

WEEKLY PRESS REVIEW

No. 23

Week Ending June 23, 1943

For the Use of the WRA Staff

SUMMARY

Publicity surrounding WRA reached a new high this week with approximately 575 items about the Dies Committee investigation alone. Because of the tremendous volume of clippings it was impossible to digest each individual item and only the most significant news is mentioned in the Review. The Pacific Coast papers continued to show the greatest interest in the Dies Committee stories. Wire service dispatches, although used widely throughout the country, were for the most part cut considerably and buried in the inside pages. However, some of the most inflammatory articles by Hearst correspondent Ray Richards received front page play in leading Hearst papers outside the coastal area.

The number of anti-Japanese-American resolutions passed by small West Coast groups mounted with the increase in stories about potential sabotage. These resolutions, in turn, were frequently directed to the Dies Committee.

Governor Warren of California was reported to have told a committee of California legislators that the return of Japanese-Americans to California would be a "body blow" to California's security, and to have stated at a national conference of state governors that the Army should have control of relocation centers.

The Supreme Court validation of the curfew orders received little publicity in Eastern papers. It is still too early to ascertain reaction in the Western press. PM stressed that the decision provided that "all rights and privileges of citizens must be restored promptly at the end of the emergency".

State Senator Hugh Burns (California) accused the Committee on American Principles and Fair Play of an undercover campaign to return evacuees to California. This was promptly denied by representatives of the Committee.

A letter from Assistant Secretary McCloy to the president of a San Francisco civic group, explaining the War Department position on the Japanese-American problem, was interpreted by California papers as a denial of a plan to return Japanese to the West Coast. The text of Mr. McCloy's letter was printed in full by the San Francisco CALL BULLETIN.

Much was made by the Dies Committee of records seized in its recent raid on JACL headquarters in Washington. Confidential material from JACL files was turned over to the press.

Hearings on the Japanese-American situation were held in California by a subcommittee of the Senate Military Affairs Committee, headed by Senator Downey, as well as by the Dies Committee. The Downey hearings received very little publicity.

Middle Western papers were uniformly objective in reporting on the NYA situation. Iowa and Minnesota papers reported progress on placing evacuee youths stranded as a result of the NYA order.

According to an AP dispatch, witnesses at hearings in Arizona on the question of incorporating Gila River Cooperative Enterprises objected to establishing an evacuee cooperative on the ground that it would pave the way for Japanese domination of Arizona's agriculture.

In Baltimore, pressure from Negro groups was reported to have caused the Baltimore Department of Welfare to cancel its plans to employ nisei women. Those opposing the plan contended that qualified Negro residents were available for the jobs from which they were excluded because of racial prejudice.

According to the Sacramento BEE, the appearance of a Japanese-American soldier in uniform at a fruit warehouse in Loomis resulted in a one-day sit-down strike of fruit packers.

CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS --

Dies Committee investigation:

"Organized anti-Americanism involving thousands of Japanese in Pacific Coast relocation centers... will be officially aired this week, when a special Dies Committee... launches hearings." Los Angeles EXAMINER, 6/7/43. Los Angeles TIMES, 6/7/43.

Costello states Committee will "endeavor to determine the percentage of Black Dragon Society members among Japanese evacuated from California". AP, 6/7/43.

Ralph Gelvin testifies "that Japanese evacuees at the Poston, Ariz., relocation center worked when they wanted to, and when they did not want to, white labor had to be hired on the project". AP, 6/8/43.

Robert Stripling declared "some of the Japanese being discharged have been trained specially in sabotage..." Myer admitted before Senate Military Affairs Committee that he "was taking a chance" in wholesale release program. Sacramento BEE, Modesto BEE, by George Dean, 6/8/43.

AP dispatches of June 8, based on Ralph Gelvin's testimony that 450 American-born Japanese at Poston "have refused to repudiate their loyalty to the Emperor of Japan", were used by 46 scattered papers in addition to those reported last week. The AP dispatches on food wastage, based on Gelvin's testimony, appeared in 11 additional papers.

Ralph Gelvin, under questioning, "said that the Japanese language was being taught to 200 of the Poston internees". Asked if he didn't know "that Japanese language schools were engaged in subversive activities before Pearl Harbor", Ralph Gelvin replied, "I don't think there's any subversive activity in the military intelligence" (where project language schools are training students to go). INS, Los Angeles TIMES, 6/10/43.

"Conduct of Japanese newspapers in United States was marked for investigation... by the House un-American Committee... to ascertain whether there is any relationship between publishers of certain Japanese-American papers and Communist front organizations..." Los Angeles TIMES, 6/9/43.

Dies Committee charges language appearing in PACIFIC CITIZEN "is being copied literally from the standard terminology used for years by the Communist press of the United States". Los Angeles EXAMINER, 6/9/43.

Dies Committee develops testimony that "Hostels" for Japanese "are being set up throughout the Middle West and East by the American Friends' Service Committee, to which Japanese are sent without guard and with a gift of \$50 and a railroad ticket from the government..." Los Angeles EXAMINER, 6/9/43.

