

# INFORMATION WRA DIGEST

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For the use of the WRA Staff

Washington, D. C.

WRA INFORMATION DIGEST

September-October 1945

KNOWLEDGE AND INSIGHT  
GAINED IN WRA WORK —

## YOU CAN TAKE IT WITH YOU

. . . By DILLON S. MYER  
WRA Director

For many of you in WRA work with the agency is your first experience in combating racial intolerance. Perhaps you take the viciousness of racism for granted by now. On the other hand you may, as I do continue to be concerned over the material and calloused motives which are often at the back of organized prejudice. In any case, you cannot have helped noting how the promoters of race issues divide people against each other, for their own selfish purposes, by driving a wedge of disunity between one minority and another.

I wonder, though, how many of you have thought of yourselves as part of an American minority -- even if you are Caucasian, Protestant and win your election bets. For those who breed intolerance, a racial minority is merely one of the more easily distinguished targets for the advancement of their self-interest.

If you are a woman, or physically handicapped, you are classed as a minority on the labor market. In a given locality, you form part of a minority if you represent capital, labor, or agriculture. You are not typical of the majority if you finished high school or college. You may move to a different section of the United States and hear your new neighbors speak of you, as they would of a "foreigner," as an Easterner, Southerner or Westerner.

In the American shifting of gears back to peacetime living, domestic dealers in discord will find plenty of opportunity among the less obvious "minor-

ities." One West Coast city, its population swollen with duration war workers, expressed the hope that the "outsiders" would "go back where they belong." Returning veterans and civilian war workers, in many cases as completely uprooted as were Japanese evacuees, may look to new postwar communities. In some places they will encounter the same attitude as Japanese Americans and other late-immigrant groups have known: "We were here first -- we have a priority on

### On the Inside

	<u>Page</u>
RE-RELOCATION	3
WEST COAST SIGN POSTS	5
MAKE IT A HOMETOWN STORY	11
THE WELFARE FRONT	13
ABOUT RETIREMENT BENEFITS	15
CANADA IS DIFFERENT	17
YOUR REEMPLOYMENT RIGHTS	19
GENERAL DEVERS SPEAKS	20
TRENDS	7
PERSONNEL NOTES	10
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS	16



everything local."

It is not inconceivable that there will be strong local efforts to divide the postwar population into veterans and non-veterans. Some local demagogues with nothing else to recommend them will fall back on the old standby of urging various brands of bias. When someone advises you, "The lawyers run the United States," or, "This country is run for the benefit of the bankers," it would be well to ask your informant who sold him these sweeping sentiments.

It has always seemed more expedient to the fascist-minded to unite followers in a false-front cause "against" something rather than "for" something. Remember that Japan's war was promoted in the Far East through implied race exclusiveness. Schooled for less than two generations in democratic ideals, the Philippines were the only one of all Japanese occupied territories that really resisted the faithless slogan, "Asia for the Asiatics." The Asiatics who took the bait got oppression instead.

Hitler's horrors were sold with a phony "race superiority" label. It was easy to jump the racio-religious borderline and persecute Catholics, and from that point political persecution and total tyranny were natural next steps.

Uncompleted plans of the Nazis included launching such a program in this country, on a more elaborate scale. With our myriad of minorities, the German fascists were convinced that such internal division could cause us to defeat ourselves.

It can happen here. The war focused feeling in the direction of evacuated American Japanese. With peace, the focus can shift anywhere when "Jap baiting" loses its popularity and profits dwindle. "Protective" leagues, Ku Klux imitators and like groups will have a wide choice of victims among our variegated peoples and interests. Where their discrimination will point next will depend on what they are trying to get out of it themselves, and the most likely local targets. There are always potential followers among the grown-up bullies who have not outgrown adult parallels of ganging up on a smaller child

and taking away his nickel.

So, you have a personal stake in the minority question. Like many ideals, the American one of fair play and the preservation of minority rights under majority rule, has a practical basis and a personal value.

Your position in WRA is almost unique in the wide knowledge you have gained in the workings of intolerance, and your heightened awareness of its dangers. You can put your weight intelligently behind American unity for peace and prosperity, just as we united in the war effort.

I feel confident that none of us who have worked for WRA can be responsible for such an epitaph as this: "Here lies the Freedom of Democracy -- because the tolerant lay down on their jobs and the intolerant lied on theirs." You know too well what intolerance is. But you can never again believe that tolerance, is the same thing as indifference, merely a passive "live and let live" attitude. As long as there is prejudice, it will be every American's job to work for tolerance so that the Nazis and Japanese fascists whom men of good will defeated in battle, do not, after all, conquer men's minds.

## No More MP's At Centers

U. S. Military Police posted at Granada, Rohwer and Heart Mountain were transferred away from these centers on September 1, the War Department announced. The permanent removal of MP's from all other projects except Tule Lake took place September 4.

## HIGH COST OF BIGOTRY

A pertinent portion of a full-page feature, "The High Cost of Bigotry," in the St. Petersburg, Fla., Times reads this way:

"Hitherto, the wartime cost of bigotry has been hard to ascertain. It has cost the American taxpayer over \$190,000,000 to relocate the Japanese-American residents of the west coast, including 90,000 American citizens of Japanese ancestry."



CHICAGO NISEI SAID: "OUR PARENTS ARE  
TOO OLD FOR THE CITY." THE SOLUTION —

## RE-RELOCATION

... By PRUDENCE ROSS  
Relocation Supervisor  
North Central Area

Mr. T., a former Block Manager, came to the Chicago WRA office greatly disturbed. His family had lived in Chicago only a few days, but neither Mr. T. nor his wife cared for the big city. Their apartment was not very clean. There was no place for the two children to play. They wanted to leave Chicago immediately but their furniture was being shipped from a center. What could WRA do about? Mr. T. was almost in tears.

Since some time would be required to get clearance from the U. S. Attorney on a change of residence for Mr. T., an Issei, WRA helped him get a job until he decided on a town for "re-relocation." In the meantime, the furniture shipment was stopped at the freight depot. Mr. Kir-Stimon, Greater Illinois District Officer who is in charge of the "re-relocation" program, told Mr. T. that a church school in Rockford, Illinois, wanted a maintenance worker and would furnish housing for the worker's family.

Mr. T. boarded a fast train to Rockford, two hours from Chicago, was interviewed by the monseigneur, and accepted the position. The T. family joyfully moved to Rockford a few days later. Within six days, their 10-year-old son was selling newspapers on a street corner as a regular member of the newsboys' gang in Rockford. Mrs. T. accepted a position as cook in the parish rectory.

