

INFORMATION DIGEST

No. 55

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For the Use of the WRA Staff

DIES COMMITTEE INVESTIGATION

Public clamor over the November incidents at Tule Lake reached a climax during the week of December 6 when Director Myer appeared before a sub-committee of the House Committee on Un-American Activities (Dies Committee) for three days of hearings. The sub-committee which conducted the hearing was composed of John M. Costello (D.) California, chairman; Herman P. Eberharter, (D.) Pennsylvania, and Karl E. Mundt (R.) South Dakota. Robert Stripling, chief investigator for the committee, also participated.

Much of the questioning was based on testimony of witnesses, including several former employees at the Tule Lake Center, who appeared before a committee of the California state legislature, which held hearings at Tule Lake in mid-November.

Major issues in this new investigation included; 1) WRA's fitness and ability to handle the problem of disloyal evacuees; 2) nature and sequences of measures taken to prevent and quell the recent disturbance; 3) laxity on the part of project officials in administering internal security programs; and 4) adequacy of WRA's plans for future control and safeguards against any repetition of the Tule Lake incident.

Monday's session began with the appearance of Rep. Lowell Stockman (Ore.) who demanded that the Government be "realistic and not socialistic" in handling evacuees. He insisted that the Committee explore all the evidence and either vindicate WRA, reorganize the agency, or dissolve it and transfer WRA's activities to the War Department.

Rep. Norris Poulson (Calif.), the next witness, declared that the vast majority of Southern Californians feel strongly that WRA lacks the firmness which is necessary in dealing with Japanese. The Japanese psychology, he claimed, calls for humane, but firm treatment--rather than experimenting with "social theories." Mr. Poulson conceded that loyal evacuees should be relocated--but not in California.

Following this "introduction", committee members attacked an article in MIDWEST FRONTIERS, a relocation bulletin published by the Cleveland office. Deploring exaggerated newspaper comments on the bulletin, Director Myer told the committee that the publication of the article in question was unfortunate. He announced that all copies of this bulletin had been recalled and further distribution stopped.

Robert E. Stripling, Dies Committee investigator, then began the questioning on the Tule Lake incident. Considerable time was spent attempting to establish the sequence of events surrounding the beating of Dr. Pedicord. Asked why he had not called in the Army at the outset of the incident, the Director pointed out that many women and children were present at the time, and to call in the Army then might have resulted in bloodshed and violence. As events turned out, the

crowd which gathered in front of the administration building (on Nov. 1) listened to several speeches, broke up peaceably, and returned to their homes.

Tuesday's session began with the questioning of the Director regarding the committee of 17 evacuees which called on Mr. Myer at Tule Lake and made certain demands. Mr. Myer stated that in his judgment this committee did not represent the community as a whole but was attempting to gain a dominant position in the center by winning certain concessions from the administration.

The major part of Tuesday's testimony dealt with minor points regarding the activities of staff members and evacuees on the day of the mass meeting and the general policy of center administration. Charges of theft, lack of proper punishment, destruction of Government property, and alleged laxity on the part of WRA officials were brought out by reading from the testimony of witnesses who appeared before the California State legislature committee. The Director stated that testimony thus gathered should not be considered wholly objective, since some witnesses were disturbed or frightened by the events, while others were former WRA employees who had been discharged for incompetence.

Mr. Myer pointed out that the Committee by its questioning was giving exaggerated importance to minor matters and was overlooking the major part of the job being done by WRA and the effectiveness with which it is being done. He criticized the committee for not studying the policies and procedures of WRA, and measuring the effectiveness of the agency by the manner in which it has done the job it set out to do.

On Wednesday, questioning on the events of November 1-4 continued. Throughout his testimony, Mr. Myer repeatedly affirmed his confidence in Project Director Best. He pointed out that Best had maintained constant communication with the military guard unit stationed outside the center, and that arrangements had been made for troops to take over the internal security of the project whenever the situation required such action.

The committee attempted to prove charges that WRA employees who disagreed with the Director were fired, particularly at Tule Lake. Mr. Myer, in denying this accusation, declared that matters of the administration of Tule Lake rested solely with Ray Best, but that he (the Director) supported recommendations made by the Project Director regarding personnel.

