

WEEKLY PRESS REVIEW

No. 16

Week ending May 5, 1943.

For the use of the WRA Staff

SUMMARY

From a public relations standpoint, the food situation at Heart Mountain was the major press issue of the week. Seven articles by Jack Carberry in the Denver Post attacked WRA's administration of the project. Appealing to the emotions of readers recently aroused by the Tokyo executions, these articles were notable for half truths, omissions, and misinterpretation of facts. Most serious charges concerned mess operations. WRA was accused of hoarding canned goods prior to rationing, of being wasteful and extravagant in ordering and using food supplies, and it was implied by omission that center residents are not under food rationing restrictions. Further allegations concerned consumption of bootleg liquor by evacuees and their refusal to accept lucrative outside job offers because life within the center is "soft." The Denver Post series was picked up by AP and INS, whose dispatches were printed by relatively few papers. One AP dispatch included a refutation by WRA officials of some of the accusations.

Among the direct effects of the Tokyo executions on WRA's reemployment program reported in the nation's press were cancelation of plans to employ nisei workers at Sidney, Nebraska, and Marengo, Illinois, and a resolution against the use of evacuee farm labor in the Pomano, Washington, area. Those editorials which linked the executions and Japanese-Americans were divided in their attitude, with the majority objecting to Senator Stewart's demand for reprisals against Japanese in the United States. Several papers carried digests of Director Elmer Davis' radio broadcast in which he commended the response of Japanese-Americans to the news of the executions.

Lieutenant General DeWitt's statement of three weeks ago was offset to some extent by a statement of former Ambassador Grew that Japanese-Americans are an invaluable element in our population. Mr. Grew's remarks, made during a speech at Union College commencement received only limited press attention.

Clippings referring to General DeWitt's testimony continued to be received. Thus far, editorial support of DeWitt's stand has been unanimous, with the Los Angeles Times going so far as to infer that any disagreement with the General's sentiments is treason.

Mrs. Roosevelt seemed favorably impressed by Gila River and devoted two issues of "My Day" to an account of her visit to the project. Westbrook Pegler came out in favor of the relocation program.

It was reported that the House Rules Committee will decide this month whether to set up a committee to investigate Japanese activities within the United States, as urged by Congressman Jackson (Washington).

Most important press development of the week concerning evacuee property was an article in the Pacific Rural Press (largest farm paper in

California with a circulation of more than 70,000) which documented by pictures and inventories the charge that large amounts of evacuee owned farm machinery is being withheld from war food production.

Washington papers showed sympathetic interest in the Army enlistment of a nisei on the WPA administrative staff.

CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS--

Items from the Congressional Record:

Representative Jackson (Washington) pleads on House floor for adoption of his resolution for an investigation of Japanese problem in United States and quotes General DeWitt, "A Jap's a Jap." 4/15/43.

Representative Rankin protests stationing combat team in the South and recommends "scattering these Japs into labor battalions." 4/15/43.

Newspaper items:

Senator Wallgren asserts Japanese should not return to West Coast during war. Los Angeles Times, 4/20/43.

Senator Murray says the U. S. cannot afford to keep 134,000 Japanese in idleness; differs with "a sizeable group in Congress" who wish all Japanese-Americans interned. UP, Washington News; 4/27/43.

Senator Chandler feels relocation centers are "fomenting hatred" toward Japanese-Americans because they are expensive, pamper disloyal evacuees, and keep the remainder in idleness. Denver Post, 4/21/43.

Senator Stewart (1) demands review of citizenship rights of Japanese-Americans (UP, Seattle Star, Fargo, N.D. Forum, San Francisco Chronicle, 4/23/43), (2) appeals for legislative action to take all Japanese-Americans into custody (AP, Arkansas Gazette, 4/23/43), (3) writes in Memphis Commercial Appeal (signed article, 4/25/43) that all Japanese are alike in their treachery and cruelty, charges all Japanese treacherous (UP, St. Louis Star-Times, Montana Standard, 4/24/43.), (4) urges internment of all American Japanese (Chicago Tribune, Baltimore News and Post, 4/23/43.)

