



## Interpreters Quiz Prisoner on Okinawa



OKINAWA—Two Japanese American interpreters with the U.S. 10th Army on Okinawa, Sgt. Hiroshi (Bud) Mukaye of Los Angeles and Sgt. M. Saito, Ewa, Hawaii, question a Japanese sailor (right) captured by troops of the 32nd Infantry Regiment.

## 500 Combat Veterans Sign Petition Against Prejudice

### Ask VFW Post in Spokane To Reconsider Rejection of Japanese American Soldier

SPOKANE, Wash.—More than 500 combat veterans at the Army's Baxter General Hospital have signed a petition asking a Spokane Veterans of Foreign Wars post to reconsider its rejection of a membership application from a wounded American soldier of Japanese ancestry, Pvt. Ernest R. Bateman, Great Falls, Mont., said on June 30.

Pvt. Bateman, chairman of the "Veterans' Anti-Prejudice Committee" at Baxter, where

### Minidoka Leads WRA Centers In Resettlement

30 Per Cent Leave Camp Since Opening Of West Coast Area

WASHINGTON—The Minidoka relocation center at Hunt, Idaho, has the highest relocation rate of all WRA centers since the reopening of the West Coast evacuated area to the return of the Japanese American evacuees, according to WRA figures released this week.

With 2,376 persons leaving Minidoka for individual resettlement, the center has lost 30.1 per cent of its population since Jan. 2. It now has a population of 5,225.

The WRA reported that 47,972 persons were now out of the centers on both indefinite and terminal leaves, while 1,163 were absent on short term leaves, making a total of 49,135.

The Granada relocation camp at Amache, Colo., with 23.5 per cent relocated this year, Rohwer, Ark., with 21.3 per cent and Heart Mountain, Wyo., with 20.8 per cent are the next three centers with high relocation reports.

The other centers are Manzanar, Calif., 19.7 per cent; Central Utah, 16.2; Colorado River, 15.4; Gila River, 13.4; and Tule Lake, 5.

The WRA report indicated that 84.3 of those who left the relocation centers in the period from Jan. 2, 1945, to June 9, 1945, have relocated on the West Coast with 8.025 or 24.1 per cent returning to California.

the Japanese American, Pfc. Richard H. Naito, also is a patient, said the petition had been tabled "under an obscure by-law" at a meeting of the John R. Monaghan Post No. 51, VFW.

Pfc. Naito was wounded seriously in Italy while fighting as a member of the 442nd Infantry Regiment.

Ray C. Arnott, adjutant of the VFW post, said post officers decided the petition could not be brought before the meeting because of a by-law prohibiting review of rejected applications until a year after the original application.

Arnott said rejection of Naito's application was not indicative of any policy against Japanese Americans by the local post or by the national VFW. He said each membership application was voted upon by members and that three negative votes in the post could reject an applicant.

(At a recent state convention the Idaho VFW urged that Japanese Americans be accepted as members-at-large in the State body if their applications were rejected by local posts.)

### ROHWER SOLDIER REPORTED HURT IN PACIFIC AREA

ROHWER, Ark. — Staff Sgt. Yukio Tamura, son of Tsurukichi Tamura, 1-5-F, Rohwer, was seriously wounded in June in the Pacific, according to War Department information received this week.

It was reported that this was the first Rohwer casualty to be reported from the Pacific area.

### Bill Mauldin Says Nisei GIs Did More Than Any Others

LOS ANGELES—Bill Mauldin, noted GI cartoonist of "Up Front" fame, declared in a newspaper interview here that discriminatory activities against Japanese Americans on the West Coast "make me sick."

"Those Japanese American troops in Italy did more than any others, and they killed themselves to prove something to the folks at home," Mauldin said. "I know of two such regiments in Italy that never had a case of AWOL, never had a case of malingering, never had a case of cowardice. No one who has not been in the war has a right to mistreat anyone who has been in the war."

### Physical Safety Major Concern, Says Provinse

WRA Official Discusses Attitudes of Persons Remaining in Camps

CHICAGO, Ill.—The problem of physical safety looms as a greater threat than economic security in the minds of the evacuees still remaining in the war relocation centers, John H. Provinse, chief of community management of the WRA, declared before a joint conference of the University of Chicago, and the American Council on Race Relations on June 29.

Mr. Provinse noted that to date 50,000 evacuees have left the relocation camps for outside resettlement and that 46,000 more will be moved out by the first of the year.

The WRA official stressed the agency's determination to close all relocation centers with the exception of the segregation camp at Tule Lake.

He declared that the economic outlook for most of the evacuees is fair and there was housing in rural areas, including the West Coast, and said that fear of physical violence was a deterrent to resettlement.