The T. family is one of several families who in the past two months have successfully "re-relocated" from Chicago to smaller towns within a radius of 150 miles of the city. Plans for a dozen more families are pending.

The case of two Nisei girls who have completed arrangements for their families still at a center serves to illustrate the chief attraction of the "re-relocation" program. The girls,

good friends who had worked together in Freeport, Illinois, had moved to Chicago where they obtained better jobs. Each had three family members still at a center, and both families were willing to relocate together. The girls personally investigated several job-housing offers Mr. Kir-Stimon had obtained and decided on one in Peru, Illinois. The two families are expected to arrive soon. The grown daughters will continue to live and work in Chicago, while their families will be near enough the city so that the girls can visit them frequently and vice versa.

An increasing number of Issei parents with one or more grown children in addition to younger children look upon the city-to-town relocation plan as a satisfactory arrangement. A good many of the Japanese-American families working for the Curtiss Candy Company at Marengo and Arlington Heights have grown sons or daughters living and working in Chicago, within easy commuting distance so that the entire family is able to spend weekends together. The younger children benefit by small-town living where there is sunlight, fresh air and open play space. The adult sons and daughters can take advantage of the car-



eer opportunities of a great city, yet remain within the circle of family influence.

Probably most important to the average family is the presence of a large Japanese-American population in Chicago -- almost 2,000 Issei and 6,000 to 8,000 Nisei and Sansei. Thus, within a few hours of one's friends, are also the attractions of Japanese-operated hotels, restaurants, food stores, and churches, both Christian and Buddhist.

The impetus for a "re-relocation" program in this area came, not from the centers, but from young Nisei, already relocated and planning family reunions.

"This city is all right for me, but my parents are too old to come here," many Nisei told WRA; "My parents don't speak English very well, and would have a hard time getting around."

Many of the parents have come to Chicago in spite of their children's admonitions. Some of them who, WRA was told, "are too old to work," have found jobs. Some of these parents have purchased income-producing property in Chicago. A good many Nisei, especially girls, have enjoyed the independence of jobs obtained beyond the parental roof. Hence they welcome the opportunity to live and work independently of their families.

In the light of factors such as the housing shortage and the dissatisfaction of some resettlers with Chicago, I held staff conferences in April and May to develop a program for city-to-town movement. I appointed additional staff members from time to time to work with Mr. Kir-Stimon. Our recently appointed Issei Relocation Officer, Mr. Shotaro Hikida, formerly of Gila River and San Francisco, has expressed an interest in working with the "re-relocation" program.

Through interviews in the Chicago office we learned from leading resettlers, ministers and others that 84 evacuees in Chicago, 120 persons still at centers and 12 family members in other districts had a real interest in assistance in locating outside Chicago.

Simultaneously, we launched a series of form letters to prospective em-

ployers, explaining the relocation program and soliciting jobs which furnished housing for families with children. We addressed letters to all Catholic institutions in Illinois outside this city. We held discussions with directors of large camps operated by YMCA and YWCA who might have year-round job-housing offers. A letter went out to all hotels, hospitals and similar institutions in major Illinois towns. We solicited job-housing offers from landscape architects, members of the poultry improvement association, and through the American Nurserymen's magazine. Currently we are locating offers from owners of large estates having farm operations.

Through the cooperation of other WRA District offices, Mr. Kir-Stimon has added to the files of the "re-relocation" program, job-housing offers in southwestern Michigan, southern Wisconsin, northern Indiana, and outlying communities under the Chicago office's jurisdiction, in addition to his own area in Illinois. A duplicate set of all such job-housing offers is maintained for interviews in the Chicago District office.

An example of how the Chicago and Greater Illinois offices work together on this city-to-town plan is the case of the Issei en route East on short-term leave to investigate a job-housing offer for his family. The center had advised him to drop into the Chicago office to find out if the offer was still open. Meanwhile a wire from the center informed us that a family from another center had taken the East Coast offer. Mr. Y. was referred to Mr. Kir-Stimon, who described a farm offer in Roscoe, Illinois, about 10 miles outside of Rockford. The farm home had recently been refurnished by an interior decorator, and was large enough to accommodate Mr. Y.'s seven family members. An 18-year-old son interested in auto mechanics may remain in Chicago or move to Rockford.

Only recently established, the city-to-town relocation plan in this district has not been as widely publicized as a similar plan launched by the New York office. The relatively small demand for such a program here may be



due to the unfamiliarity of center residents with the rapid rail and bus transportation available between Chicago and towns within a 150-mile radius. Probably too, many Relocation Advisors are not acquainted with such facilities in the largest cities.

An immediate need is to stimulate interest in this plan among parents at the centers whose children are working in Chicago or other cities in this area. The parents should urge their relocated son or daughter to call at the WRA office, personally investigate some of the job-housing offers, and then advise them. In the smaller districts of this

area, the District officer can keep in touch with resettlers, but in the Chicago District, it is not possible to keep some 10,000 addresses up to date.

As a final summing up, the success of the program will depend not on the number of family members who are successfully re-relocated from a city to a smaller town, or from one district to another, but rather on how many other members of these same families are attracted from centers. We, therefore, hope that appointed and evacuee personnel will pass on word to center residents about "re-relocation" opportunities.

Three states  
in three tenses

## WEST COAST SIGN POSTS

No oracle can forecast how returned evacuees will fare on the West Coast as the now-new peace lengthens into years. The one certain factor is that as the Coast prospers, the American Japanese returned there will prosper in proportion. However, weatherwise groups and individuals, avoiding guesswork and wishful thinking, have erected certain signposts to the Coast's future. A few of them follow:

### WAR YEARS

The Bureau of the Census has released figures which explain why evacuees returning to West Coast homes find metropolitan areas vastly different from the way they remember them.

Wartime migration eclipsed even the great movement which opened the West, Census officials state. More than 15,000,000 civilians moved at least from one county to another since April 1940, largely headed for metropolitan counties in the South and Far West.

The biggest tide of workers migrated westward, with 1,700,000 going to the three coast states. Of these 1,400,000 settled in California alone. Last year 30 percent of Portland, Oregon, residents were migrants from other sections

of the country.

Even with heavy inductions into the armed forces, 13 out of 15 Far West metropolitan areas made big population gains. Most large Southern cities recorded similar increases, but with its rural areas included, the South at large lost almost a million workers to new or expanded industrial centers in the West. Many of the migrants were Negroes with ten boom centers showing a 49 percent increase in Negro population.

### V-J IMPACT

The immediate effect on the Coast of the peace declaration has been what one newspaperman called "The Grapes of Wrath in reverse." Weeks before the ac-



tual cessation of hostilities in the Pacific, war plant cutbacks in the three Western states caused an ebb of migrants back to the East, Midwest and particularly to the South.

