

U. S. West Coast 'Loaned' to Japs for Training Soldiers Before War

By RAY RICHARDS
WASHINGTON.



TOKICHI NAKAMURA, style fencing champion of Japs, came to America to teach the fancy art of fencing to many Japanese-Americans.

• During those dreamily benevolent years in which Uncle Sam was furnishing Japan with scrap and oil and other raw materials of war, he also was lending his West Coast to Japan as a military training ground.

This, it now develops clearly, was true to such an extent that it almost can be said the United States Army made its first big troop capture of the war when it rounded up 107,000 West Coast Japanese residents and placed them in "relocation centers."

Of the 107,000, about 70,000 were American-born, and of that number at least 10,000 were Japanese military trainees under a specific system of instruction.

The approximate 10,000 trainees share with more innocent fellows the name of Nisei, which means they were born in the United States of Japanese parentage, and are by law citizens of this country. But the 10,000 are not Americans.

Their loyalty goes entirely to Japan, as attested by their membership in Japan's Butoku-kai in the United States, or "North American Imperial Way Society."

The War Relocation Authority never had heard of the Butoku-kai until the name was sprung on them by the Dies House Committee on un-American Activities.

Whereupon, the Authority asked the Japanese in the centers about it, and was assured that the Butoku-kai was nothing more than an innocent fencing society. So the Authority, defending its unrestricted release of Japanese from the centers, gave its word to the public that the Butoku-kai was simply that.

But James Steadman of Los Angeles, West Coast investigator for the Dies Committee, had conducted into the Butoku-kai an

inquiry both intensive and extensive. He reported formally to Washington:

"The War Relocation Authority has accepted the word of the Japanese that the Butoku-kai was merely a sports organization. The facts disprove these protestations.

"Sworn statements were obtained from witnesses qualified to testify to the un-American activity of this Nisei organization. Committee investigators obtained many of the Butoku-kai records, which have been translated by the committee's translators.

"The purpose of the Butoku-kai in the United States was to train the Nisei in the military arts as practiced by the Japanese army.

"There were approximately 10,000 male members of the Butoku-kai, all American citizens, the so-called Nisei group. This is the same group that since the Japanese evacuation from the Western Coastal areas has been proclaiming so loudly its loyalty and devotion to the United States."

Members of Congress have been informed, however, that these secret groups have been operating just to the contrary. In the recent Tule Lake Japanese risings in California, it was discovered that the outbreak was carefully organized by such Jap secret society patriots, and moved with the utmost precision. It was also found that leaders of the Butoku-kai and other secret Nip groups were allowed to operate without molestation in all camps under the War Relocation Authority.

The history of the North American Butoku-kai begins officially with the 1929 visit to the Yokosuka navy base near Tokyo of a bully boy from Korea named Tokichi Nakamura, who had the same lethal skill with the long Japanese blade that New Mexico's "Billy the Kid" had with a six-gun.

Nakamura established Butoku-kai chapters at Honolulu and

Hilo. A report to the Tokyo Butoku-kai shortly before Pearl Harbor said the Hawaiian membership had grown to 7000.

Watsonville, Calif., became the central headquarters of the Butoku-kai for the time being. Says the historian:

"Nakamura-san carried on with really moving energy for 10 years and established five leagues with more than 50 branches throughout California.

"He went farther and pioneered the movement in the two states of Oregon and Washington, where he established the north-western league with five branches."

In 1932, the main school was transferred to Alvarado, in the guise of a fencing academy.

In 1933 Nakamura and his young Japanese-American cohorts began to train for really deadly blows against the United States.

The first national meeting of the Butoku-kai was held at San Francisco in 1934 under the auspices of the San Francisco Japan-America News, or Nichibel Shimibun.

In the same year, Nakamura and the Japanese-Americans began raising American dollars to contribute to the Tokyo War Office project of a sabotage and espionage school, solely for North American Butoku-kai members, in a Tokyo suburb. It was called "The North American College of the Imperial Way," for "service to Japan on return to North America."