## Many West Coast Nisei Troops Will Return Home from Italy Under Army Redeployment Plan

205 Enlisted Men of 442nd Infantry Regiment Leave for United States Under Point System; Farewell Ceremony, Parade Held for Soldiers

WITH THE FIFTH ARMY, ITALY—Following a farewell ceremony and parade in their honor in the regimental area, 205 enlisted men of the Fifth Army's 442nd Japanese American Combat Team left recently for a redeployment depot in Italy.

From there, they are to be re shipped to the States for disposition under the War Department readjustment of personnel program.

These men, composing the highest adjusted service rating scores among enlisted men remaining in the regiment. Their scores range from 85 to 118.

A few days prior to their departure, awards of Silver Stars, Soldier's Medals, Bronze Stars and Oak Leaf Clusters were presented to eleven of the enlisted men by Colonel James C. Fry, assistant commanding officer of the 88th "Blue Devil" Division, at a review and awards presentation ceremony at Ghedi Airport.

All of these men have seen action in at last four major campaigns and are authorized battle participation stars on their European Theater Ribbon for the offensive push from Rome to the Arno River, the Battle for Germany in the Vosges Mountains of north-eastern France, the Apennine Mountains and Po Valley actions.

Members of the Antitank company of the 442nd also are entitled to the Glider Badge. They were attached to airborne troops who participated in the southern France invasion on August 15, 1944.

Men of the original 100th Infantry Battalion who became part of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in June, 1944, have additional authorizations of the National Defense Ribbon with Metal Clasp, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon and battle participation star, a Distinguished Unit Citation, and the battle participation star for the offensive from Naples to Foggia.

All of the men have been authorized the Combat Infantryman Badge and Good Conduct Medal.

One hundred and eleven of the men wear Purple Hearts. In addition, 73 Oak Leaf Clusters to the Purple Heart have been awarded to those who have been wounded more than once in action.

Two of the men have been decorated with the Distinguished Service Cross. Fourteen have been awarded the Silver Star, 25 the Bronze Star. Three men are possessors of 34th "Red Bull" Division citations and one man has received the Soldier's Medal.

Following men of the group are from the States:

First Sgt. Hatsuo Saraye, formerly of Los Angeles, California, whose residence now is 33-9-D, Rivers, Arizona. Before entering the service he was a clerk in Sunrise Produce Company, West Los Angeles. He wears the National Defense Ribbon, Bronze Star and Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster.

Pfc. Henry I. Nakada, formerly of Anchorage, Alaska, whose residence now is 47-9-A, Rivers, Arizona. Before entering the service he worked with the engineers at Fort Richardson, Alaska. He wears the Purple Heart with two Oak Leaf Clusters.

Pvt. Thomas M. Kurokawa, formerly of Pasadena, Calif., whose residence now is 17-12-1, Manzanar, California. Before entering the army he was a student. He wears the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster.

Sgt. Frank H. Yano, formerly of San Francisco, Calif., whose residence now is 31-7-C, Topaz, Utah. Prior to entering the service he was a dry cleaner at 909 Washington street, San Francisco. He wears the Medical Badge, Purple Heart and Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster.

Tech. Sgt. Mizuho D. Yoshida, formerly of Los Angeles, California, whose residence now is 20-11-A, Rohwer, Arkansas. Before entering the army he worked in a

nursery in Compton, California. He wears the Purple Heart.

Sgt. Robert S. Nitahara, formerly of Honolulu, Oahu, whose residence now is 307 North Denver street, Jackson, Mississippi. He wears the Bronze Star and Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster.

Sgt. King Suyematsu, 235 East H, Casper, Wyoming. Before entering the army he was a bread wrapper for Wenner Bakery, Casper. He wears the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster.

Staff Sgt. Shogi Sakurada, Lyman, Nebraska. He worked on his father's farm prior to his entering the army.

Pfc. Suzuto Tsukuji, formerly of Sacramento, California, whose residence now is 61-8-D, Rivers, Arizona. He wears the Glider Badge.

Tech. Sgt. William E. Arii, formerly of 4-4-D, Rivers, Arizona and RFD 1, Concord, California. He was a farmer before entering the service. Arii wears the Bronze Star and Purple Heart with two Oak Leaf Clusters.

First Sgt. Yorio R. Nishimoto, of Bakersfield, California, manager of his own chain store. He wears the Soldier's Medal and Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster.

Pfc. Roy E. Harada, 408 2nd Street, Haver, Montana. Before entering the service he was a cook in his own restaurant in Haver. He wears the Glider Badge.

Staff Sgt. Ernest S. Kagawa, 3136 4th Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota. He wears the Purple Heart.

Staff Sgt. Herbert M. Sasaki, 649 South Chicago Street, Los Angeles, California. He was a sales clerk for Y Produce Company, Pomona, California, before the war.