Representative Jackson receives verbal support of House Rules Committee Chairman that hearings on his resolution to investigate internal Japanese activities will be held in mid-May. Seattle Post Intelligencer, 4/19/43.

Senator Robertson's secretary states that the Senator estimates disloyalty at Heart Mountain at 80% and that he does not want any "Japanese internees left in Wyoming after the war". Senator Murray stated the Senate Military Affairs Committee is conducting a thorough investigation of the situation at Heart Mountain and elsewhere. AP, Washington Post.

Rep. Sheppard says incident should make West Coast residents thoroughly alive to the type of Japanese mentality and govern them in releasing American-born Japanese to civil activities." UP, Rocky Mountain News, New York Times, 4/22/43.

EDUCATION--

Heart Mountain schools to close early in season because of need for farm help. AP, Wyoming State Tribune, 4/28/43.

EMPLOYMENT--

Secretary Ickes employs nisei:

Pacific League demands return of Ickes' Japanese-American employees to relocation centers. Los Angeles Times, 4/27/43

15 papers, in addition to those reported earlier, carried pictures of evacuee farm workers employed by Secretary Ickes. Legends and captions were sympathetic to evacuees although they were frequently referred to as "released from federal internment camps."

Plans to employ evacuees canceled:

Marengo, Illinois

Citizens and mayor of Marengo, Illinois, object to proposed employment of 16 evacuee farm workers by the Curtiss Candy Company in light of Tokyo executions. Chicago Tribune, 4/25/43.

Because of adverse community sentiment, Curtiss Candy Company will withdraw 3 evacuees now employed and has requested WRA to delay assignment of 13 additional workers en route to Marengo. Chicago Herald & American, Chicago Sun, Elgin Courier-News, Chicago Tribune, 4/26/43. AP, New York Sun, Spokane Spokesman-Review, Bloomington Pantagraph, Quincy Herald-Wing, 4/26/43.

The "storm" at Marengo, Illinois, abated with the "withdrawal" of evacuee farm workers. INS, San Francisco Call Bulletin, Wilmington Journal Every Eve., Memphis Commercial Appeal, 4/27/43.

Pictures of the evacuees "withdrawn" from Marengo appeared in the Ft. Wayne Journal Gazette and Worcester Gazette, 4/27/43.

Sidney, Nebraska

Plans to employ evacuees on public housing project in Sidney canceled by contractor and Mayor to avoid possibility of violence as result of recent executions. INS, Memphis Commercial Appeal, Chicago Herald & American, 4/27/43.

WRA refuses permission for farm workers to commute daily from (1) Minidoka (Salt Lake Tribune, 4/11/43) and (2) Central Utah (Millard County Chronicle, 4/22/43).

WRA office set up at Havre, Montana, Great Falls Tribune, 4/23/43.

Washoe, Nevada, county commissioners refuse dude ranch operators permission to employ evacuees. Nevada State Journal, 4/21/43.

WRA decides not to release evacuees for Geneva, Utah, works of Columbia Steel because of adverse sentiment of plant workers. Salt Lake Tribune, 4/15/43.

WRA representative Raymond Booth is in Hamilton, Ohio, sounding out sentiment for employment of evacuee workers. Hamilton Journal News, 4/20/43.

New source of labor for Gary, Indiana, thrown open by WRA yesterday. Gary Post-Tribune, 4/23/43.

EVACUEE PROPERTY--

Cozzens states WRA is trying to get farming equipment of evacuees back into production, Seattle Times, 4/22/43.

In an article documented by photographs and inventory lists, D. M. Rutherford contends there is plenty of farm machinery in storage, Pacific Rural Press, 4/17/43. Editor of Pacific Rural Press scores delay in releasing evacuee equipment, Los Angeles Times, 4/22/43.

Senatorial subcommittee (Military Affairs) likely to aid in releasing farm machinery, Los Angeles Times, 4/27/43. Senator Downey to hold hearings on May 26 on evacuee farm property matters. Los Angeles Times, 4/23/43.

