

## WEEKLY PRESS REVIEW

No. 28

Week ending July 25, 1943

For the Use of the WRA Staff

## SUMMARY

The volume of clippings this week continued to be light, the Byrnes statement occupying the foreground and Dies Committee activities (since early June the major single source of clippings) drawing little press interest.

The statement issued by War Mobilization Director Byrnes (1) guaranteed continuance of present restrictions against persons of Japanese ancestry as long as military necessity requires them; (2) indirectly denied recent charges that Japanese evacuees are given preferred treatment and that disloyal Japanese are being released from relocation centers; (3) described leave procedures, (4) noted that segregation is now under way, (5) described the part loyal Japanese soldiers have played and are playing in the U. S. Army. The statement, prepared jointly by the War Department and the War Relocation Authority at the President's request, was widely carried by newspapers and was given front page space in the West where emphasis was on (1) above. The Byrnes statement was the principal source of news interest this week.

An AP release on the coming Denver conference told of WRA plans for the segregation of disloyal Japanese, that a method of determining sympathies would be decided upon, and that a camp for disloyal may be named. Representative Mundt (R., S. D.) in a statement published in the Congressional Record July 21 again hit the teaching of judo at relocation camps, called it an "undefensible expenditure of public funds."

INS carried a report of the organization of the California Citizens' Council to promote the exclusion of Japanese from California by seeking a 1944 referendum which would deny citizenship to persons of Japanese ancestry and prohibit them from owning property or receiving any income in California.

It was reported that Arizona's protest against the release of Japanese will be investigated by Major General V. L. Peterson, U. S. Army Inspector General. The state also seeks a postwar ban on Japanese residents.

The WAC announced that it will accept a limited number of citizens of Japanese descent. Only two papers have noted this thus far. INS report indicated that the step was encouraged by the success of Army recruitment of Japanese-Americans.

Editorials in the Sacramento BEE questioned the practical possibility of segregation, called WRA's request that attorneys handle legal work of evacuees at lowered fees "both effrontery to the legal profession and something new in governmental procedure." The Los Angeles TIMES stated with satisfaction that the continuance of the ban on Japanese "effectively spikes whatever plans may have been in the making by the WRA" to send Japanese back

into the area. The Scottsbluff, Nebraska, HERALD and the Washington STAR carried editorials sympathetic to WRA policy.

Hedda Hopper in her July 22 column said that those responsible for the release of the Japanese are doing them a disservice, remarked that if they are "booted out" of cafes in Montana, we can imagine what their treatment would be on the coast.

Heart Mountain SENTINEL editorials which urged the creation of a special federal agency with administrative powers to deal exclusively with racial problems were picked up by the Cheyenne TRIBUNE.

#### CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS

Senator Carl Hayden (D., Ariz.) urges President Roosevelt to order Army to take a hand in the "dangerous Japanese situation in Arizona." Stated that authorities fear outbreaks against Japanese and acts of sabotage by them. S. F. CALL BULLETIN, 7/14/43.

Senate Military Affairs Committee recommends immediate internment of 9,500 evacuees. Turns down bill transferring the function of the WRA to the War Department, but criticizes WRA's protective measures at the camps. D. C. TIMES-HERALD, 7/17/43.

Drafting of Japanese-Americans for the U. S. Army is urged by the Senate Military Affairs Committee; Chairman Chandler quotes Army spokesmen as saying, "We would like to use these people as soldiers." The committee recommends that the FBI, Department of Justice, and Army and Navy assume "full and complete responsibility" for determining loyalty of Japanese. AP, staff writers, 13 scattered papers. 7/17/43.

In a statement published in the Congressional Record, Rep. Mundt (R., S. D.) again assails the teaching of judo in relocation centers as an indefensible expenditure of public funds. AP, Wyo. STATE TRIBUNE, D. C. STAR, Denver POST, Spokane SPOKESMAN REVIEW, Sacramento BEE, Klamath Falls HERALD AND NEWS, Visalia TIMES-DELTA.

