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SURVEY OF PUBLIC OPINION IN WESTERN STATES ON JAPANESE EVACUATION

ARIZONA

Source: Arizona Republic, Phoenix, Arizona, and miscellaneous clippings from Phoenix Gazette, Casa Grande Dispatch and Coolidge News.

Period: February 28 to April 26, 1942.

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War Relocation Authority

May 1, 1942



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A. Summary

- I. Press Opinion, in form of editorials, scant during survey period. Chief subject of editorials was criticism of activities of American Civil Liberties Union in opposing evacuation. Great interest in program evidenced by use of many out-of-state releases on treatment of voluntary evacuees, opposition to colonization, evacuation orders, anti-alien activity, etc.
- II. Official political groups, represented at state level almost exclusively by the state attorney general, opposed both voluntary colonization and relocation except in internment camps. Fear of sabotage expressed. Governor not mentioned except as he passed on instructions from Army. One instance of violence noted: "vigilantes" burn truck of traveling Japanese family.  
  
No mention of school problem.
- III. Farm Bureau only private organization mentioned in consideration of Japanese question. That organization asked for use of evacuees to meet serious labor shortage to be faced soon. No Japanese organizations mentioned.
- IV. No comments from private individuals in letters to editors or in statements other than from individuals identified with private or governmental organizations.



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B. Survey Analysis

1. Pattern of Press Opinion

In the 1940 census, Arizona showed a Japanese population of 632, of which 220 were aliens. A large part of this population was in the rich farming area of Maricopa County. Coupled with this low Japanese population are two facts which affect the background of public opinion: Arizona law forbids aliens to own property, and, except in cycles of high rainfall, availability of irrigation water definitely limits agricultural expansion.

Against this background, it is somewhat surprising that the editorial writers appeared to be so little concerned over the prospect of Japanese settlement, either under the voluntary program or under relocation with Federal supervision. One possible explanation is that during the past two years there has been plenty of rainfall and the water supply problem, for the time being, is not as of such concern as it would have been three years ago when the storage reservoirs were nearly depleted.

As a matter of fact, not one mention of possible Japanese agriculture causing additional drain on the all-important water resources was made in the newspapers available for survey during this period. x

Editorially, the Arizona Republic, on February 28, opened the question by saying, "Grave injustices might be done to many American-born Japanese if we intern all Japs in this country," and then went ahead to say that if worst comes to worst, however, it may be necessary to do that.



No further editorial attention was given to the controversy until March 23, when the editorial writer took issue with the American Civil Liberties Union, which was said to be "yowling" about violation of civil rights in the evacuation program. Loyal Japanese-Americans, the editorial said, grant that it is the only way to avoid danger. "So long as the Japanese don't object, we see no reason for some organizations to do so much yelping about it."

On April 8 action of the American Civil Liberties Union was again made the subject of an editorial which pointed out the great difficulties in distinguishing between loyal and disloyal aliens and citizens of Japanese ancestry, since neither the Nisei nor Issei are able themselves to tell which of their numbers are loyal. "Under the circumstances we can't afford to take a chance, knowing the loyal sons of Hirohito believe all is fair in war," the editorial said.

This was all from the Republic editors during the period. The attitude of Thomas L. Robinson, publisher of newspapers in the small towns of Casa Grande and Coolidge, near the Gila project, is of interest.

Robinson, taking sharp issue with Joe Conway, Arizona's attorney general who had been violently opposed to relocation of Japanese in the State, pointed out the weaknesses of a statement which Conway had issued. "The Army knows best," he said, "where critical military areas are, and has not suggested that Japanese be placed near storage dams, mines, etc."—a fear Conway had expressed. Robinson said that Conway's belief that "our people won't work with them (the Japanese)" is a "defeatist attitude." The editorial urges a "sane, intelligent and tolerant attitude toward these Japs who were born and raised as American citizens." ...."this is a



duty thrust upon us for the duration of the war. We should handle it calmly and efficiently, realizing that upon our clear-headed sanity depends our success."

Readers of the Arizona Republic received most of their information about the early stages of the evacuation program from wire service dispatches from other western states and from the Army and WRA headquarters in San Francisco. Out of a total of 58 items referring directly or indirectly to the Japanese problem during the survey period, 42 were out-of-state stories.

The Casa Grande Dispatch and Coolidge News, weekly newspapers under single ownership and located in towns near the Gila project, carried lengthy stories on April 10 and again on April 17, outlining as far as was possible on that date, the plans for the Gila relocation center. These stories, handled in semi-editorial fashion, pointed out that the Japanese evacuees to be located in the project were not to be confused with the Japanese aliens being placed in internment camps such as at Florence. They likewise explained that "not later than six months after peace, these Japanese will be required to leave this vicinity and return to their homes in coastal areas." On April 17 the Dispatch said, "because of the imminent shortage of farm labor for the next cotton picking season, it is expected that a plan will be developed to employ these American-born Japanese as a special reservoir of labor."

