

Wax, Rosalie (Hankey),
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Tule Lake Fieldnotes, Feb 1945

PP 1-58

N.B. Readers must not disclose identity of individual evacuees

Revised until 2009. Permission of the Director required

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FEBRUARY 1, 1945TALK WITH THE YAMASHIROS

George sent me a note asking me to call this morning. He and Sally were tremendously happy over the release of Mr. Doi. Sally told me that the Ho:koku is now going about making people sign up for membership again. Those who refuse to sign, they call "dog." George said there definitely was more pressure in camp than at the last pickup.

Mr. Doi came to stay here at first. But I told him to go back to block 59. That what a man had to do. So he went back is keeping quiet.

George said he would have been glad to have Doi remain in his house, but thought that it was wisest that he face the music of "dog" and "coward" as soon as possible.

Is it true that Reverend Matsumoto was knocked down in the stockade?

The Ho:koku is not patriotic. They're doing crazy things. Real Japanese are supposed to be more broad-minded. They should know where we stand.

The Ho:koku say that only their members are going back to Japan. The way the Ho:koku are acting now, seems to me just like the Communists in Japan. I remember how they acted. Tsuha was once called a Red, you know. Maybe him and some of his leaders - maybe their idea was Communistic.

(I'm beginning to suspect that Communist is just about the most terrible epithet a Japanese can be called. In a subtle sense, it's worse than dog.)

Department of Justice Statement

Nobody reads it. Some people tore it down and threw it away. I think it's not wise to stand there and read it. I went to the colonial police to get a copy. If we stood there and read it, they'd say, 'That's an inu.'

The Ho:koku girls club is going very strong.

George's Job

I've got to get some job so they don't make me go back to work in the Japanese School. They've come over to see me about it. A job in Social Welfare is pretty tough though. Once when the monthly allotments didn't come, a committee asked Mr. Black about it and he said it was the fault of the evacuees who worked in Social Welfare. That was last summer. So now they say about Social Welfare, 'That's a bunch of inu in there.'

Sally:

Gee I hope the day will come when we can go to the laundry and wash our clothes and not have the Ho:koku people glaring at us. There are two groups in this block one for the Ho:koku and one against it.

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George: Tule Lake will never get peaceful - never.

If they want to go to Santa Fe, let them go! I don't care about leaving the loyal people here. My main point is to get to Japan. That's the reason we came here.

George repeated his statement that he'd like to get out of Tule Lake - to Crystal City or to another center.

TALK WITH MRS. DESCHIN

Heard that one of the men on the train to Santa Fe had become hysterical because he was accused of being a dog by his fellow internees-to-be. He was finally quieted by some of the Buddhist Priests. Mrs. Deschin also told me that there had been no action on the part of Mr. Gibbs, the relocation officer as yet.

FEBRUARY 3, 1945TALK WITH NOYES

Noyes told me that there were several blocks in which Burling's statement had been torn down. There was also a rumor in camp that it had been written by Saburo Kido - poor Saburo.

A certain man named Nishikawa has asked permission to use the High School auditorium to hold a meeting on February 8 - the day of the monthly Ho:koku meetings. He and his three brothers are reported to be exerting considerable pressure (pro-Ho:koku) in certain blocks.

There have been three requests for cancellation of renunciations so far. Two girls sent in telegrams and one boy came to the Department of Justice hearing rooms after hours, when none of his friends could see him. He was a member of the Ho:koku but stated that he wanted to cancel his renunciation now.

The Administration is planning to start a full agricultural program to convince the people here that they are not going to be forced out. In other centers the agricultural programs are to be cut. It is also planned to put an official statement on the exchange [to Japan] in the Newell Star. It will be stated that if anyone plans to leave this center he should notify the Spanish Consul and the center of his address so that he can be notified if his name comes up for exchange.

Shimada, the man who committed the knifing October 30, is now free in the colony and is reported to be pressuring strongly for the Ho:koku, [I had been told that Shimada was Wakayama's right-hand man.]

Considerable pressure is also being put on the Administration to get three of the Japanese school teachers out of Santa Fe.

The third chairman of the Ho:shi-dan is Jitsiju Nishimoto. Of the Ho:koku-seinen-dan, Hiremachi Kawada. Kawada sent a letter to Biddle asking him whether Burling's letter was official and if Burling had the authority to speak for Mr. Biddle.

Noyes then showed me a list of 17 names which had been sent to him by Kawada. The letter stated that these men were no longer members of the Ho:koku. Noyes believes this is a trap and that it is really the next list of officers whom the Ho:koku hopes to protect in this way. (He may be right. But, on the other hand, it is by no means inconceivable that it is merely a list of deserters from the Ho:koku whom the present powers-that-be do not wish to have honored with a trip to Santa Fe.)

Anyway, Noyes is planning a trap for the Ho:koku. Monday afternoon - Kawada is coming in for an interview with Rothstein, Burling's successor at Tule Lake. Simultaneously, Noyes is going to have all 17 of these men on the list rounded up and brought in. Just what he hopes to accomplish by this I don't know, but I'll get the full story of what happened from him afterwards.

Because of an erroneous newspaper report about the removal to Santa Fe, a rumor has spread in camp that some of these men had not been taken to Santa Fe but had been kept in the stockade in Tule Lake. (The paper said 51 men had been removed when it actually was 171.) Reverend Ama's daughter came in to see Noyes with a friend and begged him to tell her where her father was. She had heard he was still in the stockade. She was so worried that he felt sorry for her. He showed her the receipt for her father's transfer and she was finally reassured.

I asked Noyes whether there would be more pick-ups and he told me that there was probably going to be another one in a week or ten days and that it was going to be a very big

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one - perhpas twice as big as the last. Noyes has received no news from Burling, although he told me Burling talked to his staff today [by telephone].

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TALK WITH FRANK FURUKAWA

Frank began the conversation by stating that relocation is the big news now. He remarked that many letters had come from other centers and people are saying that it is their intention to 'join the Tule Lake bunch.'

Relocation

The people are more determined not to relocate. It's creating a little more - what you call it - getting a slant where they're going to be compelled to go out sooner or later and they're trying to fight it. The objection is - I think - a little bit stronger.

Petitions Given Out by Daihyo Sha in November 1943

Having found that I had very little material on public reactions to these petitions, I asked Frank about them.

You see, the Daihyo Sha were elected from the blocks, probably there was some kind of political crookedness in it, I don't know. But the Block Representatives from this organization did select a negotiating body. Since the negotiating body was elected by the Daihyo Sha it became part of their duty to support them. Whether the negotiating body was the one directly elected by the colonists or was elected by the Daihyo Sha and indirectly by the people didn't matter. Whether they were right or wrong was a secondary question. When they got into difficulties with the Caucasians - the Administration and the Army - that was due to personal fault and to get themselves further ahead - but at the same time the people felt responsible because they elected them.

On the other hand there were some percentage of the people that thought that the negotiating body was not capable, was only pushing through their own ideas for their own political greed. That's why these persons had a little objection in supporting the negotiating body.

A number of the persons in the center didn't care one way or the other. But due to pressure applied, they said, 'I might as well sign it because in that way I'll stay out of trouble.'

(I then asked if Frank thought there were any difference in public sentiment as regards the November 13 and the November 31 petitions.)

I think a great number had the same feeling. But a certain amount - due to before they gave themselves up - many people took it (hiding) was a cowardly thing to do. I think there was less

support for the later one, but that's my personal feeling.

Our turning point was when they went into hiding. From their hiding place, they issued out a hunger strike order, not stating where it was coming from.(1) It was something you couldn't complete. If there were some assurance that we could go through with it that would be another story. They ordered that just to protect their own hides.

On Ho:koku

Their purpose is making all these funny demonstrations is probably that they are doing it to stay here and avoid the draft.

Just because a certain individual is just sitting and taking it easy, unconcerned-like, probably their mind is much more set to stay than the ones making the fuss.

Relocation

I figure there are a number of persons who would consider relocation, but due to the Administration's lack of policy - not knowing what they would do, persons are not feeling very safe.

The biggest drawback to the relocation program is that the Administration, the WRA, don't know what they're doing themselves. There is no information bureau, where you can investigate. Nobody knows. Even San Francisco doesn't know.

At this point two friends of Furukawa came in and I hesitated to write down what was said. But after talking about an hour, we all relaxed and I asked Mr. Furukawa and one of the men to discuss the removal of the Ho:koku.

Friend: I feel sorry for those fellows. As I heard it, the Administration told them to go ahead. They should have stated how far they could go with the thing. If they had told them to quit blowing the bugle, it would be OK.

Furukawa: Really though, they ought to size things up from the way the Administration does things. The Caucasians don't know what's what. You have to be careful. The Caucasians don't hold any responsibility.

Friend: They should hold responsibility!

Furukawa: But they never did!

Furukawa and his friends certainly do not approve of the Ho:koku but their sympathy with some of the [Ho:koku] fellows, because they have been misled by both their leaders and the Administration is, I think, sincere. They don't like the group, calling them bald-heads, but they don't like the Administrative policy either.

[1. See Thomas and Nishimoto, p. 167. This occurred on December 4, a few days after Kai and Kuratomi had given themselves up and had been placed in the stockade.]

Reactions to Department of Justice Statements

Furukawa: I didn't have a chance to read it carefully, but there was quite a bit of truth in it.

Friend: One thing I didn't like about it: they talked about the Japanese Americans in the Army and said it (Ho:koku activities) is a disgrace to the Japanese fighting in Italy. That's not logical at all. The people over here have nothing to do with that thing.

Furukawa: I didn't get that far. But I think they had a letter like that coming to them. They are really going too far, because after all this is American soil.

Comparison of Tule and Poston Strikes

Since Furukawa's friend came from camp II in Poston, I turned the conversation to a discussion of the differences between the Poston and Tule Lake strikes. The friend had a high opinion of the situation in Poston and of the ways the appointed personnel had treated the Japanese there. I asked if he thought that the Tule Lake strike could possibly have been resolved in the same way. He said:

No. Things were too hot in Tule. They had gone too far.

Furukawa said:

In the strike here, the Administration waited too long. They waited until things were too hot and then kicked the sleeping dog. The dog got up and started growling. They should never have let them get away with the Kashima funeral. There they had the Internal Security and the Caucasians on the run. When the people saw that - it was too bad.

The great bulk of our conversation was taken up discussing relocation. Unfortunately, I did not dare to write some of the frank statement down, and had to try to memorize them. The intentions of all three of the men are to sit tight and let the government make the first move. If they are pushed out it will be soon enough to go. Meanwhile, there's no use making trouble. All three of them were also determined not to renounce their citizenship unless it is absolutely necessary.

After all, the man from Poston said:

As I see it my American citizenship isn't anymore good to me than a roll of toilet paper right now. In fact, it's less good. But I was born with it and I'm not going to give it up. It might come in handy later.

TALK WITH MRS. DESCHIN

At the regular meeting of the Community Management Section last Thursday (Feb. 1) the subject turned to relocation. After Gibbs, the Relocation Head, had spoken, discussion arose. Mrs. Deschin stated,

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I believe we can underestimate the fear of the outside. Mr. Gunderson, has any thought been given to taking down the fences? Wouldn't that gesture help somewhat to dissipate the fear?

One of the nurses jumped out of her seat and said,

I wouldn't want to stay here then, would you?

Mrs. Deschin did not reply, but later said that she did not think that relocation could possibly work as long as the Japanese were sensible of the prejudice of the staff here. No one said a word. Gunderson's answer to the question about the fence was that the matter was up to the Army.

This remark, however, has caused a furor among the staff. It was discussed at my table at dinner tonight and the idea of removing the fence was strongly denounced by several staff members.

What with so many of the shaved-heads still running around in there it wouldn't be safe.

Another reason given was that the fence keeps evacuees from coming into the Administration building and stealing confidential records at night.

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FATE OF TACHIBANA

Heard last night from Department of Justice employees that Tachibana had, immediately on his arrival at Santa Fe insisted that he be allowed to perform the usual taiso or morning exercises. When the authorities did not take kindly to his suggestion, Tachibana insisted. So the head said,

If you want to get up early in the morning and exercise,
I'll see that you do.

So he put Tachibana on the early morning garbage detail.

STUDENTS LEAVING ENGLISH SCHOOL

Many of the highschool teachers have complained to me that their students are dropping from school in the past month. I think I'll do a little investigating.

TALK WITH GEORGE MATSUMURA - CO-OP TREASURER

I had heard that George is leaving his position. I had also been told that he is planning to relocate.

Co-op

For one thing, in a camp like this, I don't think a person can maintain his good name if he keeps this kind of office too long. There are always some people complaining. I'm going to let somebody else handle it for a while.

George did not respond to my question on the retrenchment policy of the Co-op so I asked him how the luxury issue was finally settled:

Luxury Issue

The first time I took over the office, I made it one point to cut out some of the things called luxuries. People don't want to spend money. We just gradually cut down here and there, partly on certain foods and partly on drug goods. Every department cut out certain luxuries. Even now we have to be very careful what we buy.

