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1945-1946

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

Tule Lake Center
Newell, California

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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

SPECIAL REPORT
January 24, 1945

Dear Mr. Myer:

The Reports office has co-operated unanimously yesterday and today with John L. Burling of the Department of Justice in preparation, reproduction and distribution in the colony of an open letter by Mr. Burling, written for the Attorney General, addressed specifically to Masao Sakamoto, chairman of Sokuji Kikoku Hoshi Dan, and Tsutomu Higashi, chairman of Hokoku Seinen Dan, in answer to a letter of January 1 and a telegram of January 6 sent over their names to the Attorney General protesting removal from the colony December 27 of 70 men, who were sent to Santa Fe following renunciation of citizenship hearings held by Mr. Burling here.

This was handled strictly as a Department of Justice proceeding, without involvement of WRA by name. Internal Security and Colonial Peace were utilized in distribution, but this was done in the name of the Department of Justice.

Copies of the letter, in English and Japanese, were posted before noon on all colony mess hall bulletin boards, with a notice, in English and Japanese, which reads:

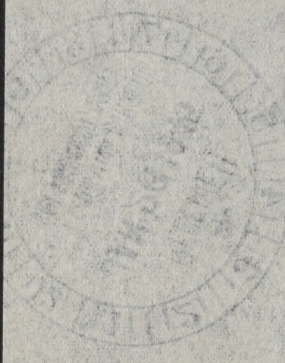
NOTICE
CONCERNING THE LETTER BY MR. BURLING POSTED HERE

This is an open letter by Mr. John L. Burling of the Department of Justice, written for the Attorney General of the United States, and posted here by Internal Security by order of the Department of Justice.

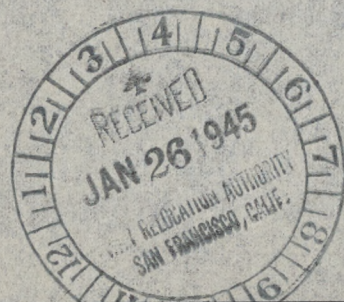
The block managers organization has had nothing to do with the issuance or posting of this notice or letter.

Additional copies of Mr. Burling's letter are obtainable at the Colonial Peace office by everyone interested.

By United States Department of Justice.



Handwritten signature



Dillon S. Myer - Page 2

The block managers organization, which co-operates with the administration in colony internal affairs, and which is an important source of information, particularly to the reports office, through the Community Activities Section, was reluctant to be identified with this enterprise of Mr. Burling's, and a set-up such as this was necessary to get the block managers out from under.

Translation into Japanese of Mr. Burling's letter was by army translators, but considerable repair work was necessary by the reports office staff, still working unanimously. The result is understandable, but still not more than a barely adequate translation job. The reports office staff neither was in a position to, nor had the time to do a complete revamping job. Corrections were made only where the entire point had been missed or misinterpreted. Copies are being forwarded.

Sincerely,

R. R. Best
Project Director

RErown:br

N O T I C E

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告知

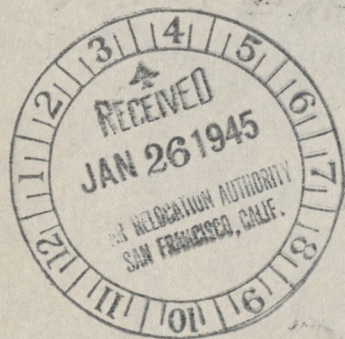
此処に貼付したるバリーング氏認めの手書翰に
関して、

此は司法省ジョン・エルバリーング氏に依り認められたる
公開状でありまして合衆国検事総長の署名の代筆
であります。そして司法省令によつて所内保
安課によつて貼付されたものであります。

此の手紙若しくは書翰の発行乃至貼出し
には正支配人本部とは何等関係ないもので
あります。

所内保安部に於てバリーング氏認めの手
附加的草稿(別紙の文書)は誰にでも欲しい
人に與えられらるゝことになつてゐます。

アメリカ合衆国司法省



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Newell, California

January 18, 1945

Masao Sakamoto
Chairman, Sokuji Kikoku Hoshi Dan
Tsutomu Higashi
Chairman, Hokoku Seinen Dan
Tule Lake Center
Newell, California

Sirs:

Your letter of January 1, 1945 and your telegram of January 6, 1945 to the Attorney General pertaining to the apprehension as alien enemies of seventy members of your organizations on December 27, 1944 has been referred to me for reply. Although I have been in some doubt as to whether the letter merits any reply at all inasmuch as I have questioned both of you and have found that neither of you is able to write English and therefore neither could have written the letter himself and since neither of you is able or willing to tell me who did write it, I have nevertheless determined to make this reply to your communications so that your two organizations may have a clear and unequivocal statement as to the attitude and policies of the Department of Justice toward the organizations and their activities.

I may say at the outset that the tone of your communications as well as the tone of the statements made to me by the leadership of the two organizations suggests that those leaders, possibly because they have for nearly three years resided in camps safely away from the pressures of war, have lost all sense of reality. The young men of the Hokoku Seinen Dan leadership glibly assert their loyalty to the Emperor of Japan and their desire to fight in the Japanese Army. They have the effrontery to engage on American soil in semi-military drilling and in Japanese patriotic exercises to the sound of bugles. They have the impudence to appear before officials of the American Government wearing their hair cut short in the manner of Japan so soldiers and having painted on their shirts a Japanese patriotic emblem with the background of the Rising Sun. The older men of the Sokuji Kikoku Hoshi Dan do not make such spectacles of themselves but feel free not only to tell the American Government of their loyalty to Japan but even to encourage the activities of the young men.

All this would be bad enough but what is worse is that the leaders of these organizations appear to feel that because of these activities they are entitled to respect and approval not only from persons who are loyal to Japan but from the American Government itself. The tone of the communications which the leaders of the two organizations have had with me indicates that those leaders believe that the organizations are respectable and reasonable ones entitled to the friendly consideration of this Government. In thinking that, those leaders have, as I say, lost all sense of reality.

As those of us who have not for years been sheltered behind the protective fences of this Camp appreciate and as the morale of the 100th Battalion know all too well, America is engaged in a terrible war and is paying for the victory, which is sure, a frightful cost in blood and lives. The Japanese Army and Navy, to which the leaders of these organizations profess loyalty, commenced this war against us without warning and the victories over the Japanese Army and Navy which we have already won and will continue to win are taking the lives of thousands of our young men of every ancestry, including your own.

Under these circumstances only children or half-crazy people could suppose that the American Government can look with friendship or approval upon organizations openly engaged in activities designed to show loyalty to the enemy. In my opinion the reason the leadership of these organizations so foolishly fails to understand the attitude which the American Government must take toward the organizations is that the leaders have throughout most of the war refused to fight in the American Army, been unable to fight in the Japanese Army and have sat in safety and even relative comfort in a Government Camp. Tule Lake may not be a delightful place to live but there is little doubt that the foxholes are worse. Sheltered as they are, the leaders do not know the meaning of war.

Members of the organizations, particularly the Hokoku Seinen Dan, tell me that they are anxious to fight for Japan and that they should receive at least the respect due to enemy patriots. I doubt very much whether they are entitled even to that consideration. In the first place, the members of the Hokoku Seinen Dan are almost all American citizens. They were born in the United States. Even by the Japanese code, loyalty is a matter of birth; and this country, therefore, is the mother country of the members of the Seinen Dan. Yet in time of war those young men, who were born in this country have betrayed it and have demonstrated their loyalty to the enemy. They are not patriots, but traitors. They are, thank God, but a small minority of the young people of Japanese ancestry born in this country, but they are a disgrace and a shame to their brother Japanese-Americans who have proved with their blood that they understand what it means to be loyal to the country of one's birth.

Not only are the leaders of the Hokoku Seinen Dan traitors to the country of their birth but it is very doubtful whether they are truly loyal to Japan. A very large number of the leaders are Kibei who left Japan after 1937. In that year Japan commenced the China Incident which, although it was not a declared war, was nevertheless a bloody and costly one. Ever since 1937 soldiers of the Japanese Army have been fighting in China. Ever since that time there has been compulsory military service in Japan. Of course, few people left Japan who were actually drafted but many of the young men who were 17, 18 or 19 in those years left one jump ahead of the draft. If you do not believe this, look around among your Kibei friends. Ask yourselves why these boys who now say they are so anxious to fight and die for the Emperor didn't stay and do so when they had the chance. Ask yourselves why it is only now, when they are snug and safe in an American camp for the duration of the war, that they decide that they want to fight for Japan. Is it not that they know they will go back to Japan after the war and know that the veterans of the Japanese Army will ask them why they left during the Chinese war and where they were when the fighting was going on? Is it not their hope that by this foolish head-shaving and bugle-blowing they will persuade people of their Japanese patriotism even though when they were last in Japan they fled the draft?

Some of the young men admit they left Japan during the fighting in China, but say they are now going back on an exchange ship and fight. There is reason to doubt their sincerity. In the first place, while they were making these assertions it looked to everyone as if there would be no more exchanges during the war, although throughout the entire war the United States government has been anxious to exchange Japanese nationals desiring to return to Japan for American citizens in the Orient. Japan had agreed to only two exchanges and had not agreed to any since October, 1943. Thus it seemed perfectly safe for the boys who did not fight when they had the chance to say that now they wanted to go back on an exchange ship and fight. In the second place it is not at all clear yet what the conditions of the exchange will be, or even if there will be one. Ordinarily men of military age are not exchange or, if they are, an agreement is made between the belligerents forbidding them to fight. This may be included in the terms of the contemplated exchange. The boosters still may be safe.