Many of the out-migrants took substantial savings with them back to various eastern localities. A good proportion of them intend to go into independent business "back home." If their plans materialize, these ex-war workers will remove themselves from the overall national employee market.

The departure of some of the million and a half Western migrants should ease the housing situation in many cities on the Coast. Vacancies will probably not be in direct ratio to either reduced populations or to local unemployment.

However, many of the newcomers plan to stay on the Pacific seaboard. Temperate climate, ties through marriage with permanent residents, or simply not wishing to pack, move and job-hunt in some other community, are back of their decisions, observers say. Labor market experts venture that present coastal employee shortages in peacetime industries and services will absorb thousands of laid-off war plant workers who remain in the section.

Some coastal employment will be unaffected, or even demand increased help in spite of cutbacks. Railroads asked for more workers the same week the war ended. In San Francisco the Hunter's Point naval drydocks shipyards expected to need more rather than fewer employees, to repair and overhaul fleet units from the Pacific. Private shipyards in the area anticipated urgent labor needs to carry on extensive conversion work, the Maritime Commission said. Because much temporary war housing is scheduled for demolition, labor for new construction will be an immediate and urgent need.

The War Manpower Commission believes that the Ventura-Oxnard area will remain a labor shortage spot even while unemployment snowballs elsewhere. WMC also forecast a labor supply balancing demand in these localities: San Bernardino-Riverside, San Diego, San Fran-

cisco, San Jose and Stockton, California; and Seattle and Tacoma, Washington.

## ODDS FAVOR EXPANSION

Leaders in the Pacific states are referring to their postwar problem simply as "conversion" rather than as reconversion, since industrialization of the section came only shortly before the outbreak of war. Envisioning continued factory output for civilian consumers, as bringing vastly increased prosperity, some leading citizens of the three states believe the West Coast is entering a new era. Industrialists and civic planners hope to salvage for civilian production what they can of the aircraft plants of Southern California and Seattle and of Portland's shipyards.

The Census Bureau hazards some predictions regarding the long-range possibilities in several war boom Western areas. Dr. Philip M. Hauser, assistant director of the Bureau, has classified the industrial and population prospects of various metropolitan areas according to their performance in the boomtime '20's, the depression '30's and the recent war.

Dr. Hauser concedes that Northern markets will continue their production and maintain "enormous purchasing power." At the same time, he predicts great odds favoring expansion of Southern and Western cities.

He places San Diego among a total of 15 American cities which have "superior" prospects of retaining wartime growth. Among cities in a national total of 28 metropolitan areas which had above average population increases during the war and the two preceding periods are these Pacific seaboard localities: Stockton, Sacramento, San Francisco-Oakland, and San Jose, California; Seattle, Spokane and Tacoma, Washington.

Dr. Seizo Murata, one of the first returnees to San Francisco, reports appointments with patients booked solid for as far in advance as two weeks. Dr. Murata is also teaching at the University of California Dental College.



## TRENDS . . .

prevailing  
and projectedSIGNS  
OF THE  
TIMES

Signs of the times -- even before the peace announcement: an influential, anti-relocation Issei recently returned to a center from short-term leave during which time he visited Los Angeles. His defeatism had vanished and his insistency that the government must reestablish evacuees had evaporated. To a crowded, evacuee meeting he bluntly said:

"I am not going to tell you to relocate or not to relocate. I went to Los Angeles and this is what I saw. It is good. Housing is tough. But we can make a place for ourselves. This is not propaganda. It is fact.

"I hear some say they will stay here. That is for each one to decide. I don't think the government will let anyone starve or freeze. But this is certain: after the closing date you will never have the comfort and security you have had. The government wants you to go out and it will make it hard for you to stay. The only way you can ever get security is to go out and struggle for it yourselves.

"Some people say they will not go unless the government provides indemnity for losses. I agree that they owe us compensation. But we can't wait for it or figure on it now. It is too slow and may never come. If it does we can use it then or our children can use it."

Privately he added that he had never spoken so bluntly, and that maybe people did not like it. "I don't care," he said, "I am leaving anyway."

As a result of his outspokenness, two other anti-relocation leaders decided to go to Los Angeles. Others, already planning to leave the center, moved up their departure dates. Those stirred to action by the report are in-

fluentia men. Each of their decisions will in turn influence a circle of other evacuees.

Footnote: Staff members report from several centers that this is a common statement from evacuees: "I'm going out myself, but lots of others won't," but no one is able to discover specifically who the "others" are.

SENTIMENT, By all odds, the coming of EVACUEE peace should help greatly AND PUBLIC to overcome the remaining fragments of anti-relocation sentiment on the part of both the public and of yet-to-relocate evacuees.

If hostile local attitudes remain unchanged, at least the end of the war will cause the evaporation of one principal argument -- "They ought to stay off the Coast until the war is over." Unless there is widespread unemployment in fields of enterprise which returnees enter, war tension and uncertainty being gone, there should be less reason for prejudice.

Logically, if the bulk of returnees' work is farm operations on the West Coast, the situation of returning to an industrially deflated Pacific state should create no tension: agricultural products should remain at high-level for some time to meet pent-up American demand and some European needs.

Evacuees themselves lose, with peace, one of their own principal arguments against relocation. How much the housing situation will ease up has yet to be seen, although present indications point to a sizeable exodus from West Coast duration-work communities. Jobs may, however, be a little harder to come by, reversing the wartime situation of housing being tight while work was plentiful.



**WAR BIASES SHARPENED TOLERANCE** Racial bigotry heightened by the war and wartime conditions inspired a volume of counter-argument. Much recent literature appears to spell better acceptance and understanding for all minorities in the coming postwar years.

The Springfield Plan of teaching tolerance by instituting its practice in public schools is receiving increasing attention and favorable comment. Following a recent movie demonstrating the Plan in action is a new book of photographs, entitled simply "The Springfield Plan," by Alexander Alland and James Waterman Wise.

A new warning against still-alive Hitler-ism comes in "Time Bomb," by E.A. Piller. Cautioning against domestic disguises for fascist race dogmas, bigotry, and twisted anthropology, the book is what one reviewer calls a "Who's Who of American Fascism and Its Fellow Travelers." The author declares that the promoters of schemes to capitalize on prejudice, competing for power and money, will come into their own should we go through another depression. He says their ideas were rooted in this country earlier, during our pre-war economic slump.

Henry Alonzo Myers, English instructor at Cornell University and known also in the field of formal philosophy, presents a volume, "Are Men Equal?" in which he answers his question convincingly. He does not claim all humanity is equal mentally, morally or physically, but measures man by his own sense of his own significance in relation to the society around him. Mr. Myers says:

"In what matters most to men, this world has the same import to all; it teaches each the lesson of his own infinite worth. And so men who are equal to the same thing are equal to each other."

