

Informal Discussion  
WRA: Ben Yoshioka  
Mar. 8, 1944

Ben Yoshioka of the WRA office dropped in for a few minutes while waiting to see somebody at the University of Chicago. The following are brief notes jotted down without Yoshioka's knowledge:

"We would have lost eight members of our staff since the beginning of the year. First it was Shirrell, then Ruth Young, and before long ~~—~~ it will be Daugherty, Keno, Olson, Ray Grove, Miss Dry, Kendall Smith and Jacoby will leave for the service around May 1. On the surface it looks ~~—~~ bad, but it can't be helped. Much of it is coincidence.

"Where are they all going? Let's see, Ruth Young went to Palo Alto, Kendal Smith is leaving for Los Angeles, Daugherty is to become state director of training with the War Manpower Commission, Olson will become personnel manager for Stevens Hotel where he will try to promote conferences. He was an organizer for the Kiwanis you know. I don't know about Keno. Moon has asked for a transfer to Washington but he hasn't heard yet. Jacoby expects to be drafted around the first of May. Among those left are Moon, Brenton, Mrs. Izumi, Ross, myself and a few others.

"Have there been any significant changes? Yes, mostly in our own housekeeping. I'm acting manager and I've been reorganizing everything. There is no change in the local WRA policy. Things are different under Kennedy. I swear in front of him to make myself heard. Kennedy was a big man in the Union and he is trying to move the Union, especially the A.F. of L.

"No, we're not going to replace all the men but try to reorganize our office so we can handle everything. There not many

people coming in now. I handle all the incoming mail. We get teletype requesting permits to come out here. Some of the young people are coming out on a spree. They feel certain that they want to come out. We have a happy mixture, not one trend."

Tom: "Do the guys want to come out before they're drafted?"

Ben: "Possibly. It is really unsolvable when you come right down to it. The attitude has changed completely in our office. We are trying to work out better relations with the Central USES office. We have had three or four conferences. ~~We~~ <sup>They</sup> have assigned two people at the USES office to handle nisei specifically. I don't know about the placements though. It was Kennedy's idea. Shirrell thought of it but there was a misunderstanding about the whole thing. Kennedy is an organizer and he goes after what he wants."

Frank: "How do the men in the office like him?"

Ben: "They seem to like him. Kennedy is sincere. He can get along with the nisei. The impression he gives to the evacuees is better than that of Shirrell. Kennedy has a lot of confidence in the nisei. I can tell by just talking to him. He's like to see the nisei get paid for what they're doing.

"Kendall Smith had a different idea of the whole thing. He told Kennedy too. ~~Kendall~~ <sup>Smith</sup> is extremely sincere and very outspoken. He is self-confidence and is somewhat anti-administration in views. I've got a lot of respect for him. He left Texas because of disagreement with the people in the color question. A spade is a spade and he'll admit it. He's honest as the day is long. He did a darn good work at Rockford.

"They've cut the seasonal leaves. Oh yes, will you tell

your friends that they can request for Camp Savage after induction into the Army. The new class at Savage will start on May 1, but it is better to ask for Savage now, although they can make the request after they are inducted.

"The bull pen is not as full as it used to be. There [redacted] are not very many people come in. Some people think I'm partial and that I give out the best jobs to my friends. But that isn't true, I handle them all alike.

"The Clark St. boys certainly let me down. I've talked to a lot of Near Northside boys and they're always broke. I tell them frankly: 'What enjoyment do you get out of dressing the way you do and with long hair cuts? Don't you ever stop to think what do they think of us?' They think you look like hell. They are a restless bunch and very irresponsible. I asked one of the fellows why he wore zoot suits and he said: 'I've been wearing a zoot suit since I was 14 and man, they feel comfortable.' My guess is that they make from \$30 to \$35 a week.

"Well, I guess I'll have to be going. I have an appointment pretty soon."

Japanese Language Dept.

Michi says that Lily Nakamura was very much upset today about Doi, and extremely angry at him. The incident was this:

"Apparently Paul didn't show up at work this morning due to illness. Halpern didn't know till this morning that Paul wasn't going to be on hand. He tried to find John Suzuki to take over Paul's place, but somehow he wasn't around at nine in the morning. Halpern then decided to combine Lily and Miho's two classes and let Miho take them both, while he sent Lily over to Paul's section. There are only about nine men altogether in the two classes, and it wasn't too large even if they were combined."

"Lily went to take section 5 and instructed them during the first hour. She said they were very good, and she enjoyed teaching them. Just after recess, Doi turned up. He just walked in and didn't say anything about his reason for being there. Lily says she asked Doi if Halpern had sent him to take over the class, because she didn't know anything about the arrangement and couldn't understand why Doi was there. But Doi just ignored her and sat down. You know how he is, he kind of struts around and has that air about him of superiority. Well, Lily continued teaching, but Doi immediately broke in and started to make his comments so she decided that Halpern must have sent him to take over the class and she let him do the instructing. Lily says that the thing that really made her mad was that Doi was saying all kinds of things that were all wrong. One of them men made a sentence using the word "kuro-boshi (black cap)" and Doi says to the man that he should say "kuroi-boshi" since "kuro" is a noun and can't be used as an adjective. That got Lily so she told Doi, "You can say 'kuro-boshi'. It's exactly the same as saying 'shiro miso (white miso) or 'aka-gane (red metal, or copper)'." Doi claimed that it couldn't be used that way and went on."

"Lily said that Doi said all kinds of crazy things. There was a sentence that went something like this, 'Hako wo takai tokoro ni ageru.' Doi said that was wrong, that it should be 'te de agerug (raise by hand)'. But whoever heard of such a thing. It's understood that one raises things by hand. I told Lily, 'I suppose you raise things with a foot.' She said, 'That's just it. Gee, I wish I'd thought to ask him that.' I guess there were a lot of other things. Behe is a bachelor and Doi found it out during the course of the lesson, so he says to Behe, 'Anata wa onna wo tsukamaeru koto ga dekinai kara hitboi mono nan desuka?' (Is it because you can't catch a girl that you're still a single person?) Lily told Doi in a low voice, 'Sonna kawaisoo na koto wo iinasan na.' (Don't say such an unsympathetic thing.) When Lily said that, Doi added, 'Boku mo onna wo tsukamaeru koto ga dekinai kara hitori mono nan desu.' (I, too, can't catch a girl and so I'm a single person.) Lily said right back at him, 'That part of it is certainly true.' Boy, I guess Lily was really mad at him."

"Lily's the kind of girl who says what she thinks, and I guess she criticized Doi's Japanese quite a bit. Doi's Japanese is terrible too. And she said the thing that got her mad was that he butted into the class without a word of explanation as to why he was there. He just walked in and sat down. I guess Doi was irritated by Lily's criticisms, too, so after class he tells Lily, 'The trouble with your teaching, you spend too much time laughing and joking, and the men don't learn any Japanese.'"

"It seems that what happened was this. After Halpern sent Lily to take over Paul's class, he somehow got the idea that he'd send Doi over after recess. Anyway, they somehow got their lines crossed. Halpern's not very definite about his instructions. Doi should have explained what the situation was when he walked in, but he just ignored Lily when she asked him."

"This afternoon, Lily was really boihing mad about Doi. She said she was going down to see Halpern about it. I was in the office when she came in; Mary Halpern was there too. Lily said to Halpern, 'Say, what was Doi doing in that class today anyway?' and almost as soon as she said that, Mary replied, 'Well, Doi is a very successful drill teacher. You could learn a thing or two from him.' Lily mean' t to tell everything that happened, but Mary really shut her up and set her back on her heels. I don 't think L ily expected that from Mary. Doi was there earlier in the afternoon, and I think he got to the Halperns first."

