

## WEEKLY PRESS REVIEW

No. 31

Week ending August 15, 1943

For the Use of the WRA staff

## SUMMARY

Segregation continued to hold top honors as a source of news this week. Reports on the appointment of Raymond R. Best as Tule Lake director stressed his previous experience at Minidoka, Moab and Leupp, and quoted denial of field administrator, Robert Cozzens, that changes were a "shakeup". Reports of a proposed enlargement of the Tule Lake center to hold 19,000 segregees, plus a battalion of military guards caused fear in Klamath County that building project would upset local labor picture at critical time of year.

Director Myer's visit to Seattle and address to S. F. Commonwealth Club was widely carried, although not given front page space even in West Coast papers. He announced that approximately 17,000 loyal evacuees have received leave from centers and that the rate of release will be increased during the coming months.

Two Arkansas Congressmen, Oren Harris and W. F. Norrell, were both surprised and pleased at the "good conditions" they found when visiting Jerome and Rohwer.

The employment picture was fairly prominent with several comments on the high level of evacuee work, particularly their success in the Chicago area, and one full page feature on WRA policies was accompanied by photographs of evacuees "on the job". Two Chicago papers reported scale model ship carving and "silk screen" poster production being conducted at Gila River, Heart Mountain and Granada for U. S. Navy use.

Military observers at Camp Shelby praised Nisei soldiers and NEA staff correspondent called them "crack soldiers--and war bond buyers".

Likely to go unnoticed was the rather subtle insertion of evacuee pictures in accounts of Japanese war atrocities, written by James R. Young and a UP staff correspondent in Munda.

Columnist Chester Rowell again came to the fore with praise for WRA, deploring gullibility of rumor swallows.

Another Legion post followed the lead previously taken by the post in Northfield, Minn. as Gary, Indiana Legionnaires voted to uphold WRA policy of evacuee employment in Gary. Arkansas and Ohio Legionnaires, however, approved resolutions unfavorable to WRA.

NOTE: Clippings obtained from newspapers subscribed to by WRA reports division, and those sent in by WRA employees and representatives in the field are still the source of the Review. It is requested that these clippings be sent in as quickly as possible.



SEGREGATION

Report states that Tule Lake center will be enlarged to house 19,000 segregees, 3,000 over the present capacity; military guard facilities will be increased to house a battalion; strong fence will be constructed about project. Klamath County fears building project will upset labor picture at critical time of year, suggests use of Japanese or "outside" labor. Klamath Falls HERALD & NEWS, 8/3/43

Dillon S. Myer and assistant field director R.B. Cozzens confer in Los Angeles. Myer describes segregation move. Report accompanied by picture of Director Myer and Cozzens. Los Angeles TIMES, 8/3/43

"Myer promises segregation of disloyal Japs; WRA head classifies 15,000 evacuees as enemies." (headline). Speaking before S. F. Commonwealth Club, he denies recent charges that evacuees receive better food than civilians. S. F. CALL-BULLETIN, 8/6/43, S. F. EXAMINER, 8/7/43

15,000 disloyal Japanese to be interned. Segregees will include those "who want to return to Japan or are more interested in Japan than this country"... Myer states. UP, N.Y. TIMES, 8/7/43

Director Myer, in Seattle on inspection trip, states only 10 percent of Japanese requested by Japan for repatriation wish to go; segregation will be completed by end of November, after which time any evacuees remaining in centers will be eligible for relocation. Seattle POST INTELLIGENCER, 8/10/43

1250 evacuees from Heart Mountain center will be sent to Tule Lake, announces project segregation board. S. F. CALL BULLETIN, 8/11/43

PUBLIC ATTITUDES

Columnists

WRA faces "hopeless task" in attempting segregation--impossible for "western experts" more than a year ago. "Sun Beams", Walter M. Barrett, Truckee, Cal. SUN & REPUBLICAN, 7/22/43

Chester Rowell praises and attempts to clarify further the policies of WRA, deploras gullibility of rumor swallows, and states that right or wrong, resettlement is an accomplished fact and discussion of it is now history. Chester Rowell, S. F. CHRONICLE, 8/10/43