## II. Attitude of Official Political Groups.

Insofar as could be determined from the press survey, Joe Conway, Arizona's attorney general, was the only state official who took active part in the controversy on Japanese relocation in the state. Governor



Osborne was mentioned only in connection with issuing orders to comply with general regulations concerning aliens and Japanese-Americans.

Conway, however, took an early stand opposing colonization by voluntary evacuees. On Feb. 28, he was reported to have advised a California inquirer, E. E. Wilke, of Los Angeles, that creating a colony of Japanese aliens in the Gila Valley near Wellton would violate the laws of Arizona. This communication did not say whether a colony of American-born Japanese would be permissible. He mentions that Arizona is considered a vital defense area and that presence of alien enemies "might prove detrimental."

Prominence was given to news stories which told of vigorous opposition to colonization in New Mexico and other western states. On March 6, an AP release from Santa Fe, N. M., quoted Mayor Clyde Tingley of Albuquerque as saying, "As far as I am concerned I would rather give General MacArthur a dozen more planes and send all the Japs here to the Bataan peninsula." The New Mexico labor commissioner, Vincent Jasger, was quoted as saying that Japanese colonization in that state would mean "a WPA roll that would look like California's or New York's. New Mexico already has one of the lowest wage rates in the country, which indicates the labor supply now exceeds the demand."... "As for the American-born Japanese, I don't believe we can keep them out if they want to come in, but I see no reason to welcome them with official open arms."

Conway apparently represented the state at the Salt Lake meeting, and issued from Salt Lake City, on April 9, a statement in which he favored interning all Japanese evacuees in the northern Arizona Strip



country near the Utah border, and putting them to work at road building. He opposed permitting Japanese to enter farm areas of the mountain states and said that Arizona was already slated for "internment" camps at Florence and Parker, and that was enough for Arizona. If the rest cannot be taken to the central states, Conway said, he suggested putting them in CCC camps doing work like CCC in the Arizona Strip, under Army supervision.

On his return from the Salt Lake City meeting, on April 10, Conway said that Arizona had been assured that Japanese evacuees will not be allowed to infiltrate the state's farming areas. ✓

Voluntary evacuation had come to the attention of state officials as early as March 7, when Horace Moore, superintendent of the Highway patrol, said he had noted a "slight exodus" of Japanese from California across Arizona. The number to the date, however, had been "less than 100", Moore said. Officers were stopping cars and if the Japanese travelers had no permits, they were referred to FBI. ✓

By March 31, however, Moore stated that about 1,000 Japanese per week were crossing Arizona, most of them headed for Colorado.

The only instance of violence reported in the Arizona press during the period surveyed involved one group of these Japanese travelers. On March 28, an AP release from Los Angeles quoted William F. Palmer, U. S. attorney, as saying that "vigilantes" had taken violent and lawless action against a traveling Japanese family just over the California border in Arizona. These "vigilantes" had set the family's truck afire. Palmer gave out no further details other than that his office was investigating the case. "We will not tolerate outlaw conduct of this kind. These



people must be treated decently," he said.

Although not directly related to the Japanese relocation problem, it might be mentioned that on April 19, the Arizona Republic carried a story concerning an alien Japanese physician, Dr. Hiroshi Ben Inouye, charged with murder and abortion in the death of a young Phoenix woman. His case has been postponed to July 21.

On March 27, Frank Flynn, U.S. attorney for Arizona, reported that 18 enemy aliens, including 9 Japanese, had been ordered interned for the duration of the war. News of evacuation and internment of Japanese and other aliens in Mexico was followed in the news columns of the Republic in a series of dispatches from Nogales and from Mexico, D.F.

On March 13, following an order from General Dewitt, the governor of Arizona issued instructions to arrest any Japanese alien found plowing under crops as a form of agricultural sabotage.

On March 16, the Phoenix Gazette reported that the Los Angeles Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank had appointed a field office representative in Phoenix to assist Japanese and other evacuees with disposition of property.

No mention of acceptance or opposition to Japanese student evacuees made.

### III. Private Organization Attitudes

Civic organizations, Chambers of Commerce, American Legion and similar organizations, so active in the Japanese relocation controversy in other western states, are conspicuously absent from Arizona news columns. The only organization which appeared to interest itself in the problem was the Arizona Farm Bureau. In mid-March the Agricultural Adjustment



Agency, through the state AAA Chairman, O. M. Lassen, predicted a demand for 55,000 cotton pickers in Arizona next November. Lassen said, "If workers are not available in this state or in other states, arrangements will be made to obtain workers from Mexico." According to the Phoenix Gazette, of April 16, the Arizona Farm Bureau asked the State USDA War Board to forward to the Army a proposal that Japanese evacuees in Arizona be made available for agricultural labor "under strict Army supervision". O. M. Lassen, also chairman of the War Board, agreed to make the recommendation. The Farm Bureau, through Earl Maharg, secretary, said that the labor situation would soon become acute with some 9,000 farm laborers needed within the next 90 days for cotton thinning and other operations, and only about 1,000 laborers expected to be available. Farm labor demand was expected to reach a peak of 28,000 next fall and winter at cotton picking time.

