

July 9, 1943

OCCASION: Joint meeting of the Advisory Boards and Temporary
Community Councils

PLACE: Staff Recreation Hall at Butte

SUBJECT: Discussion on the approval of the constitution

Mr. Wolter, chairman
Community Analyst present as spectator

BACKGROUND

This constitution was drawn up by two constitutional committees, one from Canal and one from Butte working together. It was submitted to Washington in March. On July 6, 1943, a letter was received from Washington. It approved the constitution with some amendments, chiefly concerned with eligibility to office and with the collection of license fees. This meeting was called to discuss the approval and the amendments. There were 35 people present.

MEETING

Mr. Wolter Read the letter of approval and the amendments. He then handed the chair to Mats Ando, the chairman of the Temporary Community Council of Canal for discussion.

Mr. Ando suggested that the constitution as revised be submitted to the community. No questions were asked by the members of the meeting.

It was decided that it was essential to translate the document. There was some doubt as to what occurred in the original draft. It was decided that the constitutional committee was to see about the translation and that Issei members of the Advisory Board then check the translation.

There was some question as to the method of voting acceptance or rejection of the constitution as amended. Some people preferred a block meeting, and the block unit vote. Others preferred the written vote. The objection to the block meeting was that if the block turned down the constitution, the people would believe that the constitution was turned down, regardless of what happened in other blocks. It was voted that the vote be by ballots. The question was asked what would happen if the constitution was turned down, ~~regardless of what happened in other~~

The answer was that the community would then be without a constitution. If it was carried, representatives would have to be elected--delegates be elected by blocks.

At this point the constitution, as amended, was read.

There was some discussion as to the functions of the Executive Board. These were cleared up by discussion. One young man suggested changes in the constitution. There was a long discussion, the consensus being that the constitution should be accepted or rejected as it stood as amended by Washington. At the beginning of the meeting, members had shown some diffidence in discussion; the leadership was taken by the chairman. At this point they began to get animated about: (1) rejection (2) eligibility to office (3) exceptions to eligibility (4) mechanism of election (5) workability of the constitution.

The chairman of the Constitutional Committee, Jow Omachi spoke on their work. He said that a clause should be added to allow automatic incorporation of all Washington instructions. There was some discussion as to whether the present committee and the Advisory Board should train people before presenting the constitution. They cited the case in Minidoka, Idaho where the constitution was rejected by approximately 1500 to 2200. They belibed that the constitution was rejected there, because there had not been enough education on the issues.

At this point Joseph Omachi, the chairman of the Constitutional Committee, said that his committee would take over the incorporation of the amendment and the translation. By an oversight the members of the Constitutional Committee had not been invited, but had heard of the meeting and had come anyway. Mr. Wolter apologized for the oversight in not inviting them.

JAPANESE-AMERICAN COMMITTEE FOR DEMOCRACY

A letter was read from the ~~the~~ Japanese-American Committee for Democracy in which was recommended that all support the Marcantonio bill. It would permit orientals to be naturalized. At the end of the

blocks. It was voted that the vote be by ballots.

meeting, Mr. Wolter reverted to it, and suggested the uses of a petition as suggested by the Japanese-American Committee for Democracy to the meeting. Doctor Earl Yusa asked, "What chance it would have of passing?" He said the benefits of this bill, even if it passed, might be excluded from the Japanese. Mr. Hikida spoke in favor of the petition to support the bill, but said that it should be approached cautiously. Dr. Yusa speaking again suggested that friends in the East be approached, not in California. Mr. Sekida, a young man, spoke vigorously in favor of petition. Mr. Fukushima, an Issei, approved the previous speaker. His opinion was that the time was wrong, but that they should go ahead. Mr. Ando asked, "Is there anything they can throw back at us?" The opinion was they might be accused of "flag waving." Mr. Okuno backed the petition, but he suggested that as many signatures should be secured from California as possible, they would have more effect than of the signatures from East. Mr. Hayshi also backed the petition. He said that war would not last forever. The movement should have been started sooner, but now that it has been started they should go ahead with it. Mr. Yahanda said that 90% of the Japanese wanted to become citizens. So, he supported the petition. He agreed that the West coast signatures would have more effect. Mr. Ando, summing up, said that both petition and contributions were wanted. The sense of the meeting was that they should go ahead with both. He suggested that they write to the representative from California. This summing up was made as a motion and was carried.

