

## WEEKLY PRESS REVIEW

No. 27

Week ending July 18, 1943

For the Use of the WRA Staff

SUMMARY

There was a reduction in the number of clippings received this week, especially in those reporting on the activity of the Dies Committee, which dropped from 325 received last week to 85. This was owing to the fact that the major part of their investigation had been completed.

The announcement made by Director Myer before the Dies Committee that disloyal Japanese will be segregated received wide publicity. On July 8, AP carried a report of the Senate Military Affairs Committee recommendation that (1) loyal Japanese be drafted "in the same manner" as other U. S. citizens, (2) disloyal Japanese be placed in internment camps, (3) loyal Japanese be allowed to work under proper supervision "in areas where they will be accepted, and where Army and Navy authorities consider it safe for them to go."

Director of War Mobilization James F. Byrnes made a formal announcement on July 17 that WRA has segregation plans under way. He assured the West Coast that restriction of the Japanese will continue as long as military necessity demands, and denied any "coddling" in relocation centers.

The Dies Committee, activated by the case of three Nisei inductees apprehended after digging up a camera near Seattle, stated it will ask the War Department to rescind its April order allowing Japanese-American soldiers in uniform to enter restricted West Coast areas.

A strong recommendation from Kilsoo K. Haan, Korean nationalist, that Japanese-Americans be disfranchised unless they renounce all loyalty to Japan is under consideration by the Dies group, according to an AP report on July 10.

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors unanimously called on President Roosevelt, Vice-President Wallace, the Secretary of War, and the California congressional delegation to continue the internment of all Japanese, "irrespective of place of birth and nominal American citizenship."

At Denver conference of WRA officials, Robert W. Frase, Ass't. Chief of the WRA employment division, defended WRA policies in a press interview, and corrected misleading stories regarding relocation centers.

NOTE: With the recent limitations imposed by Congress on domestic activities of the Office of War Information, the OWI press clipping service was abolished. Since the WRA depended in large part upon this service in preparing the Weekly Press Review, this may mean a radical change in the coverage of the Review. For the time being we plan to issue a Review based

Note - Cont'd

on clippings received through other channels, but the coverage will not be as extensive or as representative as in the past. In the meantime, however, it would be helpful if WRA employees, especially those in the field or project offices, would send us clippings from their local papers. These clippings should be addressed to the Reports Division and should indicate date of article and name and location of paper.

Reports of newsmen visiting relocation centers indicated they appreciated frank attitude of WRA, entire freedom accorded their investigations. Made a point of denying "coddling" at the camps, noted that loyal residents fear prejudice and adverse public sentiment, are anxious to prove their loyalty.

Editorial opinion on the West Coast expressed two different opinions on segregation: (1) Complete and immediate segregation of all disloyal Japanese is necessary (2) Policy of segregation misses the point ... accurate segregation is impossible; therefore national security demands that no evacuees be released. Director Myer in a radio broadcast stated that loyalty can be determined to a point that insures national security.

An editorial printed in seven scattered papers, sympathetic to WRA on basis of evidence presented at recent Dies hearings, stated that headlines given sensational Dies findings presented an inaccurate picture; pointed out that disproof of much of the testimony was not made public by the committee.

California deputy sheriffs "captured" a supposed Japanese "saboteur", found authorities wanted him, not for sabotage, but because he was a dementia praecox case escaped from a nearby hospital!

AGRICULTURE

Accelerated farm production at Heart Mountain assures residents ample home-grown foods next winter. Acreage under cultivation increases. AP, Cheyenne TRIBUNE, 7/8/43

CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS

Senator Chapman Revercomb, Rep. W. Va., urges Army control of relocation program, opposes release of evacuees, will introduce bill to apply stricter control to the Japanese population. Ray Richards, S.F. EXAMINER, 7/11/43, Baltimore, AMERICAN.

Rep. Karl E. Mundt, member of Dies subcommittee, assails Judo instruction courses in relocation centers, but beyond that expresses "mild approval of WRA policies." UP, Meridian, Miss. STAR, 7/11/43.