**THE PRESS:** Lack of space in the Daily SEPTEMBER News Digest prevents it from showing in full the 1945 increasingly favorable tone of editorials, news stories and letters to editors sent in to the Reports Division. For example, one development

which the Digest cannot indicate in full is the growing number of published letters from servicemen, the great majority of them upholding the rights of Japanese Americans.

Another trend not shown in the limited space of the DND is the increasing bulk of clippings, which, besides showing greater understanding and sympathy for Issei and Nisei problems, also indicate growing countrywide interest in this minority group.

**THE PRESS:** What is commonplace favorable press coverage of evacuee affairs now, was uncommon a year ago. One issue of the Daily News Digest of September 1944 featured a letter from a serviceman protesting discrimination as indicated in a Stars and Stripes story. Army newspaper stories too were a new development only a year ago.

Further review of news of that month recalls that the Los Angeles Police Department banned the teaching of judo to its force. Publication of this dictum evoked wide comment, much of it humorous or satirical. The International Laundry Worker, AFL union paper, said "Japs released from concentration camps" were working for non-union laundries and threatening the wage scale. In this month American Legion resolutions favored abolition of WRA, transfer of control to the Army, and deportation of aliens charged with subversive action.

Representative Clair Engle stated he favored widely scattered relocation so that not all evacuees would be thrown back on the Coast. The Los Angeles Herald Express advised editorially that it would be well to heed the longtime warning of the Native Sons and Daughters of the Golden West to guard against the "insidious infiltration" of Japanese. The two McClatchy Bee papers, Sacramento and Fresno, commended Congressman Engle for launching an investigation of WRA expenditures for "propaganda" material.

But there were portents of changing opinion even then. The Japanese Exclusion League failed to secure enough signatures to tighten alien land laws. Newspapers reported acceptance of the



first evacuee workers in Army Ordnance Depots. A heated two-way debate ensued throughout September '44 over the first Nisei student, Esther Takei, to return to the West Coast with Army permission. Casualty reports from Europe carried by western papers and released by the Washington WRA office, included 45 Nisei soldiers, with next-of-kin in centers, killed, part of the total of the then 140 Japanese American war casualties.

**THE PRESS:** News about evacuees and WRA during September 1943 was markedly different in tone from what is general and accepted now. The old Weekly Press Review made special mention of "several favorable editorials." Two years ago hostile news items and letters-to-editors claimed more attention than friendly ones.

Throughout September 1943, news stories and editorials concerned themselves with Congressional pot-shotting at WRA and the evacuees. General Dewitt's warning against "increasing danger of sabotage" was picked up widely as news and as material for editorials which mainly applauded the Western Defense Commander's "military wisdom."

California chambers of commerce in various towns urged continuation of the ban "while danger exists." The American Legion in numerous states passed the now-familiar resolutions urging continued exclusion, continued confinement, Army control.

Scattered stories indicated discrimination against relocatee children in some state school systems. Ray Richards, Hearst staffman, was diligently hostile toward Japanese Americans and WRA.

With a few exceptions, favorable sentiment was principally confined to scattered feature stories regarding successful relocation attempts, news stories of relocated students, and news and comment in church and liberal magazines and papers with limited circulations.

America's Japanese have come a long way since the time, only two years ago, when it was common to confuse them with the enemy.

## TRIBUTES TO NISEI

More and more Nisei have been winning Army awards and higher ranks, although Japanese American soldiers long since passed a point where they needed to prove themselves.

Recently Major Mitsuyoshi Fukuda, former high school teacher from Kona-waena, Hawaii, was made commanding officer of the 100th Battalion, the first such command ever to be given an American officer of Japanese descent in the history of the United States Army. Similar recognition of leadership came to 2nd Lt. Thomas M. Kobayashi, from Phoenix, Arizona, when he was made the new regimental adjutant of the 442nd.

A recent Bronze Star awarded the Combat Team's assistant regimental surgeon, Capt. C. S. Ushiro, came as sort of "excess profits" -- the Army doctor already wears his ETO ribbon with four battle stars, the Distinguished Unit Citation and Good Conduct Medal.

Direct battlefield commissions were given to three Japanese American soldiers in the CBI theater, according to word received not long ago. Still another commissioned Nisei, Lt. Wallace Amioka, officer in charge of the language team with the U. S. 10th Army on Okinawa, was credited by General Stilwell with tracking down the leader of guerilla forces on that island.

## Traffic Ticket Surprise

A newly returned California evacuee stood with some misgivings before a country justice. The Japanese American had come in to square a traffic violation "ticket."

"Guess you're going to be tough on me?" hazarded the returnee.

The surprised judge asked: "What gives you that idea?"

"Well," the returnee traffic violator replied, "don't you hate the Japanese people like most of them?"

"Hell, no." the justice answered. "I just fine people according to their violations."

The judge fined the evacuee law breaker one dollar.



## PERSONNEL NOTES . . .

Arthur W. James, Head of the Internal Security Section in Washington since November 1944, has transferred to the Corrections Division of the War Department where he is civilian member of the special clemency board.

C. H. Powers, formerly Head of the Engineering Section in the Washington office, is the new Director of the Fort Ontario Emergency Refugee Shelter in Oswego, N. Y.

The former physical education director at the Granada High School, William Otto Anderson, has resigned that position to accept a post as vice consul with the State Department.

Promoted from Acting Assistant Project Director in charge of Administrative Management, Douglas M. Todd is now Project Director at Gila River. Until July 1945 Mr. Todd was Assistant Project Director in charge of Operations at Heart Mountain, which position he held from December 1942.

Pauline Bates Brown, Project Reports Officer at Poston since August 1943, has gone to Tule Lake to join the relocation staff.

Dr. A. Pressman, Chief Medical Officer, has been transferred from Washington to Los Angeles, where he will serve on part-time basis.

Dr. John W. Powell, ending more than three years service at Poston, left as Assistant Project Director to go to Minneapolis, Minn.

Solon T. Kimball has left the Washington Community Organization and Activities Section to become associate professor of anthropology at Michigan State College in Lansing, Mich.

Recently transferring to the Washington office as a Field Examiner was Robert W. Smith, equipment maintenance supervisor at Granada and third person to arrive on that project three years ago.

James J. Hikido, former Granada

Co-op official, is serving as a special relocation officer for the Northern California WRA office.

Ed Eckels, Los Angeles advertising executive and press representative, is Reports Officer for the Los Angeles office. He replaces Earle O'Day, former Reports Officer who is now a special relocation officer for that office.