PETITION FROM GRANADA

Before the discussion on the petition for naturalization, a petition from Granada, asking for the appointment of the evacuee M. D.'s at outside rates of pay, so as to insure continuous efficient medical service was read. The point was brought up that Canal had petitioned that the hospital be taken by the U. S. Medical Service. Dr. Yusa responding, made the following points: (1) that the U. S. Medical Service was not likely to take over the hospital. (2) that the hospital was not accredited, hence, it

does not accredit the M. D.'s for interne service. For that reason it was important that M. D.'s be relocated for their own professional advancement. Mr. Wolter suggested that ~~the~~ efficiency of the hospital be improved to increase possibility of accreditation.

At the end of the meeting, it was announced that Arizona bill to prevent sales to evacuees was declared unconstitutional. (applause)

COMMENTS

The following points of the meeting were of interest:

1. Many decisions were made without a formal vote, only two formal votes were recorded. For the most part, the chairman, Mr. Ando summed up the sense of the meeting and his decisions were accepted.
2. Most of the members were hesitant about talking at first. Many of the Isseis did not contribute at all until specifically asked. When asked, they made considerable comments. Three Niseis spoke frequently and freely.
3. There was some doubt at the beginning of the meeting as to what extent the members were really interested in the issues of the constitution. I am of the opinion that there was a genuine, though not an enthusiastic interest in having the constitution accepted. One comment, "it is too late", suggests that the response would have been more enthusiastic had there been a constitution earlier in the history of the center.

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As dictated by Masato W. Kato

STORY OF THE CO-OPERATIVE IN GILA

I am a Nisei and I arrived here in October, 1942 with one of the last groups to come to this project. I was elected a member of the Temporary Community Council from one of the blocks in Butte. By the time I was elected a council member, most of the various committee members had already been appointed. However, no members had as yet been appointed to the Co-operative Committee and so the chairman, namely, Eris Kawaii, appointed me. Realizing that this was a large task to handle alone, I requested a co-chairman. Mr. Tadeshi Iwamoto was appointed. Together we accepted the job and promised to do our best. Some of the other committees were: Health, Welfare, Internal Security, Mess Division, etc.

At this time there was no co-operative. Instead we had a so-called "Community Enterprises" which had been set up on July 23, 1942 by the WRA with Mr. Shelly as director. Mr. Shelly had appointed Gilbert Kuramitse as general manager of the enterprises, and the rest of the workers were employed through the employment division. The first general store was opened in Canal, the so-called Canteen No. 1.

This Temporary Community Enterprises was organized on July 23, 1942. At that time no capital had been assessed for this purpose either from the WRA or from Evacuees. Therefore, Mr. Shelly and a few other people went out to Phoenix and other neighboring towns to see if they could have credit extended for this enterprise. Gradually the people in Phoenix, Mesa and Casa Grande recognized our Community Enterprise and gave us credit so that we could sell soda water, and other goods that sold rapidly, which were very popular during the summer. They sold so fast that Community Enterprise soon had enough cash on hand to sell hardware goods on which the marginal profit was very great.

In this way the canteen grew larger and larger. The most amazing part of this program was that they started out on this enterprise without a cent. No other business can be organized from scratch.

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Another store was opened in September and the Temporary Community Enterprise was well underway.

Now the WRA instructed the evacuees to organize a permanent form of enterprise as soon as possible. I understand that about September, 1942, five or six evacuees got together voluntarily and decided to petition to form a Co-op. I am not very familiar with what happened since I was not here at that time.

Then, just before I came, another group of evacuees in Canal made another attempt to start a Co-op. They are supposed to have been hand picked by Mr. Shelly and the Canal Community Council. This second attempt also failed. I think one of the reasons for its failure was that there was a riot at that time. There was no direct relationship between the riot and the Co-op except that at that time the leaders of any organization were under criticism. Tada was a leader of the Community at that time and resentment was high against him. However, he had no actual connection with the Co-op. People in general felt that this was not the time to do anything, especially to organize a Co-op, and so this attempt to start a Co-op Educational Committee dwindled down. I understand that they had purchased quite a lot of material for this Co-op and had started out with a bang. But it also ended up with a bang.

Now when we arrived, this bad feeling had died down pretty well. The Temporary Council decided to take a chance and appointed a Co-operative Committee. When we were appointed we knew little about Co-operatives. I accepted the appointment because I had studied about Co-operatives a little bit at school and thought it would be of some value in the future. Now I realize all the work that is before us.

Since we didn't know much we went to see Mr. Shelly of whom we knew very little. We had received some information from the council members that Mr. Shelly was a hard-boiled man, difficult to approach and not

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very understanding. But when we go to know him, we found he was very different from this. He has been of the greatest help to us. One main reason why he was looked upon as a hard-boiled man was that he had been simply swamped by people who came and inquired about the Co-op, and he didn't know which of these people were responsible and which were not. No specific body was authorized to come to him.