Senate Military Affairs Committee recommends that Japanese be drafted "in the same manner" as other residents of the U.S. Committee report states War Department has satisfactory method for screening out undesirables;

CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS, Cont'd.

recommends (1) that disloyal Japanese be placed in interment camps, (2) that loyal, able-bodied Japanese be allowed to work under proper supervision "in areas where they will be accepted, and where the Army and Navy authorities consider it safe for them to go." AP, N.Y. TIMES, 7/16/43, Rock Mt. News, 7/17/43.

Senator Downey (Dem., Cal.) states on arrival in Calif. that WRA does not plan to return Japanese to Coast, but will gradually disperse them throughout the country. Says statement on future national policy in handling of Japanese is forthcoming from Washington. AP, Spokane SPOKESMAN REVIEW, 7/16/43.

Dies Committee:

Rep. Costello states Congress must act; release of Japanese is exposing the U. S. to espionage. Director Myer announces WRA will go ahead with the "program of turning 1000 untested Japanese out of the centers weekly, aliens and American-born alike." Ray Richards, Los Angeles EXAMINER, 7/9/43.

Dies group will seek coast ban on Nisei soldiers and revocation of order permitting Japanese-American soldiers on furlough to re-enter the Western area. Result of incident near Seattle involving camera illegally buried by three Nisei inductees. Ray Richards, Seattle POST INTELLIGENCER, 7/9/43.

Dies subcommittee indicates it desires closer examination of persons in relocation centers before their release. AP, San Jose MERCURY HERALD, 7/9/43.

Dies group will ask War Department to rescind order permitting Japanese-American soldiers in uniform to enter restricted areas on the West Coast. AP, Waterbury Conn. REPUBLICAN, 7/9/43.

Costello dissatisfied with Director Myer's statement that an Army-Navy-WRA joint board passes on every application for release, will check it with Justice, War, and Navy spokesmen. Warren B. Francis, L.A. TIMES, 7/9/43.

Dies Committee considers recommendation from Kilsoo K. Haan, representative of the Korean National Front Federation, that Japanese-Americans be disfranchised unless they renounce all loyalty to Japan. AP, Washington STAR, 7/10/43, Jacksonville, Fla. JOURNAL, Charlotte NEWS, other scattered papers.

Rep. Mundt calls judo instruction courses for Japanese evacuees an "indefensible misuse of public funds." AP, UP, scattered papers. 7/11/43.

EMPLOYMENT

4,000 Japanese have left relocation camps in the West and obtained employment, principally on beet farms. WRA seeks to place thousands more, disclosed by members of Denver WRA conference. From 2,000 to 2,500 have

EMPLOYMENT, cont'd.

been placed in Colorado, Denver POST, 7/13/43.

400 Japanese seek federal jobs in D.C., call themselves "envoys of good will", seek to convince public that those in relocation centers should be released for work. Heavy influx of applicants "embarrasses Government investigating agencies by the magnitude of the work involved in clearing them for Federal positions." Willard Edwards, Washington TIMES-HERALD, 7/15/43

Civil Service Commission spokesman denies 400 Japanese-Americans seek jobs in Washington. Statement corroborated by Director Dillon S. Myer. Washington NEWS, 7/15/43

Santa Fe uses Japanese, Mexicans on railroad jobs all through Middle West. Topeka CAPITAL, 7/11/43

Four young Japanese-Americans riot in Chicago with Filipino sailors; 2 are knifed, 1 clubbed. Fight grew from one Japanese "cursing a naval man's uniform". Relocation Supervisor Elmer L. Shirrell calls situation serious, makes no further statement at the time. INS, S.F. EXAMINER, 7/15/43.

HAWAII

Military chief in Hawaii (Lieut. Gen. R.C. Richardson) refuses to lift control over labor on war projects, justifying action under "Supreme Court decision validating the army's order removing Japanese from California as a military necessity." N.Y. TIMES, 7/10/43.

LEGAL

Minoru Yasui, Nisei whose violation of curfew led to litigation over its constitutionality, to be resented. Question of his citizenship, Supreme Court ruled, was not involved, though he held dual citizenship. AP, Sacramento UNION, 7/8/43.

