E2.303

Memos

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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Washington, D. C.

November 19, 1942

To: All Project and Regional Directors

Attention: REPORTS OFFICERS

Subject: Newspaper attack on Japanese Americans by Marjorie Young

On November 1 there appeared in a number of Sunday editions papers given to sensationalism an article by Marjorie Young entitled, "America's Strangest Problem: What to do with thousands of new babies here" in which the proposal is made that all men be separated from all women and the existing children have their American citizenship taken away.

This proposal is made as a climax to an article made up of remarks on a visit to an assembly center and full of half truths about Japanese culture into which the writer manages to infuse a steady implication that every last person of Japanese ancestry in the United States is in some mysterious manner a Shintoist, a Mikado worshiper, and a sinister influence in America.

The accompanying memorandum by Mr. Embree is NOT intended for publication and we do NOT recommend that any reports officer take the initiative in bringing it to the attention of newspaper editors or reporters. It was prepared merely to provide you with ammunition in case you should be asked about the charges contained in Mrs. Young's article.

John C. Baker
Chief, Office of Reports

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Washington, D. C.

November 13, 1942

To: John C. Baker, Chief, Office of Reports

Subject: Newspaper attack on Japanese Americans by Marjorie Young

The following brief analysis of Mrs. Young's article might be of interest to you and to reports officers on the projects.

First of all, the author falls into the typical error of thinking that culture is inherited. Second, she uses a picture of the surrender at Corregidor with the heading "How the Japs take care of our boys over there" and contrasts it with our treatment of American residents of Japanese ancestry in an assembly center. (A popular but fallacious comparison. The proper picture to contrast with the Corregidor photo would be one of Japanese prisoners taken at Guadalcanal. Evacuees, of course, are not at all comparable to prisoners of war).

The author's references to Japanese culture might be difficult to discuss if one were not familiar with Japanese culture. They are discussed here in the order of their appearance in the article.

1. Japanese christening ceremony. When a child is 3 or 5 days old in Japan, there is usually a naming ceremony at which time friends and relatives are called in to drink and celebrate. Most of the older, first-generation mothers have followed this custom, though on a restricted scale, in California. It is quite possible that some young American-born evacuees are actually ignorant of this ceremony and not merely "pretending" ignorance as Mrs. Young implies. At any rate, the naming ceremony is simply an old folk custom with no sinister connections.

2. There is of course no evidence for "plenty boy babies" being born to Japanese in war years. Only a moron could take a remark like this seriously.

3. The remark about differential marriage fees for Japanese and Filipinos in Manila is one of those things which are quite uncheckable. It bears all the earmarks of a rumor.

4. Shinto. To Mrs. Young the Shinto religion seems to be stronger than any other religion in the world since it is, according to her, biologically inherited.

Briefly, Shinto includes the vast body of native Japanese beliefs in deities of nature--the water, the sun, the forest, the river, etc.,

as well as patron deities of villages and towns. Furthermore, it includes the early mythology whereby the present Emperor is descended from the sun goddess. In Japan most people belong to a Buddhist sect and at the same time observe rituals in connection with local deities and spirits as well as those associated with State Shinto.

Buddhism, being connected with family affairs and especially funerals and memorial services, has come across the ocean in much better shape than Shinto which is so closely allied with local places and spirits. As a result, in California and Hawaii before December 7 there were dozens of Buddhist temples and priests for every one Shinto shrine. Shinto as it came across the seas came in two forms, both appealing chiefly to the older generation:

(a) Faith Healers like Inari priests who cure by the aid of Inari, god of rice and good fortune, whose messenger is the fox.

(b) Official Shintoists, the super-patriotic priests who teach the divinity of the Japanese, the sacredness of the Emperor etc. It was with good reason that all Shinto priests of this latter category were interned when war broke out. But what is not often realized is the fact that only a small fraction of the Japanese in California and Hawaii regularly attended such state Shinto shrines. Nearly all the active religious practices of older Japanese in this country are either Buddhist or popular Shintoist such as the faith-healing Inari priests. (In this connection, see chapter 7 of Suye Mura and chapter 9 of Acculturation Among the Japanese of Kona, Hawaii by J. F. Embree).

5. "For years Japan has sent her people . . . . establishing colonies for the mother country."

It is common but nonetheless erroneous to look upon the Japanese in the United States and Hawaii as colonists comparable to the people sent from Japan to the Philippines during the past 15 years. The fact is that the Japanese government for 250 years prohibited any subjects from leaving Japan on penalty of death. During the first decades after Perry's visit this rule was relaxed only slightly and the first group of contract laborers to come to Hawaii were virtually smuggled out of Japan by contractors for the Hawaiian sugar planters. During the whole first period of Japanese immigration to Hawaii and the U. S. the Japanese government was much more concerned with keeping her people at home than with sending them abroad. It was not until after the last world war that this policy definitely changed and the government began deliberately encouraging emigration overseas especially to the mandated territories in the South Seas, the Celebes, and the Philippines.

6. Again the birth rate. Here it may be noted (a) that the birth rate of the second generation Japanese, like that of second generation immigrant groups from Europe, is much less than that of its parents, (b) that as the younger generation achieves higher economic

and social status, its birth rate also declines, a tendency observable in all population groups in the United States. In other words, there is nothing peculiar or sinister in the Japanese American birth rate to distinguish it from that of other immigrant groups.

7. The incident involving Mrs. Young's attempts to question people about their gardens deserves only brief comment. It may be worthwhile to philosophize on the mysterious qualities inculcated in the Oriental mind through training in painting and miniature gardening, but such speculation has little bearing on the American Japanese. Most of the older people in the United States come from poor parents in Japan and would hardly have had the opportunities for an upper class education--the only kind that goes in for extended courses in such leisure time activities as miniature gardens and tea ceremonies.

8. The Zodiac. The Asiatic Zodiac is common to both China and Japan, in fact Japan acquired her use of it some centuries ago from China. The 12 animal symbols for months are much used in Japanese and Chinese astrology just as those of the European Zodiac are used by astrologists in this country.

The 3 monkeys of Nikko are the famous "see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil" simians. They are not frequently found by the roadside. If they symbolize India, China, and Japan, they do so only to a few literary people. Furthermore, if this has any political significance, it could well mean that the Chinese as well as the Japanese "plot their years ahead".

Articles such as this of Marjorie Young's hew dangerously close to the Hitler line. One of his chief aims, well served by this article, is to divide minority group against minority group, thus weakening the American home front.

