

WEEKLY PRESS REVIEW

No. 35

Week ending September 15, 1943

For the Use of the WRA Staff

SUMMARY

Newspaper references to the evacuees and the WRA program were scarcer this week than at any time since last May when the Dies Committee spokesmen first started their drumfire of accusations.

Perhaps the outstanding event of the week was the President's report to the Senate on WRA activities. In a covering letter the President asked for "fair treatment" of the loyal evacuees who, he announced, will be allowed to return to evacuated areas as soon as the military situation makes it "feasible". The Washington, D. C. TIMES HERALD pointed out that both President Roosevelt's letter, and the accompanying report on evacuation by War Mobilization Director Byrnes, "ignored" the recent charges of the Dies sub-committee that WRA procedures were "loose and dangerous". (Actually the leave procedures are amply explained on pp. 17 and 18 of the Byrnes report)

Rep. Costello, chairman of the Dies sub-committee which investigated the evacuee centers, hinted that administrative pressure was behind the minority report submitted by Rep. Eberharter. He charged that accusations of "prejudice" should have been made during the investigation rather than after the majority report had been completed.

There were no reports of resolutions by individual branches of the American Legion. However, the annual report of Legion activities, prepared by James F. O'Neil, chairman of the National Americanism Commission, stated opposition to the "coddling" of Japanese evacuees and listed an eight-point stand taken on all Japanese who have been in relocation centers.

The S. F. EXAMINER carried a report that Lt. Gen. Richardson had been instructed by the War Department to withdraw his military order forbidding further court action in the Hawaiian habeas corpus controversy, due to official feeling in Washington that "such an example of military rule should be tempered as soon as possible."

Favorable reports on the 400 Nisei employed in Cleveland and requests for additional evacuees there were commented on by relocation supervisor Harold S. Fistore. USES offices in Idaho have been instructed by state war man power commission director A. J. Tillman to use evacuees as a source of labor, if needed.

Opposing opinions were stressed editorially this week by the Washington POST which felt that constitutional rights were being slighted in the case of the evacuated citizens of Japanese ancestry, in view of the lack of imminent peril to the U. S., and the L. A. TIMES which felt that lessening of invasion danger only increased the probability of a campaign of sabotage.

An extensive article by Lawrence E. Davies on segregation described the weeks of careful planning and preparation for the shift of loyal and disloyal evacuees, and commented at length on the care taken by the government of evacuee possessions stored on the West Coast at the time of evacuation.

CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS

Dies Committee

Rep. Costello, chairman of the sub-committee which investigated evacuee centers, hints "politics" were behind Rep. Eberharter's minority report; feels "this is not the actual thinking of Congressman Eberharter, himself"--charge of "prejudice" should have come at the time of the hearings, not later. by Carl Greenberg, L. A. EXAMINER, 8/26/43

PUBLIC ATTITUDES

Columnists

Montana columnist quotes in full Dorothea Kahn's article on the problems of relocation (CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, 8/3/43), and comments that the evacuees may come to the "WPA" conclusion that "the government can take care of us forever" if "something" is not done about their problems at once. "Drift Wood" by L. M. Prill, Billings, Montana, MIDLAND REVIEW, 8/11/43.

Galen Gough, Los Angeles physical director and recognized authority on jujitsu and judo, charges "Loyal U. S. Japs" engaged to teach American soldiers these arts are "double-crossing" by actually teaching them fake defenses. "On The Side" by E. V. Durling, Seattle POST-INTELLIGENCER, 9/7/43

Heart Mountain evacuee describes barbed wire fence and sentry towers at center, recent freezing of Salt Lake City area for further resettlement, and vandalism of evacuee belongings stored on the West Coast at time of evacuation in column of center news. "Heart Mountain Glimpses" by John Kitasako, Powell, Wyoming TRIBUNE, 9/9/43

Editorials

"Disloyal Japanese....certain to prove a permanent headache for California." Editor agrees with Arthur Caylor of the S. F. NEWS that Japan isn't going to want back any Japanese who, without realizing it, have become "tainted" with ideas of American democracy. Redwood City, Cal., TRIBUNE, 8/14/43

