

## WEEKLY PRESS REVIEW

No. 39

Week ending October 20, 1943

For the Use of the WRA Staff

S U M M A R Y

The past week saw the development of only a few new stories of interest to WRA; clippings were considerably less than usual. The progress of the Nisei soldiers in Italy continued to draw favorable comment, both in news columns and on editorial pages. Several papers carried an INS release on the use of Japanese-American troops in battle for Attu. (This account is based on an interview of a visiting Nisei soldier which appeared in the Heart Mountain SENTINEL, and has not been confirmed by the War Department.)

Stories on segregation were sparse and were mostly human interest tales on how the movement affected the lives of individuals and families.

The only new indication of congressional opinion was the report of an attack on WRA made in the House by Rep. Elliott of California. Elliott warned that WRA was "advocating bloodshed" if it continues to permit evacuees to relocate on the West Coast. Rep. Elliott was supported by Rep. Rankin who charged that American-born Japanese at Pearl Harbor "sniped to keep our fliers from going into the Air." These charges were refuted by Rep. Eberharter of Pennsylvania, who called Elliott's remarks "intemperate" and pointed to the accomplishments of the Japanese Americans fighting in Italy.

Three of the five columnists writing on WRA were highly critical of the agency, its program, and evacuees in general. One writer in the San Francisco Recorder demanded that the Constitution be amended to bar Japanese permanently from residence and citizenship in the United States. In an entirely different vein however, were a column in the San Francisco Chronicle pleading for fair treatment of evacuees and another in a Wyoming paper approving the segregation program.

Editorials were predominantly hostile. Counteracting the usual belligerent statements warning against the return of evacuees to the Coast were those editorials which lauded the daring exploits of the 100th Battalion in Italy. The hoodlums who fired upon evacuees at the Provo labor camp received a severe tongue lashing through the editorial columns of several papers.

Only three letters to editors were clipped this week; all were hostile. All expressed the conviction that no Japanese aliens or Japanese Americans can be considered loyal to the United States.

There was the usual rash of hostile resolutions from West Coast organizations. Three groups declared that evacuees should be permanently barred from the Pacific Coast while the California State Grange urged the removal of all Japanese from the country after the war.

Of passing interest were the many stories on the arrival of the GREPSHOLM at her port of destination and the repatriation of Americans interned by the Japanese.

CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS

Rep. Elliott (Calif.) charges that WRA is releasing evacuees to relocate on Pacific Coast; warns that bloodshed will result if this practice does not stop; is rebuked for attitude by Rep. Eberharter, who praises Nisei troops fighting in Italy. N. Y. JOURNAL & AMERICAN, 10/11/43.

DIES COMMITTEE

Earl Best, former steward at Heart Mountain and Dies Committee witness, pleads not guilty to forgery charges. L. A. TIMES, 10/5/43, and Billings GAZETTE, 10/10/43.

PUBLIC ATTITUDES

Columnists

Hostile

Lawyer demands the adoption of an "amendment to the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution which will forever bar all Japanese from residence and citizenship in the United States"; points to atrocities being committed by Japan in occupied territories and warns that unless we take definite stand now, "the hour will surely come when we will eat the bitter fruits of disillusion and frustration"; contends that Japanese can never become really loyal to our form of government. Oliver P. Stidger in S. F. RECORDER, 9/28/43.

Columnist reprints letter from California's Lt. Governor warning that we must defeat Japan now in order to insure future peace of America; letter was written in reply to recent editorial concerning Japanese return to Pacific Coast. POLITICAL GOSSIP by Senator Herbert W. Slater, Santa Rosa PRESS DEMOCRAT, 9/28/43.

Reports that alien land law will be reviewed by State Senate Interim Committee on Japanese resettlement; recalls that prosecutions for fraud in connection with land laws were to have taken place day after Pearl Harbor but were forgotten in the excitement; hopes stronger measures will be taken to enforce law. POLITICAL GOSSIP by Senator Herbert W. Slater, Santa Rosa PRESS DEMOCRAT, 9/24/43.