Attacks on the Americans of Japanese ancestry on grounds of race make Americans of African, Jewish, German, or Chinese ancestry uneasy and simply corroborate Japan's charges that we talk democracy and act racism.

All precedents established by our treatment of Japanese Americans can later be used against other American groups just as Hitler's precedents established in his persecution of the Jews were later used against Socialists, Catholics, and others (e.g. internment, removal of citizenship, etc.)

John F. Embree
Senior Archivist

PART VI

FILMS

"ARMY, NAVY MAGAZINE FIIM: JAPANESE AMERICANS" - Filmed & Edited by the War Department. Sound 16 mm., 8 min.

BARRIERS AND PASSES" (Kodachrome Silent - 16mm, 40 Min.) - Dr. Frederick Thorne, Presbyterian Board of National Missions, 156 Fifth Ave., New York 10, N.Y.

"A CHALLENGE TO DEMOCRACY" (Sound - 16 mm. 18 min.) War Relocation Area Offices, and OWI depositories.

"GO FOR BROKE" - Camp Shelby (Sound -16 mm. 10 min.) - War Relocation Authority Area Offices.

"NEWSREEL EXCERPTS - SOLDIERS OVERSEAS" (Sound - 16 mm., 7 min.) - produced by: Signal Corps Newsreel.

RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Washington

Sargent

November 10, 1943

To: Project Directors

Attention: Chief, Relocation Division

United States Attorneys are reporting that alien evacuees who have relocated are not keeping the United States Attorneys informed of changes of address when they leave their place of first destination. Therefore, it is requested that steps be taken at each center to emphasize the importance of this matter to relocating aliens. In addition to oral instructions to aliens relocating, it is requested that they be supplied with a mimeographed notice in both English and Japanese making this requirement clear. It is also requested that the importance of alien adherence to this regulation be explained to the Evacuee Relocation Committee and the Community Council with the request that they cooperate in getting adherence to this regulation.

/S/ Leland Barrows

Acting Director

OM-588

Mr. Cook
Reports Officer

John Cook
Tule Lake

File

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

WASHINGTON

004.4

February 4, 1943

TO: All Project Directors

ATTENTION: Reports Officers

SUBJECT: Attached release with reference to volunteering for combat unit by Nisei outside relocation centers

I am attaching a press release for use in your project newspaper which is based upon instructions which have been mailed to all local draft boards throughout the country announcing that Nisei of draft-age may volunteer at any draft board for service in the combat unit.

I know that this story will be of interest to the relatives and friends at your project of a considerable number of Nisei who are now in outside employment. I believe, therefore, that the story should be given some prominence.

John C Baker.

John C. Baker
Chief, Office of Reports

Attachment

8716

Mr. Hadley Head

March 12, 1943

Mailed Mar. 16, '43

To: All Project Directors

Attention: Reports Officer

After the return of representatives of the Reports Office from visits to all of the relocation centers, we have decided to increase the volume of the press releases prepared in this office for use by the project newspapers. These will go forward to you as a series of project news releases to be used or not used as your judgment indicates.

The chief purpose of these releases will be to give system to the flow of information from Washington to evacuees on policy and procedural changes affecting them. Most releases will probably be interpretations of news administrative instructions, but some will be on policy matters which do not require formal instructions. Our approach will be to send general information on news available here which may be used with a local lead supplied by staff members at the projects. We will endeavor to have a companion piece to each important administrative instruction reach the project concurrently with the instruction.

We hope this service will help the Reports Officers at the projects and will speed up the publication of information for the evacuees. The interpretative stories about WRA administrative regulations can be checked here by the division heads concerned, which also is an advantage. We appreciate that the project Reports Officers are busy and that a service of this kind may relieve them personally of some of the pressure of the job.

Sincerely yours

John C. Baker
Chief, Office of Reports

cc: Mr. R. B. Cozzens, San Francisco
Mr. J. H. Smart, Denver, Colo.
Mr. E. B. Whitaker, Little Rock
Mr. John Collier, Washington
Mr. John Collier, Chicago

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P.S. Enclosed is the first press release of the series.

March 24, 1943

To: Project Directors

Attention: Reports Officers

Enclosed are three press releases intended for the project newspaper.

Sincerely yours,

John C. Baker
Chief, Office of Reports

Enclosures - 3

cc: Mr. Cozzens, San Francisco
Mr. Smart, Denver
Mr. Whitaker, Little Rock
Mr. Collier, Chicago
Mr. Collier, Washington

ETVaughan:LH

June 3, 1943

TO: All Project Directors

ATTENTION: Reports Officers

Enclosed for use in the project paper is a press release on Executive Order No. 9346, together with a copy of the Order. Additional copies of the Order are being mimeographed here, and will be sent to the project shortly for the use of the relocation guidance committee.

There are certain points about Executive Order No. 9346 to which we should like to draw the attention of editorial writers and other interested persons. On the credit side there are the following:

(1) As part of the War Manpower Commission, it was alleged that the FEPC could be used as a political football. The new Order establishes the committee in the Executive Office of the President as an autonomous agency, administratively responsible only to the President of the United States.

(2) The work of the original committee was on a voluntary basis. The new Order provides for a full-time paid chairman and compensation for other committee members.

(3) The Order was signed by Mr. Roosevelt as Commander-in-Chief as well as President. This has been interpreted by some authorities as giving the new committee more power than the previous one.

(4) Much more strongly worded than Executive Order 8802, the new Order shows the good faith of the administration in eliminating racial discrimination from war plants.

(5) Operating as part of the Manpower Commission, the original FEPC on several occasions was ordered to cancel its plans

for public hearings in several extremely important and controversial cases. The new Order specifically provides that it may conduct hearings.

(6) According to a representative of the FEPC, certain federal directives conflicted with EO 8802. For that reason, Clause 9 in EO 9346 is extremely important.

While the new Order strengthens and extends the sphere of activities of the FEPC's work, it does not overcome what critics of the former set-up claimed were its chief weaknesses--lack of power to enforce its decisions and lack of funds to employ an adequate staff.

In the past, three-quarters of the committee's orders were concerned with the Negro problem. Whether the new committee will be able to deal more effectively with problems of other racial minorities remains to be seen.