#### Dies Committee

Congressman John M. Costello declares Lieutenant General DeWitt will be retained as commander of Western Defense area, has complete confidence of the people there. S. F. CALL BULLETIN, 7/15/43.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE

Heart Mountain Director Guy Robertson announces reorganization of administrative activities of relocation centers, none "drastic". AP, Cheyenne, TRIBUNE, 7/14/43.

807 will be dropped from payrolls at Heart Mountain, in order that the project stay within its budget. AP, Cheyenne TRIBUNE, Sheridan PRESS, 7/14/43.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Heart Mountain SENTINEL advocates "a permanent agency...to deal exclusively with minority groups...out of sphere of politics...with the ultimate purpose of assimilating such groups into the life stream of America." Cheyenne TRIBUNE, 7/14/43.

Minidoka high school graduates first high school class. AP, Spokane SPOKESMAN REVIEW, 7/22/43.

Heart Mountain residents buy more than \$6,000 in war bonds and stamps during April, May, June. AP, Wyoming STATE TRIBUNE, 7/23/43.

Heart Mountain residents approve charter setting up councilman form of government. (AP) Wyo. STATE TRIBUNE, 7/19/43.

EMPLOYMENT

First Japanese-American couple to resettle in Aurora, Ill., work energetically growing tomatoes, are highly praised by employer, Aurora BEACON, 6/24/43.

Three American-born Japanese from Arkansas relocation centers tour Indiana with a representative of the United Christian Missionary Society, talking to farmers and townspeople, investigating opportunities for relocation in Indiana. INDIANAPOLIS TIMES, 7/14/43.

"Nurses of Japanese descent are proud of jobs in Colorado." Relocated Nisei girls are interviewed, pictured. Rocky Mountain NEWS, 7/18/43.

Dayton, Washington, woman reports attack by "small, dark man", order is issued restricting the movements of Mexican, Japanese-American workers in the community. As a result, 400 of them go on strike, force cannery to close. AP, Baltimore EVENING SUN, N. Y. HERALD TRIBUNE, D. C. STAR, 7/22/43.

Northern Pacific Railroad will hire 78 Japanese laborers for maintenance work in Idaho. Spokane SPOKESMAN REVIEW, 7/23/43.

EVACUEE PROPERTY

Former Buddhist Temple in "Little Tokyo", Los Angeles, may be made into municipal recreation center for children of war workers in crowded district. L. A. TIMES, 7/21/43.

LEGAL

Fresno County, California, Bar Association, requested by WRA to offer legal services at reduced fees to evacuees, will take no action, leave it up to individual lawyers. Bar members call plan impractical. Fresno BEE, L. A. TIMES, 7/11/43.

MILITARY SERVICE

Granada resident, Dr. Masato Okuda, is first from that camp to become an officer in the U. S. Army, was commissioned July 12, sent to Shelby. Denver POST, 7/22/43.

The WAC will accept a limited number of citizens of Japanese descent, enlistment beginning Sept. 1. Step was furthered by success of Army's recruitment of men of Japanese descent. INS, Denver POST; N. Y. HERALD TRIBUNE 7/23/43.

MISCELLANEOUS

Report notes value of tourists' snapshots in planning RAF attacks in Germany, recalls that, especially on the Pacific coast, "nearly every Jap you saw" was carrying a camera. S. F. EXAMINER, 7/19/43.

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Yolo Co., Calif. will use materials from relocation center near Stockton for farm labor camps. Sacramento BEE, 7/22/43.

PUBLIC ATTITUDES

Columnists:

"It is well to keep remembering that our country DID DISCRIMINATE against Japanese-Americans, apparently solely because of their color." Comparison between slow, methodical, democratic rounding up of German spies and wholesale evacuation of Japanese from the West Coast is unfavorable. "Some of the good white people" say it is not a race war, but their actions deny it. Roy Wilkins, AMSTERDAM-NEWS-STAR (Negro) 7/17/43.

"A Deliverance at Hand" (title). Evacuation of the Japanese was extremely costly to the Government, but heaviest cost has been to the 75,000 Japanese taken into custody (without hearing or charges against them) because of their ancestry. We hope their readjustment will not take too long. Lee Casey, Rocky Mountain NEWS, 7/19/43.

