

# RESETTLEMENT BULLETIN

October 1944

NEW YORK

Vol. II, No. 8.

Denominational Report  
Number 1.

## A HELPFUL HAND TO ALL EVACUEES

Congregational-Christian Church.

by Clarence S. Gillett

Early in 1941 anti-British and anti-American feeling was intense in Japan. The Japanese president of Doshisha, one of the largest Christian schools in Japan, told some of the Congregational Christian missionary teachers, "As things are getting now, you can do more in America for Japanese American friendship than here."

In March, 1942 our present program of work with and for Japanese Americans was born.

Evacuation from the West Coast had been decided upon and a Japanese pastor was proposing to relocate his whole congregation somewhere as a group - that is, to become Pilgrim Pioneers.

A man was appointed to investigate the possibilities for such a move and was authorized to represent Congregational Christian churches where co-operation was developing with other denominations. The Church Federation in Los Angeles took steps to manage and look after property of the evacuees for the duration. Other groups and churches provided storage for household goods and helped with packing - and quieted hysterical fears.

Rev. Robert Inglis, representing the Northern California Conference's Social Action Committee, made a flying trip eastward, seeking openings for students and refuge for families. This was before voluntary evacuation was stopped in March, 1942.

Wherever our Japanese Churches were located, friendly counsel and help found organized expression. Almost everywhere the last direct friendly act was the serving of coffee and doughnuts on those fateful days when people were taken from their homes. The Santa Barbara churches pledged that they would be waiting ready to welcome them back.

Meanwhile began the development and organization of what became the Pacific Coast

Protestant Church Commission, representing all the major Christian groups helping the evacuees. Before the evacuation they coordinated activities; after evacuation they dealt with the authorities and relieved shortages and hardships in the assembly centers. They planned and conducted religious services from the first Sundays -- in the open, in mess halls, in empty barracks.

The General Council (National Convention) of the Congregational Christian Churches met in June 1942.

Because of the accident of meeting so soon after evacuation, the General Council's resolution "On Evacuation and National Policy" was one of the first by a national denominational body. "Every time a majority deprives a minority of its civil rights it undermines its own liberties, and the unity and world-wide influence of the nation." The resolution condemned "all attempts to disenfranchise citizens because of their Japanese ancestry."

"We therefore urge our members and ministers to strive to create in their communities a public tolerance and friendliness which will make it safe for the government authorities to release Japanese, especially the citizens among them, for services of national usefulness". The Council also authorized a national "Committee for Work with Japanese Evacuees", with funds for its activities.

Dr. Truman B. Douglass, then pastor of Pilgrim Church, St. Louis, became chairman of this Committee. An executive secretary, three other missionary families, and two single women gave full time to this work in Relocation Centers and outside, their salaries paid by the Foreign Mission Board (The American Board).

In June 1944 the General Council met again. This time the resolution was shorter and more outspoken, adding a section urging "the granting by the Army of permits to Nisei service men to visit the West Coast on furlough, and that, in view of the announced passing of danger of any major invasion of the coast, similar rights gradually be given to other evacuees found to be loyal to this country."

During two years what had been accomplished? More than \$10,000 was given to help students relocate and continue their education. Up to June, 38 students had been financially aided -- nearly one-third of them non-Congregational Christian, several being Buddhist with no other friendly support. In all 94 students have been placed in schools; and 73 more have applied. The mass of detailed paper work involved has almost all been carried by the interdenominational "National Student Relocation Council."

Literature and study packets have been prepared and distributed widely to state and local groups as well as to individuals. Denominational magazines and literature of all sorts have constantly stimulated interest and spread information. The booklet, "A Touchstone of Democracy" was sent to nearly all the Congregational Christian pastors in the United States. Nearly 15,000 copies have been distributed. A second 24-page pamphlet, "70,000 American Refugees - Made in U.S.A." is now in the third printing. This has been unusually well received; of a total of 20,000 over 5,000 copies have been bought and distributed by outside groups.

Speakers have been widely used. The executive secretary has travelled thousands of miles. Japanese American students have proved their unique effectiveness. Twice for several months Japanese were used as field workers. A program centering in Chicago and Granada Relocation Project is now under way, to help non-Christian families relocate.