"By the time Lily came upstairs again, she was really mad. She was mad at Mary too by then. What I can't understand is why the Halpern's like ~~the~~ Doi so much. There's something awfully egotistical and fresh about him that I just can't like. Sometimes when I greet him, he'll say hello, but other times he'll only give a superior smirk ar ignore you completely. I've made it a point not to say anything to that guy unless he speaks to me first. Of course, Doi is a politician and probably plays up to the Halperns a lot. But the trouble is that Doi influences the Halperns an their Japanese, and it would be all right if he knew something about Japanese, but he doesn't. Why, he's worse than most nisei I know. There's not a single person in the office upstairs who respects Doi because he goes around shooting his mouth off about the Japanese language when he doens't know half what people like Suzuki, Uratani, or Wakukawa know. He may know how to drill the men, but what good is that if he's teaching them the wrong things."

"I think Lily should have really dived into Mary about Doi. Somebody ought to put him in his place, and as long as the Halpern's defend him, nobody's willing to do it. Mr. Niwa doesn't like Doi at all, and he never pays attention to him when he comes around our desk. He's always around the Halpern office

when we go down for our conferences and sits there taking in everything as if he were a part of the administrative office. Gosh, as long as he 's around, you can' t tell Halpern some of the things you'd like to say just because he's around and he'd go around telling the others. One of these days I'm going to ask him to please leave the room when I'm having a conference with Dr. Halpern. Of course, you can tell that in front of Halpern, but you can't say it in front of Mary. She's a terrible woman, and she apparently likes Doi very much. She'd defend him against the rest of us."

WRA: Ben Yoshioka  
Mar. 30, 1944

Ben Yoshioka of the WRA office dropped in the office for an informal chat on Mar. 30, 1944. The following is the discussion which followed:

Ben: "We have a lot of people coming to Chicago en route to Cleveland, New York and other points east but they come back to Chicago after a few weeks. We've been pretty busy for a while but it has slowed up somewhat. I'd like to step out of reality, not meaning any offense to your work here, and take it easy.

"I saw some students on the campus here and I wondered, 'Gad, did I look like that when I was a student?' They talked like they had all problems solved. I'm from the old school and I follow Hutchins just so far.

"Dillon Myer passed through Chicago from the coast. He asked about my ~~e~~ draft status. I'm not asking for deferment. I asked him about the Coast and he said ~~e~~ that by far it was the most encouraging trip he's ever made. Ben Kuroki has been doing a marvelous piece of public relations work. His talk before the Commonwealth Club was beautifully timed and came at the right time. His sister is married to a friend of mine. Myer said that you can't change leopard spots overnight. After the draft for nisei was announced the Hearst papers and the Legion tempered considerably. Letters by subscribers have been encouraging. Some of them are ready to welcome back the Japanese. Bold faces are now appearing. Those stories about the coast Japanese were overplayed and the people know it and are hitting them back. Myer addressed a Forum in Pasadena. The

draft announcement cobbled things."

Frank: "What about McCoy's statement?"

Ben: "Nothing was said about it."

"We were very skeptical about our change to the Department of Interior. The WRA now has stabilization and are very optimistic about getting through things. By that I guess he means war plants, clearance, cabinet-meetings and things like that. At the cabinet meetings the WRA comes up and everyone knows about it. There is no more passing of the buck."

Frank: "What do you mean by passing the buck?"

Ben: "I mean, for instance, as in civil service. The business of the Army went to General Marshall himself. He asked Eisenhower and Eisenhower said 'More power to you, go head.'

"Regarding the draft I has Myler personally about the Navy and he said that they were of the upper 400 and they won't accept the nisei yet but possibly the coast guard might.

"I don't care who says what about Myer, but the moment you see him, you like him. He has a wonderful speaking voice and personality. He was formerly National Director of the Civilian Conservation Service."

Frank: "Has there been any drastic changes since the WRA was taken over by the Interior Department?"

Ben: "There has been no change in the WRA personnel. There has been not effect at all in any part of the WRA. There were rumors that our salaries would be cut, but nothing was touched. From a broad picture we are an independent agent under the wings of the cabinet.

"Myer came through Topaz and said there was little disturbance on the draft subject but not as much as he expected. Some 30 people rebelled."

"Charlie: "Did he say anything about Heart Mountain's Fair Practice Committee pamphlets?"

Ben: "No. My frank opinion is that the only way out is that there's no sense in bucking the draft. There is no alternative."

Charlie: "Have you seen any reaction in your office interviews on the draft business?"

Ben: "If it is on their minds, I'm sure they'd unload it. One kibei signed ♦ 'no'. He has two brothers in the Army. I told him, 'Don't be surprised if the FBI tail you.'"

Frank: "Do it affect their job status?"

Ben: "There has been some. We get kick backs from employers. We've sent questionnaires to centers and we inform them that if they take a job in an essential work, they can't quit. The employers have been pretty fair and once they've made up their minds, it's hard to change. One employer called me up and told me about one fellow who tried all types of work in his plant and the employer went out of his way to give him all the breaks but the nisei quit after his got his draft classification. This employer told me, 'I'm going to track him down and call him and crucify him.' The Employers have to be nice. The nisei is no different from other workers but they are nice and more noticeable. I take my hat off to some employers. Some of them have been stepped on and haven't said much. I've talked to a lot of them and asked their frank opinion if they intend to keep the

nisei after the war. One employer told me 'yes'."

Frank: "Have the issei changed?"

Ben: "They are more stable. They are mostly in custodian work. If they are machinists or in some specialized field, they can be placed. One 55 year old issei is now working at \$300 a month job as a machinist. He has 20 years' experience as a railroad machinist."

Frank: "Has Shirrell placed many nisei with Curtis Co.?"

Ben: "Curtis doesn't pay much but he has placed many there. They have been placed in various plants of the company."

Frank: "Are the issei as a rule satisfied by being out?"

Ben: "Mrs. Izumi interviews them. They are not satisfied deep down in their hearts but they feel as well off as they ever hope to be."

Charlie: "They're cut off from the others."

Ben: "There's a lot of them at Edgewater Beach Hotel. One of my friend's father is a custodian there and he's happyt to be there with other issei. He doesn't stay with his son but lives with the other issei workers at Edgewater. My rough guess is that there are about 50 to 60 working there now."

Charlie: "Do you keep figures on these?"

Ben: "No, but Tom asked me to keep a record on them and I plan to do so."

Frank: "I plan to visit the big places where there are a lot of Japanese employed."

Ben: "I know a good fellow to ask. He's at General Motors. He has defied the bigwigs. He has 25 different dealers. Jim

Watson is his name and he's at 840 North Michigan, fourth floor. His phone number is SUPerior 9737. I had a dickens of a time with him. He's assistant manager there. I talked 45 minutes after he told me that a nisei had let him down. He said he felt like letting the whole thing go. I told him that he couldn't judge nisei by one fellow. Watson told me that he spent a lot of time on this fellow, transferring him around to get him into the field he liked most. He had heard from friends that there were other jobs which paid more and so he wanted to leave. Jim called at his home and the nisei told him that he didn't want to be bothered again. After three months Jim said that he had been busy but may be including some nisei again. Watson had brought up the subject of hiring nisei at a general meeting and they decided to use them. They do everything. They have a school free of charge where they train the boys. They do general automotive work and have a big office."

Charlie: "What is Kennedy doing?"

Ben: "I'll talk an anything except that. I don't know much about union work. You know our general staff lost 60% and we've been pretty busy. We have the Chicago head, the housing man and myself. If we have a normal load I don't know how we'd do it. It isn't fair to the outside and ourselves to be under pressure. We're under a terrific strain. It takes months to make a relocation officer. We need a special guy. ~~We've~~ We've got to get a guy who believes in the fundamentals of the people. A fiscal clerk was put in. This did away with nisei in the center. Our office is progressive. We put in Mrs. Izumi. She is a junior

relocation officer (C-5). The typist clerks are S-2. C-5 if top in the clerk field. Jacoby got his notice. I'd like to see nisei get in 5 or above."

