

# Jap, Once City Worker, Free

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Japanese in the city's Water and Power Department.

Bowron told the committee he was opposed and the great majority of the people here were opposed to the return of the Japs to the coast. Probably a majority of them are loyal, he said, and such a stand might be doing an injustice, but he said he was convinced nobody has found a sure way to distinguish a disloyal and dangerous Jap from a loyal one.

Sheriff Jesse Elliott, of Orange County, and Frank Latham, past president of the Orange County Farm Bureau, told the committee of Orange County people's strong sentiment against return of the Japanese to California "particularly in wartime."

### Trouble With Labor

Earnest S. Wickersham, warehouseman at the Poston relocation center, told the committee that it was difficult to get Japanese labor for the warehouse. He told of their flat refusal one day to unload materials from freight cars at Parker, such as steel, cement and lumber. They had unloaded lumber the day before, they said, and as to steel "they wouldn't handle that kind of junk." They sat around for a time and then began unloading subsistence supplies for themselves.

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Also came testimony of a white American who was on an authorized trip to Oklahoma by one of the white division heads at the camp.

A. W. Empe, chief administrative officer, was on the stand under questioning by Stedman, chief investigator of the committee, the various episodes and incidents were brought out.

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For article on life at Poston, see Page 10.

Questions and answers disclosed a picture of a Poston of some 15,000 Japanese into a new crude town. Administrative personnel over and building, incidents and developing which called for disciplinary action.

"We have been tight right along," said Empe.

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### 'Not Taking Orders'

An incident was reported about the then chief of the Japanese police department. On the evening of Nov. 16, the night before the strike at Unit No. 1, the Jap chief was reported to have told the white dispatcher during an argument that he "was not going to take any order from any white trash."

So far as Empe knew no disciplinary action was taken against the Jap. However, the police department has been reorganized and he is no longer chief.

Speeding cars? Yes, Empe said they have had trouble with that. One of the officers of the military police reported a government work truck driven by a Jap doing 70 to 75 miles an hour on the road bordering the camp.

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And how about the time last November when Eddie Yamamoto of the express office was reported to have gone to the mess hall of the Indian Service with four or five other Japs and demanded of Mrs. Edwards that they be fed? And wasn't it true that Mrs. Edwards reported the Japs intimidated her to the extent that she felt forced to permit them to sit at the mess table and serve them, and it looked as though there might be a fight? Empe had heard of that. Yamamoto was fired.

And how about the time when a truckload of Japs went to Parker, 16 miles away, and some soldiers lined up near the parked truck in town, wouldn't let the Japs alight, but heaved rocks at them?

### Man Called Liar

And there was Mr. Yoshita, driver of a sanitation truck, he could not get some equipment he wanted and called a white employee a liar.

Such episodes were reported to the committee investigator by Harold Townsend, who was at one time transportation chief. Townsend is the one who, Empe declared, took the unauthorized trip to Oklahoma City. He started to Seligman to take a motor head gasket to a driver of a W.R.A. lumber truck that had broken down, said Empe. Townsend later was let out, Empe said he had his good points but he seemed to have a habit of giving the Japs "flowery speeches" and they had no respect for them and he could not get them to carry out his orders.

### Fear of Scalping

"He stirred up the white personnel at the time of the strike by making them believe the Japs were going to swoop down and scalp us all," said Empe, who is a native of Arizona.

Yes, said Empe, they rent trucks from the Japs. Rental ranges from \$75 to \$175 a month. The contracts were approved by O.P.A., he said.

Empe gave the committee figures showing that for a 12-month period the estimated cost of operating Poston, was about \$9,000,000. Some items: administrative expenditures, \$408,000; agriculture and industry, \$290,000; health, \$153,000; education, \$296,000; public works, \$2,571,000; and an item of \$5,608,000 for Japanese labor, subsistence, public assistance, clothing allowance and leave assistance.