Editorial hopes the lead taken by the California members of the American Legion and recent recommendations of the Dies sub-committee will be "instrumental in effecting measures to curb the sentimental theorists now dominating the WRA". S. F. CALL BULLETIN, 8/30/43

American successes in the Aleutians and the subsequent lessening of invasion danger "increases the likelihood" of a revengeful sabotage campaign. L. A. TIMES, 9/5/43

Return of the Gripsholm should bring us the true story of conditions in Japanese prison camps. Japan's consent to the exchange indicates exaggeration of reports of Japanese brutality or "unbelievable stupidity" on the part of Japanese leaders. Idaho DAILY STATESMAN, 9/6/43

Excerpts from the editorial page of the Manzanar center's bi-weekly paper are

quoted to show evacuee suspicion toward helpful Governmental overtures. "Time and continued demonstration of....American fair play" needed to restore their confidence, says San Francisco editor. S. F. NEWS, 9/6/43

"High-handed" course taken by Lt. Gen. Richardson in the Hawaiian habeas corpus case leaves bad taste. Editorial suggests he be told "the American people will not tolerate a military dictatorship...." Twin Falls, Idaho TIMES-NEWS, 9/8/43

"....military commanders should recognize that the right to rule civilians by decree expires when the peril has passed." Editor approves recent order issued by Federal District Court in Philadelphia prohibiting army exclusion of a German-American woman (Olga Schueller) from the eastern seaboard, and feels same principle might be applied in the case of evacuated citizens of Japanese ancestry. Washington, D. C. POST, 9/14/43

Feature Articles

A series of two articles--"not intended as an editorial"--by MIDLAND REVIEW editor, gives factual and objective picture of Heart Mt. center after two-day visit there. The first, "a story of a barbed wire fence within a barbed wire fence", describes the physical lay-out of the center, while the second, titled "Sea-Weed Soup and Vitamins", concerns the food, religion, and community enterprises. Billings, Montana MIDLAND REVIEW, 8/11/43 and 8/18/43.

"Japanese language forged into vital war weapon at Navy school" (headline). Article on language school at Boulder, Colorado describes students, faculty, and curriculum. Three-year course, now crowded into one year, requires 1,250 hours of classes, 3,000 hours of preparation, and 250 hours of examinations. Boulder, Colo., DAILY CAMERA, 8/18/43

Former newspaper correspondent in Japan describes Japanese torture of war prisoners; names a young Japanese officer "from the United States" as responsible for the "horrible conditions" existing in the famous Bridge House jail which housed the captured Doolittle flyers. Article by James R. Young, S. F. EXAMINER, 9/4/43. States "a Japanese, irrespective of birth, never has been free from his government's control," in article exposing "foe's organization in America". Denver, Colo., POST, 9/5/43

Letters to the editor

Contributions of the reading public were scarce but evenly divided this week with one hostile and one (belatedly received) friendly letter.

A Boeing Aircraft Company employee is opposed to discrimination against Japanese-Americans; sees it as the beginning of a long line of unconstitutional proposals against other minorities in this country. Seattle TIMES, 7/29/43

A Californian, stressing that the "Japanese never can be assimilated", urges their total "elimination" from America. Sacramento BEE, 9/6/43

Resolutions and Statements

Wayne Millington, grand president of the Native Sons of the Golden West, tells Martinez members that Japanese treachery on the war fronts should be lesson for

American opponents of oriental exclusion legislation--takes WRA officials "to task" for placing "disloyal" camp in California. Martinez, Cal.; GAZETTE, 8/17/43

Alameda Lions Club hears Assemblyman Randal F. Dickey (member of the California legislative joint fact-finding committee on un-American activities) speak on "Is There a Loyal Jap?". Alameda, Cal., TIMES-STAR, 8/19/43.

