

WEEKLY PRESS REVIEW

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SUMMARY

The Phoenix hearing held on March 6 by Senator Chandler, chairman of the Senate subcommittee investigating the WRA, received little press attention outside of Arizona. Senator Chandler's public declaration, "There is no question in my mind but that thousands of these fellows were armed and prepared to help Japanese troops invade the West Coast right after Pearl Harbor..." was published in only one paper, the Arizona Republic. According to newspaper accounts, testimony at the hearing was unanimously agreed that Arizona could not assimilate more than a few hundred Japanese, but witnesses differed as to the best method of handling the problem.

County War Boards of the Department of Agriculture have been asked by Food Production Administrator, Clifford Townsend, to cooperate in the placement of evacuees.

Unfavorable local sentiment forced WRA to drop its plans for using the Friends' hostel at West Branch, Iowa, as a temporary re-settlement shelter, according to an INS dispatch.

Several clippings from the Honolulu Star-Dispatch have been received. These show a most friendly attitude toward Hawaiian-Japanese.

A beating which occurred at Jerome on March 6 did not stir up any unfavorable press comment. Only item, in the Arkansas Democrat, stated that the assailants were "members of a small minority of trouble makers."

Governor Maw vetoed the proposed act in Utah prohibiting Japanese aliens from cultivating or owning land. The Governor's action was approved editorially by the Desert News, the only paper commenting.

Enlistment of 300 evacuees at Minidoka was the subject of an AP wire. Other than this, the press was relatively quiet on the military service matter.

The decision to push back the military area was mentioned by only three papers, all Western. It has as yet drawn no editorial comment.

The California legislative committee on un-American activities heard testimony criticizing the government for not protecting itself against sabotage by Japanese in Hawaii.

ADMINISTRATIVE ---

AP sent out a wire on the transfer of 193 Bainbridge Islanders from Manzanar to Minidoka. San Francisco Call Bulletin, 3/3/43, AP. This news was also reported in the Jerome North Side News. 3/4/43.

AGRICULTURAL AND ENGINEERING ---

Transfer of the dairy herd nucleus from Granada to Gila River was mentioned in the Arizona Republic, 2/28/43.

The issuance of stop-orders on school construction at Minidoka and Central Utah was reported by the Jerome North Side News, 3/4/43.

Development of the agricultural program at Granada was described in an article in the Lamar Daily News (3/4/43), written by Ross Thompson. Favorable in tone, it brought out that despite emphasis on resettlement, WRA is going ahead with its plans for fully utilizing available agricultural land for subsistence crop purposes.

CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS ---

Senator Tom Stewart "has introduced a bill authorizing the Secretary of War to take into custody any Japanese in the United States 'regardless of whether or not such persons were born in the United States.'" San Francisco News, 3/4/43.

Phoenix Hearing of March 6:

Advance notice of the hearing held by Senator Chandler in Phoenix was given only in the Arizona Republic (3/4/43) which said it had been requested by Senator Carl Hayden of Arizona.

The hearing itself was reported by AP and by the Arizona Republic. The AP dispatch consisted of a digest of selected testimony. Governor Osborn was reported as saying that the concentration of 31,000 "aliens" in Arizona was "unfair to the state" and that he would "seek federal redress to have them returned to their original homes"; Wade Head was reported as testifying that an "uprising" at Colorado River last winter "had stopped normal work for a week while rebellious inmates barricaded themselves in a cell block"; and Robert LeBaron, project reports officer, was reported to have predicted "trouble between the aliens and the United States citizens if the Japanese were permitted to visit urban communities under a recent military order which narrowed the relocation area in this state. Senator Chandler was quoted by AP as asserting that "evacuees had refused to work or fight for this country" and that 60 percent of the evacuees at one center had "voted" to give their allegiance to Japan. Tucson Star, 3/7/43.