Many of the leaders of the Sokuji Kikoku Hoshi Dan and the Hokoku Seinen Dan have expressed the view that the activities of these organizations are permissible since residents at this Center were told, when it was established as a segregation center, that his Camp was to be for persons who look toward a future in Japan and, in a sense, was to be for persons who were loyal to Japan. This is wholly wrong. It is true that this Camp was set aside as a segregation center and that by and large persons who were denied leave clearance were transferred here. It is also true that many persons who were segregated here had already declined to express their loyalty to the United States. Many people, however, came here to be with their families or for other reasons unrelated to loyalty to Japan. Thus, it is incorrect to say that this is a camp exclusively for Japanese patriots and that pro-Japanese activity is therefore permissible. No Government can force inner loyalty. These Issei who feel loyal to Japan may live quietly in the Camp and continue to feel that loyalty. These Nisei who feel loyal to Japan may, under the new statute, apply for renunciation of their citizenship; and, if it is approved, they, like their elders, may live in a Camp quietly and continue to feel that loyalty. No one, however, has the right to engage in pro-Japanese demonstrations and parades or to publish pro-Japanese newspapers or to wear a semi-military uniform bearing the emblem of the Rising Sun on it. What is even more important, no one loyal to Japan has the right here to seek to convert others to that loyalty. I am well aware that your two organizations have put pressure on residents of this Center to assert loyalty to Japan and that in a

number of cases physical violence was employed. There is no more right to engage in Japanese patriotic ceremonies or to publish a pro-Japanese paper in this Center, where some loyal Americans still live, than there is anywhere else in the United States. It is as treasonable to coerce others into asserting loyalty to Japan here as it would be outside. All these activities will stop.

Coming to the specific questions which you asked the Attorney General in your letter of January 1, 1945, you are informed that the seventy men apprehended by the Department of Justice on December 27, 1944 were apprehended as alien enemies pursuant to Section 21 Title 50 United States Code, which authorizes the apprehension of alien enemies who are deemed dangerous to the internal security of the United States. All of these men were alien enemies either because they were Issai to begin with or because they were dual citizens who had renounced their American citizenship, thus leaving only Japanese citizenship. Their internment as alien enemies was deemed in the national interest by the Attorney General because of the subversive activities of the organizations of which they were leaders.

You next state that these men were originally segregated in Tule Lake with their families because of their professed loyalty to Japan and ask why they are now interned and separated from their families. They have not been interned because of their feeling of loyalty to Japan but because they were leaders in subversive organizations which encouraged the pro-Japanese activities to which I have referred. They were apprehended because it was felt to be necessary to remove them to a Department of Justice Internment Camp where their conduct could be more carefully controlled. At some later date it may or may not be possible to arrange for their internment in a camp where their families may join them. At the present time there are not sufficient family camp facilities to permit this. The Geneva Convention does not guarantee an enemy, whether a prisoner of war or a civilian internee, the right to have his family with him. Internment in family camps is an additional humanitarian procedure provided by this Government which can be provided only as there is space available.

Your third question asks why the men who were apprehended on December 27 were not given time to bid farewell to their families or to pack their belongings. Since the men were apprehended in the middle of the night when they presumably were in their apartments with their families, I should suppose they did in fact have an opportunity to say goodbye. I also understand that they were able to take with them their necessary belongings.

You last state that one of the seventy men was arrested when his mother was ill and you assert that his removal was, therefore, inhuman. It is, of course, unfortunate that this man's mother was ill at the time but there is nothing inhuman about the son's apprehension. Persons who engage in subversive activities may expect to be apprehended and if this apprehension comes at an unfortunate time, that is his own responsibility. In view of the fact that seventy men had to be moved by special train, it was necessary to conduct the operation with speed and efficiency and, although I am unaware of the details of the movement, I assume that there was a practical reason which made it impossible for the apprehended man to visit his mother. The Department of Justice desires to be humane but when dealing with avowed enemies of this country the interests of the United States will, within the safeguards of the Geneva Convention, come first.

In your letter of January 1, 1945 you refer to the apprehension of the seventy men as an "intolerable incident". There is nothing whatever "intolerable" about that incident. What is intolerable is that the activities of your two organizations continue. Since these activities are intolerable, they will not be tolerated but, on the contrary, will cease.

For the Attorney General

John L. Burling

John L. Burling

拜啓

昭和十九年十月七日附 敵國在留民七十名逮捕の件付、
検事局長宛 昭和十九年一月一日附の書及び一月六日附の電報
に關する返答を委託されたり、貴殿の書に對する返答いさか
疑問の点ありしかど兩人共に英語不瞭解なる故彼の書は貴殿
にて記されたものでなく必ず其の代筆人あるならんと疑念を抱
きたり、併し未だ其の當人は知られなけれども兩國共に
各團の活動組織に對する「司法局の態度、政策に明りか
なる御理解を有する爲め左記を御通知致します」

最初に於きまして私方に宛てたる貴殿「兩團體指導者」の
調子、若しくは貴殿の記述書に依り兩指導者等は多分
此の収容所に約三年戦争の圧迫から安全的に居住して居る
爲め實在の全觀念を失した、報國青年團員は絶對的に
日本天皇に對して忠誠を誓ひ日本軍人として戦ふことを希望す
貴殿等は「ラバ」の日本に合わせ半軍隊的教練又は愛国日本的
休養を鉄面皮にもはく米国の地に於て行つてゐる貴殿等は
日本軍人らしく断髪し同時に朝日の背景に愛国日本の章
を表したる上衣を身につけてゐる、即時帰國の年輩の人は
積極的に示威運動しなくとも一方に於て若人達の活動を激
勵し自由に日本に對し忠誠を誓ふ事を米國政府に對し主張し
てゐる、以上を以ても充分認識を新しなればなりぬのに「団体
の指導者等は斯う如き活動に依りて唯日本に忠誠を表明したる
人のみならず米國政府より尊敬され承認されるべき資格を
有して居ると確信して居ることは言語同断である、

私宛の兩團體の指導者達の書状に依れば指導者達は彼の組織
團體は尊敬すべき性質のもので合法的である故に米國政府は友交的
考慮を拂ふべきであると表明してゐるが彼の指導者達は實在觀念を
失したと私方は思ふ、我々の如く鉄柵の下にて何ヶ年も過した経験のな
い者、又かの勇敢なる第百大隊も既知し感謝し現在米國は天下未
曽有の戦争にあり、勝利の爲め、勿論無限の血命の犠牲を拂て
ゐる、組織團體の指導者達は忠誠を盡す所の日本陸海軍は戰
宣布告なくして戦争を開始し、一方米國が既に勝ち得た所の日本
陸海軍に對して勝利、又將來勝つ所の戦争は何千人と言ふ諸系統
の彼我の青年の生命を奪ふゐる、斯う如き事情の下にて敵に對して
忠誠を盡す恐れある自由活動をする所の組織團體に對して友交的、
美認的に見る米國は子供又は半狂の人とのみ假定する所である、
私見を申し上げますと政府キヤンパに安全、安樂的に住み日本政府の爲
に戦ひ得ず又米國軍人として戦ふことを拒むことに対して米國政府が各
團體に、とり得べき所の態度は各指導者達は愚かにも不瞭解である、
鶴嶺湖はあまり住みよき所ではないが戦線の穴の中に比しては遙かによい
所なることは疑ひない、指導者達は現在やうに庇護下に住み戦争の
真意を解せぬものである、(団員、特に報國青年團員)の言によると、彼等
は日本のため戦ふことを希望する故、少くとも日本愛國心に對して尊敬を
受くべきである、私方は彼等団員が其の資格があるかどうかを疑ふ、
第一報國青年團員は大部分第二世より成立してゐる、彼等団員は米國
で生れたものである、日本の慣例にもある如く、「忠誠は生國に」。故にこの國即
米國は報國青年團員に對しては母國である、戦時中であらへも団員若き
青年、米國に生まれた青年は國家を裏切ると同時に敵に對して忠誠

なること、自稱した、彼等国民は愛国者ではなくて賣国奴である、国民は幸運にも少数の日系市民に過ぎない、然し生国のために血命を犠牲にして母国に忠順なるを証明した所の同胞に対しては、取すべき行動ではないか、
報国青年団の指導者達は生国米國の反逆者であるのみでなく、必ずしも日本に対して忠誠を盡す点に於ては、一の疑問を生ずる、指導者の大部分は昭和三年以後日本を去つた帰米者である、同年宣戰布告をこなつたが支那事変が勃発し、勿論無慙なる高価なものであつた、昭和十三年以後日本軍は支那で戦つてゐる、事変後日本には裁務的教練が開始されてゐた、勿論日本を去つた少数のものは軍籍に在つたが大多数の十七十八、十九歳の年若者の人は徴兵前一步前に日本を去つた、若しも貴殿達が此の事實を信じなければ、周國の歸米反人を見よ、日本天皇のために戦ひ、死を希望する彼等青年達は何故に其の機金目を利用しなかつたかを自問せよ、米國の収容キャンプに安全に安樂的に住む時に何故日本のために戦ふことを決せしかを自問せよ、彼等は日本へ歸る身であり、又日本へ歸つても凱旋軍人より何故支那事変中、日本を去り戦ふ中何處に住んで居たかとの質問に対して自覺して居るであらう、
彼等が入隊前日本を去つたにも拘らず、斯くの如き、断髪、又はラバの首に吊つて日本に忠誠であることを示し、他人をも將大めする事が彼等の希望する所である、
或少数の青年達は日支事変中日本を去つたと称し乍ら今度は交換船にて歸国し戦争に赴くと自稱して居る、彼等の誠意に対しては疑問の餘地がある、

其の第一は彼等は其の主張をなすとしても、戦時中米國政府が日本への帰還を申請してゐる日本人と東洋に在る米國市民の交換に

就しては非常に考慮を拂つてゐるとは言ひながら、此の戦争中には最早や交換の機会は誰にもないものと見做される、日本はたゞ僅かに二回の交換を應諾したに止まり、昭和十八年十月以後は少しも此に耳をかかぬ、こんな場合では好機ある折には戦はずして今度は交換船で國へ歸り戦争に赴き度うだと言ふその青年達にとつては實に安全そのものとの解される、
次によしんば又米國の交換が行はれるにしても其の交換條件が如何なるものであるかは今の所全然判明して居ない、ある、

普通通なれば兵役年齢の人々ありとせば其の若者は交換されぬことになつてゐる、若しもそれらが交換されたとしても而支戰國間には其の人々をして戦争に従事せしめないとの申合はせが取極められるものである、此の事はタタカ、次に企劃される交換條件中に含まれる事となるであらう、
誇大吹聴屋さんたちはかくして尚ほ安全なわけである、