Dies Committee finds over 600 nisei at Poston "openly disloyal". Los Angeles TIMES, 6/9/43.

Seattle Evacuee Service Council telegraphs protest to Dies Committee over statements made by Robert Stripling. Seattle TIMES, 6/9/43.

Ralph Gelvin "admits" he "does not know the mysterious method by which thousands of Japanese, citizens and aliens, are being released..." Says within "past few weeks the projects have been permitted to release Japanese without prior Washington approval..." (Accurate testimony, slanted in news story.) Sacramento BEE, 6/9/43, by George Dean.

Augustus Empie urges segregation, charges theft of gasoline and lumber by evacuees. Los Angeles TIMES, 6/10/43.

Empie states the "Japanese camp chief of police... told a white transportation officer that he was taking 'no orders from any --- white trash'". INS, 6/10/43.

Mayor Fletcher Bowron of Los Angeles testifies that "former Japanese city employees who now are suspected of having been active in behalf of Tokio government have been released from relocation centers without consultation with city authorities". States that K. Okura, a former examiner for the Civil Service Commission "has been released and... is influencing the philosophy of the future citizens of this country in a place that cares for boys..." (Boystown, Nebraska). AP, 6/10/43.

Mayor Bowron said that, if the FBI made any inquiry into the background of any of the Japanese who have been let out of the relocation centers, it was made through the Police Department. "The Japanese are

potentially law-abiding, and their names do not appear in the police records... This very fact makes them potentially more dangerous." Hollywood CITIZEN NEWS, 6/10/43.

News stories based on testimony of Harold Townsend that Poston was held in a state of siege for nearly a week, and that evacuees hid food in the desert for expected paratroopers from Japan, appeared in at least 95 papers on July 11. Among Townsend's accusations, as reported in the press, were that the Japanese flag was run up in place of the American flag during a riot last November; that 1,000 evacuees at Poston admitted that they had received Japanese military training before evacuation; that supplies worth \$100,000 had been stolen from the warehouses; that a former admiral in the Japanese navy was now a chef at the center; that the evacuees were fed 25 per cent better than the United States Army.

"All the witnesses at the July 11 hearings" (Beery, American Legion representative, Sheriff Jesse Elliott of Orange County, Frank C. Latham, past farm bureau president of Orange County, and representatives of the Native Sons) "flatly declared the people of the Pacific Coast are opposed to the return of the Japanese to this area." Sacramento BEE, 6/11/43, by George Dean.

"Ernest Wickersham, chief warehouseman at the Poston project, joined with his colleagues in blaming social workers for unrest and the laxity of discipline in the center." Sacramento BEE, 6/11/43.

Dies Committee receives written report from Sino-Korean League that "the firing of Oregon's forests was planned by 100 aged men of the Portland Japanese colony a month before Pearl Harbor..." New York City JOURNAL & AMERICAN, and by Ray Richards, 6/12/43 (other Hearst papers).

Dies Committee representatives check JACL membership lists "to ascertain how many Japanese-Americans active in the association work for the Federal government". Los Angeles TIMES, by Warren Francis, 6/13/43.

Norris James, former reports officer at Poston, testifies that ringleaders in beatings have been released from camps -- a "very dangerous" procedure; that evacuees "have respect only for strong disciplinary action"; that the Poston CHRONICLE is not censored; and that, because of lack of mail censorship, it would be possible to send code messages back and forth without detection. Hollywood CITIZEN NEWS, 6/11/43.

James told the Committee that he had resigned from the camp to join the armed forces. INS, 6/11/43.

James was reported to have testified that "an avowed agent of the Japanese government, hired by U.S. authorities to teach wrestling, promised awards to inmates who remained loyal to Japan" (in a broadcast over the camp public address system) and later was appointed by WRA as "leader of the community planning board". UP, 6/11/43 (numerous papers).

Norris James describes to Dies Committee "government's effort to establish a consumers' cooperative to take over Japanese business concerns at Poston"; says that efforts of Rochdale representatives to sell cooperatives precipitated a demonstration; estimates the number of Japanese agents at Poston as "probably 600". AP, 6/11/43.

Reports of Norris James' testimony appeared in about 120 papers.

Clarence Gillette, a former missionary, tells Springfield, Mo., Congregationalists that "recent charges against the Japanese residents of the relocation center at Poston, Ariz., are 'a mixture of truth and a good deal of misinterpretation' with 'some statements that I know are not true'". Springfield, Mo., LEADER & PRESS, 6/14/43.

Congressman Castello states that "Japanese in relocation centers now definitely would not be allowed to return to the Pacific Coast during the war". AP, 6/14/43.

Rep. Mundt states he is convinced army should operate camps. AP, 6/14/43.

Wade Head denies statement made by Norris James that "eight Japanese youths who attacked another went unpunished" and characterizes Townsend as "a disgruntled employee discharged for permitting the conditions he described to exist". AP, 6/14/43.

"The Provost Marshal General's office is worried about new activities of Dies Committee investigators" and "would like to have Dies Committee statements cleared through responsible military authorities, but fears suggesting this to Congress." Des Moines REGISTER, 6/14/43.