Pupils Dropping From Highschool

The only thing I can see is that if you're going to Japan you have to know Japanese. For one thing, there is a rumor here that the highschool is going to be closed. People say the school is closing in July and naturally people take what they hear rather than what they read in the paper.

Department of Justice Statement

I do not talk much with other people on things like that. From my own opinion I think what he said was right. Any country would say the same thing. A lot of things were frank and strong. I think I'd have said the same thing in his shoes. He probably didn't think he should beat around the bush.

He's right that this isn't a segregation center. He's giving as much as possible of humane treatment. In any country people have no right to make an outward show of patriotism. Of course, I give those young people credit for coming out and making this outward show.

Reaction to Second Pick-up

The reaction was quite a bit different. They were given time to see their friends. I think that should be. I think it's a very good gesture on the part of WRA and Justice.

Ultimate Fate of Tule Lake

I think the peoples' mind should be settled. Right now they're confused. I'm getting so disgusted with this camp, I don't feel like staying here. It's not the camp so much but it's the attitude of the people. I work hard in this position and they are still suspicious.

To bear out the rumor that George is thinking of relocation, he asked me several questions on how the Japanese on the outside were getting on and which parts of the country were best. He knew that the East seemed pretty good but wanted to know how Kansas was. Well, we'll see. George Matsumura was a Daihyo Sha member and was kept in the stockade several months. But I hear that Co-op men can get good positions on the outside.

TALK WITH KURIHARAOn Attitude of Ho:koku Young Men

We've talked to them but they don't want to believe. They get so arrogant and stubborn. We've talked to them. They think it's a great chivalrous thing to do. They don't want to believe what we tell them. They must find it out for themselves.

Kurihara told me that Shiroyama, whom, I believe, was one of the Ho:koku officers was a decent boy and really shouldn't have been taken.

On Kawada - New President of Ho:koku Sein-in-dan

I hear that he threatened to kick each and every boy out of the organization if they continued to make trouble and make threats. In a way, it looks to me as if he's the type which will cooperate with the Administration or he may be forced by the members to carry on the activities in such a manner as to hurt the feeling of the authorities. He made that statement at the

time he took office.

Those boys have plenty to learn. Six months or a year in a concentration camp will do them lots of good. That is - if they learn how to behave. Of course, some will go bad and be worthless. With some it will make a man out of them.

Different Reaction With This Later Pick-up

The reaction this time is different. The people don't seem to give any thought to it. They are sort of nonchalant. They don't seem to be worried or don't seem to care. Many of them are rejoicing. Many of them are saying, 'It's good for them; they asked for it.' In fact, though I shouldn't say this, some say, 'Bakatari.'

I asked for the translation to this, and after some hesitation, Kurihara said it meant, "Damn Fools."

Everything is very quiet.

Highschool Students Leaving

Maybe they're leaving school to have a good time. They like to run around. Under such conditions as in the camp today, probably their surroundings and monotonous life must have caused them to say, 'I don't give a damn.' They have no definite purpose or ambitions.

Reaction to Exchange News

The fact that the Japanese government said that the exchange was to be with people from Tule Lake had great effect on the people in the other camps. They are going to take people from Tule Lake! They used to say the people who came to Tule Lake were fools. Now I think we're not fools, we're wise.

DATA ON STUDENTS LEAVING HIGH SCHOOL

A well informed and intelligent teacher told me that the exodus from the high school started about six weeks ago. That would tie it in more closely with the opening of the West Coast.

FEBRUARY 8, 1945TALK WITH NISEI (Helen Sasajima) IN BEAUTY PARLOR

Today Helen had no hesitation in denouncing the Ho:koku as a disgrace to the Japanese people.

After all, this is American still, she repeated several times. (This phrase of Burling's seems to have taken a strong hold on some people.) They say that this is Japan here, but anybody knows that's foolish.

She liked Burling's statement and remarked that;

it was time somebody told 'them' where to get off.

She lives in Ward VII, where the Ho:koku appears to be very strong yet. She said things were especially bad in Ward VII. You never knew who was a Ho:koku member and had to be so careful. So many of the girls there were wearing pigtails now and going without makeup. She then asked if many people were relocating. She herself is sick of this center, not the center, the people, and she'd like to get out. However, she added, the news of the possible exchange had made her family decide to wait. If they're not exchanged, they may take steps to relocate.

TALK WITH JIM TAKEUCHI'S SISTERS

Boy - when you talk with women you really learn what's going on. These two ladies certainly love to talk. When I arrived, Mr. Mizuno was having visitors, so his wife, sister and I retired to the back of the apartment behind a screen and began to gossip. Mrs. Mizuno asked me if it were true if everybody who renounced their citizenship was going to be sent to Santa Fe. Later her sister asked me the same thing. I said it wasn't true. Mr. Mizuno, they told me, received a letter from his old boss, a Mr. Zuckerman, for whom he had worked in California. The letter (I was told) contained an urgent request for Mr. Mizuno to have himself cleared and get together 50 Japanese families and return to California to take up his old job. I think Mrs. Mizuno would really like her husband to take action, but (she says) he giggles foolishly when she let's him have it in pretty strong language. On the other hand, she thinks it won't hurt to sit in Tule a little longer and see what the government decides to do. After all, she hears from Rower that they are asking \$1,000 a head, or to be sent back to the Assembly Centers so they can,

get used to the people before they relocate.

She doesn't want to get hurt outside. I ventured to remark that what with the Ho:koku carrying on, a person never knew when he was going to get hurt in Tule Lake.

That's true, said Naoko the younger sister, but at least here you know you'll get a good funeral with all your friends around.

Yes, said Mrs. Mizuno, probably out there they'll just shovel you into a hole in the ground.

We then turned to the Ho:koku. Mrs. Mizuno asked me if it were true that 600 were to be picked up soon. When her brother came in later he asked the same question, so I assume the rumor is pretty widespread. There are quite a few Ho:koku people in their block and, though they do not seem to be as ferocious as the ones George Yamashiro has to live with, they give

this family a pain in the neck.

The more they take out the better, said Mrs. Mizuno.

She told me that she had heard that a friend gave his Santa Fe bound friend an envelope, which according to Japanese custom would contain money as a farewell gift. When the man opened it on the train it contained only a slip of paper on which was written Bakatari (damned fool).

Mrs. Mizuno: When those so-and-so Ho:koku go, we can't go and say, 'We're sorry your son was taken.' You have to congratulate them. I heard some of them complimenting a family whose son was sent. They say they are true Japanese. The man said, 'Next trip it will be my son. They're just tickled pink.'

Department of Justice Statement

Naoko: (younger sister) The people not in the group thought, 'They're telling them.'

Mrs. Mizuno: It didn't make any difference to me what they said. I don't give a damn about the sons-of-bitches.

Both the sisters seemed to take considerable comfort from the statement released by Myer on January 29th, in which it was stated that Tule would be kept open until 1945.

If that's so, they can't force you out.

As several other people have asked me this week, they also asked if it were true that the other repatriates and expatriates in the relocation centers were to be moved to Tule Lake.

It also appears that Mrs. Mizuno and her sister are good friends of Mr. Doi, one of the teachers who escaped the pick-up. Doi is an ex-Gilan. Mrs. Mizuno said:

He's a good kid. I've never seen a kid as honest as that.

There's a fellow I know who regrets having to go. (This boy thinks he will be sent.) He told me he'd like to resign but he feels that it wouldn't seem like a man.

Naoko: They just can't stop now. That's the trouble.

Here Mr. Mizuno, leaving his mother-in-law to entertain the guest, came from behind the screen and stated,

It has to be stopped.

Naoko: I said, 'If you're a man, you should have the courage to change your mind.'

Mr. Mizuno, who was confined in Santa Fe then gave his opinion:

The Ho:koku feels that they are going to train all the people in Santa Fe to think along Ho:koku ideas. But I hear they're finding out different.

I think the Issei should be taken out of Santa Fe and just leave the Nisei there. The first generation should be separated. It's the old men who teach the young men the bad ideas.

Mr. Mizuno also heard that when the Ho:koku arrived at Santa Fe, they had attempted their early morning marching. But the guards stopped them.

'I can't understand English', said a Ho:koku. What's the language you're talking then?', said the guard. 'Get back!'

The ladies enjoyed these stories.

Mr. Mizuno then gave his opinion of Mr. Tachibana

In Santa Fe Mr. Tachibana was appointed to be one of those to work to get the families reunited here in Tule Lake. He and Fujii and about four others. But those six men got out and just left us there. I was one of the last to get out. He said he would honestly represent us but he didn't.(1)

Mr. Mizuno then said:

If America lets the Ho:koku go back to Japan first, there's going to be trouble in camp. Then all the center will turn to Ho:koku. If people in camp would know that Japan wouldn't really take the Ho:koku, it would really scare them.

All agreed heartily.

Mrs. Mizuno: The (Ho:koku) women here are so proud to see their husbands go to Santa Fe they walk into the mess with their snoots up. (Mrs. Mizuno demonstrated)

Naoko: Our block has split into two. Up till now we were all together. Last time it was all right. The girls weren't together yet. Now they have this club and it seems like our club will be broken up.

Mrs. Mizuno: A week ago my husband met a friend who had a bo:zu haircut. 'What! Are you bo:zu too?' he said. 'Sh-h-h,' said the friend, 'This is camouflage - otherwise nobody in my block will talk to me.' When he came home, my husband laughed his head off. I hear they're pretty strong in block 74 too. In that block, I hear there are two families whose daughters refused to become members of the girls' (Ho:koku) organization. All the other girls won't speak to them now.

Naoko: If these organization showed that it would make a change, it would be all right. But now they're so blind that we just have to wait. We can't talk to them now.

[1. Mr. Tachibana, like Mr. Mizuno, had been interned by the Department of Justice at Santa Fe, New Mexico, early in 1943. Tachibana was released to the Tule Lake Segregation Center in spring of 1944. Mr. Mizuno was not "released" until January of 1945.]

Mrs. Mizuno: There is a man in this block with six children. He's had one each year - they're one to six years old. He says he's going to get picked up too. So I told him, 'What's going to happen to your children?'

I feel so sorry for his poor wife. Every time she hears a car rattle she gets all jittered up. She thinks they're coming for him. She's such a nice lady. I feel so sorry for her.

Our block manager is just dazed by the Ho:koku pick-ups. He doesn't know what to do. He goes to the wife of a man who has been picked up and says, 'I'll be glad to help you.' But she just acts superior. Then he talks to me and says, 'Goddammit, what am I going to do with those guys? It's their will to be taken in.' They tell me, 'My son is going to be a real Japanese now.' You have no pity for them.

Naoko: There are ten girls in our Japanese class and five or six of them are Ho:koku girls. At recess they all get together and talk. We who don't belong have to sit quiet.

Mrs. Mizuno: Mr. Best is ignorant. If he'd think a little more, he'd have stopped this racket when it started.

If they could assure us that we were not going to be forced out of camp I think a lot of people will drop out of the Ho:koku. The Ho:koku are the only people who feel safe now. They feel they can't be yanked out of camp and they can't be yanked into the Army. In a way, that's the main reason they founded that club.

Naoko: In a way they can't trust the American government. That's the only sure way they could assure themselves in forming that crazy old so-and-so.

Mr. Mizuno: You know how to stop this crazy Sokoku? You have to pick up the first generation runners. Then things will start quieting down. They're the ones who set fire to it. The first generation starts it.

Naoko: They ought to pick up the women first. The families will be worried to death to have their daughters go where they can't keep their eyes on them. The people figure they won't take the girls no matter what happens.

Here I said, "Don't you think that's kind of cruel?" Mrs. Mizuno:

Well - they asked for it.

High School Students Leaving English School

I asked about the high school students leaving and the ladies told me that the most important reason students were leaving the English school is that their parents believe they must concentrate on Japanese if they are to go to Japan - Mrs. Mizuno said she has been arguing with some of the parents, saying any kind of education is valuable. But they're all set for Japanese now.

BIG EXERCISE HELD THIS MORNING

The Ho:koku and the Sokuji Kikoku went out in full force this morning at 5:00 AM and held their monthly praying service for victory for Japan. The rain poured down but they endured it. I heard later that they were counted and numbered about 1,000 - young men and adults.

TALK WITH NOYES

Noyes informed me that 650 young men were to be picked up Saturday - where they are going nobody is to know. This ought to clean out the Ho:koku completely - except for the members who are minors. Noyes told me that as far as he knew, Fujiwara and Shimada (these men are Issei agitators) are not being taken but they will probably be taken on the next pick-up. The orders from Washington were to wipe out the Ho:koku.

Noyes had spoken to the 17 fellows mentioned in my last talk with him. They seemed to be harmless kids. Some had already changed their minds about renunciation. Some were recent members who had changed their minds after Burling's letter was posted. They said they did not know their actions were illegal and they had not understood the organization.

Noyes also said he had heard rumors of a split between the Ho:koku and the adult group. It seems like the adult group is now being run by the older women running the women's organization. Both organizations competed to try to get the auditorium for their ceremony.

