

SUMMARY

Investigation of WRA by Senate Military subcommittee continued as item of chief press interest. Editorial opinion received so far is divided on question of military or civilian control of camps. A movement is under way in California to utilize idle evacuee-owned agricultural equipment. Cancellation of two elementary school contracts at Granada has not stopped critical Colorado press interest in school situation. Governors Vivian of Colorado and Sharpe of South Dakota publically indicated tentative approval of use of evacuee farm labor during coming crop year.

SENATE INVESTIGATION --

News Stories: Two more clippings announcing original subcommittee appointment were received. The UP dispatch, digested last week, appeared in the Salem Journal. 1/15/43. Lee Carson, writing for the International News Service, described the Manzanar incident as typical of "unruly" conditions at all centers and intimated that that incident was motive force behind Senatorial investigation. He stated, however, that the Army has not "displayed any enthusiasm for the proposal of military control." San Francisco Examiner 1/16/43

January 20 hearings prompted only two news stories, both hostile. The first described camp maintenance by WRA as "expensive" and quoted Senator Chandler as saying that if the Army refused to resume control, demand will be made for the establishment of special camps "for the hundreds of Japanese known to be dangerously subversive in nature, yet who are permitted to mingle freely with all the inmates of the camps, perhaps brewing fatal trouble." Baltimore News and Post, 1/23/43. Signed article by Ray Richards.

Sharpest criticism of WRA at the hearings was provoked by selection of Manzanar as a relocation site because of its location near a vital water and power system and committee members were not convinced that camp inhabitants are being rationed according to the Los Angeles Times. 1/23/43. Signed article by Warren Frances.

Editorial Comment: Five editorials appeared, two in favor of military control, two against, and one undecided. Those two which advocated war Department supervision argued for more rigorous treatment of evacuees, in retaliation for treatment allegedly received by United States nationals in Japan and Germany. Butte Montana Standard. 1/19/43 Terre Haute Star. 1/20/43

The St. Louis Globe-Democrat (1/19/43) favored civilian control because the Army is "too busy winning the war to take time out to supervise..."; declared that the Senate Committee "should remember that two-thirds of evacuees are American citizens taken away from their homes and employment in most cases for no other reason than that they, or their parents, were born in Japan"; and recommended "humane" treatment of evacuees.

The Lamar Daily News (1/16/43), in favoring WRA management, stated: "Those in charge (of WRA) are trying to handle a difficult job the best they know how and are entitled to support of all patriotic citizens until they forfeit that support by evident inability to do the job." argued that the camp has brought thousands of dollars to Colorado and a hope that the Arkansas Valley would be developed agriculturally; but declared: "The red-tape involved in the dissemination of information about the centers is one of the things which deserves the greatest criticism." 1/16/43

Whether camps should be under army or civilian control is debatable, and a senate investigation to find out "is clearly in order," according to the Lewiston Tribune (1/17/43), but "retaliatory punishment should not be imposed on those of Japanese origin." Lewiston Tribune. 1/18/43

LEGISLATIVE --

Three pending legislature measures affecting evacuees were news sources last week. The Arkansas property restriction bill passed the State Senate on January 21 by a 30-1 vote; a bill to prevent evacuees at Heart Mountain from voting was introduced; and a California columnist commented on pending restrictive legislation in that state.

Newspaper treatment of the Arkansas measure was neutral, but Senate debate on bill, as reported, showed violent opposition to Japanese. Senator Ragadake, author of bill, said "it was copied from an Arkansas law declared unconstitutional by the State Supreme Court in 1924, but he thought the constitution could be amended before his measure would be challenged in cert." Baltimore Evening Sun. 1/21/43. AP. Senator L. L. Mitchell contended that he hated "every damned one of them (the Japanese)." Senator Willis B. Smith-- lone dissenter--voted against bill on grounds that it violated state constitution and would penalize Chinese residents. Little Rock Gazette 1/21/43. Only note of opposition appearing in press was a letter to the Arkansas Gazette from W. Maxfield Garrett of Prescott, Arkansas, who said that any discrimination against "the dark races" is "playing into the hands of Japanese militarists."

Senator George Burke of Powell, Wyoming, is author of bill to prevent Japanese-Americans relocated in Wyoming from voting after being in the state a year. According to the Cody Enterprise (1/20/43) "press reports from Cheyenne said that this bill was frankly aimed at the members of the Heart Mountain Relocation Center."

