

WEEKLY PRESS REVIEW

No. 20

Week ending June 2, 1943

For the Use of the WRA Staff

WRA received the full force of a typical Dies committee attack this week with false charges blazoned across the headlines of the press in Washington, D. C., and the Hearst papers carrying a series of malignantly slanted articles unquestionably based on releases of Dies committee spokesmen.

While newspapers gave most prominent play to the Dies committee "revelation" of a well-organized Japanese fifth column group among the evacuee population, buried in many stories were subtle attacks on Director Myer and other un-named WRA officials, Secretary Ickes, and Attorney General Biddle. In this connection it may be noted that Mr. Dies several weeks ago was reported by a number of papers as having said he was about to wind up the activities of his committee. This occurred simultaneously with the announcement of the dissolution of the Communist Third International. The discovery of WRA is doubtless intended to give the committee a new lease on life.

Principal accusations of the Dies committee, as reported by the press, are that 10,000 Japanese-Americans have received training in an espionage school operated by the Imperialistic Black Dragon Society of Japan; that WRA is planting all across America Japanese-Americans of questionable loyalty-- at the rate of 1,000 a week; that WRA is planning to import from South America and release throughout the United States members of South American Japanese colonies; that WRA has employed "at high salaries, attorneys and others known to belong to Communistic organizations."

The Committee was reported to be planning to issue its report within two weeks and to hold hearings shortly THEREAFTER. Director Myer will be asked to testify under oath, it was stated. In the meantime, AP reported that Rep. Thomas, Dies Committee member, had wired President Roosevelt asking him to issue a restraining order against WRA.

While the Dies Committee accusations received major press attention, the week was not wholly a bad one for WRA from the point of view of press relations. As a result of a two-day press conference at Tule Lake which had been organized by the San Francisco office of the OWI, a number of papers carried extremely favorable feature stories. Prominent among these was Lawrence Davies article in the important New York TIMES on May 25. This was a splendid example of unbiased, analytical newspaper reporting. Mary Ellen Leary's articles in the San Francisco NEWS, Milton Silverman's in the San Francisco CHRONICLE and those by Wendell Webb (AP syndicate) were good, and those by Leo McClatchy in the San Francisco CALL BULLETIN fair, although stressing the loyalty angle and recent disturbances over registration.

The War Manpower Commission area director for Utah was quoted by AP as criticizing WRA's handling of the relocation plan. He asserted that many evacuees tend to drift from one job to the other and that "we" plan to place them under the stabilization plan.

While three more midwestern organizations indicated opposition to employment of evacuees, most of the individual employment items from that area were either neutral or favorable. The Toledo BLADE had a particularly fine, illustrated, human-interest story on the employment of a Japanese-American secretary in the local WRA office.

The Washington NEWS reported a denial by Secretary Stimson of any connection between General DeWitt's transfer and the West Coast's Japanese-American situation, and the Washington STAR reported speculation in the nation's capital as to whether Lt. Gen. Emmons of Hawaii--whose treatment of Hawaiian's Japanese population has been commended by the liberal press--was slated to succeed General DeWitt.

On the legal front, there was little good news. The California legislature was reported to have passed a bill permanently banning fishing licenses to Japanese; the Alabama legislature received a proposed anti-Japanese land law constitutional amendment and a bill to ban marriages between Caucasians and Japanese. The Standard Oil Company of California was fined \$1,000 for selling gas to an American citizen of Japanese ancestry in violation of Arizona's law requiring advance public notice by persons planning to do business with Japanese-Americans.

Four Rocky Mountain papers used AP's wire which reported WRA's denial of excessive food costs and extravagance in the Heart Mountain messes.

Editorial attitudes were split on the usual lines. Usually, omitting West Coast and Mountain States papers, more editors are sympathetic than otherwise.

The Native Sons convention to discuss the "nisei problem" did the expected. San Francisco papers reported that the meeting concluded with a declaration of a continuing fight against Japanese "infiltration".

CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS --

Dies Committee investigation: (Ray Richards' articles)

Ray Richards, Washington correspondent for the Hearst papers, wrote a series of six articles which appeared in the following papers from May 21 through May 27: Los Angeles EXAMINER, Baltimore AMERICAN, Seattle POST INTELLIGENCER, New York JOURNAL AND AMERICAN, Chicago HERALD AND AMERICAN, Baltimore NEWS AND POST. The series is summarized below:

Dies group to summon Dillon Myer for questioning on WRA personnel and origin of plan for release of evacuees from centers.

Dies committee "reveals" it has names of Japanese-Americans included in list of 10,000 members of American Youth Organization of Japan's Black Dragon Society. "Evidence" shows Japanese-Americans interrupted education to attend schools in Japan. Dillon Myer to be called before committee to be asked if year's supervision of centers had apprised him of existence of such list.

Dies committee reveals aims: (1) To inquire into report WRA is planning to import Japanese evacuees from South American countries for eventual release in United States after periods of nominal confinement in relocation centers; (2) to determine extent which government officials have applied for Japanese workers in and near the national capital; (3) to investigate reports that disloyal Japanese at Gilá River have disrupted attempts to maintain camouflage net factory; (4) to survey recently reported invasion plan contemplating use of 10,000 Japanese-Americans synonymous with list of American membership in youth movement of Black Dragon society; (5) to check extent of employment of evacuees on railroads in view of "Japan's known keen interest in operation of the lines, and the 'amazing' supplies of time-tables and other railway data found in possession of west coast Japanese when they were rounded up early in 1942." Result to be published in two weeks. Hearings to start immediately thereafter.

Deputy Director Rowalt announces number of evacuees released increased from 600 to 1000 weekly; brings reply from Rep. Thomas (R.-N.J.) who condemns "wholesale release of internees."

Dies committee to hold first of hearings on conditions in centers week of June 6, in Los Angeles.

Other press reports

Rep. Thomas (R.-N.J.) urges President Roosevelt to stop release of evacuees from centers in interest of national safety until Dies committee completes investigation. Six scattered papers.

"Startling Jap spy activity" told by Rep. Thomas to group of newspapermen. Los Angeles TIMES, 5/20/43.

"Stop release of Japs", says Thomas. Los Angeles EXAMINER, 5/20/43.

DeWitt's stand against return of Japanese to coast "sole reason" for transfer, according to Rep. Thomas. New York City JOURNAL & AMERICAN, 5/26/43.

Dies group says reports will give new light on relocation centers. Los Angeles TIMES, 5/19/43.

Dies committee takes up relocation program. New York City SUN, 5/26/43.

"Jap spies released from camps to take jobs in U. S.," Dies says. James E. Chinn, Washington STAR, 5/29/43.

"Released Japs spies", declares Dies probers. Washington POST, 5/30/43, by Francis J. Connor, Washington correspondent of Chicago SUN.

Miscellaneous

Senator Walgren (D. Wash.) opposes return of evacuees to coast. AP Klamath Falls HERALD AND NEWS, Sacramento BEE 5/18/43. San Diego UNION 5/19/43.

Senator Holman (R. Oregon) introduces bill to take citizenship from "great majority" of Japanese Americans, those persons whose births were registered with the Japanese consul. Portland OREGONIAN 5/24/43.

Representative Costello (D. Calif.) opposes return of all evacuees to coast. Los Angeles EXAMINER 5/23/43.

EMPLOYMENT

Farm labor

Thirty five Japanese evacuees arrive at McClusky health camp to supply labor to farmers. Camp has been turned over to management of sugar beet company, Twin Falls, Idaho, TIMES NEWS, 5/19/43.

Fifty evacuees from Heart Mountain to work in pea and truck fields in Dayton, Washington. Seattle Post INTELLIGENCER 5/21/43.

Douglas county becomes first in western Nevada to welcome evacuees in alleviating farm labor shortage. Las Vegas, Nevada, REVIEW -JOURNAL, 5/20/43.

Some evacuees may work on farms in North Dakota but no mass movement is anticipated, according to Elmer Isakesen head of field office in Fargo. Fargo, North Dakota FORUM, 5/23/43.