### Trips Financed

Representative Eberharter wanted to know about the leave assistance, which is the money a Jap gets when he is sent to take a job outside—as in Denver. That item was running about \$14,000 a month. The evacuee gets his railroad coach ticket for self and any dependents like wife and children, \$50 cash for himself and \$25 for the first dependent, and another \$25 for all the other dependents together. Contrary to reports, the Japanese gets that allowance only once when he goes out on leave to work. If he comes back to camp and wants to go out again if he is permitted, he will have to finance himself.

# JAP EVACUEES USE U. S. CARS FOR PICNICS

### Evidence Also Disclosed at Dies Subcommittee Hearing of Threats Made by Aliens

Dies committee investigators yesterday produced evidence that Japanese evacuees at the \$10,000,000 Poston, Ariz., relocation center have used Government cars to go on picnics, have intimidated citizens of nearby Parker, have used gangster tactics on white supervisors, and at the same time have been given responsible positions from which white Americans were removed.

These facts were disclosed to a congressional subcommittee at executive sessions yesterday, presided over by Congressman John M. Costello of California. Augustus W. Empe, chief administrative officer for the War Relocation Authority at Poston, testified that trips of Japanese on picnics in Government-owned cars are "regular" occurrences and agreed that these conditions were "due to lack of diligence on the part of division heads," whom he said he had repeatedly warned against this practice.

Under questioning of Investigator James H. Stedman, Empe denied knowledge of trips made by Japanese in Federally-owned cars to visit relatives and friends in the Middle West and East. He was instructed to search his records and furnish the committee with any such data.

### \$5,608,000 SPENT

Empe's testimony revealed that of the nearly \$10,000,000 expended on Poston, \$5,608,000 has been spent for Japanese labor, subsistence, grants, unemployment compensation, clothing allowances and "leave assistance."

The "leave assistance" consists of giving \$50 to each Japanese leaving the camp for the East. In addition, he is given \$25 for each dependent up to a maximum of \$100, and each also receives railroad coach fare.

Stedman read into the record memoranda from Harold H. Townsend, former Poston transportation officer, in which he reported that the Japanese chief of police of Unit I at the camp had informed a white truck dispatcher

representative has investigated a parallel situation in a number of adjoining states and finds a parallel situation.

Eugene Cervi, regional information adviser of the Office of War Information, declared that despite the ability of his agency to disseminate reliable information to the nation concerning the center residents, the major problem remained with the evacuee himself.

The nisei must help in working out his own salvation through maintaining contacts with churches and other groups which help to mold public opinion, Cervi pointed out.

# Nip Gangsterism Told



AUGUSTUS W. EMPER, chief administrative officer for War Relocation Authority at Poston, Ariz., who told Dies committee investigators that Japanese evacuees have used gangster tactics on white supervisors.

that he was "not taking any orders from any blank blank white trash."

Empe did not know of any disciplinary action taken against the chief.

### INTIMIDATION CHARGED

Another memorandum stated Eddie Yamamoto, assigned to the camp's express truck, had taken six Japanese into Parker, where they intimidated the woman in charge of the Indian agency, threatened her and forced her to feed them.

The Japanese did not have authorization to leave the camp, it was said.

Other instances reported included complaints about a disturbance created by Japanese in a Parker hardware store and of threats at the camp to "beat up" a white supervisor because he did not assign to the Japanese their "favorite" trucks.

Empe said the Japanese, who are qualified, are replacing white men wherever possible "in keeping with WRA policy."

He said Washington officials on many occasions have complained the camp had too many appointed personnel and felt more jobs should be given to Japanese.

### Wyoming Legion For Segregation

Representatives of Northwestern Wyoming American Legion district 4 meeting in Cody last Saturday recommended disloyal evacuees be segregated, placed in prisons and concentration camps, and be exchanged for Americans in Japanese hands.

The Legionnaires also resolved that control of centers be removed from the WRA and placed in the hands of Army military police.