California State Moose association sends recently adopted resolution for exclusion of the Japanese from the West Coast for the duration of the war to Governor Earl Warren. Oakland, Cal., POST-ENQUIRER, 8/20/43

"Local" San Francisco group associated with former attorney Gen. (of Calif.) U. S. Webb announces suggestion to exclude all Japanese from American citizenship by introduction of an amendment to the 14th Amendment of the United States Constitution. S. F. RECORDER, 8/23/43

Tacoma Business Men's Club hears talk by former inmate of Japanese prison camp. Speaker describes meeting Seattle Japanese-American who was forced into the Japanese army when he returned to Japan on his twenty-first birthday. AP, Seattle POST-INTELLIGENCER, 8/29/43

Reverend Andrew H. Jovinall addresses Fortuna, Cal. Rotary Club after inspection of Tule Lake center and conscientious objectors camp at Elkton, Oregon; states opinion U. S. Government is doing a "fine job" at the relocation center and explodes myth of "pampered" evacuees. Fortuna, Cal., BEACON and Eureka, Cal., STANDARD, 8/27/43

Annual report of the National Americanism Commission, of the American Legion, presented by Chairman James F. O'Neil, lists opposition to the "coddling" of conscientious objectors and of Japanese evacuees as the featured wartime activities of the commission; gives eight-point stand on Japanese who have been in relocation centers. Blanket opposition to release of alien evacuees is salient point. S. F. CALL-BULLETIN and Seattle POST-INTELLIGENCER, 8/31/43, Lucas County, Ohio AMERICAN LEGION COUNCILLOR, 9/3/43

State Grange Master George Schelmeyer of California announces future status of Japanese in the United States will be one of the questions discussed at the state Grange meeting in Sacramento, October 12. Klamath Falls, Oreg., HERALD & NEWS, 9/2/43

Ray Richards denounces WRA policy on evacuees as a "peril to U. S. war effort" criticizes "Authority's apparent autocratic powers" in "compelling" union hiring halls to accept Japanese with WRA credentials for berths in vital Atlantic convoys; and states WRA has "dropped all pretense of determining loyalty of the released Japanese through intelligence services".*

* Like most of Ray Richards stories on WRA, this item is a bald and obviously deliberate distortion of the actual facts. WRA, of course has no power whatever to "compel" union hiring halls or anyone else to accept evacuee workers. We have not "dropped all pretense of determining loyalty through the intelligence services," but are actually in better position now to use the records of the intelligence agencies, in granting leave, than ever before.

S. F. EXAMINER, 9/3/43

Directors of the Sacramento Chamber of Commerce approve agricultural committee report recommending support of legislation to deport all alien and disloyal Japanese after the war. Sacramento BEE, 9/4/43

Hoboes of America pass resolution for exclusion of all Japanese from the Pacific Coast after the war, at 35th annual convention in Seattle. Seattle, POST-INTELLIGENCER, 9/6/43

Governor Earl Warren of California, now on Mackinac Island Michigan as a member of the Republican party's post-war policy council, declares the Pacific Coast has been concerned about the Japanese "for years" but the country at large is "not yet waked up" to our situation. S. F. EXAMINER, 9/8/43

Announcement by Smith College (Northampton, Mass.) that Dr. Schuichi Kusaka, a Japanese physicist, had been added to the faculty, results in petitions and resolutions by the employees of the Northampton State Hospital and members of the Building Trades Council opposing his appointment. N. Y. TIMES, 9/10/43

REPORTS

Announcement by War Department that Lt. Gen. John L. DeWitt, commanding general of the Western Defense Command, will be succeeded on September 15 by Lt. Gen. Delos Emmons, until recently chief of the Army's Hawaiian Department, is reported in scattered papers. Gen. DeWitt is assigned as commandant of the Army and Navy Staff College in Washington, D. C. AP Sacramento BEE, 9/10/43, Billings, Montana GAZETTE and Washington, D. C. POST, 9/11/43

Los Angeles paper, in reporting on replacement of Gen. DeWitt, recalls earlier rumors that Washington officials of War Dept. were planning to remove DeWitt so West Coast could be re-opened for evacuees. Adds that these rumors were officially denied by War Dept. L. A. TIMES, 9/11/43

Plans for a Consumers Cooperative at Poston center are discussed by WRA representatives and Attorney General Joe Conway, says report from Phoenix, Arizona. AP, Arizona DAILY STAR, 8/27/43