Majority of Minidoka evacuees engaged in farm work in Southern Idaho. Idaho Daily STATESMAN, 5/24/43.

Attorney General Biddle

Attorney General Biddle seeks trained maid from Gila for work in home of cousin, Miss Constance Biddle. New York City JOURNAL AND AMERICAN, 5/23/43.

Biddle denies he seeks Japanese-American maid. Washington, D. C. TIMES HERALD, 5/25/43.

Miss Constance Biddle would like to help relocation program by employing Japanese American but Congressman objects. "Japanese, many of them American citizens with excellent backgrounds should not be herded into camps" states Miss Biddle. Philadelphia Penn. RECORD, 5/28/43.

Hostile Attitudes Expressed Toward Relocation

"Widespread abuse of agreement under which Japanese evacuees accept employment in order to leave relocation centers", according to Joseph S. Mayer, Utah Area director of War Manpower Commission. "Japanese evacuees should be under stabilization plan like all other workers". AP Denver POST, San Francisco EXAMINER, 5/23/43.

Federation of Approved Rural Organizations oppose importation of Japanese farm labor into Clark county. "Permanent jobs must be kept open for returning soldiers after war". Springfield, Ohio, SUN, 5/24/43.

Two Gary industrial firms study use of Nisei workers. Proposal draws fire of Legion post. Gary Indiana POST TRIBUNE, 5/20/43,

Decatur Trades and Labor assembly against employment of Japanese or other "aliens". Decatur, Illinois HERALD, 5/22/43.

Miscellaneous

Population of Minidoka drops as more residents depart to take jobs. Jerome North Side NEWS, 5/20/43.

Civil Service opened to evacuees. Millard County CHRONICLE, 5/29/43.

Hostel to accommodate evacuee workers in Cleveland to be opened by American Baptist Home Mission Society of New York. Cleveland Ohio PRESS, 5/22/43.

Federal attorney examinations given by Civil Service opened to American citizens living in centers of WRA. Columbia South Carolina RECORD, 5/24/43.

Twenty-two Nisei certified by FBI working in and around Madison. Madison, Wisconsin, ST. JOURNAL, 5/25/43. 5/24/43.

Twenty-five more evacuees have taken jobs in Milwaukee or its immediate vicinity. Milwaukee, Wisconsin, JOURNAL, 5/24/43.

Photograph showing Japanese American secretary to William Fluke, regional director of WRA in Toledo with caption, "Pretty Japanese-American takes secretarial job here." Toledo, Ohio BLADE, 5/24/43.

PUBLIC ATTITUDES

Editorials

Hostile to evacuees

Senator Chandler "congratulated" on campaign to awaken nation to menace of Japanese. Las Vegas, Nevada, REVIEW JOURNAL, 5/17/43.

California will accept Italian prisoners for labor but not Japanese. Visalia TIMES DELTA, 5/18/43.

Who wants them free? San Diego, California UNION, 5/18/43.

Japanese have nothing in common with decent American principles. Have turned on country that has befriended them. San Diego, Calif. UNION, 5/19/43.

Use of Japanese Americans on farms not successful. Quincy, Illinois HERALD WHIG, 5/19/43.

Representative Thomas (R. New Jersey) answers pro-Japanese sentimentalism. Los Angeles TIMES, 5/21/43.

Matter of release or not of Japanese should be treated with realism. San Francisco CHRONICLE, 5/21/43.

Claim of WRA that Heart Mountain residents comply with food rationing regulations false. Denver POST, 5/21/43.

Probable solution to both Japanese-American and Italian war prisoner problem in relation to agricultural labor shortage lies in sending Japanese evacuees to midwest and east and Italians to west coast. Inyo, California INDEPENDENT, 5/21/43.

Mother objects to Japanese students at University of Utah while American boys fight. Salt Lake City, Utah DESERT NEWS, 5/22/43.

Opposed to "humanitarians" who howl about treatment of Japanese. South Carolina INDEPENDENT TRIBUNE, 5/22/43.

Why should Japanese "prisoners" receive better treatment than civilian population of America receives? Oklahoma City, Oklahoma OKLAHOMAN, 5/25/43.