Charlie: "Is there a nisei in the reports division?"

Ben: "They have to have specifications of civil service. It's the same old merry-go-round."

Charlie: "Are the appointments temporary? Suppose the WRA folds up?"

Ben: "Yes. I'm the only person not affected. I don't know about that time because I may be in the Army."

Charlie: "What about ratings in camp?"

Ben: "When I hear people moaning about the tough time they have, it makes me mad. I had a tough time too to get where I am. Boy, I did a lot of exam taking and running up and down from San Diego to San Francisco before I was taken into a civil service job. I don't think nisei should be tied down to Japanese. There are a lot of nisei in different specialized training schools throughout the United States. If there is segregation in the Army, I don't think they'll be yanked out."

Frank: "The Shelby boys are passing rumors about boys being sent to Florida and Alabama."

Ben: "Myer said that only Jerome is being closed. My personal opinion is that the state of Arkansas doesn't want camps up there. My hunch is that Myer won't want to close Manzanar in order to keep a foothold in California. Myers said that the Pacific Coast ~~carried~~ little write-ups on the Granada boys' refusal to go for the pre-induction physical exams."

Frank: "What about this Ray Richards, the correspondent in Washington? He has disagreed on how this thing should be written."

Charlie: "I heard the Buddhist are organizing a group."

Ben: "Yes, they've asked us. They are opening a Buddhist hostel. They are sticking their necks out. The average layman doesn't distinguish between Shintoism and Buddhism. Unfortunately Buddhism is unadvertized. As for the Buddhist church, the Federation of Christian Churches is not agreeable. It is this business of a square hole peg situation."

Frank: "Who are the people drumming up the Buddhist church?"

Ben: "It is centered around the Fresno district people, therefore Jerome. Mike Maruyama of Odgen is their representative.

"Have you heard very much about the close collaboration between the USES and the WRA? I've heard some people say that we shunted them and shoved them over to the USES. There is no justification for that ~~assent~~ statement that we pushed them. We have a close connection with the USES and they have two people assigned specifically to take ~~over~~ care of any nisei who go to that office."

Charlie: "The gripes against the WRA has died down. The most persistent, however, is the waiting."

Ben: "Many people said they came to the WRA as a last resort and I say 'thank you' to them. I lecture to them. After one person told me this I called up some place and fortunately got him placed and he said that he would be careful about what he says in the future. They are surprised with the courteous treatment. Some of them just lie brazenly. One boy told me that he came in yesterday from camp. I remember having talked to him a

a year ago and he had the gall to lie to me."

Frank: "What about not giving help when they come the second and third time?"

Ben: "That isn't ~~as~~ true. We have more jobs than you can shake a fist at, but we have to be careful about the War Manpower Commission and see that they have work releases."

Charlie: "Do you keep a record of your interviews? How many have you interviewed since being in the Chicago office?"

Ben: "It's hard to say but I'd say roughly between 700 and 800 individuals. Miss Ross is now the spearhead in the integration for this ~~area~~ area. Brenton is for Chicago while Jacoby has no assigned duties. Miss Ross does liaison work. Public assistance cases have gone through our office. The nisei shy away from relief business. They say they're broke but won't borrow from relief agencies. They come to us and we direct them to the proper agencies. The WRA has 150 smackers in the Social Security."

Frank: "I heard of one 100% defense factory where a nisei worked. He said that the FBI came and talked to him until 3 in the morning. They grilled him for 12 hours. The same thing happened~~s~~ the next night, more grilling for 12 hours. He hasn't been bothered since then but he said that it was sure tough on him for a while."

BBn: "I haven't heard anything like that. It is not a general thing, gosh no. Regarding the joint board clearance, Myer said that it was the bitterest pill he has had to swallow. There is no such thing as an average—One when it comes to waiting for a clearance. One fellow has been waiting since November 1 but he

is still working. Capt. Harrison has the papers and they can get hold of it. We have some good people here."

Frank: "There's a girl here who got a scholarship but she needs a joint board clearance. I wonder how long it would take for her to get one?"

Ben: "Captain Harrison's generalization is that those with round faces are more trustworthy. A fellow told me of a conversation he overheard at Marshal Fields the other day. Two nisei girls were on the escalator. Evidently they were pretty well dressed. Two Caucasian women~~s~~, also well-dressed, ~~was heard~~ remarking, 'Now look at those two girls, they're smartly dressed.'.

"Letters are going back to camp from people out here. Once they come out for a visit they're cooked. If we can get them out by some kind of bait, they're sunk. We have a new leave clearance called 'Trial indefinite leave'. There are no seasonal leaves except for agricultural workers. No grant is given to those who come out on this 'trial indefinite leave', but if they become indefinite, they get a refund. Their transportation is retroactive to March 4 on top of the grant. When the Washington bigwigs were here they talked on all things. If a family of 5 is interested in a plot of land, the WRA would pay for one person to see the land for himself. Truck farming is pretty difficult in the middlewest."

Charlie: "What about the student who goes back to camp. If they decide to go out on an indefinite leave, would they be eligible for a grant?"

Ben: "The one and only criterion for the grant is the need. Now they have to sign a statement saying that they have no funds.

There is no question that some camps have been more lenient than others.

"I heard a good one today!. It is supposed to be about a relocation guy. He had committed an act of indecency. All the relatives had a pow wow to see how to dispose of the case. The sheriff was called. But the group decided to drop the case. The <sup>after</sup> sheriff said, 'What, ~~about~~ three days you decide to drop the case?' The head of the group said, 'We decided that we'd rather have a bastard in the family than the relocation officer.'

"I had dinner at the Wisteria Tea Gardens the other night. The only thing that gets me is the lady. I talked to her in Japanese, trying to be polite and she answered me in her broken-down English.

"One day I was at the USES office kidding around and in the course of the conversation I told one of the guys there that he sounded like a Dutch uncle. He head guy in the USES, Harvey Meyer, kept referring to Japs throughout his talk. I was asked to write the report for the meeting. I wrote a nine-page report and under public relations I wrote 'Jap is derogatory to the Japanese Americans as Chink is to Chinese or Nigger to Negroes.\*' One lady from the USES office called me and I told her that some nisei would walk out in a huff if they were called Japs, and she said, 'My but these boys expect a lot.' Anyway, after I sent in that nine-page report Mr. Meyer refers to the nisei as Japanese. The first time I heard him catch himself but he remembered after the second time."

Japanese Language Dept.

This afternoon the teachers in the language department received the new set of lessons for class instruction. It had been hoped that because Wakukawa would be working with Mary Halpern in making up the lessons, there would some improvement over the bad Japanese construction that so frequently appeared in the lessons of last quarter. Last quarter Halpern, and probably his wife, had made up the lessons, and there were constant complaints about the un-Japanese construction that so often appeared in the lessons. The teachers had tried to argue with Halpern over some of the points, but, according to them, Halpern somehow closed his ears to these criticisms and refused to make the alterations. The teachers gave up criticizing as a hopeless procedure, especially since Halpern seemed extremely sensitive to criticism, and accepted the situation. It was with some enthusiasm, therefore, that they greeted the news that Wakukawa would be working on the lessons this quarter.

Their hopes were considerably dampened when they looked over the new lessons, for there were again the awkward constructions "that no Japanese would use." Michi, Shig, Paul, and Hanaye cornered Wakukawa and jokingly demanded what was the idea of putting in some of the peculiar sentences appearing on the sheets. Wakukawa and Suzuki, who were on their way out, shrugged their shoulders in resignation, but stopped to explain the situation. Wakukawa declares that the lessons as they now stand have no resemblance to what he submitted except in the subject matter of the lesson. Halpern had changed the lessons so much that Wakukawa couldn't recognize his own work, but in changing, Halpern had thrown in "his peculiar brand of Chicago Japanese". Wakukawa declared: "In Japanese and English grammar I learned that one should seek to make one word do for ten, but Halpern apparently believes in making ten words do for one."