Dies Committee to summon Dillon Myer to answer "reports that Myer alone is responsible for release of Japs from relocation centers". AP, 6/14/43 (numerous papers).

Rep. Mundt favors army control of camps so that "practical experience would be available to the branch of the service that is being developed to operate occupied cities". AP, 6/14/43 (numerous papers).

Dies Committee promises "new developments" this week concerning its raid on Washington JACL headquarters. Washington NEWS, 6/15/43.

Dies Committee finds documentary evidence (in seized JACL records) that "an organized and widespread plan was hatched in Washington in April to dump 107,000 evacuated Japanese back into the West Coast combat zone." "Front" for the plan is the "Committee on Americanism and Fair Play". Name of Vice-President Wallace "enters picture" in a "confidential" report to the JACL from a relocation center which states that evacuee "thinkers" were engrossed in their role of guinea pigs in a post-war cooperative system" and that "Mr. Wallace did not want the plan discussed openly yet because of fear of 'capitalist-supported' representatives in Congress". Carey McWilliams "listed in Dies Committee files as an officer

of 13 Communist organizations" linked with work of Committee on Americanism and Fair Play. JACL files also reveal: Center residents refused to participate in short-wave propaganda broadcast; JACL is on mailing list of "virtually every Communist organization in the country"; Communists at centers oppose going to Japan at end of war. By Ray Richards, leading Hearst papers, 6/15/43.

Mayor Bowron of Los Angeles testifies that Miya Kikuchi "spread Japanese propaganda in a subtle way", was released from Manzanar to make a lecture tour. AP, 6/16/43.

Nation's most dangerous Japanese, "according to a Los Angeles police report", was released from Poston to work at Boys' Town. UP, 6/16/43.

Earl Best, former WRA employee at Poston and Heart Mountain, testifies that stolen hoards of food were traded for whisky and chickens. UP, 6/17/43.

Thomas L. Cavett, "former investigator of Japanese relocation centers", testified "that the Japanese evacuees receive preference over civilians in food purchased by the Army for the centers". UP, 6/17/43.

Delegation from Phoenix warns Dies Committee that "riot and bloodshed would follow if the Japanese were permitted to relocate in Arizona". New York TIMES, 6/17/43.

Earl Best tells Dies Committee that "a Japanese, Sam Nagata, actually was boss at the internment center". Washington TIMES-HERALD, 6/18/43.

Roosevelt's death urged by Japanese-American block leader at Manzanar, according to a report in JACL files seized by Dies Committee. AP, 6/20/43.

"The General Staff of the United States Army believes there is an imminent danger of a Japanese invasion attempt, and thus has broken with civilian War Department officials on the question of return of evacuated Japanese-Americans...", JACL files disclose. Other records show "Japanese-Americans admitted to confidential staff conferences in some of most important departments of the Government" and "have actually shaped Government policies..." League officer attended a meeting of Justice Department lawyers "at which was planned the Government's Supreme Court argument" and where "Attorney General Francis Biddle expressed hope the Government would lose its case". Mike Masaoka stated that "Secretary of War Stimson has roundly rebuked General DeWitt for his attitude" and "penalized DeWitt by forcing him... to permit the return of Japanese-American soldiers to the prohibited zones in uniform... Assistant Secretary of War McCloy is the 'spearhead' of movement among Washington bureaucrats to restore the Japanese to the free run of the West Coast" and is "supported by Edward Ennis... Elmer Davis... and Dillon Myer". By Ray Richards, front page in New York JOURNAL & AMERICAN, 6/17/43.

Ralph Stringfellow, special agent for the metropolitan water district of Southern California, testifies before Dies Committee that "Japanese engineers shortly before Pearl Harbor received technical data on the \$200,000,000 Colorado River Aqueduct". New York TIMES, 6/20/43.

Other Congressional matters:

Congressman J. Leroy Johnson (R.-Calif.) reveals he is working on plan which will provide legal means for getting Japanese out of the United States. Following Johnson's statement, Military Order of the Purple Heart sends him resolution asking he initiate appropriate legislation "barring all Japanese from the Pacific Coast for all time". Sacramento UNION, 6/10/43.

Local (Sacramento) office of Cong. Johnson revealed "scores of telephone calls and communications" received applauding his stand. Sacramento BEE, 6/11/43.

California delegation in House voices "formal protest against use of Japanese-American troops in the Pacific theater, their entry into the Western defense zone, and return of any evacuees to California", etc. Recommendation to be circulated for signature among all California legislators and to be sent to President Roosevelt and War Department. Los Angeles TIMES, 6/15/43.

Downey Military Affairs Subcommittee investigation:

On June 11 Subcommittee to "hear behind locked doors" in San Francisco "testimony regarding the fire hazard on the Pacific Coast from potential saboteurs, and the Army's attitude regarding the Japanese relocation centers at Tule Lake and Manzanar". San Francisco NEWS, 6/10/43. San Francisco CHRONICLE, 6/11/43.