M. Yasui, Oregon Nisei, will be released in 15 days. Resentenced to eight months and ten days, time already served inclusive. Judge restores American citizenship he revoked last fall. AP, Klamath Falls HERALD & NEWS, Sacramento BEE, 7/14/43.

Sacramento County attorneys frown on request from WRA that they offer legal service to Japanese evacuees at fixed substandard fees "as a contribution to the war effort." Sacramento BEE, 7/14/43.

MILITARY SERVICE

Rep. Costello formally asks that War Department rescind April order permitting "members of the Japanese-American contingent in the Army to re-enter west coast prohibited areas in uniform." Unfavorably slanted article

MILITARY SERVICE, Cont'd.

by Ray Richards, S.F. EXAMINER, 7/10/43.

Wide publicity is given the case of the three Nisei soldiers returning to Seattle vicinity to dig up camera.

MISCELLANEOUS

Justice Department announces all civilian internees are now in detention camps; emphasizes that this does not include Japanese evacuated from the Pacific Coast military areas, who are under the control of the WRA.

California sheriffs capture Japanese "saboteur", find he belongs at the Agnew State Hospital; "wouldn't know Japan from Kansas"! S.F. NEWS, 7/14/43

Heart Mountain SENTINEL advocated "permanent agency of the United States government to deal exclusively with minority groups"... "out of the sphere of politics." Paper charges that at present no government agency has more than a passing interest in "those who have sought this nation's way of life". Wyoming STATE TRIBUNE, 7/14/43

PUBLIC ATTITUDES

Columnists:

Rep. John E. Rankin of Miss. favors shipping the disloyal Japanese back to Japan when the war is over; would "take a blood test" to find which should be sent! Dies subcommittee reports teaching of Judo in camps, which seems like "carrying coals to Newcastle." John C. O'Brien, "Washington Background", Phila. INQUIRER, 7/12/43.

Editorials: Hostile:

California Employment Commission reaches "wise decision" in refusing to place Japanese citizens detained in relocation centers under provisions of the Unemployment Insurance Act. Supported by the Federal government, they do not suffer loss of subsistence income, which the unemployment insurance plan is to prevent. San Francisco NEWS, 7/5/43.

The act of the three Nisei soldiers in exhuming an illegally concealed camera, "shrouded with falsehood", will not allay suspicions of patriotic Americans. Seattle Post Intelligencer, 7/7/43.

Testimony of Tokie Slocum a condemnation of Manzanar Administrators. The disloyal should be segregated immediately. New Orleans TIMES-PICAYUNE, 7/7/43.

PUBLIC ATTITUDES, Cont'd.

Coastal cities commend Lt. General DeWitt's motto of "safety first", doubt that line can be drawn accurately to distinguish loyal from disloyal Japanese. Salt Lake City TRIBUNE, 7/8/43.

"As might be expected", Mike M. Masaoka, former secretary of JACL, believes FBI check on evacuees before release unnecessary. 99 per cent of American people disagree. Loyal Japanese should accept confinement in relocation centers as patriotic sacrifice. Sacramento BEE, 7/8/43.

Director Myer's attack on the Dies investigation unfounded....Japanese require no acts in the U. S. to use as excuses for mistreatment of American prisoners. Arizona REPUBLIC, 7/9/43.

WRA must forget social theorizing, realize that the nation must be protected from any preventable threat by possible hostile Japanese within it. Dies evidence a "serious indictment" of WRA. Los Angeles TIMES, 7/9/43.

Editorial, titled "Jap Menace Must be Controlled", endorses Dies action in seeking revocation of Army order permitting uniformed Nisei to return to the Pacific Coast zone; service men returned from war zones should be "protected" against encounters with Japanese; in or out of uniform. Indicts Senate resolution asking segregation as missing the point, WRA as acting in "direct violation of the desires of Pacific Coast communities". "It is not democratic to turn potentially dangerous enemies loose in the country." Seattle POST-INTELLIGENCER, 7/10/43.

U. S. Senate resolution urging President Roosevelt to segregate loyal and disloyal Japanese ignores fact that in no way can loyalty be proved. Body of editorial follows word for word the POST INTELLIGENCER editorial above. "Intern all Japs." San Francisco EXAMINER, 7/12/43.