Kawada, the newest president of the Ho:koku had a long talk with Noyes and Noyes had been impressed by his frankness and sincerity. He also appears to be a first rate organizer. Kawada assured Noyes that in this coming pick-up, the Ho:koku would co-operate 100%. He asked for the list of names and said he would get the young men together himself and they would all be there. Noyes refused to give him the list. Cook, head of Internal Security, asked Kawada how long it would take him to get the young men together. Fifteen minutes, said Kawada. Thereupon, this afternoon, Kawada was given notice. The emergency bugles were blown - all the young men got together and the 650 notices were distributed. Four minors were found to be on this list. On hearing this, the Ho:koku immediately came forward with four adults to take their places.

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Rosalie Hankey Wax

Noyes gave me the following:

N O T I C E

January 25, 1945

To: _____
Name Fam. No. Address

You are hereby informed that the Attorney General of the United States has ordered that you be apprehended as an alien enemy pursuant to Section 21, Title 50, U.S. Code, and that you be transferred to a Department of Justice internment camp. Report at 9:00 A.M. on Friday January 26, to:

Internal Security Building
Gate No. 3

Be sure to bring with you your identification badge and your work badge.

You may take one small bag or parcel with you on the train. Other baggage which you wish to take with you must be ready in your home before noon Thursday, January 25. A truck will call for baggage after that time and the baggage will be checked through to the internment camp.

No. _____

NOTICE

February 8, 1945

To: _____
Name Family No. Address

You are hereby informed that the Attorney General of the United States has ordered that you be apprehended as an alien enemy pursuant to Section 21, Title 50, U.S. Code, and that you be transferred to a Department of Justice internment camp.

Report at _____ A.M. on Saturday, February 10, to the Internal Security Building.

Be sure to bring with you your identification badge, and your work badge, and this notice.

You may carry with you personally on the train towels, soap, toothbrush, but no luggage. You may not carry any knives, razors, scissors or other sharp implements.

All baggage which you wish to have checked through to the internment camp must be ready in your home by 8:00A.M., Friday, February 9. A truck will call for the baggage after that time.

Be sure that you have not forgotten anything that you need. No messenger service will be available after you check through the gate.

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Rosalie Hankey Wax

FEBRUARY 9, 1945

LETTER FROM MR. ODA

Dear Miss Hankey,

In block 41 I saw a bunch of young boys receive notice to go to Santa Fe. Later 6 boys from our Block received their notices to leave Saturday.

Considering the existing situation at the present moment and to avoid malicious rumors, I would like to postpone your visit of Tuesday.

Sincerely yours,

P.S. I was completely out of that Organization quite a long time ago.

MEETING WITH MR. ODA

Encountered Mr. Oda in the administrative section today and he asked if he might come to see me tomorrow and bring me some letters to give to Mr. Noyes. We made an appointment for 10:00a.m. He told me that he had been approached by friends, beseeching him to get them out of going to Santa Fe, since they were no longer Ho:koku members. He also said that the camp was full of the rumor that all those who renounced were to be sent to Santa Fe. He was very worried because he has just sent in his application for renunciation.

In this broadcast pickup (he said) many boys of high school age have been taken. Fifty-four buglers are being taken also, although some under-age buglers remain.

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FEBRUARY 10, 1945

CALL BY MARY HASHIMOTO AND FRIEND - TWO NISIE GIRLS

These two young girls who work in the administrative area invariably call on me when the camp gets restless about something, trying to get information to give them reassurance, something which is usually pretty hard for me to give. They live in ward VII which has been hit very hard in this pick-up. The first question they asked was if everyone who renounced was going to go to Santa Fe. This rumor is apparently very widespread and causing much concern. Due to the fact that I had an appointment with Mr. Oda at 10:00 I was unfortunately not able to talk very long. They volunteered no remarks about the Ho:shi-dan or the Ho:koku.

BRIEF MEETING WITH MR. ODA - TALK WITH NOYES

At 10:00 Mr. Oda arrived and gave me the letters from Kawada, president of the Ho:koku, stating that the boys (friends of Oda) had resigned from the organization. I immediately went to see Noyes, asking Mr. Oda to wait. I tried to explain the situation to Noyes but he said that the boys didn't have a chance in the world. He repeated that renunciation in itself is an overt act of hostility against the U.S. government. Then he told me that he himself had started the rumor that all renunces might be interned in Santa Fe. He had hoped that this would stop the flood of renunciations or get people to cancel them. If these boys would cancel their renunciations they would be taken off the list immediately.

I returned to my barrack room and told Mr. Oda what Noyes had said. Since it was lunchtime, we arranged to meet and talk again this afternoon. Mr. Oda gave me the following letter:

Feb. 10, 1945

Dear Miss Hankey,

There are rumors going around that those who renounced their citizenship will be transferred to Santa Fe. Also the residents are talking about the next transfer--they expect it around the 24th and say including the members of the HOSHI-DAN.

If you have time will you please write answer for me. Also I should like to know very much the policy of the Department of Justice.

I deeply appreciate whatever you can do for me. Thank you.

[I was distressed by what was happening and added the following comments.]

I did not think I had any chance of helping these boys but I went to see Noyes anyway. I find the situation hard to understand and I don't like it. Noyes stands behind the statement that the act of renunciation of citizenship in itself is an act hostile to the American government and therefore anyone who renounces is liable to internment with no reprieve. That is that. Against this there is very little one can say; I mean you cannot ask for mercy for those individuals who are not anti-social if the authorities proceed on this premise.

TALK WITH ODA

Had a long talk with Mr. Oda this afternoon at his house. He told me a great many things which I hope I can remember. First of all he went to see the boys who do not wish to go to Santa Fe and told them that if they withdrew their applications for renunciation, they would

probably not be sent. The boys said, that as men, it was impossible for them to do this, even though they did not wish to go to Santa Fe and be separated from their families. According to Oda, there are many boys being sent this time who do not wish to go.

The second big worry on Mr. Oda's mind is the widespread rumor that anyone who renounced their citizenship will be sent to Santa Fe. Undoubtedly, the camp is in an ever more excited state that it was at the time of the January 27th pick-up. A large contingent of the Ho:shi-dan, the adult organization, is expected to be picked up on the 24th.

We discussed the whole gloomy business at length. Mr. Oda said that the people are blaming the WRA for it all, and still would like to have the camp go under the Department of Justice. Most of the boys being taken this time did not know that they had done anything wrong. I asked Mr. Oda what he would have done had he been the head of the Department of Justice. He said he would have issued a notice first that these activities were against the law and then if the people disobeyed he would have interned them. Once the leaders had been picked up, he said, the other boys could no longer stop in order to keep face. I asked Oda several questions on how people had felt about the renunciation. (Unfortunately I was at the Salt Lake Conference when Burling first arrived at the camp and did not get these reactions.) I asked why I had heard so little about renunciation from the people during August through November 1944 and then everybody had sent in their applications at once. He said, in the first place, the people were waiting until it was definitely announced that it had been made into a law. (This, as I remember, and I may be wrong, was announced in August 1944, but evidently, according to camp psychology, it didn't "become a law" until Ennis gave permission to send in the applications.) Then -according to Oda -they felt that being a law, applying was no crime against the United States Government. Moreover, at this time, said Oda, a terrific rumor hit camp that there would be a time limit set on the renunciations.

So everybody went around saying, 'You better renounce right away.'

Also Oda said many people renounced just because they wished to stay in camp and because they wished to avoid the draft. We discussed the possibility of any appreciable number of cancellations. Oda believes this to be very unlikely (as does everybody in camp including myself.) Oda himself is quite worried because he was once a member of the Ho:koku. He would not like to go to Santa Fe, but he said he would not cancel his application for renunciation even if he were sent. This attitude is significant because Oda is one of the mildest and most law-abiding individuals I know in Tule Lake or anywhere else for that matter.

Oda also informed me that the Japanese in camp are blaming Saburo Kido of the JACL for the unhappiness that the renunciation of citizenship is causing them and for the internments. Kido is supposed to be advising the Department of Justice.

FEBRUARY 11, 1945

Due to the fact that the enormous pick-up today was handled with remarkable dispatch I missed seeing the greater part of it. Much of the efficiency was due to the efforts of Kawada, the latest president, who was interned with the rest. Rothstein, of Department of Justice, says that Kawada showed himself to have so much sense and organizational ability that he was tempted to leave him in Tule Lake. The usual shouting and bugle playing took place but the temper of the farewell bidders was markedly different from that of January 26. The non-Ho:koku members were subdued. After the last contingent left - and all left in two groups, one at 8:30 and one at 9:30, a remnant of about 200 boys under 18, many of them children stood in military formation and faced the rising sun. About 75 adults stood with them.

Later I talked with Rothstein of the Department of Justice and learned that another big pick-up of adults is scheduled soon and also a pick-up of the women leaders of the Joshi-dan. The boys picked up today are being taken to Bismark. I pity those who have shaved heads! I heard from Mrs. Deschin that Mr. Oda's friends had been left out but I have to check this yet. In any case, a considerable number of the boys who had left the organization in late January were removed from the list and allowed to return to the center.

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FEBRUARY 12, 1945

KAYO IIDA

I did not visit in the colony today, but went to pick up some of my manuscripts. Kayo had two girls visiting her whose fathers had been interned yesterday. I said I was very sorry, but Kayo said,

But they were glad to go.

She also said that everybody expects another pick-up on the 24th.

TALK WITH NOYES

Threatened Strike of Bismark Bound Ho:koku

Got a fairly coherent story of the strike threatened by the internees-to-be on Sunday. As will be seen from the enclosed notices, the young men were instructed to take with them only certain toilet articles. However, almost all came with packages or handbags. When Kline, the officer in charge, told them that these bags would have to go into the baggage car, Mr. Kawada threatened to call a strike and have all the boys refuse to go.

Look here, said Kline, We've got enough men and enough guns here to see that you go.

This threat moved them not at all. They refused to be processed. Kline then struck a bargain, stating that he would allow the men to take out towels, soap, toothbrushes even though this was a considerable job with some 200 odd packages and 400 odd handbags. The Japanese, however, immediately complied and the articles were removed with astonishing order and rapidity. Noyes and Best approved this action of Kline's but Black did not. The newspaper photographers present were astonished at the order which prevailed during the entrapment.

Ho:koku Headquarters Raided Tonight

The Internal Security descended on the Ho:koku headquarters this evening with six cars and made a clean sweep of the place. No one watched the proceedings except a few old ladies who peered out of the latrine. The Ho:koku scroll and the white gloves with which it was handled, their banners, a Japanese flag, a mimeographing and duplicating machine, many signs and a large safe were taken. The safe is reputed to contain either \$1,300 or \$13,000 dollars. Noyes said facetiously that they were going to take the first Ho:koku member who came and complained and ask him to open the safe. Axes were used to gain entrance to the building. All of the Ho:koku records were taken and Noyes has no objection to giving me copies of those which appear of interest to the study.

The raid was carried on by the WRA and not by the Department of Justice.

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United States of America
State of California
County of Modoc

Search Warrant

By the authority of Dillon S. Myer, Director of the War Relocation Authority -

To Mr. J. B. Cook or any other member of the Tule Lake Internal Security Staff -

Information having this day been laid before me to the effect that there is reasonable ground to believe that there are being kept, maintained or stored in the premises located at 5408 certain records, files, equipment, and other personal property belonging to certain unlawful pro-Japanese organizations and that the said premises are being used for unlawful purposes, you are hereby authorized to search the said premises at any hour of the day or night and to seize all of the records, files, equipment and other personal property in said premises.

You are hereby also authorized to take possession of the said premises at 5408 and to evict therefrom any person now in possession thereof.

R. R. Best

Dated: February 12, 1945

Special Project Regulations

Noyes also read me his rough draft of the new project regulations which he had just finished preparing. For these regulations, Washington's permission must be obtained. I took rapid notes. If permission is obtained, Noyes said he would give me the final document.

1945 - Special Project Regulations No. 1

In response to the expressed desire of the great majority of people in this center to make clear the status of the illegality of certain practices. It is not lawful for any person to engage in pro-Japanese activities or produce any pro-Japanese publication or to wear any (Japanese) dress or insignia or emblem on their person - or to engage in exercises or parades without proper permission. It is not permissible to be a member of any pro-Japanese organization.

The following offenses will be punishable by fine or imprisonment.

1. The playing of bugles.
2. Wearing of insignia.
3. Public display of emblems, insignia or pictures of pro-Japanese character.
4. Assemblys, parades and drilling.
5. The publication of leaflets, newspapers, and pamphlets.
6. Speeches.
7. The use of any hall, or chapel for such activities.
8. Parents will be held responsible if such acts are committed by minors.
9. Any person who conspires to violate these regulations or enduces, coerces or persuades any person to do so will be punished.

The punishment will be confinement in jail or fine.

(I got this down in very rough form and all of the above regulations apply only if the activity mentioned is of pro-Japanese character. I made only one comment which was that Noyes should keep in mind that he must gain the co-operation of a group of people who consider

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themselves "heart-and-soul Japanese" and that if these regulations are construed to mean that an Americanization program is being contemplated, he will meet with much resistance. Such a program is contemplated and I can't see but that it will cause one hell of a mess. Some people in camp are not going to stand for it and unless it is done with great tact, there is trouble ahead. Well, we'll see.)

