

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
War Relocation Authority
Washington

Office of the Director

Confidential

May 20 1944

Mr. Ray Best
Project Director
Tule Lake Center
Newell, California

Dear Mr. Best:

A copy of the report on Project Case A-306 from the Internal Security Division at Tule Lake, which deals with the infraction of project regulations by Bob Sakuo Nakahama, has just been brought to my attention. This report indicates that Nakahama was apprehended by one of the M. P.'s while near the stockade and talking to one of the prisoners whose name is unknown.

Nakahama was returned to the colony but in the meantime a letter was written to the block manager in the 8200 block reporting the incident and indicating that five fathers who were supposed to have been released to be with their sons on Boys' Day were not being released for another ten days because of Nakahama's action, with the request that the letter be read before the whole block at mess time.

In the first place, no one on the police force should take it upon himself to act as judge. His responsibility is that of an arresting officer, making investigations, providing information to those higher in authority, serving as witness, and other functions as set forth in the manual relating to internal security responsibilities. In the second place, holding the five fathers for an additional ten days in the stockade because of the action of this particular boy is not the kind of justice that we in WRA believe in. Punishing other people for the acts of some one individual is very bad disciplinary practice.

I would like you to investigate this case further, see who is responsible for taking this action, and find out whether such practice is being followed generally. I hope you will make it clear to members of your staff that the Project Director is the only one who has authority to serve as judge unless he delegates this specific authority to someone else.

Sincerely

(Signed) D. S. MYER

Director

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