The Director emphatically denied that he had attempted to hush up the incident, and conceal the true facts from the press, as had been charged by certain West Coast newspaper editors. He pointed out, however, that in the lining with newspapermen, he presented only the facts as he knew them and refused to confirm reports and rumors which had not been verified.

Congressman Costello was placed on the defensive when he implied that there was similarity in the departures of Director Myer from Tule Lake on November 2, and that of H. H. Townsend (who had been a star witness before the committee last June) from Poston during the general strike at that center in November 1942. Director Myer asserted that he left Tule Lake only after he was satisfied that all arrangements had been made to handle any emergency. Once such arrangements were in order, Mr. Myer pointed out, his greatest contribution could be only to withdraw and let the responsible staff members perform their functions; on the other hand, Townsend had a definite responsibility at Poston and he deserted that responsibility in time of stress.

Winding up his testimony, Mr. Myer explained internal security measures taken at Tule Lake before he left the project. He told of the isolation of trouble makers in a special compound, and concluded by announcing WRA's future security program at the center.

On Thursday morning, December 9, a State Department representative testified before the committee in an Executive Session. In the afternoon, Attorney General Biddle appeared before the group and presented the viewpoint of the Department of Justice. He stressed the need for administering a just program, lest we provide the Japanese Government with an excuse for mistreating our nationals in their hands. He also discussed some of the legal issues involved in the W.R.A. program.

RELOCATION TEAM RETURNS FROM ROHWER

Relocation team members have returned from Rohwer, where they conducted relocation conferences with evacuees from December 2-11. Team members included Elmer Shirrell, Harold Fister, Dr. P.A. Weber, and Miss Gretchen Van Tassel.

During their visit at Rohwer, team members held daily meetings to discuss matters of employment, housing, public attitudes, and other problems of relocation. An innovation of the team's visit was the first showing of two WRA-produced films, THE WAY AHEAD AND GO FOR BROKE.

Following the trip to the Arkansas center, the team returned to Chicago, where they met with Edwin Arnold and Rex Lee of the Washington Relocation Division to discuss and evaluate the tour.

LEUPP ISOLATION CENTER CLOSED

The Leupp Isolation Center in Arizona, which has housed evacuee trouble makers since April 1943, was formally closed on December 4, when the 52 persons still remaining in the center were transferred to Tule Lake. The group arrived at Tule on December 7, accompanied by Leupp Project Director Paul G. Robertson, who will remain on the Tule Lake staff. WRA staff members are now taking inventory at Leupp, preparatory to returning the camp to the Indian Service.

The first WRA isolation center was set up at Moab, Utah on January 11, 1943, and housed 16 evacuees from Manzanar. During the next few months, other evacuees were sent to Moab, which was then under the supervision of Ray Best, now Project Director at Tule Lake.

Leupp was opened as an isolation center on April 26, 1943, at which time all Moab residents were transferred and the Utah center closed. Paul Robertson assumed the post of Project Director in July, 1943.

During its existence, a total of 83 evacuees were sent to the isolation center. The center reached its population peak on July 10, 1943, when 71 evacuees were under its administration. Under the administrative procedure set up, the records of all residents were periodically reviewed and those whose records were satisfactory to the Director were permitted to return to relocation centers. Of the total number sent to the isolation center, four aliens were interned by the Department of Justice, while one evacuee was taken into custody by the U. S. Secret Service.

Centers of Origin and Destination of All Residents
From Inception (1-11-43) to Closing (12-4-43)

<u>Source or Destination</u>	<u>No. Sent to Leupp</u>	<u>No. Sent from Leupp to Centers</u>	<u>Sent Elsewhere</u>
Central Utah	13	3	
Colorado River	0	4	
Gila River	16	3	
Granada	1	0	
Heart Mountain	2	1	
Jerome	3	1	
Manzanar	27	5	
Minidoka	0	6	
Rohwer	1	0	
Tule Lake	20	55	
F.B.I.	-	-	4
Secret Service	-	-	1
TOTAL	83	78	5

WAR DEPARTMENT RELEASES NISEI CASUALTY LIST

Secretary of War Stimson, at his press conference of November 25, announced that 34 Japanese Americans of the 100th Infantry Battalion have been killed to date in action in Italy. In addition, 130 Nisei have been wounded and 5 are missing in the same theater of war.