Sincerely yours,

John C. Baker
Chief, Office of Reports

Enclosures (2)

CC: Mr. Collier (Washington)
Mr. Collier (Chicago)
Mr. Whitaker
Mr. Cozzens
Mr. Pitts

June 8, 1943

TO: All Project Directors

ATTENTION: Reports Officers

Enclosed is a press release for the project papers on WRA's progress in placing NYA trainees who were left stranded as a result of last week's cancellation of NYA's agreement to provide training for evacuee youth.

If the project papers have not already carried a story on the cancellation of this agreement, we suggest that they do so now. Copies of our general press release on the subject were sent to you last week.

Sincerely yours,

John C Baker

John C. Baker
Chief, Office of Reports

Enclosure

CC: Mr. Collier (Washington)
Mr. Collier (Chicago)
Mr. Whitaker
Mr. Pitts
Mr. Cozzens

ETVaughn:HJ

1620
Zimmerman

Colorado River

Jimmy — Can you make a story out of this?

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

WASHINGTON

July 9, 1943

MEMORANDUM TO: All Project Directors

ATTENTION: Reports Officer

We are having prepared statements made by the Relocation Supervisors about the prospects of relocation in the different areas served by their offices. Also there will be available a thumb-nail sketch of each of the six Relocation Supervisors. This material has been mimeographed and about 200 copies of each will go to each project. These copies will be for distribution to people who ask for specific information about different areas.

We are sending an advance copy to you so that you can condense it for a story in the project newspaper, using the by-line of the Relocation Supervisor. In all there will be six and these should make a very good series of stories for the paper, on a subject in which a great many of the people are vitally interested.

John C Baker

John C. Baker
Chief, Office of Reports

Enclosures

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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
Washington

January 29, 1944

To: Project Directors, Attention: Reports Officers
Relocation Supervisors
Field Assistant Directors
Division Heads in Washington

Attached is a portion of the manuscript of the Army Hour broadcast on a nation-wide radio network Sunday, January 23, 1944, in which Yoshihide Kuwaye, member of the 100th Infantry Battalion, was interviewed. This is sent to you for such use as you care to make.

Sincerely yours,

John C. Baker

John C. Baker
Chief, Office of Reports

Attachment

THE ARMY HOUR

Sunday, January 23, 1944

IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

Announcer: Here in Kennedy General Hospital, Memphis, Tennessee, is an infantryman different from most of the doughboys fighting their way across mountain peaks in Italy or jungles of the Pacific Islands. He is Japanese. His name, Yoshihide Kuwaye. His outfit, the famed 100th Battalion, made up of Japanese-Americans from Hawaii--who late in 1943 first came to grips with the Germans in the Italian campaign. What was it like, Yoshihide?

Kuwaye: It was like our training. We had been taught the things we should do in combat. We did them. Nobody thought very much about it, except that we were glad we had finally gotten into action.

Announcer: Were the Germans difficult?

Kuwaye: Yes, very. But at first, we were bothered more by the severe conditions than by the enemy. It was cold and wet. We could not keep warm or dry. The Germans did not give too much of a battle until they reached the winter line.

Then, they were able to fight from the positions they chose. The weather got worse, but the Germans were even more difficult. They fought without any thought of surrender.

Announcer: Did any of them surrender?

Kuwaye: Yes, we captured quite a few. These Germans realized their position was hopeless and surrendered. When we rushed them, they hollered "Kammerad" and threw their arms in the air.

Announcer: Then, what happened? Were they surprised to see you?

Kuwaye: Very much. They asked our platoon leader, who interrogated them, what was our nationality. He told them Japanese-American. They asked him how he spoke such good German. He told them he was a German-American, from Brooklyn. His name was Lt. Kurtschammel.

Announcer: What did the German prisoners have to say to that?

Kuwaye: They didn't say anything. They just looked from us to Lt. Kurtschammel and shook their heads. I'm sure Hitler had not told them about us.

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Colorado River

~~Mr. Burgh~~
Mr. Brown

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Washington

April 19, 1944

To: Project Directors

Attention: Reports Officers

Following is an editorial which appeared in the Honolulu Advertiser of March 22 which might be considered for publication in the project newspaper:

"CIVILIAN CONDITIONS IN JAPAN

"Because of the shortage of both machines and labor in Japan, some observers are of the opinion that the collapse of Japan will be as much through the exhaustion of the civil population as through military defeat.

"According to reports leaking out of Japan through various, not yet to be revealed ways, the whole Japanese people have been regimented to a degree never before heard of. The minimum working day for many is a seven-day week of 16 hours a day. The meager supply of adult male Japanese laborers is supplemented by women, children and slave laborers from Korea and China.

"A typical example of labor dilution is shown in the Yahata ironworks in Kyushu. In this plant 32 per cent of the workers are Japanese women; 30 per cent are Korean laborers; 25 per cent are Japanese youths, both sexes, between fifteen and twenty; 13 per cent are adult male Japanese."

John C Baker

John C. Baker
Chief, Reports Division

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Washington

April 19, 1944

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John O. Baker
Chief, Reports Division

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275832 Colorado River

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Washington

April 24, 1944

To: Project Directors

Attention: Reports Officers

The following report on an event at Gila River may be of interest to you:

"Ten 'outside' Arizona High Schools sent 145 representatives to a meeting of the Arizona State Girls' League Federation which met in Rivers Saturday, April 15, with the Butte Girls' League as hostess. In addition to this number from the outside, approximately 168 from the Canal High School joined in the festivities with 200 girls from the Butte High School. This is a part of a plan to have the schools of the State become acquainted with the children in the center and thus come to realize that the young people here are worthwhile Americans whom they will enjoy knowing. The program for the day included, assembly, track meet, panel discussion, a tour of the camp, luncheon in the mess hall, a jitter bug contest, and a social get-together. Members of practically every group on the project cooperated in the day's events. The P.T.A. mothers prepared the meal which was served in mess hall 43 at noon. Both boy and girl scout troops had helped in preparation and worked throughout the entire day to facilitate the program. All of the scouts were in uniform. The Nursery contributed flowers and artistic arrangement so that each girl was presented with a beautiful corsage when she first arrived and registered.

"The outside high schools represented and the number from each are as follows: Chandler 35, Scottsdale 15, Tolleson 10, Mesa 8, Tempe 2, Peoria 10, Phoenix Union 18, North Phoenix 22, Phoenix Indian School 3, and Coolidge 12.