Sgt. Noboru T. Kira, Hynes, California. He formerly was a truck driver for K and C Produce Company, Los Angeles, California.

Sgt. Yeichi Kuwayama, 32-19 60th Street, Woodside, Queens, New York. The former statistician wears the Medical Badge, Silver Star and Purple Heart.

Staff Sgt. Isamu Abo, 243 East 2nd So. Street, Salt Lake City, Utah. Abo was a commercial art student before entering the service and wears the National Defense Ribbon and the Purple Heart.

Pfc. Shigeo Kariya, Layton, Utah. Kariya, a farmer before the war, wears the Purple Heart.

Pfc. Yukito N. Murakami, formerly of San Gabriel, California, whose residence now is Poston, Arizona. He worked as a farmer in Santa Ana, California before entering the service. He wears the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster.

Sgt. Alfred B. Tomita, Buhl, Idaho. He was a power shovel operator for Morris Knutsen Construction Company, Jerome, Idaho, before entering the service.

Tech. Sgt. Masakazu Nishi, formerly of Hanford, California, whose residence now is 10-10-F, Rohwer, Arkansas. Prior to entering the service he was a farmer in Hanford. He wears the Silver Star, Purple Heart with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters.

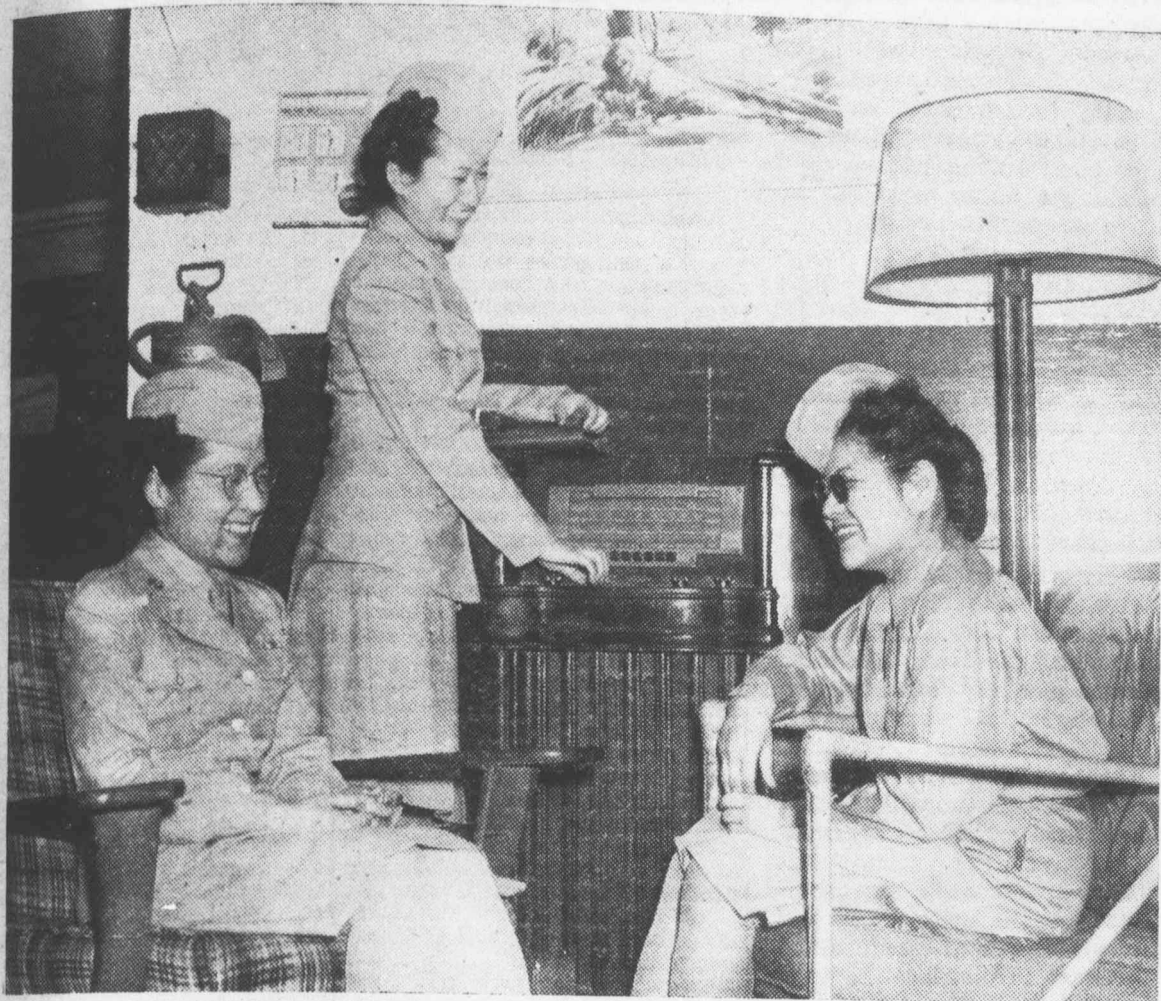
Cpl. Kanichi Taono, 233 North 21st Street, New York, New York. Before the war he was a bartender in Grand Hotel, Wailuku, Maui. He wears the Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon with battle star.