# D. A.s Oppose Japs Return

### AUBURN, June 9.—(INS)—California's District Attorneys' Association today was on record opposing return of all Japanese—alien and American born—to the Pacific Coast.

Adoption of a resolution, which declared return of Japanese to California would "tend to incite race riots, destruction of property, intimidations and wholesale disrespect for law enforcement," was disclosed by District Attorney Lowell Sparks of Placer County, secretary of the association.

"The resolution also declared the 'morale of our fighting men' is involved in release of Japanese from relocation camps and warned that return of the Nipponese would 'create these dangers of sabotage which were believed to have existed when those persons dwelt within our state.'"

—Los Angeles Examiner photo.



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Okura, according to records of the Dies committee, is the son of a Japanese war veteran who was active in the Japanese war veterans' organization here. The elder Okura was picked up by the F.B.I. when war broke out and is detained, it was reported.

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For article on life at Poston, Ariz., camp, see Page 10, Part II.

was established, not including the cost of the buildings.

Questions and answers disclosed a picture of a population of some 15,000 Japanese moved into a new crude town, an administrative personnel taking over and building up from scratch, incidents and practices developing which called for corrections and the establishment of rules, and some failures to take disciplinary action.

"We have been tightening up right along," said Empie.

#### Drive to Picnics

The first Japs moved into the center in May, 1942. It was not long before they were running around in their own automobiles, getting away from the camp for picnics along the Colorado River a few miles away. This was at first frowned on and then an order was issued in July that there would be no more picnics. It was up to the white division heads to enforce the order but, Empie admitted, not all of them diligently enforced the order. Now all Jap personal cars are impounded. Representative Mundt asked why the administrative heads did not crack down more severely on division heads to see that a tighter grip was kept on the Japs.

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Concerned primarily with the general reaction of the public following the series of hate-inspired articles in the Denver Post, the reports officer said that the public maintains a reasonable attitude and is willing to be convinced of the good intentions of those who are now living and working outside relocation centers.

At a conference with various government representatives, it was indicated, Mechau said, that the series of articles published by the Denver Post charging "food hoarding" at Heart Mountain was generally discredited.

Representatives of the Office of War Information and the Minority Representative of the War Manpower Commission are anxious to push forward the program of relocating evacuees. Barron Beshoar, minority representative of WMC, was the first government official in Denver to employ a nisei secretary.

Beshoar also expressed the opinion voiced by Henry Mitarai, former block manager, that the general public feels that only those who remain in relocation centers are of doubtful integrity while those who are attempting to re-establish themselves in normal communities are loyal and intent upon assisting in the war effort. The minority representative has investigated the nisei situation in a number of adjoining states and finds a parallel situation.