"The girls from the outside and those from Rivers had a grand time together. Incidentally, among the visitors from the outside were: Indians, Chinese and negroes. We are especially pleased by the publicity given to this event by the Phoenix papers. The Gazette carried a half-column story and the Republic, an editorial written by Threlkeld."

John C Baker

John C. Baker
Chief, Reports Division

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Washington

April 24, 1944

To: Project Directors

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"The girls from the outside and those from Rivers had a grand time together. Incidentally, among the visitors from the outside were: Indians, Chinese and negroes. We are especially pleased by the publicity given to this event by the Phoenix papers. The Gazette carried a full column story and the Republic, an editorial written by Thurlow [illegible]

John C. Baker
Chief, Reports Division

Tule Lake

Reports

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

WASHINGTON

May 18, 1944

To: All Project Directors (except Jerome)

Attn: Reports Officers

MMT

From: M. M. Tozier, Asst. Chief, Reports Division

Subj: Distribution of Information Digests and Press Reviews

We are now in the process of drawing up a new distribution scheme for the Information Digest and the Press Review, and would like to have each project reports officer forward to us an outline of the system now used for distributing these two items, together with suggestions for their more effective utilization in keeping project personnel informed. We have realized for some time that the 20 copies which you now receive are undoubtedly insufficient to reach even the key staff people.

There are two basic methods of distribution that can be used in getting the information read. The first is the system of routing a single copy to several persons which creates an incentive to actually read the material rather than lay it aside. This might apply to the Information Digest which is fairly concise and easily read. The alternative method is to make a copy available to each person, to whom the contents are valuable. This makes it possible not only to use the material for reference purposes, but eliminates the necessity to sketchily peruse the information due to lack of time. The latter suggestion should receive serious consideration with regard to the Press Review, which has grown to sizable proportions. We also feel that this information would be particularly valuable to the school teachers and we are in a position to supply 80 copies for their use alone. Dr. Ade has expressed a desire to have these documents made available to them, and we would appreciate your checking this point.

In an attempt to simplify the problem of distribution which might arise because of the increase in the number of copies you will be receiving, and since we do not have any definite information on the system of distribution you now employ, we would like to suggest that on receipt of each issue, the proper number of copies be distributed immediately to each of the division chiefs, who in turn should be responsible for routing them to the individuals on their staffs.

On receipt of the results of your investigations, we will draw up a distribution plan. A copy of this plan, plus a letter to be sent to all divisions notifying them of the new set up, will be included with our distribution to you of the first edition of the Press Review and Information Digest distributed under the new plan.

Manual Policy

Colorado River

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Washington

Brown

July 25, 1944

TO: ALL PROJECT DIRECTORS

ATTENTION: REPORTS OFFICERS

The attention of the project reports officer should be called to the fact that he is responsible for preparation of the project report covering relocation activities, in conformity with an Administrative Notice issued July 14, 1944, which refers to a revision for the Manual on Information and Reports, Sections 20.10.20 to 20.10.22C-1.

Please make sure that the report on relocation activities is included in the July project report on the temporary forms.

Sincerely yours,

M. M. Tozier

M. M. Tozier
Chief, Reports Division

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Washington

July 25, 1944

TO: ALL PROJECT DIRECTORS

ATTENTION: REPORTS OFFICERS

The attention of the project reports officer should be called to the fact that he is responsible for preparation of the project report covering relocation activities, in conformity with an Administrative Notice issued July 14, 1944, which refers to a revision for the Manual on Information and Reports, Sections 20.10.20 to 20.10.220-1.

Please make sure that the report on relocation activities is included in the July project report on the temporary forms.

Sincerely yours,

M. M. Tozier
Chief, Reports Division

Tule Lake

Reports

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
Washington, D. C.

August 12, 1944

To: All Project Directors

Attention: Reports Officers

It has come to our attention, through rather devious routes, that tentative plans for war casualty memorial services are in the process of preparation at several of the centers.

Where possible, we would like to know about these plans in advance. Please have your Reports Officer send this office all the available details -- names of the men honored; their family connections; their center history if any; names of their former homes and schools; outline of the program, including date, hour, place and speakers; etc. -- as far in advance as possible.

Where this information is received in time it will be possible to prepare suitable press releases in this office. If you feel it would be desirable, we may also be able in most cases to secure an appropriate statement from the Director which may be read at the service.

Sincerely,

M. M. Tozier

M. M. Tozier
Chief, Reports Division

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38551

Department of the Interior
War Relocation Authority
Washington, D. C.

Tule Lake

Reports

September 11, 1944

To: Project Directors

Attn: Reports Officers

Two record transcriptions have been made of excerpts from national network radio shows about the loyalty and fighting qualities of Japanese American soldiers. These will reach you in about a week.

One records part of the March of Time broadcast of August 17, in which the commanding officer of the 100th Infantry Battalion describes the combat performance of his Japanese American infantrymen. The other record is a transcription of a part of the Vox Pop broadcast of August 22 during which a Caucasian officer who fought with Nisei in Burma praises them as soldiers and protests racial discrimination against them or other loyal Japanese Americans.

When you receive these records you should try to make maximum use of them. At relocation centers they can be played to evacuee audiences at various occasions including rallies induction sendoffs, and military memorial services, until all evacuees have heard them. They may be worked into a local radio station program in one way and another.

In shipping these records about, it is important to pack them carefully since the glass base makes them extremely fragile. The records may be played on ordinary phonographs since they are adjusted to the time of standard record players.

I would appreciate word later on the reception accorded these records, how widely they were distributed, and what comment they provoked, if any. If the records turn out to be a helpful device, we will want to arrange for transcriptions of similar programs on Japanese Americans that will be coming along soon. Please acknowledge receipt of these transcriptions.

M. M. Tozier

M. M. Tozier
Chief, Reports Division

39806

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
Washington, D. C.

September 26, 1944

To: Project Reports Officers
Relocation Area Supervisors
San Francisco
Property Offices

Enclosed is the second of a series of six-day collections of the new "Daily News Digest," which is temporarily replacing the familiar "Weekly Press Review".

This method of furnishing you with an indication of the way the press handles news affecting WRA was designed to speed up receipt in the field. You will receive a limited number of copies. If your organization requires a wider distribution, it is hoped that you will find it possible to handle your own reproduction job. It has been suggested that in connection with the reproduction of the Washington "Daily News Digest" you may find it desirable to add a digest of that part of your local news which you feel necessary to keep your organization up to date.