Supreme Court decision crystal clear. Must uphold evacuation. Unimaginable otherwise. San Francisco CHRONICLE, 5/19/43.

Sympathetic to evacuees .

Segregation of loyal from disloyal Japanese evacuees should be done with utmost care. Sacramento, California UNION, 5/17/43.

America will have lost part of what it is fighting for if it continues barbed-wire internment of its Nisei citizens--while bringing Nazi enemies here for honorable employment and humane treatment. St. Paul, Minnesota DISPATCH, 5/19/43.

Let's give these young citizens a chance. We have faith that a Japanese-American is not a Japanese but an American. Gary, Indiana POST TRIBUNE, 5/20/43.

Good and bad Japs! Nothing to be gained by blanket condemnation of whole race. Alexandria, Louisiana TOWN TALK, 5/22/43.

Detroit Housing Commission bars Japanese Americans and other minority groups from "white projects". Detroit, Michigan CHRONICLE, 5/22/43.

Resolutions and statements of prominent people

Native Sons of Golden West Convention:

Native Sons of Golden West to convene in three day session to discuss Nisei problem. San Francisco EXAMINER, San Francisco CHRONICLE, 5/17/43.

Campaign renewed by Native Sons to erase Japanese American citizenship. Five California papers.

Native Sons adopt resolution barring U. S. citizenship for Nisei forever. Seattle POST INTELLIGENCER, 5/19/43.

Native Sons favor continued "internment" of all Japanese. UP Los Angeles TIMES, Los Angeles EXAMINER, 5/19/43.

Native Sons acclaim William Randolph Hearst "for valiant fight against Japanese infiltration in California". San Francisco EXAMINER, 5/19/43.

Exchange of American prisoners in Japan for disloyal Japanese in U. S. proposed by Native Sons. AP dispatch in four California papers.

Native Sons wind up meeting declaring continued fight on Japanese. San Francisco EXAMINER, San Francisco CALL BULLETIN, 5/20/43.

Others:

Coast must take back Nisei after war, professor claims. Pasadena, California POST, 5/18/43.

Milk for Japanese in centers but none for sailors in naval training station, states retired physician. Los Angeles EXAMINER, 5/18/43.

Pacifist organizations charged with support of Japanese in U. S. Los Angeles EXAMINER, 5/19/43.

Japanese boasting "high friends" in War Department, states director of Americanism Educational League. Los Angeles EXAMINER, 5/19/43.

Pomona Chamber of Commerce fights Japanese return to coast. Los Angeles TIMES, 5/18/43.

Perry Hall, relocation officer for federal government, wants to place evacuees in middle west. Quincy, Illinois, HERALD WHIGS, 5/19/43.

"Keep interned Japanese away from West Coast", Los Angeles County division of California Federation of Womens' Clubs. Los Angeles EXAMINER, 5/19/43.

Siskiyou County Pomona Grange opposes Japanese combat units in U. S. army. Sacramento BEE, 5/19/43.

North City Council of Sacramento backs action of Western Defense Command, Sacramento BEE, 5/19/43.

Taft Chamber of Commerce against return of Japanese to coast. Bakersfield California CALIFORNIANS, 5/19/43.

"Hope Japs never return to coast", Mayor Bowron of Los Angeles. AP San Francisco CALL BULLETIN, Sacramento BEE, 5/20/43. Los Angeles TIMES, 5/20/43.

Spanish War Veterans oppose return of Japanese to coast. Four California papers.

Womens' Republican Study Club of Los Angeles adopt resolution against release of Japanese. Six California papers.

California Grand Court of Foresters of America protest return of Japanese. Four California papers.

Sacramento Valley Council of California State Chamber of Commerce opposes return of Japanese to coast. Sacramento BEE, 5/22/43.

California War Council opposes any plan for return of Japanese for duration of war. Adopts resolution backing DeWitt. Five California papers.

Chamber protests return of Japanese to West Coast. San Diego UNION, 5/21/43.

Exclusion of all Japanese advocated by board of directors of Builders Exchange. Long Beach, California. PRESS TELEGRAM, 5/22/43. San Francisco EXAMINER, 5/24/43.