American Legion executive committee renews appeal "for seizure of impounded Japanese agricultural equipment, AP, San Francisco Call Bulletin, 4/12/43. American Legion official, in letter to Governor Warren accuses WRA of an "attempt to cover up the facts" regarding the amount of farm machinery available. Los Angeles Times, 4/21/43.

Evacuated farm properties are producing more food than ever before, Seattle Times, 4/4/43. (Feature article by Helen Beck in which she describes how FSA engendered corporation farms are efficient because fewer people can now work the same amount of land).

HEALTH--

Four spinal meningitis cases being treated at Poston. AP, Spokesman Review, 4/26/43.

LEGAL--

District Court of Appeals of Los Angeles rules evacuees not liable for contracts negotiated before the war. AP, Seattle Post Intelligencer, Los Angeles Times, 4/18/43.

California Senate approves bill barring fishing licenses to alien Japanese. Los Angeles Times, 4/25/43.

MESS OPERATIONS--

Denver Post articles of April 23-27:

In a series of seven articles, Jack Carberry attacked WRA's management of the Heart Mountain center and its Japanese-American residents. Headlines and principal charges in each article follow:

4/23/43--"Food is Hoarded for Japs in U.S. While Americans in Nippon are Tortured." Warehouses are "filled to their eaves with every type of rationed food...I discovered canned vegetables...with a total point value of 20,017,222. This checked against the camp population of 10,300--equals a supply of these rationed foods for 3 years, 7 months and 14 days." 29,300 lbs. of butchered meat were delivered to the project last week. There was \$12,000 worth of prepared baby food on hand, but "there were (only) five babies in the camp hospital." Heart Mountain officials had been "tipped" off from Washington that Carberry was coming and shipped five carloads of canned foods to other centers before his arrival.

4/24/43--"America's Jap 'Guests' Refuse to Work but Nips Enslave Yankees--Every privilege extended to 1,200 who preach gospel of Tokyo." Evacuees are being "flooded" with attractive offers of gainful employment but few accept because they prefer the soft life at the center. The Director of the National Beet Growers association, after spending time and money unsuccessfully trying to recruit evacuees to work on a vital war crop wrote WRA suggesting "drastic measures such as restricting diet" to force them to leave the center, but Deputy Director Rowalt "made excuses for the failure of the Japanese to accept the high-paying offers..."

4/25/43--"Japs Accused of Trading Camp Food for Whiskey." Drinking is common because "guard system makes smuggling easy." Camp officials consider the matter "unimportant." A drunken brawl occurred at party for volunteers. The project's quota for volunteers was 250, but only 16 enlisted during registration and twenty or twenty-five since.

4/26/43 (two articles)--"Washington Official is Probing Post's Charges About Jap Camps." In this article a number of charges brought by former assistant project steward Best are published, including the following: evacuees were "told to hide food in rooms", waste in food is excessive, menus planned in Washington are not posted in the kitchens, "evacuees don't like California rice" so chefs throw it and other foodstuffs away, no fats have been saved for salvage, evacuees drink bootleg liquor while on the job. "Duncan Mills...arrived in Denver (from Washington) announcing he would conduct a thorough investigation of the charges."

"Thousands of Tons of Coal are Wasted at Heart Mountain." Coal wastage is rampant, piles of slack used to fill chuck holes in the street. No effort to use salvageable lumber; the construction program was extravagant and inefficient. Field farm workers refused to eat nutritious and tasty box lunches so were allowed to take time off to go back to the mess-halls at noon. Just prior to rationing, administration acceded to evacuees' demands that food stocks be increased.

4/27/43--"Farmers plead with Japs at Camp to Take Jobs". This is a repetition of the charge that life within the centers is made so easy that residents refuse to accept attractive offers outside.

Other newspaper items on Heart Mountain situation:

Denver Post finds Japanese-American evacuees are being "petted and feasted" in at least one relocation center "while the Japanese are murdering American prisoners of war." INS, Jackson Clarion-Ledger, Los Angeles Examiner, Memphis Commercial Appeal, Nashville Tennessean, Charleston Gazette, Omaha World Herald, 4/24/43.

