

WEEKLY PRESS REVIEW

No. 37

Week ending September 29, 1943

For the Use of the WRA Staff

SUMMARY

The American Legion national convention at Omaha, Nebraska proved to be the greatest news source this week. By and large, the news accounts of the convention were significantly restrained in reporting the two resolutions dealing with Japanese-Americans--one urging deportation of all alien Japanese and disloyal citizens of Japanese ancestry at the close of the war and the other calling for Army control of all persons of Japanese ancestry in the United States. Only two papers, the L. A. TIMES and the Sacramento BEE, apparently considered the resolutions worth a separate write-up. All other papers received were content merely to mention the resolutions well down in the body of their stories on the convention as a whole.

Two California Congressmen, Rep. Claire Engle and Rep. Harry R. Shepard took stands unfavorable to the evacuees, while Senator Edwin Johnson (Colo.) warned the Colorado Federation of Labor against attitudes of intolerance and blind prejudice toward minority groups.

Columnists were rather evenly divided in their comments for and against the Japanese evacuees. The use of the Chinese Exclusion Act, by the Japanese, for creating anti-American sentiment in China and criticism of the "ruthless exercise of military power" in the Hawaiian habeas corpus case, were also among the contribution of West Coast columnists.

Feature articles contained a great many pictures of relocated evacuees at the jobs; one such group released by the Associated Press was captioned "Relocated Japs Help Lick The Axis".

Editorials were for the most part hostile with four papers agreeing that Gen. DeWitt's warning speech to the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce on the need for vigilance against the increasing danger of sabotage was "sound advice" which the nation as a whole should heed.

Several scattered papers carried reports of a proposed strike of maintenance employees at Smith College over the appointment of a Japanese physics department lecturer, which, warns Capt. Herbert W. Underwood, would "seriously interfere with WAVE training" there and would force the Navy to "take action".

CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS

Senator Edwin C. Johnson (Colo.) warns against "wave of intolerance developing in America" in speech to the Colorado Federation of Labor; asks organized labor to rid itself of "blind prejudices that deny minorities equal protection and equal participation." Rocky Mountain NEWS, 9/7/43

Rep. Claire Engle, new Second District congressman from California, visits Manzanar center in tour of Inyo-Mono district; takes "strong stand" against return of Japanese evacuees to the Pacific Coast after the war. Inyo INDEPENDENT, 9/17/43

Rep. Harry R. Shepard (Cal.) asks meeting of entire California House Congressional delegation to draw up proposed bills for (1) the discharge of all WRA official responsible for the present release policy (2) the return to the centers of all released evacuees and (3) the confinement of the approximately 23,000 Japanese who have never been in relocation centers. Story by Ray Richards in S. F. EXAMINER; also reported in S. F. CALL-BULLETIN, 9/17/43

PUBLIC ATTITUDES

Columnists

Critical columnist finds WRA "anything but logical"--doubts if disloyal evacuees have been placed at Tule Lake to have them handy for deportation, and feels if any Japanese are returned to California, it should be those who "at least claim they are loyal". "As We See It" by P.M.W., Tulare, Cal., ADVANCE-REGISTER, 9/1/43.

"Democracy in action"--Chinese restaurant in Little Rock, Ark. sponsors bowling team of which five members are Japanese. "Run of the News", Arkansas DEMOCRAT, 9/14/43

N. Y. POST carries excerpts from Carey McWilliams' book "Brothers Under the Skin" in absence of columnist Samuel Grafton. N. Y. POST, 9/18/43

A weekly summary of news from Washington notes that the President's statement to the Senate on the eventual return of evacuated Japanese to their homes is likely to have 1944 political repercussions as "West coasters don't want them back", and states in which they have been relocated are "equally determined to get rid of them" "Heard in Washington", N. Y. WORLD TELEGRAM, 9/18/43

Carl Neprud, an American employed for 30 years by the Chinese government, captured in Hongkong by the Japanese and sent home last year on the Gripsholm, urges the repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act which "the Jap radio is constantly using to create anti-American sentiment in China". "Lee Side of L. A." by Lee Shippey, L. A. TIMES, 9/21/43