即時歸國団及び報國青年団の大多數の指導者達が言ふには此の隔離所は將來日本に歸る事を欲する人と日本に対して忠誠である人の爲めと云ふ考の下で隔離所として建設された時に此所へ居住し、以て來るこの如うな団体活動は許可されたものであると表示した、此は全く矛盾たことである、此のキャンプが隔離所として建設されたのは事實である、出外拒否された大多數の人々が此處に移轉された、又一方此處に分離された多數の人々も米國に対して忠誠を盡すことに傾きつゝある、併しながら多岐の人々も家族のために此處に在住し、又他の者は日本に忠誠とは無關係な理由の下に此處に來てゐる、故にこの隔離所は日本愛國心を有する人々の独占のものにして、親日的活動が許可されると信するなり、
若くは違ひである、如何なる政府と雖も内心的忠誠を強制することは出来ない、日本に対して忠順なる感を有する所の第一世國民は靜かに

ギヤンプに居住し、日本に対して忠誠の意を示してまい、日本に対して忠誠
意を保持する所の第三世国民は法令に依つて国籍離脱を求めて承
認された者は、第一世国民と同様に忠誠意を持ち続けてまい、併し
何人とも親日的示威行動、行列、親日新聞出刊、又朝日章
を付けた半軍隊的制服を着る権利はない、其以上大切なことは日本
に対して忠誠を誓ふことを誓言する人は他人の忠誠問題に干渉し
ては不可なり、私方は兩組織団体が此の隔離所の住民の忠誠問題に
第三者に壓迫を加へたことを知つてゐる、外数件の肉体的加圧
の事実も承認して居る、米国の如何なる地とも同様に此のギヤンプに於ても
未だに忠誠なる米国民の存在する以上はギヤンプに於ても愛国日本的
儀式、親日新聞を發行する権利等はない、第三者をして日本に対して
忠誠をつくすことを進言することは、米國いつこの地と同様に違反的行為
である、故に此等の行動は絶対的に採られぬ。

昭和二十年一月一日の司法局長宛の特種なる質問に言及すれば、
昭和十九年十二月十七日の司法局逮捕の七十名は敵国在留民として米
國法令二十項五十條に準じて國家保護のため危険人物として見做
された所の敵国在留民逮捕の権により逮捕されたものである、彼等
は悉く敵国在外人である、何故なれば彼等は第一世国民であり、不
米國民民権を離脱して日本市民権を有する三重国籍者である、
彼等が指導者であつた所の組織団体の破壊的行動のため司法局
長によつて國家保護の爲め敵国外人として収容された者である、
指導者達は元來日本に対して日本に対して忠順を明言したため家族
と共にこの鶴嶺湖に収容され、現在何故監視され家族より離別
されたと云ふ質問に対しては彼等は日本へ忠實の理由にて監視不

されたのではなくて、好日活動を激勵したる破壊的団体の指導者たる
故である、彼等が逮捕されたのは彼等の行動が行き届いて支配される所の
司法局配下のギヤンプに移轉される必要を生じたためである、他日彼等
が家族と同様に得る収容ギヤンプが考慮されることは不明である、現在貴
殿等の希望に沿ふやうに、彼のギヤンプには家族的生活には設備が十分で
ある、國際法に準じてても敵の捕虜、平民監視者何れにも家族同様の
生活權保証はしない、家族ギヤンプとしての収容は場所、許す限りに於
てのみ支給される所のこの國家によつて備へられた人道主義の處置たる追
加物である、十九百四十四年十二月二十七日、逮捕された人々に何故告別と
保有物を荷作りする時間を與へるかとの第三の質問に就いては、彼等
は夜中、多分家族と一所に居りし時逮捕されたものであつて故に彼等には十
分なる時間もあつたであらう、私方は彼等が必要品を持参し得べきことを承
知してゐる、最終の質問に於て七十人の中一人は母が病氣中、逮捕さ
れたその行動は非人道的であると稱するが、それは勿論當人の母が當
時不幸にも病氣中なりしは御氣中であるが彼の逮捕の件は非人道的
ではないであらう、破壊的行動をとる所の人々には逮捕されることは豫期さ
れたる彼の金責任である、事實上彼の七十名の人々は特別列車で運輸され
ばならなかつたが、私方は彼等の運輸に際しては予は豫知しなかつたのであ
るが彼等の運輸は能率的、速度的に行ふ必要が生じ逮捕者が母を訪
問することが不可能になつたのは實用的な理由があつたためと推定す。
司法局は人道性を希望する、併し此の國の敵を取扱ふ時は、ジエスバ
會議の規定範圍に於て米國の利害關係が先に来るものである、
昭和二十年一月一日附の書によると彼の七十名逮捕の件は我慢の出来
ぬ事件と君達は稱するが該事件に就いては別に耐えられぬ所の



「我慢の出来ぬ物な何物もない、
耐えられぬものであると言ふのは西国団体活動の續行されること
ある、その活動は非人道的であり故にその此等の行動が耐え難
いことであるからには、彼等は干渉されずに寧ろ、その反對に停止さ
るべきであらう。」

十九百四十五年一月十八日

検事総長代理

ジョシ、エル、ベリーング、

加州ミール、鶴嶺湖収容所内

速時歸國奉仕團長

坂本正雄殿

報國青年團長

東務殿



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

Tule Lake Center
Newell, California

March 8, 1945

Office of
Project Director

108.25
FILES
[Handwritten signature]

~~AIRMAIL~~
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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

Dear Mr. Myer:

Herewith is the first of a series of narrative reports concerning the situation at Tule Lake Center with respect to the pro-Japan organizations, Sokuji Kikoku Hoshi Dan and Hokoku Seinen Dan and their auxiliary, Hokoku Joshi Seinen Dan, and steps taken to cope with it.

Sincerely,

Harry L. Black
Acting Project Director

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Special Report
Tule Lake Center
Newell, California
March 7, 1945

No. 1 -- Steps Taken to Cope with Sokuji Kikoku
Hoshi Dan and Hokoku Seinen Dan.

Early in 1945 it became apparent that the flame of Japanese nationalistic fanaticism in Tule Lake Center was being fanned rather than quenched by (I) the activity of the Department of Justice and (II) the inactivity of the Department of Justice.

I.

1. In seven weeks of sitting for interviews of applicants for renunciation of United States citizenship (with a then estimate of three weeks more required to finish the job) the Alien Enemy Control Section hearing staff had heard approximately 4,500 cases.

2. Charles Rothstein, who succeeded John L. Burling late in January as head of the hearing staff, stated that 99 per cent of the applications heard were being recommended for approval by the Attorney General.

3. Mr. Rothstein stated that such approval would not result necessarily in apprehension for transfer to alien enemy internment camps---that persons not to be so apprehended would be notified, required to register as alien enemies, and allowed to continue their lives in this center or a place similar.

4. During the first seven weeks of the early 1945 sitting of the hearing staff, plus the results of an earlier, briefer sitting, 1,016 men (less than 10 per cent Japan-born aliens, the rest renunciators) were apprehended and removed to internment camps---70 December 27; 171 January 26; 650 February 11; 125 March 4.

5. During the same period not a single person was notified of the result of his application and hearing for renunciation of citizenship in any manner other than by notice of apprehension for internment as a dangerous enemy alien.

6. While it is recognized that the Department of Justice doubtless had been attempting a "cooling off" process by letting lay for a time the hearing records of all but those deemed immediately to be dangerous enemy aliens, the result was tacit confirmation of the propaganda of Sokuji Kikoku Hoshi Dan and Hokoku Seinen Dan that membership in the organizations was necessary--and continued illegal activities of the organizations a necessary adjunct -- to assure approval of renunciation applications.

II.

1. The Department of Justice was aware at first hand, through evidence adduced at its renunciation hearings, of subversive activities in the center.

2. The Department of Justice took no action to halt or to punish such activities under the laws of the United States, except to remove selected men to internment camps.

3. Mr. Burling in an open letter to Masao Sakamoto, president at that time of Sokuji Kikoku Hoshi Dan, and Tsutomu Higashi, president at that time of Hokoku Seinen Dan, distributed in the colony January 18, branded the organizations as they then were functioning as illegal under the laws of the United States, called their activities intolerable and subversive, and stated such activities must and would cease.

4. The Department of Justice took no action under the laws of the United States to break up the organizations, halt the activities or punish the participants, except to remove selected men to internment camps.

5. Translations of illegal publications issued by the organizations were furnished directly to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

6. The Federal Bureau of Investigation did not suppress the publications or apprehend the publishers.

WRA on this project considered itself an administrative agency rather than an agency charged with suppression or punishment of subversive activity.

Sokuji Kikoku Hoshi Dan, the parent and advisory organization, and Hokoku Seinen Dan, the young man's action group, were organized in the guise of cultural societies, and for a time ostensibly operated as such.

Much later Hokoku Joshi Seinen Dan, generally known as Joshi Dan, an auxiliary organization for women and girls, was added. Records reveal that Joshi Dan became a full-fledged organization February 8, with Sakito Yano at its head, and thereafter took increasing part in the activities of the others.

Gradually Sokuji Kikoku Hoshi Dan and Hokoku Seinen Dan became bolder, and the guise of purely cultural activity began to slip. The illegal publications described the early morning exercises and ceremonies -- supreme tenets of the pro-Japan societies -- as training in preparation for the time they should receive their guns for the emperor.

Mr. Burling's warning that such activities must cease was ignored. The morning ceremonials in white sweatshirts and headbands uniform, including drilling, goose-stepping, bugle-blowing, chanting, and bowing to the rising sun in worship of the emperor, became increasingly violent and defiant. The unlawful activities conducted from the headquarters included not only publications of anti-American trend, referring to the United States as "the enemy", but issuance of subversive and intimidating instructions and rumors.

Sokuji Kikoku Hoshi Dan and Hokoku Seinen Dan rode the crest of a campaign for renunciation of all things American. Peaceful colony residents,

citizens and aliens alike, were intimidated. Many were drawn into the organizations against their better judgement. Many young men shaved their heads Hokoku Seinen Dan fashion in order to escape persecution and to be allowed by the Hokoku dominators to remain at their jobs.

It was clear that removal to internment camps was not looked upon by the fanatic members of Sokuji Kikoku Hoshi Dan and Hokoku Seinen Dan as punishment, but rather as glorification. Such apprehension became an end to be sought; continued defiance of the law a means to that end.

The leaders and many of the followers were being sent away.

(Yaichiro Miyamoto, president of Sokuji Kikoku Hoshi Dan, and Isamu Uchida, president of Hokoku Seinen Dan, were removed to Santa Fe December 27.

(Masao Sakamoto, Hoshi Dan, and Tsutomu Higashi, Seinen Dan, were removed to Santa Fe January 26.