We continued with our work, not concerning ourselves with public sentiment at that time. We visited the Temporary Enterprises on the project, contacted many prominent evacuee business men, and studied various phases of the Community Enterprises. We found out that they were in a mess--the books were not kept in order. No wonder people were beginning to spread rumors that activities of the enterprises were not satisfactory. They even complained that Mr. Shelly was taking some of the profits. This was due to a lack of understanding between the evacuees and the administration. After Tada was beaten it was rumored that the General Manager, Kuramitsu, would be the next victim. He was quite concerned because he was doing his best.

We felt that the first important thing to do was to clear the financial statement. I realized that unless we cleared this financial statement, the people would become suspicious and rumors would begin to spread. We tried hard to speed up the Accounting Department and finally in November, we were able to put out a statement as of September, 1942.

We felt that education was the most important part of this program and it took us from November to January to educate ourselves, and our leaders and to complete our plan of organization. We thought it best to tell our leaders everything they wanted to know about the enterprise and give them an idea of what should be done. We started on an open-book basis. We determined to expose bad or good news. The trouble with the enterprise in the past was that they had been doing a closed-book business which was purely unintentional and due to lack of education.

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Mr. Kuremitsu and Mr. Shelly were the seniors and we, Mr. Iwamoto and I, were just the juniors. The first thing we did was to talk the matter over with Mr. Shelly. Next we consulted with various enterprise workers. We did a lot of explaining, telling them of our future plans and asking for their suggestions. We thought this would make these people feel that they were a part of the future plans.

During December we worked hard on our plans. Right in the midst of the planning my co-worker became ill and therefore Mr. Shelly and I were the only two who worked on this for a while.

First, we decided we needed a Study and Research Committee. We determined to select the right men for this committee with the greatest care. (We were very careful not to furnish hasty information to the general public yet. Everything was done quietly and informally. We did not tell the general public because we had made up our minds that when we did make a publication we would be able to go through with it. We did not want to make a lot of promises that we could not fulfill.

Our aim was to select for the study and research group carefully and to train them well. We decided we needed the following qualified men: a man to study on the legal points, a man to study about the business phases of Co-operatives, two or three men to work on the public relations phase, and one man in charge of general public education--one who would be able to give and gather all information about which the public might enquire.

In order to find these persons we investigated many different sources. We used a sort of F. B. I. system. We looked up their records in the employment office and tried to find out all we could about their characters, back grounds, etc. If we found a weakness we discarded them. Out of about twenty men we chose five. During our investigation we kept the following points in mind: we wanted men whose

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backgrounds, qualifications, personality and

characteristics were generally accepted by the public. These people, when appointed, would be working on a voluntary basis without compensation. Eventually we selected our men, asked them to serve, and they accepted.

Members of the Research and Study Committee

1. Bunji Ikenoue--Business and Finance
2. G. T. Nakamura--Legal Chairman
3. M. Oichi--General Educational Chairman
4. Mr. Freeland
5. An evacuee member (Executive Personnel)

(Mr. Freeland was in more or less of a supervisory capacity. He had very little to do as he was handicapped by language. Although we carried on meetings in both English and Japanese, many Issei were there and he was not able to get in on these Issei's suggestions or ideas.)

6. Harry Miyake, Election Committee and Central Block Manager

As you see we had to revise our original plan of eleven members down to six members. It took us about six weeks to find the above-mentioned people. We spared no pain or effort in selecting this Research and Study Committee because we felt that it would be better to educate a few people thoroughly than to try to educate everybody on the project and fail. We gave these men all the materials we could get from Mr. Shelly and any other source. We gave them the WRA Instruction #26 and the supplements, the Temporary Enterprise financial statements, and books and pamphlets, which were available.

Then we approached Gilbert Kuramitsu, the general manager of the Enterprise and asked him to send us three primary organizers representing the department of the Temporary Community Enterprise. We wanted to include everybody from all fields--not just from the enterprise, not just from the general public, not just Issei or Nisei, but people from all classes; and it was rather difficult. The research and Study Committee were the teachers and the rest, the Community Enterprise Staff and the community at large, were the students.

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Now that we had our Study and Research Committee and our three representatives from the Community Enterprise, we were ready for our next step: to get representatives from the community itself at our meetings. There were to be the so-called Unofficial Delegates.

To accomplish this, we made the following plan for Butte. We divided the thirty-two blocks in Butte into three different sections and chose meeting places which would be most convenient for each section. I went personally and contacted each block manager, requesting the attendance of two block representatives, and Issei and a Nisei, from each block. It was our intention to explain the matter of the Co-op to these representatives. We went to each and every block and therefore had a very good response. As block representatives we wanted men with some background and interest. We discussed the possible delegates with the block managers beforehand, so we would be sure to get good ones.