Benjamin P. Brodinsky has transferred to the Reports and Analysis Section of the War Manpower Commission from his position as field liaison for the Reports Division in Washington.

The community analyst at Topaz, Dr. O. F. Hoffman, has accepted a position in the Department of Sociology at Elmhurst College, Elmhurst, Ill.

Roscoe E. Bell has resigned his position as Assistant Project Director in charge of Operations at Topaz to become assistant director of the Bonneville power Administration's Market Development section in Portland, Ore.

Former Relocation Officer James R. Walter has been named Acting Relocation Supervisor of the Southern area, replacing Jesse H. Lewis who has resigned the New Orleans office.

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SEQUEL TO "GREAT MEADOWS" INCIDENT

One of the central figures in the "Great Meadows (N. J.) incident", George Yamamoto is now managing farm operations on a share-crop basis for his former employer, Herman S. Heston, near Newton, Pa. Mr. Heston furnishes the land, machinery, fertilizer and seeds, while Mr. Yamamoto provides the labor, which includes other Issei. The Issei receives one half the profits from 30 acres of tomatoes as picked in the field and from 20 acres of carrots as delivered to the cannery.

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Plans were completed to close the Manzanar Children's Village by the end of August.



Cleveland hunts  
the "local angle"

# MAKE IT A HOMETOWN STORY

... By ROBERT M. CULLUM  
Relocation Supervisor  
Great Lakes Area

If the general population in most communities is sufficiently well informed about our program, it is safe to say public sentiment by and large will be favorable. Some of the media which can be utilized to exert this influence, by diffusing more information to the community, are not being completely employed.

Newspapers are still the greatest power in reaching most people every day. Many people read only their newspapers. Besides your regular news reporter contact, local columnists should be cultivated. Most of these newspapermen who write their own columns select their own subject matter. They also have the advantage of being able to comment. Items concerning news of local resettlement committees, local evacuee activities, and returning Nisei soldiers, should be directed to them. The boys from the 442nd will be visiting practically every community where resettlers have relocated. The combat team has been our biggest story and even though Washington has given it a big push on the national plane, the local story still has to be told through the newspapers and other community means.

The local angle brings it home--right into the neighborhood, the church, or job, and it is the local angle that makes it concrete. The Nisei hero who lives in our block or who works in our factory will many times crystallize favorable thinking on the subject.

It is always good when you are working on a story to have General Mark Clark's, General Jake Devers', or some other military authority's statement on Nisei fighting handy, in addition to our pamphlets. The daily news digest from Washington is the best source for these

statements.

I found that book reviewers on newspapers are very willing to review books dealing with WRA. A short time ago reviewers in the Great Lakes Area were phoned and told about a new book, "The Governing of Men", and newspaper notices have been forthcoming as a result.

Radio is another medium that can be used more. Newscasters in our area have been receptive to taking brief news statements on WRA. In a few instances we have been able to secure 10 minutes interviews with resettlers. One air interview in Pittsburgh during the hostel controversy proved to be helpful in breaking down the strange barriers that are often found in cities where relocation is new.

Your local library and other institutions can be of assistance in exhibiting WRA photographs of project centers and relocation life in normal communities. Field offices usually have a supply of photos and in many cases Washington can furnish other pictures if a more complete display is wanted.

A 32 picture exhibit with an explanatory introduction, together with a book and magazine bibliography, was put up for the Cleveland Public Library this summer and has been used very effectively in the Buffalo Library, Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, and is now in the window of a downtown bank in Pittsburgh. Pictures are also a valuable aid to illustrate speeches.

Many of the social and welfare agencies which have national agreements



with WRA publish their own organs or newsletters and this is a splendid opportunity to interpret our program through the local or regional office of that agency.

For example, our office made initial contacts with the Ohio P.T.A. president attempting to get some space in their magazine. Since the P.T.A. is co-operating with WRA, the state president had a full knowledge of our work and it was quite simple to arrange for an article which was written by a Cleveland P.T.A. member of Japanese ancestry.

At the same time we were also invited to send our literature in the P.T.A. regular mailing packet which goes out to 1300 state councils. We are now preparing to do something similar with the Boys Scouts in this region.

Many of these social agencies will be represented on your local resettlement committee, if you have one, and they will be easy to reach for this type of cooperation.

Since the war, many cities, aware of the need for race education, have set up fair play or inter-racial committees. This committee, in your city, should be

constantly informed of the WRA program, its changes and the affairs of local resettlers. They should be supplied with new publications, perhaps even copies of the daily news digest.

Other orthodox methods of disseminating information are through speeches and WRA films. Both have been successfully used in this area. They can be linked together for combined effect as has been done in Chicago in their comprehensive speaking program.

While audiences are generally small at these talks, the person to person attitude developed is very desirable, especially if the speaker is a resettler.

Public information is a powerful force whose effectiveness should never be overlooked. Since the WRA program requires local support and action for its success, no better means exists than the dissemination of knowledge about our problems to the people of ~~Homestead~~ U. S. A.

A Buddhist hostel to accommodate 30 resettlers was scheduled to open in Detroit, under the sponsorship of the Rev. S. Sakow, pastor of the church.

## LETTER TO EDITOR ADVISES

# STRAIGHTEN OUT LOVES AND HATES

The Sacramento (Calif.) Bee printed this letter from Mrs. B. G., Tulare:

Sir: Meditation, now we love you, now we do not.

In 1756 we loved the British, hated the French and had a French and Indian War.

In 1776 we loved the French and hated the British and had a Revolutionary War.

In 1799 we hated the French and fought them at sea but in 1812 we loved the French and hated the British and fought them at sea in the War of 1812.

In 1900 we loved the Japanese and hated the Chinese in the Boxer Rebellion.

In 1914 we loved both British and

French and hated the Germans and Austrians.

In 1917 we loved the Italians because they were our allies.

In 1935 Italy invaded Ethiopia and so we hated the Italians.

In 1936 the Japanese despoiled China and we loved the poor Chinese.

In 1939 Russia invaded poor Finland and so we loved the Finns and hated the Russians.

In 1941 the Russians became our ally. We loved them and tried to hate the Finns.

In 1942 we hated the Italians. In 1943 they were on our side and we were trying hard to love them.

In 1943 we certainly hated the Japanese.

Would it not be a good thing to start making an honest effort to get our hates and loves straightened out and try to build a better world together?

It does not take brains to hate but it takes all you have got to love.