The March 3 issue of the Arizona Republic contained two stories on the hearings. A front page headline stated, "Senator Told State Opposes Dumping of Japanese in Arizona". According to this item, "everyone (at the hearing) was agreed" that "Arizona cannot assimilate more than a few hundred Japanese" although views as to the best method of handling the problem "conflicted sharply." In its other article, the Republic was more fair than the AP reporter had been, giving approximately equal space to testimony favorable and hostile to evacuees. Outsiders who spoke in behalf of just treatment for evacuees included the Reverend C. R. Heydon of Phoenix and Fred Fertig of Los Angeles, the latter representing the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Expressing "strong objection to any effort to assimilate the Japanese in Arizona" were Mr. M. O. Best, Salt River valley farmer and Cecil Miller, president of the Arizona Farm Bureau. The Republic item also contained a statement by Senator Chandler, "There is no question in my mind but that thousands of these fellows were armed and prepared to help Japanese troops invade the West Coast right after Pearl Harbor, but thanks to the fine work of the FBI they were rounded up immediately."

EMPLOYMENT---

Plans to use the Friends' hostel at West Branch, Iowa, as a temporary resettlement shelter have been dropped. The Omaha World Herald (3/5/43, AP) item on this gave no reason for abandonment of the proposal, but the Sacramento Bee (3/5/43, INS) stated that "American Legion posts in West Branch and West Liberty assailed the move (to establish the center) and protested to Senator Guy M. Gillette, Democrat of Iowa, and to the WRA."

In a story reporting an Army agreement to release troops to harvest Arizona's long staple cotton crop, the Arizona Republic (2/24/43) stated that the army had earlier lent "its aid in trying out Japanese labor from the relocation centers."

Michigan's state commissioner of agriculture voiced somewhat equivocal approval of the importation of evacuee farm labor. According to an item in the Pontiac Press (3/9/43) he estimates "the demand (in Michigan) roughly at 300 to 400 workers."

"The problem of housing imported Japanese farm laborers imported from the Pacific coast may prove such a bottleneck that farmers will have to do without their assistance", according to a statement by the Brigham City, Utah, USES supervisor, as reported in the Ogden Standard-Examiner, 2/28/43.

"Plans have been completed for using a sizable portion of the 100,000 persons of Japanese ancestry evacuated from the west coast on farms in 21 Western and Midwestern states", according to a March 7 UP dispatch from Washington. As reported by the UP, the Department of Agriculture has instructed its County War Boards" to cooperate in the

placement of the workers as a part of the program to help alleviate the critical labor situation in many states." Mr. Clifford Townsend, Food Production Administrator, has asked farmers to make applications as soon as possible through the County Boards. Indianapolis Star, 3/8/43.

A series of articles on the farm labor problem in California, prepared by Hamilton L. Hintz, Agriculture Editor, ran in the California Bee newspaper. Article No. 6 (2/24/43) told of a proposal by Frank King, "who farms 2,500 acres of land in the Sacramento-San Joaquin delta" to bring back the "Japanese under army supervision."

EVACUEE PROPERTY--

D. M. Rutherford, writing in the Pacific Rural Press (2/20/43) advocated the immediate cutting off of "bureaucratic red tape to seize any unused equipment which is needed no matter who owns it, Jap or Gentile".

HAWAII--

The Honolulu Star Bulletin (1/20/43) ran in the AP dispatch which reported Director Myer's approval of "the army's decision to take American-born Japanese as volunteers for military service" with an article describing the breakup of the Hawaiian Varsity Victory Volunteers. The VVV was a work squad formed by Hawaiian-born Japanese when actual military service was barred to them. When the army opened its ranks, the squad disbanded. Speaking to the VVV "on behalf of Governor Ingram M. Stainback and the people of Hawaii", Acting Governor Ernest K. Kai expressed confidence that in the army they would "carry on their fine tradition of hard work and that they would make a fine reputation for themselves as a fighting outfit."

The Honolulu Star Bulletin (2/6/43) in an editorial recommended that "the federal government utilize in agricultural industry the many thousands of able bodied youths of Japanese ancestry now in mainland relocation camps."

One of the five largest industrial firms in Hawaii, Theo. H. Davies & Co., Ltd., inserted a half-page advertisement in the Honolulu Star-Bulletin (2/6/43) with the title, "Hawaii is Proud of Her Volunteers--men who love democracy so much they've earned the right to fight for it." The advertisement, which was addressed specifically to Hawaiian Japanese said in part, "The people of this island and of all Hawaii will miss you but they will take pride in your mission, and they will find real joy in your return when victory is ours."