FEBRUARY 13, 1945

KURATOMI LETTER

Received the following letter from Kuratomi today.

February 12, 1945

Dear Miss Hankey:

Sorry I have delayed in answering your letter of Jan. 25. The condition in the center has been most unsettled because of recent mass pick-ups.

The current rumor which in my opinion is the most vicious has it that unless people (young-men of course) sign up with the organization, they will be subject to draft by March of this year. There seems to be a great increase in the membership of said body. The people are under the impression that if you are a member, then your chance of renunciation is guaranteed; whereas, if you are not, you just don't know when you will be able to renounce your citizenship. Of course there is a connection with the recent announcement about the exchange-ship.

In fairness to everyone concerned, I am of the opinion that some kind of statement should be forthcoming from the Justice Department in this instance. The result if left unabated, will not only be tragic but dreadful. I don't know what you are able to do, but for justice's sake please take some action.

Hope to see you soon.

Sincerely,

George.

Though it was pouring cats and dogs and puddles rose almost to the knees I put on my field boots and hiked out to see Kurihara and then Kuratomi.

TALK WITH KURIHARA

Those rumors are being heard throughout the camp. It has a tremendous effect. People are joining the Ho:koku. It's going over like a wild fire. Those who were strongly opposed to the Ho:koku are trying everything to get in it. The membership is growing by leaps and bounds.

The membership was decreasing very rapidly but this rumor in the form of propaganda has spread throughout the camp. It began about Saturday morning.

Several people have come around to see me and ask for advice. Instead of giving them advice I gave them hell for

(the following is all verbatim)

not being able to judge the situation for themselves. Because it's nothing but outright lies which ordinary common sense would tell.

The people are in a quandary and don't know what to do. They just follow the mob. I told them, 'You're group are like a bunch of sheep.'

Reaction To Latest Big Pick-up

There doesn't seem to be anybody grieving about it.

An Americanization program will create a tremendous reaction against the Administration. Everybody will rise against it.

They're getting serious on those things too late. If they are going to try some drastic methods in stopping it, they will find opposition. If any Japanese steps away from the Ho:koku he will be called a hikekumin (unpatriotic) -a traitor to Japan.

WRA doesn't want to understand the Japanese people and doesn't study them enough. If a man hasn't any knowledge of people, he will continually make mistakes.

The hold of the Ho:koku is very strong now. They have taken root. The Administration must see that fact right now, because this thing is contagious. Other camps are getting excited about it too. To what extent they will follow, I don't know. The nearer the day approaches to leave the camp, the group will solidify itself and there will be trouble.

A statement should be made that such rumors spreading in the camp are not true, that those who have renounced their citizenship will be recognized as aliens and will not be drafted. That should be made to ease the feelings of the people here.

I wouldn't blame any of the parents here for not wanting to have their sons serve in the United States Army. To prevent that they will go to any extent. These parents are advising their sons to join the Ho:koku-dan to avoid being drafted. They are taking the safer side.

I gave those parents hell for being so jittering and not having a mind of their own. Renunciation is the only idea. Parents want their sons and daughters to renounce so that they can go to Japan with them. It's fantastic in a way. I believe it's in the blood of those boys that they will stick with their own kind.

Another rumor which has brought on this change of mind is that whoever joins the Ho:koku-dan will be the first to go to Japan.

If the exchange ship were to come and would take back only those who have stayed here quietly and obeyed the laws - boy - it will be a blow to the Ho:koku.

Picking Up The Women

It will be a nice thing. I shouldn't say so because it sounds cruel. I was surprised that some of the women should take such an active part. If they are picked up I believe they will resign from the Ho:koku.

Some of the men in this camp should be picked up and confined for the good of the Japanese people as a whole, for the good of the camp and for the Japanese.

Remarkable Statement on Ambivalence

The trouble with most of the Japanese in this camp or in any other camp is that their mind is not made up. They swing from one side to the other. They will fluctuate.

News From Santa Fe Internee - Probably Ueda

A man from Santa Fe brought back the news that the boys sent there have already divided into two and are asking for resegregation. They will fight unendingly and continuously.

Kurihara also told me that Doi had been to see him and told him that he was really afraid to go back to block 59 and live there. Kurihara invited him to come and live with him, but Doi is still sticking it out in block 59.

A very decent hard working boy was picked up in our block. He was very pleasant and easy to get along with. I asked him if he belonged to the Ho:koku. He said 'Yes, I belonged but I didn't partake in any of their activities.' 'Why didn't you resign?' I said. 'I didn't think it was necessary,' he said.

Another reason I think many of the young boys are joining is that when they leave here hundreds and hundreds of people come out to see them out. It gives them such a chivalrous feeling, seeing the boys being sent away with such a big farewell and such public acclaim. 'I must be the next one and be that way,' they say. That's a crazy idea which I don't see. Young boys' blood boils like that.

Kurihara then told me that Shimada, who was arrested in the knifing case several months ago, was Wakayama's right hand man and had lead the beatings of Hitomi's brother, Morimoto and of Aritaka and Tokunaga. I told Kurihara that Shimada was scheduled to go out of camp on the next trip. Kurihara said,

Well, then I guess I can get rid of this.

Thereupon he went to the back of his room and pulled out from the corner the wickedest looking weapon I have ever seen. It was a bludgeon with a piece of curved pipe attached to it by a cord. He told me that he carried this with him whenever he went to his Japanese military singing classes, since he knew that since Shimada came back from jail, Shimada was going to take it out on him. He also told me that the two large rocks on his desk (about the size of baseballs) could be used in case of attack. On the shelf near at hand was another convenient pile of rocks. Shimada must indeed be a bad egg.

Thereupon he asked me to buy him half a dozen shirts and two towels in Klamath Falls which I said I would do at the earliest opportunity.

TALK WITH KURATOMIRumors

Kuratomu said that he was so alarmed at the proportion to which rumors had grown that he was willing to start a petition to the Administration to ask for clarification on the points which are upsetting the people. In Manzanar, he told me, just about everybody had joined the Ho:koku. The first bunch of rumors started Saturday, just before the internees left.

It's been known that the men picked up have committed some crime - violated the law - however, their destination has been to Santa Fe which is a really favorable place to be. In the minds of the people of the center it has been the general impression that by going to Santa Fe for one thing, they'll be recognized as aliens and they feel that their renunciation of citizenship is granted. Whereas if you are a gentleman enough to be peaceful and quiet, renunciation will not materialize. That should come out. The people feel the only way renunciation will be accepted would be to raise a row and be sent to Santa Fe.

Something that would put a stop to the whole thing on that point should be stressed.

They figure that the number of persons held by Japan (Americans) is so great, in comparison with the people on this side, what little prejudice the American government has against the Ho:koku, they will be forced to send them back to (Japan to) get Americans back.

I heard that one man tried to commit suicide on the way to Santa Fe.

(This may have been the man whom Dr. Marks said 'got hysterical' or it may be a rumor.)

I asked Kuratomi why he and his friends had taken no action against the Ho:koku. [But after one sentence he changed the subject and I am not sure what he was referring to when he said, "Before registration it was voluntary."]

One of the main reasons we have been more or less bound is that WRA may have a great prejudice against any action we may take. Whether it be voluntary or involuntary, it is under the same act and then the people should be informed of the policy under such an act. Before registration it was voluntary. As long as it was voluntary, I just sat. Finally the Project Director told me it was compulsory. Being a compulsory matter, I had to choose one or the other road.

There is a question in my mind: suppose you did renounce your citizenship and the Japanese government was not informed, how would you become a Japanese national? Suppose one doesn't have Japanese citizenship? Where would he be? If he wanted to go back to Japan, the Japanese government might not accept him.

(the following is all verbatim)

On The Fence-sitters

I've always believed that there were at least 6,000 people here whose real intention was to remain in America. Now I'm beginning to think the other way round. I think there are only about two or three thousand who are willing to stay here after what they've gone through in this camp under Mr. Best's administration. Whatever Mr. Best has done during his administration here, hasn't been favorable to the American government. If the Project Director were changed here, there might be a swing of 180 degrees in the people's feelings.

People Resigned From The Ho:koku

I was very much worried. There is one aspect of the whole thing. The thousands of people who withdrew from the organization whose names had been accepted by the committeemen as members. I doubt if the names of these men have been crossed off the list. If Justice should pull them in then there'll be a lot of injustice. If they are taken in a lot more will fall in with them. It will be all over camp that even if you don't belong to the Ho:koku you will be taken anyway, so you might as well join. Some who were out are rejoining and some who never belonged are joining now.

A lot of simple minded people think that being sent to Santa Fe is a glory for them. There should be some way you could disqualify such a statement.

I wish Justice would keep in mind that there will be a lot of people who haven't renounced it as yet because of uncertainty and doubts. As soon as a clearcut policy is presented before the people I would consider seriously about my own renunciation. Don't think for a moment that I won't go back to Japan. But even there I will run into a lot of difficulties. I am radical in my thoughts. I was a most ardent New Dealer until 1933.

Manzanar Joining Ho:koku

In the Manzanar section most of the school teachers quit (the school) and joined the Ho:koku. They are making a house to house canvass there. It's because of this latest rumor about the draft going into effect in March and if you don't join the Ho:koku and go to Santa Fe your renunciation of citizenship will not be accepted. If you do go to Santa Fe your chances of having your renunciation accepted will be ten times as great. If you stay here you will eventually be thrown out of camp. If you stay here you aren't safe.

Because certain actions of the Ho:koku in the past have been vague and not becoming a Japanese, the Ho:koku is now trying to conceal this past and glorify the present position and make a flowery picture of their actions. They (the people) feel the Ho:koku is the only thing they should do. I know a lot of boys who were in the Ho:koku when it first organized who had been nothing but fence-sitters before. They were just segregated to this center because the authorities considered them ineligible for leave.

Sociologically speaking, I wonder if the people have not been tortured in their minds for so long - all they can think of is what's happening right in front of their eyes and they aren't looking forward to the future at all. None of them think that the war might end and then what position would they be in?

Another rumor I've heard seems to come from Mr. Best. He made a statement in which he said that all of the pro-Japanese elements were to be sent to an internment camp -then all that are left over will be shoved out of the center. After that is completed, all those men sent out will be returned here in six months.

Another good thing to announce would be that the men who have been interned will not be permitted to come back here and join their families. That should be published. All of them honestly believe they will not be out of here more than six months.

Public Alarm Very Serious

There are many serious people saying that if there is any monkey business pulled they are willing to take a jail sentence to fight it out.

Many boys went to Santa Fe simply because they didn't have the determination to get out of it and just tagged along.

George also told me that if the next pick-up took a lot of people who were not Ho:koku there would be an avalanch to join the organization.

TALK WITH NOYES

Following Kuratomi's request I went to see Noyes, told him about the rumors and passed on the advice given by Kuratomi. Noyes was in a receptive mood and stated that a proper statement would come out in the next Newell Star which will be released Thursday. The Department of Justice has also prepared a statement. Noyes also informed me that he had met with the officers of the Ho:shi-dan and the Ho:koku-dan this morning (these are new officers). The men appeared to be utterly stunned by the raid of Monday night. He was also impressed with the information that people were still worried about what would happen to them after January 1, of 1946. He told me that the Administration here had asked for a clear statement from Myer stating that the people in Tule Lake were not to be pushed out at all. But Myer had come back with the compromise statement of Janaury 29, which appears to have done little if any good.

The Ho:shi-dan men wished to know why their office had been raided.

Because your activities are unlawful, said Noyes.

"Why are they unlawful?", they asked, saying that they had received no warning. Noyes asked them if they had not read Burling's statement. They said they had not read it because it had been torn down from the messhall board.

Yes, said Noyes, By members of your organization.

Noyes told me several times that they appeared stunned and dumbfounded. They had immediately sent telegrams to the Spanish Consul about the raid, which was how Noyes got the names of their newest officers. Minoru Hinoki is president of the Ho:koku and Shigeyoshi Kawabata is president of the Ho:shi-dan. Noyes told the group of officers that if they would go back to the colony, dissolve their organization, and live as peaceful citizens, everything would be all right.

If you are true Japanese, he said, you are going to help your people live in peace and security.

They asked if they could continue their exercises. Noyes stated that exercises of militaristic character would not be permitted. Any exercising they wished to do with the approval of Community Activities would be all right.

Bugle playing and ceremonies are going to cease. You ask me how, but I'm just warning you.

He also told the men that the women might be picked up and that they would be put in separate internment camps and not reunited with their families.

There is not going to be any Ho:shi-dan or any Ho:koku-dan. It's all over.

The group wanted to meet with Noyes again in the afternoon, but he said he did not have the time.

The group asked for the return of their beautiful Japanese flag and when they were told this could not be granted they asked Noyes to burn it in their presence. They have refused to open the safe, until they hear from Washington about the disposition of the flag. One of the signs picked up in the Ho:shi-dan headquarters stated that it was not permissible to speak English there and that any violator would be fined at the rate of one cent a word.