The Denver Post said today there was a 3-year, 7-month supply of rationed food at Heart Mountain. Director Guy Robinson explained that some food is stored there at request of army. AP, Butte Post, 4/24/43. Cheyenne Tribune, Wyoming State Tribune, 4/25/43.

WRA will conduct probe of Heart Mountain conditions as disclosed by Denver Post. INS, Omaha World Herald, 4/27/43.

WRA official says food inventory at Heart Mountain not excessive in view of camp's monthly consumption, denies charges of food wastage, and states OPA rationing regulations strictly complied with. AP, Greeley Tribune, Wyoming State Tribune, 4/27/43.

WRA officials claim efforts being made to correct "certain inequalities" in food supplies at Heart Mountain. Billings Gazette, 4/28/43.

MILITARY SERVICE--

Photographs:

There were pictures of the combat team in seven papers. Captions in every instance were sympathetic.

Nisei on WRA Washington staff enlists:

Ken Nishimoto, placement officer in the Washington WRA office, was first Japanese-American from Washington, D.C. to volunteer for the combat team. Before leaving for induction, he was presented with a watch by WRA staff members.

Washington treated to unusual spectacle of feting volunteer to fight against nation from which his forbears sprang. Washington Times Herald, 4/28/43.

First Jap-American from D.C. inducted, glad to go. Washington Star, 4/28/43.

Japanese-American volunteered because "it is least I can do for my country." Washington News, 4/27/43.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS--

Ambassador Grew praises Japanese-Americans:

Speaking at Union college commencement exercises on the necessity for exterminating Japan's militarists, former Ambassador Grew described Japanese-Americans as forming "an invaluable element in our population", said their help had been of real value", and regretted the "bitter necessity of imposing on a trustworthy and loyal majority of nisei the restraints which are made needful by the bad behavior and evil repute of a minority."

Commenting on the ambitions of Japanese militarists, Ambassador Grew distinguished between them and Japanese-Americans. Schenectady Union Star, 4/26/43. AP, Arkansas Democrat, Washington Post, 4/26/43, New York Times, (4/27/43).

Letters to newspapers:

17 letters received, 8 unsympathetic, 9 sympathetic to Japanese Americans. Interest was principally in General DeWitt's recent statement, one writer pointing out in the Seattle Post Intelligencer (4/19/43) the inconsistency in what DeWitt had said and a letter he had received from the Assistant Secretary of War.

Features:

An evacuee student at the University of Wyoming (Kaz Oshiki) describes the student relocation program and tells about outstanding evacuee students. Laramie Wyoming Daily Bulletin, 4/22/43.

John Embree's booklet, recently published by the Smithsonian Institute, was used as the basis for a feature article by Dr. Frank Thone. Arizona Republic, 4/25/43.

Mrs. Roosevelt visits Gila River:

Mrs. Roosevelt visits her first relocation center. Finds it "not sound for minority groups to be centralized." AP, New York Sun, Sioux Falls Argus-Leader, Baltimore Evening Sun, Tucson Star, Sacramento Union, Waterbury Republican, 4/24/43, Washington Star, 4/27/43.

Evil to confine Japs, says Mrs. Roosevelt, INS, St. Louis Star-Times, 4/27/43.

Evacuees are not pampered, says Mrs. Roosevelt. UP, New York Journal & American, 4/27/43.

Spotless cleanliness of Gila praised. New York Evening Post, 4/26/43.

Future status of evacuees.

American Legion commander at Long Beach, California, demands Army control. Long Beach Press Telegram, 4/21/43.

Former Governor Pierce (Oregon) demands deportation of all alien Japanese. AP, Portland, Oregon, Journal, 4/21/43.

Los Angeles Defense Council chairman protests reestablishment of Japanese on Pacific Coast, Los Angeles' Examiner, 4/22/43.

Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce opens drive to forbid evacuees' return for duration. Los Angeles Times, 4/23/43.

Dist. Atty. Fred Howser takes unequivocal stand against returning "interned" Japanese to Pacific Coast for duration. Los Angeles Times, 4/27/43.