Favorable

Analyzes problem of securing amendment of Constitution revoking citizenship of Japanese Americans and forcibly deporting them; believes such a measure would never pass; warns that those who sponsor such a movement are merely attempting to create "deliberate confusion in the minds of a lot of sincere but uninformed people by purposely misinforming them", feels our best defense against this "psychological warfare" is to continue our loyalty to the Constitution just as it is written. Chester Rowell in S. F. CHRONICLE, 10/9/43.

Welcomes removal of disloyal evacuees from Heart Mountain; thinks many of the administrative problems will be relieved now that disloyal are gone; says that loyal evacuees will now be able to practice loyalty and demonstrate patriotism without fear of violence from disloyal residents. BRASS TACKS in Casper, Wyoming TRIBUNE-HERALD, 10/11/43.

Feature Articles

Commenting on the President's report to the Senate, writer explains operation of relocation centers and attitude of evacuees; stresses relocation and excellent work records being made by evacuees in Chicago, Denver, Cleveland, and other areas. Eva Lapin in S. F. PEOPLE'S WORLD, 9/28/43.

Tells of evacuation and the relocation of 175 Nisei in Rockford, Illinois and environs; strives to assure residents that all relocated evacuees are 100 percent American, even to the extent of liking cokes and swing music; points out that resettlers are "free men and women with no stigma on their records". Bill Garson, in. ROCKFORD STAR, 10/10/43.

### Resolutions and Statements

California Real Estate Association favors immediate deportation of all disloyal Japanese and other aliens; passes resolution commending Gen. Dewitt for removing Japanese from Pacific Coast. S. F. CALL-BULLETIN, 10/8/43.

Removal of all Japanese from the Nation after the war proposed by California State Grange; Grange head believes it impossible to segregate loyal from disloyal; recommends, therefore, that all Japanese be deported in order to "safeguard American institutions and ideals." S.F. CHRONICLE, 10/13/43.

Local Chamber of Commerce votes against return of Japanese to county; survey reveals that majority of members would exclude all evacuees, including those known to be loyal. San Luis Obispo TELE-TRIBUNE, 9/28/43.

Egyptian Order of Sciots (a Masonic organization) urges transfer of WRA activities to Army; opposes any attempt to return evacuees to Pacific Coast. L. A. EXAMINER, 9/29/43.

Tahoe branch of Placer County Defense Rangers would bar all persons of Japanese ancestry from the Coast for the duration; also discuss proposal to prohibit all Japanese, alien and American-born, from acquiring citizenship. Roseville PRESS-TRIBUNE, 9/24/43.

Representative of WRA to discuss problem of evacuees before convention of Utah Librarians. Salt Lake TRIBUNE, 10/9/43.

Pittsburgh Methodist Conference assails racial prejudice; feels evacuation and detention of loyal Japanese Americans has done great harm. Pittsburgh POST-GAZETTE, 10/9/43.

Dr. C. A. Prosser, director of Dunwoody Institute, urges employment of evacuees; praises their work records and recommends full utilization of skilled workers. Minneapolis TRIBUNE, 10/10/43.

California State Senate Committee on Japanese Resettlement to discuss public reaction to relocation of evacuees in California. L. A. TIMES, 10/15/43.

Rt. Rev. Msgr. Joseph P. Morrison condemns confinement of loyal Japanese Americans in address before Catholic Liturgical Conference. Chicago SUN, 10/15/43.

Evacuees should be detained in relocation centers until six months after an American army of occupation has pacified Japan, says Dr. John F. Carruthers, former Navy Chaplain; Dr. Carruthers, executive vice president of the Pacific Coast Japanese Problem League, addresses Native Sons and Daughters of the Golden West. L. A. HERALD & EXPRESS, 9/25/43.

California Attorney General's office explores attitude of San Diego public toward Japanese resettlement during and after the war. San Diego TRIBUNE SUN, 9/20/43.

Treatment of evacuees condemned by Dr. E. Stanley Jones of India, Methodist missionary; declares U. S. has hesitated to apply the principles of "justice to all" in its discrimination against Japanese. Milwaukee JOURNAL, 10/4/43.

### Editorials

#### Hostile

Refuting charges that evacuation was part of "a big land grab", editorial in San Jose (Calif.) NEWS says move was necessary since it is difficult or impossible to tell a loyal Japanese from a disloyal one; assures readers that the Government has taken effective steps to safeguard Japanese property in California. San Jose NEWS, 9/24/43.

