

Place: Dining Hall #1  
Time: 8:00 PM  
Date: Monday, Feb. 8, 1943

Words spoken by Ernst, Project Director, are as accurate as was possible to record in longhand.

Ernst: It's sometimes a good thing to know who is in the room. I wish to introduce to you the men who are on the platform with me. (introduces;

Tsune Baba, chairman of the city council  
Toshio Yoshida (kibei, formerly saw service with US Army as volunteer )  
Sgt. Condon  
Lt. William L Tracy  
Iwao Shimizu (editor, Japanese Topaz Times)  
Sgt. Rogers  
Sgt. Ishida

note: parenthetical remarks mine, for your benefit --TT

Others who make up the gathering this evening are representatives from the Board of Council and Committee, the Community Cooperative Committee, General and District Election Committee, the Inter-Faith Council, the Block Managers Group and their Assistants, the Topaz Resident Representatives who met with the Spanish Consulate Representative, the Students Association, the Executive Kibei Board, the JACL, others in key positions, some from the Hospital, the Boy Scout Council, the YWCA Board, and persons invited by the appointive staff, and wives of the appointive staff.

The purpose of this meeting is to present to you, the Proclamation from the War Department which Lt. Tracy who will read, word for word, from the manuscript which has been carefully prepared for this purpose. (introduces Lt. William Lee Tracy)

Lt. Tracy: I want to first say that I feel honored to be one of ten officers selected to bring this message to the people of the relocation centers. (Goes on to read message from the War Department verbatim) (Message accompanies this sheet exactly as issued by Washington, published to community by Topaz Times)

Ernst: Toshio Yoshida will read the translation to <sup>the</sup> ~~Lt. Tracy's~~ message. which Lt. Tracy has just read.

Yoshida: (reads message as translated into Japanese, which also accompanies)

Ernst: You have heard the message from the War Department which is to

cover the principle parts of the entire program of registration. In tracing the history of the War Relocation Authority, we recall that the Authority was set up last March to do three things. (Then mentions another date, the 19th of Feb. but I cannot recall nor at the time, could I connect exactly what that date had to do with the WRA)

The President authorized the War Department, the Secretary, or any of his deputies who are Generals to evacuate people of ~~Japanese~~ who for any reasons might complicate the war situation. They were interested in accomplishing three things: 1. to endeavor to arrange living accommodations for evacuees,  
2. assist in the preparation of lives of the men and women in effort to prepare them for relocation and make temporary arrangements in established centers  
3. relocation--the reestablishment of these people in relocated areas.

Ernst cont.

The War Relocation Authority is particularly interested in this last phase at the present time, which is relocation. They are now figuring on how soon more may leave. The WRA has had for several months, people in the East and Middle West to study situation for the community acceptance of the Japanese.

The job here was to introduce a new people to the Middle West and East, where the Japanese are least known because all the Japanese have been on the Pacific Coast -- where only knowledge under the present conditions are a negative one. There is ignorance existing that American Japanese are same as the ones the nation is fighting in the Far East. This is the result of the lack of acquaintance.

Statements of last March of President Roosevelt and the Secretary of War, and of the President and the Secretary of War this year should pave the way for those government agencies, and civilian industries, etc. who wanted to make acquaintance of the situation paving the way for a reversal by telling the the people of the United States that the men and women of Japanese blood were loyal and demonstrating that belief by the opening up again the ranks of the US military service endorsed by President Roosevelt making known to civilian ~~part/public~~ public, the War Manpower Commission, etc, that the Japanese people qualified in agriculture, industry, as well as in the armed service.

WRA is convinced that this definite statement made officially by President Roosevelt and the Secretary of War that relocation will now proceed by leaps and bounds. WRA employment offices are now established in larger cities for some time, and already people have been going out by trickles to the East.

Registration at this time is of two-fold purpose. It goes further into the matter for job qualification and classification in large numbers for releasing residents of this community.

Interpretation behind this is a very personal thing and <sup>one</sup> can only do it for himself, and no one should influence him.

Yet, as Project Director, I would be remiss if I did not add my remarks to leave you to interpret for yourself.

You remember-- in October Dillon Meyer said it would be a big mistake if WRA if war should come to an end before relocation was successfully accomplished and find 100,000 Japanese in relocation centers.

It has been the WRA object from the very beginning to depopulate these centers. One great block in the minds of the people naturally in the United States is the question of acceptance of persons of the same race as those their own boys are fighting. In time of crisis in which we are, the valuation of men and women is .....  
**WHERE DO THEY STAND? WHAT ARE THEY DOING? ARE THEY LOYAL?**

The separate Japanese combat unit is to answer this message to all

The separate Japanese combat unit is to answer this message to all. It is not a question if 5,000 or 10,000 extra men it takes to win a war. It doesn't mean much if we knew the answer. But nobody else but the men in the ten relocation centers can tell the people of the United States what they are or if loyal or where stand but themselves intimates of war.

Some things we can't do much about, such as the weather, war, seemingly. DOES seem to be a destiny we don't sometimes want to accept whether we like it or not.

One common destiny is to make contribution to those in and outside centers is to tell the people of the US where they stand.

Visit, talk, write about the relocation centers and the residents by Caucasians, so little little they can do. seem to be defending by so doing, and you need no defending---no question of defense. No one else can make clarification or bring out the truth but you.

It's not easy--we have been getting hopeful and encouraging letters by those in the East that families, organizations, the communities, and the people in general are accepting them. But it is an altogether too small a dribble. we've got to have an all-out reinstatement.

One step at a time is necessary. Pres. and the Secty have taken first step, now registration is next, volunteering another, and others will surely follow.

So that we must not be confused that this registration is for only the military age, it is for everyone seventeen years of age and over.

Lt Wao Shi izu translates.

Erst: Through the cooperation of the members of the Topaz Times staff, the message read by Lt Tracy, the WPA program and their translation will be given you as you leave the room. By tomorrow noon, everybody in Topaz will have the message.

Last Thursday night, 28 questions were made up at a meeting, and the questions and answers have been prepared. The answers have been found for all but three, and the printed copies will also be distributed to all residents.

Any additional question will be answered if occurs in your mind.

Because Lt Tracy in Topaz three weeks, so that question can be asked him, where

he will be present at registration. Therefore, no open forum tonight. Tsune Baba will outline the registration procedure.

Baba: Registration will be accomplished in Ding Hall #1 block by block, and a staff of interviewers now selected and being trained. Care of being taken so that everyone will have the same interpretation. Three rows of tables