Pomona Grange opposes return of Japanese as laborers. Yakima (Wash.) Herald, 4/18/43.

Glendale, California, American Legion Post backs Japanese exclusion. Los Angeles Times, 4/24/43.

Editorials:

Tokyo Executions

Senator Stewart is wrong in blaming American-Japanese for the executions. Miami News, Chicago Tribune, 4/24/43, Baltimore Sun, 4/26/43.

Senator Stewart is (1) surprisingly "ignorant" of constitutional rights (San Francisco Chronicle, 4/24/43), (2) is acting "exactly a la Hitler" (Nashville Tennessean, 4/25/43) and (3) is displaying "intolerance" of the kind "Honorable Tojo and his gang like" (Arkansas Democrat, 4/25/43).

Interned Japanese at Camp Livingston should be treated with less freedom now. Alexandria, La., Town Talk, 4/23/43.

Retaliation against Japanese prisoners would play Japan's game. San Francisco Chronicle, 4/21 and 4/23/43. Greeley, Colo., Tribune, 4/21/43. Spokesman-Review, 4/23/43. Rocky Mountain News, 4/23/43.

How do Japanese-Americans regard the code of their countrymen? Salt Lake Tribune, 4/23/43.

Executions prove that American Japanese should be (1) kept confined for the duration (Richmond, Ind. Palladium Item) and (2) under army control now and shipped back after the war (Los Angeles Times, 4/23/43).

From now on the United States SHOULD TAKE NO JAP PRISONERS. Denver Post, 4/22/43.

Secretary Ickes and evacuees

Secretary Ickes has set a bad example. Sacramento Union, 4/18/43.

Secretary Ickes' decision to employ evacuees and the arrival of the first contingent of the combat team at Camp Shelby are additional indications that many Japanese-Americans are loyal. Hartford, Conn., Times, 4/23/43.

General DeWitt's testimony

General DeWitt is right. Klamath Falls Herald and News, 4/16/43. Reno Gazette, 4/19/43. Sacramento Bee, 4/19/43. San Francisco Chronicle, 4/17/43.

Is there any connection between recent Tokyo radio warnings of West Coast invasions and "current soft-headed agitation for the return of 'loyal' Japanese to the West Coast?" Los Angeles Times, 4/22/43.

Employment

Resettlement of limited numbers of loyal Japanese in Michigan approved. Pontiac Press, 4/21/43.

Curtiss Candy Co. criticized for dismissing 16 evacuees "whose loyalty is vouched for by our own government." Chicago Sun, 4/27/43.

Public Proclamation No. 17

General DeWitt's order granting freedom of movement to Japanese-American soldiers is "disturbing". Bakersfield Californian, 4/20/43.

Status of Japanese-American soldiers is clarified. Visalia Times Delta, 4/20/43.

Editorials on miscellaneous subjects

Glad to hear rumor blocked that WRA is buying land on which to relocate groups of evacuees. Jerome, Idaho, News, 4/22/43.

"You American mothers and fathers whose sons are being murdered by the Japs...are being deprived of food so there will be an abundance for your Jap enemies at Heart Mountain." Denver Post, 4/24/43.

Evacuees should be forced TO WORK OR FIGHT. Denver Post, 4/28/43.

Relocating evacuees in army and on mid-west farms is "sensible" solution. San Francisco News, 4/19/43.

Disposition of American-born Japanese one of nation's greatest sociological problems. Meriden, Conn., Record, 4/22/43.

The Japanese people are able--not inferior. Alexandria, La., Town Talk, 4/24/43.

WMC is correct in urging war manufacturers to use aliens. Dallas News, 4/26/43.

Columnists:

In an article on the divergence among government experts on 1943 food production estimates, Paul Mallon comments that Japanese should have been left on the Coast to produce "under full police protection." Arkansas

Democrat, Portland Oregonian, Seattle Post Intelligencer, Philadelphia Inquirer, Klamath Falls Herald and News, 4/21/43, Salt Lake Tribune, 4/15/43.