## Strategic Southern California:

## WELFARE FRONT

*inside facts  
on outside help*

. . . By ESTHER WOOD  
Relocation Adjustment Advisor  
Southern California

Public and private welfare agencies give service here. Eight of the nine Southern California counties practice no discrimination in their public assistance programs. The ninth county, Imperial, has not even answered WRA's inquiries regarding aid to returning evacuees.

Otherwise, there are even occasions when Issei or Nisei in urgent need can walk into an agency and walk out with emergency cash. Usually, though, there is an investigation period during which the returnee must wait.

By August 10 dependency summaries for 403 families had been referred to the nine county welfare departments in Southern California. Of these only eight have been rejected, four cases on the basis of residence, and the other four on claims of insufficient need. Two hundred and six families were accepted as legal residents. Another 168 were still pending determination of residence and were held up because the volume of referrals greatly increased during the past month. There were 21 summaries held for further information from centers regarding residence.

The citizenship requirement has been a bar only to returnees' eligibility for old age assistance in California -- Issei are ineligible and no Nisei have reached the age of 65. However, Issei are eligible for general relief, which comes 100 percent from county funds, that payments varies from county to county.

Legal residence, a requirement for general relief, is the only eligibility qualification which WRA can establish before an evacuee returns to the county in which he last lived for a full year. Incidentally, the period of evacuation is not counted one way or the other, as either residence or absence. Determination of further eligibility is made only when the family is present and applies in person at the local county welfare

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department.

Generally the county departments have been most cooperative in replying to the summaries forwarded from centers. The exception is Imperial County, which has refused to verify residence, and gives no satisfaction except to say that returnees must first appear in person before anything at all will be done about their cases. No evacuee has as yet provided a test case.

Both alien and citizen returnees are eligible for so-called categorical assistance such as aid to the blind, to dependent children, the aged and so forth. This help comes chiefly from Social Security Board public assistance funds. Administered by counties along with funds partially contributed by state and county, the program is under the supervision of the State Department of Social Welfare and so operates uniformly throughout California. The Department has been cooperative and helpful, despite some erroneous publicity which came from its office some time ago.

For elderly persons who are unable to work, Los Angeles county has provided complete maintenance at the point of application. Where needed, medical care, including hospital or clinic care, has been provided. Some of these persons



were housed in hostels until more suitable arrangements could be made.

Widows and families with incapacitated fathers have been accepted for resettlement assistance in the eight counties pending the determination of their eligibility for standard aid to dependent children.

There has been difficulty in verifying residence for some tuberculous patients. But where residence is verified, the counties have found room in sanatoria.

State and county agencies have been very willing to help WRA in the Los Angeles area to work out procedures and carry out plans for the commitment of psychotics and mental defectives.

Little progress has been made toward care for the chronically ill, most of these cases being old men who need nursing care. The majority of them belong to Los Angeles county, but the only suitable facility, Rancho Los Amigos, has no vacancies. Accepted names simply go on a waiting list.

Private agencies in various sections of Southern California have given much help in specialized fields of welfare needs. For example such institutions as Goodwill Industries and the state vocational rehabilitation program give special aid to the handicapped. One applicant was given a hearing aid to help him hold a job. Others are being interviewed for assistance as they relocate. Private agencies have assumed responsibility for counselling and supervising homes for minors over 16. Right after V-J Day, ten children from the Manzanar Children's Village were placed in Methodist-operated homes, where they are treated by both children and teachers just like the youngsters of other races.

"Little Tokyo," Los Angeles, never was too healthy a place for economic or cultural growth. It is interesting to note that there are only seven returnees in the area now occupied mainly by 25,000 Negroes, part of Los Angeles' war-swollen population. But nearly 2,000 returnees have spread over the city and county, perhaps never to return to "Little Tokyo."

From the viewpoint of the Nisei, that is all to the good. And as the Issei settle out where there is more room, their welfare problems will become fewer.

Aircraft and shipyard workers are being laid off in large numbers in this section, but peacetime industry will create jobs in service and retail fields that will mean opportunities for relocatees in lines of work for which they are qualified. Many of them will not have to be dependent upon public or private agency assistance.

## WRA'S 1946 BUDGET ALLOCATION PLANS BROADLY OUTLINED

. . . By BOYD N. LARSEN

Acting Head, Finance and Supply  
Washington

Here is how Congress approved the appropriation for WRA for the fiscal year 1946, providing for operation of activities and functions in these amounts:

Relocation centers	\$7,731,000
Tule Lake center	6,923,000
All relocation assistance	7,233,000
Washington and field offices	2,583,000
Refugee Shelter	530,000
Total	\$25,000,000

The Federal Employees Pay Act approved June 30, 1945, will, of course, increase the expenditures for personnel services. Program changes may necessitate differences in the amounts scheduled above. In any event, the amounts shown are not final and may be changed within the limits of the total amount to suit the needs of the Authority.

When Iosn Mochizuki recently completed two years as a pharmacist at St. Mary's Hospital in St. Louis, Mo., his employers and co-workers presented him with tokens of appreciation for his work.



What you'll  
want to know

# ABOUT RETIREMENT BENEFITS

. . . By BEATRICE ATKINSON  
Personnel Management

Most WRA employees have by this time accumulated a sum toward a federal annuity under the Civil Service Retirement Act. What to do with this credit and how to go about it pose questions as staff members transfer to other government jobs or leave the Federal service.

With liquidation of this agency nearing reality, terminating staff members have several choices of disposition of retirement funds. A number of factors enter the picture -- length of service, whether the employee plans to continue in government service or believes he may re-enter it later, whether the benefits of an immediate refund outweigh the value of this form of retirement insurance.

A WRA staff member with less than five years of federal service is entitled to a refund of all deductions made for retirement, if he is involuntarily separated for such reasons as illness or reduction in force.

If an agency employee resigns voluntarily, is removed for misconduct or delinquency, or transfers to a position not covered by the Retirement Act, he may withdraw his deductions if his service is less than five years. The refund will include the employee's contributions, less a dollar-a-month "tontine" plus interest compounded annually at four percent during his period of employment. No interest is payable on refunded retirement money on deposit with the government for less than one year.

Contrary to popular belief, tontine is not a service or handling charge. The dollar a month charge, levied against certain withdrawals, goes into a general retirement fund. Since the government carries a larger burden in the payment of retirement benefits than the individual annuitant, the purpose of the general fund is to reduce the cost of the government's share.

When a WRA employee with less than five years in government work separates

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from federal service without receiving a refund on his retirement contributions, the sum ceases to draw interest when he terminates. However, if he later returns to a government job and wishes to receive credit for the earlier period of service, for retirement benefits later, he must repay the amount if it is refunded now.