Stories in the Casa Grande Dispatch of April 10 and April 17 pointed to the possibility that Japanese evacuees from the Gila project might be used as a reservoir of farm labor.

If there were Japanese organizations in the State of Arizona, they were not heard from in the press during this period. Statements by JACL officials on the West Coast, regarding the evacuation program, were carried by the Arizona newspapers, particularly during the period when voluntary evacuees were meeting cold receptions outside of the coastal area.

#### IV. Private Individual Attitude

Although the Arizona Republic occasionally carries letters from



readers, no such letters during the survey period dealt with the Japanese relocation question. Nor were there statements from individuals other than from those identified with private or governmental organizations.

(see following page for LISTING OF PRESS CLIPPINGS)



C. LISTING OF PRESS CLIPPINGS - February 28 to April 26

Feb. 28 p.8 sect. 2--Editorial--"Grave injustices might be done to many American born Japanese if we intern all Japs in the country". If worst comes to the worst, however, it may be necessary to do that."

Feb. 28 p.- Joe Conway, Arizona attorney general, advises California inquirer, E. E. Wilke, 4905 South Van Ness St., Los Angeles, that creating a colony of Japanese aliens in the Gila valley near Wellton would violate the laws of Arizona. Conway's communication did not mention provisions applying to Japanese-American citizens. He mentions that Arizona is a vital defense area and that presence of alien enemies "might prove detrimental."

Mar. 1 p.7 AP, San Francisco--Report that opposition of inland states to receiving Japanese aliens was decreasing in some instances. Two Utah counties, despite opposition by Gov. Herbert B. Haw ("unless absolutely necessary") invited the government to send up to 3,000 Japanese aliens to work farms on a lease or share crop basis. (Counties not named). Governor Carr of Colorado said his state is not inviting aliens, but if the War Dept. considered it essential, would provide temporary quarters as "the only patriotic choice open to the state."

The story comments that state officials in Idaho, Arizona, and New Mexico have opposed suggestions that enemy aliens be moved there. Arizona has a law forbidding aliens to hold an interest in real estate.

Martha Chickering, California director of social welfare, said most interior California counties have indicated an unfriendly attitude toward receiving evacuees.

p.9 AP, Los Angeles--Japanese-American Citizens League is preparing all Japanese for an ultimate mass evacuation of Pacific coast. "We want them to go protesting but one thing--their patriotism to the flag of the United States," said M. M. Masaka, national secretary.

Mar. 1 p.4 section 4. AP, Seattle--Rep. J. E. Tolan concludes committee hearings and predicts "evacuation may happen at any time."

Mar. 2 p.1 UP, San Francisco--DeWitt announces military areas will be proclaimed. Thanked Governor Carr of Colorado for offer to accept evacuees in Colorado as that State's contribution to the war effort. Hoped other governors will take a similar position in helping solve problem.



C. LISTING OF PRESS CLIPPINGS - (Cont'd.)

- Mar. 5 p.8 AP, San Francisco--Japanese begin moving out in advance of military evacuation order expected within a week.
- p.8 AP, Los Angeles--"Reception centers to be built," says Tom Clark, WCCA.
- p.8 AP, New York--American Civil Liberties Union asked for modification of evacuation orders. Asked hearings for citizens before evacuation. If modification is impossible, because of military necessity, Union declares martial law should be applied to all citizens.
- Mar. 6 p.8 AP, Santa Fe, N.M.--"Storm of opposition" meets proposal to colonize between 40,000 and 60,000 Japanese in New Mexico. Mayor Clyde Tingley of Albuquerque, former governor, quoted as saying: "As far as I am concerned I would rather give General MacArthur a dozen more planes and send all the Japs here to the Bataan peninsula. State Labor Commissioner, Vincent Jaeger, said it would mean "a WPA roll that would look like California's or New York's. New Mexico already has one of the lowest wage rates in the country, which indicates the labor supply now exceeds the demand." "As for the American-born Japanese, I don't believe we can keep them out if they want to come in, but I see no reason to welcome them with official open arms."
- p.8 AP, Los Angeles--Army plans to move Japanese to Owens Valley brings criticism from Mayor Fletcher Bowron of Los Angeles.
- Mar. 7 p.2 "Slight exodus" of Japanese from California across Arizona has been noted in recent weeks, according to the Arizona Highway Patrol. The number has been less than 100 so far. Horace Moore, Supt. of the Patrol, said officers have stopped a number of cars carrying Japanese bound for Colorado, Texas and other inland states, and requested their travel permits. Those having no such permits are referred to FBI, Moore said.
- Mar. 8 p. 2 Sect. 2. AP, Nogales, Ariz.--Japanese residents of Nogales Sonora ordered to report to Guadalajara by March 15 to be interned in concentration camp. About 70 in Nogales colony affected.
- Mar. 12 p.1 AP, Santa Barbara--Voluntary evacuees received cold receptions in Texas, Utah, Nebraska, and Colorado, Take Asakura, vice-president of JACL said. "Japanese here will remain and await government instructions. Those who went eastward in search of homes for our



C. LISTING OF PRESS CLIPPINGS - (Cont'd.)

families were made to feel unwelcome. Merchants refused to sell them supplies or gasoline, in many instances, and law enforcement officers kept reminding them to move on.