Michi wanted to know why Wakukawa didn't seek to correct the situation. Wakukawa replied that the first month after he joined the staff, he tried to help Halpern by criticizing his worst errors, but this only served to antagonize the latter. In fact, the situation became so bad that Wakukawa was in danger of losing his position at one time. Suzuki then joined the staff, and he tried to change Halpern, but with the same result. Others who tried similarly got into difficulties with Halpern, but got nowhere in improving the language. Wakukawa declares that he used to stay all day working on these lessons trying to improve them, but with the only effect that Halpern would change them so completely they would be unrecognizable from the original. And they would not be in correct Japanese. Everyone who has tried to change Halpern's Japanese has run into the same opposition.

Now, both Wakukawa and Suzuki feel that there's no use trying to do anything about it, and it's preferable to accept the situation philosophically. He doesn't want to get into any more trouble with Halpern, and he's willing to accept the lessons

as they are. Both Suzuki and Wakukawa say very little when others are criticizing the lessons; they just shrug the thing off saying, "I guess it's all right."

Wakukawa says, "I'm already even losing my job as the person to write the lessons. When Halpern wants to ask any questions about the correctness of his Japanese, he doesn't come to me but goes to Rev. Niwa. Mr. Niwa is a Christian minister and won't criticize anybody. He's a 'Yes Man' so he agrees with Halpern whether a thing is right or wrong." Michi remarked that she had also noticed that Mr. Niwa is rather afraid to criticize Halpern and generally agrees with him regardless of what is said.

With all the conflicts and petty antagonisms that exist in the office among the teachers, there is one thing that they are all generally agreed upon, and that is their criticism of Halpern's spoken and written Japanese. They particularly abhor his lessons and examinations. At least in criticizing Halpern, the group seems to develop a common sympathy for each other's views. The one person excluded from this in-group feeling is Doi, for Doi is identified as a bootlicker to the Halperns and doesn't know his Japanese in any case. Doi is another person everyone seems agreed upon. He doesn't know his Japanese, and even mild-mannered Mr. Uratani, who almost never criticizes anyone, was driven to say of Doi, "That fellow has no business teaching Japanese," when Paul goaded him to express his view.

Michi says that every time Mr. U. starts presenting Japan's position regarding their international policies, Miho, who is Hawaiian, goes right after him. Miho has had a peculiar mixture of strongly Japanese and strongly American upbringing, but he is all out for America in matters of this kind.

There are so many ministers in the office that there frequently develops theological discussions concerning some points about biblical interpretation.

Michi was critical of Lily Nakamura, as she frequently is. Lily apparently went overwell with her new sections for the first two days because she's talkative, but now her stock has gone way down. For one thing, today in her writing class, she practically ignored Wilson because he's a little slow, which made Wilson rather angry. Shig says that Wilson is slow but that he's a very fine man, and Michi remarked that she tries to treat everyone equally whether they're good or poor students. Moreover, Jacobs got back from his furlough a bit late and hadn't had the first lessons. When Lily sent the class to the blackboard, she gave him no hint of what he might be doing to catch up with the class, but let him sit there by himself for ten minutes. By this time Jacobs was rather irritated by the slight, and motioned to Goad to show him where to start. Lily likes Goad very much, but when she saw him giving instructions to Jacobs, she walked over and said, 'Are you trying to take over the teaching job.' This made Goad angry. Michi felt that Lily was absolutely senseless in the way she's handling her class.

Miyamoto Notes  
April 13, 1944

-3-

Both Michi and Shig were pleased when Lt. Okumura remarked to Shig last night that in his contact with the other men in the department, he's found that the general opinion is that Michi and Shig are among the two best teachers in the school. Michi was particularly pleased when she ran into Captain Wilson and he remarked that he thought Shig was a very fine teacher, but he'd heard that she was even better.

Morris Abe On Tule Lake

I dropped in Morris's place to ask him some questions about the Tule Lake City Council of which he was secretary during its temporary status. He confessed that he'd forgotten much that went on at Tule, and I also judged that he wasn't as sensitive as some others are to the movement of events which occurred there. We talked about various conditions at the project, and the following are some of his more significant comments.

Myself: "The first council meeting I attended was on August 11, 1942. At that meeting I noted that there was already established a strong inclination among the councilmen to register demands upon the administration. Initially, I don't believe the council gave evidence of this discontent. When did this demand tendency appear in the council? Was it with the incoming of the Sacramento group?"

Morris: (He was extremely hazy about this point, and spent much time going over the council meetings.) It's hard to say that it appeared at any given time. I think it came to a climax with the broadcast issue, and up to then there was a gradual appearance of discontent. No, I don't think there was any special difference when the Sacramento councilmen joined our group. We got along very well together right from the beginning. When we first organized the council, there were only nine of us from the northwest. The Sacramento fellows were older than us and had more experience in these matters. Maybe they spoke up more readily than we did. There was that difference."

Myself: "At the Aug. 11 meeting, I recall that there were some strong attacks made against the canteen by fellows like Yoneo Suzuki. Sumio Miyamoto used to defend the canteen. Did that sort of thing go on right from the beginning."

Morris: "Yes, I remember that there were those attacks. There were groups in the council weren't there. Suzuki was one of them, Koso Takemoto was another. They were all arguing against the high prices at the canteen and that sort of thing. We had discussions of the wage question right from the beginning. People were spending a lot of money at the canteens to buy their necessities, like buckets, tools, cloth material, and so on. They felt that the wage scale didn't pay enough to make up for these expenses. Besides, we didn't get our first pay check for three months. I think the discontent arose around such things as that. It seemed that they were paying out all along and that nothing was coming in. They were afraid that they'd soon be completely broke."

Myself: "How about in your own block; were there questions of that kind raised?"

Morris : "We had a very quiet block. There weren't very many difficulties in our block while I was councilman and the people weren't very active. At each of the block meetings, about twenty

to twenty-five people would turn up. They didn't argue much either. Hiroshi Yamada was one of the nisei who attended regularly, and there were about three or four nisei attending the meetings, but most of them were issei. That was one reason we didn't have many questions over the wage issue in our block. Most of the families didn't have too many young kids, and it didn't bother them too much. I think the clothing allowance did a lot to quiet the attacks on the wage scale. Some of the families with a lot of kids got quite a bit on the basis of the clothing allowance, and they were able to make ends meet pretty well after the WRA started paying that."

Myself: "Did you ever have any serious problems in your block? Did the issei ever put you on the spot?"

Morris: "Well, at the time of the broadcast issue, the issei got pretty sore and they kind of were hard to handle. They bucked the theater project too, but they weren't so bad on that. There were three or four people in our block who opposed us, but generally they were pretty quiet."

Myself: "Well, in our block, we had some people that made a lot of fuss over one thing or another and Tom Uyeno frequently was put on the spot for one thing or another. People like the Imais, for instance."

Morris: "Oh, yeah, Mrs. Imai. I never knew them very well in Portland, although the daughter used to work at the same grocery where I worked for about a year. She used to look droopy with her hair straight and long, and we'd all tell her to get a permanent or something to make herself look better. She was a queer girl. I don't know what Mr. Imai is like, but I got in a mix-up with Mrs. Imai. I was working for Cook in transportation and supplies, and when the Tacoma people came in, we found we didn't have enough blankets for them so we went around from house to house picking up any extras which the people had. Each family was allowed two to a person, you know, and some had more than that. We had very little trouble with most of the people. They didn't seem to mind giving the blankets up. I guess they figured that after all the Tacoma people needed the blankets more than they did, and they didn't kick about it. But Mrs. Imai really raised a howl when we got to her place. I didn't know her, except by sight. My mother knew her pretty well from Portland of course. I don't think she knew who I was."