Evacuation of coast Japanese compared with Japanese problem in Hawaii by speaker for committee on American principles and Fair Play. Fresno California BEE, 5/23/43.

District Attorneys of California note resolution to support stand of DeWitt. Sacramento BEE, 5/24/43.

Permanent ban of Japanese aliens and consideration of question of status of Nisei recommended by Open Forum Breakfast Club in Los Angeles. Los Angeles TIMES, 5/24/43.

"Pacific States want no part of any plan to return evacuees to coast", President of board of director of National Association of County Officials. Sacramento BEE, 5/24/43.

"Every Jap not an American citizen should be sent back to Japan", National Commander of American Legion. Denver POST, 5/26/43.

"Don't want Japanese now or ever", Governor Sidney P. Osborn of Arizona. AP Salt Lake TRIBUNE, 5/25/43. Arizona REPUBLIC, 5/24/43. Arizona Farmer, 5/22/43.

"Utah stands neutral on assimilation of Japanese into university", Dr. Leroy E. Cowles, president Salt Lake TRIBUNE, 5/26/43.

Idaho American Legion state commander criticizes U. S. policy on Japanese. Four Northwestern papers.

Northwestern Wyoming American Legion urges disloyal Japanese be taken from camp. AP Denver NEWS, 5/17/43. Wichita Kansas BEACON, 5/21/43.

Removal of Japanese from Los Angeles hospitals asked. Nine papers, all three wire services.

Citizenship for Orientals asked, Federal Council of Churches. Seattle Post INTELLIGENCER, 5/20/43.

Proposed return of Japanese to coast to be discussed by Pacific League's alien problem committee. Los Angeles TIMES, 5/19/43. Hollywood, California CITIZEN NEWS, 5/20/43.

Omaha conference of National Association of County Officials calls on U. S. to stop pampering Japanese. Denver POST, 5/27/43.

Letters to the Editor

Thirteen letters to the editor were received this week. Two favorable and the rest unsympathetic. Three came from evacuees. Walter Mitchell, Bishop of Phoenix, Arizona deplores the amount of prejudice prevalent in states of Arizona against the Japanese.

Photographs

Photographs were mainly concerned with Tule Lake this week as result of press conference held there. Picture showing nurses holding new babies born in centers were carried in Spokesman REVIEW, 5/25/43 and San Francisco CALL BULLETIN, 5/24/43.

"Jap Children learn the American Way" was caption on pictures showing small kindergarten children singing English songs. San Francisco CALL BULLETIN, 5/24/43. Albany New York NEWS, 4/25/43. New York City SUN, 5/24/43. The San Francisco CALL BULLETIN, 5/24/43, also carried photograph showing two women under hair dryer in beauty shop and general view of housing area of Tule Lake.

FEATURE ARTICLES

OWI invited newsman to visit Tule Lake to look over the center with complete freedom. Several feature articles were written about the visit in various newspapers. The New York Times (5/25/43) carried a particularly fine article by Lawrence E. Davies, an example of unbiased newspaper reporting. One point brought out was evacuee fear of leaving the centers because of public opinion and discriminatory attitude of American communities. Nine observations were made including:

- (1) More than 6000 persons have asked for repatriation to Japan but are housed and permitted to mingle freely with other Japanese in centers. Staff officials favor segregation but fear it would require another costly camp, another mass movement, and would unsettle life among the remaining residents.
- (2) Early resettlement of evacuees is necessary to preserve and salvage loyalty and ambitions after year of separation from outside world.
- (3) "Little Tokyos" to be avoided in resettling.
- (4) Life in centers is causing breakdown in time-honored Japanese family tradition.
- (5) Many citizens are not pro-Japanese but anti-American because of what they regard their unconstitutional treatment.

(6) The old army grumbling about food has its counterpart in centers.

Other articles on Tule Lake included Wendell Webb, correspondent in thirteen scattered papers; and Milton Silverman, San Francisco CHRONICLE, 5/25/43. Leo McClatchy, San Francisco CALL BULLETIN, 5/25/43; Mary Ellen Leary, San Francisco NEWS, 5/25/43. 5/24/43. AP Minneapolis Minnesota TRIBUNE, 5/25/43. Boston Mass. POST, 5/25/43.