Hawaiian justice ruthless exercise of military power" (headline). Columnist believes right of court trial, whether civil or military should not be denied on American soil; criticizes Gen. Richardson for order forbidding issuance of a writ of habeas corpus under penalty of fine and imprisonment. by Samuel B. Pettengill, SPOKESMAN REVIEW, 9/19/43

Chester Rowell feels Gen. Emmons has "settled the Japanese issue" to most people's satisfaction by his statement that evacuees will not be returned to the West Coast "at the expense of national security". Agitators for permanent exclusion of the evacuees from California should face the "practical" fact that such a proposal is strictly unconstitutional. Chester Rowell, S. F. CHRONICLE, 9/21/43

Feature Articles

AP article shows pictures of five "typical" relocated evacuees who are working

to "help lick the Axis". Rocky Mountain NEWS, 9/5/43

"Japs moved from Coast do well in Denver" (headline). Full page spread of pictures shows relocated evacuees at their jobs and a birds-eye view of the Amache center. Rocky Mountain NEWS, 9/6/43

Oregon reporter notes varying attitudes of Caucasian populace toward the evacuees on trip to Minidoka area; finds majority are "broad-minded" and "reasonable" though some are outwardly hostile "even to the extent of violence". Finds it "natural that cooperation seems to be stronger within the younger groups, considering that younger Japanese are nearly all American-born and talk and think in American terms". by Ellis Lucia, Forest Grove, Oreg. TIMES-NEWS 9/9/43

Eleven-year old Japanese-American piano virtuoso attracts many admirers at Swarthmore College where he and his parents have been temporarily relocated by WRA. Article notes boy was a soloist at the age of seven with the Los Angeles Philharmonic conducted by Leopold Stokowski. Philadelphia EVENING BULLETIN, 9/16/43

"Seventy-five loyal Nisei come to Madison (Wisc.) as 'new pioneers' to work, study. (headline) Report of relocation program states "WRA expects to have 25,000 Nisei in jobs by January, twice the number now at work". Accompanying pictures show three evacuees now working in Madison. By Mat-Moore Taylor, Wisconsin STATE JOURNAL, 9/19/43

L. A. TIMES carries first of a series of articles, by Chester Hanson on the Italian prisoner of war Camp at Florence, Arizona. L. A. TIMES, 9/22/43

Editorials

Colorado editor takes former Governor Ralph L. Carr to task for stating that his stand on the Japanese evacuation issue caused his defeat for the Senate last year finds "a considerable majority" of Colorado citizens agreed with his decision to allow the evacuees in Colorado. Rocky Mountain NEWS, 9/4/43

Four papers comment editorially on Gen. DeWitt's speech at the farewell luncheon given him by the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce in which he warns of the increasing danger of sabotage and "retaliatory action" against vital areas of the Pacific coast. The Oakland POST-ENQUIRER and the S. F. CALL-BULLETIN term his warning "sound advice" which should be "heeded by all." The Chicago HERALD & AMERICAN hopes his "sound military policy" will not be "wholly discarded" with his removal from the Western Defense Command and denounces the present WRA policy of releasing evacuees "merely on their assertions of loyalty to the U. S." as creating a "dangerous problem" for the whole nation. Oakland, Cal. POST-ENQUIRER, 9/15/43, Visalia TIMES-DELTA, Chicago HERALD & AMERICAN, S. F. CALL-BULLETIN, 9/16/43

Waukegan-North Chicago area "overloaded" with social problems now; editor advises against relocation of Japanese-Americans there. Waukegan, Ill. NEWS SUN, 9/18/43

An editorial comment on the fear, expressed by Lt. Governor Fred Houser (Cal.) that Eastern and Mid-western factions may urge a compromise with the Japanese, states "lasting peace can be achieved only by beating Japan to her knees....". Visalia TIMES-DELTA, 9/20/43

