

WEEKLY PRESS REVIEW



No. 33

Week ending September 1, 1943

For the Use of the WRA Staff

SUMMARY

The Dies committee was the greatest source of news this week, with thirty new items and three editorials. The majority report of the subcommittee received considerable attention with varying degrees of stress laid upon the release of 23 alleged subversives\* and "negligence" of WRA. Two papers headlined the fact that Rep. Costello's report failed to recommend Army supervision of the relocation centers. Ray Richards suggested Congress may use Rep. Eberharter's report as a basis for charges that the New Deal "packs" committees investigating its agencies, while a Washington POST editorial claimed the sub-committee had produced a "pipsqueak" but that the minority report was worth reading "in full".

News of segregation was largely confined to reports of the estimated numbers of segregees to leave the centers for Tule Lake and of the starting of construction of proposed enlargement there.

There were several items indicating a growing anti-Japanese attitude in Hawaii and an appeal to the War Department to keep Japanese residents out of defense sector. The decision of the War Department, that martial law is still in effect in Hawaii, in the habeas corpus case, will affect about 300 persons of Japanese ancestry there and if used as a test case may have further repercussions here.

Denver is reported to have a capacity load of employed evacuees and the Illinois American Legion drafted a resolution to halt the influx of evacuees to Chicago. Elmer L. Shirrell, relocation supervisor in Chicago, states that three or four families relocated to each small town causes less "racial consciousness" than the "colony" plan.

Attorney General Biddle created an appeal board for interned enemy aliens and a Montana judge sought to appeal a state supreme court ruling that "an enemy ali is entitled to his day in court".

Editorials this week were fairly evenly divided with five favorable and six unfavorable to WRA.

The Oregon department of the American Legion adopted a resolution opposing th

\*Rep. Eberharter's minority report indicates the only evidence of subversiveness produced against these individuals was their membership in Butoku-Kai, a Japanese fencing society.



return of evacuees to the west coast for the duration and asked for their deportation after the war, while columnist Chester Rowell pointed out that only a Constitutional amendment can bar the evacuees from any state once the war is over.

## CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS

### Dies Committee

Rep. Costello (Cal.) tells Californian Legion convention WRA Director Myer "forcefully resisted" segregation of disloyal evacuees; WRA authorities "encouraged and assisted" infiltration of evacuees into the federal government. S. F. CALL-BULLETIN, 8/18/43 Claims racial prejudice "played no part" in the evacuation of Japanese-Americans. S. F. CHRONICLE, 8/9/43

Release of Dies sub-committee report accusing WRA of laxity in policy of releasing evacuees, criticizing Director Myer as "typical" of inexperienced and unskilled staff and listing three recommendations, reported in scattered papers. AP, Billings GAZETTE, Arkansas, GAZETTE, SPOKESMAN-REVIEW, Arizona REPUBLIC, S.F. CHRONICLE, 8/24/43 and Twin Falls, Idaho TIMES-NEWS, 8/25/43

43 branches of the Butoku-Kai were maintained in Hawaii and the states, reveals Dies report. L.A. TIMES, 8/23/43

Dies sub-committee calls for new controls against Japanese saboteurs in release of investigation report. Warren B. Francis, L.A. TIMES, 8/24/43

"WRA is scored in Dies report on Japanese" (headline); "charged with ignorance, negligence, deception". Sacramento BEE, 8/24/43

Dies sub-committee charges (1) WRA staff knows "nothing of Japan or the Japanese", (2) "thousands of Japanese being released...not being investigated for loyalty by qualified agencies", (3) WRA indorses, for government jobs, evacuees found by Civil Service Commission to be members of pro-Japan societies,\* and (4) FBI denies investigating evacuees for loyalty and "renounces responsibility for actions of released Japanese. Ray Richards, Seattle POST-INTELLIGENCER and S.F. EXAMINER, 8/24/43