INS report states WRA "cracks down" on activities of the Kibei in relocation centers as a result of "pleas from the American Legion and other groups"; quotes statement given by WRA Director Myer at Denver that "of all the Japanese, the ones I won't trust are the Kibei". Denver, Colo., POST, 9/5/43

Frank W. Harding, WRA chief of mess operations, declares evacuees are not being "pampered" after inspection tour of Minidoka center. AP, Twin Falls, Idaho TIMES-NEWS and Salt Lake TRIBUNE, 9/7/43

Heart Mountain leave office announces 522 evacuees left the center in August on indefinite and seasonal leaves--second highest figure of the year, topping May mark of 503. Wyoming STATE TRIBUNE, 9/7/43

SEGREGATION

Raymond Best, Tule Lake director, indicates "tight discipline" for "disloyal"

evacuees in report of talk to local Kiwanis club. Klamath Falls, Oreg., HERALD & NEWS, 9/2/43

H. L. Stafford, Minidoka project director, announces exchange of 274 disloyal evacuees for 1500 "loyals" from Tule Lake will take place between Sept. 25 and 30. Transferees will fill Minidoka to capacity. Twin Falls, Idaho TIMES-NEWS 9/5/43 and Jerome NORTHSIDE NEWS, 9/8/43

7,500 loyal evacuees will leave Tule Lake for nine other WRA relocation centers in carefully planned "speedy shift". Report describes weeks of preparation by WRA and War Department on immense job of rail transportation; comments on problems facing the Federal government in proper care of evacuee personal properties stored on the West Coast at the time of evacuation. by Lawrence E. Davies N. Y. TIMES, 9/14/43

President Roosevelt presents report on segregation to the Senate; asks "fair treatment" of "loyal" evacuees who are to be relocated as soon as possible by WRA and announces the right to return to the evacuated areas will be restored to loyal evacuees as soon as military situation makes it "feasible". Washington, D. C. STAR, 9/14/43 and Washington, D. C. POST, 9/15/43. The President's letter and an accompanying report on evacuation by War Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes "ignored" the recent report of the Dies sub-committee accusing WRA of "loose and dangerous" procedures. by Willard Edwards, Washington, D. C. TIMES-HERALD, 9/15/43 (Actually the leave procedures are amply explained on pp. 17 and 18 of the Byrnes report.)

REPATRIATION

Report of an announcement by the Berlin radio states the Japanese exchange ship Teik Maru, "loaded" with Americans, has sailed from Yokohama to meet the Gripsholm which left New York Sept. 2 with 1,330 repatriating Japanese. Wash. D. C. STAR, 9/14/43 and Wash. D. C. POST, 9/15/43

HAWAII

Lt. Gen. Robert C. Richardson Jr. is told to withdraw his military order forbidding any further court action in the Hawaiian habeas corpus controversy, although publicly supported by the War Department, states report from Washington. S. F. EXAMINER'S editor notes this is third general "undermined" by the War and Justice Departments in efforts made by generals to enforce restrictions against persons held dangerous to a defense area. AP, S. F. EXAMINER, 9/4/43

"Secret probe of Hawaii seen" (headline) Pre-war sabotage in Hawaii may be subject of a Congressional investigation as a result of recent civil and military clash over habeas corpus case, says Ray Richards. S. F. EXAMINER, and Seattle POST-INTELLIGENCER, 9/6/43

EMPLOYMENT

USES offices have been instructed to use evacuees as reserve sources of labor "provided they do not create competition with locally available workers", says Idaho state war man power commission director, A. J. Tillman. Salt Lake TRIBUNE, 9/2/43

WRA places more than 400 Nisei in Cleveland; good reports of their work bring additional requests to relocation office there, states area supervisor, Harold S. Fistere. Cleveland PLAIN DEALER, 9/3/43

County Agent Harry McMillan of Riverton, Wyoming announces abandonment of plan to use Heart Mt. evacuees in local bean harvest. Competitors offer them higher wages than farmers can pay. Wyoming STATE TRIBUNE, 9/7/43

H. Rex Lee, WRA relocation supervisor for the Pacific-Intermountain area, states evacuees are "being encouraged to take war production jobs rather than attend college." Wyoming STATE TRIBUNE, 9/9/43

LEGAL

Tener W. Nielsen, Fresno attorney, asks for amendment to the California alien land law at state senate fact-finding committee hearing on Japanese resettlement; wants money settlements in cases of alleged violations forbidden. Fresno, Cal., BEE, 8/28/43

INDIVIDUAL EXCLUSION

Federal Judge Harry A. Hollzer approves exclusion order, by Lt. Gen. DeWitt, barring Homer Glen Wilcox, leader of "Mankind United" and convicted on May 6 for malicious slanders against the U. S. government, from military zones; states "military cannot be required to wait until espionage or sabotage becomes effective before moving against it."

