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## WEEKLY PRESS REVIEW

No. 40

Week ending October 27, 1943

For the Use of the WRA Staff

SUMMARY

WRA Director Myer's speech to the Rotary Club at Lawrence, Kansas received widespread attention in scattered papers this week. His statements that 21,000 loyal Japanese-Americans have now been released from the centers, and that many are reluctant to leave because of the uncertainty of their futures outside, proved to be the headline favorites.

Testimony before a California State Senate fact-finding committee on Japanese resettlement provided material for numerous unfavorable clippings. District Attorney Fred N. Houser predicted the massacre of any Japanese found in California by servicemen returning from combat zones, and State Senator Herbert W. Slater described a series of maps, showing pre-Pearl Harbor Japanese land holdings in vital California spots, evidence of "the most completely planned scheme of sabotage the world has ever seen." Little notice was given to Pearl Buck's suggestion to the committee that racial discrimination should be made a Federal offense.

The Nisei combat troop in Italy continued to be a source of considerable news as Secretary of War Henry Stimson reported on the excellent showing they had made in leading an attack against the Germans. A UP release found Secretary Stimson's statements the answer to "Americans who believe all persons of Japanese descent are evil."

Public opinion comprised a large part of this week's clippings with columnists, editors and contributors commenting and agreeing on the need for the immediate repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act. Editorials were friendly with the exception of one which expressed concern over Washington politicians' narrow-minded attitude toward California's Japanese problem.

In Kansas City, Mo., an evacuee child was barred from the public schools because school officials feared he would be persecuted by the other children, while in Kansas City, Kansas, a petition was circulated by the neighbors of an evacuee couple demanding their eviction on the supposition that their presence lowered property values in the district. Publication of the latter story brought immediate and indignant response from many sympathetic townspeople.

PUBLIC ATTITUDES

Editorials

Two editorials by guest editor Harvey O'Connor (member of OCD Writers' group) stress feeling of pride most Americans have when they realize their country is "too big, too proud, too honest" to condone racial hatred; adds that you can be sure the Japanese-Americans you pass on the street are 100 percent loyal since they have been tested as few other Americans are. West Side(Chicago) NEWS, 10/10/43 and North Town (Chicago) NEWS, 10/13/43

Three widely separated editors express the opinion that repeal of the Chinese exclusion act, although actually little more than a gesture since only 105 Chinese will be permitted to enter this country a year, is still a gesture which we owe China in recognition of her equality as well as a step toward the erasure of racial discrimination from our laws. OREGONIAN, 10/14/43, Idaho DAILY STATESMAN, 10/19/43, and Wash. D. C. POST, 10/25/43

The disagreement in Kansas City over the housing of a Japanese-American couple prompts the suggestion that if unpleasant situations are arising from WRA's resettlement plan, it might be well for the protection of "everyone", to attempt colonization of the evacuees in sections of cities where they will not be disturbed. Topeka, Kansas CAPITAL, 10/15/43

Seattle editor feels evacuees must be convinced that as loyal citizens of the United States they have been called upon to make a sacrifice comparable to the "even greater tribulations" early pioneering Americans of other races endured to "create the American way of life which they are proud in normal times to share." Seattle, Wash. TIMES, 10/16/43

Des Moines editor urges people of Iowa to "help clean up the evacuation mess" by making available jobs the evacuees can fill and speeding the resettlement program by finding places for these citizens "among us." Des Moines REGISTER, 10/16/43

Washington politicians have never been broad minded enough to appreciate California's Japanese problem, says Maryland editor who agrees with the American Legion's recent resolutions unfavorable to the evacuees and WRA. Baltimore, Md. NEWS & POST, 10/16/43

We are apt to lose sight of the many commendable things done by individual Germans and Japanese in our wholesale damnation of their governments, comments editor as he points out some of their important medical contributions to the entire world. Shawano, Wis. EVENING LEADER, 10/18/43

Praises given the "guinea pig" unit of Japanese-Americans fighting in Italy should "throw the alarmists....for a considerable loss." St. Louis, Mo. POST DISPATCH, 10/19/43

Columnists

Raymond Clapper feels that the American public undoubtedly agrees with President Roosevelt's recommendation for repeal of the Chinese exclusion legislation (which would result in the admittance of 105 Chinese annually under the regular quota system); but, he points out, continued restriction of immigration is vastly important if we would protect the U. S., which now has a severe Negro minority problem, from further racial differences. "In Washington", Idaho DAILY STATESMAN, 10/16/43