- p.3 Sect. 2--Notice of requirement that aliens and Japanese-Americans fill out forms before moving in order to get certificates that change of residence cards have been filed.
- Mar.13 p.7 Order from DeWitt to arrest any Japanese alien found plowing under crops. Governor's office has transmitted this to all sheriffs, chiefs of police and highway patrols.
- Mar.15 p.4 UP, Boise, Idaho--Governor Clark appeals to Idaho citizens to refuse to sell lands to Japanese ordered out of coastal areas. Said he was not ready to "sell the state of Idaho to the Japanese, while our American boys are dying to prevent Japan from taking our entire Nation by force of arms. ...They contribute nothing to the standard of life, but undermine it," he asserted. "And in 100 years they will over-run us to the Rocky Mountains unless checked".
- p.2 Sect. 2.--AP, Santa Fe, N.M.--First contingent of Japanese-aliens reach internment camp.
- p.4 Sect. 4.--AP, Mexico, D.F.--Mexican government orders all Japanese nationals out of border zones. It was "assumed" that the Japanese evacuees would be permitted to proceed to interior farming regions, so as not to lose any agricultural production.
- Mar.16 p.4 AP, San Francisco--DeWitt sets up 934 new prohibited zones, and adds Idaho, Utah, Montana, and Nevada to California, Oregon, Washington, and Arizona as military areas.
- p.6 AP, Los Angeles--FBI rounds up many aliens, including more than 500 Japanese. Buddhist priests and Japanese language teachers included.
- Mar.17 p.6 Sect. 2. AP, San Francisco--Army lists new prohibited zones in Arizona and states that enemy aliens and all persons of Japanese ancestry must obtain permits for any change of residence.
- Mar.18 p.2 Agricultural Adjustment Agency estimates demand for 55,000 cotton pickers in Arizona in November. O. M. Lassen, state AAA head, said "If workers are not available in this state



C. LISTING OF PRESS CLIPPINGS - (Cont'd.)

or in other states, arrangements will be made to obtain workers from Mexico."

- Mar.19 p.1 UP, San Francisco--DeWitt says Japanese start moving from Los Angeles "next week".
- Mar.20 p.9 UP, Washington, D.C.--President Roosevelt sets up "work corps" for aliens evacuated from military areas. H. S. Eisenhower set up as head of War Relocation Authority.
- p.2 AP, Los Angeles--wartime city being built at Manzanar to house Japanese evacuees.
- Mar.22 p.4 Sect. 4--UP, San Francisco--Vanguard of Japanese evacuees left for Owens Valley from Los Angeles.
- Mar.23 p.3 AP, Durango, Colo.--Governor Carr warns crowd against anti-Japanese violence which might cause "100 to 1" retaliation against Americans. "If Colorado's part in the war is to take care of 100,000 of them, then Colorado will take care of them." He explained he was referring to aliens transferred by the government.
- Mar.24 p.4 NEA photo of first Japanese leaving for Owens Valley, with story of first 1,000 enroute to new home.
- p.4 DeWitt proclaims curfew for all Japanese-Americans and enemy aliens in western military zones.
- p.4 AP, Washington, D. C.--WRA announces 20,000 Japanese to be moved to Colorado River Indian reservation at Parker. (prominent story)
- Mar.25 p.6 Editorial--Criticizes an organization which is "yowling" about violation of civil rights in the Japanese-American evacuation. Loyal Japanese-Americans grant, the editorial says, that it is the only way to avoid danger and are helping with the evacuation. "So long as the Japanese don't object, we see no reason for some organizations to do so much yelping about it."
- Mar.27 p.2 Eighteen Arizona enemy aliens, including 9 Japanese, were ordered interned for the duration of war, according to Frank E. Flynn, U. S. attorney for Arizona.
- p.2 AP, San Francisco--Drastic curfew for enemy aliens to go into effect on March 27.