The "Daily News Digest" is looked upon as a temporary expedient which will probably give way to speedier handling following the October 2 Reports Division conference in Denver. This future handling, however, will doubtless involve necessary reproduction in the field.

We will appreciate your general comments and suggestions on the preparation and transmittal of this material.

M. M. Tozier
Chief, Reports Division

Relocation Area Supervisors:

Please note that the District Offices are not receiving this digest.

OM-1534

Mr. John Bigelow
Tule Center

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
Washington, D. C.

NOV 1 - 1944

To: Project Reports Officers
Relocation Reports Officers
Mr. R. B. Cozzens

At the Denver conference of reports officers, the need for a publication to explode the malicious myths that have been used to assail the WRA and Japanese Americans was unanimously recognized.

We have prepared a list of 25 charges which have had considerable currency. Will you please examine the list and add to it any other charges which you feel should be included. Your suggestions regarding the manner in which the charges in our list are stated will also be welcomed.

Please send your contributions to the list as promptly as possible. We want to get this publication into print as soon as we can.

M. Tozier

M. M. Tozier
Chief, Reports Division

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41496

Chief, Reports Division
R. A. Foster

Mr. Foster

Please send your contributions to this file as promptly as possible. We must go ahead with publication and print copy as soon as we can.

Mr. Foster:

Enclosed are copies of a draft of 25 chapters which have been prepared for the Project Conference. Will you please examine the draft and return it to us with your comments and changes. Some of the chapters are expected to be included. Your suggestions regarding the manner of dealing with the chapters in our draft are expected. Will also be welcomed.

Please send your contributions to this file as promptly as possible. We must go ahead with publication and print copy as soon as we can.

At the general conference of reports officers, the need for a publication to explode the myriad of misinformation which has been used to assail the WRA and relocation management was unanimously recognized.

To: Project Reports Officers
Relocation Reports Officers
Mr. M. B. Cossens

~~Project directors~~
Reports

Mr. R. R. Best
Tule Lake

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
Washington, D. C.

November 21, 1944

To: Project Directors

Since the pamphlet, Nisei in Uniform, is intended primarily for the information of the general public and not for mass distribution among evacuees, please be guided by the following in your distribution plans for that pamphlet:

1. The pamphlet should be distributed as widely as possible, but primarily among people and groups who have not been acquainted with the Japanese American problems or who, in fact, have been unfriendly. You should use discretion in the number of copies distributed to evacuees now in the centers or on indefinite leave, and to WRA staff members.

2. The bulk of the supply should be used so as to create an understanding of the Japanese Americans in those areas where it does not now exist. As wide distribution as possible should be made among veterans' groups, labor unions, women's clubs, business and civic clubs, etc.

We will undertake to maintain a supply adequate to meet all demands for the pamphlet so long as it is used for the purposes for which it was intended.

Individuals may secure copies from the Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., at 15¢ a copy.

M. M. Tozier

M. M. Tozier
Chief, Reports Division

42122

Reports

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
Washington, D. C.

Reports

November 22, 1944

MEMORANDUM TO: All Project Directors

ATTENTION: Reports Officers

We have been able to procure enough copies of the reprint from the American magazine of the story "Death Talks Out of Turn", to supply each center with one copy, which is herewith attached. This is a powerfully written story and a strong indictment of "careless talk". It is suggested that you may wish to route it among key members of the appointed staff for reading.

M. Tozier

M. M. Tozier
Chief, Reports Division

Attachment

42111

2-4

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
Washington, D. C.

Tule Lake Center

Reports

November 24, 1944

To: All Project Directors

Attention: Reports Officers

With the assistance of Division Chiefs in the Washington office, the Reports Division is in the process of reviewing and evaluating the various monthly report forms. As a result, to date two of these forms have been canceled, effective with the January reports from your center. The forms thus discontinued are W.R.A. Form No. 121 Rev. used by the Project Attorney, and W.R.A. Form No. 119, used for Industries. Will you please advise the personnel concerned that after the December monthly reports are forwarded, they will no longer be required to fill in these forms.

M. M. Tozier

M. M. Tozier
Chief, Reports Division

42221

Reports
Manzanar
11.200

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B

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Washington

December 5, 1944

TO: PROJECT DIRECTORS

ATTENTION: REPORTS OFFICERS

Attached herewith is a set of the "Better Writing" leaflets prepared by Milton Hall, chief of the training division of the Federal Security Agency, which I mentioned in REPORTS ROUNDTABLE NO. 22.

I believe that you will find it worth while to study this material. It gets at the business of preparing letters and reports from a fresh, new angle.

M. M. Tozier

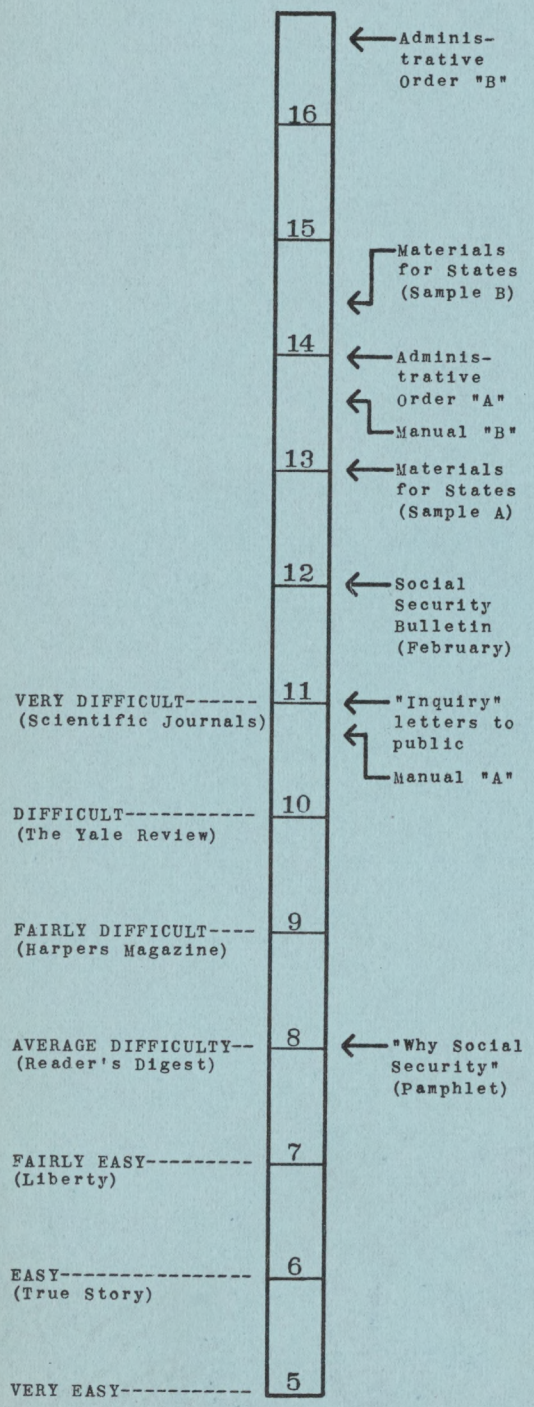
M. M. Tozier
Chief, Reports Division

Attachment

67654

Federal Security Agency
SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD

IS OUR WRITING TOO HARD TO READ?