Labor looms as "tough bottleneck" at Nebraska food planning conference for 1944; committee recommends further use of "some 30 thousand idle American-born Japanese with agricultural experience" who are in the centers and are not being used "principally because the farmers haven't wanted them." R.F.D. by Carlyle Hodgkin, Farm Editor, Omaha, Nebr. WORLD HERALD, 10/18/43

Jerry Kluttz notes that peace will not bring as big a cut in government employees as is expected because the end of war-time hours will mean more workers for most old line agencies; predicts gradual abolishment of some war agencies, including WRA. "The Federal Diary", Wash. D.C. POST, 10/25/43

Feature Articles

Pictures of smiling evacuee workers confirm accompanying article on life at Gila River which states the residents are "settling down after the recent segregation....to build a comparatively happy life for all who remain in the center for the war's duration." Evacuees, realizing at last that they have been treated "very well on the whole," learn the real difference between "American and Japanese national ideology." Arizona DAILY STAR, 10/17/43

Miss Sally Lucas Jean, former health education consultant at the Poston center urges Americans "to set aside prejudices" so that loyal Japanese-Americans can find jobs and normal lives away from the projects; describes life and health conditions at the center. N. Y. SUN, 10/19/43

Chicago TRIBUNE carries first of a series of articles on Japanese atrocities to prisoners of war. Chicago TRIBUNE, 10/21/43

Letters to the editor

Illinois employer of 15 evacuees expresses "immense respect" for their co-operative spirit--has definitely decided "they are more American than many of us whites." The PACER, 9/25/43

California Joint Immigration Committee again pleads for an end to the dual citizenship of Germans and Japanese--warns against a "soft peace" with Japan. S. F. NEWS, 10/19/43

Repeal of the Chinese exclusion act, a "potent weapon for our common enemy, Japan," is urged by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. S. F. CHRONICLE, 10/19/43 and OREGONIAN, 10/18/43

Resolutions and Statements

Ogden (Utah) city commissioners deny business licenses to alien Japanese not in business in Ogden subsequent to Pearl Harbor--action a result of "numerous recommendations and protests" against influx of Japanese. Ogden, Utah STANDARD-EXAMINER, 10/14/43

Caldwell, Idaho American Legion post opposes evacuee purchase of Idaho property as a "present and future menace to the welfare of the citizens of Idaho." Salt Lake TRIBUNE, 10/15/43, Idaho DAILY STATESMAN, 10/14/43

City council decides to let Boulder's policy, prohibiting Japanese aliens from residence there and making certain requirements for Japanese-American citizens, ride on assumption that dropping the matter will arouse less public opinion either pro or con. WPA representative, Warren Bennison, explains policy is no longer enforceable with the completion of segregation. Boulder, Colo. DAILY CAMERA, 10/6/43

Dr. John R. Lechner, director of the American Legion Committee on the Japanese Problem tells Jonathan Breakfast Club (L. A.) that numerous groups advocating discontinuance of relocation centers and restoration of Pacific Coast properties to the evacuees are "being made the unwitting tools of Japanese psychology." L. A. HERALD & EXPRESS, 10/6/43

Maj. Gen. Allan W. Gullion, provost marshal general of the U. S. Army, on way to inspect the Military Government School at Stanford University and the Tule Lake relocation center, declines to discuss the issue of "interned Japanese"--their release "a matter of policy" in which he carries out orders. L. A. TIMES, 10/9/43

Solano County (Calif.) Assessor, F. Ellard Williams "aghast" to discover "Civilian Japanese are permitted to roam the streets, eat in restaurants and associate with Americans in the East" on trip to Chicago. Sacramento. BEE, 10/11/43

Mrs. Walter Buhlig, national Parent-Teacher Association field worker, and Mrs. O. C. Ufford, Colorado state PTA president, tell local county PTA groups that Amache center affords "exceptional opportunity" for international relations study--"impressed" by educational work at the center. Lamar Colo. DAILY NEWS, 10/15/43

Veterans of Foreign Wars at Twin Falls, Idaho pass resolution demanding removal of "all Japanese" from the United States within six months after the end of the war and the placement of all Japanese in concentration camps where they will be treated as prisoners of war. Twin Falls, Idaho TIMES\*NEWS, 10/17/43

