



The New Republic: The Nisei Come Home

by WALLACE STEGNER

On May 13 Secretary Ickes let it be known a "host" at the hoodlums and terrorists who by shooting, bombing, and arson, were attempting to stop Japanese Americans from returning to the West Coast states. When Mr. Ickes issued his statement, twenty-four separate acts had taken place. With no one convicted of conspiracy, and no one indicted, the chief defendant charged with dynamiting the barn of Shunio Dot in Auburn, California, ended in acquittal. The defense attorney's plea: "This is a white man country," meant that the atmosphere came up.

Yet it would be a mistake to assume that that attitude of hatred and prejudice exists throughout California, or even that it exists in a majority of Californians. In "any" one place, Mr. Ickes knew, where he was placed, he could find people who knew that the purpose of the acts of terror was to establish an economic beach-head on the property of the evacuees they vainly hoped would sell out or run out."

Other incidents have occurred since Mr. Ickes' denunciation. All like the original twenty-five, have been in agriculture sections, except, before the evacuation in 1942, Japanese Americans either owned or operated sizable amounts of land. The clamor of protest rose most loudly from those same sections and from business areas and many agricultural areas to which Nisei have returned without the overt acts which occurred in Merced, Fresno, Auburn, Livingston and other towns there is generally out in the counties a strong undercurrent of rumor and talk.

It is probably true why some rumors are started in a newspaper column, but that many former Japanese Americans are now very much involved in the community. They are now in business, in every kind of business, engaged between themselves and others in every opportunity to get their own likeness in fact.

But if we look at the "people of California" as a whole, we will see that immediate responsibility lies with the people of California, who because they come from all over the country, are a fair cross-section of the people of America. They are only the common American citizens. They are guilty,

had been born in Santa Barbara and was now returning after three years to his old haunts, chafed at the bit. "When can I go home up my room?" he asked.

The principal told him the principal had sent him a message. He said: "Taki, do you see what the first reaction was? They saw Akashi open the door and look in, and after a minute they heard the yell of a dozen boys from inside." Oh, Akashi! he thought. "I'm going to hammer him, hammer him, Akashi on the back, and Taki quit worrying about the reception of his children."

Since January, Akashi has been captain of his school, soccer and baseball. His brother, Taki Juji, is president of his class, and Taki is in the ninth grade, with a 95 average. Not for a single moment has he had to feel that he was an outcast or a stranger or a "Jap." Ever since the first day, boys have come by their house in the morning to go to school with him, and with Taki and Akashi.

And what of the parents? For days Taki walked the streets of Santa Barbara buying things, shopping, getting haircuts, going to movies, asking for cigarettes, trying every sort of shop and store he could find. And when he would be a reaction against him. Where he was known, he was welcomed warmly. Where he was not known, he was treated with politeness indifference like any other customer. In all the time he has been here, not even a man has called him a "Jap." That was a half-drunk man outside a tavern who asked him if he was one of those Japs come back from the concentration centers. Taki said he supposed he was, and the man then went called a Jap, and the two weren't quite concentration centers. The man wanted to buy him a drink, and that was the end of that.

People called. Several ministers, many old customers and friends, and the first few weeks a half-dozen more. They said and told him that, if he needed money to get started, they would be glad to loan a loan. Nisei are scrapping threatening letters on their walls or calling them "niggers." And nobody throws stones through his windows, nobody looks at him murderously, though Santa Barbara is full of returned veterans fresh from two and Okinawa.

Consider, as the sort of thing that happens more often than the violence, the return of Taki Akashi to his home town of Santa Barbara.

He came as a guinea pig, deliberately wanting to test public opinion so that he could inform those who waited fearfully in the Rivers Relocation Center. But he came a little cautiously, too, because he was afraid of what might happen to his wife, especially to his children. Thrown directly into school among Caucasian children, they might be subjected to hazing or insult. To try to forestall that, Taki went to school with them and remained with them until principal, got him promise of watchfulness and care. During the conversation Akashi, who

had been born in Santa Barbara and was now returning after three years to his old haunts, chafed at the bit. "When can I go home up my room?" he asked.

They do not restrain themselves simply because Taki is a decent man, a son of Santa Barbara who has many personal friends in town. They fall to get excited about Taki's presence because nobody stirs them up. Santa Barbara is not a place of great architectural beauty; there is no question of lands involved. And the local paper is consistently fair in its editorials and its news. Taki Akashi is not a damned Jap who has come back breaking back, but a decent young man nobody out of Santa Barbara's 30,000 people has so much as made a pass at him.

Out in the countrysides the campaign against returning Nisei goes on, and the prejudice machines generalize about that. But there is no organized self-interest that can be invoked, opinion is far from unanimous. There is a large area of the public that is too well informed to be taken in by the anti-Japanese propaganda. Those who are willing to go to California are discharged, wounded, and decorated veterans of Africa, Sicily, Italy, France and Germany. It is impossible to create really widespread feeling against them, and at least one man, Taki, has been recruited recently that the saddest thing that ever happened was the decision to enlist Nisei for combat service. Their heroism has been maliciously used to generate good will.

About once a week a new Japanese Exclusion League, Hood River Chapter, Club, Mountain Hood Chapter, and the like, or California Preservation League, or California Federation of Women, got together to denounce the Nisei for combat service. Their heraldism has been maliciously used to generate good will.