Property of aliens living in this country is being carefully protected for them by the alien property custodian, Leo Crowley, in contrast to that of enemy citizens residing in their own countries which Uncle Sam is seizing and "does not intend to give back!" "This Is The Life", Marsh Maslin, S. F. CHRONICLE, 8/10/43

Cincinnati columnist disagrees with American Legion plan to return all Japanese-Americans to "concentration camps"--absurd to say "all people with Japanese blood" are treacherous. "Cincinnati", Alfred Segal, CINCINNATI POST, 8/11/43

"Lend support" to program to: (1) remove all Japanese from Manzanar at end of war, and (2) turn project into rehabilitation center for returning service men, urges Inyo county columnist. INYO INDEPENDENT, Independence, Cal. 7/16/43



Editorials

Segregation an "excellent" idea, according to editor who admires Director Myer and the WRA for "their wisdom and courage in tackling this enormous and difficult job". Des Moines REGISTER, 7/18/43

Editorial takes unfavorable slant on recent statements by Director Myer that evacuees can be segregated positively; questions WRA policy, calls WRA staff "theorists". Santa Monica, OUTLOOK, 7/20/43

Several California organizations incorporate to keep Japanese out of California for "all time"--willing to let some other state "bear the burden" of their problems. Ripon, Cal., RECORD, 7/23/43

Segregated Japanese at Tule Lake a "constant threat to the peace and well-being of the state" -- people of California, not WRA, should make decisions concerning their return. Sacramento UNION, 7/31/43

ARKANSAS GAZETTE suggests camp for segregated disloyal Japanese be placed "somewhere in Chinese-held China". ARKANSAS GAZETTE, 7/24/43

Feature Articles

"America's first mass evacuation" is headline of article prepared with the co-operation of OWI, explaining WRA policies and contrasting the humanitarian and democratic American plan for relocation of the Japanese evacuees with that of "cruel Axis evacuations". COLUMBUS CITIZEN, Columbus, Ohio, and NEW HAVEN REGISTER, New Haven, Conn., 8/1/43

Evacuees' excellent adjustment to project life is described in feature article, but fear is expressed residents may become dependent upon security of center and lose desire to "make normal lives" outside. BILLINGS GAZETTE, Billings, Montana 8/8/43

Pictures of project life, centered in an article by James R. Young depicting the horrors of Japanese prison camps, subtly suggests U.S. pampering of evacuees. S. F. EXAMINER, and Seattle POST-INTELLIGENCER, 8/8/43

UP staff correspondent's story of Japanese cruelty to wounded Americans in Munda frames picture of Rohwer peach harvester. Washington DAILY NEWS, 8/9/43

Letters

WRA again breaks even with two letter clippings of a friendly nature and two decidedly hostile. An evacuee praises highly the "splendid conduct" and experience of the WRA personnel at Rohwer and Jerome, while a California woman asks for greater activity on the part of those willing to see loyal Japanese-Americans returned to California after the war. Both hostile letters express incredulous amazement that the U. S. and WRA could continue to be blind to the "true" feelings of the evacuees. ARKANSAS GAZETTE, 7/9/43, S.F. CHRONICLE 8/10/43, S. F. EXAMINER, 8/12/43, Watsonville, Cal. REGISTER, 7/20/43



Resolutions and Statements

Arkansas Legionnaires favor state department resolutions to: (1) deport all Japanese after the war; (2) finger-print and require Japanese to report to federal authorities every 60 days; (3) prevent relocated Japanese from purchasing food in towns near the centers. ARKANSAS GAZETTE, 7/28/43

Gary, Ind. paper reports Legionnaires of Memorial post vote to uphold WRA policy of evacuee employment in Gary. Gary, Ind. POST-TRIBUNE, 8/5/43

A special committee for the Oregon state grange plans to study current and future Japanese problems. OREGONIAN, 8/11/43

Ohio Legion adopts resolutions condemning the release of American-born Japanese from "internment camps", states UP report. SACRAMENTO BEE, 8/12/43

G. Raymond Booth, director of Cincinnati WRA office, calls Ohio Legion's demand for return of released evacuees to the centers undemocratic; but legion officials state their inquiries revealed riots and sabotage in camps and express determination to carry battle to Washington. CINCINNATI POST, 8/11/43