At any rate, I got across Kuratomi's message and a statement is coming out Thursday.

TALK WITH ROTHSTEIN

Saw Rothstein of the Department of Justice later in the evening and gave him an outline of the situation. I was impressed with the way he received it. He told me he had had an interview with reporters from the Newell Star at their request and had answered all the questions put to him. A corrected transcript of what was said will come out in the Newell Star. The next few weeks should be very interesting here.

LIST OF OFFICERS SELECTED NOVEMBER 4th 1943 - DAIHYO SHA - From G. Kuratomi

Police Department -
Kagawa, Itsuyoshi 53
Koji, Kamimura 73
Inouye, Tatsuo 38

Fire Department -
Kishi, Koichi 46
Kurihara, Susumu 74
Fujita, Roy 10

Motor Pool -
Nishioka 6
Kameda, Kiyoshi 39
Nakano, Hajima

Community Welfare -
Kazuma, Chiyogerji 46
Hori, Saburo 66
Sakai, Utaka 33
Iwasaki, George 5
Kobayashi, Ukio 73
Katayama, Hitoshi 41
Maruyu, Junko 23

Jinji bu - (Human Affairs)
Takahashi, Aizo 68
Yoshiyama, Satoshi 6
Imahara, Hiroshi 20

Central Executive -
Hayashi, Ichiro 52 (now in Santa Fe)
Nogawa, Hiroshi 71 (now in Santa Fe)
Tanaka, Ukio 27
Tsuda, Hiroshi 30
Kimura, Mitsuho 66

Secretary -
Japanese: Komiya, Shunichi 68
English: Yamada, Yoshiye

FEBRUARY 14, 1945TALK WITH SALLY YAMASHIROHo:koku

They are taking the fence down near Manzanar and that's why the Manzanar people have all been signing up with the Ho:koku. They said, 'If they take the fence down, this will be like a relocation center, and we'll all be kicked out.'

There are so many parents here who have sons of military age and they're praying every morning that their sons will be picked up. They don't want them to serve in the Army. If anybody says anything to them they say, 'You can't trust the Americans. They'll get out all the Ho:koku people (intern them) and then they'll think we're all loyal.'

Mr. Uyeda asked George what the Ho:koku is all about, anyway. When George told him, he said, 'My goodness, if they're Japanese any lowdown people can be Japanese. I wish I could take you to Santa Fe, George and let you see how the Issei there are welcoming these people from this center. Why, they aren't even speaking to them.'

This block here is very unpleasant to live in now.

Reaction to Internment

I felt so sorry for the Nisei who were picked up. Those who really cried were the people who just went to see them off like myself. Not their parents or relatives. They didn't show any tears. Instead of taking all of those boys, why not take the Issei leaders - they're terrible.

There are a lot of people in this block waiting to go. They still have got their suitcases packed.

Rumor of Japanese Schools Closing

Is it true that the Japanese schools will be closed?
There are rumors that they will be.

Sally then explained the various schools to me - information which I've never gotten before because people who know the system don't care to talk about them.

The Dai Towa: (Greater East Asia) This is the school of block 25 of which George Kuratomi is supposed to be principal. This school has kicked out all Ho:koku people and will not have them as teachers or students. This is the first Japanese school founded in Tule Lake. After Burling's last visit the name was changed to Tule Lake Gakuen (Educational Institution). (Burling would not permit the Greater East Asia idea.) This school is independent from the very large camp wide school.

The Chu O Kyo iku Kai: This is the large camp wide school which has branches in every ward. (It has headquarters in block 40? and I have an interview with the secretary in my August or September notes.)

The Nippon Kokumin Gakko: This is the notorious ward VI school. The name means Japanese Nationalistic School.

Raid on Ho:koku Headquarters

Sally had heard about the raid in a dramatic manner. About 9:30 Monday night a man had come running to ward VII and asked where Mr. Ino lived. Ino is ward representative of the Ho:koku. This man ran right into a house in the block without knocking. He was trembling. He asked,

Is this Mr. Ino's house?

He was just shaking. He said,

I brought something for you.

But the man in the house said,

But this isn't Mr. Ino's house.

The man ran over to that barrack and didn't knock either. He ran right in and took some papers from his pocket.

Take these papers, Mr. Ino, he said.

This isn't Mr. Ino's house, said the man.

Eventually the unfortunate Ho:koku messenger reached Mr. Ino with the papers. Meanwhile, all the people in the block came out and watched the excitement.

Boy, said Sally, the Ho:koku were certainly scared by the raid.

Sally thought the raid had been a good thing for the camp. We then discussed the possible amount of money in the safe. Sally said it might be a good deal.

They took .25 every month for their pamphlet that came around. That's quite a lot of money.

Mr. Nakano came over the night before they went away and he said to George, 'I've quit. I've got a wife and child. I don't see why I should go.' He wanted to know how George got Doi out. He was so excited.

Sally told me that the people in ward VII were not joining the Ho:koku. That phenomenon must be limited to Manzanar.

In Manzanar your best friends and your relatives tell you to go into the Ho:koku. They make them sign up. Since these boys were taken the parents seem to be more strong and more strong. If they got to realize they wouldn't be reunited with their boys, you can't tell what they might do.

The raid did real good to the people because they found out such action would be taken by the WRA and that it was an unlawful organization. Of course the Ho:koku people became very scared and very angry.

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Rosalie Haneky Wax

Mr. Doi's fiancée says that if he doesn't let his hair grow he can't marry her. He's letting it grow, but it looks so funny that he won't go anywhere.

Effect of Announcement on Exchange

Many people don't care so much now because the announcement said they could be repatriated even if they were living in the center.

(This is, one need not be interned in Santa Fe or elsewhere in order to be eligible for repatriation.)

FEBRUARY 16, 1945

LETTER FROM ODA - CONSERVATIVE BLOCK MANAGER

February 14, 1945

Dear Miss Hankey,

I am very sorry that I failed to write result. I have a letter written but things kept me so busy since you left.

After the boys left the camp is very quiet but we feel sorrowful. There are rumors that former members and present members of the Hoshi-dan will be pulled in and a few residents of this block who were former members are frankly worried. A former member would like to know if his name has really been crossed off with the administration when he first resigned through Hoshi-Dan or Hokoku-Dan and if not they would like to know the proper procedure. I was asked this --- very confidential.

I sincerely thank you for your advice. Unfortunately I have no documentary proof with me now. It seems to me impossible to get one because yesterday Hokoku-Dan or Hoshi-Dan office located in block 54 rec-Hall was raided by the internal security. The huge safetybox that probably contained many documents was taken in for further investigation. So you see how situation is right now.

Also I heard a rumor, probably this will come true that the authorities have a plan or intentions to terminate all workers who are members of the Hokoku-Dan or Hoshi-Dan. It appears to me that the center is facing a grave situation.

I really cause you trouble again this time, but I would appreciate it if you would write a paper for me stating that I resigned from Hokoku-Dan. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Yutaka Oda.

P.S. I don't think I signed anything since office changed name of Hokoku Dan from Sokoku Kenkyu Seinen Dan.

[I wrote this letter for Mr. Oda, who had told me on November 7 that he had stopped going to Ho:koku meetings.]

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Tule Lake Fieldnotes

Rosalie Hankey Wax

LETTER FROM FRIEND OF THE KONDOS

Eleonor Kondo, my good friend in Gila, sent me the enclosed letter and asked me to do what I could. I fear I can do very little.

2-6-45

Dearest Sir,

I am going to ask you to do me a big favor this time. It's about the folks in camp. My sister-in-law wrote to her sister what is going on in Tule Lake. It is a very serious problem. Did you hear about it? Lots of Niseis are being sent to Santa Fe. Crazy brothers of mine are working themselves to it. My sister-in-law is very much worried about my brother. She said even now, she feels as if she has no husband. As I have told you, she is expecting in May; she is not in any worrying condition. Poor kid, I feel so sorry for her, she has no one to talk, since everybody in the family is going crazy. She said someone is giving them the crazy ideas and influencing them that ways; they are in a trance. I have wrote to them, but they never told me the real facts; only thing I get out of this is, don't worry. Letter will not do them any good, because you cannot express yourself. The only way to make them up before it is too late, is to go there and talk to them personally. I asked the WRA if I can go to Tule on business; the answer was no. Only persons are soldiers and emergency, so at this time I am asking you, whether you can get in touch with the lady you have mentioned who is doing a confidential work, and get a special permit to enter a camp thru her. I thought of writing to the Justice Department explaining the whole thing to give me the permits but Miyake thought it was best for me to ask you to write to the lady all the details of the situation and if this lady goes to the Justice Department for the permit it would be easier. What do you think? This thing is just about driving me nuts. Even between Miyake and I, we have unnecessary quarrels and arguments. If both of us go, it might be better than just myself. We don't know how far we are going to get by going, but we are gambling and taking a chance.

I am awfully sorry to ask you to do me a favor whenever I am in a tight fix. Tsumaranai imooto wo motta to omotte akiramete kudasai.(1)

Love, shizue

P.S. Will you please tell this lady not to go to their place. If she has to talk to someone in the family, call someone to her office.

Miyake is writing to Henry about the same thing in Japanese.

(I doubt that these people can get a permit to come here to Tule Lake for any reason but a death. I'll write to the relatives mentioned though, on the slim chance that talking to them will do any good.)

[1. Please think of me as the humble little sister.]

TALK WITH KAYO IIDA, NISEI GIRL

Kayo said that the rumor was not that you had to join the Ho:koku to get your renunciation of citizenship, but that if you joined, your renunciation was guaranteed.

You are safe if you join.

I've heard and know of several people who wanted to join and begged the organization to include their sons in as members. In the cases where the parents were in the Resegregation Group, their sons were accepted into the Ho:shi-dan.

The Raid of Ho:koku Headquarters

What is the purpose of taking that step? I think the Japanese people feel that the Administration should have asked for things instead of taking them secretly.

Many times, like for the first group that left, they came in the middle of the night. The Japanese people are not like that.

It seems so funny, because the organization has been running so long and nothing has happened. Now they say this is wrong and that is wrong. The whole thing is a mixup to me.

Kayo also said that there was a rumor in camp that the Ho:koku people were going to be discharged from their jobs.

Lots of people expect that they'll be pulled in.

TALK WITH ASAKO HIKAGI - Conservative Kibei Girl - Akitsuki's Sister-in-law

I visited Asako's home for the first time today and chatted for over an hour with her family. They were, of course, affected by the general tension in camp, and were strongly of the opinion that very little could be done about the Ho:koku. The Ho:koku were going to defy anything that the Department of Justice or the WRA did. Asako also mentioned the rumor about the Ho:koku losing their jobs. (One thing is certain the genuine conservatives of Tule, are not rushing madly into the arms of the Ho:koku. In fact, I'm inclined to believe that the stories of the rush for membership are somewhat exaggerated. The people who are in danger of being pulled into the Ho:koku ranks are the folks who were inclined toward the idea or those utterly blinded by panic.) Asako told me several pitiful stories of men who were interned leaving their pregnant wives or their wives and small children. Many people taken in the last big pick-up did not want to go. Her mother and an Issei woman friend thereupon began to talk in Japanese. Asako translated:

Many of the parents are trying to make their sons join the Ho:koku. This is especially in the Manzanar section. One boy has a duck cut and wears zoot suit clothes. His parents are trying to make him join the Ho:koku. He says, 'Golly, I can't do that. How would I look in Santa Fe?'

Asako also stated that it was the old gengjyo-iji people who had really formed the Ho:koku. They do not bother her, however, because she has nothing to do with them and doesn't talk to them.

TALK WITH GEORGE KURATOMI

Lots of people were concerned when they heard the boys were sent to Bismark instead of Santa Fe. But it's still hot in camp.

One good statement that could be made is that the families will not be reunited.

The Japanese section of the information that appeared in the Newell Star was much stronger. It stated there that 99% of the renunciations in Tule Lake will be accepted, and that there is no worry about the draft.

What's taking place now is that some of the kids going to the Japanese language school would drop out any time they feel like it and go out for the Ho:koku exercises. They just can't discipline the kids that way.

It would have been possible to stop this after the first pick-up if some arrests had been made and the leaders prosecuted.

I certainly hope that in the near future, supposing the WRA should change hands and Justice take over, that we do have a strong centralized committee here. I was talking to a recent transferee from Hawaii. He said he was amazed to find the unlawfulness in the colony where there was no representative group dealing with the Administration. It was a big surprise to him to find that situation.

Concerning Mr. Hirosuma and Morishita and Reverend Matsumoto. I think something ought to be done about them. (These men were ward VI school teachers sent to Santa Fe.) I've written to Mr. Burling and I wonder what became of them. Full names: Masuei Matsumoto, Takashi Hirosuma, Toshio Morishita.

When the Ho:koku fellows left the stockade for Santa Fe, they plastered the wall with twenty names - with insults. They were the names of the eleven men who fought the Ho:shi-dan with Tsuda, Kai, Kuratomi, Shimizu and Mori.

Kuratomi voiced his suspicion that instructions might be coming to Tule Lake via the underground. (I happen to know that this is true.)