A news story in the Honolulu Star-Bulletin (2/26/43) reported that the "Jap Dairy Truck" story had bobbed up again in Collier's magazine, in the Freling Foster column, entitled "Keep Up With the World."

This story has it that on December 7 six Japanese hiding in a dairy truck on Hickam field machine gunned and killed 80 Americans rushing to their planes. (Incidentally, the story also bobbed up in slightly modified form in the recent Warner Brothers production, "Air Force".) The Star-Bulletin story points out that the story has been officially denied by Hickam field officials who wrote, "The fact remains that this story and others of this ilk were pure fabrications of fertile minds bent upon psychic sabotage. That even at this late date these fairy tales are still given credence may be blamed upon these writers who will print anything to stir the imaginations of a war-beset world."

INTERNAL SECURITY--

Four of the 12 Tule Lake residents involved in the February 22 beatings were sentenced by Superior Court Judge A. K. Wylie to six months in jail, with three months suspended. "The others were sentenced to four months, half of which was suspended." Yakima Herald and Sacramento Bee, 3/3/43.

Two residents of Jerome, Dr. T. T. Tatabe and the Rev. John M. Yamazaki, were beaten on March 6 by "one or two groups of unknown assailants". Arkansas Democrat, 3/8/43. This article maintained that "there was no connection between the beatings and the general registration being conducted to determine eligibility of residents for outside employment as well as for service in the army" and stated that "the assailants were without question members of a small minority of trouble-makers."

Shopping passes for Granada residents have been restricted by project officials to 25 to Granada and 25 to Lamar daily, according to an item in the Denver Post, 2/24/43.

LEGAL--

Utah legislature bill to prohibit aliens ineligible for citizenship from owning or cultivating Utah farms was vetoed by Governor Herbert V. Maw on March 4. In his veto message the Governor scored the bill on several counts. As worded, it would have covered all Asiatics including America's allies. "It would have prohibited Japanese-Americans in War Relocation Centers from cultivating and occupying lands", which would make "a serious crop condition worse." A telegram from Secretary of Agriculture Wickard asking state officials "to exert all possible effort to assure farmers a sufficient work force" may also have prompted the Governor's decision. The bill's death had been urged by "representatives of Utah agricultural groups and the U. S. District Attorney." Salt Lake Tribune, 3/5/43.

MILITARY SERVICE--

Enlistment of 300 evacuees at Minidoka--or 19 percent of those eligible--was reported by AP. New York Times, New York Herald Tribune, Washington Times Herald, 3/9/43.

Four brothers who volunteered from Hunt were quoted in an AP dispatch as follows: "Long before father died he told all of us that if Japan and the United States should ever be engaged in a war, there would be only one thing for us to do--live and fight to uphold the United States of America." Spokesman-Review, Yakima Herald, 3/3/43.

Visit of a WAAC lieutenant to Minidoka "to survey sentiment as to possible enlistments in the WAAC" was reported in the Twin Falls Idaho Times News (3/5/43).

A letter from Kozo Kitamura telling why he was enlisting despite embitterment over the way he and his fellows have been treated appeared in the Millard County Chronicle (3/4/43).

MISCELLANEOUS--

Extension of the free area in Arizona was the subject of two AP dispatches carried only by the Arizona Republic and Sacramento Bee (3/3 and 3/4/43). Col. Karl R. Bendtsen was quoted to the effect that "the order was issued because the Secretary of War determined that the military situation made such action feasible" and that the farm labor situation "was not a controlling factor." 200 evacuees were affected by the order and "occupants of the big Poston and Rivers relocation centers no longer are under military restriction." The San Francisco Chronicle (3/4/43) ran a one-inch item reporting the reduction of "the military restricted area in Arizona."

PUBLIC ATTITUDES--

Miscellaneous:

A citizens group in Albuquerque endorsed New Mexico House Bill 129 which would prohibit the lease or sale of New Mexico land to enemy aliens. According to the Albuquerque Journal report of the meeting, city people opposed the bill whereas "farmers went on record as favoring the exclusion of Japanese, even American citizens of Japanese ancestry, on the grounds that they would give unfair competition to Anglo and Spanish farmers."