Senator Downey says Committee will make recommendations on the Japanese situation in relation "to coast's preparedness against attack, and the agitation to remove Japs from relocation centers". San Francisco EXAMINER, 6/11/43.

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Rep. Hoffman of Michigan endorses Dies Committee disclosures and advocates letting "the Army take care of them over here, and the Army, Navy, and the Marines take care of them in the Pacific". Washington TIMES-HERALD, 6/21/43.

ADMINISTRATIVE - -

Budget:

House Appropriations Committee approves WRA release policy but cautions that evacuees' records should be doubly checked before given freedom. Budget reduction from last year calculated on information that center populations would drop 32,000. Washington STAR, 6/16/43.

Among the seven agencies listed by the Byrd Economy Committee as having given excessive pay raises in the last two years was WRA. New York TIMES, 6/17/43.

Unemployment compensation:

Some Japanese given unemployment compensation at centers, "paradoxically that's only to keep 'em working." AP, 5 scattered papers, 6/10 and 6/11/43.

Director of Arizona Unemployment Security Commission denies compensation funds being paid to center residents, AP, Tuscon, Arizona STAR, 6/11/43.

John Sakrison, member of Employment Security Commission, states no claims received but, if they are, Arizona commission will follow example of California which has denied unemployment benefits "because they were unavailable for work." Tuscon STAR, 6/12/43.

California State Employment Commission to review cases of "300 Japanese...who reportedly have been denied unemployment insurance compensation in all but 'one or two' instances". May reverse its policy and pay claims. Long Beach PRESS TELEGRAM, 6/11/43. Sacramento BEE, 6/11/43.

NYA::

"Another inter-agency row burst into print Thursday over whether the national youth administration will make good on promises to handle a group of young Japanese-Americans...Nobody made any bones about the fact that Williams is trying to protect NYA while it is seeking a new appropriation in congress." Des Moines REGISTER, 6/4/43.

NYA has "stepped out of the range of fire" by releasing about 275 nisei from its training centers. AP, Modesto BEE, 6/5/43, Fort Dodge, Iowa, MESSENGER & CHRONICLE, 6/5/43.

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Powers County, Colorado, officials ask WRA to assume tax losses incurred as result of removal of land acquired for Granada from tax rolls. Denver POST, 6/15/43.

Elmer Shirrell, a "native son", is getting national publicity as result of statement that employers "need not doubt the patriotism of their nisei employees." Santa Barbara NEWS-PRESS, 6/4/43.

EMPLOYMENT --

WRA announces that 94 evacuees rejected for military service because of physical defects are seeking employment in the midwest. War department board asks that rejected army candidates be given priority for jobs over other evacuees. Indianapolis NEWS, 6/8/43.

Elmer Shirrell states demand for evacuee workers growing in midwest. Chicago TRIBUNE, 6/9/43.

Two more nisei arrive in Des Moines to seek jobs through newly opened WRA office. Des Moines REGISTER, 6/10/43.

A nisei girl "very happy" in relocation job in Cincinnati, Ohio. Cincinnati TIMES STAR, 6/10/43.

1000 evacuees from Hunt, Tule Lake, and Manzanar have gone into Idaho for farm labor, according to State FSA administration. Boise STATESMAN, 6/9/43.

Kentucky USES officer announces that Japanese citizens in relocation centers have been "listed as eligible for agricultural and professional work in the Louisville area. AP, Lexington, Ky., HERALD, 6/12/43.

Japanese-American family of four gets new start in Bloomington, Illinois. Bloomington PANTAGRAPH, 6/12/43.

WRA appoints officials for Iowa relocation office. Davenport, Iowa, DEMOCRAT, 6/13/43.

Americans of Japanese descent transplanted to Chicago (favorable summary of relocation program) Chicago SUN, 6/13/43.

Department of Welfare, Baltimore, to decide question of employing American citizens of Japanese race in Baltimore City Hospitals. Baltimore NEWS & POST, 6/11/43. Decides to abandon plan. Opposition arose "because colored Baltimore women are banned from city supported hospitals' staff except as nurses for colored patients. Among those protesting were executive secretary of the National Association for Advancement of Colored People and organizer for the Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers (CIO) which urged use of local colored women first. Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN (Negro) 6/12/43.

Placement of youth affected by NYA order:

WRA is providing shelter for 40 boys while the 3 girls left stranded in Minnesota are being cared for at NYA resident girls' center. Jobs have been found for five boys, one girl has been placed, and numerous other employment offers are being received. (friendly story) St Paul, Minnesota, DISPATCH, 6/7/43.

Jobs and housing must be found within six days for 40 youths whose room and board arrangements will be canceled then, according to WRA relocation officer. St Paul, Minn., DISPATCH, 6/9/43. Minot, N.D. NEWS, 6/10/43. Minneapolis TRIBUNE, 6/10/43.

Group of seven youths scheduled to enter NYA training courses in Iowa have "taken up temporary residence in private homes and are awaiting offers of employment." Friendly story appearing in 5 Iowa papers.