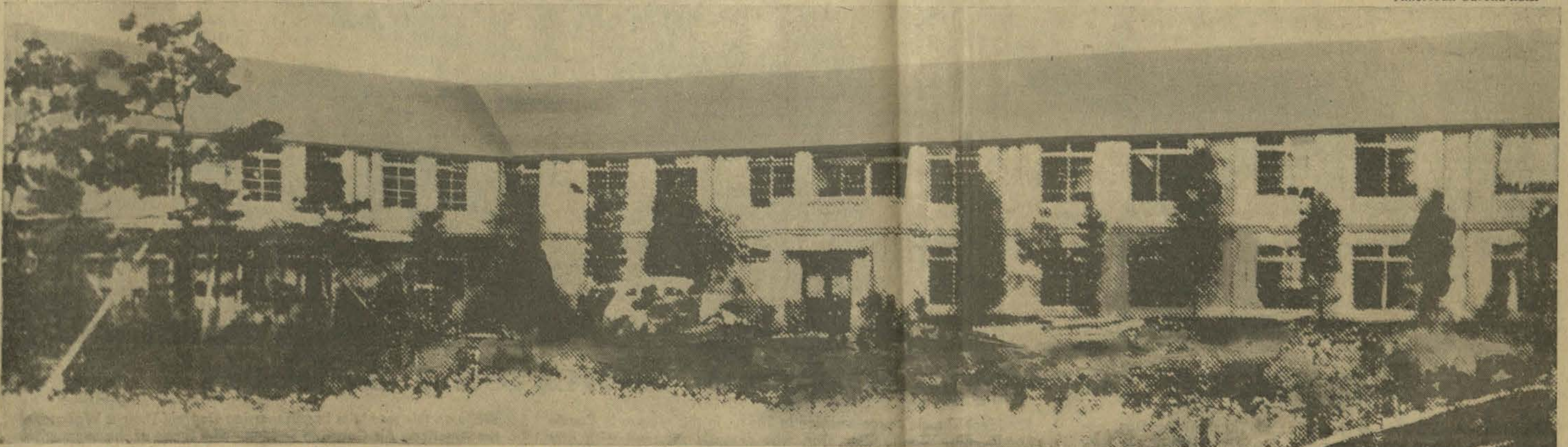
The school was opened, with a large entrance class, on July 10, 1938. Witsuru Toyama, the white-bearded chief of the Black Dragon Society and adviser of the North American Butoku-kai, presided.

Ten admirals were present, including two who had been Premier, Mineo Asumi and Keisuke Okada. Twenty-two generals attended.

So large did chapter meetings become, and so swaggering was the public conduct of the members, that authorities in several places, notably at Long Beach, Calif., attempted investigations.



MITSURU TOYAMA, white bearded chief of the Black Dragon Society, who served as the adviser to the North American Butoku-kais.



JAP ADMIRALS, almost by the dozen, and a couple of ex-premiers and a score of generals showed up at the opening class held at the

North American College of the Imperial Way, pictured above, established for "service to Japan on return to North America."

Japanese in America raised funds to build this edifice located outside of Tokyo. It was the center of Jap espionage activities for U. S.

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11/17/43 LA TIMES

Woman Repatriate Boils Over Tule Lake Coddling

"When I hear about the actions of those Japs at Tule Lake it fairly makes my blood boil—it's fantastic. Why, if an American in a Japanese internment camp even looked arrogantly at a Japanese soldier he would get a bayonet through his stomach."

Almost breathless with indignation, Mrs. Garnett Gardiner, who spent seven months in Shanghai under Jap domination, thus expressed herself in an address before the luncheon meeting of the Los Angeles Co-operative Club in the Biltmore.

Can Hardly Believe It

"I would like to see about 50 of the men who will be returning on the second trip of the exchange liner Gripsholm next Dec. 2 placed in charge of the Tule Lake camp," she continued.

"When I hear of those Japs getting steaks and chocolate bars, which even American citizens can't always get, and being permitted to throw away meat, I can hardly believe my ears. In the Japanese internment camps and prisons where some of my friends were confined, they got a bowl of rice in the morning and another bowl of rice and old fish heads in the evening. This mixture was made up a week in advance and was so nauseating that even though starving, many could not eat it."

Bowed to Tokyo

"Men and women, crowded together into rooms too small to hold their numbers, were forced to sit on the floor all day with their knees drawn up before them, and if their heads bobbed down on their knees, the Japanese guards made them assume the 'Tokyo posture'—on their knees bowing toward Tokyo—for as much as eight hours at a time. There was not room enough for all to sleep on the floor at night so some had to



FANTASTIC—Mrs. Garnett Gardiner can hardly believe Tule Lake dispatches.

stand up and take turns. They got no water at all to drink, only Japanese tea, and went for months without an opportunity to wash.