People responsible for releasing Japanese did them a disservice. Report from Montana states that they are "booted out" of cafes..."so you can imagine what would happen if they should arrive on the West Coast." Hedda Hopper, Washington POST, 7/22/43.

Editorials:

Hostile:

Action by South Texas Chamber of Commerce directors addressed to the Dies Committee denounces "coddling", etc. of the Japanese. New evidence validates it. Segregation urged for disloyal, instead of preferred treatment. San Antonio EXPRESS, 7/12/43.

Segregation, now planned by WRA, should have been launched long ago. With the WRA's policy of release, it is imperative. Nashville TENNESSEAN, 7/13/43.

"An Ominous Portent" (title). Chicago incident of three Japs being beaten, stabbed cannot be dismissed. It is a warning that the American people do not want Japs at large; interests of loyal "Japs" best served by their confinement. S. F. CALL BULLETIN, 7/15/43.

WRA request that private attorneys handle legal work of evacuees at lowered fees represents "both effrontery to the legal profession and something new in governmental procedure". Sacramento BEE, 7/16/43.

Theory of segregation "rosy and sound" on paper, but presents problems in practical application. One mistake in the release program would be too many. Sacramento BEE, 7/20/43.

Continuance of the ban on Japanese in the evacuated zone, guaranteed in the recent decree by President Roosevelt and Director of War Mobilization Byrnes, is fortunate for the country as a whole as well as the West Coast. It "effectively spikes whatever plans may have been in the making by the WRA" to return Japanese to the area. L. A. TIMES, 7/21/43.

Friendly:

Although, as is true of every Government agency, there have been mistakes in the WRA program, the Japanese camp situation has been misrepresented at recent Dies hearings. Press representatives have found much of the testimony unverified, majority of center residents loyal. We must treat them with justice. Scottsbluff, Nebraska, HERALD, 7/13/43.

Evacuation called for a policy free of harsh and repressive tactics, and WRA seems to have been guided by that thought in its administration of the camps. There may be some explanation why segregation has been slow in coming; Administrative policy must forestall possibility of reprisals against Americans in Japan. Washington STAR, 7/20/43.

Pamphlets circulated by Sacramento Home Front Commandos appealing to greed and racial bigotry and designating Americans of Japanese origin "Japrats" is dangerous form of "pseudopatriotism". Though Japanese were sent to Japan, other minority groups would become the target of such hate-mongering. Washington POST, 7/23/43.

Features:

"American citizens of Japanese ancestry have found opportunity to continue studies in St. Louis." Their presence and adjustments are "a testimonial to pioneer work in human and racial relations of the WRA." Article and photographs present very favorable view of relocation in St. Louis. St. Louis POST-DISPATCH, 7/4/43 (Pictures by POST staff photographer.)

"No" answer to loyalty question comes less than once in six at Topaz; many change their "no" to "yes". Problem of relocation one of magnitude. C. L. Eddy, state editor DESERET NEWS, 7/8/43.

Relocation camps will close as disloyal Japs are interned and others take jobs. In spite of realizing the public opposition in many quarters, residents request relocation. WRA works with U. S. Employment Service to set pattern for evacuee placement. Harlow Church, Tacoma TIMES, 7/15/43.

Japanese evacuees, despite the fact that many own property in California, Oregon, and Washington, do not plan to return there, or to settle in the South. Joy Paisley, Sacramento BEE, 7/17/43.

Kathleen Iseri, former resident of Granada, donates blood to blood bank for Chinese soldiers, wants allied victory, "as any American does." N. Y. POST, morning and evening, 7/21/43.

"U. S. Japs: Headache, Heartache" (title). Notes that treatment of evacuees is watched by "Nip" leaders. Evacuation and relocation reviewed, material apparently obtained from WRA sources, presented with definitely sympathetic slant. James D. White, Baltimore SUN, Salt Lake TRIBUNE, 7/25/43.