California State Representative Scoop Thurman wrote that because of desire to limit legislation in this session to essential war measures, he has introduced only two bills--one amending the California Alien Land Laws "to tighten up the ownership by Japanese" and the other a joint resolution to Congress asking that "adequate legislation be passed by that body prohibiting Japanese--both foreign and native born--from owning or operating agricultural lands and barring them from citizenship." Inyo Independent. 1/15/43. Column by Scoop Thurman, "With Your Assemblyman."

EVACUEE PROPERTY --

Survey by California State Senate Interim Committee on Economic Planning disclosed 754 pieces of idle evacuee-owned equipment in southern part of state. Committee report is extremely critical of fact that no agency has authority to seize unutilized equipment and predicts agricultural shortages in California because of lack of farm machinery. "Certainly the situation calls for prompt and vigorous action."

"Attorney General Kenny seeks conference with WRA officials shortly to get machinery into production." Sacramento Bee 1/16/43. AP

Attorney General Kenny has "renewed efforts to locate a thawing authority" to release unused equipment. San Francisco Chronicle. 1/31/43

California Fig Institute went on record at annual convention favoring immediate release of farm equipment owned by evacuated Japanese. Los Angeles Times. 1/23/43

John M. Gault, chairman of war advisory committee of Los Angeles County Council, American Legion, and Assistant U. S. District Attorney, asked Secretary of Agriculture Wickard to seize farm machinery left behind by evacuated Japanese. Los Angeles Times. 1/28/43

MESS OPERATIONS --

The AP story answering false rumors about food mishandling, which was reported last week, appeared in two more papers: Seattle Post Intelligencer and New Haven Register. 1/16/43

the Los Angeles Times (1/23/43) reported a statement by Ralph Merritt, director at Manzanar, that residents get no eggs, no butter, less sugar than civilian quota, and one cup of coffee per day. Meat is used sparingly, and Manzanar purchases are not charged against California civilian quotas.

Food purchases for Alien Internment Camp at Kenedy, Texas, drew two editorials, which showed slightly different attitudes. The Houston Post (1/23/43) recommended that the United States feed internees well and provide warm, comfortable quarters, but wondered if "matter of courtesy" were not being carried too far by this government. The San Antonio Express (1/19/43)

stated that "even the most tolerant citizens doubtless will be shocked at the exceptionally high quality, great variety and quantities of foodstuff... purchased for the camp in "sharp contrast to reliable reports on the starvation diet afforded American war prisoners and civilian internees in Japan and Germany." 1/19/43/

PUBLIC ATTITUDES--

Attorney General Biddle's annual report to congress indicated doubt about need for removing all Japanese from the West Coast and advocated release of the bulk of Axis citizens in this country. Los Angeles Times. 1/22/43

If California legislation committee on un-American activities is continued it will probably conduct an investigation of California's relocation centers, according to State Senator Jack Tenny. San Francisco Examiner. 1/26/43

Committee for defense of Gordon Hirabayashi University of Washington student who refused to be evacuated, is being organized in Seattle. Policy to evacuate Japanese came about "largely because of propaganda not based on facts", according to statement of Mrs. Mary Farquharson, for State Senator and Seattle representative of the Civil Liberties Union, before the Plymouth Congregational Church. Seattle Times. 1/18/43

Newspaper "rule of thumb" survey of the man in the street and representative business man showed practically 95 per cent in favor of deportation of all Japanese after the war if that solution is possible. This based on theory that Pearl Harbor attack has shown them treacherous as a race. Los Angeles Times. 1/20/43 Column by Chapin Hall, "What Goes On?"

Machinations of Japanese spies in /San Francisco area described in flamboyant article in "The American Weekly." "All concerned in this incident and nearly 1,000 others are safe in internment camps." San Francisco Examiner 1/17/43.

Dermott and Lake Village, Arkansas, posts of American Legion passed resolutions against land ownership by evacuees and asked for written assurances that evacuees are not using government property for their own interest. Little Rock Gazette. 1/24/43.

Two letters to the editor, commenting on Gallup Poll, expressed amazement that so many voted for the return of the Japanese. One signed by a member of the Orange County Vegetable Gardens for Victory and the other by Ella S. White of Santa Monica. Los Angeles Times 1/18/43.