Cartoon by Thompson, in San Francisco EXAMINER, 7/15/43, depicts Uncle Sam asking "poultryman WRA" how he tells good eggs from bad in the "Jap Relocation nest". WRA answers that he's just been taking a chance.

Fresno County Farm Bureau justified in reversing former stand on employment of Japanese in passage of resolution opposing release of any Japanese from centers on assumption that loyalty cannot be proved. Fresno BEE, 7/7/43.

Friendly:

WRA Director Myer commended for pointing out possible results of racial prejudice against Japanese. Fort Worth STAR-TELEGRAM 7/9/43.

It is necessary to segregate Japanese except in individual cases where their loyalty is proved. We should inform Japan through neutral sources that Japanese in America receive decent treatment. Syracuse POST STANDARD, 7/9/43.

Friendly: Cont'd.

Disloyal Japanese must be segregated; the thousands of loyal Americans must be released before they become embittered at their treatment. "It isn't the American way" not to release the loyal. Milwaukee JOURNAL, 7/11/43.

Editorial: "Headlines Vs. Facts" says Daily headlines giving sensational Dies subcommittee findings present wrong impression. "Competent newsman" present at much of the inquiry saw different story. Disproof at Poston investigation of much of Los Angeles testimony was not deemed by committee worth passing along to public. Chairman Dies, not present at survey, "remains in position to clear the record by making public the real facts .. distinguished from irresponsible testimony ... by disgruntled ex-employees of WRA." 7/8/43, seven widely scattered papers: Seattle STAR, Eau Claire, Wis. LEADER, Coaterburg, Conn. DEMOCRAT, Gary, Ind., POST-TRIBUNE, Scranton TRIBUNE, Pine Bluff, Ark., COMMERCIAL, Wichita Falls, Texas RECORD-NEWS.

PUBLIC ATTITUDES

Feature Articles:

Topaz Nisei youth are realistic, "tested and tempered by 'relocation' experiences", are anxious to work, prepare for new homes "outside". Among the Nisei are the most loyal groups. C. L. Eddy, DESERT NEWS state editor, 7/6/43.

Japanese provide most of their own comforts at Jerome, receive average monthly wage of \$16. Average Nisei is loyal, but some feel the U. S. has forfeited right to their respect. Burton Heath, Waterbury Conn. DEMOCRAT, 7/9/43.

Former president of American-Japan Society of Southern California writes at length on "clearing up the Jap question"; notes fact that as high as 50 per cent of American-born Japanese owed dual allegiance in 1941, having registered with Japanese consul. Names Kibei as most dangerous group, sees no apology necessary for evacuation program. Roy Malcolm, Los Angeles TIMES, 7/11/43.

Japanese work and play together, though without elaborate equipment, after many months at Hunt center. Project residents do not include enough farmers to expand necessary agricultural efforts. John Harvey, Idaho DAILY STATESMAN, 7/12/43.

Letters to editor: Hostile:

An average quota of letters to West Coast papers, notably the Sacramento BEE, continue to oppose the return of Japanese to the Coast, question the loyalty of the majority, or the possibility of separating the loyal and disloyal with any accuracy.

PUBLIC ATTITUDES, Cont'd.

Friendly:

Two letters come from Japanese-Americans, one a Navy wife, the other's husband of Chinese ancestry, both questioning the justice of retaining loyal Americans in camps. The latter congratulates the Washington POST on its article "Black Dragon Fantasy".

Other letters warn against continued growth of racial prejudice: One, in particular, from an Arizonan protests political appeal to uneducated prejudice, asserts we will have to pay for Japanese relief rolls and answer to God, unless loyal American-born Japanese are released "while they have some initiative left."

Resolutions and Statements: Hostile:

The Native Sons of the Golden West, formed to deal with the Japanese problem, plan continued fight against the return of the Japanese to the Coast. The California Department of the Military Order of the Purple Heart adopts resolutions asking U. S. to "terminate special privileges shown the Japanese". California State Senate interim committee investigating Japanese resettlement expresses unqualified opposition to their return to the Coast; committee findings were based on stand of American Legion, VFW, California Grange, Native Sons and Daughters, peace officers, and district attorney associations. Reported in western papers, week of July 11-13.