Assurance of Gen. Emmons that the evacuee ban will continue until "further substantial change in the military situation", is "gratifying" to people of the West Coast, states editor, adding that the proposed strike of Smith College maintenance employees is a "sample of what could be expected if the Japanese returned to the Pacific Coast". Sacramento BEE, 9/20/43

"They're taking no chances" (headline). Finding it necessary to de-train and exercise evacuees being moved to and from Tule Lake, WRA requests stops be made on sidings out in the country--"at places where nobody is going to start any trouble." S. F. NEWS, 9/20/43

Editor finds protests against the temporary appointment of Dr. Schuichi Kusaka to the faculty of Smith College "intolerant and undemocratic." Wash., D. C. DAILY NEWS, 9/25/43

Editorial praising the selection of Warren Atherton as new head of the America Legion comments that the deportation of disloyal Japanese after the war is one of the "good principles which the Legion upholds." L. A. TIMES, 9/25/43

Letters to the editor

Two letters express praise and appreciation for the publication of an "interesting and informative" article on the Japanese evacuation by Mine Okubo of Topaz (see 9/8/43 Review), while another derides it as "sob sister stuff." S. F. CHRONICLE, 9/5/43

A Californian agrees with the creators of "Superman" that "most Japanese-Americans are loyal citizens"; suggests those who "cry out against Americans of Japanese ancestry" produce specific evidence of disloyalty and let the courts, which "are still functioning" be the judge. OREGONIAN, 9/17/43

Sincerity of protests against dual citizenship is doubted; "merely a political expediency of the day" guesses Sacramento contributor who asks why dual citizenship of Mexicans in California is officially approved while that of Japanese-Americans is criticized. Sacramento BEE, 9/18/43

Resident of State of Washington believes President Roosevelt's statement that "the great majority of the evacuees are loyal to the United States" should be a "complete" and "final" answer to Congressman Magnuson's (Wash.) assertion that there are "not fifty loyal Japanese among the evacuees". Seattle POST-INTELLIGENCER, 9/21/43

Broadcasts of American prisoners from Japan indicate they are "fairly treated" reports Utah contributor. Salt Lake TRIBUNE, 9/22/43

Californian believes "no Japanese is loyal to any country but Japan, no matter what his birthplace"; asks for "unlimited Japanese exclusion" and complete "denial of citizenship." Sacramento BEE, 9/8/43

Resolutions and Statements

Marysville, Cal. Legionnaire tells Willows Rotary Club members of active Caucasian Black Dragon Society in the Sacramento Valley which is "endeavoring to keep alive the subversive organization in hope Japanese will be permitted to return to California." Predicts race riots if returning soldiers find Japanese again in

California. Willows, Cal., JOURNAL, 8/27/43

Wyoming department of the American Legion adopts resolution asking for (1) Army control of relocation camps, (2) segregation and fastest possible repatriation of alien and admittedly disloyal Japanese and (3) investigation of food and equipment inventories of relocation centers. L. A. EXAMINER, 8/29/43

Sacramento Detachment of the Marine Corps League passes resolution protesting to Congress the release of any Japanese from relocation centers. Sacramento BEE, 8/30/43

Directors of the Sacramento Chamber of Commerce approve support of pending legislation for deportation of alien and disloyal Japanese after the war. Sacramento BEE, 9/4/43

California Junior Chamber of Commerce, meeting in Fresno, passes resolution calling for Japanese exclusion from California now and after the war. S. F. CHRONICLE 9/7/43

Frank B. Belcher, president of the California State Bar, mentions legal assistance given to WRA evacuees as part of war service work by California lawyers in report to the State Bar convention at San Francisco S. F. NEWS, 9/16/43

Capt. Herbert W. Underwood, in charge of WAVE training at Smith College, warns college maintenance employees that proposed strike against appointment of Dr. Kusaka, Japanese physics department lecturer, would "seriously interfere with WAVE training" and would force the Navy to "take action." Sacramento BEE and N. Y. DAILY NEWS, 9/16/43 S. F. CHRONICLE 9/17/43

Department of Justice employee resigns in order to voice protests "as a private citizen" against New Deal policies including "pampering of the Japs by WRA, states AP report from Los Angeles. Arkansas GAZETTE 9/17/43