At the March 1 hearing of the California legislature committee on un-American activities, an American Legion official declared, "Hawaiian-Japanese did not commit sabotage Dec. 7, 1941, because they had orders from Tokyo 'to wait for a second attack'." "Criticizing release of 1300 young second-generation Japanese to attend colleges",

Dr. John R. Lechner, executive secretary of the American Educational League, "described futile efforts to obtain their cooperation in exposing subversive activities by aliens of their own race." San Francisco News, 3/2/43, UP. Ray Anderson, electrician formerly employed on military construction in Hawaii criticized the government for lack of protection against potential Japanese sabotage there. Sacramento Bee, UP, 3/2/43. Reporting Anderson's testimony, the Los Angeles Times (3/2/43) stated that "intimate details of vast, secret military installations being built on the Island of Oahu, Hawaii, for the United States Army are well known to thousands of Japanese-Americans who are employed on the projects."

LETTERS TO NEWSPAPERS:

A letter to the Des Moines Register from Jean Twentier of Zearing, Iowa, compares favorably the patriotism of evacuees with that of Caucasian Americans who grumble about food rations.

Two letters to the Sacramento Bee display violent prejudice against evacuees. One suggests that rather than bringing the Japanese back, the labor shortage be solved by the importation of Cubans, and the other recommends the movie, "Ravaged Earth", as proof that "once a Japanese, always a Japanese."

Two letters to the Portland Oregonian comment on recent legislative action looking toward the post-war expulsion of Japanese. One favors the bill, but the other, from Willis Montgomery of The Dalles, Oregon, points out that its passage is the first step toward expulsion of all minority groups, and finally "the laboring man."

Selden Menefee of Arlington, Virginia, who writes for the Washington Post and magazines, wrote to the editor of the Oregonian (3/4/43) approving Mel Arnold's series of articles on Minidoka, as an "outstanding contribution to clear thinking on the racial question."

Editorials:

The Desert News held that "it took courage" for Governor Maw to veto the anti-land ownership bill "after it had shot through both legislative houses without appreciable opposition." The News felt that the bill had many flaws, chief being that it would have deprived Utah farmers of much-needed evacuee labor. 3/6/43.

Commenting on an order of the Brazilian government to apprehend "all persons not readily identifiable along a coastal belt of 15 miles", the Biloxi, Mississippi, Herald referred back to our Pacific Coast evacuation. It remarked that since the time of the original evacuation "not so much has been heard against the resettlement", probably because the U. S. government has treated evacuees well.

The Seattle Times (3/5/43) claimed that recent disturbances at Tule Lake "do not shake confidence that many of the Nisei are true and loyal American citizens. But they do indicate the wisdom of a cautious (resettlement) course."

The Cheyenne Tribune (3/4/43) suggested that the name be "dislocation" rather than "relocation" centers.

The Visalia Times-Delta (3/5/43) called "frank and forthright" and "realistic" the recent anti-Japanese resolutions passed by California veterans' organizations.

The Tule Lake Reporter (3/5/43) reprinted without comment in its editorial columns an excerpt from an article in The Grizzly Bear (official publication of the Native Sons of California) disapproving the formation of a combat team.

The Jerome North Side News reviewed three main shifts in government policy on employment for Minidoka residents (land reclamation work; farm labor group leave; and indefinite leave clearance). While approving the last "as a test of America to see if the country can successfully handle a minority group within its boundaries", this editorial stated, "we must not forget that we have a war to win...food is one of the nation's greatest problems today...Our leaders must not rob our farmers of a badly needed labor supply."

Feature Articles:

An article on Granada by an AP correspondent, Leif Erickson, appeared in the March 7 Sunday edition of a number of papers. The article was sympathetic. Nisei "have adjusted themselves with relative cheerfulness to life in one-room barrack-type apartments and community mess halls"; relations between management and evacuees have been "amiable" chiefly because council meetings give the latter a chance "to blow off steam"; Nisei leaders want a chance "to work or fight"; food costs average 13 cents a meal. On the matter of the proposed transfer of relocation centers to the War Department, Mr. Erickson stated that a difference of opinion exists among evacuees: "Sato, the Granada council chairman, prefers that the centers continue under the now established War policies, but Taniwaki (publication director of the Granada Pioneer) disagrees. He believes the center can stand investigation, and declares he would welcome army control: 'Then all our cards would be on the table', Taniwaki said, 'and we would know where we stood'." Tampa, Florida, Tribune, Syracuse Post Standard, Washington, D. C. Post, Cleveland Plain Dealer, Washington, D. C. Star, Baltimore Sun, Spokesman-Review, AP.