Widespread effort has constantly been made to help in developing community sentiment favorable to resettlement and in the setting up of local interdenominational committees. Members of the national Committee have helped overcome the hesitancy of some of our colleges to accept Japanese Americans.

Some of our national and state offices were among the first to employ evacuees.

Our Colorado State office and the National Committee, represented by Rev. and Mrs. C.P. Garman, have had a leading part in public relations work in the state. "The Japanese in Our Midst" has been through several printings and two editions. The Christian groups in Colorado took the initiative in opposing a proposed anti-Japanese state constitutional amendment, which was defeated in the legislature. Now it is being submitted to the voters by referendum and they hope to defeat the measure again.

From the very first there has been constant contact with evacuees in the Centers, in cooperation with other denominations.

For the churches all kinds of equipment have been secured and books and reading material for the pastors and others have been provided. Representatives have spoken and consulted in the Centers. Of our Japanese Congregational pastors, three have relocated, one is in school, seven are still in the Centers and one is a Chaplain in the Army. A second from Hawaii is also a Chaplain.

Through all there has been the determination to keep up Christian fellowship and friendship -- and to extend a friendly helpful hand to non-Christians as well.

(Further denominational reports will appear in future issues.)



#### CHRISTMAS TOYS

To bring Christmas cheer to the children in the Relocation Centers this year, we are in immediate need of used or broken toys in any condition.

Forward toys, all charges prepaid, directly to:

Mr. H. E. Plaisance,  
2508 Royall Avenue,  
Richmond 24, Virginia.

Toys repaired will be shipped to the Relocation Centers in cooperation with the Home Missions Council of North America, 297 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY SERVICE FORCES  
Office of the Provost Marshal General  
Washington 25, D. C.

4 September 1944.

Mr. Dillon S. Myer,  
Director, War Relocation Authority,  
Barr Building, 910 17th Street, N.W.,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Myer:

It is no longer necessary to obtain approval of the Provost Marshal General for the attendance or employment of a person of Japanese ancestry at an educational institution important to the war effort. The War Department announced the removal of this restriction on 31 August 1944.

Persons of Japanese ancestry who desire to attend or to be employed by an educational institution, may make the necessary arrangements with the institution without reference to this office for clearance. Those applications which are presently pending clearance in this office, will be closed without action and no consent will be necessary for the attendance or employment of those persons.

In carrying out the Program pertaining to educational institutions, this office has worked very closely with the personnel of the Community Management Division, War Relocation Authority and of the National Japanese-American Student Relocation Council. I would like at this time to express my appreciation for the cooperation which has been received from your staff and the Student Council.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Alton C. Miller,  
Colonel, C.M.P.,  
Director, Personnel Security Division.

MILWAUKEE, WIS. C.I.O. AMERICAN NEWSPAPER GUILD

WHEREAS, American soldiers of all ancestries are fighting and dying on war fronts throughout the world to preserve the human rights and institutions of this country; and

WHEREAS, These American soldiers of all ancestries are fighting and dying to eradicate for all time the blot of racial and religious discrimination and persecution which helped to foment the present global catastrophe, and to restore to all men the dignity of freedom; and

WHEREAS, Seventy-four thousand American citizens of Japanese ancestry-- many of whom are still behind wire fences--were removed from their Pacific homes to War Relocation Centers because of a military necessity; and

WHEREAS, The Fourteenth Amendment to our Constitution guarantees full rights of citizenship to every person born in this country; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the American Newspaper Guild request the federal government to reexamine its position with regard to loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry with the view of returning them to their homes at the earliest possible moment.

(Resolution passed at the national convention of the American Newspaper Guild, CIO, in Milwaukee).

- Pacific Citizen, September 2, 1944.

## PERTINENT QUESTIONS by JAISUKE KITAGAWA

From the standpoint of the total population of Japanese and Japanese Americans in America, relocation has not been nearly half completed. In view of the fact, however, that a great majority of able and vigorous Nisei have already left the relocation centers, it might not be too far from the truth to say that the relocation program has reached its second stage with the emphasis shifted from mere relocation to permanent resettlement.