"America should wake up to what a ruthless enemy Japan is."

Fears Complacency

Mrs. Gardiner, who was repatriated with her husband, Dr. William H. Gardiner, on the first trip of the Gripsholm, warned Americans not to be complacent about the war. She said the Japanese are moving their heavy industries and airplane plants to Manchukuo, Korea, Shanghai and other mainland points, where it will be difficult to bomb them if we wait until Germany has been defeated. She urged immediate action and more aid to the Chinese, who still are fighting our battles, she said.

Francisco office of the War Relocation Authority made public the text of a 4000-word statement by Dillon S. Myer, national director of the W.R.A., in which he termed "exaggerated and even hysterical" reports of disorders at Tule Lake.

Engle's Allegations

Rep. Engle's list of allegations, released at Red Bluff, contain the following charges: "The Japanese undertook to condemn great amounts of pork, and created a hog cemetery in which thousands of pounds of pork was thrown and covered with a bulldozer. It was necessary to butcher 50 per cent more meat than was requisitioned by the camp."

"The War Relocation Authority permitted the Japanese to deliberately abuse and destroy valuable farming equipment. And on at least one occasion the Japanese staged a polo game by using the tractors on the camp instead of horses."

"Numerous Japanese had keys to the warehouses, and the warehouses were frequently broken into and goods stolen."

"The War Relocation Authority

by a wrong direction during a fire.

Constant Turmoil

"The Fire Department was kept in constant turmoil by strikes by the firemen, based upon such demands as midnight meals and gloves and full dress fire-fighting uniforms."

"The War Relocation Authority permitted tons of garden produce to go to waste on the camp farm. Over 500 acres of garden were planted at great expense to the United States with full knowledge that before the harvest was complete the camp would be occupied by disloyal Japanese."

"Lives of the people at the camp were in great peril," he said, referring to climactic demonstrations Nov. 1 and Nov. 4. "No change was made in the policy of the camp administration when disloyal Japanese—sworn enemies of the United States—were brought into Tule Lake."

Engle made the general allegation that the W.R.A. "followed a policy of appeasement and coddling toward the Japanese."

McCoach Denies Explosives Found At Tule Lake Camp

LOS ANGELES, Calif., Nov. 27—Maj. Gen. David McCoach, commanding general, Ninth Service Command—with headquarters at Fort Douglas, Utah, denied that any firearms or explosives were found at the Tulelake WRA center. This statement was in direct contradiction to the stories headlined by the Hearst papers, stated the Los Angeles Daily News.

While the Army was minimizing the Tulelake disturbances, west coast WRA officials challenged Dist. Atty. Fred Howser's legal knowledge of the California Japanese problem. This was in concern with Howser's telegram sent to Dillon Myer, National Director of the WRA in Washington, expressing "public concern over the potential return of Japanese to California" and asking Myer for "clarification" of WRA plans.

Actually, even if Myer had received Howser's telegram, the paper stated, the WRA director could not have answered it because the message, as released by the district attorney, didn't make sense. Japanese were evacuated by the Army, not by the WRA, and consequently the Japanese cannot return to coastal areas until the Army revokes its exclusion order. One government official branded Howser's outburst as "words designed for particular publication and distribution."

EXPOSES OUTDATED

It was pointed out that recent hysterical "exposes," designed to alarm citizens by advising them that interned Japanese were being released, were "at least six months outdated." Daily News referred to a speech made by Charles F. Ernst, director of Topaz Relocation Center, before the Los Angeles social welfare workers in the Hollywood Roosevelt hotel in May. He stated that Japanese at that time were being released from WRA centers to work in midwest and eastern sections of the country. "Those who criticize the relocation program, or who flatly declare 'a Jap's a Jap' are playing Tokyo's game by causing dissension and hysteria and mob hatred, disrupting the war effort, and sowing seeds of hate diametrically opposed to the principles for which we are fighting this war," Mr. Ernst declared.

The Daily News stated that the important thing to remember now is "that the Army, not the WRA, will determine if and when Japanese are to be returned to the west coast. And the Army is not likely to be persuaded by hysterical cliches, emotional distortions or political porpouirri."