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GET PAY BOOST

HH MT JOURNAL 5-23-43



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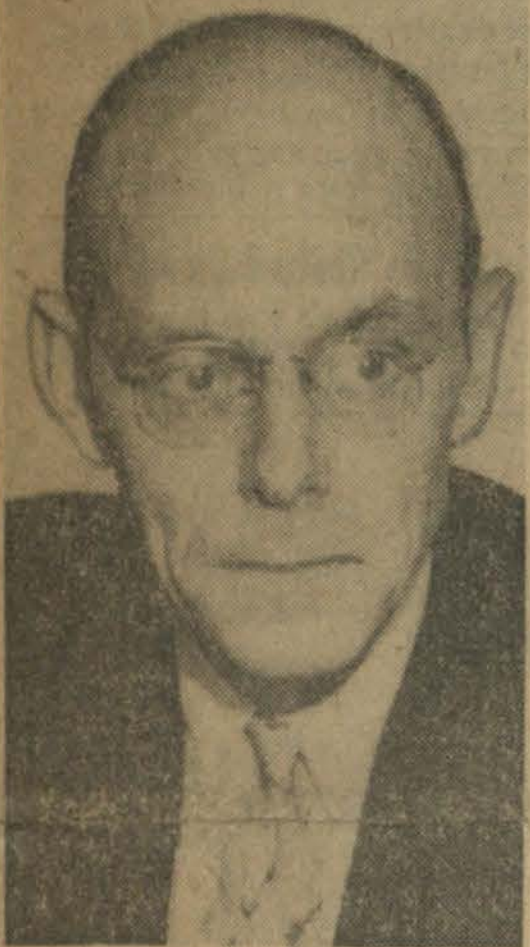
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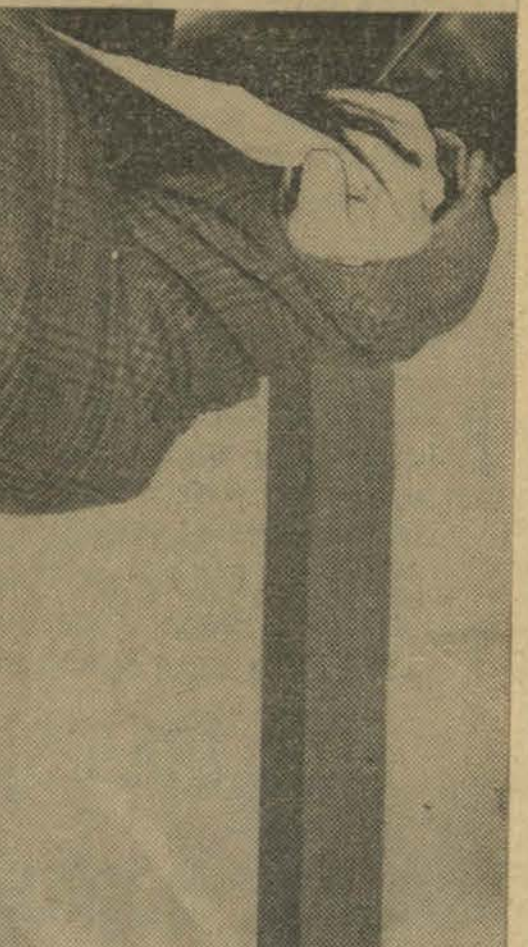
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# Wyoming Legion For Segregation

Representatives of Northwestern Wyoming American Legion district 4 meeting in Cody last Saturday recommended disloyal evacuees be segregated, placed in prisons and concentration camps, and be exchanged for Americans in Japanese hands.

The Legionnaires also resolved that control of centers be removed from the WRA and placed in the hands of Army military police.

HIS WIFE WAS KILLED—Ch the woman killed when P-38



in Hollywood before Deputy Col



in Hollywood before Deputy Col



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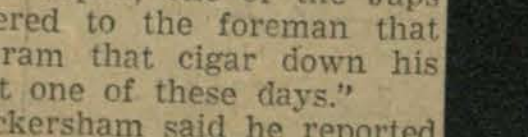
in Hollywood before Deputy Col



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in Hollywood before Deputy Col

want it stacked," said Wickersham.

Whereupon, one of the Japs muttered to the foreman that "I'll ram that cigar down his throat one of these days."

Wickersham said he reported incidents of insubordination to his superior but if anyone ever did anything about it it was not noticeable.

Tells Insubordination

On another occasion, last December, Wickersham said, when he directed Jap laborers to stack lumber a certain way, one of them told him it was "damned foolishness."

"Never mind, that's the way I

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# WRA Refutes Claims Of Un-American Committee

WASHINGTON, D.C., June 12—Dillon S. Myer, Director of the War Relocation Authority, yesterday issued the following statement: The press recently has carried statements attributed to Robert E. Stripling, identified as chief investigator of the Committee on Un-American Activity, that spies and saboteurs have been released from relocation centers. This statement reveals a complete ignorance of the manner in which this agency is conducting its program. No evacuee is permitted to leave a relocation center if there is any indication that he would in any way endanger the national security. The granting of permits to leave is handled very carefully on an individual basis. We have records on all people over the age of 17 who are being considered for leave; these records cover family relationships, training, experience, contacts with Japan, and other pertinent facts.