Lone Pine (Cal.) Lions club members hear talk on Japan by Rev. Henry Bovenkerk of Manzanar who was repatriated to America on the Gripsholm last year. Inyo INDEPENDENT, 9/17/43

Acting Governor Frederick F. Houser of California warns of increased danger of West Coast bombings by "on-the-defensive" Japan at Sacramento press conference. Sacramento BEE, 9/17/43

California State Senator George Hatfield urges opposition to "any relaxation" of the present United States immigration and exclusion laws--warns a "hole in the dike" could easily become a "wide chasm". L. A. TIMES, 9/18/43

Scattered West Coast papers headline statement of new Western Defense Command head, Lt. Gen. Emmons, on the continued ban of the evacuees "while threat of enemy action remains." S. F. CALL-BULLETIN and Sacramento BEE, 9/18/43, S. F. EXAMINER, S. F. CHRONICLE and OREGONIAN, 9/19/43

Approval of the extradition to Wyoming of Earl A. Best, former Dies sub-committee witness against WRA, on a check forgery charge is announced by the office of Governor Earl Warren. UP, L. A. TIMES, 9/21/43

"State firemen oppose return of Japanese" (headline) at annual convention of the California State Firemen's Association held in Sacramento. Sacramento BEE, 9/21/43

Report of broadcast from Tokyo states threats of United States bombings by Japan's long-range bombers. UP, L. A. TIMES and Sacramento BEE, 9/21/43

Utah State Federation of Labor refers resolution on the Japanese evacuees back for rewriting after doubts of constitutionality are expressed by several delegates. Salt Lake TRIBUNE, 9/22/43

An AP release on activities of the American Legion's 25th annual national convention reports the adoption of a resolution asking congress to deport, at the end of the war, all alien Japanese and all American-born Japanese found "by competent authority" to have been disloyal to the United States. AP, Salt Lake TRIBUNE and Montana STANDARD, 9/24/43 Reports from the N. Y. TIMES give only slight notice to the above resolution and to the opposition expressed by the Legionnaires against importation of aliens for detention in relocation centers as well as against all "hyphenated dual national groups and organizations." N. Y. TIMES, 9/23/43 and 9/24/43. The L. A. TIMES (9/23/43) noted briefly, in a concluding paragraph, the Legion resolution for Army control of all persons of Japanese ancestry in the United States but gave front-page box space (9/24/43) to the deportation resolution. The Sacramento Bee carried a headlined report on the Legion's adoption of the "deportation" and "Army control" resolutions and quoted in full the deportation resolution as read by the chairman of the Resolutions Committee, Sam Rorex. INS, Sacramento BEE, 9/24/43

A. Philip Randolph, president of the International Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters offers plan for the elimination of racial tension at New York Conference to Combat Race Prejudice and Conflict, sponsored by the Social Democratic Federation of America. N. Y. TIMES, 9/25/43

The Japanese are trying to make this a "race war....we should be careful not to play into their hands", says Carveth Wells, explorer, lecturer and author, in speech to a meeting of the Los Angeles Credit Mens's Association. L. A. TIMES, 9/24/43

REPORTS

Ottis Peterson, acting relocation supervisor for the Intermountain area, visits Butte, Montana and gives report on WRA procedures for evacuees employment; states only evacuees "known to be loyal" are offered jobs. Montana STANDARD, 9/22/43

Robert P. Lowe, chief WRA sanitation engineer, reports need for proper dish-washing at Heart Mountain; 50 percent of mess halls not using disinfectants, he finds on inspection tour. Wyoming STATE TRIBUNE, 9/22/43

SEGREGATION

Report of Tule Lake describes its "almost overnight" transformation into a center for disloyal evacuees; tells of the evacuation, segregation, and life at the center. Sacramento BEE, 9/18/43

1818 evacuees at Gila River prepare for move to Tule Lake between Oct. 1st, and 6th; receive list of contraband articles not acceptable, according to the Western Defense Command, at the Tule Lake center. Tuscon, Ariz. DAILY CITIZEN, 9/12/43

