. It's much more comfortable to live here than go outside and have to work like hell."

"We don't have to ask the aid of anyone in feeding ourselves here. I don't see the necessity for going out."

"I have a big family and can't afford to take the chance of going out."

"They say that Japan will send boats to get us after the war is over. What's the use of working now and saving money? That kind of money is worthless in Japan."

"They say we are showing our loyalty to the U.S. when we go out to work. But that is disloyalty to Japan."

"There are not enough priests or doctors on the outside. What are you going to do when you get sick or die? Won't that be lonesome and inconvenient?"

"Letters from the outside inform us that life is precarious for the Japanese -- that there is a strong anti-Japanese feeling outside. It is much safer to remain in camp. Don't you ever go out."

June 28, 1943

Noodle Factory: Nakase visited X in the morning and reported that Jimmy Yahiro had approached the noodle delegation and offered his services to break the deadlock since as city clerk he could now wield influence. Nakase had refused the offer saying: "You can't come into the picture now. It will spoil everything. Before you do anything about our factory let us know. Don't do anything without our knowledge."

The committee on law and order of the Local Council met this morning and decided to retain the present set-up of the Police Commission. Nelson remarked to X later concerning the matter: "The Police Commission is an entirely different organization from the local council. It has no business in meddling with it nor does it have the right. The Police Commission should be left alone." (Sumida expressed the fear to Nelson Saturday that Nakamura, the chairman of the



Community Council, might make an attempt to appoint his friends to the Police Commission to save his erring sons Nelson assured him that the Nakamura boys would be taken out by Tuesday. )

The block managers' committee to formulate plans for the Youth Counseling Board conferred with Police Chief Ota this morning. He expressed great enthusiasm for such an organization but cautioned them that the greatest opposition towards its smooth functioning would come from the older generation. He informed them that whenever the police made arrests of minors they encountered great resentment on the part of parents. This resentment was in turn intensified by the irresponsibility of their fellow block residents. He claimed that he would be glad to turn over all cases involving minors to this board and expressed willingness to cooperate. He also advised them to call in the night watchman of the block in which the offender lives at every hearing. The talk then turned toward the Tsukamoto case. Ota ~~expr~~ hoped that the case would be settled quickly else he would lose face with many people. He felt they would think that he had no backbone. When he had presented the case to Nelson he had said that he would send Tsukamoto to Manzanar where his relatives reside but so far nothing has been done. Unless the case was settled quickly Ota feared that the two factions existing in block 46 would spit up into more factions and this in turn would spread to other blocks in the quad. They had finally succeeded in electing a block manager but the Tsukamoto faction was attempting to drag him out of office by characterizing him as incompetent, a nitwit, etc. Ota requested at the same time to have block managers submit the names and addresses of participants in every fight. The police can then file their names in the record. His idea was that a boy who becomes involved in many fights cannot always be right.



The president of the Fujinkai of Unit I was interviewed after the police chief. She strongly approved the formation of the Youth Counseling Board claiming it was in conformity with her ideas. She told the committee she was planning to hold a meeting in each block to stress and awaken mothers' responsibility. One of the greatest obstacles to the smooth functioning of the Board according to her was the bad habit among Japanese of being kobonno (i.e. child crazy). She felt it might be difficult to convince some parents that their children had committed a crime. She advised them to consider this aspect carefully.

The local council requested Wade Head recently to send a memorandum to the WRA to distribute a cash grant of \$500 instead of \$50 to all individuals going out on indefinite leave. People who heard about this invariably remarked: "Bakayaro" (nitwit!) or "Why ask anything as impractical as that?"

The rumor around Capitol Hill (i.e. the administrative section) is that the administration does not like the present personnel of the local council. It prefers the older council because it was more cooperative and things functioned more smoothly under it.

June 29, 1943

Noodle Factory: Abe and Nakase called on Nomura for the answer. The latter showed them the telegram from Dillon Myer ordering a drastic cut in center employment and also the answer from Wade Head to his memo requesting the reopening of the noodle factory. Head claimed that because of the unsettled nature of employment at present he could not make any commitment on the recommendation he had made and suggested that they keep the question open for the future. The delegates felt they had been "pushed around" long enough. If they could only meet and talk to Head he would certainly understand their situation. Nomura replied to that: "You can't do that. I can't take you there



regarding this question because it's already settled."