A WRA member whose previous service brings his total beyond five years with the government has a vested future annuity right. If he leaves federal service he may receive a refund for deductions, deposits and redeposits made prior to January 24, 1942, (the date on which the law governing retirement was revised) but not contributions made subsequent to that date.

For an employee with more than five years of federal service, the eventual value of his annuity may be increased through voluntary contribution while in government service. Deposits in multiples of \$25 totaling 10 percent of all basic salary since the inception of the Retirement law in 1920, may be made after executing Civil Service Form 3012.

Authority personnel who leave their jobs for military service are not eligible for a refund of retirement deductions unless they resign from their Civil Service status.

In the event of accident or illness



which leaves a WRA staff member with five or more years service, disabled for work, he is entitled to disability retirement if he is in Government service when the injury is sustained. He is eligible regardless of age, and whether or not the disability is service connected.

If an employee dies while in federal service, his contributions and interest due are paid to his beneficiary, as designated on Form 2806-1, or to his estate or next of kin. No tontine is charged.

Having an active Social Security account does not disqualify an otherwise qualified federal worker for an annuity. The two forms of retirement benefits cover different periods and different types of work.

Compulsory retirement age is 70,

but an employee with 30 or more years service may retire optionally at 55 on a reduced annuity. After 30 years, a worker may retire on full annuity at 60, or at 62 after 15 years of service.

The Civil Service Commission figures retirement benefits according to the method which will give the greatest amount of money for the years worked and salary earned. Under systems called Plans I, II and III, according to age, sex, length of service and the highest average salary over a five-year period, annual payments range from \$450 to \$3,250.

Most WRA people, including those with indefinite or war-service appointments, are covered by the retirement law. Persons appointed on a temporary basis for one year or less are excepted.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. How many casualties among mainland Nisei servicemen have there been in the Pacific?

A. An unofficial tabulation reveals six killed and ten wounded. This total of Nisei casualties was compiled from the Pacific Citizen and other sources, but dates back only to the beginning of 1944. An official War Department count, not at present available, might show a much higher number. Because of the hazardous nature of work assigned to many of the 3,000 graduates of Army language schools at Fort Snelling and Camp Savaga, it is likely that more than 16 mainland Nisei doing combat intelligence jobs in the Pacific-Asiatic areas sustained casualties.

Russell A. Bankson  
War Department Liaison for  
Washington Reports Division

Q. With the war over, will payroll deductions for war bond pur-

chases continue to be made at the same rate as now designated by individual WRA employees, now that most staff members are no longer working overtime and receiving overtime pay?

A. Deductions will remain the same unless an employee requests a change in war bond purchases. This may be done by seeing the payroll clerk and filling out the appropriate form. Before reducing deductions, it would be well to consider that this automatic purchase is a sound investment and an excellent method for accumulating savings. The war is over, but part of the high cost of victory has still to be paid for. A victory bond drive is scheduled for October. In past drives WRA has made a good showing. Payroll deductions will count in the forthcoming drive toward maintaining this record.

Earl D. Brooks  
Head, Personnel Management



# CANADA IS DIFFERENT

## STRIKINGLY — FROM U.S. IN TREATMENT AND UNDERSTANDING OF ISSEI AND NISEI RESIDENTS OF DOMINION

In striking contrast to the commonly known combat record of thousands of American soldiers of Japanese ancestry, the return of a Canadian Japanese serviceman from the European theater to his home in Calgary attracted considerable attention in interested Dominion circles.

The Canadian Nisei, Sgt. Senmatsu Nishikawa, is one of a handful of Canadian Japanese known to have seen active service in Europe. The sergeant had been overseas with the Edmonton Regiment since December 1939, four months after he enlisted.

After the Canadian declaration of war, Japanese Canadians were not accepted in Dominion armed services until the beginning of this year. Then they were accepted at the insistence of British and Canadian military leaders in the Far East, who had borrowed American Nisei combat intelligence troops and had been impressed with the effectiveness of their work.

The first group of Nisei trainees left Canada in March of this year, followed shortly by a second unit. Both were headed for India where they were to go into action with British forces under Lord Mountbatten. Little news of the combat experience of the Japanese Canadian soldiers has reached this continent.

When V-J Day came, an undisclosed number of Canadian Nisei still were in training in the special 17th Platoon, B Company at No. 20 Basic Training Center in Brantford, Ontario. Near the war's end, these trainees were reported to be anxious to follow the earlier units sent to the CBI theater.

While this desire to prove themselves loyal Canadians follows the familiar American pattern, Canada's Japanese were subjected to wartime treatment which probably intensified the desire. Evacuation of Canadian Japanese from British Columbia on the Dominion's West Coast preceded the American evacuation by almost two months. After it had been accomplished, relocation for the Canadians was far more restricted and public

hostility given greater sway than in the United States. So far there has been no revocation of exclusion orders in Canada.

The issue of the return of Canadian Japanese is one which is currently being hotly debated throughout the Dominion. The last choice Canada's Issei and Nisei were given for the postwar period was between continued residence east of the Rocky Mountains or repatriation to Japan.

Testing Dominion government power to repatriate those who signed for deportation, the British Columbia Supreme Court has issued writs against the B. C. Security Commission on behalf of three Canadian Japanese. They claim that steps so far taken to deport aliens, naturalized and Canadian-born citizens of Japanese descent are illegal, and that those who signed papers requesting repatriation did so under duress.

In any case, several thousand Canadian Japanese did request repatriation. Their postwar future in Canada holds less promise than for Japanese Americans. After the Dominion evacuation, all property of British Columbia Japanese, both real and personal, was sold, mainly to private buyers. Even for relocated Canadian Issei and Nisei, regulations regarding purchase of property and movement across provincial lines are much more stringent than for American resettlers.



British Columbia has the unique distinction of being the only part of North America which denies the right to vote to citizens of Oriental origin unless they served in World War I. The restriction automatically barred Japanese Canadians in that province from such professions as law and pharmacy in which franchise eligibility is required.

The first significant break in this widespread prejudice came last summer after the House of Commons passed a bill setting forth regulations for the then forthcoming election. The bill would have disqualified persons of Japanese ancestry who moved from British Columbia after December 7, 1941, from voting unless they had served in the Canadian armed forces. The bill passed the House without comment. When it reached the Dominion Senate a nationwide protest from a number of prominent individuals and organizations went to Ottawa. The House reacted to this unexpected public expression against the discrimination by amending the bill when the Senate sent it back. The amendment, however, made little change in end results: it provided that anyone who voted in the last federal election could vote in this one, and under those circumstances most Japanese Canadians did not qualify -- they had been in British Columbia then, and disenfranchised during the previous election.