In reference to resettlement it has been repeatedly pointed out by many leaders, both Nisei and Caucasian, religious and civic, that its ultimate aim is "integration", but as to what integration is or ought to be there are several different ideas. It is highly important for all resettlers to have some definite concept of integration if their resettlement is to be truly successful. This article is a humble attempt to help ourselves clarify what the so-called integration is.

No one in America today can live the life of a mature person unless he is aware of the fact that he is a part, integral and indispensable in however a meager way, of America and of the world. Japanese Americans cannot be an exception. His problem is a problem of the nation. In his trying experience of evacuation and the painful effort of relocation and resettlement one can and must feel a growing pain of America herself. Problems of an individual Nisei are not solely and exclusively his alone but also of other Nisei and ultimately of all Americans. He cannot be entirely out of touch with the problems of Nisei at large no matter how much he is physically isolated from them. It is not only the 100th Battalion that contributes to the betterment of public attitude toward the Nisei; each and every Nisei who lives in America can and should.

We must denounce the kind of attitude which might be called spiritual isolationism. We must also be aware of its subtlety. When we think of our own welfare and forget that of others we are spiritual isolationists. When our concern does not go beyond "how much I get paid for my work", "what sort of housing I could get", "what sort of fun I could have out of city life" or "how much I could save a month", and never take into our consideration the undeniable fact that what we do and how we behave cannot but reflect on the welfare of other

Nisei, we are again spiritual isolationists. Unless we all are sensitive to the fact that everybody else's problem is in some way or other linked up with our own affairs, we cannot find a permanent solution for our own problems no matter how hard we try by ourselves. This consciousness or awareness of social solidarity among all Japanese Americans and then between them and the rest of the nation is the first step toward the full integration. In other words, integration becomes a reality when we live with sensitivity to the fact that each and every one of us is an integral part of the society at large and think, act and work accordingly.

This leads us to another point which is just as important. The Nisei cannot solve their problems all by themselves. Of course they must not become the object of public relief or charity, forgetting their own responsibility. They must stand on their own feet. But never for a moment should they forget that the ground on which they stand is America and therefore without the cooperation of America, which is none other than American people, "their problems" cannot be adequately solved. And until this problem is fully solved, the growth of American democracy is that much hampered. If the Nisei refuse to stand on their own feet, no one can help them. On the other hand, if the Nisei come to think that they can solve all their problems all by themselves, then they become a "problem group" in America. Let us beware lest we become such. We must and can stand on an equal basis with the rest of Americans and cooperate with them and have them cooperate with us in our mutual effort to solve a tremendous problem of the nation which is symbolized, or shall we say crystalized, in our resettlement effort which is nothing other than a growing pain of America on her way toward the maturity of democracy.

- The writer is with the United Christian Ministry to Japanese-Americans, sponsored by the Minneapolis Church Federation, 914 Marquette Avenue, Minneapolis 2, Minn.

### NOTICE

Please notify office of any change of address.

## Student Returnee Reports

by Frank T. Inouye.

It has long been the dream of persons close to the resettlement program to have successfully relocated evacuees return to the projects to discuss informally their experiences, and thus propagate the interest and stimulation in relocation which has so far been lacking. The W.R.A. setup, at best, was and still is but an official governmental agency to which the problems of relocation are official matters. It could not, therefore, be an effective instrument to allay the fears, discredit the wild rumors, and cultivate the confidence of the remaining 75,000 residents still within the various Centers.

The first such organized effort to bring back to the Centers "ambassadors" of goodwill and information was that of the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council, which supported Field Director Tom Bodine's plan to return to the projects college students for the purpose of fostering education among the high school students and graduates, and to discuss relocation in general to interested individuals and groups. These returning college students were not official representatives of either the W.R.A. or the National Student Council in Philadelphia. They were voluntary "returnees", spending their summer vacations at the projects from whence they came, having their minimum expenses paid by interested organizations, such as the churches, the Society of Friends, and philanthropic individuals.