LITTIMES

More Tule Lake Jap Sabotage Disclosed

11/16/43

TULE LAKE, Nov. 15. (U.P.)—Rep. Engle (D.) Cal., today asserted in a bill of particulars dispatched to the Dies committee that Japanese internees at the Tule Lake segregation center buried thousands of pounds of fresh pork and used government tractors to play polo.

Engle has requested the Dies committee to conduct a full and formal hearing of disturbances and irregularities at the camp, now under Army control.

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ty gave no authority and no definite instructions to the six white men on the police force, and required them to perform their duties unarmed. The balance of the police force for the entire population was in the hands of the Japanese, most of them of doubtful loyalty even before segregation took place.

"Disloyal Japanese were completely in control of the fire-fighting system, and pursued a deliberate policy of sabotage by wrecking fire-fighting equipment, destroying the fire alarm system and the hydrants, and by driving the fire truck in the wrong direction during a fire.

Constant Turmoil

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STATE PROBE OF JAP CODDLING DEMANDED

Alarm Grows Over Internees Periling Dams

Demand that a sweeping official investigation be made by the State Senate Committee on Japanese Resettlement of "interned" Japanese by the hundreds roaming unguarded near the Parker and Imperial Dams and other vital spots, as exposed by the Examiner, was made yesterday by Superior Judge Elmer Heald of Imperial County.

As indignation swept over every community of the Southland and high public officials protested in alarm, Judge Heald, former president of the California District Attorneys' Association, declared the California Senate body should join with a similar agency from Arizona in conducting a thoroughgoing inquiry into the conditions uncovered by this newspaper.

URGES DRASTIC ACTION

"The Senate committee, which has done such a good job of investigating at Tule Lake, should make an immediate official investigation of the terrible situation brought to light along the California-Arizona border by the Examiner," said Judge Heald, who had much to do with the deportation of the Japanese from the Imperial Valley.

"Something drastic should be done without delay. I am utterly amazed at the findings—that these supposedly interned Japanese, whom the War Relocation Authority is allegedly watching over so carefully at the Poston relocation center, actually are running about at will along the banks of the Colorado River, near the Parker and Imperial Dams.

NO PROOF OF LOYALTY

"These dams, after all, are supplying us with power, irrigation and water and feeding into many military establishments.

"Another point that shouldn't be overlooked is the proximity of these unguarded Japanese, whose loyalty we have no proof of, to the point at which a trestle was mysteriously destroyed by fire more than a year ago, wrecking a troop train. Don't forget that fire still is unsolved."

Another indignant official, who expressed himself as shocked by the disclosures in the Examiner, was W. A. McFadden, assessor-collector of the Imperial Irrigation District, prominent rancher.

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wholesale release of supplies—virtually on their own terms—grew throughout the Owens Valley and its adjoining desert country.

At Mojave, 115 miles south and nearest railroad to Manzanar, the Kern County Sheriff's office substation reported no Japs were being brought there by trains to the east.

"It would be dynamite to dig those Japs through here they wouldn't dare," the duty sheriff in charge of the office said.

He pointed to the town's few sets, all crowded to overflow with marines from a nearby base. Many of them wore the old Division shoulder patch of Italian veterans.

"I don't have to tell you what could happen if these Japs no already have said 'No' when they were asked if they were loyal to the United States, popped up on the streets of Mojave," the officer said.

Meanwhile, it was learned that many of the Japs who now admit they are disloyal to the United States were considered loyal Americans when they entered the relocation centers.

But the long association with Judo boys and strong-arm supporters of Emperor Hirohito, in the months since the Pacific Coast evacuation, has indoctrinated them with the fanatical, treacherous war spirit of Japan.

He referred to any group of "usual" Japs.

"Those who twice refused to signify allegiance or loyalty to this country were termed 'doubtful,'" the former Manzanar executive continued.

"One of the WRA workers at the camp naively told me, in reference to a Jap in the disloyal category, 'Even though he says he's disloyal, he doesn't really understand what he means.'"

OTHER INCIDENTS

Project Director Ralph P. Merritt, when confronted with a former WRA official's quotation of Best, said he didn't recall hearing Best make that statement.