Dies sub-committee fails to recommend Army supervision of relocation camps. UP, Washington, D.C. DAILY NEWS and Sacramento BEE, 8/24/43

Rep. Costello calls for thorough Americanization of evacuees to counteract "subversive" Butoku-Kai, in statement issued shortly after release of sub-committee report. INS, S.F. CALL-BULLETIN, 8/24/43 and Sacramento BEE, 8/25/43

Wra Director Myer denies Dies charges of release of subversives; tells press not one of 18,000 released evacuees reported as committing a subversive act. AP, Klamath Falls HERALD & NEWS, and S.F. CALL-BULLETIN, 8/24/43, Arkansas GAZETTE AND Billings GAZETTE, 8/25/43

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\*The majority report did not say precisely this. Actually it merely indicated that Civil Service Agents had checked the names of some evacuee applicants for Federal jobs against Dies Committee files and had found some were members of a pro-Japanese organization, presumably Butoku-Kai.



WRA praised by Rep. Eberharter in minority report to the Dies committee; attacks "unfair" criticism of majority report and denies committee has any evidence indicating released evacuees are subversive. AP, Toledo BLADE, Sacramento BEE, N.Y. SUN 8/25/43, Memphis COMMERCIAL APPEAL, Arkansas GAZETTE, Idaho DAILY STATESMAN, N.Y. TIMES, and Toledo TIMES, 8/26/43

Charges that New Deal "packs" committees investigating its agencies may be touched off in Congress as result of Rep. Eberharter's minority report. Ray Richards Chicago HERALD AMERICAN, 8/26/43

Other

Rep. Leroy Johnson (Cal.) will push bill in Congress on deportation after the war of all alien Japanese and Japanese-Americans found to be disloyal in a public hearing. S.F. CHRONICLE, 8/23/43, by Earl C Behrens

SEGREGATION

Robert B. Cozzens, WRA assistant director, announces segregation of 15,000 disloyal Japanese will begin in September and should be completed sometime in November. Sacramento BEE, 8/19/43

Segregation being speeded at Gila River; all disloyal evacuees will have been sent to Tule Lake by the end of October, say center officials. Arizona REPUBLIC, 8/20/43

1,458 evacuees have been selected for removal to Tule Lake is report from Poston center. L.A. TIMES, 8/21/43

M. O. Anderson, assistant project director at Heart Mountain, states 900 segregees will be transferred to Tule Lake. Wyoming STATE TRIBUNE, 8/24/43

Completion of welfare and segregation interviews at Jerome reveals 1,564 evacuees will be sent to Tule Lake. Arkansas DEMOCRAT, 8/27/43

"Only 105 of Amache's 6,700 evacuees to be sent to Tule Lake", (headline) more may go later on basis of leave-clearance hearings, says project director, James G. Lindley. Lamar, Colo., DAILY NEWS, 8/25/43

Place: Jerome segregation hearing.

Question: "Do you want to stay in this country after the war?"

Answer: "No"

Question: "Where do you want to go--Japan?"

Answer: "No, California." AP, 8/27/43

Construction on the enlargement of Tule Lake and the "high fence which will surround it" has begun. Sacramento BEE, 8/25/43 HERALD & NEWS, 8/24/43



## HAWAII

Confidence in Japanese-Americans found in Hawaii, where "American citizenship is a matter of loyalties and principals and not one of race", according to Joseph R. Farrington, Hawaiian delagate to Congress. S.F. NEWS, 8/19/43

Change in traditional economic status of Japanese reason for outbreak of anti-Japanese criticism in Hawaii--becoming "too important, too complacent and too independent" state white residents.