Principal effect of evacuation from around Seattle has been depreciation in size and quality of truck crops, formerly raised by Japanese. San Francisco News. 1/19/43

City Council of Bishop, California, adopted resolution asking that War Department take over administration of Manzanar. Replying to resolution, John McCloy, Assistant Secretary of War, asked for "tolerance and cooperation of the community toward those who are responsible for the administration of what is at best a difficult job", as well as consideration for the plight of the evacuees themselves. Invo Independent. 1/15/43

"Problem of the Japanese in Utah" to be discussed in weekly forum over station KLO on January 21. Charles E. Ernst, project director at Central Utah, will participate, Ogden Standard Examiner. 1/21/43

Background of Manzanar incident described to Lone Pine Lions Club by Roberty Brown, acting assistant project director. Invo Independent. 1/15/43

Article in unnamed American Legion publication recommends consistent treatment of Nisei youth--they should either be subject to the draft or they should not be allowed to go to college with any more freedom from duty than other American boys. Editorial approving this suggests introduction of bill in Congress to require every person born of foreign parents to declare a choice of citizenship upon reaching the age of military service. Jersey City Journal. 1/21/43

HEALTH --

Protesting for the second time against admission of evacuees to state-owned mental asylums, Lewis Williams, former State Director of Idaho Charitable Institutions, suggest action by legislature as solution. Boise Statesman. 1/21/43

INDIVIDUAL EXCLUSION --

Wartime Civil Control Administration names 11 Californians in exclusion orders, including Kurt W. Zimmer, Los Angeles printer, and Frederick W. Bergmann, "wealthy Long Beach scientist." Los Angeles Examiner. 1/19/43

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES --

Concert to be given by Minidoka residents on January 28 at Jerome, Idaho, high school described as an "outstanding musical opportunity that could not be equaled outside the large metropolitan cities." Musical background of participants featured. Jerome News. 1/21/43

Mrs. Y. Kashiwagi, resident of Minidoka, appointed to serve as associate member of Board of Managers of Women's American Baptist Home Mission Society of the Northern Baptist convention. Jerome News. 1/21/43

AGRICULTURAL AND ENGINEERING --

Granada School Construction: Three additional news items (Lamar Daily News, 1/16/43, Denver Post, 1/21/43, and San Francisco Examiner, INS) 1/26/43) appeared. Cancellation of school contracts was interpreted as WRA(s) having bowed to pressure from WPB and Colorado congressional Delegations. For example, the Denver Post said, "Washington bureaucrats... have been compelled to back down" on part of their school building program at Granada.

Editorials in the Pueblo Chieftain and Denver Post were also unfavorable. According to the Post, 1/23/43) cancellation order does not go far enough. If a high school must be built, one less luxurious than planned should go up. The Pueblo Chieftain (1/23/43) stated that someone is being "double-crossed" at Granada. A WPB official is coming "clear from Washington in order to get action in curtailing the school building program."... "If orders have been given from Washington to modify construction they either have not been received at Granada or they are being ignored."

Tule Lake Agriculture: 1943 crop yield on lands leased to Tule Lake were valued at \$199,403, according to U. S. Bureau of Reclamation report. Tule Lake Reporter. 1/21/43

Additional 1600 acres of fertile land south of Klamath Falls turned over to project by Bureau of Reclamation. Portland Oregonian. 1/20/43. UP

Heart Mountain: Agricultural irrigation experimental station in the Big Horn basin to be requested by residents of locality. Cody Enterprise. 1/20/43

REPATRIATION --

Reactions of Central Utah residents to visit of Spanish Consul were described by project director Charles F. Ernst at a meeting of Salt Lake City Kwanians. According to the newspaper report, an elected evacuee committee drew up the following statement which they decided not to transmit to the Japanese government, "preferring to take chances with the United States.":

"We are peaceful and loyal to the United States. The Topps center is somewhat crowded. There are insufficient doctors and nurses in the event of an emergency. Clothing furnished is insufficient for the rigors of a Utah winter. Wages of \$12, \$16, and \$19 per month paid to residents, in addition to their board, for special work, are too low. Why should the status of Japanese be different from that of Italians and Germans within the country? Greater consideration from the FBI. Quicker action by the Red Cross in effecting communication with relatives in Japan." Salt Lake City Tribune. 1/22/43.

