

*Bigelow*

## WEEKLY PRESS REVIEW

No. 32

Week ending August 25, 1943

For the Use of the WRA Staff

SUMMARY

Most important news events of the week were the release of the report by the Costello subcommittee on August 24 and the minority report released by Rep. Eberharter on the following day. The majority report found WRA procedure of releasing evacuees "loose and dangerous", while Rep. Eberharter claimed his fellow members of the subcommittee (Representatives Costello and Mundt) were prejudiced and unfair, and that the investigation had brought out "many good points" in WRA's favor.

Segregation continued to receive considerable notice with a NEA editorial by Burton Heath finding it "better late than never". Local growers still expressed fears over the proposed building program at Tule Lake, and Granada was faced with an influx of 1,000 evacuees to take the place of 150 to 200 segragees leaving.

The adoption of a resolution unfavorable to WRA by the California Department of the American Legion was widely carried in West Coast papers.

In Philadelphia a court test on individual exclusion was won by a German-American woman who retained the right to continue living on the Eastern Seaboard.

A second sailing of the Gripsholm to exchange 1,500 Japanese in this country for a similar number of Americans from Japan was announced for September 1.

Reports of further employment of the evacuees were highlighted by a plea from welfare director, Ray L. Huff, for "Japanese internees" to aid in District (D. C.) Training School, and two editorials saw a glimmer of hope for the manpower shortage in the surplus of unemployed evacuees.

Columnist Henry MacLemore gave a friendly warning to the evacuees on the value of sticking to the English language in public places.

Superman ended his episode with a Japanese spy-ring by reminding his vast audience that "most Japanese-Americans are loyal citizens", many are working or fighting for the U. S. and that not one act of sabotage was committed by them in Hawaii or territorial U. S.

CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONSDies Committee:

Dies subcommittee, headed by Representative Costello of California, releases final report to the press charging WRA with releasing 23 members of the Butoku-Kai, terming procedure of releasing evacuees "loose and dangerous", and recommending that: (1) segregation be put into effect at the earliest possible moment, (2) a joint board of representatives from WRA and various intelligence agencies of the Federal Government investigate and make final decision on release of all evacuees and (3) a thorough

Americanization program be set up for Japanese remaining in the centers. NEW YORK TIMES, WASHINGTON POST, WASHINGTON TIMES-HERALD, and NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE, 8/24/43

Representative Herman P. Eberharter, member of the Dies Subcommittee investigating WRA, files minority report challenging the statements of the other two members of the subcommittee and calling them prejudiced and unfair in stressing the "few shortcomings" of WRA without mentioning the "many good points that our investigation has disclosed". PM and THE EVENING STAR, Wash. D. C., 8/25/43 "Japanese may be a member of an organization alleged to be subversive and still be loyal to the U. S.", says Cong. Eberharter. TIMES-HERALD, Wash. D. C., 8/25/43

Other:

Representative Warren G. Magnuson (Dem., Wash.) labels WRA "silly stupid sentimentalist" for releasing persons of Japanese ancestry. NEW YORK TIMES, 8/18/43

SEGREGATION

Worried officers of Tule Lake Growers wire their Senators and Congressmen to restrict the proposed construction labor at center to the following regulations: (1) all Japanese labor be used, (2) 8-hour day be in effect, (3) community farm labor scale of wages be held to. Tule Lake, Cal. REPORTER, 8/5/43

Granada center to "undergo a face lifting" with 150 to 200 members scheduled to be moved to Tule Lake while approximately 1,000 Japanese-Americans will be moved into Amache. Billings, Montana GAZETTE, 8/16/43

Robert B. Cozzens, assistant WRA director, foresees success of segregation at San Francisco interview--says disloyal Japanese are still disloyal. AP, New York TIMES, Wyoming STATE TRIBUNE, Denver POST, Phoenix GAZETTE, 8/18/43

Rumors are rampant on size of proposed expansion at Tule Lake--nothing definite as yet given out by WRA officials. Mayor of Tule Lake City makes generous offer of building space for additional military guards and WRA personnel. TULE LAKE REPORTER, 8/5/43

U. S. requests second exchange of prisoners (headline). 1,500 Japanese in this country will be exchanged for a similar number of American civilians in Japan via the Gripsholm about Sept. 1. AP, New York TIMES, Washington POST and Washington DAILY NEWS, 8/21/43