"Racial issues in Hawaii stirred by Unions' drive" (headline). Series of two articles by William Norwood, CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, 8/20/43 and 8/21/43

Martial law still in effect in Hawaii, says War Department. Backs Lt. Gen. Robert C. Richardson Jr., on writs of habeas corpus case; decision affects 300 persons of Japanese ancestry. N.Y. TIMES and Memphis COMMERCIAL APPEAL, 8/27/43

"Congress may join in Hawaiian dispute" (headline) if solution to problem is not found in conferences of Justice, War and Interior Departments. AP, Memphis COMMERCIAL APPEAL, 8/28/43

Appeals sent to the War Department to "reimpose" ban on Japanese in Hawaii's defense sectors as gradual infiltration threatens security. Ray Richards, Chicago HERALD AMERICAN, 8/25/43

## PUBLIC ATTITUDES

### Columnists

"No Japs, Inc." and similar organizations stressing non-existent issues-- army has no intention of returning evacuees to California during war, and after peace is declared only a Constitutional amendment can bar them from any state. Chester Rowell, S. F. CHRONICLE, 8/19/43

### Editorials

Expertness of Dies Committee as a true fact finder doubted after review of statistics published by WRA. Ogden, Utah STANDARD EXAMINER, 8/3/43

Attempt to give "objective, unprejudiced" report of Heart Mountain and WRA program is aim of series of four editorials. Laramie REPUBLICAN and BOOMERANG, 8/9/43

Give evacuated Japanese, and German and Italian prisoners jobs on farms--let them produce food instead of "being fed in idleness". Chicago TRIBUNE, 8/14/43

Expresses admiration for evacuees who openly admit allegiance to Japan--warn of those "falsely professing loyalty to the U. S.". HERALD & NEWS, Klamath Falls, Oregon, 8/18/43

Segregation problem unique in world history; serious consequences hang in the balance of success or failure of WRA program. Arizona REPUBLIC, 8/18/43

"Confine all the Japs" (headline); "the trained saboteurs and spies....would be the last to admit or be caught in anything". Seattle POST-INTELLIGENCER 8/23/43



WRA operating on a perilous policy if as much as 1/10 of Dies sub-committee report true. Director Myer's "no-sabotage" defense comparable to "fact-the-house-has-not-burned-proves-it-safe-to-play-with-matches" theory. Sacramento BEE, 8/25/43

Army limits Nisei WAC enlistment; afraid to "lead with their chins" in face of assumed public feeling. Arizona REPUBLIC, 8/26/43

Dies sub-committee report a "pipsqueak"; Rep. Eberharter's minority report "worth reading in full". Washington, D.C. POST, 8/26/43

Confusion over Hawaiian habeas corpus case shows need of clarification, by authorized sources, of civil and military boundaries. Memphis COMMERCIAL APPEAL, 8/27/43

Praises Rep. Eberharter's courage "to dissent and to cite facts to counter the majority's generalizations" Chicago SUN, 8/28/43

#### Letters to the editor

##### Favorable

Predicted acts of sabotage have yet to be perpetrated, says man who through years of acquaintance with Japanese-Americans finds "honesty, integrity and devotion to America" inherent in them. Oregon JOURNAL, 8/18/43

Californian asks for end to "palaver" over evacuees; states "the North American Japanese is no more to blame for this world catastrophe than I am". Sacramento BEE, 8/20/43

##### Hostile

Seattle contributor claims Western citizens know more about the Japanese and their intentions than do Mid-westeners, Easteners and Mr. Myer of the WRA. Seattle, POST-INTELLIGENCER, 8/18/43

Former Oregonian (now in Hawaii) finds Japanese "crafty and deceiving"; hopes they will be treated as "potential enemies" on the mainland. OREGONIAN 8/19/43

"Bad enough" to allow evacuees to work on farms, but his daughter wouldn't want a Japanese woman for a companion if she were a WAC, declares "burned up" Idaho resident. (Underscoring ours) Idaho STATESMAN, 8/22/43

##### Feature Articles

Rohwer evacuees quoted as not wanting to relocate in the South for three reasons, (1) existing racial and economical problems there, (2) climate too hot, and (3) unsuited to small truck farming. Joy Paisley, AP, New Orleans ITEM, 7/19/43