Columnists:

West Coast likely to get Japanese back after war because of financial and political connections in pre-war days that will be easily revived under influence of peace. Damon Runyon, Louisville, Kentucky, COURIER JOURNAL, 5/21/43. Idaho Daily STATESMAN, 5/22/43.

"If Myer-Roosevelt program is carried out U.S. will be raising status of members of yellow race who prove themselves loyal Americans". Mary Hornaday, Christian Science MONITOR, 5/19/43.

MILITARY SERVICE

Shift of General DeWitt from coast is predicted. Denver POST, 5/27/43.

Secretary of War Stimson denies DeWitt removed because of Japanese situation. Washington NEWS, 5/27/43.

Lt. General Delos C. Emmons to give up Hawaiian command to take new post. Speculation arises on probable succession to DeWitt. Evening STAR, 5/28/43.

MESS OPERATIONS

Heart Mountain camp complies with rationing rules states WRA. Four mountain states papers.

Topaz reduces food budget. Salt Lake TRIBUNE, 5/25/43.

REPORTS

Japanese loyal evacuees to be released from centers and into jobs as soon as possible and "segregation" of disloyal to be started, according to statement by Dillon S. Myer.

Jerome North Side NEWS carried article on above statement by Dillon S. Myer and regards the announcement as "bombshell", 5/20/43.

Public acceptance of evacuees depends upon attitude and willingness of evacuees to adapt themselves, according to Heart Mountain Sentinel which credits statement to Vaughn Mechau, reports officer of center. Cheyenne Wyoming TRIBUNE, 5/25/43.

Rumors that Minidoka center may close denied by Dillon S. Myer. Idaho Daily STATESMAN, 5/25/43.

EVACUEE PROPERTY

Lowry bill empowering state to acquire Japanese idle machinery signed by Governor Warren. Sacramento BEE, 5/19/43.

Passage of Lowry bill "will assist in production of food for war effort" according to Governor Warren. Sacramento, California UNION, 5/20/43.

Lowry bill signed appropriating \$150,000 for state acquisition of idle Japanese owned property. San Francisco CHRONICLE, 5/20/43.

State will take idle Japanese owned machinery. Sacramento BEE, 5/24/43. Recent federal survey reveals approximately 1100 pieces of idle evacuee property in southern California. Los Angeles TIMES, 5/25/43.

EDUCATION

Wyoming University denies scholarships to Heart Mountain students. Denver POST, 5/26/43.

"Children of Japanese ancestry not entitled to receive free school privileges from school district (Idaho) in which parents are placed by war relocation authorities", rules Attorney General Bert Miller. AP Denver POST, Boise Idaho STATESMAN, Spokesman REVIEW, 5/22/43.

MISCELLANEOUS

Japanese now in relocation center fought in Spanish American war. Six scattered papers.

Nurse finds Japanese youths in Hawaii loyal to U. S. Wilmington Delaware JOURNAL EVERY EVE, 5/26/43.

Photograph showing Japanese American girl receiving gifts from Y.W.C.A. girl reserves to be sent to center in Utah. Des Moines REGISTER, 4/21/43.

LEGAL --

Japanese evacuee sued by company for leaving contract job incompletd. Evacuee contends removal to relocation center prevented completion. Sacramento, California UNION, 5/21/43.

Alabama state senator introduces amendment to prevent any Japanese not bona fide resident of state from owning any property. Mobile, Alabama REGISTER, 5/22/43.

State Legislature of California bans fishing licenses to Japanese permanently. Ashland Kentucky INDEPENDENT, 5/23/43.

Standard Oil Company of California fined for selling gasoline to Japanese-American without first having given public notice of transaction "according to new Arizona law". San Francisco CALL BULLETIN, 5/24/43.

Rep. Wilbur Bearman of Alabama house of Representatives moves to amend marriage law of state to include ban of marriage between Whites and Japanese. New York City PM, 5/26/43.

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