EMPLOYMENT --

Agricultural labor: "With Japanese labor available from Hunt, and the completion of many government projects releasing labor," farmers attending annual meeting of Lower Snake River Beet Growers were of the opinion that coming year would be more favorable than last from a labor standpoint." Jerome Idaho News. 1/14/43

Governor Vivian of Colorado stated publicly that he would favor any plan to relieve farm labor shortages in Colorado, in assuring a delegation that he would favor the use of Italian prisoners of war for farm work. Denver Post. 1/19/43

Harry L. Stafford, project director at Minidoka, scheduled to speak on evacuees as farm labor at meeting to mobilize farmers for big 1943 "Food for Victory" drive. Jerome Idaho News. 1/14/43

Governor Sharpe of South Dakota intends to sign authorization for relocation of 300 Japanese in sugar beet area requested by the Idaho-Utah Sugar Company. Baltimore Sun. 1/25/43. AP Sioux Falls Argus-Leader. 1/19/43

Public sentiment in South Dakota is now favorable to the use of Japanese labor to relieve the sugar beet field labor shortage. Rapid City Journal.

Cleveland office opening: "Plans to relieve farm and factory labor shortages in Ohio, Michigan, and West Virginia with 10,000 Japanese-Americans held in ten Western relocation centers were announced with the opening of a WRA branch office here." Mr. Fister, supervisor of the office, stated that no community would receive large numbers of evacuees, that their records would be checked by the FBI, that aid of welfare agencies and other groups would be sought to help acclimate the new arrivals, and that the plan had been approved by War Manpower Commission. Associated Press. New York Herald Tribune. Baltimore Sun. 1/29/43

Mike Masaoka, JACL executive secretary, addressing Central Utah residents, recommended that "evacuees should take every step to leave the centers and settle in normal American communities before the termination of the war." Ogden Standard Examiner. 1/22/43

Number of indefinite leaves granted to Minidoka residents and destination of evacuees reported. Also appointment of J. G. Benson to succeed Harold James as Minidoka employment officer. Jerome Idaho News. 1/14/43

News story on leave clearances at Tule Lake states that evacuees who have found outside employment have been received kindly. Tule Lake Reporter 1/21/43.

MILITARY SERVICE--

600 American-born Japanese men at Gila River have registered for military duty under selective service. Arizona Republic. 1/23/43. 69 Minidoka residents signed up for 18-year old draft. Jerome Idaho News. 1/14/43.

NEW REPUBLIC, "The Japanese Americans" editorial. 1/11/43.

Editorial commenting on newspaper reports of unrest and sabotage at Jerome. While having no information on accuracy of charges, themselves, the New Republic wished to put on record certain supplementary information in form of excerpts from issues of the Jerome Communique. Interpreting these excerpts, the article states, "One begins to see a pattern--that of a desperately divided people, most of whom are so eager to assert their Americanism that they sound like a community of George F. Babbitts, but a few of whom are reverting to what they remember or what they have read of Japanese customs", and "their tragedies are chiefly spiritual, since the government seems to be providing for their physical needs."

Danger of transforming this war into a vast conflict between the races is inferred from several acts of citizen violence against Jeromer residents.

NEW REPUBLIC, "Conditions at Camp Harmony" editorial 1/18/43.

The New Republic sent a special investigator to Camp Harmony (Assembly Center at Puyallup, Washington) to check statements made in a previously published article by Ted Nakashima. The investigator's conclusion were that Nakashima had exaggerated bad conditions and that those which were true were due to a temporary situation and have since been ameliorated. "While the problem of what to do about the Japanese-Americans in the long run remains unsolved, the army's part in setting up and maintaining proper conditions in the camps has been carried out satisfactorily."

THE COLORADO SCHOOL JOURNAL, "Amache Teachers Help Japanese Evacuees Solve Their Problems." By Grace Lewis and Robert Dierlam, teachers at Granada. December 1942.

Education at Granada described as "powerful movement for Americanization among the younger generation." Chief problems are teaching the fundamental freedoms to evacuees deprived of it, getting equipment, especially typewriters and basic office supplies, planning curriculum based on future needs when no one knows what future holds forth and overcoming students' reluctance to express themselves orally. The schools' physical facilities, organization, teaching staff, and curriculum are described.

THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING, WAR RELOCATION PROJECTS" by Catherine Scott,
WRA Information staff. January 1943.

Problem of establishing adequate nursing staffs at projects is acute. Evacuee nurses have had varied types of nursing experience. Student nurses are working at project hospitals, and efforts are being made by National Student Relocation Council to place as many as possible in established nursing schools to complete their training, after which they will return to projects. WRA has asked graduate nurses not eligible for military service to consider working on the projects. All nurses on projects consider themselves pioneers in a historic wartime operation. Despite low salaries of \$19 a month and opportunity to leave projects, evacuee nurses have stayed, working tirelessly, because they feel that that is the way they can best serve their profession during the war.