(Jitsuyi Nishimoto, Hoshi Dan, and Hiromichi Kawata, Seinen Dan, were removed to Bismarck February 11.)

(Shigeyoshi Kawabata, Hoshi Dan, and Minoru Hinoki, Seinen Dan, were removed to Santa Fe March 4.)

But always there were more. The activities continued.

Some definite enforcement action involving punitive measures became imperative.

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A series of 10 project regulations was prepared, aimed at providing specific powers for dealing more severely than possible under the general Manual regulations with the known factors. While approval of these was being awaited, it was decided to proceed under the powers conferred by the Manual.

The first step was taken February 12, the day following the unprecedented transfer of 650 men to Bismarck, with the thought that a blow at that time would catch the leadership off balance, which proved in a measure to be true.

Under authority of a search warrant issued by the Project Director, the headquarters used jointly by Sokuji Kikoku Hoshi Dan and Hokoku Seinen Dan was raided, the contents removed and impounded, and the quarters -- 5408-D -- taken over by the Administration.

The room, padlocked, was entered by force at 8:00 p.m. No arrests were made. No members of the organizations were present and none put in an appearance during the hour and a half the raid proceeded, although neighbors were observed scurrying away with the news. Residents for the most part remained away from the scene. The largest audience at any time was about 25, mostly women and children and at a discreet distance.

A truck and an auto-wreck crane were required to remove the contents

of the headquarters, including a heavy safe.

Documentary photographs were made of the room, with its paraphernalia for reproduction of unlawful publications, notices and instructions, its Japanese flag and its posted notices in Japanese on the walls, including one banning the use of the English language.

The general inventory of the seized equipment and material, as recorded by Internal Security:

- 1 large safe.
- 1 York steel filing cabinet.
- 1 Remington No. 12 standard typewriter.
- 1 Underwood portable typewriter.
- 1 A. B. Dick mimeograph machine.
- 1 8-F rotary neostyle machine.
- 1 small desk.
- 1 stencil table.
- 3 other tables.
- 81 reams of Economy & West bond mimeograph paper.
- 9 boxes of Economy mimeograph paper.
- 1 iron cot.
- 2 canvas cots, with mattresses and blankets.
- 1 home-made Japanese interior flag, 67 x 45 inches.
- 33 Sokuji Kikoku Hoshi Dan white silk scarves, 16 x 20 inches.
- 33 Hokoku Seinen Dan silk scarves, 16 x 19 inches.
- 1 Japanese scroll in wooden box.
- 1 pair of white gloves, evidently for handling of scroll.
- 11 boxes of papers, notices, announcements, instructions in Japanese.

The safe was locked, and no attempt was made to open it when the organizations' leaders, interviewed the day following the raid, declined to do so. It was left intact for later consideration by appropriate federal authorities.

The material seized in the raid completed our record of all five known issues of the unauthorized newspaper, through which the leaders of the organizations had urged the colony residents to strengthen the spirit of Japan and look upon the United States as "the enemy", but which avoided specific mention of the War Relocation Authority and the Department of Justice.

Copies of the first issue had come into our possession under date of November 13, 1944. The second was dated December 6, 1945, the third January 1 and the fourth January 15.

The fifth issue, dated February 15, still was undistributed at the time of the raid, and the entire issue was seized, its first page containing specific announcement of the inauguration of the Hokoku Joshi Seinen Dan.

All of these publications and other matter both seized in the raid and previously in our possession were translated either by or under the supervision of Robert H. Ross, assistant Reports Officer, for the use of Louis M. Noyes, Project Attorney, in preparation of a documentation to present the legal aspects of the Tule Lake situation.

The raid was led by J. B. Cook, Acting Chief of Internal Security; Charles Harper, Acting Assistant Chief, and Donald M. Sanborn, Sr. Internal Security Officer in charge of the Colonial Peace force. A dozen Internal Security officers but no members of the Colonial Peace force participated. Witnesses of the raid were Mr. Noyes, Ralph C. Brown, Reports Officer, Mr. Ross, who was also official photographer, and Mr. Rothstein and Joseph Shevlin of the Department of Justice hearing staff.

It was evident that the move caught the leaders by surprise. They had been in office only since noon of the day before, and they had inherited the results of a situation brought about by their predecessors.

A delegation headed by Shigeyoshi Kawabata and Minoru Hinoki, the presidents, visited the Internal Security headquarters the morning of February 13 to make inquiries. The men were interviewed by Mr. Noyes, who advised that the raid was the result of unlawful activity which had been branded as such in the letter by Mr. Burling distributed in the colony January 18.

Mr. Noyes advised that the societies be dissolved, and offered his services in an advisory capacity to bring this about. The offer was not accepted.

The leaders were reluctant to accept the authority of the center administration to make the raid. Telegrams reaching a total of more than \$30. were sent over the signature of Kawabata, including messages to the Director, to the Department of Justice, to the Department of State, to the Spanish Embassy in Washington and to the Spanish Consul in San Francisco. The Spanish Consul replied with advice that they restrain themselves.

While the leaders declined to open the safe, they appeared less concerned about it and its contents -- if they knew fully what the contents were -- than about the whereabouts and future of the flag. The importance of the flag was stressed in later conversations.

The flag was impounded in a safe place by the Project Director.

The raid on the headquarters did not halt the early morning ceremonials, but it appeared to threaten Sokuji Kikoku Hoshi Dan and Hokoku Seinen Dan with considerable loss of face. It was with reluctance that the leaders saw the news get about. They had a runner system capable of spreading news or rumors of their own selection with great rapidity, but a large portion of the colony population was not aware of the fact of the raid until distribution of the colony newspaper the following Thursday.

After distribution of the newspaper, some beneficial effects of the raid procedure became apparent. The newspaper carried this statement from the Project Director:

"Seizure of Sokuji Kikoku Hoshi Dan and Hokoku Seinen Dan headquarters was made following exposure by the Department of Justice of the illegality of these organizations, and of the conduct and activities of the members in open violation of the laws of the United States.

"Nearly 900 members and officers of these organizations already have been apprehended by the Department of Justice and removed to alien enemy internment camps where they will be more rigidly restricted and controlled. They will not be permitted to organize as groups or engage in any such activities in internment camps.

"The Administration of this center cautions all persons who might have been misinformed or misled by the leaders and members of these organizations that membership in these organizations is unlawful.

"The Administration recognizes that the overwhelming majority of the residents of this center are law-abiding and peaceful, regardless of their political views."

This had the effect of knocking the props from under the Japanese racial subterfuge of conveniently ignoring that which may be known but which has not been demonstrated concretely. It was a direct challenge to the Japanese innate respect for demonstrable rules and regulations.

The result was a flood of letters to the Project Director, the Project Attorney and others, from colony residents stating they had joined one or both of the organizations under misapprehension, and seeking to place themselves on record as having withdrawn from any association with unlawful elements.

This worked to an extent to offset the momentum and force of Sokuji Kikoku Hoshi Dan and Hokoku Seinen Dan, and plans were laid for further action.

However, it was the feeling of staff members familiar with the situation that project disciplinary measures which the Project Director was willing and able to apply could not put an end to the activities of the groups.

It was felt that the measures taken by the Department of Justice up to that time had failed of the desired results.

It was felt that the organizations could not be reformed to serve a constructive function.

It was the consensus that the un-American activities could be halted or controlled only by prosecutions in court.

Prepared by
Ralph O. Brown
Reports Officer

Approved by

Harry L. Black
Acting Project Director

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

*Province
Spicer*

Sorry I held this up

Special Report
Tule Lake Center
Newell, California
January 3, 1945

Relocation from the Tule Lake Center

There are several problems in connection with the 1945 program at the Tule Lake center which will test the abilities of every member of the project staff. While in the main many of these same problems exist at the Relocation centers, there are others which make the work here more difficult if the eventual liquidation is to be accomplished within the year. In broad outline some of the differences may be expressed in the following terms:

- (a) A considerably larger population to be relocated.
- (b) The residence here of a greater number of persons who will not be eligible for relocation anywhere, or will be listed as excludées by the Army.
- (c) The fact that there will be continuous Army hearings held at this center -- at least until the middle of the year.
- (d) The fact that the greater portion of the population of the Tule Lake center has not been thinking in terms of eventual relocation -- rather that they could remain here until the end of the war.
- (e) The large number of persons who had previously applied for repatriation or expatriation, believing that they had made their own choice, and now find that these applications are not being considered by the Army authorities in making up the lists of detainees, excludées etc.

There are on the other hand a number of factors which will be favorable to relocation movement. Not the least of these factors is the process of hearings being given by the Department of Justice on applications for renunciation of citizenship. Already there is reason to believe that the removal of 70 men (many of them younger men who had applied for renunciation of citizenship) is having a good effect. It is our understanding that

additional hearings will be held in the near future and that more of the members of the pro-Japanese patriotic societies will be removed from the center in this same manner. As the number of these ardent pro-Japanese advocates declines, it is expected that the coercive activities of the group will decline and the morning drills will be discontinued.

Another factor which will aid in relocation is the number of families here who have immediate family members on the outside. This, of course, is true of the Relocation centers, but it is more important here. These family members had previously felt that relocation from Tule Lake was impossible for those who had applied for repatriation. These outside family members will undoubtedly now bring pressure on those inside the center to relocate.

More important, however, will be the members of family groups who elected to come to Tule Lake or to remain here because a parent or other relative wanted to repatriate. Many of these people who actually never wanted to be in the Segregation center, except to keep the family together, will now be able to force family relocation. There are hundreds of such family groups in Tule Lake. Now the whole family will be able to leave without a formal leave clearance hearing which had previously been the stumbling block to any urging of the younger members who wanted to leave. Since repatriate applicants are no longer required to remain in the Segregation center, the way is clear for relocation.

There are many evidences of an attitude of resistance to relocation at the present time. However, many of these will be dissipated as the program develops and the policies are better understood. There has been some delay in the evacuee information here because it was necessary to wait for clarification of some of these policies by the Washington office and because of the work of the Army team in giving out notices of exclusion and conducting interviews. While this notification work was still going on here, there was a degree of uncertainty which was unavoidable. Individuals could give little thought to their own future until they learned whether they would receive notices from the Army.