Kuratomi's reason was that Uchida, his successor Higashi, and the newest president of the Ho:koku were all close friends and the old plans seem to be being carried on so well.

If it could only be announced that the men going to Santa Fe are not going to have priority in going to Japan, it would be a big help.

At the same time this psychology works behind the Japanese. They are very loyal to their good friends. The ones who never did belong to the Ho:shi-dan will still tag along or join after their friends are picked up. Three

friends are picked up. Three young men I know came back from Leupp. They have been against the Ho:shi-dan. I met them in the stockade. In the Manzanar section the pressure is spreading and it's hard to stay out of the Ho:shi-dan. If these men are sent to Santa Fe I know they will come to a head on clash with Uchida. They are Kimura and Shibenaka.

Unhappy Fate of Uchida

Uchida is from Kumamoto Ken. A letter came to camp from a Hawaiian fisherman who has been interned in Santa Fe from the beginning of the war. He said that Uchida had boasted in Santa Fe of all that he could do. And his attitude was so annoying that the fellows around just took direct action and stuck his head down the toilet bowl.

TALK WITH NOYES

Shigeyoshi Kawabata of the Ho:shi-dan received the following telegram today from the Spanish Minister Counsellor.

Received your two telegrams - stop - Spanish delegate will visit that camp about February 23rd. -stop- This embassy in contact with state department on matter -stop- please endeavor to refrain from any aggressive attitude in order to help solve this incident.

Moline - Minister Councillor in charge of Japanese Interest.

Noyes told me that he and the Department of Justice have about decided not to intern any women but to arrest them and put them in the project jail instead. Noyes is going to proceed with some arrests on his own hook. He also told me that G. [George Matsumara?] of the Co-op has come through with some information which shows that the Ho:shi-dan had a strangle hold on the Co-op. When this information can be revealed it ought to be very interesting. It will mean several Santa Fe internments.

The Internal Security is afraid if I start something, I can't go through with it. They thought the fact that we raided the headquarters was biting off more than we could chew. But I think that if I go on hitting them (Ho:koku) again and again in a small way we will do all right. We won't bite off any more than we can chew. We'll grab off the leaders, catching them in the act. If they're minors we'll send their parents to jail. We'll also raid the headquarters.

TALK WITH ROTHSTEIN OF DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Talked with Rothstein and he corroborated much of what Noyes said. They do not want to intern women, nor do they plan to take a great many young men on the next pick-up.

THE HO:KOKU CARRIES ON

The Ho:koku drilled with great noise of bugles early this a.m. which I noted because I've been working so hard I've got insomnia. A group of about 65 young men also drilled arrogantly in the firebreak this afternoon.

FEBRUARY 19, 1945ACTIVITIES OF HO:KOKU

The activities of the Ho:koku have by no means quieted down. On the contrary they have become noisier than ever. Long and loud early morning bugling continues and occasionally the group drills in mid-afternoon. The number of participants is, however, depleted. Mr. Sandborn of Internal Security tells me he counted about 65 in the afternoon drill, and many of those were children.

CONFUSED ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY ON FIRING HO:KOKU MEMBERS

Certain sections have taken a policy of not hiring any Ho:koku members, and Mr. Dimon of CAS, told me at mess Saturday night that he was firing any persons who joined the organization. This Mrs. Deschin does not approve of, believing that it is a kind of persecution that can do no good and probably will arouse sympathy for the Ho:koku among a certain part of the camp's population. I really doubt the latter, but agree with the former - it's persecution.

TALK WITH MRS. MITZI NAKANOEffect of Announcements in the Newell Star

The paper didn't do any good. It didn't state anything definite about the draft. I'm not believing the rumor myself, but the people are not too convinced.

I understand that from now on the Ho:koku is going to be illegal. But they (Ho:koku) are determined to stand on their own feet. They have a strong determination.

People are joining the Ho:koku. They're going into it even though they hate it.

Panic of Last Week

A week ago, the people were in hysterics. Anyway, at the Community Activities office they were so excited. They said, 'The draft papers are right there. As soon as they clean out the Sokoku, they'll draft us all over camp.'

The people don't trust them (WRA) any more because they've made so many statements that were denied before and they came out to be true. But I think the excitement has died down. The people are not so concerned as they were.

Sending people to jail will be much better. Otherwise, there will be no end to this. Now the people (Ho:koku) want to go. They feel what they have been working for has come true. By pushing them out Justice is doing exactly what they want them to do.

(the following is all verbatim)

They feel this way: To them it isn't propaganda. The people in the Ho:koku believe they're the only ones who are going to stay and that the rest of us will be kicked out of camp. They firmly believe that.

Reaction to the Raid

They raided that place, you know, and very few people know about it. I thought they (Ho:koku) would make some demonstration. They think that by blowing the bugles they will get interned and reunited with their families.

They won't even believe the boys were sent to North Dakota. They say they won't believe unless they hear from them.

Mr. Burling ought to put out an official statement that the people who do not belong to the Ho:koku can return to Japan.

Manzanar Ho:koku Rally

On Monday they held a big organization meeting in Manzanar and 500 people joined. People who don't believe in the thing are roped into it, because it's the only way they can get back to Japan.

Tule A Segregation Camp

Another mistake was that this was supposed to be a segregation camp, and after we arrived here this wasn't a segregation camp at all. People who had no intention of going to Japan are still sitting here. I don't think that's fair. That's why the thing blew up.

Yet we feel that this is a segregation camp. If they start pushing the people out everybody will get together. If the other camps will do it, we have a much better reason than they have. The people are not going to get out of the other camps unless they offer them a good job and a place to stay.

Some people are very calm because they have determined they're going to sit here and nothing's going to stop them. They feel they have the right.

Really, it surprised me, the raid isn't being discussed much. The Ho:koku didn't make any rumpus about it.

Mrs. Nakano's Opinion of Action Against the Ho:koku

We still say that we do not know who is right - us or the Ho:koku. We can only talk about it though among our family. The Ho:koku might get the best of this. We don't know. The future is very dark. They might get their wish and get back to Japan, and they might not.

I will say this about those in the Ho:koku. Many of them really believe and they are really patriotic and sincere. But some of them are hypocrites. They feel if they belong to the Sokoku they will stay here for the duration and then they can go anywhere. They can stay out of the Army (U.S.) and still go to Japan if they wish. I know a lot of boys in the Ho:koku who would have gone out (relocated) before they came here.

There are sensible boys in the Ho:koku too, who are in it for patriotic reasons. They feel their chances in America is no more.

Some of my friends went to Bismark. We always had a very good feeling, because I wouldn't discuss politics with them.

Mrs. Nakano's Own Girls Club

The membership is going pretty good. I'm very encouraged because after every meeting we get new members. The girls are so enthusiastic.

Mrs. Nakano's Treatment by Joshi-dan (ladies group)

The Joshi-dan (Woman's branch of Ho:koku) people bow to me and talk to me. They've found out they can't kick me around too much. I kick back. I'm not afraid of them at all.

Mr. Dimon - CAS Head

Mr. Dimon makes lots of promises he can't live up to.

They could do so much for the camp by bringing people in who understand the Japanese. Some of the people here (Caucasians) have a definite prejudice and we see it in their faces. They are doing more harm for the Administration and Washington than anything else. If anybody is friendly to the Japanese here, they (Administration) kicks them out.

I next made three calls but found nobody at home. On my way out of camp, however, I encountered Mr. Tokunaga sauntering along. He explained about his letter, saying that things were pretty bad in the Manzanar section, but the rest of the camp was very quiet. In the Manzanar section the Ho:koku had held a big meeting and the Issei had told the boys that they were certain to be drafted by March if they didn't join. Between 200 to 400 joined. Mr. Tokunaga like everyone else, expects another pick up on the 24th. The people who were not Ho:koku members, Mr. Tokunaga stressed, were very pleased to see them get out, although they were not saying so yet.

TALK WITH NOYES

Noyes informed me that this afternoon between 2:30 and 3:00 the new Ho:koku headquarters in 82 (Wakayama's old block) were raided and two leaders arrested, who are now in the project jail.

Their material was confiscated, but this time there was just a folder full of stuff. The men arrested were the president of the Ho:shi-dan and the Ho:koku-dan, Mr. Hinoki and Mr. Kawabata, respectively. The arrest was made during a meeting of the Central Committee of the organizations and as a result the names of the advisors and of all persons there were obtained. The two men were charged with subversive activity and unlawful assembly.

This morning the officers had had a conference with Mr. Noyes at which they had asked for their flag back. (They wanted to see Best, but had to see Noyes instead.) Miss Kobayashi, Tachibana's sister-in-law, acted as interpreter. According to Noyes, she became very sassy, and asked for the flag in the name of the Japanese government. Noyes told her that the Spanish Consul and not she, represented the Japanese government in this country.

The two men were not arrested in the meeting place but were told to come to the Internal Security office for a conference. Here they were served with the warrants. This was to avoid having the entire group present come up and insist that they be arrested also. Noyes said the men looked punch drunk when served with the warrants. They wanted to know why they were arrested.

For breaking the law, said Noyes.

What law? they asked.

They then stated that they were not the real leaders,

Why did you arrest us? they said, We are just small people.

Representatives of the group immediately telegraphed the Attorney General, the State Department, Dillon Myer and the Spanish Embassy. They have as yet, received no reply. Noyes told the group this morning that he will not meet with them, except to help them to dissolve the organization. Miss Kobayashi then told Noyes that the leaders had to follow the dictates of the membership. Noyes retorted that the leaders will be held responsible for the actions of the members. The thing that really seems to bother them most, in Noyes' opinion, is that they lost their flag. Mr. Shimada, public enemy No. 1, was observed outside of the meeting place. He told Mr. Ross, who took photographs of the raid, that the food in the Alturas jail was much better than the food in Tule Lake.

Noyes also told me that he has received to date about 200 letters from boys who state that they have resigned from the Ho:koku and want to be cleared. Ten boys have come in and requested that their renunciation of citizenship be cancelled.

The Spanish Consul is not going to visit the center until March 23rd.

FEBRUARY 20, 1945TALK WITH KURIHARA

Kurihara opened the talk by giving me a letter to Mr. Best, which cleared the status of a boy whom Kurihara said,

had been high pressured into joining the Ho:koku and was now afraid that his name had not been taken off the membership rolls.

This last bunch who joined the Ho:koku-dan joined mainly to escape the draft. In Manzanar it is really bad.

Yesterday I was snooping around in the Manzanar district. The point is, that some of the boys in that district are smart. Some of them when they found out that they had been misled, they were going to beat up those who had told them the falsehoods. They had a block meeting in block 76 to prevent the boys from beating up the agitators.

Kurihara had been present at the raid. He said,

I heard 50 had been sent to jail. So far I have heard no objections to the jailing.

Effect of Statement

Mr. Rothstein issued a statement which cleared the doubts among many people. On account of that, many have been reconsidering and quitting the organization.

Effect of First Raid on Ho:koku Headquarters - February 12

Many people who are against the Ho:koku - I hear they are glad it was done. It scared some of the Issei too. Many Issei who were advising the Ho:koku are resigning or wanting to resign. As I see it, those people who have been pulling strings from the rear ought to be sent away regardless of whether they resign or not.

The meeting about beating up the agitators came about because of Mr. Rothstein's statement - it was held the day before yesterday (Sunday) in block 76.

Fate of Persons in Santa Fe

I heard quite a number are applying for parole. I was going to suggest this: if any of them are going to be paroled, half a dozen or a dozen or so can come back to camp - those who are nice boys. They'll spread the news of what took place in Santa Fe after they got there. That will help the parents here to make up their minds, regarding their

sons. The people here really don't know what Santa Fe is like. They think it is a fine, safe place for their sons. When they hear the true story, they'll think twice.

Kurihara too, Blames Recent Panic on Issei

It's the Isseis who are at fault right now and I know in many cases the sons and daughters signed up although they had made up their minds not to join. The parents are forcing them to join through pressure.

Kurihara then made a few minor corrections or rather suggestions in the manuscript I had allowed him to read. I asked him about the mysterious threat made after the murder of Hitomi and he loosened up so far as to tell me that the threat was made by Wakayama to his henchmen and that it leaked around pretty fast and that it was a specific threat against the life of a Caucasian should the verdict of the Okamoto court martial be unfavorable. For this reason, Kurihara had warned me. [See fieldnotes, July 4 and July 17.]

Wakayama's and Tachibana's Activities of August - October 1944

Wakayama and Tachibana spoke in the mess halls and the auditorium and they appeared to be great speakers and well educated. They had the cleverness of fooling the Isseis with their manner of thinking. The Isseis fell in love with their way of expressing themselves - so like a great man that they thought they were great men. Many believe in them very sincerely. There is where most of the fault is.

Activities in Santa Fe

Yesterday I heard that men sent to Santa Fe from the Ho:koku are writing to their families here, asking them to apply for transfer to Crystal City.

The people should be informed of the delay in rejoining their families and it will make them stop and think. It's fairer to give them a good warning first, than to have them get in a mess and treat them cruelly thereafter.

I also heard that they have moved food for 150 men into block 99.