Pfc. Roy H. Taketa, Kent, Washington. Before the war he operated

(Continued on page 2)



## Nisei WACs Go on Duty at Camp Kilmer



CAMP KILMER, N. J.—The first three WACs of Japanese ancestry to be assigned to Camp Kilmer are now on duty, working along side of 533 other women soldiers on the post. The Japanese American WACs are Pfc. Kay Nishiguchi, Garland, Utah; Pfc. Miyoko Sadahiro Layton, Utah; and, Pvt. Toshiko Nakasato of Honolulu, Hawaii.

## Former Women's Tennis Champ Hails Record of Nisei Troops

Mary K. Browne  
Has Been Overseas  
In Red Cross Work

WITH THE FIFTH ARMY, ITALY—"You American soldiers of Japanese extraction have done a wonderful job," declared Miss Mary K. Browne, former national tennis champion and internationally famous sportswoman, in describing the achievements of the 442nd Japanese American Combat Team.

Miss Browne, a Red Cross worker, attended the formal opening of the American Red Cross "Go For Broke" Tent Club, named after the organization's slogan, at Ghedi airport, midway between Milan and Verona, Italy, where the Japanese American troops have been stationed.

At the time their mission was to guard German prisoners in the Fifth Army Concentration Area. She added that her visit was one of the most interesting she had ever known for in her opinion, soldiers of the 442nd "have made and are making history of the most vital sort." Miss Browne has travelled all over the world, first as an athletic star and later as a Red Cross representative.

This was not her first contact with Japanese American soldiers. On her trip to the Asiatic theatre two years ago, she met some 15 specialists who were South Pacific-bound to help carry the war against the Japanese enemy. Later, she met several other Japanese Americans at General Douglas MacArthur's Headquarters and at various island outposts in the Southwest Pacific.

"I mean to tell the folks back home about the wonderful job you are doing," she said. Home to this energetic lady is Cleveland, Ohio, though she was born in Ventura, California, and won fame as a native of the Golden State.

Miss Browne spent 18 months in the Southwest Pacific, six months on a war fund and recruiting tour in the United States, and a year in Italy. She is planning to return to the States soon.

Miss Browne was the woman's tennis champion of the United States in both singles and doubles in 1912, 1913, and 1914. During these same years, she teamed with tennis immortals R. N. Williams (1912) and "Big Bill" W. T. Tilden (1913 and 1914) to win the national mixed doubles crowns, dominating the women's field completely. She also won the women's doubles crown in 1921 and 1925, the last time teamed with Helen Wills. In 1921, with "Little Bill"

W. M. Johnston as her partner, she won the mixed doubles title. Fourteen years after winning her first national tennis trophy, in 1926, she placed in the finals of both the women's national singles tennis and amateur golf championships, the only person in sports history to accomplish this feat. She also captained the Wightman Cup international tennis team two years.

To Miss Browne, sports and sportsmanship are great American assets. She believes that the record of the Japanese American troops in Italy and France, as well as those in the Pacific, will go a long way toward solving the so-called "Japanese American" problem on the West Coast.

## 400 Leave Newell For Internment Camp

NEWELL, Calif.—Four hundred men from the Tule Lake WRA center left on June 24 by special train en route to an alien enemy internment camp under the jurisdiction of the Department of Justice.

Departure of the men brings to a total of 1,416 those sent to alien enemy camps since last December.

## Poston Family Hears Son Over Sunday Army Hour

POSTON, Ariz.—It was a heartening moment for the family of Sgt. Masaru Abe of Poston when they heard his interview Sunday, June 17, over the Army Hour broadcast from Italy, reports the Chronicle.

Sgt. Abe spoke of his job of guarding German prisoners, and

## Believe Monterey Fish Industry Will Reemploy Evacuee Group

MONTEREY, Calif.—Some five hundred persons of Japanese ancestry who were members of the Fish Cannery Workers union in Monterey before the evacuation are still in good standing with the union, Louis Martin, union president, declared last week.

Martin stated that he believed that all former Monterey residents of Japanese ancestry will be welcomed back to their old jobs by the fishing industry and the union.