MEASURE OF DIFFICULTY

Our writing is MUCH TOO HARD to read, according to the "readability" formula worked out by Professor Flesch and other specialists in the Readability Laboratory of Columbia University.

His measuring stick enables us to compare our writing with standard writing of known difficulty. For example, if the formula shows that a piece of writing rates "Fairly Difficult," we know that it is comparable to Harpers Magazine.

Application of the formula to our writing snows that even our standard "inquiry" letters to the public are on a par with the Yale Review and scientific journals. Ratings of other samples are shown by the arrows that point to the scale at the left.

3 BIG REASONS

LONG INVOLVED SENTENCES--like this:

"When action has been taken by the Board on a particular subject and this information has appeared in the official Board Minutes, and the Bureau finds it necessary that additional information should have been included in the Minute, or a certain portion of it revised, it is necessary to submit a new memorandum to the Board recommending that the previous policy adopted by the Board be amended or revised, as the case may be."

UNNECESSARILY DIFFICULT AND FANCY WORDS--

"The forms are obsolete and should be consigned to the receptacles utilized in disposing of your daily accumulation of trash." (Since the forms are obsolete, throw them away.)

IMPERSONAL EXPRESSION--

"It is suggested that the voucher be rewritten with the explanation that official business was performed on December 13." (The reader will know whom we are talking about if we say, "We suggest that you rewrite the voucher, explaining that you performed official business on December 13.")

You may send samples of writing to the Training Division to be rated.

Federal Security Agency
SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD

DO WE HAVE TO USE SUCH LONG WORDS?

The answer is "Yes"--sometimes. Surely we are justified in using technical terms when writing to others who know their meaning.

BUT why should a busy regional representative have to puzzle through this kind of language:

> It is requested that the Social Security Board be furnished with three authenticated copies of the deed, in pursuance of which the title to said Grand Rapids National Bank Building was conveyed unto Frank D. McKay Realty Company. The authentication of a written instrument is such official attestation thereof as will render it legally admissible in evidence.

Complex or unusual words make writing harder for *anyone* to understand. Anyone will understand more quickly if we write "After a careful review of the facts," instead of "After a comprehensive and thorough appraisal of all the circumstances pertaining to the case....."

Unnecessarily long, technical, or high-brow words also give readers the impression that we are:

> *"Legalistic bureaucrats making things more difficult than they are."*
> *"Professionals more anxious to impress than to inform."*
> *"Pompous people trying to show how much they know."*

WE REALLY ARE NOT, SO LET'S TRY TO WRITE--

NOT LIKE THIS	BUT LIKE THIS
a substantial segment of the population	many people (a large group)
fully cognizant of	know well
interpose an objection	object
comprising numerous agricultural units	made up of many farms
hold in abeyance	wait (postpone action)
promulgate the regulation	issue the regulation
effectuate (implement) the policy	carry out the policy
pursuant to your request	as you requested
prior to...subsequent to	before...after
secure (ascertain) the data	get the facts
interrogate the claimant	ask (question) him
purports to construe	explain (tries to explain)
encounter difficulty in	find it hard to
precludes the institution of appeals processes	does away with the need for....
marked discrepancy	clear difference
initiate (institute) a project	begin....
consummate the arrangement	make or complete....
in the initial instance	in the first place
of the order of magnitude	about

CHOOSE THE SIMPLEST WORD THAT CARRIES YOUR MEANING

Federal Security Agency
SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD

WHY ARE OTHER PEOPLE SO LONG-WINDED?

As we read the mass of material that crosses our desks we sometimes wish, "If only he would come to the point"--"Why must I struggle through all these words, words, words?"

Much writing in Government is long-winded. Ten words often are used where five would express an idea more clearly. Such writing wastes our time and tries our patience. But what about our own writing?

Let's write for others as we would have them write for us. We can save their time by--

CUTTING OFF UNESSENTIAL WORDS AND PHRASES:

~~You are advised that~~ the schedule should be sent ~~directly~~ to this office ~~as~~ promptly ~~as possible.~~

A copy is attached ~~hereto~~ ~~for your information and guidance.~~

~~It will be observed that~~ all messages ~~emanating~~ from the Washington office....

~~Your attention is directed to~~ section 7 ~~which~~ says....

AVOIDING ROUNDABOUT EXPRESSION:

The Bureau is of the opinion that.....*We believe*

It is our understanding that.....*We understand*

Approval to the request was given by you on January 20....*You approved this request on January 20.*

The order is in the process of revision..... .*The order is being revised.*

Difficulties in the administration of.....*Difficulties in administering....*

SUBSTITUTING A WORD FOR A PHRASE:

with respect to this case.....*in....*

in connection with.....*by, in, for, etc. (Give the connection.)*

despite the fact that.....*though....*

in view of the fact that.....*since, because*

give encouragement to.....*encourage*

make inquiry regarding.....*inquire*

have need for.....*need*

meets with the approval.....*approves*

AVOIDING REPETITION:

This will enable the States to get started sooner ~~than if they wait until some later date.~~

The study is nearly completed ~~at the present time.~~

~~As a matter of interest~~, we shall be interested in knowing....

Unemployment compensation ~~benefits.~~

USE ALL THE WORDS YOU NEED TO CARRY YOUR MESSAGE CLEARLY AND CORRECTLY, BUT USE NO MORE

Federal Security Agency
SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD

ARE GOVERNMENT WORKERS PEOPLE?

Believe it or not we too are people, even though we often don't seem so when we write.