The one-time WRA executive who said he bore no grudge against the camp with high commendations, but believed the public was entitled to the facts—shed light on other incidents which have taken place in the relocation center hidden back in the desert Owens Valley. He said WRA employees were present at a meeting of Manzanar department heads and key officials to stress the reward awaiting Japs who would change their answer to the loyalty question from "No" to "Yes."

Merritt denied any individual persuasion was used in the camp. He admitted, however, that mass persuasion via WRA literature, distributed from the Washington office of the agency, was distributed to the internees. A large office, in fact, is devoted entirely to that particular task.

SECURITY LAX

The former WRA official complained that discipline was lacking and the internal security force (camp police) was lax in dealing with Jap offenders.

"After the Pearl Harbor Day riot," he said, "the few pupils who dared attend school, together with 11 white school teachers, were locked in their classrooms by roving mobs of young Japs. In many instances it was necessary to saw locks off the doors before they could be released."

"On another occasion, a band of surly young Japs decided to leave the school's study hall during the class period. When the teacher—a Mrs. McConnell—remonstrated, they pushed her through the door and all the way down stairs. Nothing was done about it."

Although Merritt denied any laxity in discipline at Manzanar, a large number of leading merchants and business men at near-by Lone Pine declared they were eager for the WRA to be replaced by the Army.

OTHERS COMPLAIN

One business man, identified by Owens Valley leaders as the unofficial spokesman for Lone Pine's business life, declared:

"I am not stretching things a bit when I tell you 99 per cent of the merchants of Lone Pine are in favor of placing the Army in charge of Manzanar and the abolition of the WRA. We live right next door to the camp and we know what goes on."

What! No Caviar?



Japanese were permitted to use precious gasoline while citizens are being warned daily to conserve the fuel and tires.

Another point raised was that through their unhampered wanderings the Japanese have unequalled opportunity to observe and note Army maneuvers in the desert regions and to plot sabotage.

Latvians for Nazi Army

STOCKHOLM, Nov. 18.—(AP)—Apparently pressed for reserves, German authorities in occupied Estonia and Latvia have called up 10 classes of reservists for service in the German army, Swedish press dispatches from Berlin said today.

Witness tells Tule Lake Jap threats

WASHINGTON, Nov. 29.—(U.P.)—Japanese-American internees at the Tule Lake, Calif., segregation center were threatened by their leaders with death unless they joined the demonstration on Nov. 1 which led to a riot, the former senior medical officer at the center said today.

Dr. John T. Mason told a Dies subcommittee that a Japanese-American girl in the center's hospital had told him that between 6000 and 10,000 internees had been warned to "join the crowd or die."

Mason charged earlier that war relocation authority director Dillon S. Myer made no immediate effort to investigate the disturbance during which Dr. Reece Petticord, the chief physician, had been "badly beaten," and that Myer cautioned

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Threat of Tule Japs related

(Continued from Page 1)

staff doctors to "be careful because this might cause an international incident."

Describing the demonstration which occurred on Nov. 1 and which has now led to demands for permanent army control of the center for disloyal Japanese-Americans, Mason said:

"They packed in tight around the building, they formed tight semicircles around the doors, they flattened their noses against the windows; two of them with knives chiseled at the window sashes.

"We all felt at the mercy of these people.

"During the four and a half to five hours on Nov. 1 that most of the white personnel of the camp were virtually held prisoners in the building, a 17 man delegation of Japanese were presenting demands on Myer and camp director Ray Best, demands which were halted only by news of continuing attacks on the camp medical staff."

A transcript of that meeting, read to the Dies committee's counsel, quoted Best, immediately after receiving a phone call from the hospital, as stating: "They have beaten up Dr. Petticord. That will have to be stopped right away."

George Kuratomi, spokesman for the internees, sent other internees from the meeting to stop the disturbance but West was informed soon that violence was continuing.

Myer suggested that the discussion stop until the demonstration was quelled.

"We are sorry about the interruption," Kuratomi replied, but he went on with his demands, which he prefaced with the remark:

"We don't get anywhere with complaints. Consequently we are turning them into demands."

Chief among the internees' demands was removal of American physicians from the camp. Mason said he believed the Japanese-Americans were mad because Petticord would not tolerate malingering and waste.

One Japanese-American doctor, he said, operated with "flowery ceremony" and on one occasion demanded that a patient be X-rayed for a small cut on the finger.