#### Letters:

The volume of letters, both hostile and friendly, has diminished, though some few continue to appear. Hostile letters received this week are in a minority, and treat only the Japanese camera incident. Sympathetic writers observe with apprehension the growth of race hate, suggest a similarity in arguments based on it to Nazi theories of race superiority. One hostile, Seattle POST-INTELLIGENCE 7/16; four friendly, Sacramento BEE, S. F. CHRONICLE, Idaho SUNDAY STATESMAN, 7/18/

#### Resolutions and Statements:

Protests against the return of Japanese to the West Coast were increased by that of the San Francisco Council (A.F.L.), the San Bernardino Labor Body, and the El Segundo City Council. L. A. EXAMINER, 7/10 - 12/43.

State Senator Jack B. Tenney urges that Army take over control of Japanese, charges "gross mismanagement" by WRA. L. A. EXAMINER, 7/13/43.

California Citizens' Council is organized to promote exclusion of Japanese from the state. Spokesman states they will seek 1944 referendum to "deny citizenship to persons of Japanese ancestry and to prohibit them from owning any property or receiving any income in California". INS, S. F. EXAMINER, 7/19/43.

Amos A. Betts, chairman of Arizona Corporation Commission, warns that unless the Gila River cooperative amends its articles soon (limiting its activities to the Center only), the Commission will hand down a decision in its case to revoke the license of the organization. Arizona REPUBLIC, 7/22/43.

Major General V. L. Peterson, U. S. Army Inspector General, will investigate Arizona's protest at release of Japanese, inspect relocation camps. Arizona officials also demand postwar ban on Japanese in the state. Sacramento BEE, 7/22/43.

Los Angeles Optimists Club opposes: return of any Japanese to coastal areas for duration, placement of Japanese men in combat units; proposes placing Japanese in agriculture in interior areas of the country. L. A. TIMES, 7/23/43.

REPORTS

June issues of the Arizona NEWS, recently received, give much space to the evacuee centers, the Gila River Cooperative Enterprises, Inc. dispute, and the problem of relocation. The tone throughout is definitely antagonistic, urging Arizonans not to allow their state to become a "dumping ground" for unwanted Orientals.

Director Myer will address San Francisco Commonwealth Club August 6, answer charges of mismanagement and inefficiency in relocation camps. S. F. CALL BULLETIN, 7/13/43.

Joint War Department-WRA statement issued by Director of War Mobilization Byrnes guarantees the West Coast ban on Japanese as long as military necessity requires, denies, indirectly, charges of pampering in relocation centers; announces segregation policy, and states facts about Japanese-Americans in the armed forces...is published in newspapers throughout the country. In addition to clippings received last week, 24 received this week. AP, staff writers, 7/18-20/43.

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Newell resident, twice-loosed from San Quentin, is apprehended sleeping in stolen car, stolen rifle at his side. Will be charged with robbery in Modoc County, Oregon. Klamath Falls HERALD & NEWS, 7/20/43.

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WRA reports Eden, Idaho, camp cannot be released for housing or war prisoners. Relocation of residents there will not be an immediate accomplishment. Idaho DAILY STATESMAN, 7/21/43.

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Plans for segregation of Japanese will be mapped at Denver conference. Method of determining sympathies to be decided. Wyoming STATE TRIBUNE, 7/22/43. Idaho DAILY STATESMAN.

SEGREGATION

Director Myer's radio statement that segregation will be begun "within the next few weeks" was covered in AP and UP reports, printed in numerous scattered papers. The reference to segregation in the Symes statement was stressed in the headlines of many papers.

Heart Mountain SENTINEL credits Director Guy Robertson with saying that about 8% of the 10,000 residents there will be segregated. First to go will be those asking repatriation, not withdrawing request prior to July 1. AP, Wyoming, STATE TRIBUNE, 7/21/43.

Plan for segregation is "received" with satisfaction" by Dies Committee. David Sentner, S. F. EXAMINER, 7/17/43.

MAGAZINES

Public Welfare, 5/43, "Japanese-American Cooperation in the War Effort", by Charles F. Ernst, Project Director, and Toshio Mori, Historian, Topaz Relocation Center.

A history of evacuation and relocation, from the initial order in February 1942 to the present, is outlined, Topaz Relocation Center being taken as the focus for description. Included are the functions of the WRA, and project government and activities.

Education for Victory, 7/15/43. Under "Announcements of Agency Publications", "Second quarterly Report, July 1 to September 30, 1942", of the War Relocation Authority. Free - supply limited.