Prejudice against Japanese Canadians remains widespread despite the fact that employers have been well pleased with the work of relocated Nisei and Issei, and the fact that their adjustment to new communities has won them the respect of those with whom they associated in churches, labor unions, youth groups and the like.

Social scientists attribute the contrast between the general American treatment of those of Japanese origin and the severer discrimination in Canada to the Dominion's social and industrial lag. Canadian population is comparatively sparse. Industrialization is far less than that of the United States. Because of the relatively "pioneer" stage of Canadian society, the Canadian French too have been subject to much i-

solation and consequent non-assimilation. French Canadians are concentrated principally in the Dominion's eastern provinces.

Editor's Note: The foregoing story was based on materials published in the New Canadian, bi-lingual newspaper privately published by Canadian evacuees.

## CALIFORNIA SOLDIER APPLAUDS NISEI GI'S

Pvt. Herbert W. Weber, Californian, wrote this letter to the Sacramento and Modesto Bee newspapers from his San Francisco APO address:

". . . The Japanese units in North Africa, Sicily, Italy and Germany have fought harder and longer than any other outfits . . . because they were so anxious to prove themselves true Americans.

". . . They loved Democracy. The same as you. They wanted to come back to enjoy that Democracy. They despised the Axis powers and their methods. They wanted to show you whose side they were on. They didn't just wave flags and stand on the sidelines. They went out and died for their country.

"Let's give them the hand of friendship for what they have been and welcome them back into our communities and never again lift our voices against innocent people."

The Negro newspaper, the Los Angeles Sentinel called this editorial "Give Them A Chance:"

"Opponents of the return of Japanese Americans to California have taken a new tack . . . that the evacuees will become a burden on property owners because, they say, these citizens will have to go on relief. . .

"Frankly, we are convinced that if Japanese Americans are given half a chance to work. . . Los Angeles has nothing to fear. Of course, if they are denied the right to work because of their race we'll have to extend relief. It . . . would be sound common sense if we gave them the chance to work. It would certainly be less costly."



IF YOU'VE BEEN  
ASKING, HERE ARE

# YOUR REEMPLOYMENT RIGHTS

. . . By MARY SMITHEBURG  
Personnel Management Section

As the closing date for the War Relocation Authority approaches, the Personnel Management Section is asked an increasing number of questions by employees wanting to know whether or not they have reemployment rights and what these rights will mean to them.

Only those WRA employees who transferred with Civil Service status from other federal agencies, and who were determined by the Civil Service Commission to be of greater value to the war effort with this agency, were given reemployment rights.

The granting of reemployment rights was an assurance by the federal government that transferees would not suffer through a change of jobs in the interest of the war program. A transferee who was initially appointed only for the duration and six months has no reemployment rights at the end of that period.

If a WRA employee transferred several times before joining this agency, he has reemployment rights with his original agency only if such rights were granted each time he transferred. A break in service results in the loss of all reemployment rights. Rights are not lost by transfer within an agency, transfer by presidential order, act of Congress, or entry into military service.

In a series of transfers, a WRA person's reemployment rights are with the "earliest" agency to which there is an unbroken chain of reemployment rights, and not in any intermediate agency. However, if the "earliest" agency has meanwhile been abolished and its functions either transferred to or merged with an existing or successor agency or department, then reemployment rights are with the latter agency or department. If the agency is altogether abolished, a WRA staff member's name will be placed on the Civil Service Commission's War Reemployment List and given priority referral to vacancies in federal service.

A transferee to WRA whose reemployment rights in another agency are estab-

lished is entitled to reemployment in his former position or in one of like seniority, status and pay. His right to reemployment is confined to the locality from which he transferred, unless this activity has moved to another locality, in which case, his rights are in the new locality. With the consent of the transferee, he can be reemployed in another position in another locality. Within the geographical location determined to be appropriate, the transferee's rights are not confined to a position in the part of the agency from which he transferred, but the responsibility for re-placing him is agency-wide.

If 60 days expire after a WRA employee applies for reemployment with his original agency and it is established that no appropriate vacancy exists and that the applicant's rights are not superior to these of the present employees, his right to reemployment ceases to exist. However, if a transfer cannot be effected, the transferee is entitled to apply to have his name entered on the Civil Service War Reemployment List, for other government positions for which he is eligible by reason of his status and qualifications.

An ex-WRA employee reemployed by his "earliest" agency does not lose any of the rights and benefits to which he would have been entitled had he not been transferred.



# GENERAL DEVERS SPEAKS

OF NISEI SOLDIERS —

"A MAGNIFICENT GROUP OF MEN"

Editor's Note: Following the first Washington, D. C., press conference granted by General Jacob L. Devers, Commanding General of the Army Ground Forces, newspaper coverage of his comments regarding Japanese American soldiers was necessarily brief. The Reports Division secured a full transcript of his press interview. Excerpts of interest to WRA personnel follow:

GENERAL DEVERS:

... I don't know anything about the Japs personally, but I do know about the American-Japanese. I know he is a fighter and know when he is given a mission he goes and gets it under American command. He is American-born and has had an American environment.

Not once did the 3,000 Japanese-Americans who served under my command in Italy with the Fifth Army and later with the Seventh fail to take their objectives in battle. . .

PRESS:

Will they (Japanese Americans) eventually be used in combat (in the Pacific)?

GENERAL DEVERS:

I doubt whether they will because those men are going to have pretty high points. They have been in this war a long time and have had high casualties.

I had to pull them out of line in the Vosges Mountains. It was the 36th Division and they didn't know much about snow, but they went in and did it. They fought in the Vosges and they got down low in strength. There weren't many replacements coming across so I pulled them out and put them down in the Riviera for a rest.

We were holding that whole front

with a lot of snow, a few men and a few guns. As soon as we put the Japanese-Americans to patrolling, they went out and took German outposts and seemed to enjoy the snow, never having seen snow in that quantity.

The point is they are good fighters and they know they are good Americans. They were born and bred in Hawaii and the United States and went to American schools and they object strenuously to being called "Japs."

They say, "Why don't you call that fellow a German? He was born in Germany and is fighting and so am I." I believe in them and they are a magnificent group of men.

PRESS:

How did these Japanese-American soldiers under you react to the news of what was happening back here?

GENERAL DEVERS:

That is why all these questions came up. They realize it is a very difficult problem and they can't understand why this Democracy isn't a Democracy. It is very hard to explain and I can't explain it, but I do the best I can.

PRESS:

It didn't affect their fighting?

GENERAL DEVERS:

Not a bit. They realize they are going to have to fight for their places in America, and are willing to do it.

SHELTER OPERETTA PLAYS TO "SRO"

A recent operetta composed and staged by residents of the Fort Ontario Refugee Shelter played to "standing room only."