Macomb (Ill.) JOURNAL attacks Japanese American in local school; says Nisei studying here is enjoying advantages of education while "several hundred youngsters have had to suspend their education for the duration." undated.

Marysville (Calif.) APPEAL DEMOCRAT defends recent stand regarding confinement of disloyal evacuees at Tule Lake; chides competing paper for misinterpreting stand; favors deportation of Japanese after the war and confiscation of Japanese-owned property. 9/21/43.

L. A. EXAMINER supports American Legion stand against IRA; warns that Californians will never again permit Japanese settlements in the State; charges Government is relaxing its stand against evacuees; demands Government recognize the "Western determination that this Coast is no place for Japs." 9/29/43.

San Bernardino (Calif.) TELEGRAPH resents fair treatment accorded evacuees in the light of Japan's treatment of war prisoners; feels all we can do now is carry on for the present, but warns that "once we have removed all Americans from Japanese hands we can proceed with the punishment of the guilty without fear of shedding the blood of our own at the same time." 9/18/43.

San Diego (Calif.) TRIBUNE SUN completely condemns President's attitude regarding return of evacuees To West Coast; states emphatically that "a Jap is a Jap" and that the vast number of dangerous and disloyal Japanese are concealed among those classed as loyal; concludes with, "You can't trust the Japs, and the Pacific Coast doesn't want them now or ever." 9/15/43.

#### Favorable

Several scattered papers praise exploits of Nisei 100th Battalion in Italy who are fighting as real Americans; two ridicule idea that Americans whose fathers came from Japan can't be just as loyal as other races; one tells how Nisei detachment rescued 22 paratroopers after 4-day battle. Miami HERALD, 10/8/43. Milwaukee JOURNAL, 10/13/43. Detroit FREE PRESS, undated, and Cincinnati TIMES-STAR, 10/5/43.

Three Utah papers condemn actions of young hoodlums who fired gun into midst of evacuees at Provo farm labor camp; two term action work of cowardly people, no better than the enemies we fight; one demands adequate punishment so that crime

will not be repeated. Salt Lake TELEGRAM, 10/6/43 and 10/9/43, Ogden STANDARD-EXAMINER, 10/6/43, and Salt Lake TRIBUNE, 10/7/43.

Muskegon (Mich.) CHRONICLE commenting on protests to temporary appointment of evacuee teacher to faculty of Smith College, editor warns that we must not become ignorantly intolerant merely because we are at war. 10/12/43.

Chicago TRIBUNE takes statement made by Elmer Shirrell that evacuees were deteriorating in centers as indication that stronger relocation system is needed; wants Congress to create relocation plan with reality in it; would welcome evacuees to Chicago area if they want to work and are willing to stand on own feet. 10/10/43.

### Letters to Editor

#### Hostile

Seattle correspondent feels we can't afford to risk national security by returning evacuees to Pacific Coast as suggested; bases conclusions on contacts with Japanese students while at college where writer found Japanese "contemptuous of rules and people who preferred to jibber in their native language rather than speak English" Seattle POST-INTELLIGENCER, 10/2/43.

Another Seattle resident answers writer who appeals for fairer treatment of evacuees by pointing out that "two loyal Japs released from relocation center to join the Army proved their loyalty by digging up hidden cameras in their own State." Seattle POST-INTELLIGENCER, 10/2/43.

California correspondent assures readers that Pacific Coast Japanese Problem League means business in its petition being circulated to place Japanese in concentration camps under Army control. Stockton RECORD, 9/8/43.

### MILITARY SERVICE

American-born Japanese troops rescue paratroopers in Italy; troops under fire four days before freeing 22 Yank skytroopers; American leaders hail record being set by first combat troops of Japanese extraction to fight in Europe. Toledo TIMES, 10/12/43, Chicago SUN, 10/12/43, Chicago TRIBUNE, 10/12/43. Salt Lake TRIBUNE, 10/11/43.