Using much of the AP material described above but adding other items of its own and pointing up favorable bits by such devices as bold-face type, the Des Moines Register's article on Granada (3/7/43) was even more sympathetic.

The second of Anne Swensson's articles in the Seattle Times came out on March 1. Like her earlier article, it was based on an interview with Robert O'Brien. "The Army and the War Relocation Authority have done a thorough job and a good one," O'Brien said, "But they've also had fine cooperation from many of the younger Japanese-Americans who help them organize and cooperatively govern the camps." All the camps have American Legion units; former University of Washington students are holding important center jobs; many students have been permitted to continue their education outside; "all the Japanese are anxious for the day when they will leave the camps"; "Christmas was a tremendous boost for the Christian cause over the old-country Buddhists, because there were even more than enough gifts for all the Buddhists and all the Christians combined"; when Wyoming high schools admitted the Heart Mountain basketball team to the state league, "every youngster in camp grew inches."

On March 7, the Baltimore Sun rotogravure section carried a layout entitled "Making the Best of It". It showed two interiors of the Saijiro Hinoki home in Granada and an interior of the Granada children's hospital ward.

On March 1, the Rocky Mountain News had a picture of "10 Denver girls of Japanese descent", captioned "Far from War."

Magazines:

Survey Midmonthly, "In Relocation Centers", by George D. Nickel, January, 1943.

This is a descriptive account of WRA's program, with particular emphasis on Gila River. As a person viewing the scene from the social worker's point of view, Mr. Nickel felt that the welfare department presented "the greatest lag by comparison with other divisions" probably because "it is too soon to appraise what social services, if any, will be needed in an "artificial" mode of life where basic needs are supplied. "Recreation programs" in certain centers suffer "from lack of equipment, trained evacuee leadership, and inaccessibility from headquarters of national recreation organizations.

Mr. Nickel set out to find the answer to three questions: "Are evacuees happy? Are they loyal? What about the future?" His answer to the first was "no", because evacuees feel they "are segregated, set apart" and are sensitive to racial prejudices outside. "As to loyalty, there was a time at the inception of the program when the consensus of those who knew and worked with the evacuees was that the vast majority were loyal. The term 99 percent was frequently heard...There are fewer Caucasians willing to commit themselves on the percentage of loyalty" now. Some evacuees have strong opinions, either pro-American or pro-Japanese. But, Mr. Nickel feels, "there must be a large number in between whose loyalty may vary, depending upon events--treatment in the centers, opportunities for resettlement and relocation, public opinion

outside the centers, pro-Japanese propoganda, and rumors." WRA's program for the future has not "jelled." Necessarily, procedures have been cautious, but one program is being emphasized: permanent leave. On the desirability of leave, Mr. Nickel found mixed evacuee attitudes. Security of life within and hostile public sentiment outside have militated against a strong desire on the part of evacuees to put out new stakes. "One convincing argument in favor of starting a resettlement program now is that there is no substitute for face to face contact in selling a person or a program...To pave the way, some of the evacuee citizen leaders may go first. With funds provided by the Japanese Citizens League...it is contemplated that representative (evacuee) leaders will visit businessmen, trade associations, Chambers of Commerce, to state their case, to develop better public understanding, to make it possible for loyal evacuee families to settle in various communities."

The Christian Century, editorial, "Senate Committee to Investigate Japanese Relocation Centers", 1/27/43.

Decision of the Senate Military Affairs Committee to investigate relocation centers is welcomed because disquieting rumors will be rooted out. "Provided its subcommittee to visit the camps is not overloaded with Pacific Coast senators, we believe that great good should result." Hopes that everyone will remember one thing: "in the majority of cases these internees are American citizens."

The Christian Century, "Arizona's City of Exiles", by Albert W. Palmer, 1/20/43.