So far there has not been much interest shown in the right of appeal from Army excludee orders. There have been a few inquiries about filing such appeals but surprisingly few. It is our opinion that there will be many filed and that more interest will be shown as the program develops, because people will soon learn that all in a family group are on the cleared list except possibly one member. They will want to relocate together. Since information regarding the individual names on the cleared list can only be given to the person concerned, it will take some time for people to find out these facts. A study of the cleared list indicates that in many cases one individual in a family group has been omitted. Whether this has been done for a purpose by the Army authorities, we do not know, but it will most certainly have the effect of slowing up the process of relocation planning and will result in applications for appeal. It may also result in more family groups from this center going to points outside the former evacuation area to relocate.

Among the more ardent pro-Japanese society members and some of the younger men who want to avoid military service through the draft process, there are some who want to get transferred from the excludee list to that of segregation. In the early stages of the Army notification there was more interest shown in getting on the segregation list than anything else. This was probably due in part to the influences of the Japanese patriotic society groups and the participants in the morning exercises than anything else. There are those who want to avoid military service who are fully aware of the fact that they may be subject to draft call if and when they leave a segregation center.

The WRA policy which allows persons to be transferred from Tule Lake to another WRA center from which they eventually relocate, will materially aid in final relocation as well as to the more rapid decrease of the Tule Lake population. Persons who have been in the past subjected to pressures from repatriates and others of the pro-Japanese inclinations, will be able to escape these pressures in this way. In the atmosphere of another WRA center they will be better able to make their relocation plans.

The possibility of resegregation within the Tule Lake center, after the list of segregees is furnished, also may tend to change the whole aspect of the situation here. This could be done by fencing off Ward 7 or a larger portion of the center if needed, and moving segregees and their families to this area. This would then leave in the other portions of the center persons who were eligible for relocation either to any point in the United States or to areas not specified in the individuals notices given them by the Army authorities. Whether this policy would be advisable we are not prepared at this time to state. However, it must be noted that if this resegregation was carried out strictly on the lines of the Army orders, it should not cause local difficulties.

On the part of many of the families here there is a pronounced fear of the outside and public attitudes. Unquestionably this is true to a more marked degree here than in the Relocation Centers. It is logical because of the wide advertising which the press has given Tule Lake as being a "disloyal camp". This fear, however, will not be so pronounced as reports come into the center of others of Japanese ancestry returning to their old homes without opposition. As a typical example of this thinking a specific instance might be mentioned. An evacuee who remained in Tule Lake with his wife, because his parents wanted to repatriate, came to talk with the writer. This man is a trained automobile mechanic who could earn good wages on the outside. He also owns a small piece of land in a vegetable growing area in southern California. Both he and his wife -- who never had any intention of going to Japan -- are delighted to learn that they may now relocate. He has been reading some news stories from the Los Angeles area opposing the return of persons of Japanese ancestry, and is actually afraid of physical violence. He plans to make his relocation plans without regard to the land ownership and to go to some inland city where he can work in a garage. He will probably take his father and mother there, despite the fact that they have always been vegetable growers and will find it difficult to adjust themselves to new surroundings. It is interesting to note that he proposes to relocate despite these factors. He says he will probably return to southern California and the old home when the war is over. No amount of assurance that it would be perfectly safe to go there now seems to have any weight in his present thinking.

There are many other families here who would not attempt to relocate outside California. Some of these people have been advised by lawyers that they should remain in California otherwise the state may be able to prevent their return after the war. This was one of the factors why a number of people choose to remain in Tule Lake at the time of segregation even though they would have been able to go to another center. In family groups where some member is excluded and others do not want to leave California, there will be a conflict of thinking. Since there will be little possibility of the others being excluded, appeals for the excluder will eventually be filed. Situations of this kind will have a tendency to delay relocation. This may not be a serious difficulty, however, because it will give more time for planning and a better understanding of the outside attitudes.

The large number of school children here -- approximately ten percent of the total population -- is another factor which will delay the movement of people outside the center. The normal school year's work here would carry over the summer months rather than ending in June as is the case in the Relocation centers.

At this time there is a great deal of indecision in the minds of practically all of the residents of the Tule Lake center. This is logical because of (1) need to wait for the Army team to complete its work (2) The suddenness of the lifting of the exclusion and the opening of the door of opportunity for relocation which many of the people did not expect, and (3) The natural desire of the repatriates and pro-Japanese groups to "sit out the war" here or be exchanged with Japan. It will take some time for readjustment of thinking, for them to realize that it is to their best interest to relocate, that exchange with Japan may still be desirable in their point of view but impossible to attain.

There will be the usual problems with particular individuals and families including the need for public assistance and other economic considerations. However, there will be a larger number of persons here well able to relocate without special assistance than from the Relocation centers. This will be true because the more readily relocatable people in others have already been skimmed off by relocation, while here the leave process has only scratched the surface. While the population here contains a large number of older people who wanted to go back to Japan, there are also a considerable number in the younger ages well trained for outside employment and physically able to do the work. This number, however, may be decreased by the segregation list and by further processing of young men who will apply to renounce citizenship.

Two things will be essential to a well managed relocation program from the Tule Lake center. The first need will be an able staff, preferably including experienced workers in the relocation division. The second will be a well coordinated information program to the evacuees. Given these two essentials in the administrative organization, coupled with the cooperation of the Relocation area and field offices, the work should be successful. It will be cumulative in character, rather than to start off with any considerable showing of results.

This is a self evident fact because these people have had no thought previously of being able to relocate and many of them has had no desire to do so. Successful relocation results here will require salesmanship in addition to providing the facilities and services which have been available through the Relocation Planning office at the other centers. Once the movement has started it can be expected to snowball.

Prepared by
Allen Markley
Acting Reports Officer

Approved by

R. R. Buel
Project Director

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

Tule Lake Center
Newell, California

Office of
Project Director

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~~AIRMAIL~~
CONFIDENTIAL

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

SPECIAL REPORT
February 13, 1945

Dear Mr. Myer:

Sunday's entrainment (delayed from Saturday by inability of the Southern Pacific to furnish a train on the day originally specified) of 650 male residents of the colony for the alien enemy internment camp at Bismarek, North Dakota, went off with precision that paid a handsome dividend on the careful preliminary work that had been done.

Transfer from the colony to Block 99, in WRA trucks with Caucasian drivers, required only two hours. The schedule for reporting at the Army Turnstile Gate had been set up in groups to consume most of the forenoon, but nearly all of the internees-to-be anticipated the time stated on their report notices and appeared at the gate at the beginning of the proceeding. This did not result in the congestion that had been feared from such an event, but rather in a steady flow which cut the transfer time about in half. All processing in Block 99 was completed by shortly after 11 o'clock before arrival of the special train from Klamath Falls, which was due at 9 o'clock but did not arrive until noon. It had been expected that it would be necessary to remove the first arrivals at Block 99 to the train before transfer of all from the colony. The lateness of the train precluded this, but the day was fine and it was not necessary for all in Block 99 to remain under roof, so no difficulty was experienced on that score.

The men were served luncheon of sandwiches and hot tea at noon, and the Immigration and Naturalization Service train guards ate at the same time in the Personnel mess hall.

The train left at 2:30 p.m., immediately after the last man was aboard. The men formed in groups of 50 at Block 99, and marched to the train, which was spotted opposite the normally unused side gate, in three divisions. They boarded the coaches 50 to a coach, the Department of Justice guards taking over as the men reached the train, the march from Block 99 having been supervised by Internal Security. No coercion was necessary at any time.

Only one minor difficulty developed, and it was solved quickly. Despite instructions that baggage could not be carried onto the train, many of the men arrived at the turnstile gate with suitcases which the gate guards required them to leave there when they were transported to Block 99, resulting in a temporary stoppage at the gate of Block 99 as the men protested abandonment of personal equipment. While all of this may have been a deliberate attempt to create an annoyance, and several hotheads talked of "refusing" to entrain, it seemed wisest not to make an issue of it at that point, but to keep the procedure moving by the quickest and most peaceable means. Spokesmen, who had had the baggage situation explained to them before in both English and Japanese, were called into conference informally at the gate and a plan was settled upon whereby a truck brought the suitcases to the men at Block 99, the men took from them such articles as they were allowed to carry with them on the train -- towels, tooth brushes, soap, etc. -- the baggage was reloaded on the truck and taken to the baggage cars which were spotted on the spur and loaded before the remainder of the train arrived, so the movement was not in the end delayed by the baggage incident.

In addition to the 13 coaches, the train was made up of three Pullmans for the guards, three dining cars and two baggage cars. It was the largest single movement either into or out of Tule Lake Center, the previous high having been 500 persons in a single train.

The arrival of the unusually large number of guards at Klamath Falls and their transport, with equipment, in army busses to the center, again started a rumor of "trouble at the Jap camp" -- a rumor which was quashed Saturday afternoon by the Reports Office.

While engaged in the rumor-quashing, Ralph O. Brown, Reports Officer, discovered that the making up of the train in Klamath Falls had been tipped off by the Southern Pacific, and Malcom Epley, co-publisher of the Klamath Falls Herald & News, and Ruth King of Merrill, Oregon, representative in this area of the Sacramento Bee, announced their intention of arriving at the center early in the morning.

We were not anxious to have any outsiders here during the transfer from the colony to Block 99 because -- while no disorder was anticipated and there was none -- the general hullabaloo of leave-taking at the gate, involving several thousand people at its height, could and probably would, by outside ears and eyes, be interpreted as a "riot".

There was nothing to be done but invite these newspaper people in after they had declared themselves on the basis of their knowledge from the railroad of the impending movement, but they accepted Mr. Brown's word that the train would not be loaded until after noon and agreed with his suggestion that they would be afforded a full view of it if they arrived about noon. Mrs. King arrived just in time to see the men in Block 99 peacefully munching sandwiches and drinking tea, and to be taken to lunch herself at the Personnel mess hall. Mr. Epley came in just before the movement to the train started.

Both had ringside seats and were so impressed by the orderly movement and lack of force employed that they could not but interpret the whole procedure (seen or unseen) as totally lacking in "incidents". Both were satisfied fully with what they saw and did not feel they had missed anything. In addition to this, of course, San Francisco was covered by telephone by the Reports Office, Pat Frayne handling the information to newspapers and wire services there.

The experiences of this movement prompt two definite recommendations:

1. That future transfers of any size from this center to alien enemy camps be scheduled for Sunday. The Sunday movement this time was accidental, but it proved immeasurably more satisfactory than any week day. On Sunday virtually all the colony population is inside the colony, where it can be accounted for and where no extra measures for controlling it are necessary -- not scattered throughout the administration area with work badges. This automatically prevents incidents in the administration area without dignifying the procedure by banning of workers from the area during the movement. Further, it prevents workers failing to show up on their jobs to remain in the colony for the farewells, thus promoting more orderly procedure in the project as a whole.