The Secretary of War praised the courage and daring of Nisei troops, paying special tribute to their skillful work in scouting and patrolling.

Further recognition of Japanese American fighting men was recently given by the War Department in the awarding of decorations to two Nisei soldiers. Staff Sgt. Ben Kuroki of the Army Air Forces has received the Distinguished Flying Cross with one oak leaf cluster as well as the Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters. Sgt. Kazuo Komoto was decorated with the Order of the Purple Heart.

Sgt. Kuroki received the Flying Cross and oak leaf cluster for his performance as a turret gunner on one of the Liberator bombers which raided the Floesti oil fields in Rumania. He was previously given the Air Medal for participating in 100 hours of operational flight against the enemy in the Middle East Theater. The three oak leaf clusters were added after he had taken part in bomber combat missions over enemy-occupied Europe.

Sgt. Komoto saw action at both Guadalcanal and on New Georgia Island in the Southwest Pacific. He was wounded by an enemy sniper who opened fire on his detachment with a concealed machine gun. Now convalescing at a military hospital in California, he recently visited his parents at Gila River.

CALIFORNIA "PLEBISCITE"

The editors of the Los Angeles TIMES, feeling that "public opinion should be crystallized on many of the knotty problems involved in handling the Japanese in this country", drew up a series of questions to readers, inviting them to fill out questionnaires and thus "try to help solve the issue." The results of the poll were revealing:

TIMES readers, who voted by a 14 to 1 ratio, favored the deportation of all Japanese and a ban upon further immigration. By approximately the same margin, readers blamed WRA for mishandling the "Japanese problem" in this country. They further disapproved relocation in the mid-West, favored permanent exclusion from the Pacific Coast States, and overwhelmingly recommended Army control of all relocation centers for the duration.

RESEARCH GROUP TO STUDY RESETTLEMENT IN CHICAGO

Work has begun on a study of the social and economic adjustment of evacuees in the Chicago area, which is being made under the guidance of Dorothy Thomas, whose research unit recently completed a study of evacuation and resettlement.

The study will be made in cooperation with the Chicago Relocation Office and the Community Analysis Section in Washington. This is the second of a series of systematic social adjustment studies to be undertaken; the first study was completed by John deYoung, Community Analyst at Minidoka, who reviewed evacuee adjustment in the Denver area.

LITIGATION

Constitutionality of Arizona's Anti-Evacuee Law:-

An Arizona law requiring public notice of business dealings with persons whose movements are restricted by law was held unconstitutional by the Arizona Supreme Court in a decision handed down on December 13. The statute was enacted by the Arizona legislature early this year.

The constitutionality of the law was challenged by TSUTOMU IKEDA and three other litigants in the Maricopa County Superior Court, which declared that the law unconstitutionally discriminated against persons of Japanese ancestry and others whose movements are restricted by law. The case was appealed to the Arizona Supreme Court by Joe Conway, Arizona Attorney General.

Evacuation Upheld:-

The evacuation of persons of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast was unanimously declared to be constitutional in a decision handed down by the Ninth U. S. Circuit Court in San Francisco on December 2. The decision was made in the case of FRED T. KOREMATSU, an Oakland high school youth, who had previously defied the Army evacuation order. The ruling affirmed Korematsu's conviction in the Federal District Court for violating the order.