San Francisco Board of Supervisors calls upon President Roosevelt and the California congressional delegation to continue internment of all Japanese "irrespective of place of birth and nominal American citizenship". S.F. CALL BULLETIN, CHRONICLE, 7/7/43.

Legion Post No. 66 warns that Japanese, in Clearing, Ill., industrial district, stir tension, create a dangerous situation. "Not only work on equal terms with local workers, but in some instances ... have been placed over Negro and white factory hands." N.Y. JOURNAL & AMERICAN, 7/14/43, S.F. EXAMINER

Friendly:

Governor Warren promises to do all in his power to prevent race riots in the state, which "means to protect the lives and property of all people, regardless of race or creed". L.A. TIMES, 7/10/43.

Quincy, Ill., Church Council favors placing of Japanese-Americans in Quincy, presents appeal to Quincy religious, business, labor groups to demonstrate democracy and Christianity. Quincy, Ill., HERALD-WHIG, 7/11/43.

American Civil Liberties Union calls evacuation of 70,000 Americans from the Pacific Coast "worst single invasion of citizen's liberties in this war". N. Y. TIMES, 7/16/43.



PUBLIC ATTITUDES

Reports:

Reporter finds Amache center residents "relatively happy", making the best of a position necessarily regrettable to them. David F. Clark, Colo. Springs GAZETTE, 7/7/43.

Editor of Jerome paper visits Minidoka with other newsmen, writes "expose" very favorable to WRA point of view. Explodes "coddling" rumor, finds residents typical of the average American community, facing the evacuation problem more bravely than the average Caucasian American might. Feels attitude of Christian tolerance is the only proper one to take toward the problem. Berwyn Burke, Jerome North Side NEWS, 7/8/43.

Amache living scale below average. Though surface activities go on as usual, a sub-surface fear of the future, of the attitude of the "outside world", is prevalent. Residents are anxious to prove themselves loyal. J. Harold Cowan, Omaha WORLD HERALD, 7/11/43.

"Grandda Relocation center is no 'Little Tokyo'; Japanese there live in American Way." Many at Amache are loyal citizens; internal self-government functions successfully. G. M. Hunsley, Albuquerque JOURNAL, 7/11/43.

AP correspondent visiting Rohwer finds Japanese resent camp conditions, are bewildered, restless, of mingled loyalty. Joy Paisley, five scattered papers. 7/12/43.

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"Stories about Jap camps bunk, say WRA officials" - (headline). WRA officials hold Denver conference; R. W. Frase, ass't. chief of the employment division, and Harold S. Choate, Denver relocation supervisor, defend WRA program against recent criticism at press conference. Rocky Mountain NEWS (date unknown)

James F. Byrnes, Director of War Mobilization, defends WRA policies, gives "formal assurance" that WRA is now adequately performing segregation of loyal and disloyal. Leo Cullinane, N. Y. HERALD TRIBUNE 7/18/43.

Restrictions on West Coast Japanese to continue, announces Byrnes. Recommendations from Dies Committee and Senate Military Affairs Committee being acted upon in segregating loyal, disloyal. D.C. STAR, 7/18/43

Byrnes reports segregation under way, denies "coddling" of Japanese in camps. Phila. INQUIRER, 7/18/43.

Director of War Mobilization Byrnes says war situation will govern restrictions on Japanese, gives WRA rule on their release, announces segregation is under way. N. Y. TIMES, Washington POST, (AP), 7/18/43

SEGREGATION

Director Myer testifies before Dies Committee that WRA will set up a segregation camp for disloyal Japanese. AP, 7/8/43

Robert Frase, ass't. chief of WRA employment division, announces segregation will begin September 1. AP, Wyoming STATE TRIBUNE, 7/14/43

Camp for disloyal Japanese to be only center in use; WRA camps will be abandoned, loyal allowed to leave for work. Director Myer, in NBC broadcast, states he believes loyalty can be distinguished to degree that insures national security. AP, L.A. TIMES, NY TIMES, Arizona REPUBLIC, NY NEWS, Salt Lake TRIBUNE, 7/16/43.