2. That at least a week more time be given us by the Department of Justice in preparation for any movement of comparable size to Sunday's. Most of the clerical work in preparing for these movements -- entirely aside from the mechanical details of the movement itself -- falls upon WRA staff members who for the transfer just completed had far too much last minute volume of work thrust upon them. The chronology was this:

Notification was received from Washington Monday that the transfer would be Saturday, but the Department of Justice staff here had nothing to give us that day. Staff plans were geared, however, and the Reports Office turned out by mimeograph the required number of notices for service on the men selected to go, doing this without use of evacuee help in order to preserve the secrecy of the impending move.

It was necessary to reproduce at least 35 copies (which later turned out to be not enough) of the entrainment list, including names, family numbers, and correct addresses in the colony. This list had to be completed before the notices of apprehension could be served in the colony, and the notices had to be served Thursday in order to insure time for collection of baggage, for the movement then scheduled for Saturday. No evacuee help was possible on this, and a mimeograph machine was borrowed from the school department and set up in the project attorney's office to be operated by the Reports Office. This was done Wednesday afternoon, but it was not until 6:00 p.m. Wednesday that the Department of Justice staff was able to furnish the complete list, at which time transmission of it to Washington started.

At this point the real trouble began. The Department of Justice list was not alphabetized. It contained duplicate names, names of some men already transferred to Santa Fe, and some minors. It devolved upon WRA staff members

to assemble, correct and check the entire list of 650 names. The Statistics division worked overtime until 7:30 p.m. in a preliminary check of doubtful names and family numbers, and then statistical book records were moved to the project attorney's office.

In the project attorney's office Louis Noyes, attorney, Mr. Brown, Reports Officer, Robert Ross, assistant Reports Officer, the secretaries of the Legal Division, Administrative Management, Community Management and the Leave Office, and several other girls, worked all of Wednesday night, with help for part of the evening from J. B. Cook, acting Chief of Internal Security, in preparing the list for reproduction, in making out the apprehension notices, cutting the stencils and checking all three against original records. Throughout the night it was necessary to obtain substitute names from the Department of Justice staff. In the early morning hours some additional help was obtained from Internal Security, and at 8:00 a.m. a new shift of girls came on. Mr. Ross remained on the job until 1:00 a.m. Thursday, Mr. Brown until 2:30 p.m. Thursday, when the last sheet of the 22-page list came off the mimeograph which he personally was operating, and Mr. Noyes until 6:00 p.m. in making last minute changes which were inserted by stenographers. It had not been possible to start the mimeograph work until early morning, but Internal Security was able to begin serving the first of the notices shortly after noon.

Just about a normal week's work was squeezed into the Wednesday and Thursday hours by a much more than normal staff working continuously. None of the staff members or employees demurred at handling this situation, which involved 36 hours of continuous duty for some, but I feel it could and should be avoided in the future.

Sincerely yours,

R. R. Best
Project Director

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

Tule Lake Center
Newell, California

Office of
Project Director

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work file
[April, 1945]

AIRMAIL

Dillon S. Myer, Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
Washington, D. C.

SPECIAL REPORT
Tule Lake Suicide

Dear Mr. Myer:

The morning of April 24 Umeno Yamada, 44 years old, 5917-B, sent her husband, Yoichi, 64, off on a visit to some friends several blocks away. A short time later Mrs. Yamada was dying.

Yoshiro Nakano, 5917-D, and Toshiko Hirata, 5814-F, neighbors, said Mrs. Yamada took "medicine" which she had removed from a trunk. The bottle was labeled "Strychnine." They accompanied Mrs. Yamada in the ambulance en route to the hospital. On the way Mrs. Yamada died.

The Modoc County District Attorney and Coroner, notified at Alturas, did not come to Tule Lake, but requested an autopsy be performed here and the stomach contents sent to the Coroner. This was done. Confirmation of the specific cause of death awaits his report.

Mrs. Yamada's life was insured for \$1,000, her husband the beneficiary. The policy had been in force since 1938. She left a letter of apology and farewell to her husband, in which she mentioned financial matters regarding which she had "no face to meet you." Money in currency and coins, bank book, account books and other personal effects Mrs. Yamada had tied in a large handkerchief, furoshiki style, and left the bundle under her pillow.

The Yamadas were evacuated from Hood River, apparently the scene of the financial operation regarding which Mrs. Yamada had "no face". Also in Mrs. Yamada's background appears a possible frustrated maternal complex.

The Yamadas were neighbors in Hood River with the Uyeno, Kawahara, Tsuji and Soga families, members of which now are residents of Tule Lake. From these friends comes information that Mrs. Yamada several years ago underwent an operation which precluded the bearing of children; that before evacuation she had arranged to adopt as her own, one of the Soga daughters, but that this daughter decided to return to Japan, and did so,

cc: R. B. Cozzens

this shocking Mrs. Yamada, who wished to remain in the United States; that again she had sought to adopt a nephew of the Soga family, but that he eventually returned to his family in Los Angeles.

Mrs. Yamada and her husband were evacuated directly to Tule Lake. They remained here at the time of segregation, although they were not enthused over the idea of return to Japan. Since segregation, say her friends, she had become progressively morose.

The full import of the farewell letter is understandable probably only to the husband, who has not commented on it (translation by Fred Mori, Reports Office evacuee translator, supervised by Robert Ross, Assistant Reports Officer):

"My husband please forgive me. It has come about that fate has forced us to let this bad me go ahead of you. I will go before you. I am not afraid of death. You, my husband, had better listen to it (about how death is not a fearful thing). I will be waiting for you.

"What a bad person I was!! Give my thanks to those who wrote this book, which will remain forever, now, as I am not afraid of death, and tell them that this book gives me happiness and I am glad.

"My husband, the money from the land was received by Mr. Tsuji and he divided it. This was noted down in the book. The money from the land was divided in such a way that I have "no face to meet you", my husband.

"Please take special, good care of yourself from now on. Do write letters to Mr. Sunawara. There was that communication, three or four days ago. If only you had seen that book a little earlier you could understand it well. I have read six or seven pages. The death that will come sooner or later, and the reason why you dreamed that dream is because I was fated to go. So please do not worry; be at ease, for I am on my way to a better place.

"I want you to thank well Mr. Uyeno, Mr. Kahara (Kawahara), and other friends all in Block 58, and the two Kajikawa families, Mr. Sato, and Mr. Tsuji.

"I apologize to Mr. Yoshimura for I once felt bitter against him. I was the one who (was guilty of) the 'unfathomable sins'. Everything became such a mess on account of my weak will power, but this time I fear not.

Dillon S. Myer

-3-

"Please extend my cordial thanks to Rev. Hirabayashi. I wish you would ask Okuma-san (Mrs.) to clean and tidy up as I did not arrange (the house) before I go.

"Forgive my departure before you.

"Please thank those neighbors who helped and took care of us. They led us well (in religious discipline).

"Tell Mr. Ito that I hope he will go to the temple a little to worship.

"Block residents: I have no word to apologize for my doing such a thing, but, please, take good care of my husband.

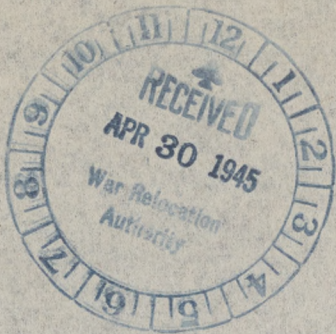
"This is my closing word and farewell at my going away.

"To Mr. my husband from Ume." (Not dated).

Sincerely yours,

R. R. Best
Project Director





UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Tule Lake Center
Newell, California

Office of
Project Director

July 3, 1945

AIRMAIL
CONFIDENTIAL

Dillon S. Myer, Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
Washington, D. C.

SPECIAL REPORT

Internment Camp
Departure of June 3, 1945.

Dear Mr. Myer:

Although about 50 per cent departed under protest, the transfer this morning of 100 men over the age of 18 to Klamath Falls, where they were placed on two special coaches attached to Southern Pacific Train No. 18 for Portland, enroute to Bismarck, was without incident.

Sixty-five of the men are natural aliens, the remainder having renounced their United States citizenship. Sixty-four are more than 40 years of age, the oldest being 71. The Immigration and Naturalization Service provided no doctors for this trip, but the men were adjudged here all to be physically able to withstand the transfer. There was one diabetic patient, along with whom a supply of insulin was sent, for administration by himself.

When the notices were served Saturday, eight men stated flatly they would not go and were placed immediately in jail. Before the reporting time of 2:00 p.m. Monday 36 more, all members of the Proposition No. 2 element, came voluntarily to Internal Security headquarters asking to be placed in jail or stockade ahead of the Proposition No. 3 or Manzanar group. This was done. They described themselves as "true Japanese" who had not asked internment, seeking to avoid association with the Ward 8 element which had agreed ahead of time to internment in connection with cessation of illegal activities. The other 56 came through the turnstile gate at the appointed time.

Once all were in the stockade, they divided themselves into two groups---49 of the Proposition No. 2 element and 51 of Proposition No. 3 men. Mr. Kline arranged to place each group in a car by itself. When the time for departure came there was no resistance and no attempts, as in the movement of June 25, to evade the issue. The Proposition No. 2 got together to declare they were leaving under protest, but that if it was understood they had not asked for the internment camp transfer, they would depart in orderly manner.

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The trucks and busses left the center at 5:30 a.m. and arrived in Klamath Falls more than an hour ahead of the scheduled train departure. The men were placed immediately aboard the cars, which were on a siding, and they attracted no attention. Sandwiches were placed aboard for the morning meal. The noon meal was to be served in the train's regular diner, placed between the regular coaches and the specials, and the diner was to be held in Portland for the evening meal. Enroute to Bismarek eight German internees were to be picked up by Mr. Kline.

The departure caused little stir or comment in the colony. A few family members were near the fence as the contingent departed, but there was no turmoil.

We feel now that we have accomplished what we set out to do when we offered the propositions to the pro-Japan societies in the first place, and that in this move we have had the tacit backing of the colony at large.