"Anyway, when we got to her place and asked for her extra blankets, she wouldn't give them up. She said that the WRA had passed them out, and she didn't intend to return it as long as she needed them. Boy, she argued. Finally, she said she'd go and talk to Tom Maekawa (block manager) and find out what the regulation was. I agreed to that and told her I'd come back. Well, I went around the block, and when we got to Tom's place, she was there talking to him. I went in, and we talked it over. She finally agreed to give up the blankets, but, boy, was she mad.

It's because she's like that that her husband is such a exciteable guy. She wears the pants in that family, and really runs around her husband."

Myself: "I have the theory that some of the disorganization in the community came directly from the disorganization in the administrative offices. I think a lot of the fellows got demoralized early because their work wasn't efficiently organized, and they got to a point where they had no incentive for what they were doing. Was your department pretty efficient right from the start."

Morris: "No, it wasn't. I was working under Mortimer Cook, and he was the head of the Transportation and Supplies Division. We had under us the warehouse, which had a fellow named Kling at its head, messhall with Stultz at the beginning, and the motor pool and garage. It was too big a division. Warehouse had enough to do to be a division by itself, I think, and messhall could have been separated from us too. The way it was, it was too clumsy because the warehouse, mess, and motor pool would all have to clear through Cook, and it just took that much time. I don't want to criticize Cook because he was good to me and easy to get along with, but I don't think he was a particularly efficient administrator. I think a lot of the administration fellows were rather ordinary men. The jobs were too big for them in many cases. (I asked, "Do you think Shireell was a poor administrator?") No, I don't think Shireell was at fault. Maybe it's because I'm biased, but I think he was all right. I think he had trouble with his staff though."

"My job was to keep track of the cars and trucks on the project, and the gasoline and supplies for them. We had about fifty cars, I'd say, about a hundred of those CCC trucks, about fifty army transports, and about twenty station wagons."

Myself: "Did you ever feel under pressure at your job?"

Morris: "No, I had an easy job. The only time I was really busy was when we were making up budgets. Then I had to work. That was another thing that was disorganized. Gosh, nobody knew what it was all about, and we had to make estimates of everything."

Myself: "You were at the center when we had the registration. Boy, I'll bet you were glad you weren't in the council by that time."

Morris: "Yeah, we were married in December and moved into block 41. That was in ward 5 which was one of the worst during the registration. The people in that block were all right though. They were mostly from Loomis. They were nice people. Most of the people in the block were related to each other. There were only about six or seven families in the block that weren't related in some way, so that if you could get the head man in the

block to agree, you could turn the whole block."

"When the registration started, the block was against it. The block manager, Yamada, was a nice guy, a nisei, and with Koso and a few other nisei, we were the only ones in the block who were for the registration. The planning board representative, I remember, was against the registration, although he didn't come out strongly against it. That was especially after the Block 42 incident. There was one guy who was agitating quite a bit, and one day he got up in the messhall during lunch hour and demanded that all those who were against the registration should come forward to the front of the room. One by one, all the issei and nisei in the block got up and walked to the front of the room, and there were only a few of us nisei left sitting down. We could see who the others were, and after a while we got to know each other. We got together to plan things out, and that night we held a meeting to which only the nisei were invited. We didn't ask any of the issei to attend because we knew what would happen if they turned up. Koso and some of the others talked over the situation with the others, and that helped to clear up the situation with the nisei. The next night we had another block meeting for everyone, and because of the meeting of the evening before, everything worked out all right and we didn't have any more difficulty in the block. I think all the people in our block cooperated pretty well, although I guess some of the people left in Tule were from our block. But our block was one of the better ones in Ward V."

Morris summarized his analysis of the discontent at Tule in the following words. "I'd say that the development of the discontent was gradual. The people started complaining about the canteen, wages, and so on. The strongest attacks of the people against the administration, I think, were originally in the Sacramento blocks, Wards II and III, and possibly the Marysville ward, and then later Ward V was the place with the greatest tension. It all lead up to the broadcast trouble and the theater issue. That was the climax of the disturbances. The trouble was the administration made a lot of promises that were never satisfied, and you can tell because the same questions kept turning up all the time at the council meetings. Even so, with all the disturbances and strikes and what not we had at Tule, it seems to me that it was a pretty good center socially and in general conditions. Climate, for instance,...well, I don't know about climate but.... We had good social activity."

Margie came in from the kitchen and commented, "Davis (Morris' brother) was just saying that it's hard to believe now that we were ever at a place like Tule Lake. It all seems like a dream to me now. It's funny how easy it is to forget about things like that. Now we're concerned more with things that are going on right now, and hardly ever give thought to the problems we met during our life in the relocation center."

Analysis

One thing which struck me was that Morris, despite the fact that he was secretary of the council and hence was in on some of the major problems at Tule Lake, seemed relatively unaware of the severe tension that existed among certain portions of the Tule Lake population. For instance, with regards to the farm strike, all he had to say was, "Yeah. I remember. That morning I walked over to the placement office with Margie (she worked there) and I saw all these people crowded around that place. I didn't know what it was all about until afterwards when I was down at the office. I heard there was a strike." As for the construction crew strike that affected almost a thousand workers, he said, "There was a construction crew strike too, wasn't there." But he knew nothing of the issues involved nor of the events that occurred in their connection.

I suspect that for a bulk of the nisei outside these work groups who were not intimately involved in the problems, many of the disturbances which we, as sociologists, made note of were merely passing incidents without meaning. Morris mentions at the end that Tule Lake was good in respect to its social life, and by that he means the activities promoted especially by the recreation department. This was true enough. But it is remarkable that this was what impressed him more than the tensions that were current among some of the work groups. Hence, it would be mistaken to say that Tule Lake was disturbed by the incidents. No doubt, some mark was left on the community as a whole with each passing incident, but for the bulk of the people, especially the nisei, there were no incidents except the theater issue and the registration issue which affected them intimately. The incidents were important to the community as a whole in that the recalcitrant elements were increasingly organized for action with each incident, and they were increasingly powerful in influencing community action.

Morris himself is not a politically minded individual. Had he been more the leader, he undoubtedly would have given more attention to the various problems that affected Tule Lake. But Morris is a more accurate representation of the average nisei mind at Tule Lake than are the leaders who constituted a special class with special interests unrepresentative of the whole of their group.

The issei, on the other hand, were probably somewhat more generally affected by the events transpiring at Tule Lake.

Interview with Ralph Smeltzer re: Brethren Hostel

I was interested in the question of the time at which Brethren Hostel was first contemplated and first organized. From Smeltzer's files it seemed evident that interest in the hostel idea developed with him shortly after the Manzanar Riot (Dec. 6, 1942), for his first letter speaking of a plan for relocating evacuees appears about the last of December, and I wondered if the Riot itself had anything to do with showing the urgent need for relocation. I raised this question with Smeltzer.

Smeltzer: "Possibly it did. However, I would say that the effect of the riot on our interest in a hostel was more indirect. When the riot occurred, school was closed down for six weeks and all the teachers were assigned to work in other aspects of administration functions. Mary and I had both been interested right along in the relocation program so we chose to work in the relocation office under Heath. In that office, we ran into all the red tape and difficulties surrounding the procedures which an evacuee had to undergo in order to gain leave, and we became conscious of the need for some plan to expedite the movement outward of these people who were anxious to leave the center. A lot of these people would be waiting around for months to gain permission to leave. In the meantime, we saw that a number of these applications just lay around the desks in the relocation office gathering dust simply because the administrators weren't interested enough to push them along. Here were these fellows as anxious as anything to leave, and the WRA was taking all the time in the world to get them out. It was then that we decided we could do our best work for the evacuees in the relocation field."