C. LISTING OF PRESS CLIPPINGS - (Cont'd.)

- Mar. 28 p.1 AP, San Diego--FBI reports seizure of a "veritable arsenal" of contraband weapons in home of Japanese alien.
- p.4 AP, Los Angeles--William F. Palmer, U.S. attorney, reported vigilantes had taken violent and lawless action against a traveling Japanese family just over the California border in Arizona. Their truck was set afire. Palmer gave no further details but said his office was investigating the case. "We will not tolerate outlaw conduct of this kind. These people must be treated decently." Palmer's office issued travel permits to more than 600 aliens and Japanese-Americans on that date. 420 were Japanese leaving California for inland states.
- Mar. 29 p.6 AP, San Francisco--Government is making many arrests of aliens and is hurrying construction of camps for Japanese evacuees. FBI gave special attention to members of Shinto priesthood, to members of the Military Virtue Society and to officials of an organization to collect funds for the Japanese army and navy, the release stated.
- p.2 Sect. 2. Notice of DeWitt's order freezing Japanese aliens and Japanese-Americans until further notice to "insure the orderly evacuation and resettlement of Japanese.
- p.5 Sect. 2 AP, San Francisco--WCCA urges Japanese and Japanese-Americans to hasten property settlements preparatory to evacuation. A second section of the story reports that Arizona has 632 Japanese, of which 220 are aliens. Most of the Japanese population is in Maricopa County.
- Mar. 30 p.2 UP, San Francisco--DeWitt sets up classes of aliens exempt from evacuation orders. Few Japanese can qualify except those minors in orphanages, and those too ill or infirm to be moved.
- Mar. 31 p.2 About 1,000 Japanese per week are crossing Arizona from California, most of them headed for Colorado, according to Horace Moore, Supt. of the Arizona Highway Patrol.
- Apr. 1 p.3 INS story and NEA photo from Portland. Minoru Yasui, 26-year old attorney, prepares defense for test case against curfew law for American-born Japanese. FBI revealed he was a paid agent of the Japanese government before Pearl Harbor, and was also a reserve of the U.S. Army.
- Apr. 2 p.5 AP, San Francisco--New evacuation orders issued and new assembly centers announced. Two in Arizona, one at Ashdale and one at Mayer.



C. LISTING OF PRESS CLIPPINGS (Cont'd.)

- Apr. 2 P.5 IHS, Salt Lake City--Governors of 10 western states to meet at Salt Lake City April 7 to discuss evacuation program.
- Apr. 3 P.3 AP, Los Angeles--State Personnel Board of California has ousted nearly 300 Japanese and Japanese-Americans from state jobs, according to E. Wayne Miller, secretary.
- Apr. 5 p.4 UP, San Francisco--Japanese removal is speeded. Army gets three new assembly centers and announces evacuation will be made rapidly, according to Col. Earl R. Benetsen.
- Apr. 6 p.3 Sect. 3. Frank Carey by-line--Cambridge, Mass.--Harvard class studies Japanese language.
- Apr. 6 p.8 Sec. 2. Editorial--Comment on action of American Civil Liberties Union which asked President to modify evacuation rules and to make reasonable distinction in evacuating aliens and citizens. Points out the great difficulty of doing this, since neither Nisei nor Issei are able themselves to tell which of their numbers are loyal to the U.S. "Under the circumstances we can't afford to take a chance, knowing the loyal sons of Hirohito believe all is fair in war."
- p.10 Sect. 2. AP, Santa Fe, N.M.--Gov. John E. Miles publicly advises N.M. landowners against selling property to Japanese seeking to establish farm colonies. "By helping California and the Federal government to solve the immediate problem we would be burdening ourselves with a variety of new and complex problems that might never be solved," he said.
- Apr. 9 p.4 AP, Salt Lake City--Joe Conway, Arizona attorney general, favors interning Japanese evacuees in northern Arizona Strip country near Utah border, and putting them to work at road building. He opposes permitting them to enter farm areas of the mountain states. Said Arizona was already slated for "internment camps" at Florence and Parker, and that was enough for Arizona. If the rest cannot be taken to central states, he suggests putting them in CCC camps doing work like CCC in the Arizona Strip country, under Army supervision.
- Apr. 10 p.5 Arizona has been assured that Japanese evacuees will not be allowed to infiltrate the state's farming areas, said Joe Conway, attorney general, on his return from the Salt Lake City meeting.
- Apr. 12 p.1 Sect. 2 AP, San Francisco--Army says it will complete evacuation of some 120,000 Japanese by May 20. Says only 8,000 took advantage of army's permission to leave voluntarily.



C. LISTING OF PRESS CLIPPINGS - (Cont'd.)

- Apr. 17 p.1 Army engineers are arriving to begin construction of two communities for more than 10,000 Japanese evacuees on the Gila River Indian reservation on land under lease agreement with the Indian Service for the duration of the war.
- Apr. 19 p.9 AP, San Francisco--Army issues orders to evacuate some 3,000 Japanese from three vital areas in Los Angeles County. Deadline is fixed at noon April 23. Will raise the number at Manzanar reception center to about 6,000.
- Apr. 22 p.4 Japanese physician, Dr. Hiroshi Ben Inouye, alien, charged with murder and abortion in the death of a young Phoenix woman. The case was postponed to July 21.
- p.9 AP, San Francisco--Japanese ban extended, as Dewitt issues orders for removal of 12,800 Japanese from vital areas. Five more assembly centers to be opened--Tulare, Salinas, Turlock, Tanforan and Puyallup.
- p.1 Sect. 2. window Book, Ariz.--E. R. Fryer, named Regional Director, WRA.
- Apr. 26 p.7 Sect. 2 San Francisco--Disposal of Japanese evacuee property will raise real estate problems of unusual character. Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco is working on a plan which will seek to protect against forced sales or sharp practices.