In the midst of the block managers' meeting Nakase appeared and cornering X consulted him whether it was advisable to meet Head and discuss the matter with him. X replied: "Sure. There's no harm in meeting him. Go ahead and meet him." Nakase then rushed back to Nomura and stated: "Mr. Nishimoto said it is alright to meet Head so take us there." Mr. Head was very cordial to the delegation and inquired: "What is the minimum number of workers you need to operate the factory?" When they answered, ~~"Thirty-six"~~ "Thirty - five", he asked: "Can you produce just as much as before with 35 men?" The delegates claimed that they had been producing 800 pounds daily but with the reduced number of workers could produce 500 pounds daily.

Head finally okayed ~~there~~ the reopening of the factory. At the same time he said: "Just like Nomura here, Nakachi, Kawashima, Nagai and Matsumoto have been trying to reopen the factory for you. Be sure to remember that they are also your friends." The delegates commented to X later: "That's not true. Head is trying to give credit all around."

A drastic reduction in the teaching personnel of the Community Activities Division was announced today as a result of the memorandum issued by Dillon Myer stating that no more than one paid evacuee instructor would be permitted for each Japanese-style activity for which paid leadership seemed necessary. The activities affected include judo, sumo, kendo, goh, shogi, shibai, uta, biwa, shakuhachi and samisen playing, shigin, odori, and haiku writing.

Wade Head addressed the permanent local council for the first time at its regular meeting in the afternoon. At this time he soundly criticized cheap politicians for spreading rumors and causing general



unrest in camp. He concluded that if the residents would work together as one body he would see to it that the outside world would be taken care of.

Mas Kawashima, former vice-chairman of the Central Executive Board, was elected chairman to succeed M. Nagai. At the same time Nakachi was reelected chairman of the Labor Relations Board.

At the regular meeting of the block managers in the morning, Kurata, chairman of the Hospital and Adobe committees, claimed that the block managers were more cooperative than the council. He reported that pipes and faucets on the school grounds had been stolen and requested the block managers' help in curtailing or stopping this practice.

Tanaka, business manager of the Hospital, announced that three Caucasian employees in the boiler room had been discharged and wanted three evacuees to replace them. Since the job was a relatively easy one he preferred older people to apply. As soon as he ceased speaking ~~Nelson made the correction~~ Nelson made the correction that the Caucasians had not been discharged -- that the WRA because of its cut in funds were releasing all temporary and irregular workers on the project. He firmly ~~finally~~ maintained that this was not "discharge".

Nelson then read the following telegram received from Dillon Myer concerning the proposed cut in center employees:



*Distributed in ltr. memo. meeting  
6/29/43*

June 26, 1943

Wade Head  
Poston, Arizona

Following my memorandum of May 11, a forthcoming administrative instruction on project employment to be effective July 1 establishes employment quota for each project on basis of maximum number of employees necessary to perform essential tasks. Studies indicate Colorado River Relocation Center maximum for ordinary project operations including subsistence production and community enterprises will be approximately 5600 employees. In addition 15 percent overage will be allowed to meet emergency needs. Not more than ten percent of employees may be classified supervisory or professional at \$19. At project director's discretion, same rate may be paid to employees performing unusually hard or disagreeable tasks up to 5 per cent of total payroll. Budget allocations will be made accordingly. This policy assumes (1) efficient management and distribution of labor and, (2) that every employee ~~will~~ will work full eight hour day with same standards of efficiency as prevail in private employment. Project director's will be allowed three months beginning July 1 to come within quotas. Standard job descriptions and detailed suggestions will be issued soon but this is your authority to proceed immediately with necessary adjustments. Allocation of first quarter funds will contemplate achieving one-third of any necessary reduction of force by July 31 and quota limit by September 30. Strongly recommend that evacuee community be fully informed of principles and purposes of this policy particularly the importance of efficient work and maintaining good work habits. Normal outlet for persons desiring employment is relocation and WRA will furnish project employment only to such persons as are genuinely needed for essential project operations.

D S Myer Washington D C



Nelson continued: "There is no second guessing about this. For those second guessing arguments I have answers ready. This must be done and I want the block managers to take the lead. We cannot tolerate people working one hour and getting eight hours credit. At present 8600 people are employed. We have to lay off 3,000. Of course, the only outlet is relocation. But I don't have much hope in that. I have been reading letters coming back and many of them express homesickness and a desire to return. I expect many people to remain in camp and we have to look forward with that situation in mind."