"Bitterness....tempered by resignation and hope" is attitude found on visit to Rohwer. Joy Paisley, AP, New Orleans ITEM, 7/19/43

Heart Mountain center described as "humming with sounds of industry"--40 per cent of evacuees employed in agricultural, industrial, and professional work. Billings GAZETTE, 8/22/43



Resolutions and Statements

International Association of Machinists, at tri-state convention in Seattle, pass resolution urging all evacuees be treated as prisoners of war--recommends deportation of those whose removal is advised by FBI. AP, HERALD&NEWS, Seattle POST-INTELLIGENCER, 8/19/43 and OREGONIAN, 8/20/43

Oregon department of American Legion adopts resolution opposing return of evacuees to West Coast for duration of war. AP, OREGONIAN, SPOKESMAN-REVIEW, 8/21/43  
INS reports above resolution as specifying "never be allowed to return" Sacramento BEE, 8/21/43

Oregon Legionnaires ask for deportation of all persons of Japanese ancestry after war. AP, Idaho DAILY STATESMAN, 8/21/43 L.A. TIMES, 8/22/43 and OREGONIAN, 8/22/43

California Association of Nurserymen plans convention debate on return of Japanese to West Coast for agricultural work. L. A. TIMES, 8/22/43

State Senate interim committee will study data and evidence on "interned Japanese" at Fresno meeting. L.A. TIMES, 8/24/43

American Legion advocates Army handling of evacuees as WRA is not properly "equipped or manned" for the job, says national commander, Roane Waring to Idaho branch of Legion. Idaho DAILY STATESMAN, 8/25/43

Illinois American Legion drafts resolution for immediate halt of influx of evacuee employees to Chicago. Chicago HERALD and AMERICAN, 8/27/43

"Nisei spy work on West Coast vital to Japs" (headline) is revealed by Sino-Korean Peoples League; show stolen records of pre-war Japanese organizations as evidence. Ray Richards, Seattle POST-INTELLIGENCER, 8/22/43

EMPLOYMENT

Elmer L. Shirrell, WRA relocation supervisor in Chicago, "says 'colony' program tends to build racial consciousness"; two or three families to each small town ideal. CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, 8/3/43

Amache personnel director, Walter J. Knodel clarifies indefinite leave clearances in report. Lamar, Colo., DAILY NEWS 8/10/43

Denver has capacity load of evacuees; few employment opportunities left, announces regional relocation supervisor, Harold S. Choate. AP, Colo., Springs GAZETTE, 8/11/43

Two evacuee mechanics receive vote of confidence by their fellow workers in Des Moines garage--"victims of circumstances" general feeling. AP, Arkansas GAZETTE, 8/27/43

REPORTS

Group of 19 clippings from a Colorado paper, on Japanese Language School at Boulder, contains only three short references to Nisei instructors. Boulder DAILY CAMERA, 8/2,3,6,16/43



Elmer L. Shirrell, Chicago relocation supervisor, praises Gary Memorial Post's resolution approving evacuee employment in Gary, Indiana. GARY-POST-TRIBUNE, 8/12/43

Film version of James R. Young's book "Behind the Rising Sun" contains "the spitting image" of a young San Francisco Japanese, son of a newspaper owner. S. F. CALL-BULLETIN, 8/23/43

L. W. Folsom, Minidoka placement officer explains WRA program to Idaho Legionnaires; asserts WRA "maintaining strict control" over evacuees. AP, Idaho DAILY STATESMAN, and UP, TIMES NEWS, Twin Falls, Idaho, 8/24/43

Article by H. Rex Lee, relocation supervisor, discusses evacuee relocation and employment; states "ultimate aim" now is to "restore traditional American rights and privileges to the bulk of the people in the centers". Ogden STANDARD EXAMINER, 8/9/43

### LEGAL

Japanese-American soldier arrested by Sumner (Wash.) police for being in Puyallup Valley without army permission--second such case this summer. HERALD & NEWS, Klamath Falls, Oregon, 8/17/43