INDEFINITE AND SEASONAL LEAVES

Following is a summary of the number of evacuees out on indefinite leave for the weeks ending November 6 to November 27:

<u>Week Ending</u>	<u>Number Leaving on Indefinite Leave</u>	<u>Total Number Out as of End of Week</u>
November 6	182	15,746
November 13	183	15,934
November 20	229	16,163
November 27	127	16,290

Shown below is a tabulation of the number of evacuees away from the centers on seasonal leave during the same period. The minus figures indicate that more persons returned from seasonal leave during one week than those who left the centers during the same week:

<u>Week Ending</u>	<u>Net Movements on Seasonal Leave</u>	<u>Total Number Out as of End of Week</u>
November 6	-390	7,739
November 13	-1,246	6,492
November 20	-887	5,605
November 27	-1,023	4,582

PROJECTS TO PRODUCE OWN BEEF SUPPLIES

Herds of beef cattle now on feed at four projects are expected to supply a considerable share of the beef needs at seven of the relocation centers during the coming year, according to E. H. Reed of the Agriculture Section.

With the recent purchase of 200 head of cattle at Manzanar, the total number of cattle to be raised at the projects has been increased to 2000 head.

At Central Utah, 500 cattle are being fattened which will supply the needs of that center as well as Minidoka; Gila River, with a herd of 1500, will continue to furnish beef to its residents as well as to those of nearby Poston. Granada's 1000-head herd is expected to supply Heart Mountain and itself.

Messhalls at Central Utah and Gila have been using project-raised beef for several months, while Granada began using project herds as a beef source early in September of this year.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

John C. Brown, formerly with OWI, has been named Procedures Analyst in the Washington office.

Harold S. Choate, Relocation Supervisor at Denver, has been detailed to Washington for duty in the Relocation Division. Malcolm Pitts, Field Assistant Director, has assumed the supervision of the Denver Relocation Office.

NEW BOOKS IN LIBRARY

To Stem This Tide, by Charles S. Johnson. A book of everyday expressions and comments illustrating racial attitudes and pointing out racial tension areas in the United States.

Father and Glorious Descendant, by Pardee Lowe. The biography of a Chinese family and its relations with communities in the San Francisco Bay region.

Race and Race Relations, by Charles S. Johnson. The story of the American Missionary Association and its philosophy of racism.

American Counterpoint, by Alexander Alland. A study in photographs of the 50 different nationalities which make up America.

Year of the Wild Boar, by Helen Hears. The experiences of an American woman amidst the Japanese common people. An excellent study of ancient culture clashing with ideas from the Western world.

Modern Japan and Shinto Nationalism, 1943, by D. C. Holtom. Former resident of Japan reveals the use of Shinto by shrewd Japanese politician and military leaders.

PROCEDURAL ISSUANCES

The following procedures have been issued since November 9, 1943:

HANDBOOK RELEASES

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date of Approval</u>
27	Errors in Previous Handbook Releases	11-12-43
28	Addition to Leave Handbook	11-12-43
29	Stenographers' Handbook	10-16-43
30	Personnel Handbook -- Within Grade Promotions	11-13-43
31	Community Government Handbook	11-20-43
32	Additions to Finance Handbook	12- 1-43
33	Addition to Leave Handbook	11-23-43
34	Personnel Handbook -- Disciplinary Actions	11-23-43
35	Additions to Finance Handbook	12- 1-43
36	Addition to Fire Protection Handbook	11-17-43
37	Additions to Finance Handbook	12- 1-43
38	Additions to Finance Handbook	12- 1-43
39	Personnel Handbook -- Additional Leave Regulations	9-21-43
		12- 7-43
40	Mess Operations - Two parts	12- 3-43
		11-16-43
41	Additions to Finance Handbook	12-15-43
42	Additions to Finance Handbook	12- 1-43
43	Additions to Finance Handbook	12-15-43
44	Personnel Handbook - Exit Interviews	12-11-43

MANUAL RELEASES

30	Errors In Previous Manual Releases	11-12-43
31	Business Enterprises	11-13-43
32	Office Services	11-15-43
33	Welfare	11-18-43
34	Community Government	11-18-43
35	Bonding of Employees	11-11-43
36	Agriculture	11-23-43
37	Welfare	11-25-43
38	Information and Reports	11-30-43
39	Internal Security - Two parts	11-29-43
		11-26-43
40	Relations with Internment Programs	12- 6-43
41	Health	12- 7-43
42	General Administration	12- 3-43
43	Mess and Rationing Operations	12-10-43

