

MINIDOKA WAR RELOCATION PROJECT

Hunt, Idaho

TO: E. R. Fryer, Regional Director

ATTENTION: Edwin Bates, Chief  
Regional Information Division

SUBJECT: Minidoka Report No. 10--Repatriation

A spot survey to sample the opinion of evacuees on those applying for repatriation was made by Robert Hosokawa, assistant to the reports officer. Twenty-seven evacuees ranging from grade school pupils to elderly Issei were questioned. A high school graduate, a girl, said: "It would be a good thing for all of us who are loyal to America if those who want to return would say so. The people who choose Japan belong there. Let's get them there as soon as possible."

Said a 16-year old girl: "I don't want to go, but if my parents went, I guess I would have to go with them even if I didn't want to." (She explained that her friends before evacuation principally were Japanese.)

Said a 14-year old girl: "I wouldn't go even if my parents went. I would find some way to get along. Anyhow, I know my folks wouldn't go." (She said her friends before evacuation principally were Caucasians.)

A middle-aged cook who had a restaurant in Seattle and who has been in the United States about 35 years said: "Some Issei might want to go. I will stay here."

A woman about 45 years old, former operator of a public market stand, said: "If I didn't choose to go back during peace times, why would I go back during war times?"

An elderly Issei woman who has a married daughter in Japan and a son in the United States Army found the question hard to answer because it involved two people to whom she was deeply attached. She said simply: "I pray for peace and I write my son to be a good soldier."

A young man who spent most of his childhood and high school years in Japan and who had applied for repatriation said: "Being a Kibbei, I don't think I could make a living here after the war."

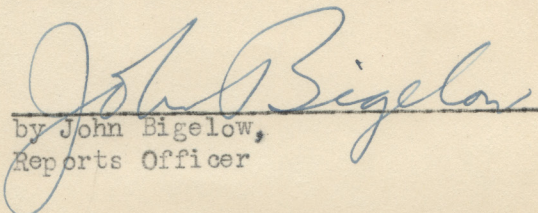
A young Nissei married couple said: "We're Americans."

A Nissei college student said: "Probably the percentage of Issei seeking repatriation would be very small. The fact that they are refusing repatriation opportunities even while they are taken from their normal lives and placed in confinement shows how deeply their roots are sunk in America."

Children questioned were unanimous in their loyalty to United States, typical answers being: "We're fighting Japan and Hitler"; "Japan's the enemy."

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Harry L. Stafford,  
Project Director

  
by John Bigelow,  
Reports Officer