Montana judge seeks to appeal ruling of state supreme court that "an enemy alien is entitled to his day in court" in case of suit brought by a citizen of Denmark. Billings GAZETTE, 8/21/43

Japanese woman who returned to Seattle to be with Chinese husband is given suspended sentence of six months on condition she leave forbidden area. AP, HERALD & NEWS, 8/21/43 POST-INTELLIGENCER, 8/22/43

Attorney General Biddle creates a 22-member board to hear appeals for release by interned enemy aliens. Washington, D. C. POST and AP, Seattle POST-INTELLIGENCER 8/22/43

### ADMINISTRATION

Guy B. Smith, chief of Public Works Division at Jerome, resigns "because of dissatisfaction over a recent order for reorganizing the center", states report. Arkansas GAZETTE, 8/15/43

Virginia Ramsland and Harvey Turk, WRA staff members at Amache, transfer to Tule Lake on 30-day loan basis. Lamar, Colo., DAILY NEWS, 8/20/43

### COMMUNITY ENTERPRISES

Gila Consumers Co-operative files articles of incorporation with the National Co-operative League of Washington, D. C. to operate on a nonprofit basis. Arizona REPUBLIC, 8/20/43

Arizona Corporation Commission accepts for filing revised articles of Gila Co-operative Enterprises, Inc., which it had previously cancelled--will be "strictly limited" to boundaries of the center, and will cease when center no longer exists. Arizona REPUBLIC, 8/21/43



Jerome evacuees obtain charter from the secretary of state's office to operate a non-profit co-operative; list \$130,667.08 asset. Arkansas DEMOCRAT, 8/26/43, Arkansas GAZETTE, 8/27/43

#### EDUCATION

Former Granada industrial arts instructor now teaching code in Boulder navy radio school; describes Granada center as largely self-supporting. Boulder, Colo., DAILY CAMERA, 8/13/43

"Two Amache teachers leave for California posts." (heading) Lamar, Colo., DAILY NEWS. 8/20/43

Paul J. Terry, superintendent of Amache schools recruits for new teachers to meet increased number of pupils--250 to 270 expected from Tule Lake. Lamar DAILY NEWS, 8/23/43

#### MILITARY SERVICE

Three evacuees leave Granada for army induction in Denver. Lamar, Colo., DAILY NEWS, 8/4/43

WAC now recruiting for 500 Japanese-American girls from the relocation centers, announces Elmer L. Shirrell, WRA relocation supervisor in Chicago. UP, AP, OREGONIAN, S.F. CHRONICLE, Sacramento Bee, L.A. TIMES, 8/24/43 and Washington, D.C. NEWS, 8/25/43

Camp Shelby full of identical names, says report; 46 Nakamuras and 40 Tanakas example of problem facing postal clerks. AP, Washington, D.C. POST, 8/29/43

#### MISCELLANEOUS

Relocation center barracks, built by army at Tulare County Fairgrounds, being moved to labor camps for use by Mexican nationals who are aiding crop harvest. Chick Relander, Visalia, Cal., TIMES-DELTA, 8/23/43

Tacoma NEWS-TRIBUNE reports Japanese invasion map discovered in house occupied for ten years, by a Japanese repatriated in first exchange. Seattle POST-INTELLIGENCE, 8/24/43

#### REPATRIATION

127 Japanese from WRA relocation centers assemble at Gila in preparation for repatriation to Japan on the Sept. 1st sailing of the Gripsholm. AP, Arizona REPUBLIC, 8/26/43

#### MAGAZINES

WEEKLY PHILATELIC GOSSIP--The Stamp Collectors' Magazine, 7/24/43, Editorial:

A scathing and bitter attack on the character of all Japanese in general and specifically the evacuees, quoting the pampering reported by newspapers and the Dies committee and demanding exclusion of the Japanese from America "forever".