## Plan Relocation Of 200 Persons In Pittsburgh

WRA Leases Vacant Orphanage to Serve As Temporary Hostel

PITTSBURGH, Pa.—Officials of the War Relocation Authority last week undertook preparations for the relocation of approximately 200 evacuees of Japanese ancestry in the Pittsburgh area.

The WRA reported that some 15 Japanese Americans were already in the area and that they all have been employed in industries and on farms.

The vacant Gusky orphanage in Pittsburgh has been leased as temporary quarters for those moved here until they can find permanent homes.

## PITTSBURGH GROUP PROTESTS PLAN ON RESETTLEMENT

PITTSBURGH, Pa.—The United Press reported on June 30 that 250 members of a "citizens committee" is a "disorderly mass meeting" protested against the temporary resettlement of evacuees of Japanese ancestry in their neighborhood.

The crowd "hooted and shouted down" War Relocation Authority representatives who stressed that the Japanese Americans are citizens who have the protection of the U. S. Constitution, the U. P. reported.

The WRA is planning to relocate about 200 Japanese Americans in the Pittsburgh district and expects to house them in the vacant Gusky orphanage until permanent homes can be found.

of other things relating to his life in the Army.

He went overseas in August, 1944, and has seen action on Italian and French fronts. He is with the 442nd Combat Team.

## Colorado OPA Studies Prices Of Japanese-Style Foods as Costs of Products Surveyed

### WRA ASKS BIDS TO MOVE PROPERTY BACK TO OWNERS

SAN FRANCISCO — Personal belongings of relocated Japanese Americans will be out of War Relocation Authority warehouses and back in their owners' new homes by the end of the year, Thomas G. White of the WRA staff predicted on June 25 as he called for bids to finish the moving job.

White estimated the moving of evacuee-owned property back to their owners will cost the government \$300,000.

### Public Attitude Toward Nisei Better, Says Lee

Majority in California Accept Return of Evacuees, Says Official

Public attitudes toward Japanese Americans are improving rapidly, Rex Lee, chief of the relocation division of the War Relocation Authority, declared on July 2 in Salt Lake City.

"Most Japanese Americans have proved themselves," Lee said, "and feeling against them is only in spots. Even in California the majority are tolerant."

Lee was in Salt Lake on a two-day visit to discuss administrative matters with Ralph Haight, Salt Lake City officer for the WRA.

The WRA relocation executive said that slightly under 50 per cent of the evacuees leaving war relocation camps were returning to the West Coast.

### Evacuee Faces Trial For False Claim Of Citizenship

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—United States District Court officials in New York City will be called upon by Sacramento authorities to bring an alien of Japanese ancestry to Sacramento for trial on a charge of falsely claiming American citizenship.

The alien was listed as Ken Sugiyama and Federal grand jury officials in Sacramento said he claimed citizenship while at the Tule Lake WRA center.

According to Robert W. Pierce of the immigration and naturaliza-

### Report Complaints Received from Hawaii Consumers on Prices

BOSTON — District Office of Price Administration officials in Denver until recently had not heard of senbei, rakkyo, ikashio-kara, or tsukudami, or karashizuke. But now they are having to gather data to learn whether the prices of these things are too high, according to a special dispatch from Denver to the Christian Science Monitor.

The above items are Japanese foodstuffs—respectively rice cake, pickled onions, squid, seaweed paste, and soy and mustard egg plant. The investigation is occasioned by one of the queer shifts caused by the war, says the Monitor.

These foods, and others, were popular with the Japanese American population on the West Coast and in Hawaii and hardly had been heard of in Colorado. The war cut off their importation from Japan, and the Japanese American companies that produced them on the Coast had to shut up shop when their owners and staffs were moved inland.

The above-named foodstuffs, as well as dehydrated radishes, Japanese style, candied ginger, and dehydrated bean and soy bean sprouts now constitute the basis for a small but thriving industry among the persons of Japanese ancestry in Denver and in Rocky Ford, Colo., where there is a plant processing seaweed for seaweed paste, or nori tsukudani.

When Japanese Americans in Hawaii complained that the prices of these things had gone a-kiting, Elmer Clark, district food price specialist of the Denver district, was delegated to investigate production costs of Denver and Colorado processors.

Results of the investigation were not made public in Denver but were forwarded to San Francisco, where other OPA price specialists will investigate costs of brokers and wholesalers.

Most Oriental foods were exempted originally from price regulations, but later many came under price controls. The Denver processors also supply food to relocation centers, to Chicago, and other large Midwestern towns, and to western cities where many relocated persons of Japanese lineage have settled.

tion office of the Justice Department, this is the first false claim of citizenship case involving a Japanese alien in the Sacramento area since Pearl Harbor.