(This may mean another pick-up or it may be preparations for housing Ho:koku people in the new stockade.)

Kurihara then gave me two articles he had written over the week-end.

February 21, 1945

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Rosalie Hankey Wax

Tule Lake Fieldnotes

FEBRUARY 21, 1945

TALK WITH KURATOMI

I had planned to see Kuratomi today to discuss the matter of telegraphing the Spanish Consul, but encountering him in the administrative area, I invited him to come over to my place when he had finished his business. This he did and stayed the entire afternoon discussing the camp, his possible future in Japan, his pre-war experiences, his plans for the remainder of his stay in camp, etc. etc. He talked to me more freely than ever before.

Reaction to Statement in Newell Star

Some die-hards are saying that it's nothing but propaganda to put them off the track.

If some of the men who had no connection with the Ho:koku-dan should be returned here, I think it would do more good than harm.

Arrest of Monday

No one seems to regret that they were picked up.

Telegram to Spanish Consul

The best way to do it would be to get a committee to do it. If they put a statement in the Newell Star some people will say that we (Kai and Kuratomi group) were responsible for the statement coming through at that time.

It would be best for the block managers to announce it in the messhalls.

Kuratomi stated that he knew an Issei who would send the telegram for him but he thought best results would be obtained if Fujino and Okubo, the head block managers who are on the committee which meets with the Spanish Consul would do it. Moreover, they came to Tule Lake from Santa Fe, and they definitely wish to avoid being sent back there. In consequence, they are prone to do as they are told. (I'll take this up with Noyes and see if he's willing to contact them.)

The main thing is to get them (Ho:koku) to feel they're going against the law. Up to now they feel it's an honor to be sent to Bismark.

The Ho:koku still have the cockeyed idea that if something should go wrong, the Japanese government will help them. If a statement from the Spanish Embassy should come out - it would really affect them.

After all, most of these people are harmless.

Results of American Victory Over Japan

If Japan should be defeated many of the people in Tule Lake would stay here. But I'm going back, win or lose.

Renunciation of Citizenship

The main motive behind that was mistrusting the future. You remember when the Army Individual Exclusion orders came out. At their hearings, almost to a man they were asked whether they had renounced their citizenship or not. Even the ones who had not applied, said, 'Yes,' to be safe from being shoved out of the center. It was also announced at that time that WRA was going to close the camps.

The individual reaction was - renounce or be shoved out.

Of course, the people who were called outside for their hearing said, 'Yes, I will apply.' When they came back from their hearings, they started writing (to apply for renunciation).

About that time the Ho:koku-dan activities really appealed to the young men because they (Ho:koku) went in for resegregation.

A lot of my friends came to me especially after they had received their exclusion order, asking me for advice on what to do about renunciation.

Wakayama and Tachibana

Wakayama and Tachibana gained a great following by making strong clearcut statements. They said, 'If you're not a follower of this group, you can't go back to Japan. Wakayama also said that the Ho:shi-dan was going to have subdivisions in the various prefectures in Japan to handle the Japanese who were coming back from abroad for their future colonization.

It was not the hearings of the Ho:koku boys or the pickup that made people renounce their citizenship.

Some of the Issei speakers state that they have connections with the Japanese foreign office or the Japanese Navy or Military.

July Hunger Strike

For many months I have wanted to learn more about the July hunger strike. Since Kuratomi was in an extremely open mood, I ventured to ask him.

As for the hunger strike, I wasn't in favor of it. I haven't ever told even my best friends that. However, the

Tule Lake Fieldnotes

majority feeling in the stockade at that time, detained for so long, and our length of detention was so uncertain. At some time, in a vague roundabout way, we knew that certain people were trying to get us a lawyer, and that another group was trying to negotiate with Mr. Best for us.

There was a sentiment in the stockade that was more or less conducive to some action to let the administration realize of this indecision - that it was about time something was done and the more forceful way we demonstrated it, the better it would be. I had to stay with it.

When we went to the hospital we were advised by the doctors to stay in the hospital and take care of ourselves or we would wreck our health. I hoped in the meantime to effect some kind of agreement so it wouldn't be necessary to continue.

All the time we were hospitalized none of the Internal Security would come and see us or if they did come they wouldn't make any statement to us. Schmidt, I think, picked out four of the weakest and sent them back to the stockade first. These four boys talked to the Internal Security men and got no answer so they started in to strike again. Those of us who followed had to do the same thing.

Another Ho:koku Rumor

Another rumor put out by the Ho:koku members is that unless you renounce your citizenship by January 20 you will be put on the clearance list.(1) This rumor came out before any of the pickups.

During our talk Kuratomi made it clear that he intends to take a very active part in camp politics in the future. He stated that if "his" group had been leading the Ho:koku people instead of Tachibana and Wakayama, the Administration and Department of Justice would have had a real job on their hands. Kuratomi also indicated that he may attempt to start an organization of a definite Japanization character. I was very frank with him and pointed out that as long as the fence sitters and the large group of vacillating people live in the camp, any such action would bring down the wrath of the authorities on his head. He said he believed one could get around that if one were careful.

(I must admit the trend in camp to act as Japanese as possible is very very strong.) I asked Kuratomi how he would clear the fence-sitters out of camp. He suggested that the WRA come out with a clear statement of policy and tell the people to make up their minds once and for all, stay in camp and go to Japan or get out by a certain date. Of course, he admitted, it would really be necessary to have an understanding with the Japanese government before this could be done.

[1. That is, be reclassified as a person free to relocate.]

February 21, 1945

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Rosalie Hankey Wax

LETTER FROM MRS. SHIBATA

Mrs. Shibata was the women whose men folk were in the Ho:koku and whom the Kondos' asked me to help. Unfortunately, it's too late.

February 21, 1945

Thank you very much for your kind letter offering to help us.

Shizue Miyake wanted you to help us make some arrangement so she can enter this camp to visit her brothers before they left here. Since they have left on February 11 I believe she will change her mind about coming here since it is a long an expensive trip here. If she still wants to come here, may I again ask your kind help.

REJECTION

I had not seen one of my Nisei girl friends [Asako Higaki] for some time and ventured to call at her apartment in block 25. She and her family had been very much against the Ho:koku. I found only her sister at home and she told me that her sister would get in touch with me. Today I received the following letter:

2-20-45

Dear Miss Hankey,

My sister told me about your visit.

I am sorry but I am not interested in discussing about the camp affair.

Sincerely yours,

I was hurt by this letter from a person I considered my friend. [Evidently I was so put down that I did not record the girl's name.]

FATE OF ARRESTED MEN

I heard through Caucasian grape vine that the two men arrestd were tried and given 90 days. Tried to check with Noyes but he was out.

Permanized
PARCHMENT

February 22, 1945

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Rosalie Hankey Wax

FEBRUARY 22, 1945

TALK WITH KAYO IIDA, NISEI GIRL

Rumors on New Ho:koku Policy

I heard that the Ho:koku had a meeting to try to get the present leaders to resign and get out. The other people want to stop the military exercises. Some people thought it better to go to WRA and ask them if they could keep the organization but stop the objectionable military activities.

The Ho:koku hide their real feelings when they leave their wives and children, but we know how they feel.

Most of us thought that after those three internments they would stop. But I guess they're just keeping it up now for spite.

Hawaiians

I heard all the Hawaiians were called in and told that they can go out anytime. So they are now the same as we are.

FIGHT IN GAMBLING HOUSE

Heard from a Caucasian that there was a fight in a gambling house this afternoon in which an older man was seriously injured by a younger man. The younger man is reputed to have a bad reputation with the Administration.

Called on Kurihara today to talk over Spanish Consul visit, but he was out.

FEBRUARY 23, 1945

[PAGE 1 OF FEBRUARY 23, 1945 HAS BEEN LOST.]

TALK WITH GEORGE AND SALLY YAMASHIRO

George, however, was pleased over the fact that he had managed to transfer from Welfare to Housing. However, all the men formerly working in housing have now been laid off and George works with a bunch of girls. He teased Sally about this, stating how much he liked his new job and emphasizing the fact that he now shaves every morning.

Details of "Join the Ho:koku" Panic

You know, a lot of people received little papers about six inches long and one inch wide. They were notices to go for a hearing. But the Ho:koku said, 'Those are your draft notices. Join the Ho:koku or you'll be drafted.' A lot of fellows joined.

They even went and got Bo:zu (head shaved like a monk) hair cuts, added Sally.

Then when they went to the hearing office they were just asked if they were going to relocate.

In the paper it said that 99% of the people will have their citizenship renounced and will not be put in the Army. But the Ho:koku guys go around saying, 'What if you're in the 1%?'

It's the innocent people that make me feel bad. I know a fellow who's in this block in the Ho:koku. He's just getting nuts. He went to the shoe repairing shop and forgot and brought home bread instead. He's a dish-washer. He'll wash one bowl and then go back and the supervisor has to go after him again.

Arrest of Kawabata and Hinoki

As for myself, I don't feel nothing.

Petition

They're taking a petition now for Hinoki and Kawabata. I think lots of people are signing it.

Wild Version of Gambling Fight

Sally: I heard a man lost 300 bucks (gambling). He got angry and wanted to kill the man who had taken the money. He went home and sharpened a razor blade. Then he

went back to the gambling joint and started the fight. But the other man got hold of his hand and struck him instead. He cut him badly.

George: I heard Mr. Uchida had written here and said, 'Don't come to Santa Fe. Life is miserable here. Get out of the Ho:koku.

If I was in the Ho:koku I'd go now. Right now they really know they were misled. But they won't stop. They can't stop.

At this moment a notice was delivered to George. It was from the Spanish Consul and stated that renunciants would come under the jurisdiction of the Protecting Power, providing they comply with certain requirements. George's reaction to the paper was interesting. He glanced at it and said, "Ah-h-h - the Spanish Consul," in the same tone he might have used in saying, "Phooey."

Incident in Block 67

Last weekend there was some trouble in block 67. Block 67 used to have a very strong Ho:shi-dan membership. But now many of the people have resigned. The Ho:shi-dan was blaming it on a certain man. So one night the Ho:shi-dan went to his house and threw rocks at it three or four times. He was scared to death.

Opinions On Attempts To Dissolve Ho:koku

WRA can disband the Ho:koku only by segregating them. If WRA thinks they're going to stop them by making a few arrests, they're wrong.

Sally: But if WRA let's them resegregate, they'll say, 'Look what we did.' That's what they want.

George: The women are getting stronger and stronger. I'm very sure that no matter what they do, they'll want to be pulled in. I don't think arresting them will do any good.

A frank statement on what they could do and couldn't do will help. But if Mr. Best did say something frankly now, nobody would believe it.

War Situation

George, then asked me bluntly who I thought was going to win the war. I did my best on this tough subject but implied that things were not looking too good for the Axis right now. George, however, said that his stay in Japan has convinced him that Japan could not be beaten. He also remarked on the fact that he believed that the Japanese who remained in this country were not going to be treated any better after the war and that a new war would probably break out in 20 years and the Japanese (in the U.S.) would again suffer persecution. I'm, hearing these arguments, (which were put down in detail by Kurihara) rather frequently in camp now. I am inclined to believe that they indicate a weakening in the resolve to go to Japan, a

weakening which must be bolstered up by the arguments cited. Kuratomi said the same thing Wednesday. Anyway, George Yamashiro said he was going back to Japan, "win or lose."

SHORT TALK WITH NOYES

Learned that the beating on Thursday was a matter of a man being attacked with a lead pipe. The assailant was Kitadani, a young fellow of very bad reputation. The trial has not yet come up. Kawabata and Hisoki are serving their time in the project jail (30 days).

Noyes also told me that he'd been working all day with the FBI. Whether the FBI is planning to take action against the Ho:koku, I don't know, but from the way Noyes acted about it the action is going to be pretty big.

Have also neglected to state in my notes that is the contention of the Joshi-dan, the women's auxiliary of the Ho:koku, that they organized to assist the wives of interned men with the care of their children.

FEBRUARY 27, 1945

I have had very bad luck in contacting people in the past few days, everyone I've called on being out. This has been really depressing, since this place is no fun at all when I can't talk to the Japanese.

TALK WITH NOYES

The next pickup will be Sunday instead of Thursday, the day having been postponed again. 125 people are to be taken, 40 Issei and the rest officers of the Ho:koku and Ho:shi-dan. The Ho:koku has not yet elected new officers since the arrest of Kawabata and Hinoki, but I guess they'll have to, since Kawabata and Hinoki will be taken from jail to be interned.

Wakayama and Co-op

Noyes told me that Cook, head of Internal Security could give me inside information on this. Cook probably will since we're on good terms. I'm interested because it looks more and more as if Wakayama was the camp's Al gangster and had his finger in more pies than anybody except Kurihara suspected.

Wakayama saw that several Board members he wanted to get in were elected. Matsumura was put in by Wakayama. Wakayama thought he'd be his stooge, but Matsumura refused.

I've told Sandborn to keep Shimada under surveillance all the time until he leaves.