## BILL PROHIBITING ALIENS TO FARM PASSED IN STATE

The Engle measure was signed this week by California Governor Earl Warren prohibiting practices whereby alien Japanese, who although ineligible to citizenship and land ownership, were formerly able to farm California land, despite the state's alien land laws, by acting as guardians of their citizen wives and children in whom title was vested, reliable sources from Sacramento disclosed today.

Authored by Senator Clair Engle of Red Bluff and others, this measure puts teeth into the state's alien land law of 1920 by making it a felony for Japanese and other ineligible aliens to enjoy benefits of land owned or leased by their wives or children.

Besides prohibiting guardians from farming or managing lands except for the exclusive benefit of their wards, this measure requires that those managing farms submit annual accounts and reports to the district attorneys.

## B. R. CHAMBERLAIN REPLACES HEATH

Bertis R. Chamberlain, former head of the Industrial Division, now occupies the position left vacant by Walter A. Heath, leave officer, who departed this week for induction into the United States Army.

Arriving at Manzanar in July 1942, he supervised the Industrial Division until June 7th when he was officially transferred to the Relocation office.

Prior to coming to Manzanar, Chamberlain was a Traffic Representative for the Canadian-Pacific Railway Steamship with services around the world, Far East Representative for the Dollar Steamship Line of Kobe, Japan for four years and Production Supervisor for California's Works Progress Administration from 1935 to 1942.

Henry Haberle is now successor to Chamberlain in the Industrial Division.

## NEW RULING ON UNEMPLOYMENT

Director Dillon Myer announced today effective June 1, 1943, unemployment compensation will be paid only to those center residents actively assigned to project work who are unable to report because of illness. This limitation is contained in a new Administrative Instruction which revises the entire unemployment compensation policy.

Mr. Myer said that the change in compensation policy was decided upon at the recent meeting WRA project directors in Washington.

The new instruction provides that hereafter there will be no waiting period between expiration of allowable sick leave and commencement of compensation. Upon certification by the Employment Division, unemployment compensation will be paid from the date the applicant became eligible.

## Procedure To Hire Aliens Simplified

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Urging full use of all loyal aliens, the War, Navy and Justice Departments, and the Maritime Commission today jointly announced shortening and simplification of the procedure whereby holders of "classified" contract may obtain permission for hiring aliens within two weeks or less.

A statement signed by Secretary of War Stimson, Attorney General Biddle, Secretary of Navy Knox, and Maritime Commission Chairman Land also emphasized that government contractors may employ aliens as freely as citizens on all other types of work; and in fact, such contractors are forbidden by Executive Order 8802 from discriminating in hiring because of a worker's race or national origin.

"Even on aeronautical and classified contracts, if a qualified applicant whose services th

# Nisei Volunteers Adopt 'Go For Broke' Slogan

CAMP SHELBY, Miss., June 12—Newly-inducted volunteers from the WRA centers are arriving daily at this nisei combat team training center, in groups and individually, according to Maj. O. W. Russell of the 422nd Infantry.

On reporting to the Combat Team they are immediately assigned to companies and their training starts. The new men already have been inducted and processed at various reception centers before they arrive here. Company commanders here check their equipment, replenish it where necessary, and send them to special recruit units where they are put through a program designed to catch them up with their regular companies who already are well into their basic training.