## Nisei Army Nurse Tells of Work Among Soldier Patients

SAN FRANCISCO—"If there were more like you, we wouldn't have this war."

These words have been repeated over and over by soldier patients in the psycho-neurotic ward to First Lieutenant Yaye Togasaki at Mason General hospital in New York, according to the San Francisco Chronicle.

Lieutenant Togasaki was home on leave last week to visit her parents at 2120 Channing way, Berkeley, after eight months with the Army Nurse Corps.

Lieut. Togasaki graduated from the University of California in 1931 and later took her nurse's training at Children's hospital in San Francisco. She first attempted to enter the Army in May, 1941, but was not accepted until last November.

During the intervening period she took graduate work in psychology at the Worcester State Hospital in Massachusetts and studied for her Master's degree in nursing education at Columbia University. She lacked a few units for the degree when the Army accepted her and she entered the service.

It has been a long road for Lieutenant Togasaki, said the Chronicle. She related the story of her friendships and acceptance in the East where an Oriental nurse was a novelty.

"After Pearl Harbor I found out who my friends really were," she said.

Lieutenant Togasaki is the youngest of eight children, of whom three are women doctors and three are nurses.

Possibly the most distinguished sister is Captain Yoshiye Togasaki, who was in charge of public health at Manzanar relocation center and who is now in Italy with UNRRA as a pediatric consultant.

Another sister, Dr. Kazue Togasaki, is resident physician at Lewis Memorial hospital in New York. The other two registered nurses are in the public health departments in Honolulu and Chicago.

With the exception of Dr. Kazue Togasaki, who studied at Stanford, all graduated from the University of California. Their father, Kikumatsu Tokasaki, came to San Francisco before the fire in 1906 and established the Mutual Supply Company, from which he retired after Pearl Harbor.

Lieutenant Togasaki was wearing new silver bars last week for the first time. She felt they represented a tremendous step in paving the way for better relationships between Japanese Americans and their fellow citizens.

She has found her family, who spent nearly four years in the Topaz relocation center, has been genially accepted by their neighbors in Berkeley, and for this she is happy, just as she is in knowing that the boys in Mason General hospital wish to shake her hand.

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LARRY TAJIRI EDITOR

## EDITORIALS:

### Journey West

It was three years ago that heavily-laden evacuee trains moved slowly into the heartless desolation of the relocation centers. Train after train stopped at the center gates, disgorging hundreds of evacuees, who stared with bewilderment upon their wartime homes.

They had hoped for the best, perhaps, but there was only the limitless expanse of desert before them, with tarpaper houses stretched endlessly in monotonous design. The air was stifling hot, and the dust lay thick. And though the desert stretched on for more miles than one could see, there was a barbed-wire fence to set the limits of the evacuees' movements.

Today there are new evacuee trains riding the shining rails east and west, and hope is a passenger in every car, as once despair rode in 1942.

There are no MPs riding the cars today to keep the passengers on the trains. There are no family numbers, and there is no compulsion.

The life of waiting is over, for the evacuees are going home again. Farmers whose hands have long been stilled are aching to handle the earth of their own fields. The businessmen are planning new signs for their long-closed shops.

Threats and intimidation have not frightened them, nor the many incidents that have been reported against Americans of Japanese ancestry. For it is only the violent incident that makes headlines, not the regular, peaceful day-to-day living of the successfully relocated.

There is every indication that the future Japanese American population of the West Coast will never reach its pre-war heights of 112,000. Doubtless the vast majority of those now in the East and the Midwest will make their homes there permanently.

Two years ago Director Dillon Myer of the WRA declared that the primary aim of the War Relocation Authority was to "work itself out of business." Today it would appear that the WRA is doing that with success. The camps are emptying rapidly at a greatly accelerated rate. A year ago relocation concerned a handful of people moved each week to Eastern cities. Today's relocation concerns hundreds moved each week in special evacuee coaches, moving both east and westward toward home.

### Study by the OPA

The reported investigation by the OPA of the prices charged for Japanese and Oriental-style foods produced in the Rocky Mountain area will have a salutary effect in determining whether the prices currently quoted for these products are higher than pre-war levels because of the scarcity of materials and higher production costs, or because the policy in effect is one under which the consumer is charged whatever the traffic will bear.

The Christian Science Monitor last week reported that the OPA in Colorado was studying the costs of these Japanese-style food products, presumably because of complaints from the Hawaiian islands where much of these products are shipped. Producers and distributors of these goods are entitled, of course, to a reasonable profit, and this study should determine whether the prices charged are in line with the costs of materials and labor.

The matter is one of serious concern particularly to the older evacuees in and out of the relocation centers who consume

many of these food products in their daily diet. If high prices are charged, the effect is that of penalizing persons who already have been displaced by the evacuation and who can ill afford to pay an excessive rate for the necessities of daily existence. However, if the study should prove that the prices, though considerably higher than pre-war levels, are not out of proportion with the costs involved, such information will do much toward reconciling the consumer.