We are usually normal when we talk, but put a pencil in our hand or a stenographer at our side and a mysterious change takes place. Some claim that the flesh turns to stone and blood to ice water. No human being would *talk* this way:

> "In further reference to your request, attention is called to the fact that the Social Security Board is concerned only when the matter affects the Federal Social Security laws."

Readers of Government "literature" sometimes get the impression that no human beings exist, anywhere. The world consists entirely of bureaus, boards, policies, grants, benefits, assistance, ideas, and "it"--especially "it." Everything but people. Ours is a program for people, administered by people, yet we often write like this:

> "Employment in manufacturing and government recorded increases, while there were declines in trade and domestic services."
>
> *(More people were employed in manufacturing and government, and fewer in trade and domestic service.)*
>
> "The check is returned so that pay for November 2 may be deducted."
>
> *(We are returning the check so that you may deduct pay for November 2.)*
>
> "It will be appreciated if this refund is forwarded immediately to this office."
>
> *(Please send us the refund immediately.)*
>
> "It is strongly recommended that every effort be made to have this matter brought to the attention of the agency."
>
> *(We strongly recommend that you make every effort to bring this matter to the attention of the agency.)*

When we do admit that people exist, we often treat them as mere appendages to abstract ideas:

> "General assistance or relief accounted for nearly all the remaining recipients of public aid."
>
> *(Nearly all the other people getting public aid were receiving general assistance or relief.)*
>
> "The protection afforded industrial and commercial workers is far from complete."
>
> *(Many industrial and commercial workers are not protected.)*
>
> To a worker who asks about benefits:- "Because of the many factors which must be taken into consideration in computing the amount of benefits an individual will receive under this program, it is not possible for the Social Security Board to inform an individual of the specific amount of his monthly benefits until a claim has been filed."
>
> *(Because many facts must be considered in figuring benefits, we are unable to tell you the exact amount of your monthly benefit until you file a claim.)*

Under some circumstances we even appear to take on a god-like form! Our voices come from the mountain top when we say--

> "Many risks to family income maintenance are not insurable in that they stem from individual and chance situations or combined misfortunes not common to large segments of the population in normal times. Such disasters, however, are none the less severe for their fortuitous character."

LET'S WRITE THE WAY WE TALK--LET'S BE HUMAN

Federal Security Agency
SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD

YOU DON'T HAVE TO SOUND LIKE A GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL

The Federal government for many years has used a language all its own. Editorial writers and others who wish to ridicule us call it "governmentese."

WE DON'T HAVE TO WRITE THAT WAY! Oscar M. Powell, Executive Director, has said:

> "I understand that many employees and supervisors have the impression that they are supposed to write in the impersonal and stilted style typical of much writing in government. That impression is wrong. I see no reason, for example, why anyone should write, 'It is suggested that consideration be given to the document attached hereto,' when he means, 'We suggest that you consider the attached report.'"

WE CAN FORGET STILTED "GOVERNMENTESE" EXPRESSIONS

Here are a few typical phrases that make our writing stuffy, stilted, "bureaucratic," and hard to read. The square is placed before each phrase so that you may mark for oblivion those to which you may be addicted.

- ☐ Pursuant to your request
- ☐ Please be advised
  You are advised
  We wish to advise
  Kindly advise
- ☐ Receipt is acknowledged
- ☐ Cognizant of
- ☐ Prior to--Subsequent to
- ☐ Attention is directed (invited)
- ☐ Hold in abeyance
- ☐ Reference is made
- ☐ Pending receipt
- ☐ Transmitted herewith
  Attached hereto
  Action thereon
  (Let's ditch the whole tribe)
- ☐ At your earliest convenience
- ☐ Under date of
- ☐ Promulgate the policy
- ☐ Deem it advisable
- ☐ In lieu of
- ☐ In further reference

WE CAN AVOID UNDESIRABLE IMPERSONAL EXPRESSION

Studied effort to be impersonal is one of the main characteristics of governmentese. We write of things in place of people, and reduce people to "it," like this:

GOVERNMENTESE	ENGLISH
The Bureau believes....	We believe....
The division's view....	Our view....
It is suggested....	We suggest....
It is reported....	Mr. Blank reports....
It is the opinion of the writer....	I think....

This mistaken tendency to dehumanize writing forces a passive construction that is unemphatic and often obscure:

Revision of this provision is suggested.	We suggest you revise this provision.
The plan was approved....	Mr. Blank approved the plan.
It is requested that the Social Security Board be furnished with three copies....	Please send us three copies....
Attention is called to....	We call your attention to....

Federal Security Agency
SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD

HOW TO WRITE SHORTER SENTENCES

How long should a sentence be? No one can answer that one. But we do know that, generally speaking, the longer a sentence is the harder it is to understand.

For easy reading, sentences should not *average* much over 20 words. The average Social Security Board sentence is almost 35 words long. You may want to check your own sentences to see where you stand.

If your sentences are too long, try the following ways to shorten them:

1. ADD SOME PERIODS

Sometimes we merely forget to stop for breath as we string together idea after idea. The remedy for this kind of long sentence is to pause and put a period after each idea:

TOO LONG

I would appreciate first obtaining clearance with your Bureau, subsequent to which I plan to send this preliminary draft through appropriate channels to Mr. Blank of the Blank Unemployment Compensation Board, asking him for information we need in order to discuss the statistics for the entire benefit year, and also inviting someone in the agency to participate as joint author of the final article.

BETTER

I would appreciate first obtaining clearance from your Bureau. Then I plan to send this preliminary draft through appropriate channels to Mr. Blank of the Blank Unemployment Compensation Board, asking him for information we need in order to discuss the statistics for the entire benefit year. I plan also to invite someone in the agency to participate as joint author of the final article.

2. PUT QUALIFYING IDEAS IN ANOTHER SENTENCE

Often it is necessary to qualify and restrict the central idea of a sentence. To do this we sometimes add so many clauses and phrases that the reader becomes confused. We give him so many ideas to grasp at one time that he loses some of them. We even qualify the main idea before he can know what is being qualified. The remedy here is to put some of the qualifying ideas into one or more additional sentences:

TOO LONG

Not later than the 10th of the month preceding each fiscal quarter, the Social Security Board is required to submit to the Bureau of the Budget through the budget officer of the Federal Security Agency, in the manner prescribed in Agency Order No. 45, an estimate of personnel requirements under each appropriation.

