

GIFTS TO NISEI CHILDREN AROUSE TOWN'S IRE

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The innocent desire of a Fellowship of Reconciliation group to send some Christmas toys to the children held in a Japanese relocation center proved to be the spark that set the little town of Placerville, California, ablaze with rumors and excitement.

It all started with the F.O.R. group from C.P.S. Camp No. 31, located at near-by Camino, decided to make toys for the children of "relocated" Japanese-Americans at Poston, Arizona. A few days before Christmas the toys, nicely delivered to the express office in Placerville. There some earnest citizen caught sight of the address to which it was being sent, and within a few hours rumors had spread through town that the conscientious objectors were sending subversive material, guns, dynamite, or other contraband to the Japanese. Before the package could be sent on its way the camp director and the chairman of the F.O.R. group had to come to town and grant permission to the sheriff and district attorney to open the box and examine its contents.

The final comment of one of these gentlemen reveals the extent of tolerance existing. "I only wish," he said, only half jokingly, "it had been dynamite instead of toys and that it had blown up when it reached its destination."

Further repercussions from the incident were evident in an editorial and letter to the editor in the Placerville Times. Editorially the newspaper remarked that "when the conscientious ob-

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and demand that the government treat them as such if so deter-
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