### Misinterpreted

The recent statement by Charles Wollenberg, California director of social welfare, that 700 returned evacuees of Japanese ancestry were on the State's relief rolls has been widely misinterpreted, possibly because Mr. Wollenberg has not chosen to elaborate upon the circumstances involved.

The general impression has been that 700 returned evacuees were indigent. Such, however, is not the case. The situation arises from the fact that the War Relocation Authority has attempted to utilize, whenever possible, the services of existing agencies in providing resettlement assistance for returning evacuees. The WRA's attitude is undoubtedly inspired by a desire for governmental economy and efficiency by avoiding organization of agencies which would duplicate the functions of those already in the field. The situation in California is not that 700 returned evacuees are on relief, but that the facilities of California's State social welfare organization have been utilized to assist 700 evacuees in reestablishing themselves on the West Coast. Any other interpretation would encourage the impression that local antagonism and lack of occupational opportunity has forced 700 persons to go on the relief rolls. That situation, despite 33 reported instances of terrorism and threatened violence, does not exist.

### Behind the WRA Program

"The most urgent reason for closing the relocation centers this year is to avoid further institutionalization of the evacuees," Dillon S. Myer declares in his article, "The WRA Says 'Thirty,'" in the June 25 New Republic. The WRA director notes the existence of a feeling among some "tolerant and liberal-minded people" that the WRA is making a serious mistake in planning to close the centers by the end of the year. These persons advocate that a few of the centers should be kept open as a refuge in which the more insecure evacuees may remain as long as they wish.

Granting that there is "a certain reasonableness" about the proposal, Mr. Myer argues, however, that "those of us who have lived with the problem intimately these past three years know almost instinctively that it would be an irreparable mistake."

"Our experience has shown," he declares, "that living in camps, cut off from the main currents of American life, does things to people. It saps the initiative, weakens the instincts of human dignity and freedom, creates doubts, misgivings and tensions. Even more important, the mere act of putting people in camps and keeping them there establishes precedents which are not healthy or hopeful for a democratic nation."

A second argument against a decision to keep the centers open beyond this year is that such a move would "unquestionably break the momentum of relocation that has been steadily building," he adds, noting that such a decision "would mean a full-scale retreat before the West Coast nativists—an ominous admission that the despicable methods of terror which they have been employing can produce desired results."

Mr. Myer stresses, however, that the primary reason against keeping some of the centers open is the possibility of irreparable damage to the character and initiative of the evacuees through such a step.

"Over the past three years we have watched some of these formerly enterprising, energetic people become steadily obsessed with feelings of hopelessness, personal insecurity and inertia," he writes. "We have seen their children growing up in this abnormal atmosphere and reaching out, almost pathetically, for the typical mores of American life in spite of all obstacles. And we have observed the heart-warming changes that take place in these same people and their children once they have made the plunge, faced the problems of personal adjustment and left the centers forever."

# Nisei USA

by LARRY TAJIRI

## Some Notes on Investigations

Mississippi's John Rankin, the leading Congressional representative of the American bigot, officially opened the Washington silly season last week with his charge that a Bolshevik revolution was being plotted in Hollywood. Mr. Rankin, of course, was only giving national circulation to one of the pet fears of State Senator Jack B. Tenney, chairman of California's "Little Dies Committee." Mr. Tenney, when he is not involved in Jap-baiting the Nisei, has engaged in witchhunts in the movie capital.

It has become axiomatic that the House Committee on un-American Activities, of which Rep. Rankin is chairman pro-tem at present, and the California legislative counterpart of that committee, of which Senator Tenney is chairman, are not interested in investigating anti-democratic activities in the United States, but rather are determined to dissect and discredit those forces which are in motion to extend the benefits of democracy to racial minorities and to the victims of economic inequalities. The Tenney "Little Dies" group, to provide an example, has conducted several "investigations" of Japanese Americans in California, but has shown no disposition to inquire into the activities of the terrorists who have been responsible for some 33 recent incidents against returned evacuees in California. Senator Hugh M. Burns, a member of the Tenney Committee, has used some of the conclusions reached by the Committee in his effort to force the adoption of economic sanctions against Japanese Americans. Similarly, the House's "Dies Committee" has shown no public interest in the activities of Gerald L. K. Smith and other American Nationalists who now are sowing racial discord with their anti-Semitic, anti-Negro and anti-Oriental appeals to prejudice. Instead the House Committee has investigated the OPA and now threatens to vent its legislative spleen against Hollywood liberals.