PUBLIC ATTITUDES

Columnists

Evacuation a costly experiment to both the government and the evacuees; "deliverance is at hand" with the coming segregation. Lee Casey, ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS, 7/ 19/43

Japanese differ only in "TIME aspect" from other peoples of the world--their character similar but their imperialistic ideas out of date in a maturing world. Thinks West Coast prejudices more economical than racial. "About the World" by Albert Muldavin, Las Vegas, Nevada DAILY OPTIC, 8/9/43

People of Japanese ancestry should speak English if they would avoid unnecessary suspicion. Henry Mac Lemore, Portland OREGONIAN, 8/15/43

Japanese situation "bothers" James R. Young, foreign correspondent in Japan for many years and a Japanese prisoner for 62 days. "Send them all back to Japan", he demands, listing several reasons why he is "hot" about the evacuees. THE SPOKESMAN REVIEW, 8/14/43

### Editorials

We are being overly anxious about the "civil rights" of "interned" Japanese in this country in view of reports from prison camps in Japan. Bakersfield, Cal. CALIFORNIAN, 7/29/43

Adverse propaganda by the California press is "gumming up the works of WRA's resettlement program in the Middle-West, is opinion of University of California paper Urges students to support a counter-campaign against "hate-the-Jap" movements. THE DAILY CALIFORNIAN, Berkeley, Cal. 7/30/43

State assembly committee's resolution to detain all evacuees in centers for duration is "simple and sensible solution to the problem". Fresno, Cal. BEE, 8/9/43

Segregation is "better late than never"; would have Americans hurry the job of relocating loyal evacuees. Lima Ohio NEWS, 8/10/43, Columbus, Ohio CITIZEN, 8/10/43 and VISALIA, TIMES-DELTA, (Calif.) 8/14/43, editorial by Burton Heath, NEA staff writer. Evacuees and war prisoners should be put to work on farms to alleviate the man power shortage. Chicago DAILY TRIBUNE, 8/14/43

"Who is going to pick Arizona's cotton crop this fall?" Evacuees from the relocation centers helped last year. Arizona REPUBLIC, 8/17/43

Criticizes fact that WAC has decided to accept only "a limited number" of women of Japanese descent. Lima, Ohio, NEWS.

### Feature Articles

A series of four pictures with explanatory captions show a few of the "many U. S. -born Japanese" now working outside of the centers. SAN FRANCISCO NEWS, 8/16/43

Creators of Superman end his seven-week campaign against a Japanese spy-ring which began with their attempted break from a relocation center, by reminding the public that "most Japanese-Americans are loyal citizens". McClure syndicate, Washington POST, 8/21/43

Japanese government concerned about inclusion of Nisei in relocation centers, uses fact as "club over prisoners". Segregation and gradual release of all loyal evacuees may affect treatment of captured Americans. AP, THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE, 7/25/43, written by James D. White.

Group of Hawaii soldiers of Japanese ancestry at Camp Shelby eager for personal revenge against the Japanese empire; spurred on by the memory of friends and relatives killed at Pearl Harbor. ARIZONA REPUBLIC, 8/17/43, by Burton Heath, NEA staff writer.

Letters to the editor

Nine readers put their ponderings in writing this week, five with favorable opinions of the American-Japanese, one with a I-can-be-shown attitude and three of an unfriendly nature.

A soldier (somewhere in Africa) resents the Congressional persecution of the Japanese-Americans, whom he describes as "gracious, honest and industrious", and asks for a younger class of politicians who will "call a spade a spade". Portland OREGONIAN, 7/27/43

A Spokane man praises the editor of the Jerome, Idaho NORTH SIDE NEWS for his fair and unprejudiced account of conditions at the Hunt relocation center. NORTH SIDE NEWS, 8/12/43

A Californian opposes deportation or exclusion of evacuees from California after the war; claims they have proved love of their adopted country stronger than that of motherland. Modesto, Cal., BEE, 7/29/43

A. J. Muste, Secretary, Fellowship of Reconciliation, suggests we give the colonial peoples "tangible evidence of our attachment to democracy" by speeding the placement of loyal Japanese-Americans in American communities. N. Y. TIMES, 8/19/43

Another letter points out that American-born and educated Japanese would be the ideal people to rebuild Japan "mentally and structurally the American way" after the war. SACRAMENTO BEE, 8/14/43