"Loyal Japanese beat disloyal in baseball" (headline). "Yes yes" boys (so named because of their answer to WRA's famous question 28--"Do you pledge unqualified

allegiance to the U. S. and forswear allegiance to the emperor of Japan?) score 8-0 victory over "No: no" team at Gila River. AP, Idaho DAILY STATESMAN, Spokane SPOKESMAN REVIEW, 9/21/43 Salt Lake TRIBUNE, 9/22/43

AGRICULTURE

Gila relocation center will produce one-fifth of total \$5,000,000 worth of vegetables and livestock scheduled by WRA for the fiscal year of 1943-44 according to Ernest Reed, WRA agricultural chief. Casa Grande, Ariz. DISPATCH, 9/10/43

Transfer of 1500 loyal evacuees from Tule Lake to Minidoka may make an additional 500 to 600 workers available for employment in southern Idaho harvest fields states Frank M. Reagan, WRA Relocation officer at Boise, Idaho. Twin Falls, Idaho TIMES-NEWS, 9/17/43

Project Director Ralph Merritt announces the departure of 150 Manzanar evacuees for work in the Idaho sugar beet fields, bringing to 575 the total number who have left the center for seasonal employment this year. Inyo INDEPENDENT, 9/17/43

Inyo county residents are invited to Manzanar Fair by Project Director Ralph Merritt who urges visitors to see the various industries of the center in operation and to get their information on how Manzanar operates "firsthand." Inyo INDEPENDENT, 9/17/43

EMPLOYMENT

Ottis Peterson, acting WRA relocation supervisor for the Pacific inter-mountain area, announces survey is now being made at all WRA relocation centers "to determine the number of evacuees who will be available to fill late orders from the War Food Administration and other agencies and farmers". Salt Lake TRIBUNE, 9/18/43

Report finds co-ops are a "melting pot" for all races and nationalities-- describes success of evacuee co-operatives at the relocation centers and excellent acceptance of Nisei as co-op employees in Eastern cities. THE CO-OPERATIVE BUILDER, Superior, Wisc., 9/23/43

EDUCATION

Gila River high school students will have elective "work-experience" course-- regular morning classes to be accompanied by training in commercial and trade subjects with "laboratory" or "apprentice" work scheduled for the afternoon. Report by W. C. Sawyer, Gila director of education, also describes construction of two new high schools built by evacuee labor alone at a cost of \$150,000. Arizona DAILY STAR, 9/14/43

Salt Lake city paper carries picture of Jack Yoshihara, former member of the Oregon State college Rose bowl team of 1941-42, who will play football for the University of Utah this fall. Accompanying report of the team describes him as a "top flight blocker". Salt Lake TRIBUNE, 9/21/43

Civil Service announces openings for elementary, high school and vocational teachers at the Manzanar and Tule Lake centers in California and the Poston and Gila centers in Arizona. Glendale, Cal. NEWS-PRESS, 9/6/43

ADMINISTRATION

W. C. Sawyer, superintendent of education at the Gila River center and member of the National World War Liaison Committee, will be one of seven delegates representing Arizona at the national convention of the American Legion at Omaha, Nebraska. Tucson, Ariz. DAILY CITIZEN, 9/13/43

Elmer L. Shirrell, Chicago area relocation supervisor, announces the appointment of Harold M. Mann of Chicago as chief of the WRA Minnesota relocation office, replacing Clement White who will open a new WRA office at Harrisburg, Pa. St. Paul DISPATCH, 9/14/43 and Chicago TRIBUNE, 9/17/43

EVACUEE PROPERTY

Radios, guns, cameras and other personal belongings taken from the evacuees when they left the West Coast, are being returned to loyal Japanese as they are released from the centers by WRA according to report from Salinas, Cal. sheriff's office. Salinas, Cal. CALIFORNIAN, 9/4/43

Dr. J. C. Geiger, San Francisco City Health officer, orders five "Japtown" houses vacated and demolished unless "extensive repairs" are made; none are owned by Japanese evacuees. S. F. CHRONICLE and S. F. NEWS, 9/16/43