These two unofficial representatives from each block were elected as follows: Some blocks had a mass meeting and elected their representatives while others had a committee select them. We had very good cooperation, though there were some objections. Some people thought it was too much bother and too complicated and that it wouldn't work in the camp.

After some combat with the block managers, some of whom were very pessimistic and with some of the delegates who were opposed to the whole idea, we finally won them over by hook or crook, using every technique we could think of--all legitimate methods, of course. Some block managers were very irresponsible and I had to go and see them five or six times. When the block representatives didn't show up we saw to it that he would send the names in. (I think the reason for the success of this undertaking was that we spent so much time planning. Until the plans were made and everything was ready, we did not want to begin explaining to the people. No publicity was made until this was all set and when it was ready it was out with a bang.) 100% cooperation was given by the press.

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When all the unofficial representatives had been selected we started in on the job of educating them. It was not easy. We divided Butte into three sections, each section composed on average of ten blocks. The sections were to meet at convenient designated places, each section meeting on a different evening. Section 1 met the 11th of July, section 2 the 12th, and section 3 on the 13th. We had an encouraging turnout-- a 100 per cent turn out. Our first objectives were to explain what we were up against, what we had done, and what we were planning to do. In order to accomplish our objectives we also asked them to raise no questions would be given at a coming meeting. We then asked them to choose two leaders to represent their section. As they were not familiar with each other then, we asked them to get acquainted and elect their leaders by the next meeting. We followed this same procedure in the Section 2 and the Section 3 meetings. Three section meetings were held in one week, each meeting in a different place.

The following week we started on the second group of meetings. We again started with Section 1, then 2 and then 3, respectively. Now we began to explain about the enterprise. The six members of the Study and Research Committee, with Gilbert Kuramitsu, and Mr. Shelly were present. A panel discussion was held. Mr. Shelly gave the administrative point of view in the Co-op and cleared himself from various suspicions. The general manager, Mr. Kuramitsu, also gave the operation point of view and following that, we spent the rest of the evening in a very hot discussion. Ignorant, silly, and sometimes unreasonable questions were asked. It was the emotional touchy meeting you ever saw and one of the worst experiences we ran into. Everybody just burst with questions. They wanted to know about the profits and where they were going and who taken what. They wanted to know what part Shelly had to do with the profits. They also wanted to know if the general manager was taking the profit away. But with these six competent committee members and the two pro-

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guest speakers we were able to convince the people and give an answer to everything they questioned.

Now they knew about the organization plans and understood the situation. These section leaders met again and again with the primary organizers and the Research Study Committee and did a very good job of it. We let them in on everything and kept answering more questions. We gave them all the information we could.

Now we were in a position to work into a constructive phase. In other words we were ready to have an organization that would touch on a Co-operative. We had cleared up and thrashed out all the past incidents and were ready to start.

Beginning January 10, the public was notified of the activities of the Co-op through the newspapers. We explained how the Research and Study Committee was responsible for giving information to the block representatives and how these block representatives in turn gave the same information to the block residents at their block meetings. In this way there was a definite channel of education to the people of this community.

We felt that we should have both camps represented at the Butte Co-op meetings but we couldn't manage it. We decided it would be best to concentrate on Butte first and get it in good shape before tackling Canal. This was proven to be wise, since the Canal members were just drawn into the Co-op later.

From November until the Board of Directors was elected in February, the Research and Study Committee met twice daily and studied their work thoroughly. They were ambitious and energetic.

I think that the other attempts to found a Co-op failed because only a few people knew anything about the setup of the Co-op, and then it was thrown onto all the people to accept it. This created suspicion and misunderstanding among the people. We, on the other hand, tried

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to approach the people first. We went to them and layed our plans before them (the section meetings of the delegates). We even asked for their suggestions in regard to the members of the Research and Study Committee and stated that if they thought any of these appointed members were not qualified for their work, we would be glad to take any recommendations for changes. But the people accepted our committee; they respected the way they had answered their questions.

(The reason, I think, that that first try in Canal failed, was because Mr. Shelly and a few other leaders got together and planned everything and did not give the people a chance to know anything.) (They did not accept the people's voice--at least that's the way they felt.)

We also stated at our second group meeting that although the WRA recommended the Co-op form of enterprise, we could still have some other form of enterprise if they so desired. But their minds were made up that the Co-op was the best. This was brought up just as a matter of courtesy.

We asked everyone for their voice in having this Co-operative form of enterprise and it was approved with no difficulty.