Japanese Americans see action against enemy on Attu; returning Nisei soldier tells Heart Mountain residents of use of Japanese Americans in landing party attacking Aleutian island; (Note; This story was picked up by INS wire service, and bears a Heart Mountain dateline. It is based on an interview appearing in the Heart Mountain SENTINEL but has not been officially confirmed.) The Billings GAZETTE, 10/10/43, N. Y. JOURNAL & AMERICAN, 10/13/43, Seattle POST-INTELLIGENCER, 10/13/43, and Denver POST, 10/13/43.

Eleven Nisei girls join WAC; Y.W.C.A. honors recruits with farewell dance. Salt Lake TRIBUNE, 10/9/43.

"U. S. Japanese Private Wants to See Tojo Die" (headline). Nisei private reports that patriotic rallies at the centers resulted in enlistment of 1,500 men into Army; says big wish of other Nisei is to obtain right to be drafted. N.Y. HERALD TRIBUNE, 10/12/43.

Pictures of Nisei soldiers in N.Y. JOURNAL-AMERICAN, 10/9/43, Twin Falls TIMES NEWS, 10/7/43, Idaho STATESMAN, 10/4/43, and Seattle TIMES, 10/3/43.

### SEGREGATION

Segregation of disloyal Japanese takes place; Tule Lake to house those evacuees who profess loyalty to Japan. Stories in Sacramento BEE, 10/2/43, 10/1/43, Sacramento UNION, 10/2/43, and other scattered papers.

Local clergyman visits Tule Lake; explains findings in story. Arcata (Calif. UNION 9/24/43.

Many evacuees scheduled to go to Tule Lake take wedding vows before transfer. Arkansas GAZETTE, 9/29/43, and Phoenix GAZETTE, 9/28/43.

Disloyal evacuees leave Gila for Tule Lake. (Very lengthy illustrated feature story by staff correspondent.) Arizona Daily STAR, 10/3/43.

Tule Lake like other relocation centers, says Rev. J. Bernard Watson, Monterey Pastor. Monterey HERALD, 9/4/43.

### REPORTS

Over 600 evacuees relocated in Cleveland area, according to W. S. Myers, WRA officer; resettlers making excellent progress in employment and building fine reputations for their industry and willingness to work. Cleveland PRESS, 10/2/43.

Relocation explained by E. K. Palmer, WRA relocation officer. Lewiston, TRIBUNE, 10/8/43.

### REPATRIATION

GRIPSHOLM arrives at Mormogoa, port of exchange; repatriation of American citizens begins. Story in scattered papers throughout the country.

### ADMINISTRATIVE

Tule Lake steward killed as car runs into locomotive. Sacramento BEE, 9/2/43.

Deputy Director Elmer Rowalt dies after brief illness. S. F. EXAMINER, 10/10/43.

### AGRICULTURE

Loyal Japanese may buy land in Wisconsin; 7 evacuee families contemplating the purchase of farm land in area, according to agricultural agent. Milwaukee JOURNAL, 10/10/43.

Heart Mountain evacuees relieving farmers hard pressed for farm labor; number of evacuee farm workers who left project so great that high school students were employed at project to harvest own crops. Wyoming STATE TRIBUNE, 10/13/43.

Evacuees aid in harvesting Idaho crops; school students pitch in to relieve labor shortages; evacuee harvest workers major source of farm labor for State.

Twin Falls TIMES NEWS, 10/7/43, Knoxville JOURNAL, 10/11/43, TWIN FALLS TIMES NEWS, 10/6/43, and Billings GAZETTE, 10/11/43.

### EDUCATION

Former Encinitas (Calif.) resident to head Junior-Senior High School at Poston. Arthur M. Main chosen to develop new school. Encinitas CONST, 9/23/43.

### EMPLOYMENT

Eighty-one Granada residents leave to accept jobs in eastern cities; total of 1,300 evacuees have relocated in order to accept permanent employment. Denver POST, 10/12/43.

### EVACUEE PROPERTY

Household property of more than 100 evacuated families damaged or looted from storehouses in two Japanese temples. S.F. EXAMINER, 10/13/43.

Court authorizes the requisitioning of over 500 pieces of Japanese-owned farm machinery. Tacoma TIMES, 9/29/43.

### LEGAL

Seattle Bar Association to hear talk on legal phases of Japanese evacuation; group to be addressed by Frank L. Walters, attorney for the defendant in Supreme Court case of Hirabayashi v. United States. Seattle JOURNAL OF COMMERCE, 9/22/43.