These college students were chosen, not for their outstanding records or achievements in collegiate circles, but because they were representative of the average Nisei young man or woman. Paul Hiyama, attending Kalamazoo College in Michigan, was at the Minidoka project; Henry Tanaka of Earlham College, Indiana, was at Manzanar; the writer, formerly of Cincinnati University, Ohio, was at Heart Mountain; Haruo Ishimaru, of Yankton College, So. Dakota, was at Rivers, Arizona; Paul Tani, of Texas University, was at Rowher, Arkansas; Marion Konishi was at Amache, Colorado; Martha Kushida was at Poston, Arizona; and Chiyeko Fukiokawas at Topaz, Utah.

Due to the informal nature of the trips, there were no detailed plans. From beginning to end we were on our own entirely, subject to our own abilities, and limited only by our imagination, energy, and methods of "influencing people". It was a severe test of the nature

and utility of a college education, for it meant meeting people from all walks of life, with varying attitudes and reactions, speaking to them in private and in public, urging without pushing relocation, counseling instead of preaching to young men and women who were on the threshold of maturity, contemplating the values and virtues of higher education. Whatever help was forthcoming from either the W.R.A. or the National Council was indirect as far as our aims were concerned; the Council helped only in securing funds for our maintenance and supplying needed advice; the administrative personnel in the Centers helped only in supplying us with a member of their appointed staff (usually the High School Student Counselor), at whose office we could secure information, exchange ideas and plans, and have a base for operations.

We soon discovered that lack of finances, parental objections, the Draft situation, apathy, misapprehension and misunderstanding, and indefiniteness of purpose, were as much our problems and obstacles as these same aspects of relocation were, and are, the W.R.A.'s. The overcoming of fear, the building of confidence, and the spreading of information became in time our appointed daily tasks, whether in crowded mess halls or individual "apartments", to youths as well as to aged persons. The success or failure of our program, like that of the W.R.A., resolved itself around the amount of attention given to the individual case. It was, and still is, a tedious, heart-breaking, monotonous, and thankless job.

We spoke to the Community Councils, to the High School Seniors and Juniors and graduates, to organizations such as the Boy Scouts, the P.T.A., the S.C.A., the Y.M.C.A., the Y.W.C.A., to Block meetings, to the W.R.A. personnel. We took part in church affairs, scholarship fund drives, athletic events and social affairs. We even haunted the Canteens, the Motor Pool, or the laundry rooms, the favorite "hangouts" for the "dumbies, toughies, and roughnecks". Wherever people congregated in groups, or wherever individuals stopped, we had to be prepared to rub shoulders with the manual laborers and intellectually minded alike, and be prepared to discuss not only Student Relocation, but allied aspects as well, including politics, the future of the Nisei, family relocation, etc., depending upon the circumstances and the audience.

It is impossible to judge our success or

(continued on page 6.)

## WASHINGTON, D.C.

By John Kitasato

Relocation to the District of Columbia has never assumed gold-rush proportions, but it has been steady, and those who have come have stayed, instead of hop-skipping to other communities. The influx of evacuees averages 20 per month, according to Emery Fast, relocation officer, and because it has not hit a boom tempo, hardly anyone in Washington has become unduly excited over the coming of evacuees -- except perhaps a few startled journalists. The relocatee population in the nation's capital totals 275, with Poston evacuees in the lead, followed by Jerome, Minidoka, Gila, and Granada.

Since Washington is preponderantly a mecca for white collar workers, most of the relocatees here are employed in widely distributed government departments, where they are not only filling manpower shortages in clerical and stenographical work, but are also applying their knowledge of the Japanese language and of the Far East in strategic wartime agencies. The demand for stenographers and translators in government offices is still great, says Fast.

Job opportunities are not limited to the civil service field, however. A Nisei girl

(cont'd from Page 5, Student Returnee Reports)

failure and only at odd and rare moments does any light show through the curtain of our endeavors. At such times, when we receive a penny postcard, or a brief letter, or even a word spoken by a relocating student or family thanking us for our help, we realize that it has not been all in vain, and that this gratefulness repays us a thousand times for the discomforts, the uncertainties, and the effort, that accompanied our daily work.