Now that the people had approved our activity, we were ready to draw up the Articles of Incorporation. Both the Research and Study Committee and the Primary Organizers (the representatives from the enterprise and the blocks) took part in the making of the Articles. Now that the leaders were unofficially elected, they were in a position to recommend that this be done. We were ready to call the first organized meeting to draft the Articles of Incorporation and submit them to the people for ratification.

The question of how much membership fee we needed was looked into by one of our committeemen who studied the financial condition of the Co-op. He recommended that \$1.00 would be sufficient to set up the Co-op. The amazing thing was that anything the committee recommended the delegates accepted. These block delegates were what is also called

the Unofficial Congress of Delegates.

In January we also went to Canal to tell them what we were doing. We started contacting the block leaders and various other influential men, asking them to send two or three delegates to work with the Primary Organizers. When we had our block leader's meeting we invited them, so they would know what was going on in Butte.

At the first Primary Organizer's meeting there were seventeen people present (13 Butte Members and 4 Canal members). We asked the Canal members to go back to their community and let the people know of our activities here. We told the Canalites that they could accept our present plan or not. It was up to their discretion; they could streamline our plan if they wished. We told them that soon we would be ready to elect the Board of Directors. ("e have 4 Bd. members from Canal--6 from Butte.) We also discussed the possibility of having two Co-ops, one for Butte and one for Canal. They returned to Canal and began to work out their program in full scale. Later, we called a joint meeting in Canal.

We have had some difficulties with Canal but later joined in and gave full cooperation. This community (Butte) went on full speed but it seemed that Canal did not trust people. There was a certain group there who would not cooperate at all. Our Research and Study Committee and the two usual guest speakers (Mr. Shelly and Mr. Kuramitsu) were invited to a meeting and did a pretty good job clarifying the points of misunderstanding or vagueness in the CoOp, this committee is immediately rushed to the spot and clears all the doubts in peoples' minds. I think one reason the Canal membership is so low is because the people were lacking in Education.¹

The newspapers gave us pretty good publicity. Wherever there was a capable delegate, who was sincere and who gave out the right information, we got the most satisfactory results; whereas when the leader was sleeping on the job we had a bad response.

The By-Laws were planned by the organizers and were then explained to each block meeting. After this an extensive publication was made in both Japanese and English. The By-Laws, as submitted by the Primary Organizers, were adopted by the block representatives and thereby by the members or subscribers. Actually, a few did the work and the people ratified it. The By-Laws called for a Board of Directors consisting of ten members and a Congress of Delegates consisting of forty-nine members. This was the official body of the Co-operative.

First, we had each block elect one delegate, explaining to them that this delegate would be qualified to become a member of the Board of Directors. According to this instruction, the Congress of Delegates ^{was} elected one member from each block. Rather than have ten members from Butte, it was decided to have six members on the Board of Directors from this community and four from Canal. This was based upon ratio of population. Then the ten delegates from each section got together and got acquainted with each other and elected two of their number to the Board of Directors. The men who received the highest and the next highest votes were elected.

The former block representatives are now the Congress of Delegates and those section leaders are now called the Board of Directors. Over ninety-five per cent of the former members of the unofficial body are now members of the present Congress of Delegates.

The balance sheets of the Temporary Enterprises had been published very irregularly. I think they were published for September, November and December, 1942 and for February and March, 1943. Another one is coming out for June. After June, I think, it is going to be a policy of the Co-op to make the balances sheet regularly, at either monthly or quarterly intervals.

Looking at the sheet for February and March you can notice that most of the Service Departments were operating at a loss except the Shoe Shop and Beauty Shop. This was due to the fact that most of the stores had just opened and that they

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were charging very small amounts--such as fifteen cents for a haircut. A deficit shows on the book value, but actually we had no outstanding loss. The loss was due to the fact that most of the departments needed equipment and stock to get their stores going and they were not so interested in making profits at that time.

On the 20th of February we held our first official meeting of the Incorporated Body. One interesting thing about this meeting was that on one afternoon we held two meetings. First, the Incorporated Body held a meeting, and on the same afternoon the Board of Directors' meeting was held. From here on meetings were held officially conforming strictly with WRA regulation and rules. The meeting of the Incorporated Body was composed of eighteen members who were organizers. A committee appointed by Canal was also there. We went into a lot of legal difficulties and met them successfully. The Incorporators met and formally adopted the Articles of Incorporation. We also drafted the By-Laws. These people elected the official Board of Directors, officially elected previously by the Congress of Delegates. This was made further official by the presence of Mr. Terry, the Project Attorney and Mr. Shelly, the Superintendent of Community Enterprises.