BETTER

Not later than the 10th of the month preceding each fiscal quarter, the Social Security Board is required to submit to the Bureau of the Budget an estimate of personnel requirements under each appropriation. These estimates will be submitted through the budget officer of the Federal Security Agency in the manner prescribed by Agency Order No. 45.

3. EXPRESS THE IDEA IN FEWER WORDS

Sentences often can be made shorter and easier to understand by expressing the idea in fewer words. A whole clause or phrase sometimes can be reduced to a single word. ("The form which is enclosed...." becomes "The enclosed form....") Unessential words and repetition can be eliminated:

TOO LONG

In view of the difficulties outlined above, which would be attendant upon the moving of this Section to any building in which the direct current is not available, it is requested that consideration be given to permitting the Blank Section to remain in the first floor of the Blank Building and to keep necessary storage space in the basement of the Blank Building.

BETTER

Because of the difficulties in moving this Section to a building without direct current, we ask permission to remain on the first floor of the Blank Building and to keep storage space in the basement.

*Additional ideas for constructing effective sentences are given in Section V of the pamphlet, "Writing for the Social Security Board."

Mr. Joseph Hansen
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
WASHINGTON

June 11, 1945

TO: Area and District Offices

Attached is a copy of a memorandum from Mr. M. M. Tozier, Chief of the Reports Division, to the project Reports Officers which will be of interest to all employes engaged in preparation of information material for the relocation centers.

Ottis Peterson
Acting Chief, Relocation Division

Attachment

OM-3179

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
WASHINGTON

June 11, 1945

TO: Project Directors

ATTENTION: Reports Officers

It has come to our attention recently that at some projects the term "Japanese American" (appearing in releases from the field offices) has been edited for project newspaper or relocation bulletin use and the term "Nisei" substituted by the Project Reports Officer or by project editors.

Where this has been done, an erroneous impression has been created since the field office in question used the term to include all evacuees rather than just the citizen group. Actually our usage of the term "Japanese Americans" has not been uniform within WRA. Some of us have used it to designate only Nisei while others, like this particular field office, have employed it as a blanket term for all persons of Japanese descent who reside in this country.

Good arguments can be advanced in favor of either definition, and I don't believe we need to settle the question definitively. Generally speaking, however, I would say that the term "Japanese American" is most appropriately used in releases for the outside public since there are a great many people who are even now unfamiliar with "Issei" and "Nisei." In releases for center consumption, I think we should use these latter terms plus the over-all designation "evacuee" to cover the total group.

M. M. Tozier

M. M. Tozier
Chief, Reports Division

OM-3180

File Hostels

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
WASHINGTON

August 18, 1945

TO: Project Directors

ATTENTION: Reports Officers

SUBJECT: Hostel picture display

In the belief that hostels are going to become increasingly important in the thinking of center residents from now on, we are sending you under separate cover a display of selected hostel pictures. These are mounted on cardboard 20 by 30 inches. There is space left open for you to have lettered in Japanese a short message such as:

> "HOSTELS provide a temporary home if you need it when you leave the center. Ask your Relocation Program Officer to tell you about the hostels that have already been established in many cities on the West Coast and elsewhere."

Possibly you may find there is space to include more specific information. We suggest that you have one of your artists do the lettering in a color and style appropriate to the rest of the exhibit.

Although we have not allowed space for captions since several of the pictures were taken some time ago, we are enclosing the caption information in case anyone requests the identity of persons photographed.

We urge that you use the display in a carefully selected location where it will be seen by a large number of people daily.

M. M. Tozier
M. M. Tozier
Chief, Reports Division

cc: Mr. Cozzens

RRC

Department of the Interior
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

September 11, 1945

To: Project Directors

Attention: Reports Officer

For your information I have enclosed a copy of the press release concerning Japanese internees issued by the Department of Justice on September 4 to coincide with the War Department release on the same day which announced the termination of all military control over persons of Japanese ancestry.

M. M. Tozier

M. M. Tozier
Chief, Reports Division

Enclosure

AMSerwer:ln
cc:Cozzens, S.F.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1945

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

(JAPANESE INTERNEES)

Following the War Department announcement today that the Department and the Western Defense Command have terminated military controls of persons of Japanese ancestry previously excluded from the West Coast, Attorney General Tom C. Clark made known that approximately 6700 resident Japanese have been ordered interned by the Attorney General either at Justice Department camps or at the War Relocation Authority Segregation Center at Tule Lake. "The action of the military authorities," Mr. Clark said, "will have no effect on the status of these persons."

Included in the group to which the Attorney General referred are approximately 5500 persons of Japanese parantage born in the United States who have renounced their American citizenship and are presumed to be nationals of Japan. The balance are foreign-born Japanese interned as alien enemies for the duration of the war.

"These persons", Mr. Clark said, "will be continued in internment pending final review of their cases by the Attorney General and approval by the military authorities of the removal of hostile Japanese nationals to Japan."

In addition to the 6700 interned Japanese who are residents of the continental United States, there are in Department of Justice internment camps approximately 1000 Japanese nationals from Hawaii, Alaska and various Latin American countries and approximately 2000 voluntary internees. An additional 2500 Japanese aliens are on parole orders issued by the Attorney General and have their activities supervised by the Immigration Service.

E 2.30

INCOMING TELETYPE 106 SEPT 14, 1945 WASHINGTON

Reports

DUNCAN MILLS
ATTN--REPORTS OFFICE

WE THE PEOPLE BROADCAST AT 10-30 PM EWT, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 WILL FEATURE HENRY GOSHO, FORMER SERGEANT WITH MERRILL'S MARAUDERS IN BURMA CAMPAIGN. GOSHO WON BRONZE STAR COMBAT INTELLIGENCE WORK AND JUNGLE FIGHTING DURING MERRILL'S 900 MILE MARCH BEHIND JAPANESE LINES IN BURMA. PLEASE INFORM CENTER RESIDENTS AND DEVELOP ANY LOCAL PUBLICITY POSSIBLE IN VICINITY OF CENTER.

M M TOZIER 926AM

MILLS
CARTER
F CONNELLY ACTION

Colorado River

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
WASHINGTON

November 30, 1945

TO: All Project Directors

The attached memo was prepared at Minidoka for the guidance of staff members in the preparation of final reports at that center. It provides answers to most questions that could arise in the course of preparing termination reports, and I am passing it on to you in the expectation that you will find it useful at this time.

M. M. Tozier

M. M. Tozier
Chief, Reports Division

Enclosure