Mrs. Ruth W. Kingman, executive secretary of the Pacific Coast Committee on American Principles and Fair Play, reports that Japanese-American troops in combat zones are "making an excellent record and fulfilling all expectations of the War Department." S. F. CHRONICLE 10/16/43

Resolutions and Statements (Continued)

Delegates from nation's pacifist organizations start eight-day meeting in Philadelphia to discuss possibility of there being enough fellow pacifists "even in Japan and Germany" to make the world safe without armies, navies or an international police force--E. Raymond Wilson, Quaker leader to be chairman of the meeting. Ray Richards story, N. Y. JOURNAL & AMERICAN, 10/16/43

Miss Gwen Dew, Japanese prisoner for six months who returned on the Gripsholm's first exchange trip, tours nation to lecture on the cruelty of the enemy. Arkansas GAZETTE, 10/18/43 and 10/21/43

State Senate fact-finding committee, meeting in Los Angeles, hears District Attorney Fred N. Howser assert that servicemen who have fought the Japs "will not hesitate" to kill any Japanese they see in California--testimony is supported by L. A. Mayor, Fletcher Bowron who defies anyone "to pick out a loyal Jap." S. F. CALL-BULLETIN, 10/18/43, UP, Wash. D. C. NEWS, Toledo BLADE and others, 10/19/43

State Senate committee sees series of maps showing Japanese land holdings concentrated prior to Pearl Harbor near strategic Southern California establishments--described by State Senator Herbert W. Slater as "the most completely planned scheme of sabotage the world has ever seen." AP, Seattle POST INTELLIGENCER, N. Y. TIMES and others, 10/19/43, UP, Rocky Mountain NEWS, 10/19/43

Former Navy man, Al D. Blake, tells California State fact-finding committee of counter-spy plot against the Japanese in 1941; says he furnished Japanese agents with faked "secret information" about Pearl Harbor, supplied by U. S. Navy intelligence. S. F. CALL-BULLETIN, Seattle POST-INTELLIGENCER, 10/19/43

"Japs Are Treating Prisoners Well Says Y.M.C.A. Aid" (headline) Dr. John R. Mott, chairman of the Y.M.C.A. world committee in charge of war prison work, tells Denver audience that Japan is observing Geneva convention rules for treatment of war prisoners in camps of occupied China and Hong Kong. Denver POST, 10/21/43

Pearl Buck warns California Senate fact-finding committee that if California bars the Japanese it must bar all aliens; would like to see racial discrimination made a Federal offense. UP, Wash. D. C. NEWS, 10/22/43 and AP, Wash. D. C. STAR, 10/23/43

REPORTS

WRA Director Dillon S. Myer is slated for three-day inspection tour of Minidoka project; will arrive October 23 accompanied by Rex Lee, assistant chief of the employment division, and E. J. Utz, agriculture division chief. Salt Lake TRIBUNE, 10/16/43

Rotary club at Lawrence, Kansas hears WRA Director Myer state that 21,000 loyal Japanese-Americans have been released from relocation centers this year and that 70,000 more are eligible for release but that many do not want to leave because they are "uncertain of their futures outside the centers." AP, UP, Toledo TIMES, Idaho DAILY STATESMAN, 10/19/43 and other scattered papers.

L. H. Bennett, Gila River project director, describes the center and WRA program at Phoenix, Ariz. Kiwanis meeting; says population of the center has decreased about 30 percent due to segregation and releases of loyal Japanese and explains that the center is now about 60 percent self supporting. Arizona REPUBLIC, 10/20/43

Herbert Keno, relocation officer in Indiana tells Indianapolis Lions Club that 35,000 or about half of the 73,000 Nisei in the relocation centers are employable, and that of this total approximately 15,600 have indefinite leave for jobs in essential industry, while about 6,000 are out for seasonal work. Extremely misleading headline over story states "Half of U. S.-Born Japanese in Nation Hold WRA Jobs." Indianapolis, Ind. STAR, 10/21/43

MILITARY SERVICE

American Fifth army in Italy "rings with praises" for the Japanese-American "guinea pig" unit (so called because they consider themselves a test unit for the loyalty of all Americans of Japanese descent) who have proved themselves "tough soldiers" along the Volturno front. AP, Toledo TIMES, 10/17/43, Baltimore SUN, 10/16/43 and others.