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Evacuees being allowed "to take jobs on American ships plying any ocean except the Pacific." San Francisco EXAMINER, 6/8/43.

MISCELLANEOUS --

Resolution in House of Representatives asks that "ten-year old sealed records" of special committee investigating subversive Japanese activities be brought to light. UP, scattered papers.

"Former Ambassador Grew to visit American citizens of Japanese descent in training at Camp Savage, Minnesota." Minneapolis TRIBUNE, 6/10/43.

Federal government, urging full use of "all loyal and qualified workers irrespective of origin or citizenship" simplifies procedure under which holders of "classified" contracts may obtain permission to hire aliens. AP. Hollywood CITIZEN NEWS, Lincoln JOURNAL.

REPORTS --

Heart Mountain SENTINEL editorial reported that Senator Robertson (R.-Wyo.) declined invitation to visit the camp in order to "clarify allegations." AP, Cheyenne TRIBUNE, Wyoming STATE TRIBUNE, 6/15/43.

Reviews current issue of COMMON GROUND magazine, mentioning articles on Japanese-Americans that show, "The Negro race is not the only one in America that is fighting today for the rights pledged by democracy." Louisville, Ky., DEFENDER, (Negro) 6/12/43.

MILITARY SERVICE--

Hawaiian Japanese commissioned as chaplain in U. S. Army. AP, San Francisco EXAMINER, 6/9/43.

Fruit packers in Loomis, California, stage a sit-down strike in protest at visit of Japanese-American soldier in uniform who visited company to inspect fruit from his own ranch. Sacramento BEE, 6/11/43.

Strike ends when furloughed soldier agreed to stay away from warehouse. UP, Los Angeles TIMES, 6/13/43.

27 Hunt evacuees to enter army this month, bringing the total to 160. AP, Seattle POST INTELLIGENCER, SPOKESMAN-REVIEW, 6/12/43.

Assistant Secretary of War McCloy writes president of San Francisco's Down Town Association that War Department has no present plans to return large numbers of Japanese to the West Coast. Los Angeles TIMES, 6/13/43.

EVACUEE PROPERTY --

Evacuee farm equipment offered for sale in Kern County for first time. Los Angeles TIMES, 6/7/43.

Engle bill signed by Governor Warren. Act "outlaws any agreements in the name of the wife or child of an ineligible alien which would give the alien beneficial use of the lands in question." Sacramento BEE, 6/8/43. Los Angeles DAILY NEWS, 6/9/43, UP, Long Beach PRESS-TELEGRAM.

War Food Administrator Davis tells chairman of Los Angeles county war board to act at once on idle evacuee-owned farm machinery needed by farmers. AP, Santa Barbara NEWS-PRESS, 6/8/43.

U. S. Department of Agriculture vests Food Administrator Davis with authority to "requisition" Japanese-owned farm equipment when owners refuse to sell. Los Angeles TIMES, 6/9/43. Los Angeles DAILY NEWS, 6/9/43.

State director of agriculture advises farmers to report to county war boards any idle Japanese-owned equipment. Los Angeles DAILY NEWS, UP, 6/10/43.

Western Washington will probably top vegetable production figures of evacuated farmers through use of labor-saving machinery, such as spinach harvesting machine. Seattle POST-INTELLIGENCER, 6/13/43.

COMMUNITY ENTERPRISES--

Arizona corporation commission cancels articles of incorporation of

Gila River Cooperative Enterprises, Inc., AP, Salem, Oregon, JOURNAL, 6/5/43.

WRA officials protest ruling. AP, Fresno BEE, Tuscon STAR, 6/8/43.

Corporation commission orders public hearing on its cancellation order, at LeRoy Bennett's request. Arizona REPUBLIC, 6/10/43.

Arizonans testify against Gila cooperative on grounds it would pave the way "for Japanese domination of agriculture and evasion of alien land laws." Commission Chairman states any doubt of wisdom of commission's action dissipated by Dies hearing. AP, Denver POST, 6/15/43.

LEGAL --

Gov. Warren signs bill refusing commercial fishing licenses to Japanese. UP, Las Vegas, Nevada, REVIEW-JOURNAL, 6/9/43, Chicago NEWS, 6/10/43. AP, Utica, N. Y. OBSERVER-DISPATCH, 6/10/43.

State Senate committee investigating the Japanese problem in California to open hearings in San Joaquin Valley on June 16. UP, San Francisco NEWS, 6/11/43.

Two evacuees on shopping passes from Jerome picked up and searched by Monroe, Louisiana, police. Monroe WORLD, 6/12/43.

"Four Salt River valley produce firms...were charged...with failure to publish notice of business transactions entered into with Japanese laborers sent here from the relocation center at Poston", thus violating the Arizona law requiring 10 day notice prior to consummation of any business transaction. Arizona REPUBLIC, 6/13/43.

Supreme Court declares "curfew for West Coast Japanese valid. Where the threat of an invasion is imminent, the court ruled, a military commander can take such measure to guard against possible sabotage in an area where an attack might occur." Washington POST, 6/22/43.