"Another effect of the riot was that Tom Temple was dismissed from his position as Chief of Community Services at Manzanar as a consequence of it. Merritt came in only a short time before the riot. He wanted Bob Brown as an assistant project director, but Brown said he would accept only on condition that Temple was removed from the head of Community Services. That was the real reason for removing Temple, but the way it was stated to the staff was that Temple was to blame for the riot. They said he was too soft with the evacuees and that that was why the riot occurred. There was no truth to the statement; Temple was no more to blame than anyone else, but he was made the goat. He was the best liked administrator on the project, the evacuees really admired and respected him."

"All this happened while Temple was away on a trip through the Middle West and East. He'd come out here to size up the possibilities for relocation, and he didn't know anything about the dismissal that was being lined up at the center. Very few people at the center ever knew the real reason for his dismissal, and I've had any number of evacuees come to me since and ask me what I knew about it. You, see, they all liked him, and couldn't understand why he should have been removed. The dirty part of it was that Merritt announced in the Free Press that

Miyamoto Notes  
April 21, 1944

Temple was resigning his post at Manzanar because he had been offered the directorship of the relocation office in Chicago. The story kind of fit in because Temple had been out here, but he hadn't heard anything about such an offer, so after he'd been fired at Manzanar, Temple came up to San Francisco to see Fryer to find out if the appointment were true. Fryer said he knew nothing about it. That was Merritt's way of getting rid of Temple. Right there I lost all respect for Merritt. It's one of the dirtiest political dealing I've ever seen. Most of the people, of course, never found out what happened in the background."

"There's one man who never received the credit that was due him for his work on relocation. Temple, more than anyone else, I would say, was responsible for starting the hostel idea, but he's never been given the credit for it that he deserves. He was a big man who had held all kinds of important positions with the Red Cross and other philanthropic organizations, and he'd been all over the world carrying on this work. He had any number of positions offered to him that were superior to the Manzanar post, both in standpoint of salary and prestige, but he rejected them in favor of the WRA job because he felt that he could help most there. He was fairly well-to-do, and didn't have to worry about money. Or I should say, that he could have been a wealthy man if he saved everything he received, but he would contribute to all kinds of people and organizations almost everything that he earned, and when he died, he had hardly anything left."

"When Temple came back from his tour, his view was that there were plenty of opportunities for resettlement, but that the relocation program was bogged down because there wasn't the organization to expedite it. He was returning to Chicago anyway, so we worked out a plan for him to take thirteen nisei with him. But there wasn't any place for these thirteen people to stay once they got to Chicago. The only place I knew of was the Bethany Seminary, and although I didn't have much hope that the Seminary could house them even for a short while, I took a chance and wired the director. To my surprise, a wire came back immediately saying that they could house the people and that was how Temple and the evacuees first were sent to the Bethany Seminary."

"This was the first contingent being relocated on what we hoped would be a new procedure for relocation. Tom Temple and I had come to the conclusion that a hostel would be of very great help in relocation. We talked to Myer, and he said that he approved of the plan, and that the procedure for granting indefinite leaves might be expedited if such a hostel were established. Of course, there was no official confirmation of the idea at the time, but we understood that we had the "go" sign. I also talked to Homer Morris of the A.F.S.C., and he too became very much interested."

Myself: "There seems to be some confusion as to who first got the idea of opening a hostel. Various people and organizations ~~and~~ make claims that they were the first to start a hostel, but from what you say, it seems evident that the Brethren group was in the field with the idea as early as December 1942. What is your opinion of this question?"

Smeltzer: "Well, when I made my earlier reports, I always said that the Brethren Hostel was officially opened on March 7, 1943. However, now that I think back on it, it seems that the Brethren Hostel actually started on January 14, 1943 when Temple arrived at the Bethany Seminary with his first group of evacuees. We didn't call it a hostel at the time, but the principle was that of a hostel. It was somewhat later in January that the Brethren Service Committee decided to allocate funds for the operation of a Brethren hostel for evacuees. Mary came out first to open up the hostel, and I arrived later, each of us with a group from Manzanar who were relocating."

"On the day that Temple arrived, there was a conference of the WRA and other agencies interested in resettlement being held here in Chicago. Myer, Holland, Shirrell, Morgenroth, Joe Brown, and others were present. There was a lot of talk about hostels. Temple attended the conference, but he was disgusted with all these agencies, and decided to operate independently of the other agencies. He felt that the kind of jobs which the WRA was getting weren't worth much, and so he decided to operate an employment agency for evacuees on his own. In the meantime, he left the Brethren Hostel and started a kind of Co-op housing with a bunch of the fellows who came out with him. They first took two flats at 56th and Drexel, and then later moved to another house on Jeffrey down near the lake."

Seattle Japanese were evacuated through five different evacuation orders appearing between the last of April and the middle of May. One of the questions uppermost in the minds of the people at that time was concerning the amount of baggage that each person would be permitted to take with him to the assembly center. The W.C.C.A. announcement was that evacuees were permitted to take as much as each person could carry, but this was an extremely indefinite regulation. Furthermore, there was much resentment over the fact that the evacuees were having to restrict themselves to a minimum of baggage. The situation, of course, offered a fertile field for rumors. The J.A.C.L. office, which was serving as liaison between the W.C.C.A. and the Japanese community, was swamped with telephone inquiries asking for a clarification of the regulation regarding the amount of baggage permitted each individual. When the first evacuation of one section of the city took place late in April, large numbers of those still remaining went to see their friends off, but also to note what others were taking with them. The story spread that one person, without a family, had taken forty pieces of baggage without objection from the W.C.C.A., and most people were inclined to take more than that which they had hitherto determined upon after seeing some of the large amounts of baggage taken by earlier evacuees.

Michi gave the following account of a rumor that arose at a W.C.C.A. station on May 10, 1942 when she went with her sister to register for evacuation. Notes were made of her observation, and verified by reports from her sister.

"I went with F. to the W.C.C.A. station on East Madison this morning at 10:00 am. By that time, there was a large crowd of people already there ahead of us, and we had to stand in a long line with the rest of the people. It took us until after three in the afternoon to complete registration; the line moved ahead that slowly. Most of the time, the line was outside the station because there wasn't very much room inside, and I was shivering from the cold as were most of the others who were made to wait there.

While we were standing there, Lefty Ichihara came out and told us that he'd just heard that each evacuee was permitted to take only 75 pounds of baggage each to the assembly center. He was very definite about this statement.

Meeting of Resettler Committee

Place: 19 So. La Salle, Rm 1327 of downtown "Y".

Time: 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 2, 1944.

Number: 13 men and 4 girls (1 Negro representative of a union and 1 Caucasian girl, the wife of a nisei doctor.)

Chairman: Harry Mayeda.

Harry opened the meeting with an introduction of all the persons present. He then passed around sheets of paper stating the purpose and function of the organization, which the subject under discussion this evening. (See the supplement for a statement of the purpose and function of the Resettler Committee) The meeting was opened for discussion of the various points in the statement.

Some nisei, apparently one who hadn't attended the previous meetings of this group, raised a question concerning the meaning of the sentence, "The dangers of forming groups are frankly recognized, but it is felt that some organization is necessary to carry on this program." What was meant by the "dangers", he asked. Harry replied that the dangers referred to were those that might possibly arise from forming a segregated group of nisei, and the further possibility of its leading to a segregated community. Then, some of the people, Rayko Kihara was one of them, expressed apprehensions about the possibility of avoiding this danger considering that this committee's functions were based on contacting other groups of nisei. Harry's reply was that the committee was trying to take account of this danger and stressing the need for integration as the ultimate aim of the group. This would be achieved by contacting not only nisei groups, but also by making the acquaintance of Caucasian organizations interested in nisei problems. Finally, if they contact nisei groups, they would reach only those groups which are already formed. There would be little effort expended towards organizing nisei groups, but the Committee would use those groups already formed.