L. A. TIMES publishes full report of the Church Federation of Los Angeles to the Dies committee lest misunderstanding arise from earlier summary. L. A. TIMES, 8/12/43

California state senator, Jesse M. Mayo, promises to "exert every pressure to prevent return of the Japs to California", and push legislation to have Japanese deported as part of any peace terms, if elected as representative to Congress. INYO REGISTER, 8/6/43

REPORTS

Director Myer to visit Seattle, inspect WRA operations in the Pacific Northwest. 8/4,6/43 Seattle TIMES, Seattle POST-INTELLIGENCER

WRA Director Myer tells San Francisco Commonwealth Club that FBI has checked nearly 90% of adult evacuees, WRA takes every precaution to release only loyal Japanese. Klamath Falls HERALD & NEWS, 8/6/43

Commonwealth Club (San Francisco) hears Dillon S. Myer state that 11 percent of evacuees answered "no", or gave qualified answers to loyalty question. These will be segregated. S. F. CHRONICLE, 8/7/43

17,000 loyal Japanese are on leave from relocation centers, rate of release will be increased. Director Myer states that "the manpower is more valuable outside the centers than in,"...."the centers... are not a good place in which to carry on an Americanization program." AP, Salt Lake TRIBUNE, Sacramento BEE, San Francisco CHRONICLE 8/10/43

Japan requests repatriation of husbands of Japanese in this country who "are emphatically opposed to such a transfer of residence", reports WRA Director Myer. UP, Salt Lake TRIBUNE

Former INS correspondent James R. Young reminds Victory Square (Seattle)



audience that there are 12,000 American-educated Japanese, some born in this country, "who are now being trained to come into the cities of the Pacific Northwest and run their utilities, their power lines, and their transportation facilities." Seattle POST-INTELLIGENCER, 8/12/43

#### EMPLOYMENT

Japanese-Americans "make good" on employment outside of centers, says report in describing the success of a "colony" of 16 evacuees placed in various jobs at Edgewater Beach Hotel. MINNEAPOLIS SUNDAY TRIBUNE, 8/8/43: Jack Mackay.

Elmer L. Shirrell, Chicago regional director for WRA, praises Chicago's part in the employment of west coast evacuees; states a total of 15,000 have been released for work and that employers report they are pleased with "the quickness and adaptability of their Japanese help". CHICAGO TRIBUNE and CHICAGO TIMES, 8/12/43

Project director, Ray D. Johnston announces departure of 72 Rohwer evacuees for harvest work in Colorado. ARKANSAS GAZETTE, 8/18/43

Laborers from Minidoka center go to Hazelton labor camp to aid district farmers. TIMES-NEWS, Twin-Falls, Idaho, 8/7/43

#### MILITARY SERVICE

Military observers praise appearance and "exceptional aptitude" of Nisei soldiers on review, says report from Camp Shelby. ARKANSAS GAZETTE, 8/11/43

Article describes Axis as "common foe" of a Chinese officer and one of Japanese descent training together in the "Foreign Legion" company at Ft. Benning, Georgia. LOS ANGELES TIMES, 8/12/43

NEA staff correspondent describes Nisei in U. S. Army stationed at Camp Shelby as "crack soldiers--and war bond buyers:"quotes officers who praise their "exemplary" behavior and eagerness to learn. THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS, 8/13/43

#### CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS

Arkansas Congressmen Oren Harris and W. F. Norrell express surprise and pleasure at "good conditions found when visiting Jerome and Rohwer: add that Japanese requesting repatriation in these centers should have been segregated "weeks or months ago" by the War Department. ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT, 8/8/43

Addressing the Sacramento Chamber of Commerce, Congressman Leroy Johnson describes his efforts to have all disloyal alien and American-born Japanese sent back to Japan. SACRAMENTO BEE, 8/8/43

Congressman Leroy Johnson (Cal.) declares in address to a group of constituents at Napa Co., his intention to introduce in congress a bill for the deportation of alien Japanese and disloyal Japanese-Americans. S. F. NEWS, 8/12/43