### STUDENT RELOCATION

Twenty Nisei students attending Syracuse University; 8 girls and 12 boys enrolled on scholarships from various religious organizations; one Issei girl studying in school of education. Syracuse HERALD-JOURNAL, 10/7/43.

### MISCELLANEOUS

Army bars Donald Shea from Eastern, Southern, and Western Defense Commands; former head of National Gentile League excluded by order of Gen. Drum. Baltimore Evening SUN, 10/12/43, and ten scattered papers.

Hoodlums who "shot up" evacuee farm labor camp sentenced to 60 days; civic leaders condemn action of "misguided" youths; FBI investigates case on grounds of destroying Government property and molesting wards of the Government." Twin Falls TIMES NEWS, 10/9/43, Salt Lake TRIBUNE, 10/6/43, and others.

Local Japanese settlers subscribe to \$2100 worth of war bonds during drive. ADAMS COUNTRY LEADER, (Council, Idaho.) 9/24/43.

Canada proposes to "dissolve" 23,000 Japanese in country by planting "a few families in each city until they disappear"; Vancouver Consultative Council would remove social prejudice against intermarriage and thus absorb Japanese residents. Seattle TIMES, 10/8/43.

Park College Japanese-American student autographs... block-buster destined to be dropped on Tokio. Picture and caption in Kansas City TIMES, 9/25/43.

Romance started at Poston culminated in marriage of two Nisei in Milwaukee. Picture and caption in Milwaukee SENTINEL, 10/14/43.

Evacuee minister from Jerome to speak at local church. Arkansas GAZETTE, 10/16/43.

Evacuees favor Chicago for resettlement; feel they would be "second-class citizens" if they return to California; resettlers being urged to settle in Midwest where racial tolerance is greater. S. F. CHRONICLE, 10/5/43.

MAGAZINES:

American Legion Magazine: October 1943. "Host to the Japs", by Leo A. McClatchy.

A thoroughly antagonistic article, reviving all the charges made by the Dies Committee. Points out the "dangers" of permitting evacuees to return to the West Coast since Japanese are "the worst potential saboteurs in the world." Terms WRA relocation policy a "silly social experiment" and condemns WRA officials for not keeping better check on relocated evacuees. Claims that many evacuees on indefinite leave have "disappeared" and that "WRA is wholly unconcerned, and admittedly doesn't intend to do anything about it." Reviews life at Tule Lake (before segregation-Ed.) and admits that WRA has begun to segregate loyal and disloyal Japanese.

American Legion Magazine: October 1943. "Our Neighbors", by Claude N. Settle.

A California Legionnaire writes an excellent reply to recent article "Japs in Our Yard" published in June issue of Legion Magazine. Writer thoroughly denounces Legion's stand on evacuee issue, calling it a fine example of the "Un-American Legion. Praises exemplary conduct of Nisei their industry, wholesome family life, and particularly their loyalty and patriotism. Debunks claims made by groups and individuals regarding trustworthiness and character of Japanese by pointing out that many Nisei are working for Government intelligence agencies. Recommends that we follow Hawaii's example, where loyal Nisei, Kibei and Issei "guard our plants, raise crops, police our cities, and thus make America a flaming example of a democratic nation in a democratic world."

American Labor News Magazine: September 7, 1943. "The Problem of the Loyal Japanese Americans", by Robert Cullum, WRA Relocation Supervisor.

WRA official Cullum explains evacuation, relocation, and employment policies. Stresses that many evacuees are C.I.O. members and asks aid of unions in furthering employment of relocated evacuees.

American Labor News Magazine: October 8, 1943. "Nisei in U. S. Aid War Effort".

Explains problems of the Nisei and stresses loyalty of Japanese Americans. Points to fact that Hawaii has been able to absorb its Japanese population (one-third of total island population) without discrimination and prejudice. By the same token, the United States should attempt to absorb this group of residents who represent only one-thousandth of our total population. The only thing Japanese about the Nisei are their faces, writer says. Their culture and philosophy of life are strictly American. Americans, therefore, must give Nisei the chance to earn a living and enjoy life, like everyone else.