Gila River is a "curious and perhaps instructive social by-product of this strange and revolution-breeding war." Appearance of center is monotonous, but the "rooms are scrupulously clean" and a passerby "cannot walk the streets or enter the houses of this strange city of exiles without being constantly reminded of the Japanese cultural heritage of cleanliness, artistry, love of growing things and marvelous ability in the love and control of children." The project is "largely self-governing". Administrative staff is never referred to as "white" as that might imply assumed superiority; nor as "Americans" as evacuees are Americans too. The word "Caucasian" is a "colorless, non-prejudice-creating sort of label which all concerned cheerfully accept and use." The closed economic system is an "interesting experiment in a limited form of communism, an experiment likely to be remembered and worth watching carefully as it unfolds." Next to the economic problem, Mr. Palmer feels that lack of equipment of the police force is most important: "The War Relocation Authority" in Mr. Palmer's opinion, "is certainly inviting terrorization and other troubles so long as it does not allow the project director on the ground authority to equip his police force properly." The resettlement program "is a great chance for Christian groups and churches to sponsor individuals and families and invite them back into normal life by providing a job--many skills are available--or a farm...And, in the meantime, their major needs, not supplied by the government, are recreational equipment and books."

The Christian Century, correspondence, 2/24/43. Two comments on Albert Palmer's article, digested above.

A former teacher at Tule Lake writes that the article was "a remarkably accurate picture from the outside."

Shigeo Tanaba, an evacuee at Tule Lake, takes issue with Palmer's criticism that the police force should be armed. He thinks "WRA has been remarkably wise in its policy of maintaining a police force 'equipped with no weapons but its bare hands'."

The Christian Century, correspondence, 2/24/43.

Crane Rosenbaum, F.O.R., CPS Camp, Coleville, California, advised Christian Century readers that his organization was making a permanent collection of pamphlets and magazine articles on evacuation, etc., and asked for donations.

The Christian Century, editorial, 2/17/43.

Approves the formation of a combat team but denounces the trend toward racial segregation in the army.

The Christian Century, correspondence, 3/3/43.

Reports forum at Plymouth, Washington, here the case of Gordon Hirobayashi was debated.

Reports passage of Arkansas bill barring sale of land to Japanese-Americans.

The Christian Century, correspondence, 3/10/43.

Howard H. Keim, Jr., writes of an incident at Goshen, Indiana. A rural congregation of the pacifistic Church of the Brethren found prospective openings for about 50 evacuees. Their work was reported in a local paper. This set off fireworks. Three veterans' organizations, the Rotarians, and the Elks, "held special meetings and passed resolutions registering varying degrees of racial hatred and animosity toward all conscientious objectors. A special meeting of the County Agricultural War Board was held, under the chairmanship of the County Agent of the Extension Service. At the end of the meeting, he made "an eloquent appeal to racial prejudice", perorating, "Gentlemen, we don't want them here."

Wellesley Magazine (alumnae of Wellesley College), "The War Relocation Authority Tule Lake California", February, 1943, By Marianne Robinson, WRA staff member.

Extracts from letters of a member of the Community Services staff at Tule Lake. Miss Robinson's chief job was to organize nursery schools

and to assist on parent education. Arriving at Tule Lake in the early, hectic days, her "first great blow was to learn that there was no budget at all for nursery school work, at least at the present, except for labor." By exercising ingenuity and with full cooperation of evacuee parents, a nursery school was soon under way. Miss Robinson found the children charming, "They play tag and ball and hopscotch and get in the way of trucks just as much as children everywhere." More teachers are needed, she feels.

Fellowship, "News from the Peace Front", March, 1943.

"WRA has revealed that it expects that more than 40,000 Japanese-American workers will be released from Relocation Centers by the end of this year...Ironically, the army is recruiting men from within the camps, for the purpose of building up a Japanese-American 'combat unit'."

Survey Midmonthly, letter from Louisa S. Neumann, International Institute, Providence, R. I. On the subject of aliens and loyalty, Miss Neumann's letter says that "young citizens of Japanese extraction have given us a magnificent demonstration of cooperation with government orders under trying conditions."

STUDENT RELOCATION--

The Branch agricultural college of the Utah State Agricultural College was asked by the War Department "to hold the acceptance of any American-Japanese students in abeyance until further clarification from Washington arrived", according to the Millard County Chronicle, 3/4/43.