#### ADMINISTRATIVE

Comment on appointment of Raymond R. Best as director of Tule Lake project by home-town paper notes his service with the Department of Agriculture in Idaho, Oregon and Washington since 1934, and with WRA at Minidoka, Moab and Leupp since April 1942. Twin Falls, Idaho TIMES NEWS, 8/11/43



Ray Best, formerly director of Leupp, succeeds Harvey M. Coverley as director of Tule Lake relocation center. WRA field administrator Robert Cozzens denies changes were a "shakeup"; says they were caused by Coverley's summons to Army school of government. Sacramento BEE, 8/7/43

New WRA Director, Raymond Best, arrives to take over duties at Tule Lake. Klamath Falls HERALD & NEWS, 8/7/43

#### COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Heart Mountain evacuee softball team loses by small margin to local team at Billings, Montana. BILLINGS GAZETTE, 8/9/43

Hunt evacuee baseball team defeats Burley town team at Minidoka center, announces Idaho paper; finishes fourth in Idaho state semi-pro tourney at Idaho Falls. TIMES-NEWS, Twin Falls, Idaho, 8/10/43

#### COMMUNITY ENTERPRISES

American citizens of Japanese descent at Gila River, Heart Mountain and Granada "carve" model enemy warships for identification and training purposes by U. S. sailors, and also produce patriotic posters by a silk screen process for Navy use, according to E. J. Utz, chief of operations for WRA. CHICAGO TRIBUNE and CHICAGO DAILY NEWS, 8/13/43

#### INTERNAL SECURITY

Granada residents report seeing a "strange, luminous figure" strolling about the premises; believe it to be the ghost of Amache, member of the Cheyenne tribe once inhabiting the site of the center. DENVER POST, 8/9/43

Military Police stationed at Manzanar center "capture" town of Independence in practice maneuvers. INYO INDEPENDENT, 8/6/43

Manzanar evacuee, turned over to county jail by T. W. Gilkey, Chief of Internal Police, receives a sentence of thirty days for "disturbing the peace and battery". INYO REGISTER, 8/6/43

#### LEGAL

Tule Lake woman evacuee, granted leave, is arrested by F. B. I. agents. Had returned to Seattle to be with Chinese husband despite denial of permission by Western Defense Command. Seattle, POST-INTELLIGENCER, 8/8/43

Mr. Leon Happell, department commander of the American Legion, demands to know how two Tule Lake evacuees, who are serving three months in the Solano County jail for shooting ducks out of season, were able to obtain the shotguns and more especially the shotgun shells which they used. H. L. Betten, S. F. EXAMINER, 8/11/43

Report announces newly created alien land unit, headed by Deputy Attorney General Theodore A. Westphal Jr., (S. F.) will attempt to prohibit infraction by the Japanese of California state law forbidding aliens, ineligible to citizenship, from owning or leasing agricultural land. S. F. CHRONICLE, 8/12/43



MISCELLANEOUS

Los Angeles mayor, Fletcher Bowron, makes tour of inspection at Manzanar center. INYO REGISTER, 7/8/43

MAGAZINES

The Christian Century: 8/11/43: the following were included in a section titled "News of the Christian World."

"Give Relocation Center a Clean Bill of Health". Memphis COMMERCIAL APPEAL reporter finds evacuees at Rohwer, Ark., are more hurt than resentful, anxious to relocate. Wonders what soldiers returning to visit their families at the relocation center think of democracy in practice.

New Republic, 7/19/43: Editorial-- "The Japanese Americans"

Editorial strongly supports Director Myer's refutation of Dies Committee charges, deploras misleading, race-baiting slant of news interpretation of Dies investigation, urges support of relocation and a stop "to this shameless persecution of loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry."

Temples Still Undone (A story of the National Missions Enterprise of the Evangelical and Reformed Church.) "Among the Japanese", by Helen E. Baker.

This article contains a brief history of the missionary work of the Reformed Church among the Japanese, particularly on the West Coast; and a sympathetic review of evacuation, life at the centers, and relocation. It ends with a plea to church members for intelligent assistance in relocation.

Elks National Magazine, 8/43; American Legion Councilor, 8/6/43

Brief notices in each periodical indicate that in certain regions the Elks and the American Legion are not entirely hostile to Japanese-Americans.