Mason, who was present when Jap internees surrounded the camp's hospital and administration building and beat up the chief physician, told a Dies subcommittee that the internees, disloyal Japanese-Americans, "were inviting some kind of disturbance."

"Had the army been called immediately," he said, "there would have been some sacrifice on both sides."

Mason admitted, however, that he thought army troops should have been called in later that day instead of waiting until a guard was attacked and injured in a second disturbance four days later.

He said that war relocation authority director Dillon S. Myer, who was at Tule Lake on Nov. 1 in conference with a committee of Japs presenting demands to camp director Ray R. Best, made no effort to investigate the disturbance at the hospital although he had been told that Dr. Reece Petticord, the chief physician, had been "badly beaten."

Dr. Petticord, Mason said, was dragged from the camp hospital by a group of Japs and thrown to the ground where he was "stepped on and kicked." He said Petticord suffered a black eye and complained of pains in the chest, abdomen, arms and legs.

The Nov. 1 incident ended about 4:45 p. m., he said, and Myer told staff physicians to "be careful because this might cause an international incident." He quoted Myer as saying:

"You see Dr. Petticord is not hurt. This doesn't amount to anything."

Mason was angered by Myer's remark. He told the committee: "I said, 'here's my chief lying here. Don't you remember Dec. 7, 1941? That was an international incident, and this is war.'" Myer, he said, did not reply.

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Fresh Troops Reinforce Guard at Tule Lake

TULE LAKE, Nov. 26. (U.P.)—Army troops guarding the Tule Lake Japanese relocation center have been reinforced, it was reported today.

Residents here said they knew a large number of additional troops had been brought in but had not heard of any current outbreak at the center, which is populated by approximately 15,000 Japanese classified as disloyal to the United States.

Agency Sells Crops

Residents also asserted that the War Relocation Authority, which still directs the administration of the camp under the protection of the Army, had disposed of approximately 500 acres of crops planted by internees at "extremely low" prices.

Local ranchers said that one of their number, Clifford Shuck, had purchased about 100 acres of onions from the W.R.A. "at such a low rate that he was able to offer farm hands 75 cents a sack, three times the regular wage, for topping them."

Company Buys Barley

Henzel Bros., a large grain company, reportedly purchased more than 100 acres of barley from the agency.

One rancher said a large part of the center's potato crop might rot because the W.R.A. had not found enough hands to harvest it.

Troops marched into the center three weeks ago, climaxing a series of outbreaks which started when the internees refused to harvest the crops.

Special Session Asked on Japanese Question

SACRAMENTO, Nov. 26. (U.P.)—Gov. Warren's office today made public a letter from Senator Randolph Collier of Yreka, in which Collier asked the Governor to call a special session of the Legislature to deal with Japanese residents in California.

Collier informed the Governor he had in mind both the continued operation of war relocation centers in the State and the return of the Japanese to their former homes after the war.

The Yreka legislator inferred in his letter that the Legislature would not consider any proposed State law but would merely adopt a formal resolution asking Federal action.

He wrote the Governor in part:

"I think if the Legislature would definitely go on record as opposing their (Japanese) presence in California now and after the war by resolutions, that people in the Eastern States would more fully realize that we do not want Japanese in California. It might also help the movement to change our Federal Constitution to deny persons of Japanese ancestry American citizenship."

The Tule Lake Japs Decide to Eat When Hungry

The "no work" strike of the Tule Lake Japs seems to have evaporated rather quickly under Army handling, as might have been expected, though it was given up as an unsolvable problem by the wishy-washy War Relocation Authority. The Japs declined to unload food or prepare it in the camp kitchens; they also declined to unload coal for the camp heating system. Whereupon the Army drove its trucks out of the camp with the coal and the food and left the strikers to shiver and hunger, as they themselves had chosen. Later, the Japs "reconsidered."

With considerable loss of face, but with

warmer bodies and fuller stomachs, the strikers are now operating the kitchen and the heaters and the Army has the upper hand of this particular dispute.

Had the W.R.A. had the guts and the sense to act similarly at the first sign of trouble there would have been no trouble. The Army at once showed the Japs it would stand for no monkey business and the foolishness stopped. Whatever further steps the Army has to take, it will take, without malice but without squeamishness; and Tule Lake will cease to be a problem.

Dillon S. Myer, under whom it became a problem, should profit by the example.

What! No Caviar?