Justice Stone "warned that the Court must guard carefully against misuse of such emergency powers." "The opinion also emphasized that all rights and privileges of citizens must be restored promptly at the end of the emergency." New York PM, 6/22/43.

HAWAII--

Hawaii Legislature passes law to bar Japanese Language Schools. Similar law passed twenty years ago was declared unconstitutional by U. S. Supreme Court. CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, 6/2/43.

PUBLIC ATTITUDES--

Resolutions and statements by prominent people:

Hostile to evacuees

Against return of evacuees to Pacific Coast: Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce (Los Angeles TIMES, 6/12/43); San Joaquin Valley Council of the Chamber of Commerce AP, Los Angeles TIMES, 6/11/43, Los Angeles EXAMINER, 6/11/43, Sacramento BEE, 6/11/43, Modesto Chamber of Commerce (Modesto BEE, 6/8/43); Modesto Post No. 74 American Legion (Modesto BEE, 6/8/43); Supervisors of Merced, Tulare counties (Fresno BEE, 6/10/43); Colusa County Board of Supervisors (Sacramento BEE, 6/10/43); San Diego City Council (San Diego UNION, 6/10/43); Sons of the American Revolution local chapter (Long Beach PRESS TELEGRAM, 6/11/43); Sacramento Exchange Club (Sacramento UNION, 6/11/43); "Southland women (apparently spearhead by the Native Daughters), (Hollywood CITIZEN NEWS, 6/8/43); Sons of the American Revolution, California Society (San Francisco CHRONICLE, 6/11/43, San Francisco EXAMINER, 6/12/43); Marysville City Council, Napa Post 113, American Legion (Sacramento BEE, 6/11/43); Grass Valley City Council, Placer County Board of Supervisors, Sutter County Board of Supervisors (Sacramento BEE, 6/10/43).

Favor deportation after the war: Pierce County (Washington) commissioners (AP, Seattle TIMES, 6/5/43); Veterans of Foreign Wars (UP, Tacoma TIMES, 6/9/43, SPOKESMAN-REVIEW, Seattle STAR, 6/9/43);

Oppose resettlement program: Ventura Board of Supervisors (Ventura STAR FREE PRESS, 6/10/43); Fresno County Board of Supervisors (Fresno BEE, 6/9/43); Los Angeles Board of Supervisors (Los Angeles TIMES, 6/9/43); Ontario Defense Council (Los Angeles TIMES, 6/11/43); Coalinga Elks Lodge (Fresno Bee, 6/13/43); Signal Hill City Council (Long Beach PRESS TELEGRAM, 6/8/43); Allein Post, Mississippi, American Legion, Vicksburg HERALD, 6/8/43); San Diego Optimists Club (San Diego UNION, 6/8/43)

Pacific States Seedsmen Association passes resolution favoring retention of evacuees for duration and investigation of deportation possibilities after war. Sacramento BEE, 6/8/43.

Idaho commander of American Legion tells Kellogg, Idaho, YMCA group that evacuees "are being coddled to excess" and are given too much freedom to run over the countryside. SPOKESMAN-REVIEW, 6/12/43.

Governor Warren tells 35th annual Governors Conference at Columbus, Ohio, that evacuees should be kept in relocation centers and placed under the jurisdiction of the Army or the FBI. New York City PM, 6/22/43.

American Legion proposals (1) duration detention; (2) Army management of centers; (3) abandonment of Japanese-American combat team; (4) every able-bodied male in agricultural employment in interior under Army control; (5) release of all evacuee-owned equipment for wartime use; (6) release of impounded money belonging to Japanese government for these purposes; (7) investigation of all Japanese activities in the United States endorsed by All-American Congress, women's groups (Hollywood CITIZEN NEWS, 6/11/43), Three Rivers, Montana, District No. 8, American Legion (Great Falls TRIBUNE, 6/7/43, AP Billings GAZETTE, 6/9/43) and by Modesto Post No. 74 American Legion (Modesto BEE, 6/8/43).

"Anti-Japanese" club to be formed in Rio Vista, Sacramento UNION, 6/6/43.

Sheriff A. J. McPhail of Shoshone county, Idaho, refuses "to provide protection for 60" evacuees whom the Milwaukee railroad wishes to employ as section men this summer. Spokane, Washington, SPOKESMAN-REVIEW, 6/13/43.

Governor Carville's recent statement "denouncing the proposal of war relocation authorities to make available a large number of Japanese for work in Nevada" prompts scores of approving letters, some printed in this article. Reno GAZETTE, 6/8/43.

Speaking in Boston, Roene Waring, national commander of American Legion, urges Army control "of Jap internees" and charges WRA with duplicity in explaining release program. Boston AMERICAN, 6/16/43.

"A concentrated and well-planned effort is being made throughout California to prepare public opinion for the release of American-born Japanese from relocation centers and to permit them to return to their homes in the Western Defense Command", statement attributed (indirect quotation) to State Senator Hugh Burns of California. AP, 6 West Coast papers. Burns says group responsible for campaign is Committee on American Principles and Fair Play. Los Angeles TIMES, 6/8/43.