Now the elected Board of Directors held a meeting the same afternoon. At that meeting we set the term of each member of the board. Since then the Board of Directors has met once a week or oftener if necessary.

One of the psychological difficulties was that the general manager started the enterprise from the beginning and he was given the most credit for building the Community Enterprise to date. You can notice that the Board of Directors was supposedly elected by the members trying to supervise the business over the general manager. There was a tendency for difficulties to arise between the general manager and the Board of Directors. But it eventually turned out all right. The Board of Directors understood Kuramitsu's position and tried to respect it; but at the same time there were trying hard to learn as much about the operation of the enterprise from him as they could. I think it took them about two months before they really understood the operation of the Co-op.

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I was secretary then and I knew most of the members because of my contacts prior to the election of the Board of Directors. I tried my best to become a mediator if there was any misunderstanding or difficulties between them.

The actual running of the business was under Kuramitsu. The Board of Directors was mastering the information and taking the enterprise over gradually as a policy setting body. That is the reason why the Board and the general manager got along well in the end. Now the general manager has relocated and most of the burden will be left to the Board of Directors. A new general manager who was one of the organizers of the Co-op was appointed. He is very capable one (Bunji Ikenoue).

After February 20th, when they were elected, the Board members assumed responsibility for running the enterprise. On April 1, the Community Enterprise was officially transferred to the Co-op and the Corporation Directors received its license to conduct this business. All legal transferring was done at that time. April 1 was the date on which the Board of Directors actually began to function.

We now can transact business with anybody in this country since our Co-op is incorporated under the laws of the District of Columbia. Whether the State of Arizona canceled our license or not really doesn't make much difference as we are still able to run our Co-op legally, in some other form. But the Co-op went through many foolish steps to satisfy Arizona. For instance, we promised to transact business only within the project. We have actually every right to transact business with anyone in the whole United States but it was just a diplomatic gesture on our part to be on the better side with the State of Arizona, the hating state.

We first heard about the trouble with Arizona through a notice in the newspaper made by the Arizona Corporation Commission. No other form of notice was sent. I came upon the matter accidentally when I heard one of the warehouse boys talking about it. This article merely stated that the Gila River Relocation Project Co-op was a profit-making organization. Mr. Terry went to Phoenix to inquire about the matter. We didn't want to do anything about it yet. There was some legal

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technicality before we were able to investigate: Namely, we didn't want to waive the notice of order. We were supposed to have received our notice through the newspapers. It was not an official notice, so Mr. Terry, the Project Attorney, went on to see the Governor of Arizona and said that he had heard the rumor from reliable newspapers and he wanted to know more about it. The governor of Arizona stated that he didn't know anything about it. He expressed the opinion that he was not to be consulted on this matter. We also found out that this Corporation Commission had not even consulted with the United States Attorney. In order to pass any law they should have consulted him first; but they neglected to do it. Evidently the Arizona Corporation Commission is elected--not appointed by the governor as in other states. So Mr. Bennett and Mr. Terry went to see the Arizona Corporation Commission. Mr. Bates, Mr. Peterson and another person who was ill at the time were on the Commission. Mr. Terry told them that their actions were against the Constitution and that their explanations were entirely untrue. So finally the Corporation Commission asked Mr. Terry to give a public hearing at Phoenix with us--Japanese evacuees. Now you can imagine what would happen if a Japanese should appear at a public hearing. We would be in a most unfavorable situation for public sentiment is so much against us that due to prejudice and racial discrimination it would be of no use.

Finally, Mr. Terry arranged to have a public hearing for the Government including the Administration staff of the WRA. The truth was stronger than political ambitions. Mr. Terry carried the hearing and nailed the Corporation so badly that they had little chance to say anything. Mr. Terry is one of the ablest of attorneys. At the hearing, lots of things were exposed and in a way, I think it was advantageous to us because Mr. Bennett and Mr. Terry were able to clear up any points which they didn't know. They were led to believe many things from the newspapers and radio which carried false information.

The final conclusion, I believe, is that this action was not being taken against the Co-op itself but against the WRA. This matter took place simultaneously with the Dies Committee hearing in Los Angeles. I think this

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technicality namely, we didn't want to waive the notice

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will be interesting after the War but perhaps not at present. We are being used as an instrument, since there is really no point in their bringing up this matter.

Politics is another reason. The Arizona Corporation Commission members were elected, not appointed. And it is my personal opinion that since election is coming soon these people wanted to do something to win themselves some votes. We were the victims of a group of politicians.