Two people take opposing sides on the question of exclusion, while a San Franciscan is "mad as hell" at the too decent treatment of the evacuees. S. F. CHRONICLE, 8/13,14,17/43

The Secretary of the California Joint Immigration Committee assails dual citizenship and the Japanese language schools. SPOKESMAN-REVIEW, 8/17/43

Resolutions and Statements

Purpose and objective of the newly incorporated Pacific Coast Japanese Problem League is to coordinate efforts of individuals, groups and organizations in the west who would protect the Pacific Coast area from the "Japanese menace" DESERT NEWS, Mojave, Cal. 7/22/43

Resolution banning the Japanese from Gilroy, Cal. "for the duration and forever after" is passed by city council. MERCURY HERALD, San Jose, Cal. 8/5/43

Roane T. Waring, national commander of the American Legion, speaking in San Francisco, criticizes WRA's handling of evacuees. S. F. CHRONICLE, EXAMINER, CALL-BULLETIN and SACRAMENTO BEE, 8/15-16/43

California state legion adopts "far-reaching resolution advocating: (1) Army control of all relocation centers, (2) immediate elimination of all Japanese from our armed forces, (3) deportation of all disloyal Japanese, (4) use of all Japanese impounded property for the war effort, (5) use of investigated Japanese for farm work outside combat areas under Army supervision, (6) immediate arrest of Japanese who

have shown treason and (7) a Congressional investigation to determine a policy of post-war action regarding Japanese in this country. S. F. NEWS, 8/18/43

Women of the California Legion Auxiliary follow Legionnaires' lead in requesting more rigid control of evacuees. S. F. EXAMINER, 8/19/43

"Legion assured Congress will act in Jap case" (headline). Recalls that Representative Costello predicted Congressional action on resolution to place relocation centers under Army control. S. F. EXAMINER, 8/19/43, written by Ray Richards.

William Sisson (Legion member) attacks WRA operation of Tule Lake center, after personal investigation, in report to local Lions club. NEWS, Dunsmuir, Cal. 7/30/43

"No Japs, Inc." is title of San Diego organization which seeks to prevent the return of evacuees to the West Coast. INS, S. F. EXAMINER, 8/17/43

REPORTS

In Denver interview Director Myer expresses hope evacuees will shun the West Coast after the war—"better for the nation if they don't congregate all in one region.", and announces closing of Arizona to evacuees. SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER, 7/28/43

Director Myer describes segregation plans to University of California audience and thanks University for its contribution in the war relocation program. CALIFORNIA GAZETTE, Berkeley, Cal 8/6/43

Minidoka celebrates first anniversary; vast changes occur during the past year Twin Falls TIMES NEWS and JEROME NORTH SIDE NEWS, 8/12/43

9,000 persons must be moved out of Tule Lake to make room for segregees from other relocation centers, states Director Myer. CHICAGO HERALD AMERICAN, 8/17/43

Guy Robertson, Heart Mountain project director, discusses the problems of American-born Japanese and explains WRA's program of segregation to Lions Club members. Billings GAZETTE, 8/20/43

EMPLOYMENT

A group of 24 American-born Japanese pick peaches on Missouri farm to help feed "not only the civilian population but the fighting forces opposing the country of their ancestors". ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH, 8/6/43

Second crew of "32 Japanese laborers from an internment camp" (relocation center) arrived to work on the Northern Pacific railway. THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW, 8/16/43

"Proper organization and distribution" of the available labor supply, including 250 Japanese-Americans, will enable Canyon county to meet harvest demands, says USES official. IDAHO SUNDAY STATESMAN, 8/15/43

Increase of Japanese-Americans employed in the Chicago area expected by WRA officials as loyal evacuees at Tule Lake make room for segregees. CHICAGO DAILY NEWS, 8/17/43

Ray L. Huff, District of Columbia welfare director, seeks "Japanese internees" to replace manpower shortage at the District Training School where 300 escapes during the last year prove situation "acute". Admits plea is a "last resort". Washington POST and Washington TIMES HERALD, 8/18/43

Weekly releases of evacuees has dropped 1/3 since nation learned of disloyalty, but WRA still trying to push evacuees out. INS, S. F. EXAMINER, CALL-BULLETIN and Seattle POST-INTELLIGENCER, 8/16/43