After Harry formally read through the functions of the organization, and asked for comments when the discussion lagged, I raised a couple of questions for the sake of discussion. I asked "Since this organization depends upon the support of interested nisei groups to promote its program, I'd like to know how much support you actually anticipate from various little groups." Harry replied that the committee hoped to make its program interesting enough to draw the interest of various nisei groups. There was evidently to be no campaign to recruit nisei for the organization, but every effort would be made to make the group worth while to nisei in general. I then said, "If I were a JACL supporter, I might declare that the functions of this committee are a duplication of the work of the JACL. What would you say to that?" Harry replied again that there was no attempt in this committee to compete against any other group, but that the com-

mittee felt there was a need for an organization to meet certain needs of resettlers in the way of social action that wasn't being met. (Harry inferred, though he didn't say so, that the JACL wasn't doing what it was supposed to be doing.) "We feel that because of the pressing nature of some of these problems that we can't wait for someone else to get ready to meet the problems, and the committee hopes that some immediate action might be taken in responding to questions that concern the resettlers right now."

Dick Takeuchi raised a question that led to an extended discussion. Someone had raised a question as to what was the meaning of the term "Trouble-Shooting" which was listed as one of the functions. Harry replied that that was a catch all phrase covering the intent of the group to meet such situations as that which had arisen over the Hearst campaign, the I.C. strike, and the Aragon affair. The question was raised as to whether the committee actually thought they could do anything about issues of that kind, and Harry replied that the committee was not actually intending to try to work as a pressure group that would force changes, but that it would act as a group to which interested parties could come for information about the resettlers. Also, the committee could act in the capacity of dispensing information about resettlers and giving a more justifiable picture of the position of resettlers.

At this point, Dick said, "If this committee doesn't feel that it can do anything directly about these problems, what is the purpose of such an organization as this? What is it forming for?" Harry declared that the committee could at least provide interested agencies with the facts; that in itself would be of some help. Tom added, furthermore, we can seek out the support of agencies which are powerful enough to do something for the resettlers even if we as individuals aren't strong enough.

Tom Masuda then raised a question as to whether or not this committee would be representative of the resettlers in Chicago. If it were not, it could not go to other agencies as representing any large group of resettlers. It could only state that it represented a small interested body, and there would be no strength in the application for support. There was some strong opposition to this view especially from George Akahoshi, Tom Shibutani, Dick Takeuchi, and Mary Takahashi. The position of the latter was: it doesn't matter how large a group you represent. We won't declare ourselves as representative of the whole nisei body. We only state that this is a problem confronting the resettlers, and that we are a group interested in trying to gain aid in solving it. Mary Takahashi pointed out that in all other political affairs, no group could call itself representative of a whole population, but that there was ~~indeed~~ a small group who generally took leadership in trying to gain support for a point of view. Moreover, this was a struggle, not only of the nisei, but of all those who were seeking to maintain the democratic way of life, and there should be plenty of people who would identify themselves

with such a purpose.

Masuda

I felt that Tom had a point although I was fully aware of the implications of the points being pressed by the others. It is quite true that no organization need declare itself representative of a whole population. However, it does make a difference in power politics as to whether or not a group trying to gain support can declare itself representative of a large body. Furthermore, and this was the important point to me, the Resettler Committee seemed to me a very loose organization, apparently to be formed without any definite plan of membership, but such an organization based on a membership that had no real stake in the organization could not be a strong group. That is, my feeling was that some thought should be given to tightening up the membership in the organization, and even of recruiting resettlers to support the organization. But I didn't want to say as much, for this immediately leads into the danger of forming a segregated group, which is precisely the consequence that this group is trying to avoid.

The others were declaring that the committee could fulfill its function of trying to do something about the attacks upon resettlers if only a small group existed that could present its problems to interested and powerful agencies. This, I think, is only partially true. I am not much concerned about the size of the group, but I think organization within the Committee will be extremely important in the question as to whether or not the group can be effective. It can't be a loose Committee such as the present set-up suggests it will be.

Caucasian

Mary Takahashi, a society girl from Boston, who married Bill Takahashi, gave quite a speech on the need of nisei to fight for civil rights, etc. She repeated what all of us have long felt that the nisei need to identify themselves with other minority groups who are seeking the same thing, the collective security idea. I think most of the others present felt that Mary was talking a little out of turn since she was saying things that were understood in the group with the air of a person promulgating a new point of view.

Dick Takeuchi declared that he was present as an interested spectator since he had learned of this group which was trying to do something similar to that which their group was attempting. Since he saw no reason for duplicating groups, he thought he would come to see what this group was doing and of how far it had gotten in organization. Dick's group, which is meeting on the evening of Aug. 3, is quite disturbed about the Hearst campaign, and they declared that it was a spontaneous interest in organizing. Apparently the pressure toward organization has been ripe in the present situation.

Harry declared that there is some prospect of getting funds for the organization from the interested church and other agencies. There is also the possibility of getting an executive secretary, paid. This would make a big difference in the effectiveness of

the committee.

Harry raised the question as to whether or not there should be an election of officers. Most of the people present were agreed that a temporary chairman was wanted, and railroaded Harry into the position.

Harry called upon George Akahoshi to report on the meeting Saturday of the Civil Liberties Committee, and also of the Aragon Dance Hall case. I was surprised to learn that there were about 150 nisei couples present on the evening that the trouble occurred at the Aragon. I think it caused something of a flurry to learn this. Harry gave a resume of the case of the Illinois Central Strike.

A Negro representative of a Negro labor union came declaring their support of the resettlers, and urged that nisei come out to the Negro community to give them the facts about their case. He declared that there was a lot of prejudice in the Negro community against resettler Japanese, but this was due to ignorance about the Japanese. He stated the need of all minority groups to get together in gaining their rights. He proved to be a very interesting and effective talker.

A nisei named Bob then popped up and declared that he was a member of the Bahai group whose doctrine is that all religions have basically the same doctrine and purpose. Therefore, he said, the Bahais were a group that would have little prejudice against any minority group, and they would be interested in supporting the resettlers in the problems they face. He wanted more information so that he could take back the problems to his group.

A meeting will be held two weeks from tonight, August 14th, at a place to be announced in the future.

CHICAGO CHURCH FEDERATION COMMITTEE ON RESETTLER INTEGRATION

About three weeks ago, Mrs. Hannaford phoned to ask me if I would talk on evacuee psychology and resettler adjustments before a small group of people in the Woodlawn district. The possibility which she extended of meeting some nisei drew me out, so I promised to give a very brief summary of the situation.

The meeting was held at the home of a Mr. and Mrs. Ira Van Hise at 6426 So. Kenwood. Although the affair was called for 7:00 p.m., we didn't get there until almost 7:30, and others continued to come in until after 8:00. Of the nisei present there were: the ~~Tesk~~ Takeshi sisters, the Morioka sisters, Mrs. Baba, Mrs. Takemoto, May, and Michi and myself. Of the Caucasians, there were about ten older folks present, and about four from the youth group which arrived after their own church meeting. Apparently, most of them were from the Woodlawn Presbyterian Church; interestingly enough, I ran into Mr. and Mrs. Bechtoldt whom I'd met before, while I was doing grad work on the campus three years ago. I gave a talk of about half hour length touching on the ambiguity of the nisei position in the pre-war communities, the impact of evacuation on this psychology, and the special problems of adjustment among nisei among Chicago resettlers. It was perhaps in too serious a vein, but everyone said very politely that it was just the kind of analysis wanted.