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CLIPS FROM OTHER ARIZONA NEWSPAPERS

- Apr. 10 p.1 Casa Grande Dispatch--A. E. Robinson, Supt. of Pima Jurisdiction, says 10,000 American-born Japanese may be relocated on the Pima Indian Reservation. P. J. Webster of WRA quoted as reassuring Robinson that he would recommend that the type of Japanese-Americans sent here would not only be good farmers, but would also serve as a useful reservoir of farm labor. The story points out that although to be under Army supervision, these Japanese are not to be confused with Japanese aliens being placed in internment camps such as the one at Florence. "Not later than six months after peace, these Japanese will be required to leave this vicinity and return to their homes in coastal areas," the news writer (presumably the editor) wrote.



CLIPS FROM OTHER ARIZONA NEWSPAPERS - (Cont'd.)

Apr. 17 p.1 Casa Grande Dispatch--Relocation of 10,000 Japanese Americans from coastal areas appears to be a virtual certainty. A. E. Robinson, Supt. of Pima Jurisdiction, had conferred with E. H. Fryer, WRA regional director. Present plans specify two camps. One on 7,000 acres now in alfalfa, but suitable for vegetable growing, located at west end of the Pima reservation. Another would be on undeveloped land, about 8,000 acres, west of the cultivated tract and surrounding Sacaton Butte. Writer says "Because of the imminent shortage of farm labor for the next cotton picking season, it is expected that a plan will be developed to employ these American-born Japanese as a special reservoir of labor." The Japanese will only be able to leave the camps if they have written permits from the Army authorities, the writer said.

Apr. 17 p.1 Collidge News--Same story as above in the Casa Grande Dispatch--both papers under same ownership.

Apr. 17 p.7 Casa Grande Dispatch--Editorial page carried, side by side, a strong statement of anti-Japanese attitude from Arizona's attorney general, Joe Conway, and a Dispatch editorial criticizing Conway's stand and urging cooperation with the government in handling the Japanese evacuation problem.

Conway, in a statement issued at Salt Lake City, pointed to the fact that Arizona borders Mexico, has vital mines, reservoirs, and military projects, and that "our people will not work with them (the Japanese)." He suggests that attempts to use Japanese farm labor would retard rather than aid agricultural production, and urged that the Japanese be sent "east of the Rockies."

Thomas L. Robinson, editor of the Dispatch, takes sharp issue with Conway, refuting, in turn, each of Conway's arguments. He points out that the Army knows best where the critical military areas are, that no one has suggested Japanese be placed near storage dams, etc., that Conway's belief that "our people won't work with them" is a "defeatist attitude". The editorial urges a "sane, intelligent and tolerant attitude toward these Japs who were born and raised as American citizens." "This is a duty thrust upon us for the duration of the war. We should handle it calmly and efficiently, realizing that upon our clear-headed sanity depends our success."

April 16 p.1 Phoenix Gazette--In a prominently placed story, the Gazette carried the announcement of Army plans to relocate 10,000 Japanese on 7,000 acres of land in the



in the Sacaton Indian reservation, construction of buildings to start immediately. Mention was made of Carson Taylor, WRA representative, but did not attribute any part of statement to him. No opposition mentioned. Discussed growing of food for their own sustenance and making any surpluses available to the government. Points out difference between reception centers and internment camps.

- p.2 Los Angeles branch of the Federal Reserve Bank appoints field office representative to assist Arizona Japanese and other evacuees with disposition of their property.
- p.2 USDA War Board makes recommendation to War Department that Japanese evacuees in Arizona be made available for agricultural labor "under strict Army supervision." The Farm Bureau (Earl Maharg, Sect'y.) made the proposal, and the State War Board, O. M. Lassen, chairman, agreed to forward the recommendation to the War Dept. Farm Bureau says labor situation will soon become acute with some 9,000 farm laborers needed within the next 90 days for cotton thinning and other operations, and only about 1,000 laborers expected to be available. Farm labor demand expected to reach peak of 28,000 next fall and winter at cotton picking time.
- p.12 Interview with Carson Taylor, former publisher of Manila Daily Bulletin. Taylor described loss of newspaper when Japanese took Manila. Mentions that Taylor is now assisting in relocation of 10,000 Japanese evacuees at center on Pima Indian reservation.



## SURVEY ANALYSIS

### I. PATTERN OF PRESS OPINION

1940 census, Arizona had Japanese population of 632, of whom 220 were aliens. Most of these in rich farming district of Maricopa county. This low population plus 1) Arizona anti-alien land law and 2) limitations on agricultural expansion due to non-availability of irrigation water -- main background points in considering ~~xxxx~~ Arizona and the Japanese.