We did everything we could to satisfy the Corporation Commission. We even promised that we would clear all business after the close of the WRA; that we would turn in the license to them six months after the close of the center's existence; and that we would limit our activities to the center. We went so far as to promise that we would amend our Articles of Incorporation confirming the above restrictions.

As you know, the Board of Directors cannot amend the Articles of Incorporation-- it takes thirty days before an amendment can be voted by the Board. (The By-Laws are easy to amend.) Since the Articles of Incorporation would take about two months to amend, the Board held a meeting and proposed the amendment. Our original Articles state that the existence of our Corporation was to be perpetual, but we are now amending it, limiting its existence to the time of existence of the WRA. The Corporation is supposed to give us our license after July 31; but we will be hanging on the ropes till then.

In spite of all this our education program is going on. It will be a very extensive program. We have had difficulty getting a good, qualified educational chairman appointed by the Board of Directors. Finally we appointed our educational chairman, namely, Mr. Currie's partner, Ken Kitasako. It is his full responsibility to be the chairman of this committee and carry on the educational program. The younger people were more or less neglected because of the lack of an educational chairman and because of lack of time on our part; but we now have all the legal red tape cleared and we can really sit down

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and give out information.

At present we are facing a problem because the CAS cannot get any funds from the WRA and they are asking us to take over all the activities involving a financial program. So far, we have not given them an answer.

Another thing, the high school wants to organize their own Co-op or a Co-op with us acting as their advisor; there can be only one Co-operative Enterprise on the project.

For a while we had people from neighboring towns come in and sell things. In other cases some Japanese evacuees made money selling

I prepared an outline of phases of the lives of women and their families. Naturally, in this kind of an interview one cannot always stick rigidly to a preconceived form. By the time she was through, she was telling me how she felt about relocation and segregation.

I am fairly certain that I can get quite a few statements on this general order, and these, coupled with my observations, ought to give me some good material for an analysis of everyday life here. If I have made any glaring omissions, please let me know. There is a good deal which is not expressed here, that one can gradually get by inference. But that will take time and a slow sensitizing (whatever that means) on my part.

By this, I mean she will be able to see a lot more with less effort in time.

SUNDAY AT CANAL

I spent some five hours at religious services today, attending both English and Japanese services at the Christian church and the Buddhist bon odori festival in the evening.

On my way to the Christian service I passed the Catholic and Buddhist churches. The Father was at the door speaking to three women, but I had no opportunity of noting the number of worshippers, which I suspect was very small. The Buddhist church was very well attended; benches had been placed outside to hold the overflow. As I passed the worshippers were joining in a monotonous chant.

Proceeding to the Christian church, I entered as English service was about to begin. The church was quite filled; about 150 people were present. At least ninety-five percent of the congregation were young people, most of them under twenty-five. I was re-impressed with the extreme orderliness of Japanese groups. The bare walls and visible beams, the backless benches, the maroon drapes behind the altar, the lace covered rostrum and the carefully made white curtains gave an impression of neat and dignified poverty not at all incompatible with early Christianity. The English service, which lasted from 9:15 to 10:15 was opened by a hymn accompanied on the piano. A long and excellent prayer by the Japanese assistant pastor followed. The choir then sang a hymn and the offering, mostly five and ten cent pieces, was taken. The guest preacher was a returned Japanese missionary, Reverend McKnight, who took his text from the thirteenth chapter of Hebrews. (Not having my bible here, I can't quote it.) The sermon was not good; it rambled over Reverend McKnight's axiom that religion and Jesus are superior to science. Only at the end was a vague admonition to be constant in present adversity given. A final hymn was sung after which the preacher and the young assistant pastor took their places at the door and shook hands with the departing worshippers. Everyone joined in the hymns and

^{all} ~~and~~ the verses were sung to the end. There was no hesitation or mumbling/^{the singing} in
 (The regular pastor, Mr. So, had just returned from a conference in Denver.)

Only about half the number of worshippers appeared for the Japanese service; not more than seventy were present. Only one or two young people attended. The order of service was slightly different: the Lord's prayer was recited at the beginning and the offering was taken after the sermon. The text was from the third psalm and the sermon based upon the story of David and Absalom. The text certainly gave the ^{preacher the} opportunity to touch more closely on the present plight of the worshippers, but since I understand no Japanese, I do not know if Reverend McKnight spoke more freely to the Issei. I was tickled to be able to join in the hymns, since I knew most of the characters and by quick listening could pick up the unfamiliar ones.

All through the services the muffled sound of the drum and the music ~~from~~ the rehearsal for the bon odori was heard.

THE BON ODORI

The bon odori, presented under the auspices of the Gila Young People's Buddhist association, was a beautiful and interesting sight and presented several aspects which may be of social significance.