People who urge a tolerant attitude toward Japanese Americans are sniveling sentimentalist. Damon Runyon, Denver Post, 4/28/43.

Relocation program endorsed. Westbrook Pegler, Washington Daily News, Rocky Mountain News, 4/29/43.

Evacuees have worked hard to make Gila spotlessly clean and passably attractive. Gila's staff and residents are to be respected for the job they did in making the project livable. Eleanor Roosevelt, "My Day", Washington News, Boston American, 4/26 and 4/27/43.

Tokyo executions (miscellaneous reactions):

Plan to release loyal Japanese may have to be delayed, officials fear. UP, Indianapolis Times, San Francisco News, Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles Herald & Express, 4/23/43, Detroit Times, 4/25/43.

Maj. Gen. Kenyon Joyce orders no molesting of evacuees. INS, Denver Post, 4/22/43.

Larry Tajiri labels executions "barbarism." AP, Spokesman-Review, Salt Lake Tribune, Seattle Times, 4/23/43.

JACL condemns executions. UP, Rocky Mountain News, 4/23/43.

Undersecretary of War Patterson says punishment will "be reserved for Nipponese officers...who instigated crime." AP, Billings Gazette, Rocky Mountain News, 4/23/43. INS, Portland Oregonian, 4/23/43. UP, Idaho Daily Statesman, 4/23/43. New York Times, 4/23/43.

Pomona Grange, wants farm workers but not murderous Japs, Spokane (Wash.) Spokesman-Review, 4/24/43.

Heart Mountain Sentinel editorially condemns executions. UP, Sacramento Bee, 4/24/43, Salt Lake Tribune, Billings Gazette, 4/24/43.

Director Davis of OWI tries to stem "angry congressional demands against loyal Americans of Japanese extraction" (in his radio broadcast). UP, Minneapolis Star Journal, Detroit Times, Washington News, 4/25/43.

OWI radio beams overseas expressions of horror, resentment, and sadness over Japan's act from American Japanese. AP, Arizona Republic, 4/25/43, San Francisco Chronicle, 4/24/43.

American mothers of service men demand coddling of evacuees be stopped. Denver Post, 4/23/43.

General DeWitt's testimony (miscellaneous reactions):

The following organizations publicly indicated support of General DeWitt's stand that Japanese should not be allowed to return to the Pacific

Coast for the duration: Native Sons of the Golden West (San Francisco News, 4/15/43), Fighting Fathers (Los Angeles Times, 4/16/43), California department of the American Legion (Sacramento Bee, 4/19/43), Imperial County Supervisors (Los Angeles Times, 4/21/43).

Pacific Coast citizens generally support DeWitt, Los Angeles Times, 4/21/43.

"Blame" the evacuated Japanese if you can't get an Easter lily in Seattle because they had a corner on the market. Seattle Post Intelligencer, 4/23/43.

William Randolph Hearst saluted by Native Sons on his 80th birthday for persistent fight against "infiltration of Japanese" into economic and political life of California. New York Journal & American, 4/29/43.

STUDENT RELOCATION--

A Korean, a Chinese, and a Japanese-American student at American University, Washington, D.C., work and live together in friendly manner. Washington Star, 4/30/43.

MAGAZINES--

The Christian Century, 4/28/43.

"Correspondence". Hideo Hashimoto writes from Jerome Relocation Center that "Church Federal Union Now" already exists within relocation centers and is working effectively.

A letter from Hawaii reports that the "executive committee of the Honolulu interchurch federation" addressed letters to mainland churches warning them against supporting a plan to evacuate Japanese from Hawaii.

Fellowship, 5/1943

"Supreme Court to Hear Hirabayashi Case", editorial. Gordon Hirabayashi's case is set for the Supreme Court hearing on May 3.

"Democracy on Trial", by Mary U. Farquharson. Tells the story of the Gordon Hirabayashi case. Miss Farquharson contends, "If the highest court holds steady (by deciding in favor of Hirabayashi), and reaffirms once more the American tradition, democratic government will have been many times reaffirmed."