The Mainland youths appear particularly keen and eager to get on with their training. Early opportunity to enter Officer Candidates School offers a distinct incentive but beyond that is the desire of the soldier to get himself in condition as early as possible and master the rudiments of Combat Team training. Off hours are spent in serious study of military and technical manuals. "Go for Broke" is the regimental motto and the newly-arrived soldiers are quick to subscribe to its spirit. It is a motto that succinctly catches the fight-

ing theme of a means "Shot the All." Proud that teers with a stro name for pa Americans, the r location Center determined to "the war agains Next to getting the newly-arriv most anxious to with volunteers location Centers find time, there scurrying around area to see w "Tom" from a here, and if other there are ful reunions.

The new me land also seem quainted with from Hawaii. here, there is among soldiers land or Hawaii together in the without regar graphical origi Regimental started a seri non-commissio applicants for Courses. Con courses does student will g didate School should prove ous.

# Army Rule of Japs Urged

## Representative Wants Army Control of Relocation Centers

Control of the Japanese relocation centers by the United States Army will be recommended by at least one member of the subcommittee of the Dies committee, which has been holding hearings on the relocation centers for the last week.

Representative Karl Mundt (R.) of South Dakota, said yesterday that the testimony developed at the hearings thus far has convinced him of the need of control and operation of the centers by the Army.

Mundt said he favors Army operation and control, because he believes it essential to have in charge some governmental agency that can establish and maintain effective discipline in the camps, now woefully lacking. He also feels that it will give practical experience to the branch of the service which is being developed to operate occupied cities in the present war.

### Training Men

The Army, Mundt pointed out, is taking men of experience from civil life—engineers, accountants, lawyers, administrators of various types—and putting them through a training school to prepare them to operate cities which the armed forces take on the road to victory. These men are no novices, but giving them actual work to do in the operation and control of the Japanese relocation centers will give them valuable experience, in Mundt's opinion. He said that, of course, he was speaking only as one member of the subcommittee.

Questions and comment by committee members during the hearing, which will be resumed tomorrow in the Federal Building, have carried the plain implication that members are not at all satisfied with the operation of the relocation centers.

### Divided Authority

There is too much divided authority in Washington, they feel. Local administrative heads are not sure what policy prevails, and at Poston there is the added complication that the Bureau of Indian Affairs is vitally interested in the operation of the project from the point of view of development of the land, which ultimately is to be returned to the Indians, they added.

Under present conditions and policies, the Army is represented by the Military Police, quartered outside the project, with strict orders not to enter the project except when called on by the relocation administrator. In only two instances, under present policy, can the M.P.'s be called in by the administrator: in case of riot or in case of a fire that has gotten out of control.

### Army Would Act

In case of trouble, which has developed in two centers, seriously on two occasions, it is argued that the Army would know what to do and do it effectively before the trouble got out of hand.

It would not be the intent, said Mundt, to make detention camps of the relocation centers. What is wanted is effective, forceful administration under which Japanese who want to co-operate with the government will have every opportunity to do so, and those, who, the testimony shows, are intimidating and coercing those desiring to co-operate, will be effectively handled.

# Special Manzanar Christmas Edition



December 25, 1942

## CHRISTMAS 1942

Christmas tidings bring universal hope in the coming of peace, as inevitably it must. Peoples of the world are troubled, this hope and more than ever clearly in their hearts.

Today we turn our thoughts especially to Manzanar. Custom almost dictates this and gently. In doing so we are endowed with one blessing: ability to forget our troubles for the moment, for on this day we shall want to lay aside our misdeeds, frustrations and disappointments. We shall want to turn our thoughts to the children merry within the limited means here. The children surely will understand. By this day will we merit for ourselves the lifting of our pains and achieve some measure of contentment and riment.

On this day we are reminded once again of the significance of the birth of the Prince of Peace. Meditate upon the meaning of this miracle of the getting rancor, by laying aside bitterness in our hearts, and even the hypocrisy of a day set aside to celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace in the hour of unity.

This act and thought are demonstrations of our ability to absorb disappointments and pain, to rise above them to grasp the ultimate significance of the birth of the man who personifies goodwill and peace.

IMPORTANT OTHER SIDE