#### ADMINISTRATIVE

Joe Hayes, assistant WRA director of Tule Lake, leaves for army induction; was one of the original WRA administrative staff and among the first to arrive at Tule Lake. TULE LAKE REPORTER, 8/5/43

Loss of half million dollar grain crop averted, states report, as 150 Tule Lake evacuees aid in building auxiliary dam when dike breaks. Praise given for their valuable help as "expert bulldozer operators" and their "freewill offering of aid". TULE LAKE REPORTER, 7/29/43

Wind and rain storm removes roofs of two school buildings and six warehouses at Poston center--none reported injured. Phoenix REPUBLIC and Phoenix GAZETTE, 8/17/43

#### AGRICULTURE

Heart Mountain evacuees harvest their first farm crop-- 703 pounds of Chinese cabbage. ARIZONA DAILY STAR, 7/23/43

Rivers Relocation Center holds "remarkable" and "spectacular" fair, exhibits wonderful variety and quality of vegetables. Arizona FARMER-Producer 7/17/43, written by farm editor.

#### EDUCATION

Local school board protests WRA attempt to "pirate" agricultural instructor for Heart Mountain high school: "no justice", letter to Dillon Myer charges, in offering salary "greatly in excess" of what public school system can pay for work in no sense or degree "as important as ours". Wyoming STATE TRIBUNE, 8/16/43

#### INTERNAL SECURITY

Mysterious "ball of fire" (formerly reported as the ghost of Amaché) still frightens Granada evacuees as WRA officials make guess that phenomenon is caused by marsh gas or phosphorescence. CHICAGO TRIBUNE HOME EDITION, 8/18/43

#### LEGAL

"German-American wins court test on coast exclusion" (headline) U. S. District Court in Philadelphia overrules Army order excluding German-born woman from the Eastern Seaboard. New York TIMES, 8/21/43 and Washington POST, 8/22/43

Superior Judge sentences "escaped" Tule Lake evacuee to San Quentin for an "indeterminate period" for theft of automobile and rifle. TULE LAKE REPORTER, 8/5/43

Japanese alien, employed in Salt Lake City for past five months, faces federal mail charge after sending "obscene and indecent" letter to Oklahoma woman. Salt-Lake TRIBUNE, 8/15/43

#### MILITARY

Elmer L. Shirrell, WRA regional director in Chicago, announces six Japanese-American evacuees now working in Chicago have been called for army duty "in response to their petitions for volunteer service". Chicago TRIBUNE and Chicago SUN, 8/19/43

#### MISCELLANEOUS

80-year-old Japanese-born seaman is given Legion burial by members of Roanoke, Va. Post--had re-enlisted in the U.S. Navy "six separate times". THE NATIONAL LEGIONNAIRE, 8/43

Attempt of Portland chapter of the Fellowship of Reconciliation to "recondition" neglected Japanese-American cemetery and hold "Bon Matsuri" ceremony is blocked by local sheriff and members of the American Legion, THE SUNDAY OREGONIAN, 8/15/43 and Klamath, Falls, Oregon, HERALD AND NEWS, 8/16/43

Comparison of U. S. Department of Justice and International Red Cross records reveals one of every 10 Americans in Japanese prison camps die of disease to one of every 273 enemy aliens, including Japanese, interned in this country. L. A. TIMES 8/17/43

#### MAGAZINES

THE HORN BOOK MAGAZINE: 8/9/43: "Americans With The Wrong Ancestors" by Clara E. Breed

A sympathetic and moving article on the Japanese-Americans before and after evacuation, by a California Librarian, describes them as enthusiastic students and readers, completely American in their choice of reading material.

LUTHERAN MEN: 7/43; "The Nisei in Our Midst" by Rev. S. O. Thorlaksson.

Rev. Thorlaksson, ex-missionary to Japan, highly commends work done by the WRA officials and staff after visiting several relocation centers; praises spirit of obedience, loyalty and patience shown by the evacuees.

HOSPITALS: 7/43: "Report on Japanese-American Student Nurses" by Joy Barragrey Stuart, R. N., Nursing Consultant, WRA.

An eloquent plea for the acceptance of more Japanese-American girls in schools of nursing to "serve our common national need", with quoted recommendations of student evacuee nurses from several hospitals.

THE NEW REPUBLIC: 7/19/43: "Of Spies and Superman": Editorial.

Creators of "Superman" criticized for series of strips which picture him breaking up a fifth-column spy ring in an evacuee relocation center.