MILITARY SERVICE

Reports of recruiting by WAC officers are received from Manzanar and Minidoka. Physical requirements for Nisei women have been lowered to four feet, nine inches in height and 95 pounds in weight. Inyo REGISTER, 9/3/43 and Twin Falls, Idaho TIMES-NEWS, 9/5/43

Special insignia, symbolizing the army of the Yellow Race taking up arms in defense of the National Colors of the United States, is approved for the Japanese American Combat Team, says announcement from Camp Shelby. PACIFIC CITIZEN, 8/28/43

Washington State College student leaves for induction into Japanese combat division after "long continuing efforts" to join the armed services. SPOKESMAN REVIEW, 8/28/43

Description of Nisei soldiers at Camp Shelby stresses fact they don't like hyphenated spelling of Japanese-American—we may be "abbreviated Americans", says Private Mike Masaoka, "but damned if we're hyphenated." Army leaders find the combat team "topflight soldiers." by Elliott Chase, AP OREGONIAN, 9/5/43 and Salt Lake TRIBUNE, 9/7/43

ADMINISTRATION

Herbert Keno, former staff member in the WRA Chicago office, is appointed relocation officer for the State of Indiana, announces Elmer L. Shirrell, Chicago area supervisor. Chicago SUN and Chicago TRIBUNE, 9/3/43

AGRICULTURE

Three hundred cases of green beans, grown at the center, are received by Heart Mt. after processing at a local cannery. Request is made for additional hands to harvest 600 acres of crops before the first frost. Billings, Montana GAZETTE, 9/8/43

EDUCATION

Minidoka coach, Morrie Roth, finds good football talent at center, but will concentrate on basket ball due to lack of football equipment. Twin Falls, Idaho TIMES-NEWS, 9/1/43

MISCELLANEOUS

Wyoming paper reports marriage of Minidoka resident to evacuee employee of Jerome, Idaho dry cleaning firm. The Powell TRIBUNE, 9/2/43

Picture of two Inyo County residents receiving medical treatment at Manzanar center hospital shows them being attended by evacuee aides. Inyo, Cal., INDEPENDENT, 9/3/43

MAGAZINES

COMMON GROUND: Autumn, 1943: "An Institute of Ethnic Democracy" by John Collier and Saul K. Padover.

This article warns that we must face the problem of racial discrimination "squarely" and be decisive in our efforts to solve it; suggests an agency to be known as the "Institute of Ethnic Democracy" be created as a step toward a long-range solution.

"Race Tensions: Second Phase" by Carey McWilliams:

Friction changes to tension; the phase of quiet grumbling among minority groups has passed and definite outbreaks of trouble are predicted. Political groups are already using anti-Japanese propaganda in their 1944 campaign.

"Motion Pictures of the Quarter" by Ezra Goodman:

"By accusing Japanese-Americans in Hawaii of treachery, (the film) "Air Force" perpetrates a terrible fiction." Record of Hawaiians of Japanese ancestry has been one of the best in their contribution to territorial defense.

"Miscellany":

With its main objective the "mobilization and vocalization" of fair-minded persons on the West Coast, the Pacific Coast Committee on American Principles and Fair Play backs the WRA resettlement program and the opening of the armed forces to loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry.

EXTENSION SERVICE REVIEW: July 1943: "Relocating a Farm Population" by Dillon S. Myer, the War Relocation Authority:

"A better public understanding of the Japanese relocation problems will promote the fullest utilization of the Nation's manpower," says WRA Director Myer as he describes WRA's resettlement program with special emphasis on relocation in agricultural areas.