LEGAL

"Japanese woman admitted to Bar" (headline) Rei Kihara, graduate of the University of Idaho law school, is the 16th woman in the state's history to be admitted to the practice of law in Idaho. Twin Falls, Idaho TIMES-NEWS and Salt Lake TRIBUNE, 9/18/43

MILITARY SERVICE

Report from Camp Shelby announces promotion of Warrant officer (jg) Thomas M. Kobayashi, son of a Phoenix, Arizona family, to Chief Warrant officer, making him the first American of Japanese descent to hold such a position in the U. S. Army. Arizona REPUBLIC, 9/12/43

MISCELLANEOUS

F. H. Miller, regional grazing service fire supervisor of Boise, Idaho, praises fire fighting groups for their excellent control and prevention of fires during the 1943 fire season and gives "special recognition" to the Minidoka evacuees for their aid. Salt Lake TRIBUNE, 9/7/43

"Jap internee repays bill". (headline) Heart Mt. evacuee contributes \$5.50 to the Los Angeles County's charity funds. "According to the records of the Charities Department", states the report, "the donor some years back owed the county a bill but paid it in full". L. A. TIMES, 9/14/43

"Film drama dissects nature of Japs". (headline) "Mat battle" between a Japanese wrestler and an American boxer in the film version of James R. Young's book Behind the Rising Son, "symbolizes the essential difference between two modes of thought--theirs and ours". Article by Philip K. Scheuer, L. A. TIMES, 9/16/43

Warner Bros. plans to use "authentic" Japanese dialog in the picture "Destination Tokio" --if "one of the dozen or so men in the United States who can speak it" can be borrowed from his "government service" long enough. Wash. D. C. EVENING STAR, 9/10/43

Prize winning oil painting "Lonely Country" by Amache evacuee will be published in the October issue of ASIA magazine. Lamar, Colo. DAILY NEWS, (date not given)

Twenty-five Japanese-Americans donate blood to the Chinese blood bank in New York. AP, OREGONIAN, 9/20/43. Picture of blood donors is captioned "Jap Blood for Chinese". N. Y. DAILY NEWS, 9/26/43

MAGAZINES

The Christian Century: Sept. 8, 1943: "What Race-Baiting Costs America", fourth of a series of articles on the Japanese evacuation by Galen M. Fisher.

An evaluation of the liabilities and assets that have "accrued to the American way as a result of the evacuation". The chief liability is described as the impairment of the value of U. S. citizenship by the suspension of full constitutional rights for a group of law-abiding citizens and aliens brought about by the tactics of "race-baiting newspapers, organizations and politicians that call themselves 'patriotic'", but who must be branded as "arch subversives."

"News of the Christian World"

Portland, Oreg. Post No.1, largest post of the American Legion, favors "eventual elimination of all Japanese residents in the U. S." and the "reorganization of Japan and her possessions under a democratic form of government" to be brought about by Japanese who have been "segregated" and "trained" in U. S. centers. The report states that a Portland OREGONIAN editorial commended the Legionnaires for "frankly facing the problem" but opposed the "plan" as "unconstitutional and cruel."

The Christian Century: Sept. 29, 1943: "Correspondence"

Illinois correspondent is prompted by CHRISTIAN CENTURY editorial "Open the Prisons of India" to comment that America should provide a "better example" to the British government by "divesting American laws of race and color discrimination against Indians or any other Asiatic people."

"News of the Christian World"

Los Angeles church federation urges (1) repeal of Chinese exclusion act, (2) placing of Chinese on a quota basis and (3) admission to citizenship of Chinese "hitherto branded as inferior." Report states the California department of the American Legion also favors citizenship for Chinese.

Chicago federation of churches forms new commission, headed by Roy Smith from the Methodist Board of Missions, to help provide a normal social life for evacuees relocating in the Chicago area.

Clement White to open WRA relocation office in Harrisburg, Pa.-- will be succeeded in the Minnesota office by Harold Mann of Chicago.