Sincerely,

Harry L. Black
Actg. Project Director

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Tule Lake Center
Newell, California

AIR MAIL
CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Dillon S. Myer
Director,
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
Washington 25, D. C.

Special Report:
The Renunciants' Legal Problem
October 17, 1945

Dear Mr. Myer:

Maintenance of Administration neutrality in connection with the ever pressing problem of the future situation of renunciants, is becoming very difficult in Tule Lake Center with the renunciants constantly seeking all types of advice and help in their efforts to decide what they should do with regard to legal review of their status.

As an example of this, there was brought to me Monday by Mr. Okubo, the Central Block Manager, the following notice prepared by a group calling itself the "Defense Committee" with request for my authorization for its publication within the colony:

"NOTICE TO ALL RENUNCIANTS:

"It has been brought to your attention that the Department of Justice have issued a statement that as of August 31, 1945, all renunciants in the Tule Lake Center are placed under the category of an internee status. Also it was further mentioned that all renunciants should comply with the provisions of the Alien Registration Act. From reliable information obtained from those persons who have already registered, it seems to indicate that the present procedure is not a hearing or a review but a mere registration in compliance with the provisions of the Alien Registration Act. The mere fact that you are given a choice to sign either the repatriation or the non-repatriation form does not give you any assurance that you will regain U. S. citizenship and be permitted to remain permanently in this country.

"Therefore the problems of deportation of all renunciants is the most imminent issue, and it may be probable that those who signify their intentions of remaining in this

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country may be shipped to some uninhabited island possession of the United States. As mentioned in our former appeal the only alternative for each renunciant who desires to remain in this country is through the institution of a proper legal action. Also it has been brought to our attention that within this center the opposition has always stressed the fact that the pending test issue will require an unlimited source of funds. However through the understanding we have made with our attorney, it was impressed upon us that sufficient funds should be made available so that all factors involved in the case be presented fully in the court. The fund so required shall be a \$100.00 contribution by some one thousand separate individuals. We wish to also add that through the assistance of the American Civil Liberties Union we have entered into an agreement with our attorney whereby any one individual shall not be requested to contribute in excess of \$100.00 to contest this issue to the final end. We also wish to inform you that we have always maintained a close relationship with the American Civil Liberties Union, and they have given us their full moral support. They have indicated to us the necessity of all individual renunciants to institute immediate legal actions.

"We must wave aside all optimistic thoughts and rumors that are constantly pervading in this center. We cannot be misled by anyone of these false and unauthorized facts that you are being furnished from unreliable sources. We wish to inform you that we are always in possession of full and latest information concerning our pending issue from our attorney, Mr. Wayne M. Collins. We shall be very glad to furnish you any information concerning the pending test case upon your presence at our office at 2602-D.

DEFENSE COMMITTEE"

I advised Mr. Okubo in the presence of Joe Thomas, Administrative Officer who supervises the Block Managers' Organization, that I would not authorize any publication of this statement or any similar one.

Mr. Okubo, who was born in Japan, and was acting purely in a go-between capacity, returned with this message to the Committee which appeared to accept it in good grace.

The group represented as the "Defense Committee" appears to be perhaps the most level headed of several which tentatively had been formed, and broken up by arguments within themselves.

It undoubtedly is necessary for these people to get together in some manner if they are to finance the hiring of an attorney or attorneys but it is not necessary for them to put on a publicity campaign to achieve

this result. During the time of the renunciation hearings many of the members of this same renunciant group, were involved in a secret information set-up in the colony which was far ahead of any official publication.

Sincerely,

R. R. Best
Project Director

ROB/amh
10-17-45

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Tule Lake Center
Newell, California

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AIR MAIL
CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Dillon S. Myer,
Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
Washington 25, D. C.

Special Report:
Tule Lake Situation as of the
Beginning of January, 1946

Dear Mr. Myer:

Tule Lake Center's population as of January 1, 1946 was 7268.

As of this date 6358 individuals have departed for relocation during the approximate year in which relocation from Tule Lake again was possible. The final month of 1945 saw 1807 terminal departures.

The January 1 population included approximately 3400 renunciants, the major portion of whom had asked for Department of Justice hearings on their expressed desire to remain in the United States. In addition to these, 1002 children under the age of 14 were members of 438 renunciant families with neither parent free to leave the center.

Of the said 7268 only approximately 1200, aside from detainees, had not by January 1 completed relocation plans not including children under 14. These individuals were in several classifications, some dependency cases still in the course of processing, some parents of renunciants, and others tied with renunciant families and waiting for developments before completing plans although they theoretically are free to leave.

From the 2nd to the 17th of January, 1517 individuals are scheduled for departure - an average of about 95 a day. This will clear most whose plans are not in some way involved either by Department of Justice detention orders or in Welfare arrangements. The latter part of January is planned for the scheduling chiefly of such overflow as may develop with the regular planners and for families referred by Welfare, hospital cases and essential employees in the various divisions and sections. No departure dates already set are being delayed except in hardship cases.

Two voluntary repatriation trips to Japan took 3972, approximately 1000

7268
3400
3868
1002
2866

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of them renunciants. (See separate report on these departures.) Our latest Relocation Division figures from Advisors' surveys show 465 individuals still desiring voluntary repatriation. This figure is a variable one, however, as people change their minds and it does not check too closely with the Department of Justice's approximation of 300 remaining voluntary repatriates. The Department of Justice figure is purely an estimate however.

Thus it appears that the problem of closing WRA's Tule Lake evacuee services by February 1, is involved almost entirely with action of the Department of Justice. There seems no doubt that the people now free to go can be cleared within the remaining time.

Applications of renunciants for Department of Justice hearings, which are scheduled to begin shortly, total 3161 according to Department of Justice figures with 248 not having applied. There doubtless are a few duplications in the Justice Department's listings since this runs the total slightly over the 4403 renunciants on the stop list. All of the 3161 applied through the Block Managers' offices under a system set up with cooperation of the Reports Office and the Block Managers' Organization with Charles Rothstein of the Department of Justice and Ivan Williams, Immigration and Naturalization Service, except 4 who, after the formal application period was over, went personally to Mr. Rothstein and Mr. Williams to enter their applications saying that they feared to do it in their own blocks. This indicates there still are some pressures, real or otherwise, and Mr. Rothstein is somewhat concerned over the reasons of the 248 "hold outs" for failure to make application. Some of these, he believes, will request voluntary repatriation but he has not, as yet, completed a survey on this subject.

Renunciant applications for hearings generally were presented rapidly. The application forms were made available in Block Managers' offices the afternoon of December 28 and a tentative dead line was set at noon of December 31. These facts were publicized in the Colony the afternoon of December 28 and most of the applications were presented the following day. Mr. Rothstein now is having prepared a master list of the applicants to be posted in Block Managers' offices and the central Block Managers' Headquarters so that all who have applied may check to determine that their names have been recorded. This is a safeguard against any carelessness or deliberate malfeasance on the part of any Block Managers in handing the applications.

The Hearing Board members began arriving January 1 and it was the hope of Mr. Rothstein to start hearings by the first of the following week but final planning for the hearings was dependent upon the arrival of Paul Hayes of the Attorney General's office from Washington.

After some period of doubt Mr. Rothstein and Mr. Williams had been informed definitely that their suggestion for review of the Hearing Officers' recommendations by a board sitting here on the Project has been disapproved.

and that all reviewing will be done in Washington. Their idea to speed the procedure had been to have the reviewing on the Project where there was no disagreement in the hearing recommendations with only those in dispute being sent to Washington.

The review in Washington doubtless will slow the procedure considerably although Mr. Rothstein says the hearing records will be forwarded to Washington at the end of each day and he hopes returns will be prompt. He feels that any pressure WRA might bring in Washington on the Department of Justice to speed the review procedure, would be advisable.

Pending the arrival of Dr. Hayes who is bringing the details of the Attorney General's hearing plans which have not been confided except very sketchily to Mr. Rothstein and Mr. Williams, it is impossible to say how fast the hearings will proceed. Mr. Rothstein does not know the type of questions that will be asked or the form of records that will be made. Fifteen hearing officers will be involved and office space is being provided for them by us.

As soon as the first hearings are held and a sample is obtained of the time required for a return from Washington, it will be possible more nearly to predict whether those renunciants and their families who may be cleared to depart, can be scheduled out before February 1. The planning for renunciants and their families will not present a major problem in view of the present situation with regard to the total population. Most of those who desire to go already have at least tentative plans in mind and are only waiting for permission to leave.

Thus, the timing now involved is quite definitely in the hands of the Department of Justice.

Sincerely,

R. R. Best
Project Director

ROB/amh

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Tule Lake Center
Newell, California

AIR MAIL
CONFIDENTIAL

FEB - 8 1946

Mr. Dillon S. Myer,
Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
Washington 25, D. C.

Special Report:
Tule Lake Situation
Beginning of February, 1946

Dear Mr. Myer:

First Phase Ended, Second Begun

Tule Lake Center closed the books on the first and original phase of its relocation program with a population of 5045 the night of January 31. A recapitulation of our records shows that by that time 8716 individuals had been relocated since January 2, 1945, including 174 conversions from short-term to terminal leave. The figures follow:

<u>Returned to:</u>	<u>Number of Persons</u>	<u>Percent</u>
California	6274	72.00
Oregon	192	2.19
Arizona	17	.19
Washington	351	4.14
Other States Continental U.S.	1518	17.42
Hawaii	254	4.06
	<u>8716</u>	<u>100 %</u>

(A complete chart of departures and destinations as worked out by our Relocation and Statistics Departments, is attached.)

At the close of business January 31, 93 theoretically free individuals of "split family groups" remained in the center, their departure having been postponed because of sickness, language difficulties, or other reasons which were legitimate in view of the fact that evacuee services necessary were being continued anyway in connection with impending relocation of released renunciants. There were only 19 additional postponements, these including persons certified by the hospital as physically unable to travel, and employees

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approved by the Project Director as essential, including Dr. Hashiba of the hospital.

The transition from Tule Lake's "regular term" of life to its "special term" on February 1 was without incident, the announcement which you authorized to be made by me as Acting Project Director and which included the statements by Ivan Williams as authorized by the Department of Justice, contributed greatly to knocking down rumors and fostering clear understanding among the residents at this time. This announcement was made in an extra edition of the Newell Star on Thursday, January 31, the day you telephoned it, a day ahead of the regular publication date of the paper.