Although it may probably not be shown in statistical records that relocation on the whole progressed more favorably during the brief span of weeks in which we returnee students were in our various projects, still we feel that it behooves the W.R.A. to take cognizance of the sociological and psychological inferences that are bared by the unique experiment we conducted. For whatever success or failure the W.R.A. faces from now on is going to be determined not by continuing their broad and often ineffectual

in a short time has become an assistant buyer in the city's most fashionable store; a boy is with one of the leading photography shops in Washington. Others are clerking in co-op stores. The Community War Fund agency, which serves as a stop-gap for Nisei waiting for civil service clearance, employs a number of Nisei. Relocatees are working in the homes of Congressmen and high government officials. They are working on the farms of people like Sam Rice, former major league baseball star, and Drew Pearson, famed political columnist.

Washington offers wide opportunities in nearly all fields. Domestic especially are in demand in good homes. But this city is a hard nut for professional people to crack. And there are no war industries in the vicinity to speak of.

Thus while the rate of relocation has been far from being sensational, it has been steady and substantial. Success in relocation is not necessarily judged by numbers, but more by the degree of integration into the community, by the tenor of public acceptance, and by the quality of service which relocatees contribute to their adopted community.

- Writer's address:

1338 Newton St., N.W.,  
Washington 10, D.C.

policies of pushing evacuees out into an unknown and supposedly hostile outside world, but by a successful psychological and educational campaign directed at each individual or family contemplating the pros and cons of relocating. The braver, the more intelligent, the less handicapped, have already gone out to seek their fortunes and their future security. Those that remain will require more assurances, more help, more confidence, and their faith will be pinned on the successes of their predecessors.

That the W.R.A. policy shows signs of deviating from wholesale relocation to individual relocation, is a token that some of these other aspects of relocation are being recognized, and bodes better for the future of these quasi-citizens still within the Centers. And as part of this new focusing of attention upon the individual problems of evacuees, the Summer Project of the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council, should take due credit and acknowledgment. When that body could have rested on its past achievements (the opening of colleges and universities to the

(continued on page 8)

## ON EMPLOYMENT AND HOUSING IN DAYTON, OHIO

by ROBERT Y. KODAMA.

Mr. G. Raymond Booth, W.R.A. Relocation Officer, initiated negotiations with the McCall Corporation, one of the largest publishing plants in the country, but due to his promotion and transfer to the Chicago office, we were compelled to carry on. Mr. Nobu Kawai, formerly of Heart Mountain and I, began a series of meetings with Messrs. Wm. S. Robinson, General Manager, and Wm. F. Gutwein, Jr., Industrial Relations, on the possibility of employing Americans of Japanese descent in their shops. With adequate facts presented, the McCall management responded with wholehearted cooperation. Then, from the management this idea with explanations were brought before the labor unions of the company. A mimeographed bulletin was made for the rank and file members of the unions and they unanimously approved, after thorough discussions, to have Japanese Americans work alongside them. There are 9 labor unions of A.F. of L. at McCall Corporation. Much credit for acceptance of Japanese Americans goes to Wm. Fort, President, International Pressmen and Assistants Union of North America, Local 54, and Charles Hill, President, International Brotherhood of Bookbinders, Local 199.

Finally, after three weeks of thorough analysis of the situation by both management and labor, four Nisei were asked to come in and work at McCall. They were to work in pairs as a team, but due to the tight housing problem existing in Dayton, the four Japanese Americans and their families were in Cincinnati at the American Friends Service Committee Hostel. The general feeling was "What good is an employment opportunity if housing for the family is unobtainable?"

Due to the delicacy of this situation, where public relations had been built up favorably for the Nisei at the place of employment, and where everyone was anticipating the arrival of the Nisei to work, the writer filled in the vacancy created by having no Nisei present in Dayton and qualified to go immediately to work at McCall. With suggestions and help from Mr. Gutwein, it was arranged for this writer to work for the resettlement program of the Dayton Church Federation in the morning and at McCall in the afternoon and evening until adequate Nisei replacements could be secured. Meanwhile, a visit over the weekend to the Cincinnati Hostel and a talk over the entire situation was made by the writer and the three other relocatees. It was then arranged that they should work in the

second shift in the afternoon at McCall and spend the mornings looking for adequate housing for their families still at the Hostel. Now, there are seven Nisei heads of families working at the McCall Corporation, with opening earmarked for a few others.