Secretary of War, Henry L. Stimson, lauds Japanese-American 100th infantry battalion in report of attack which they led against the Germans in Italy. AP, Denver POST, Arkansas DEMOCRAT, 10/21/43 and Wash. D. C. POST, 10/22/43

"'No Evil Sons of Japan' in Heroic 100th" (headline). UP: release finds Secretary Stimson's report on the Japanese-American troops in Italy, an answer to "Americans who believe that all persons of Japanese descent are evil." UP, Wash. D. C. NEWS, 10/21/43 and N. Y. HERALD TRIBUNE, 10/22/43

Current newsreels picture American-born Japanese as they "mop up" Germans in Italy. S. F. NEWS and S. F. CHRONICLE, 10/19/43

MILITARY SERVICE (Continued)

Officers of the Japanese-American unit fighting in Italy also include an American of German descent, states report. Toledo BLADE, 10/19/43

Three evacuee student nurses and one nurse's aide from Gila project join the U. S. Cadet Nurse Corps. Casa Grande, Ariz. DISPATCH, 10/1/43

EMPLOYMENT

"He's On Our Side" (caption) First Japanese-American evacuee to practice medicine in Colorado receives license from the State Board of Medical Examiners; has volunteered for military service and is now awaiting call. Rocky Mt. NEWS, 10/7/43

U. S. civil service commission in Portland, Ore. announces openings at Tule Lake center with positions ranging from evacuee escort and motor vehicle operator at \$2100 a year to assistant project director at \$6200. OREGONIAN, 10/17/43

Heart Mt. Director Guy Robertson urges evacuees not to be satisfied with "Christmas money" earned on seasonal leave but to help nation by accepting regular positions outside of the relocation center. Wyoming STATE TRIBUNE, 10/19/43

"4500 Leave Jap Center For War Jobs" (headline) Project director Harry L. Stafford announces 2100 evacuees have left Minidoka on indefinite leaves and about 2400 are out on seasonal work leaves. Salt Lake TRIBUNE, 10/19/43

LEGAL

Kansas City STAR'S story on a petition, signed by 26 neighbors, for the eviction of an evacuee couple on grounds their presence lowered property values brings many indignant letters and telephone calls from sympathetic townspeople. WRA counselor, Robert Iki, states they have established their loyalty to the United States and are entitled to same rights as other citizens. Government officials consider possibility of legal violation in the circulation of the petition. Kansas City STAR, 10/12/43 and 10/15/43

Eight Japanese-Americans, arrested in Denver for gambling, receive suspended jail sentences and fine of \$136. Headline indicates they "have plenty for fines." Denver POST, 10/18/43

Three soldiers from the Mountain Home airbase are turned over to the military authorities by Twin Falls sheriff after reported theft of \$67 from two Japanese-American farm laborers. AP, Idaho DAILY STATESMAN, 10/19/43 and Twin-Falls, Idaho TIMES-NEWS, 10/20/43

ADMINISTRATIVE

Project Director Ralph P. Merritt reports WRA personnel at Manzanar purchased \$13,000 worth of war bonds in drive which reached 108 percent of their quota. Inyo INDEPENDENT, 10/8/43

Inez F. Mercer, associate relocation officer of the Chicago WRA office, is appointed placement officer in Washington office. Chicago SUN, 10/19/43

Granada residents honor superintendent of education, Paul J. Terry; with special assembly program and dinner party on eve of his departure for the Navy in which he has recently been commissioned a lieutenant (j.g.). Lamar DAILY NEWS, 10/11/43

AGRICULTURE

Japanese, Mexicans, and Jamaicans among 2000 agricultural workers obtained to harvest Idaho potato crop, reports Senator Thomas of that state; announces warehouse wage increases are under consideration. Idaho DAILY STATESMAN, 10/19/43

Approximately 40 evacuees from the Minidoka center are employed in Nampa (Idaho) beet fields, according to report on importation of Mexican nationals from Oregon. Idaho DAILY STATESMAN, 10/20/43

Amache harvests 3600 pounds of green tea; sends two carloads of Chinese cabbage to Gila River project and one to Topaz. Lamar, Colo. DAILY NEWS, 10/18/43

Manzanar sells 30 tons of surplus tomatoes grown on project to local cannery. Inyo INDEPENDENT, 10/15/43