New Relocation Procedure Immediately the center had been cleared of relocatables, work was begun on tentative planning for renunciants on a purely if and when basis in preparation for the time that some of them would be released. Almost simultaneous arrival of the first releases, even though the list was brief, did much to bolster this activity and such planning has been going forward continuously.

The cooperation of Caucasian and evacuee workers in the Relocation Division has been excellent in this regard and by February 8 every one of the first 69 people to receive notices of release have been contacted for setting of departure dates.

On February 4 a "Special Notice to Residents Regarding Property Shipment", signed by me, was distributed to all colony residents by the Reports Office calling attention to the fact that the approach of center closing makes it necessary for all personal belongings to be packed and shipped as soon as possible regardless of whether the residents will be relocating, going to internment camps, or going to Japan. This immediately brought many responses to the Evacuee Property Office. (Copies are attached.)

Although we are planning to move more people in less time than we have at any time in the past, we do not anticipate that transportation will become an overly difficult problem. Mr. Holland has set up arrangements with the Southern Pacific Company in Klamath Falls by which we can move about 105 persons a day without the special car which was discontinued about January 31. When the load becomes heavier we anticipate that this figure can be more than tripled. Southern Pacific has indicated it can, if necessary, give us three special cars out of Klamath Falls south and one north each day, which would be in addition to services we can obtain from Pacific Trailways and the Greyhound Bus Line.

Evacuee Property and Property Control Our records show that stored evacuee property has been removed from the center at a rate which will leave to us no residue. Virtually no property of evacuees is here now except that which they are packing and which is being held for immediate shipment. The Evacuee Property and Property Control Sections handled 4072 departure cases involving shipment from October 1, 1945 to January 31, 1946 and baggage checks issued totaled 7553 (a February 1 detailed report of Evacuee Property and Property Control activities is attached).

The Remaining Population

A recheck of our records with those of the Immigration and Naturalization Service shows a total of 3293 renunciants now in the center, a figure which is somewhat less than we have been using. This total includes 1819 male adults, 1065 female adults, 229 male minors (18 to 21) and 180 female minors (18 to 21). Of the total of 3293 renunciants, 3186 were heard by the Special Department of Justice Hearing Board on their request to be allowed to remain in the United States. Virtually all of the remainder are included in the voluntary repatriation list for the next boat sailing, although this figure has been fluctuating from day to day and it is difficult to put a finger on it.

Among the renunciants are approximately 200 individuals who were evacuated from Hawaii and whom we have reason to believe wish to return. These people have been notified that they must make application at Relocation Headquarters on or before February 1 if they are to obtain Government transportation to Hawaii, and the Relocation Division is preparing a new recapitulation of the Hawaiian situation. We were able to send 27 Hawaiians on a boat which left San Francisco January 29, one of them having just reached Chicago on an alternate temporary relocation plan and flying back to the coast to catch the boat.

The last figure on the sign-up for voluntary repatriation is 496 individuals. This situation is covered in "Special Report - Tule Lake Repatriation Situation as of Beginning of February, 1946".

Sincerely,

Harry L. Black
Acting Project Director

Attachments

ROB/amh

Mr. Cozzens

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
Tule Lake Center
Newell, California

SPECIAL NOTICE TO RESIDENTS
REGARDING PROPERTY SHIPMENT

February 4, 1946

All personal belongings of the residents of Tule Lake Center must be removed from the center in the immediate future. This applies to all residents, regardless of whether they relocate, repatriate or go to a Department of Justice internment camp.

During the short time that the War Relocation Authority will continue operations at Tule Lake it will assist in shipping property to any freight station in the continental United States; also to Hawaii and Alaska for persons who have approved relocation plans to go there. WRA cannot assure delivery of any shipment beyond the freight depot at the destination. It is the responsibility of the owner to pay the drayage cost from the receiving station to the street address.

It is urged strongly that all residents immediately prepare their goods for shipment—then call at the EVACUEE PROPERTY OFFICE, NEAR GATE NO. 1 to arrange for shipment. Do not call until goods are packed or crated ready for shipment, and you have a definite destination address.

Shipment of personal belongings at this time is urgent. All goods except hand baggage and items necessary for care of small children and the like should be shipped at once.

Harry L. Black

Harry L. Black
Acting Project Director

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Tule Lake Center
Newell, California

February 1, 1946

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. R. R. Best
Project Director

Dear Mr. Best:

I am submitting a report on the activities of the Evacuee Property and the Property Control Sections of the amount of property handled at this center in connection with the relocation of approximately 7783 people. This report covers the four month period from October 1, 1945 to January 31, 1946.

DEPARTURE CASES

4072

There were 4072 separate departure cases interviewed and processed at the Evacuee Property Office in the regular relocation program during these four months. This figure does not include the interviews necessary for the 3974 people who went to Japan during this period. Neither does it include the interviews with people detained at this center by the Department of Justice who wished to have their property shipped before they left. Not all of the interviews resulted in the preparation of Forms WRA-156 but on the other hand, many of the interviews resulted in the preparation of two or more sets of forms. One set for property here, another set for property in one of our outside warehouses, and occasionally an additional form for goods still in private storage. It was also necessary at times to prepare another set of forms for emergency express shipments.

PHYSICAL HANDLING OF GOODS

All of the picking up and shipping of the goods was done by the Property Control Section under the supervision of Mr. Paul J. Smith, Assistant Evacuee Property Officer. The finest co-ordination and co-operation has always existed at this center between the Evacuee Property Office and Property Control. The orderly movement of the large volume of goods was due, in a large measure, to the good organization of the Property Control Section which is under Mr. George Smith.

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CHECKABLE BAGGAGE

Practically all baggage was picked up and checked at the center and the baggage checks given to the relocatee the day before departure. The baggage was then hauled by W. R. A. trucks to Klamath Falls and turned over to the Southern Pacific baggage man at the depot. This procedure eliminated the confusion that would be caused by the relocatees trying to check one or two truck loads of baggage in the short time available between their obtaining their tickets and the departure of the trains. The only exception to the above plan was in a few rush departures where the relocatees went to the train in a special car which took the checkable baggage.

Baggage checks issued totaled 7553.

EXPRESS SHIPMENTS

The major part of the express shipments was caused by the necessity of a part or all of the travel being by bus. Considerable difficulty was encountered in the first part of the program by the relocatee losing the Government Bill of Lading which was given to him prior to his departure or not receiving it where we mailed it to him at the address given us at the time of the interview. The express company had apparently encountered this difficulty with relocatees from other centers as the head express office in Sacramento came forward with the suggestion that the agent here mail the Government Bill of Lading to the agent at the destination. The express company prepared a mimeographed letter of instructions to accompany all Government Bills of Lading, and this plan worked much more satisfactorily, especially on the coast where the most of our people relocated. Letters reaching this center about lost Government Bills of Lading dropped from six to eight a day to that number a week. Some of the eastern points that received only an occasional shipment had a much higher percentage of inquiries, than the coast agencies but no higher than it had been under the original plan of mailing Government Bills of Lading to the relocatees.

Families who had express shipments totaled 787.

FREIGHT SHIPMENTS

Prior to November 15, 1945, all crating was done by Property Control crews but the volume had increased to the point where this became impossible. 33 cars containing 719, 385 pounds from 594 families had been crated and shipped. After November 15, the relocatees were told to request boxes and lumber at the Evacuee Property Office. The requests were separated by blocks and an estimator called at the barrack and determined the needs of the family. The material needed was then delivered.

The volume by November 15, was sufficient to warrant assembling and shipping pool cars to a contractor who would deliver to the door. The additional service was obtained at no additional cost to the

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government as we were able to obtain car lot rates. Paul Smith, because of his knowledge and experience, was able to extend the pool car shipments to points as far as Denver and Chicago. He later contacted the Ray Andrews Trucking Company of Modesto, California, which resulted in a contract with them that far exceeded the pool car arrangement. This company has delivered 89 truck loads for a total of 2, 230, 235 pounds without the loss or damage of a single item or the loss of a single Government Bill of Lading. The trucks averaged 12½ tons per load, and as many as 18 were on the run at one time.

Shipments to Los Angeles were delivered to the door within 48 to 60 hours, and to San Francisco in less time. This was much faster than express and the emergency express was stopped to these places. Considerable care had to be exercised at this office to see that the relocatee reached his destination before his goods arrived or that he had some one there to receive them.

FREIGHT REPORT
ENDING JANUARY 31, 1946

SHIPMENTS PRIOR TO NOVEMBER 15, 1945

L.C.L. Car	33 Cars	594 Lots	719, 385 Pounds
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POOL CAR SHIPMENTS, November 15, 1945 to January 31, 1946

DESTINATION	TOTAL CARS	TOTAL LOTS	WEIGHT
Sacramento	10	158	323, 132
San Francisco	5	114	146, 460
San Fran.-Hawaii	4	88	132, 948
Oakland	3	57	107, 934
Los Angeles	12	252	366, 730
Chicago	4	77	116, 085
Stockton	1	25	44, 670
Seattle	4	60	122, 854
Fresno	1	22	36, 515
Denver	1	13	22, 220
TOTAL	45	866	1, 419, 548

L. C. L. SHIPMENTS, November 12, 1945 to January 31, 1946

L. C. L.	47	807	1, 316, 452
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SHIPMENTS BY RAY ANDREWS TRUCKING COMPANY, December 14, 1945 to January 31, 1946

89 Trucks 780 Lots 2, 230, 235 Pounds

G R A N D T O T A L 3047 LOTS 5, 685, 620 POUNDS

TOTAL NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT BILLS OF LADING ISSUED - 3575

AVERAGE WEIGHT PER LOT - 2, 025 POUNDS

IN WAREHOUSE #4 and #5	52 Lots	160, 924 Pounds
PROJECT WAREHOUSE AWAITING ADDRESS	60 Lots	84, 565 Pounds
TO BE STORED IN PROJECT WAREHOUSE		
NOW IN APARTMENT	68 Lots	
STILL IN COLONY WITH DETAINED		
MEMBERS OF FAMILIES AWAITING ADDRESS	271 Lots	

There are about five lots of unidentified property consisting of odds and ends of furniture. Only one lot has any real value and it was received with property belonging to another family. We believe we have found the owner who was segregated from this center, about the time we received the shipment. The total value of all unidentified furniture, with the exception of this lot, is less than \$100.00.

J. Sheldon Lowery
J. Sheldon Lowery
Evacuee Property Officer