The basis of all the negotiations with employees and labor organizations from the standpoint of successful resettlement of evacuees was a policy to give the Japanese Americans economic equality. That they are not marginal workers but are people who are looking toward the post-war future and who realize that security, community integration and seniority must start now. Further, goodwill and acceptance must be made by the individual's own public relations.

Realizing that adequate housing is necessary for a successful resettlement program, and also that the war time conditions in an industrial city like Dayton are new to the relocatees, especially since they have been away from war time changes and activities for more than 2½ years, it is necessary for personal attention to be given to evacuees to help in their personal adjustments. They feel the accelerated impact of the wartime conditions all at one time. Hence, the need that direct and active assistance be given to them as soon as they arrive and, if possible, even before they leave the Relocation Centers.

Mr. Fowler Smith, Director of Dayton War Housing and Rev. Harry E. Titus, W.R.A. officer and Rev. Kemper G. McComb, Executive Secretary of the Church Federation of Dayton & Montgomery Counties were all instrumental in helping to open the Federal Housing to Japanese Americans. Their suggestions proved to be invaluable and made possible an approach to Mr. C. D. Putnam, Director of the Dayton Metropolitan Housing Authority. With the help of Mr. Putnam, various members of the Housing Board were contacted and given an insight into the resettlement program. By relating the activities of the Nisei while on the West Coast with a similar type of activities here in Dayton, it was

possible for the Housing Board to realize that the Japanese Americans were just the same as any other Americans. After more than three weeks of contact and public relations, the Dayton Housing Board at their regular Monday meeting, July 10, approved and accepted the Nisei into the housing projects, provided the W.R.A. be responsible if anything should occur in the projects against the Nisei. With this action of the Board, 4 evacuee Nisei families are now in progress of moving into the Moraine City Housing Project. The wonder and interest of this is that the agreement between the National Housing Administration and the War Relocation Authority was not the prime factor or even introduced, but rather the goodwill and public relations were first developed from the local community leaders and through

them was it made possible to come to the same decision as agreed and provided in the agreement on the Washington level.

Other housing projects will now be opened to a few of the evacuee families that might come into this area. There are thirteen of these projects in the immediate areas surrounding Dayton.

Mrs. Eugene M. Riel, Mrs. C. N. Chrisman, Mrs. Kemper G. McComb, and several other church women have opened their own homes and have been very helpful in securing permanent or temporary housing for the newly arrived evacuees, thereby making personal adjustments of the evacuees easier. The YMCA and to an even larger extent the YWCA are cooperative to the best of their ability.

(From the report on Resettlement of Japanese Americans by Mr. Kodama for the Church Federation of Dayton and Montgomery County, 20-24 Davies Building, Dayton 2, Ohio.)

(cont'd from Page 6, Student Returnee Reports)

Nisei, the financing of hundreds of college students, and most recently, the abolishment of the irksome and time-consuming Provost Marshal General clearance procedure) it continued to seek new fields into which its latent energies could be directed. Much of this credit is due to the Field Director, Tom Bodine, who since the inception of the National Council has been the militant leader in defending the rights and privileges of the

Nisei collegian, and has worked tirelessly to remove obstacle after obstacle standing in the way of higher education, until today, a Nisei student can survey the whole field of education, secure in the knowledge that he or she can enter any institution of higher learning, without fear or discrimination, on the same basis as any other citizen of the United States.

(Mr. Inouye was a Presbyterian delegate)

RECOMMENDED READING

"New Neighbors Among Us". War Relocation Authority pictorial pamphlet.  
Copies available at this office.

RESETTLEMENT BULLETIN, published monthly, George E. Rundquist, Editor  
by the  
COMMITTEE ON RESETTLEMENT OF JAPANESE AMERICANS  
Sponsored Jointly by  
The Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America  
The Home Missions Council of North America  
in cooperation with  
The Foreign Missions Conference of North America

297 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

10¢ per copy.