Resolution against combat team and release of evacuees to be presented to San Francisco Board of Supervisors. San Francisco EXAMINER, 6/8/43.

FBI informs committee from California state legislature that it "has never investigated any of the 3,000 Japanese who were released from relocation centers" (indirect quotation). INS, Sacramento BEE, 6/7/43, San Francisco EXAMINER, 6/8/43.

Governor Warren tells legislative committee just returned from Washington that "return of Japanese to California during the war would be a body blow to our security..." 4 California papers.

The "Japanese question" to come before Oregon State Grange session. State Master Tompkins' annual message charged "that Japanese have and are continuing to purchase good agricultural lands in the west" and urged corrective measures. AP, Klamath Falls HERALD-& NEWS, 6/9/43. Grangers refer resolutions on Japanese-Americans to foreign affairs committee after three hour discussion. AP, Yakima HERALD, 6/10/43. Grange goes "on record" as "opposing the return of any Japanese to the Pacific Coast states at this time" after a "hot" session. AP, Portland OREGONIAN, 6/12/43.

Progressive Business Men's Club of Portland voted in favor of excluding all Japanese aliens and citizens from the United States "Following a lengthy general debate of the issue". Principal opposing speakers were Marshal M. Dana, editor of the Oregon JOURNAL editorial page and E. B. MacNaughton, First National Bank president. Supporters include Ex-Governor Pierce and state chairman of the American Legion. Radio station KEX transcribed the debate. Portland OREGONIAN, 6/11/43.

Lawyers' Club of Los Angeles to debate Japanese question. Los Angeles TIMES, 6/14/43.

Resolutions and statements favorable to evacuees

Deplore "the unChristian and unAmerican attacks upon American citizens" in connection with exclusion of Japanese from Pacific Coast, California Conference of Methodist Church. Sacramento BEE, 6/11/43. Stockton RECORD, 6/10/43.

Assails State Senator Burns for statements "regarding some mysterious Fresno organization of doubtful loyalty" because of its interest in American citizens of Japanese ancestry, Hubert Phillips of Committee on American Principles and Fair Plan, who says membership list is public and organization seeks to protect civil rights, not to return Japanese to coastal area. Fresno BEE, 6/8/43.

Urges tabling of resolution before Progressive Business Men's Club of Portland on Japanese expulsion, Marshall N. Dana, editor, Oregon JOURNAL's editorial page. Seattle TIMES, 6/11/43.

Relates hardships of Japanese-Americans before Ministerial conference at Baton Rouge, La., Rev. George Aki and Dr. E. E. Arne. Baton Rouge TIMES, 6/9/43.

Tables resolution against keeping Japanese out of West Coast. Chicago Junior Association of Commerce. Chicago HERALD & AMERICAN, 6/14/43.

Text of letter from Assistant Secretary of War McCloy to president of San Francisco Downtown Association printed in full. "The relocation of the Japanese is a social and national problem and only to the extent that it really affects our military security does the War Department presume to express any opinions on the subject...There is no immediate plan to return for residence on the coast any large number of evacuees...The Army in any case must and will afford its soldiers equal treatment..." San Francisco CALL BULLETIN, 6/12/43.

Phillip Webster, San Francisco assistant WRA field director, addresses Portland City Club, says "WRA is in "the middle of a dog fight." Portland JOURNAL, 6/11/43.

Editorials:

Hostile

Welcomes action of Department of Agriculture "in empowering War Food Administrator Chester Davis to requisition idle farm machinery..." Los Angeles TIMES, 6/10/43.

Deplores action of federal civil service commission in opening attorney exams to Japanese-Americans. Fresno BEE, 6/11/43, Sacramento BEE, 6/10/43. Modesto BEE, 6/10/43.

Too much laxity marks Japanese camp control (Dies committee testimony by Augustus Empie). Sacramento BEE, 6/11/43. Fresno BEE, 6/13/43. Nashville Tennessee, TENNESSEAN (Dies committee, testimony by Harold Townsend) 6/15/43.

Dangerous to return evacuees to West Coast (Dies committee testimony) Long Beach PRESS TELEGRAM, 6/10/43.

Evacuees treated better in matters of gas rationing than Nebraskans (Dies committee testimony by Augustus Empie). Omaha, Nebraska, WORLD HERALD, 6/14/43.

Favors drastic shake-up in relocation camps personnel (social worker angle, Dies committee testimony). Charleston, W.V., MAIL, 6/13/43.

Challenges contention of Committee on American Principles and Fair Play that "entire West Coast is not solidly behind return of evacuees". Modesto BEE, 6/7/43. Fresno BEE, 6/8/43.

Japan past master at organizing fifth columns (Dies committee testimony by Harold Townsend). Richmond, Ind., PALLADIUM ITEM, 6/13/43.

The neglect of Washington to mention Gen. DeWitt in communiques on the battle of Attu is significant. San Francisco CHRONICLE, 6/10/43.

Coddling in relocation centers. (Dies committee). Bakersfield CALIFORNIAN, 6/11/43.