The Gambling Fight

Kitadani is to be tried tomorrow. Slim Tsuda has been intimidating witnesses. Kimura stuck his nose in too. Kitadani is a gambler, a dealer in a gambling joint. The guy who was beaten was also a gambler, but of another clique. Ideta and a friend came into the joint drunk. Ideta is a two star judo man, older than Kitadani. It seems Kitadani was prepared for him with a two foot length of pipe. Kitadani was dealing. Ideta came over to swat him. They wrestled. Kitdanai took the pipe and hit Ideta three times and put him in the hospital.

Noyes also told me that the gambling joint in block 7 has been closed by the Housing Department which took the place over for an office.

At first Tsuda said Kitadani was not to blame, that Ideta started it and Kitadani oughtn't to be held. When he heard it was going to be a state case, he was going to hire a lawyer. Then he wanted both of them to get some punishment. If it was a state trial they wouldn't tell us anything.

But it's going to be a project trial. But I hear that Slim (Tsuda) had been going around talking to witnesses and telling them, 'It's really better to forget about it all.

In the United States strange things happen. A man gets hit on the back of the head because he gets involved in certain things and says certain things when he shouldn't.

Kimura was also interested. He came with Tsuda to inquire at the Internal Security Office. But the first question Mits asked was, 'When is the period of my probation up?' They answered, 'In about 10 days.' He turned around and said, 'OK fellows, I'm not going to have anything to do with this,' and walked out.

An elaborate documentation for the FBI has been prepared from the seized Ho:koku documents. What the specific charges will be, if any are made, rests with the FBI.

Information on Exchange Boat

Japan has informed the State Department that it has been misquoted on the radio, that the statement Japan made with regard to an exchange was, 'If and when an exchange takes place they will prefer the Tule Lake residents.' They are either postponing it or backing out.

Renunciation of Citizenship and Army Hearings

Best in my presence asked Colonel Liske and Colonel Beard (?) why the Army was asking about renunciation of citizenship. Noyes knew that this question was making people apply for renunciation and told Best about it.

The Army arrived the 19th of December and began it's hearings. Burling arrived on the 6th.

The first bill proposed was to take away the citizenship of all persons of Japanese ancestry - perhaps making an exception of the men in the Army and their families. Burling put up the present bill as a compromise.

Justice has already heard about 3,800 to 4,000 cases. They will probably hear another 1,000 before they leave.

Rothstein (of Department of Justice) got a letter from the vice-chairmen of the Ho:koku and Ho:shi-dan requesting the names of all the people who had written in saying they had resigned so that they can erase them from the list of members.

One of the big elements in the removal of the 650 men was that the railroad fare was cheaper for a big number. The man in charge told me this.

From the beginning the Newell Star has been playing up renunciation strong and heavy. Best said, 'For Petes sake, can't we skip an issue? They talk as if they were promoting it.'

Outbreak of Violence This Week

This has been a big crime week in Tule. A man was arrested for running around in a mess hall with a knife threatening people. The Kitadani fight - and there was another fight in mess 17. Moreover, the Manzanar school windows have been stoned for the first time in camp history.

Letter From Santa Fe

The letter from Santa Fe to the Ho:koku had been passed by the censors. In it Mr. Matsuda told all about a meeting the big shots had had in Santa Fe.

FEBRUARY 28, 1945

Called on Frank Furakawa today to break the jinx, but the bad luck held. He had an appointment with Internal Security so I returned home frustrated. Then my luck changed. I had a visit from Melba Kaminaka, one of Jimmy's [Takeuchi] friends. Melba, who plans to go out sometime in the vague future suffers from few of the Tule torments. Gossiping with her all afternoon cheered me up so much that I feel like a new person.

TALK WITH MELBA KAMINAKAHo:koku

I know boys who are having their heads shaved just to go to their hearings. To make a good impression, they shave off their heads. I don't understand them.

I heard about another fellow who applied to work in Mess Operations. Mr. Hayward held up his hat and when he saw he had long hair he said, 'OK, you're a good boy.'

Why doesn't the Administration make some definite statement? Who is in charge here anyway, WRA, the Department of Justice or the Army, or what? Somebody ought to take more interest.

I know some poor kids, their parents made them shave their heads. But they still roll up their jeans to show their argyle socks. A lot of kids say that when they're 18 they'll have to join (the Ho:koku) due to their parents' pressure and the draft.

The women in the Joshi are sure carrying on. They drill now and wear trousers like the women wear in the fields in Japan.

Before the last pick-up our ambulance driver came and said, 'Kiss me goodnight. It's the last chance you'll have to do it.' Sure enough, he was taken.

In our block a young kid was taken in the first bunch. In the second bunch his older brother went. The old folks in our block went to sympathize. But the mother said, 'I'm proud of this. At last they've become Japanese - Nippon Seishin (Japanese spirit).' We didn't know what to say.

Isn't it true that they (Ho:koku) put up an ultimatum that if they return the people back from Santa Fe they'll be good?

Another girl said she got a telegram from Santa Fe saying they're making preparations to move the people in Santa Fe back here and put them in the stockade.

I then asked Melba what she thought of the reaction the Ho:koku had been showing to the orders that they behave. Her reply was illuminating:

Just what were the orders? We don't know.

You just can't open your mouth to anyone nowadays because you don't know which side they're on.

I heard there were a lot of inus inside the organization and out of it. I heard some of inus took an awful beating on the train. I heard a reverend tried to pacify the boys because they complained about the food. So they beat him up.

A young boy - a wash-sho(1) boy - was waiting for his hearing. He told me, 'I went out primarily for the physical object. I believe in building my body.' He said he hadn't read their (Ho:koku) constitution. He said, 'Myself and a couple of fellows are reading up on it and making a brief.' He cited the woman congressman who had refused to vote after Pearl Harbor. He told about the times he had been discriminated against. He said, 'I don't believe there's any future for me here.'

I said, 'You' re looking only at the economical side. Do you expect to have all that fulfilled in Japan? He said 'Yes, at least there he'll be treated equal.' So he went.

The Department of Justice Statement

I was on the night shift so I didn't see it right away. But I thought it was swell. But right after that, the feeling got more resentful and they shaved more heads off. I think the majority of the people believed it was true. Even the older folks who weren't too closely related to the group.

Isn't it that they'll keep sending the people out [to relocate] until they deplete the Nisei population and in the end this is going to be an internment camp?

[1. In performing their militaristic exercises, the Ho:koku members shouted, "Wash-sho! Wash-sho! (Hip! Hip!),".]

Isn't it true that the American schools are going to be closed by April? The point was - a Jap camp wouldn't need educational schools.

Everything they call American is frowned upon. We wanted to give a farewell party to Dr. Marks in the colony. But we feel the colony people feel we shouldn't do this.

A young boy, the baby of the family was sent away. He sent his mother a note concealed in a rice cake saying, 'I'm terribly lonely, mother.' Naturally, he wouldn't admit anything like that to his family before he was sent away, but he sent it to his mother.

These boys who don't know what they're doing. It makes me so mad. What's wrong with being drafted? Golly!

We're always saying, 'It (trouble) just has to stop.' But that's what we're saying all the time.

I also heard they weren't going to employ anymore Ho:koku people .

Melba has not renounced her citizenship and doesn't intend to. Her parents are trying to make her fill in her repatriation papers properly but she keeps putting this off. As she left I told her,

Well, don't let them shave your head.

She replied,

They'll have to scalp me first.

TALK WITH KURIHARA

I asked Kurihara about the rumor of the boys from Santa Fe returning here. He corroborated it:

The boys in Santa Fe say they expect to be back in camp within a month. That rumor has been circulating for a week or more. Where do they get that idea? I've heard quite a few have applied for parole.

If it's possible to bring back ten or twelve boys to the camp they will spread the disagreement among themselves, how they acted. They really weren't acting as true Japanese. By giving the rest of the boys in camp such information, these boys here would stop to think. It will help them to make up their mind.

That was my experience when I was in Moab and Leupp, that the officials made a big mistake not to send some of the boys back to the centers. There was disagreement among the boys in Moab who came from the various centers. I've noticed each and every group has split in two and fought among themselves.

The officials at Santa Fe or Bismark ought to know whether those persons should be sent back. They could check their names.

Discussion on Ambivalence

We now went into a discussion on "loyalty" and here I really had to respect Kurihara more than ever for his honesty. I had made the statement in a recent part of my manuscript that at least 90% of the people professing loyalty to Japan were not really loyal. I said Kurihara might differ with me. He did, going into quite a speech and insisting that 85% of the Japanese in this country were loyal to Japan. I said,

That is true as far as affection and respect for the old country is concerned. But - how many of the Japanese in this country would be willing to enter the Army and die for the emperor or would be willing to give their lives as is the duty of every Japanese civilian?

Kurihara took this like a man, thought a minute and said,

You're right. Then he said:

The Issei are really on the fence. If it looks as if Japan is going to win - they jump to Japan. If it looks as though things will go the other way, they will jump the other way. To speak honestly, I was surprised to see how many Japanese can't make up their minds what they are going to do.

Many Issei and families are forcing their sons to join the Ho:koku-dan merely to escape the draft. I told them, when they get back to Japan they will use some means to keep their sons out of the Japanese Army. They were very surprised to hear me say that.

Internments and Relocation

Are they going to permit the boys in Santa Fe and Bismark to relocate under parole if they should apply?

I asked Kurihara what led him to ask me this question.

I think 50% of them will try to get out within the next six months. I predicted this, and if the government is not going to let them out, why my prediction won't count. If they are let out, when the leaders get to Japan, they're going to have a terrible time to explain.

Wakayama and the Co-op

I asked about Wakayama and the Co-op.

What really happened was that they asked me to take the job as Co-op treasurer. Komiya, Fujizawa and S ? asked me

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to take it. I was about to take it when Mr. Fujizawa came out with the statement, 'I've spoken to Mr. Wakayama with regard to your appointment and he OKed it.' So I made up my mind I'm not accepting it. I said to myself, 'Why must I be approved by Mr. Wakayama to get the job?' If such is the case and people believe it must be so, I turned it down flat.

Then I also know that Wakayama had quite a number of henchmen - between twenty and fifty - who called themselves the Seigi-dan. That means a group which fights for justice. (Here I could not help breaking into laughter in which Kurihara joined.) He had this bunch here to back up anything the officials of the Co-op said or did. They were the strong arm which Wakayama was going to use so that what he wanted to do through the officials of the Co-op would be turned out. This bunch, the Seigi-dan was composed of San Pedro boys. So when he intended to give me a little thrashing, this bunch, knowing me, had refused to carry out his order.

Mr. Shiroyama at that time made the statement that if Wakayama gave the order to come and beat me up he will defend me with his life. He was assistant block manager in 82, a young fellow, and dragged into the Ho:koku.

Wakayama was trying to be a Toyama Mitsuru here.(1)

In messhall 8, Mr. Ishigama stated (in late October) that the organization (Ho:koku) wasn't for Mr. Wakayama and that he didn't have anything to do with it. And also at the meeting in block 4 (October 21) Mr. Tachibana stated that the organization didn't belong to Wakayama.

LETTER FROM CONSERVATIVE - Mr. Oda

Since Oda's block is still very tense after the big pick-up, we have been corresponding.

February 27, 1945

Dear Miss Hankey,

The statement which was made in the star news certainly clarified many unsolved points that has been bothering the colonists for weeks. As you know, before issuing such official statement, wild threatening rumors, mostly regarding the transferring of the members and those who renounced U.S. citizenship had been spread over the center, degrading morale and confusing the critical situation.

This was reached to the climax right after the third group left for internment camp. However the information as to status of those who renounced, clarifying the many misunderstanding over result of the hearings and matters of the Hokoku surely relieved heavy worry from their shoulder, relizing the misleadership and misconduct of Hokoku or Hoshi-Dan ---especially those

[1. A Japanese friend has told me that "machine-gun" Toyama Mitsuru was a notorious gang leader (yakuza) of the 1930's.]

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Rosalie Hankey Wax

who were former member of organization. Awakening of such mispolicy is the reason growing out great fear and threatening terribly their conscious as internal security took all records for investigation and future personal reference. As for consequence of conscience, many former members wrote to Attorney clarifying their status and stating reason of the resignation.

Since publication of the statement many malicious rumors have mysteriously disappeared, especially the rumor as to the drafting for military service in this center which had strongly been going on for weeks during that critical period. This confused many of them together with the status of renunciants because a number of the residents were removed to enemy alien internment camp who were not members of the Hokoku-Dan. Removed to internment camp, regardless of membership in Hokoku-Dan really astonished those who desired to renounce citizenship out do not wish to go to inernment came because their thoughts disagreed. But actually after seeing the intention of the transfers one big unsoluble problem remained which was why do they removed those who renounced previously. Wondering about this queer situation, renunciants are steadily increasing, however, personal behavior of renunciants permitted to remain until definite plan made is a very bright side. But I have doubts as to how this will affect those who wish to renounce their citizenship. It seems to me a great number of residents have made up their decision a long time ago. I do not know the reason of their renunciation but perhaps right now the hearing officers are able to find out by past hearing records.

I went to my hearing the other day and told the hearing officer I resigned last year. So I hope my case is clear now.

Sincerely yours,