A cornerstone dedication ceremony was held in the morning for the elementary school auditorium which will be completed this summer. Wade Head laid the cornerstone inscribed "Built by the Japanese residents of Poston." During the ceremony when Head was pouring the mortar someone yelled mockingly from the audience: "A \$16 brick layer." The project director had a ready answer: "I used to belong to the C.I.O before John L. Lewis did."

In the afternoon the over-all Manpower Commission for the three units met in the conference room with the Caucasian departmental heads to discuss Myer's telegram. Dr. Mary Hayes of the Washington WRA office expressed the sentiment that kitchen help should be cut. The evacuees held firmly to the opinion that the messhalls were the only place where large numbers could be cut. Powell maintained that his department was operating with the minimum number of workers required. He had formerly employed 260 odd people but had reduced it to 200 and could not possibly suffer under reduction. The question of unemployment came up for discussion and it was finally decided that they should stick to the policy of retaining at least one worker in a family to meet the clothing allowance regulation. The administration was greatly



concerned over the possible reaction of the residents toward reducing the number of workers. Nelson held to the opinion that the news must be carried to the residents and suggested their printing it in the Chronicle and sending it to the block managers in the form of a memorandum.

The committee for the Youth Counseling Board conferred with Dr. Powell, chief of Community Services, in the afternoon. Powell recommended a student judge and a student jury to try the offender because younger people have greater understanding of juvenile problems. He felt that if older people told youngsters what to do they would be defiant. He suggested that the committee get in touch with Chida of the Social Welfare Dept. because he is young and understands young boys. He also recommended their contacting the Red Cross and Masao Satow who will be in Poston to organize a YM and YWCA next week. He claimed that Masao had "great success" combating juvenile delinquency in Los Angeles in pre-evacuation days and should be qualified to offer valuable advice. He further recommended their consulting Miss Peavey who is to be transferred from the Education Department to Social Welfare shortly and Dr. Spicer of the Bureau of Sociological Research. The question arose at this point as to the advisability of consulting Spicer without calling in Dr. Leighton, his boss. All of them including Powell did not favor the idea of conferring with the latter. Powell concluded: "It's a pity that we have a psychiatrist on the project but we can't ask his help". He approved of the Youth Counseling Board but firmly believed that it should be handled by young people in their early twenties. As soon as Powell left the committee chucked all of his suggestions out of the window.



The police department rounded up all privately operated cars today. It is reported that even a naval captain from Orange County visiting his friend, Murata of block 43, was investigated because his car was parked in front of his apartment.

Two hundred and sixty one seniors of the Poston I High School were graduated tonight in an impressive ceremony held at the block 4 shibai stage. The students were dressed in cap and gown for the occasion.

June 30, 1943

The Executive Committee of the block managers met in the morning with Len Nelson in regards to the employment cut. He suggested that the block ~~manager~~ manager staff be reduced from ten to five. After a heated discussion the managers agreed to cut it to six but before the last one is laid off they must be convinced that the Manpower Commission has released all non-essential workers. When the manager of 12 claimed that gambling would be revived with unemployment Nelson retorted that they must think of the welfare of 15,000 people first. Since each block has different problems it was decided that they would not abolish definite jobs in the block manager staff but simply restrict the number of employees to six.

The block managers also requested that the administration stop the ~~amb~~ ambitious landscape gardening in block 34 (i.e. administrative section) since it is unproductive. Unless it was stopped they would encounter criticism on the part of residents and the effort to reduce employment would be unsuccessful. They suggested that only two gardeners be employed in block 34 as in evacuee blocks. (At present block 34 has about 20 gardeners). The managers also wished to know if the domestic help of Caucasians would be included in the



number of project employees. Nelson evaded the issue by claiming there were only a few servants at present.

It was reported today that the Zen Buddhist Temple in Los Angeles which houses evacuee goods ~~had~~ has been robbed several times by thieves boring a large hole in the side and entering the building. The L.<sup>a</sup>. police had done nothing about it maintaining that the owners of these goods must first file formal complaints before they can proceed to investigate.

There was some discussion among the members of the committee for the Youth Counseling Board as to the selection of its personnel. Sumida and Nishimoto were nominated but the latter declined claiming that his character was such to prevent him from accepting such a job. He maintained that he likes to drink and also cannot keep away from poker games. Sumida readily accepted his declination saying: "Well, we have to have someone who doesn't gamble."