A truck driven by Roy Tanshi, 47, of 2501 Main, Novato St., hit the rear of a police car last Wednesday. The truck, loaded with two and a half tons of lumber struck the back of the police car slightly injuring two patrolmen. Tanshi said his brakes didn't hold.

Hence the terror. Hence the attempt to make things look so blood and so frightening that returning will be scared away, and the 2,000 who have already come will move out again. The Jap is a desperation weapon, and the people who are entrenched and situated as the shootings and burnings and dynamiting have been, lack the real violence of their assumed convictions. Nobody has actually been hurt, and it seems fairly clear that as long as the WRA is in charge of the centers, the Nisei will continue to return. They will be able to do so because there is really no inclination among the mass of the people of California to stop them.

What's Doing in the Churches

Buddhist Church

1942 Market Street

Young People's Meeting
Sunday, July 15 - 8:00 P.M.

Rev. Tsunoda will deliver the sermon.

BAPTIST CHURCH OF THE OPEN DOOR

Denver's Interacial Church invites you to attend their Sunday Morning Service at 10:00 A.M. Rev. W. Randall Skiffen, Jr. will deliver the sermon. The church is located at 29th and Curtis Sts.

Church Bulletin

California Street Community Church
2515 California Street

Morning Worship Service—

11:15 A.M.—Sunday July 15

Sermon by Rev. Mr. Bernard Olsen.

Denver Fellowship — 5:00 P.M.

Oouting to Mount Falcon.

Speaker will be T/S Selt Horchner from Camp Snelling.

Nisei-Driven Truck Collides with Police Car

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Families of Nisei Vets & Servicemen Now Eligible for FPRA

WASHINGTON. — Parents, wives and children of Nisei veterans are now eligible to occupy certain public war housing projects on the same basis as in-migrant war workers.

This provision, applying to the distressed families of all service men and veterans, went into effect recently when President Truman signed the bill into law.

Otis Peterson, Acting Relocation Division Chief, emphasized that the new locality for the resettlement of displaced families in the San Joaquin Valley is generally now with the labor situation in a flexible state.

"This makes it more important than ever for eligible families to relocate and file a claim for resettlement at the earliest possible date to take advantage of vacancies that occur as a result of turnover," he declared.

The amendment to the Lanham Act permits distressed families to settle in areas where there is no public war housing projects which are not specifically designated for the exclusive use of war workers for certain industries or installations, or for military personnel of the Army or Navy. FPRA stated that the new locality includes mothers and fathers, as well as wives and children. There is no citizenship requirement for Federal war housing projects.

Eligibility extends to honorably discharged veterans unable to find a residence because of the shortage. It also includes the families of deceased service men and veterans.

Centerites Receive Ration Books

WASHINGTON. — Ration books have been issued at the center beginning July 16, 1945, all evacuees leaving on both short term passes and terminal departures.

The new procedure is intended to eliminate difficulties some evacuees have experienced in their new localities, particularly relatives who have converted from short term to terminal leave.

If for any reason a ration book is not issued at the center, the District Relocation Officer in the new locality will ask the local Office of Price Administration to honor and accept the resettler's honest claim. He may write or wire to his former center of residence. The project will advise the local ration board whether a ration book has been issued previously, and if not, will request that one be issued.

The Washington office of OPA is in touch with local boards in this new procedure.

When evacuees on short term passes return to the center without converting to terminal leave, the ration books issued to them upon their departure will be returned and tailored in accordance with the length of time they remain at the project.

Theft Reported

Theft of mechanic's tools valued at \$250, from 2501 Blake St., was reported by Fred Matsuda of 2020 Ogden St.

I WANT ADS

WANTED — Experienced girl for general housework. Live in. Must be reliable, good worker. Also, day worker for washing and ironing. Call Mrs. Williams, East 3785, between 9 & 12.

WANTED — Gift for general housework. Must be reliable. \$50 a month. 2 children, 6 & 8 in the family. Call MAIN 7544.

FOR SALE — Used plane, and an almost new seacordian. 1223 - 21st St.

WANTED — Man for light factory work. Apply 2708 Blake St.

WANTED — Women to make artificial wreaths. Good earnings; steady work. Apply 2702 Arapahoe St.

WANTED — Women egg cannisters. Arapahoe Produce Co. 1637 Market St.

WANTED — Men for general work in egg & poultry house. Arapahoe Produce Co., 1637 Market St.

WANTED — Immediately! 30 more men for lunging. Men with two weeks' experience already making from \$10 to \$12 per day. Work is guaranteed for three months, guaranteed on piece work basis for first two weeks. Excellent food. If you want to make this is the only deal. See, write or phone Jim, Coordinated Labor Resources, 1924 Larimer, Keyston 3771.

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Expert floral designers from Los Angeles

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1814 Larimer St.

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Phone MA 5069

Continental Dishes

Ichijo Cafe

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Phone Food 34

Reasonable Prices with

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Holyoke

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Phone Clerry 2757

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Keystone 5412

グラナダ通信

足などは氣にも留めず、海
外公園に直進を楽しむ者
が多き。此の季たは子供
の年會や女子基督教青年會

N.B.C. 肥料の驚き

お料理の秘訣は材料の選擇にあり

青少年のための
演劇所開設が、愈々バーンハーフ女史
の手仕事にて開演した。各個人の見意と熟めて学習
が、其の後には年會や女子基督教青年會や女子基督教青年會
が、其の事にて居るが、今

の如きは、其の年會や女子基督教

青年會や女子基督教青年會
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愈々出現！

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