COMMUNITY ENTERPRISES

Granada center receives order from the U. S. Navy for 10,000 seven-color silk screen posters to be used by the signal corps. Lamar DAILY NEWS, 9/29/43

Evacuee craftsmen at Gila River build models of Japanese, German, and U. S. ships for identification training of U. S. naval fliers. Project now turning out about 100 models a month. AP, New York TIMES, Wash. D. C. STAR, Arkansas GAZETTE, 10/17/43

Heart Mountain Sentinel (project newspaper) pays out \$104.30 in war stamps for dead flies; had offered a 10-cent stamp for each 100 brought to its office. Wyoming STATE TRIBUNE, 10/19/43



EDUCATION

Seven-year old Japanese-American boy is barred from Kansas City (Kansas) schools. School officials believe child would be hurt by gibes and persecution of the other children. Books and a course of study for his education will be provided at the Baptist Theological seminary where his father is a student. Kansas City, Mo. TIMES, 10/18/43

Latest figures from Amache reveal 697 students enrolled in the center's senior high school, according to Miss Grace Lewis, vocational adviser. Lamar DAILY NEWS, (date not given)

EVACUEE PROPERTY

Federal courthouse in Seattle holds "treasure trove" of property confiscated from German, Italian and Japanese aliens. Guns, cameras and radio transmitters among the 15,000 items being held in safekeeping for the duration of the war. Seattle, Wash STAR, 9/29/43

New recreational and sleeping quarters for Negro troops on leave in Seattle will be constructed in a former Japanese Buddhist temple. Seattle POST-INTELLIGENCER, 10/14/43

MISCELLANEOUS

Dr. Oyamada, Portland, Oreg. dentist since 1911, dies at Heart Mountain; was well known as an inventor of "dentistry gadgets". OREGONIAN, 10/15/53

Fourth case of infantile paralysis is reported at Amache center as a 16-year-old high school boy is stricken, 13th victim in Prowers county. Lamar, Color. DAILY NEWS, 10/20/43

Navy Department releases names of 440 members of the United States Merchant Marine now held prisoners by Japan and Germany; list of San Francisco and bay area men contains one Japanese name. S. F. CALL-BULLETIN, 10/19/43

AP reports death of Harold Imoto, 28-year-old resident of the Colorado River center, who slipped and grasped a 440-volt electric wire while working on the roof of the project's elementary school. AP, Phoenix, Ariz. REPUBLIC, 10/20/43

REPATRIATION

The Japanese exchange liner Teia Maru left Mormugao in Portuguese India Oct. 21 for the last stage of its journey to Japan. Denver POST, 10/21/43. Gripsholm leaves exchange port on the following day and is due in U. S. in December. Wash. D. C. STAR, 10/22/43

SEGREGATION

WRA officials announce that 8200 Japanese have been moved to the segregation center at Tule Lake and 10,000 more will be segregated there by Jan. 1. Original plan for completion of segregation by Oct. 20 delayed because of incomplete housing facilities and intensive investigation of loyalty. Wash. D. C. NEWS, 10/22/43

MAGAZINES

Argonaut: 10/1/43: "Editorial"

Editor explains former misunderstanding with editor of Marysville (Cal.) Appeal-Democrat on subject of Japanese evacuees at Tule Lake. Both editors agree California is not the place for any Japanese now or after the war.

Childhood Education: 10/43: "Developing World Citizens In a Japanese Relocation Center" by Wanda Robertson, curriculum advisor at Topaz, Utah.

Problems of social and educational development among the evacuee children and how they are being met and overcome are effectively presented. Article highlighted by excerpts from students' stories and autobiographies.

Quarterly of the National Fire Protection Association: 10/43

Part I: "Fire Protection in Relocation Centers" by William E. Hoffman, WRA Fire Protection Advisor

In spite of the complexity of fire control problems in the ten relocation centers, described at length in this article, a low fire loss record of about 25 cents per capita has been averaged over a period of one year.

Military Affairs: Fall 1943: "The Japanese-American Combat Team" by Stuart Portner

An account of the special combat team in the U. S. Army composed of Japanese-American volunteers. Article points out effect of the combat team on the evacuees, on the American people and on enemy nations.

The Christian Century: 10/13/43: "News of the Christian World"

Presbyterian council, meeting in San Jose, Cal., unanimously adopts resolution commending WRA's handling of relocation centers and the resettlement program, and deploring the "unproved charges of the Dies committee."