Simms thinks editorial laxity in complaining about possible influx of Japanese into Arizona is ~~xxxxxx~~ "somewhat surprising". One possible explanation is that there has been plenty of rainfall during the past two years and the water supply problem ~~ex~~ therefore was not pressing; situation might have been different if the storage reservoirs were nearly depleted ~~ex~~. In any case, striking that not a single editorial remark during survey period about possible dangers of additional drainage of the all-important water supplies.

Editorially, Arizona Republic on February 28 opened the question: "Grave injustice might be done to many American born Japanese if we intern all Japs in this country" but if worst comes to worst it may be necessary to do that. Next editorial comment ~~xxxx~~ exactly one month later, March 28. ACLU criticized for "yowling" about civil rights in the evacuation program. Loyal Jap-Amer. grant that evacuation only way to avoid danger. "so long as the Japanese don't object, we see no reason for some organization to do so much yelping about ~~xxx~~ it." April 8 ACLU again discussed in editorial that pointed out great difficulties ~~ex~~ in distinguishing loyal and sloyal Japanese, since Japanese themselves couldn't tell which of their members are loyal. "Under the circumstances we can't afford to take a chance, knowing the loyal sons of Hirohito believe all is fair in war." This extent of Republic editorialization.

Attitude of Thomas L. Robinson, publisher of newspapers in the small towns of Casa Grande and Coolidge, near the Gila project: Robinson takes issue with the violent opposition of Joe Conway, state attorney general, to relocation of Japs in state -- "The army knows best where critical military areas are, and has not suggested that Japanese be placed near storage dams, mines, etc." (a fear Conway had expressed.). Conway's argument that Arizona people won't work with Japs "a defeatist attitude." What is needed is "a sane, intelligent, and tolerant attitude toward these Japs ~~whax~~ who were born and raised as American citizens" . . . "This is a duty thrust upon us for the duration of the war. We should handle it ~~xxxxxx~~ calmly and efficiently, realizing that upon our clear-headed sanity depends our success."

In Republic 42 of 58 items published during period were out-of-state stories about early stages of evacuation from Army San Francisco gov't agencies and other states.

Casa Grande Dispatch and Coolidge News, weekly newspapers under single ownership near Gila project, lengthy stories on April 10 and 17 outlining all plans about Gila project. Semi-editorially stories pointed out evacuees at Gila should be distinguished from alien internment camps. Also "not later than six months after



the peace, these Japanese will be required to leave this vicinity and return to their homes in coastal areas." Dispatch talked of plan developing to use Japs to alleviate shortage of cotton pickers.

## II. ATTITUDE OF OFFICIAL POLITICAL GROUPS

Attorney General Conway early took stand opposing voluntary colonization in Arizona. Feb. 28 advised California inquirer, one E. E. Wilke, that creating a colony of Japanese aliens in the Gila Valley would violate the laws of Arizona. Arizona a vital defense area and presence of alien enemies "might prove detrimental." No mention of citizen Japanese.

*"California can keep her Japs - she has plenty of desert to keep them in and so has California"*

Much prominence in news stories which told of vigorous opposition of colonization in New Mexico and other western states. March 6, AP release from Santa Fe, quoting Mayor Clyde Tingley of Albuquerque: "As far as I am concerned I would rather give General Mac Arthur a dozen more planes and send all the Japs here to the Bataan peninsula." Also played up the opposition of New Mexico's labor commissioner, Vincent Jaeger.

*entirely  
L.E. Detweiler  
proposal*

From Salt Lake City on April 9, Conway issued statement in which he favored interbing all Japanese evacuees in the northern Arizona Strip County near the Utah border, and putting them to work at road building. He opposed permitting Japanese to enter farm areas of the mountain states and said that Arizona was already slated for "internment" camps at Florence and Parker, and that was enough for Arizona. If the rest could not be moved to the central states, Conway suggested putting them in CCC camps doing work like the CCC in the Arizona Strip under Army Supervision. Returning from Salt Lake City, ~~Conway~~ Conway said that Arizona had been assured that Japanese evacuees would not be allowed to infiltrate the state's farming areas.

Voluntary evacuation had come to attention of state officials as early as March 7, when Horace Moore, ~~sup't.~~ sup't. of the Highway Patrol noted a "slight exodus" of Japanese from California. To that date, number had been less than 100. Cars were being stopped and if the Japs had no permit they were referred to the FBI. On March 31, Moore stated that about 1,000 Japanese per week were crossing Arizona, most of them heading for Colorado.

One instance of violence reported: March 28 AP release from Los Angeles: William F. Palmer, U. S. attorney, vigilantes had taken violent and lawless action against Jap. family just over California border in Arizona and had set family's truck in fire. "we will not tolerate outlaw conduct of this kind. These people must be treated decently," Palmer said.

March 13: Gov. following orders of General Witt issued instructions to arrest any Japanese alien found plowing under crops, an act of agricultural sabotage.