Mr. Yohanda, a Christian, told me the other night that the festival is not celebrated in Japan with nearly the pretentiousness or enthusiasm which one sees at Gila. The children and young people had been practicing every night for several weeks. I had seen the slowly moving circles of dancers shuffling through the dust of the recent hot moonlit nights on several occasions. I was told by several people that this year's bon odori was far more magnificent and had a larger number of participants than that of last year. It is not because there are more people in camp now; the interest is greater this year. At least four hundred persons took part in the dances, the number varying from time to time as some unceremoniously dropped out to rest or late comers entered. About two thousand spectators were present, according to my inexperienced estimate. Whether this enthusiastic participation is an expression of conscious or unconscious nationalism, whether it is a response to having little else to do or whether it is an evidence of the growing power of Buddhism, I cannot say. I suspect it is a mixture of the first two. This increase in participation in a Buddhist festival is interesting because Miss Lancaster, my missionary friend, tells me that while they have a fine group of Christians their number has not grown during relocation. In fact, the attendance I witnessed was larger than usual.

Even some of the Japanese remarked that the costuming was incongruous. Ninety-five percent of the girls were dressed in kimonos, some with real obis and some with makeshift sashes. Most of the girls wore Japanese sandals and a very few wore geta or leather shoes. I was told that the elaborate formality of some of the costumes was quite out of keeping with the ceremony as it

is performed in Japan. One girl wore a kimono which in Japan would be suitable only at a wedding or extremely formal occasion. The woman sitting beside me was a little shocked about this. However, to the uninformed American eye the dancers appeared extraordinarily picturesque and often marvelously lovely. The female participants ~~varied~~ varied in age from little girls of not more than four or five years of age to grown young women. About twenty boys and young men joined in; their steps and those of the young women were identical. No little boys took part, the youngest must have been at least fifteen. Only half a dozen of the boys wore complete Japanese dress; three wore long swords. The remainder wore denim pants and shirt or cords. On the other hand very few of the girls wore Caucasian dress. One chunky and individualistic young woman appeared in blue slacks. From my neighbor I learned that the dance is ordinarily done in everyday clothes in Japan. Some of the elaborate costumes, therefore, were quite out of place. The boys who joined in, wearing their denims and cords, were in ^{this} sense closer to the real spirit than those who carried their samurai swords.

The dance was performed on a large roped-off arena on which two large circles had been made ~~with~~ ^{lime}. These were intended to guide the dancers and were refreshed during the performance. In the center of the large circular space was a platform on which the announcer, speakers and the drummers stood. The platform also held the microphones for the public address system, the phonograph, and the drum, a shallow type of kettle drum, about two feet in diameter, which was beaten continuously during the dancing. The platform was decorated with varicolored crepe paper and from the crosspiece waved the purple banner of the Gila Young People's Buddhist Association. About twenty unshaded electric lights on cords stretched from the platform provided adequate illumination. The dancing circle must have been at least sixty yards across. Inside

the circle, a few yards south of the platform large cans of water or punch for the refreshment of the dancers were set up. In the same position to the north a lime V appeared on the soil. What its significance was I do not know. It appeared to have no part in the ceremony.

I arrived about 8:15 with a Japanese friend and found about seventy-five people standing about. I had no sooner found a nice place for my self-brought chair than two Japanese boys came up and said that I was to sit in a roped off corral reserved for the administrative guests. I refused at first but soon saw that I was beginning to make myself conspicuous and might embarrass the boys so I took my chair and my friend and I seated ourselves in the roped-off space. Mr. Hoffman, his wife, and some twenty Caucasians, mostly Canal teachers, arrived later.

The ceremony began with fair promptness a little after 8:30. The master of ceremonies remarked briefly on the age of the folk dances, stating that the bon odori had originated in India two thousand years ago, had spread through the orient and had been elaborated in Japan. Reverend Kumata, visiting from Topaz, uttered a very brief prayer or blessing during which the dancers faced the center of the circle and held their hands before their chests, palms together, in the traditional attitude of prayer. Immediately afterward, the young directress, a Los Angeles girl, took charge. She warned the dancers to listen for her whistle and started them off. She was not dressed in Japanese costume. The dancers arranged themselves in two concentric circles, the little girl's in the center and the larger on the outside. The phonograph started and the ceremony was under way. Only about five boys entered the first dance. They presented a strange appearance: two wore complete Caucasian dress; three wore kimonos under which their trousers and shoes appeared. Later in the evening some boys, whose only article of Japanese dress was a small rectangular shawl tied under the chin or fastened under the nose, entered. No boy younger than fourteen or fifteen