The Nisei have been somewhat honored by a place among Rep. Rankin's pet hates, which include American liberals, Henry Wallace, the CIO and all Americans of the Jewish faith and of the Negro race. The Mississippi legislator was the cosponsor, along with Senator Tom Stewart of Tennessee, of a bill in 1942 to put Japanese Americans in concentration camps. He has suggested in a House speech that evacuees in the relocation camps be segregated by sex, and demanded that Japanese American troops be moved out of training camps in his native state. Rep. Rankin also inserted a letter in the Congressional Record which charged that Japanese Americans were volunteering for the Army for the sole purpose of destroying the American fleet, the act to be accomplished, according to the letter, by the maneuver of getting a Japanese American on each unit of the fleet and by touching off the ammunition aboard each ship at a given time. Of course, Rep. Rankin ignored one slight flaw in this plan—and that was that the Japanese Americans were volunteering for the Army and not the Navy.

Rep. Rankin's unreasoning hate is typical of the attitude of American Nationalists (the word "Nationalist" is rapidly becoming an euphemism for "fascist") who are striving to create a national movement based on regional hates and prejudices. The Jew-baiter in the North is the white supremacist of the South and the anti-Oriental politician of the Far West. These individuals recently found common ground in their opposition to the continuance of the FEPC (Fair Employment Practices Committee), the wartime agency which has enforced President Roosevelt's executive order against racial or religious discrimination in industry. Leon De Aryan of California, now under indictment for sedition, has summed up the opposition's attitude, a dispatch in his newspaper, "The Broom," describing the FEPC as an agency "to compel employers to employ Negroes, Jews and Orientals, whether they want to or not." De Aryan's paper called FEPC "a socio-communistic New Deal scheme to destroy private enterprise."

The widening of the Nisei's political consciousness has been illus-

trated in recent weeks in the participation of Japanese Americans in the fight for continuance of the FEPC. Although the FEPC has not acted on any cases involving employment discrimination against Japanese Americans, the agency has been a bulwark against job prejudices. JACL units in New York, Chicago and San Francisco have supported the campaign to save the FEPC and to pass State FEPC legislation in Illinois and California, while the Japanese American Committee for Democracy in New York has been similarly active.

This week the news from Washington is that a coalition of Southern Democrats and Northern Tories may succeed in crippling, if not in eliminating, the FEPC. The fight for the FEPC, like that of the campaign against poll tax restrictions against the right to vote in seven Southern states, is one of the continuing battles of democracy. Today more Nisei than ever before are cognizant of the fact that their future is directly involved in these battles. The men who want the right to discriminate in employment and uphold restrictions on voting rights are the men who would approve of the practice of placing American citizens in concentration camps because of the accident of ancestry.

Only two years ago this week the Dies Committee, the predecessors of the present House Committee on un-American Activities, opened a hearing in Washington during which, it was announced in the Hearst papers, the Committee would show the influence of the JACL organization upon government policies in regard to the relocation of West Coast evacuees. An investigation of the Pacific Citizen was also promised. The hearings, the private "baby" of California's John M. Costello, fizzled out after three days after establishing that a JACL representative had discussed relocation problems with some officials of his government which, after all, is a citizen's right. The investigation of the Pacific Citizen, announced in Hearst dispatches, never came off.

The various investigations which have been conducted by legislative agencies of the Dies Committee type have contributed little to the understanding of the situation or of the group under investigation. Most of these so-called investigations have had conclusions which were pre-determined by the character of the investigators. This is especially true of the various committees of the California State Legislature which have used public funds in the fomenting of prejudices. The Donnelly and Gannon committees, both of which conducting hearings on the "Japanese problem," declined to call Japanese American witnesses and relied in the main upon the testimony of professional hate-mongers. The report of the Tenney committee, published in April, 1945, carries testimony from a few Japanese Americans which was recorded more than three years before in February, 1942.

Summer doldrums on Capital Hill annually bring forth a crop of legislative endeavors designed to achieve maximum publicity with minimum effort. Rep. Rankin's announcement of the proposed investigation of subversive activities in Hollywood is an example of a shrewd effort to catch the headlines and the public eye at a time when news in Washington is scarce. But there may be more than mere showmanship behind this latest announcement. It is possible that a serious effort may be made to intimidate the liberal forces in Hollywood through this investigation. Since the war Hollywood has produced some splendid anti-fascist films, striking at illiberal forces at home as well as overseas, and several studios have made a conscious effort to avoid the projection of racial stereotypes. The motion picture has been proved to be a powerful agency for education, as it is a medium for the entertainment of the world. The investigation announced by Rep. Rankin may be construed as an attempt to halt the forward progress of the Hollywood film toward a more fuller realization of the principles inherent in our war and peace aims toward the peoples of the world.