### III. PRIVATE ORGANIZATION ATTITUDES

Civic organizations, Chambers of Commerce, American Legion etc, so active in the Japanese Relocation Controversy in other ~~xxxx~~ western states, are ~~xxxx~~ conspicuously absent from Arizona news columns. Only organization apparently active as far as news columns are concerned -- the Arizona Farm Bureau. Mid March, Agricultural Adjustment Agency, through state AAA Chairman, O. M. Lassen, predicted a demand for 55,000 cotton pickers in Arizona next November. Lassen said "If workers are not available ~~ex~~ in this state or in other states, arrangements will be made to obtain workers from Mexico." Phoenix Gazette of April 16: Arizona Farm Bureau asked the State USDA War Board to forward to the army a proposal that the Japanese evacuees in Arizona be made available for agricultural labor "under strict army supervision." O. M. Lassen, also chairman of the War Board, agreed to make the recommendation. The Farm Bureau, through Earl Maharg, secretary, ~~xxx~~ said that the labor situation would soon become acute with some 9,000 farm laborers needed within the next 90 days for cotton thinning and other operations, and only about 1,000 workers were expected to be available. Farm labor demand was expected to reach a peak of 28,000 next fall and winter at cotton picking time. Stories in the Casa Grande Dispatch of April 10 and 17 pointed to the possibility that Japanese evacuees from the Gila project~~xxxx~~ might be used ~~xxxx~~ as a reservoir of farm labor.

It there were Japanese organizations in ~~the~~ Arizona at this time they ~~and~~ their activities not mentioned in the press. Statements from JACL officials on the west coast were carried in the Arizona newspapers, particularly during the period when voluntary evacuees were meeting cold resx ptions outside the coastal areas.

### IV. PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL ATTITUDE

There were none in papers surveyed. Neither letters to editors nor news stroies.

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Arizona Republic  
March 5, 1942, p.8.

Clark file

Los Angeles -- Mar 4 AP- Just as soon as pre-fabricated dwellings can be constructed on government reservations, Japanese aliens and their families will be evacuated from the Pacific Coast combat zones to about ten points in inland California and adjacent states, Tom C. Clark, alien control coordinator, said today.

"Militart areas will be created around these places so that there will be no contact with American citizens," he said. "Each center will be as self-sufficient as possible, with its own schools and hospitals."



Arizona Republic  
March 23, 1942  
P. 3.

CARR OFFERS  
ALIENS HAVEN

Durango, Colo., Mar. 22.- AP - "For God's sake, shut up," Gov. Ralph L. Carr demanded in wrning a navy rally crowd that threats against transplanted Japanese would cause "100 toix 1" retaliation against Americans.

Carr, psaking last night, said that only one other governor has indicated the willingness of his state to receieve aliens evacuated ~~from~~ from the Pacific Coast. "But if Colorado's part in the war is to take care of 100,000 of them, then Colordao will take care of them," Carr declared.



Arizona "epublic  
April 8, 1942  
P. 10

A16.01

Sante Fe, N. M., Apr 7 - AP- Gov John E. Miles of New Mexico enunciated what he declared was an official state attitude in opposition to Japanese migration here.

He publicly advised New Mexico land owners against selling property to Japanese-Americans seeking to establish farm colonies and asserted: "This does not indicate any desire on our part not to cooperate with the Federal Government in the problems involved in removing Japanese from strategic areas, but this attitude is being adopted as an official one from necessity. So many problems of an economic and social nature are involved that New Mexico cannot afford to jeopardize its future by welcoming ~~any~~ migration of Japanese-American colonists to the state."

Even as statement was made, reports of plans for colonization stirred two more New Mexico communities. One was the Maxwell community, an irrigated section to the north, where angry petitions and wordes of protest were sent to the govenor and Dennis Chavez, senator, against plans for settling some 200 families in the area.

The other was in the extreme south near the Mexican border at Deming, where the sherriff said that he had been informed that some 350 families planned to move to Deming. (Ernest Prugel, sherriff's name). Deming citizans have held protest meeting.  
(OVER



SURVEY OF PUBLIC OPINION IN WESTERN STATES ON JAPANESE EVACUATION

ARIZONA

Source: Arizona Republic, Phoenix, and miscellaneous  
clippings from the Phoenix Gazette, Casa Grande  
Dispatch and Coolidge News.

Period: February 28 to April 26, 1942

Prepared by D. Harper Sims, Information Service Staff, WRA.  
Briefed by Grodzins with additional data from file of clippings.



SUMMARY

I. PRESS OPINION, in form of editorials, scant during period. Chief editorial subject criticism of the ACLU in opposing evacuation. Many out-of-state stories on treatment of voluntary evacuation opposition to colonization, evacuation orders, anti-alien activity, etc.

II. OFFICIAL POLITICAL GROUPS, represented at state level almost exclusively by attorney general who opposed both voluntary evacuation and relocation except in internment camps. . . his fear of sabotage. Governor did very little. One instance of violence noted; "vigilantes" burn truck of traveling Japanese family.

No mention of school problem

III. FARM BUREAU only private organization mentioned in consideration of Japanese question. It asked for use of evacuees to meet serious coming labor shortage.

IV. No comments from private individuals in letters to editors or in statements other than spokesman for organization above.