One set of bureaucrats forbids pleasure driving for Eastern motorists, while another permits "our Jap enemies" to use cars on pleasure trips. (Dies committee testimony by Augustus Empie). Denver POST, 6/10/43.

Evidence of deep seated loyalty of Poston evacuees to Mikado should make impression on "RA higher-ups. (Dies committee testimony by Harold Townsend). Sacramento BEE, 6/14/43.

If we want to live well we should take steps to be confined to some relocation camp. Waterville, Me., SENTINEL, 6/9/43.

NYA and "RA "are battling each other for self-preservation." Dubuque, Iowa, TELE.-HERALD, 6/8/43.

Vital purpose being served by Dies Committee in helping us assemble all the facts about the operations of possible enemies in our midst. Those released from relocation centers have been carefully checked. Sioux Falls, S. D., ARGUS-LEADER, 6/9/43.

War Department letter to Down Town Association of San Francisco is "study in contradictions" but makes it plain that the War Department "IS participating in and IS responsible for the return of the Japanese..." Baltimore NEWS & POST, 6/16/43.

"Explains" Pacific Coast's position on Japanese-American question. CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, 6/11/43.

Argues "against easing up restrictions on Japs in this country", (Dies committee testimony by Augustus Empie). Boston POST, 6/13/43.

Possibility of obtaining Mexican labor eliminates necessity for "repugnant" step of turning to Japanese labor. Reno GAZETTE, 6/5/43.

Post-war disposition of Japanese poses serious problem (Dies committee testimony by Ralph Gelvin). Oklahoma City OKLAHOMAN, 6/10/43.

Patience of American people about exhausted at coddling of evacuees-- comments on wire service photo of beauty parlor in one center. Butte, Montana, STANDARD, 6/11/43.

Supports resolution adopted by California Chamber of Commerce against release of evacuees. Sioux Falls ARGUS-LEADER, 6/12/43.

One wonders how many Japanese-Americans are really American citizens (Dies committee testimony by Ralph Gelvin). Denver POST, 6/9/43.

Advocates segregation (Dies committee testimony by Ralph Gelvin). San Antonio EXPRESS, 6/11/43.

"This war against Japan is a struggle to determine whether the white race is going to be free and independent or whether it is going to be subservient to the Japanese...the central cause of the whole business--racial hatred". Dies committee Poston hearings "excellent evidence of the racial characteristics of this war." Arizona REPUBLIC, 6/12/43.

Facts disprove claims for the Japanese appearing in the far-away Eastern papers. Sacramento BEE, 6/9/43.

Assails editorial in Granada paper criticizing General DeWitt and claims it can be assumed that WRA approved the editorial. Modesto BEE, 6/5/43.

Arizona should not be required to assimilate a greater proportionate number of evacuees than any other state. Arizona REPUBLIC, 6/9/43.

Calls upon state encampment of Veterans of Foreign Wars to pass resolutions against release of evacuees. Yakima, Washington, HERALD, 6/8/43.

Sympathetic

"...Nisei loyalty should not be called into question before the witch-burning Dies committee without more motivation than Mr. Gelvin's "surprise that 450 gave unsatisfactory answers to a questionnaire. Norfolk, Va., VIRGINIA-PILOT, 6/13/43.

Japanese-American "shock troops" at Camp Shelby "volunteered to prove to the world that Americanism is of mind and heart, not race." Brocton, Mass., ENTERPRISE & TIMES, 6/11/43.

Poston residents who told about plan to cooperate with invading paratroopers were probably "assuming themselves by horrifying a gullible victim (Dies committee testimony by Harold Townsend). San Francisco CHRONICLE, 6/12/43.

Keep in mind that Japan holds 11,000 American prisoners "when you start gossiping about the way the Japanese in the relocation centers are being treated". Tuscon STAR, 6/6/43.

Features:

OPI picture layout of Tule Lake. 8 scattered papers.

Camp Shelby experiment is working well. Boston GLOBE, by Carlyle Holt, 6/10/43.

Japanese center at Poston resembles a boom town. Japanese workers are industriously building a schoolhouse and subjugating the desert. Poston's internees served simple food. Medical facilities are adequate, hospital staffed by evacuee doctors. Series of four objective, balanced articles by Chester G. Hanson in Los Angeles TIMES, June 8-11, 1943.

Minidoka one year after--description of center, favorably slanted. AP, Lewiston, Idaho, TRIBUNE, by Harold Osborne.

Picture layout showing evacuated farm lands in Washington being successfully farmed by substitute operators. Seattle TIMES Sunday Rotogravure, 6/13/43.

Columnists:

Challenges current news bulletin of Washington Taxpayers Association that as a result of evacuation the state of Washington "experienced a severe decline in the volume of fresh vegetables grown for outside markets." Financial editor of Seattle POST INTELLIGENCER, 6/13/43.

Includes an attack on relocation centers in three columns entitled "World WPA Plan is Making Trouble." Bill Cunningham, Boston HERALD, 6/13/43.

Letters to editor:

Twenty-three letters printed, four sympathetic, remainder hostile. Almost all in Sacramento BEE.