I didn't know quite what this meeting was about except for what Mrs. Hannaford had told me over the phone. She had then remarked that she wanted to have me speak to a group of nisei and Caucasians so that they might have some idea of the problems of the nisei, and on the basis of that to organize some kind of com-

mittee to work on the needs of resettlers in the Woodlawn district. It was evident that noone else present was clear as to what she was proposing to do. As it turned out, she pulled out a bunch of cards bearing the names and addresses of newly arrived resettlers in the Woodlawn district, and asked if there were any here who would cooperate in acting as sponsors for these newly arrived people. The whole discussion, I thought, was badly organized for the people present were hesitant to respond and they weren't sure what they were getting into. Mrs. Hannaford held out the cards and started reading off the addresses asking if anyone lived near them. A Mrs. C. was the only one responding; the others somewhat held off from offering their aid. A pointless sort of discussion went on for about one hour during which time there were frequent breakdowns in the main trend of thought, and people got off in little groups of their own to be sociable talking about their personal interests.

The setting and the line of thinking in the group seemed to be somewhat as follows: Mrs. Hannaford held forth the cards and seemed anxious that something be started toward contacting all the people listed. She explained little about the purpose of making such contacts; and there was a general air of hesitancy and confusion in the group. Mrs. C. who lives on the northeast side of Woodlawn was the one person actively interested in contacting the nisei of her neighborhood, and she was willing to assume responsibility for a number of the people. A younger woman living in the same district who listened quietly to the whole discussion seemed willing to cooperate with Mrs. C. A Mrs. Sandusky living in the

same area, however, kept insisting that she had befriended a number of the nisei coming into the area, and I imagine she was telling the truth since she named several families, but she didn't offer to assist in Mrs. Hannaford's program. Some of the others stayed out of the discussion on the grounds of not living in the district although they were trying to be helpful making suggestions. A divinity student sitting next to me said somewhat apologetically to the person next to him that he himself was somewhat new to the area having come only last fall, and "I've only begun to get into the community myself only recently and I don't know that I'd be of much help." Mrs. Sandusky, and some of the others, kept bringing up the point that not only the nisei but others of in-migrants were having similar problems of adjustments--it was implied that if such a program were undertaken for the nisei, it should also be undertaken for others as well, which I consider sound. A soldier, who was apparently a leader of the young people's group, didn't say much throughout the whole discussion, but in the pinch came through with an offer to contact quite a number of the names through his own group.

The nisei present, who seemed a rather inarticulate group as a whole, just sat silently observing the whole procedure without comment. Mrs. Hannaford and Mrs. C. tried to draw some of them in on the program of sponsorship, but there was little evidence of willingness from them. I know that May, Michi and I were doing our best not to get involved.

My own thoughts were: "Why doesn't Mrs. Hannaford organize such a discussion as this a little better? After all, hardly any one present beside herself seems to know what the purpose of the

sponsorship is about. It would be better if she were to put the question to the group first as to whether or not its desirable to start a thing like this, and whether they would be willing to participate. But I guess she's the type that wants action right away, and perhaps I shouldn't discourage her sine her type sometimes gets more done than the cautious organizer. I'm afraid though that some of these people of good-will are going to be disappointed by the rather poor response of the nisei whom they contact. Most of them won't be interested. The program should be selective of the persons it contacts so that it won't bog down of its own weight; so that it won't become disillusioning to those who undertake it. Further, I see no reason for treating the nisei problem as a special case in an instance like this. It's quite a different thing to ask the people of the church to rise up against a Hearst smear campaign, I would consider that a legitimate task of the church people, but to ask that they go out of their way to contact a particular group of people is asking a lot. I don't want to say anything to interfere with this work because it's evident that the Hannafords are earnest people doing everything possible to help the nisei, but they're undertaking the job as a job whereas the others are being asked to volunteer their service. Most nisei won't be interested in church activity, and it's a little silly to try to draw them out into it. The program will end up with a lot of disappointed and resentful people on both sides. I know that Mrs. Hannaford and Mrs. C. wants me or some nisei to take the responsibility of getting things rolling, but I'm not going to stick my neck out."

It was clear by the end of the meeting some time after 10:30 that everyone wanted to show their good will, but that few wished

to volunteer their services. The nisei were on the spot because they were doing nothing to help in their own problem, but they too were hesitant about volunteering, and in some ways were justified in feeling that this was the wrong way to approach the whole business. Noone wanted to criticize the Hannafords because they were doing things that couldn't be criticized in its ideal aim, and any comments would make it seem that the individual criticizing was being too selfish. The only defense under the circumstance was to withdraw from the discussion in defensive silence.

On the way home, May, Michi and I held a post mortem.  
May: "I finally had to take one of the cards. I don't know what I'm going to say when I go to these people's home. After all, I don't even attend church myself."

Michi: "That's what one of the girls (Miss Van Hise) was saying. She wanted to know what the purpose of the sponsorship was and wanted to know what the sponsors were to say once they'd contacted the resettler. I think the young people are more intelligent than the older ones. I know Mrs. Hannaford wanted me to take some of ~~the~~ names because she'd keep turning to me and asking if the person didn't live near me every time she read an address, but I just didn't say anything. I said it wasn't in my district. I think it's wrong about forcing yourself on other people. After all, they have their own group of friends and their interests, and as long as you don't have the same interests, ~~it~~ I wouldn't blame the people if they resented having others come in trying to draw them out into something they don't want to get into."

Interview with Kiyoshi Tanaka

Ques: I find in writing up material on Tule Lake that I don't have very much on the Sacramento Assembly Center. I feel that the Walerga experience, however, was an important factor in the adjustment of the Sacramento people to Tule Lake. I'd like to ask you some questions about the situation down there. If I ask you whether you considered Walerga one of the better or worse assembly centers, what would your evaluation be?

K. T.: I'd say that it was very bad. Very bad. You see, the camp was about fourteen miles outside the city and on a kind of rolling plain. It wasn't flat and there were ups and downs all over the center. The barracks were just shacks thrown together, with flooring that had gaps about an inch wide all over it. The latrines were terrible; they were of the outhouse type with no flushing system. We had terrible food, and because there were only small messhalls, only a few people could eat at one time.

Ques: Can you tell me something about the political organization there? I heard there was some trouble with the J.A.C.L. clique?

K.T.: I don't know very much about that because I wasn't interested in that sort of thing. It was mostly run by the Army; you know the usual set-up. It's true there were a lot of criticisms of the J.A.C.L. mainly because they wouldn't fight for the people. The leaders were guys like Tsukamoto, Dr. Iki, Dr. Muramoto--maybe the Muramoto brothers--and possibly George Takahashi although I heard him oppose the J.A.C.L. policy at one of the meetings. Henry Taketa, too. The way I look at it, they were only puppets because they didn't have any power. But the thing we objected to was that

those fellows didn't do anything for the Japanese people. For instance, there was that trouble about not getting the clothing allowance. You knew about that. All the other centers got clothing allowance, but the Sacramento people didn't because the J.A.C.L. leaders were afraid to make demands upon the administration. That complaint didn't arise until we got to Tule Lake because it was when we heard about the other centers getting it that we kicked. After all, as long as the others got it, there was no reason why we shouldn't. The trouble with the J.A.C.L. was that they were running things to suit themselves. No, it wasn't only the nisei who were antagonistic to them; the issei felt the same way. You could tell because of the dirty names the J.A.C.L. was called. You know, they would say, "Those dirty so and so Jackals". "Jackal" was considered a really dirty name. I heard the issei/~~sane~~ say the same sort of thing, you know, about the shiminkyokai (Citizens League) this and that. Most of the people didn't like the way the camp was being run. I can't remember all they said about it because there were so many rumors about Tsukamoto and Iki. They said the same sort of thing about Dr. Muramoto, too, because he was the J.A.C.L. president--things about his taking graft and all that sort of thing. Of course, these are rumors and I don't say they were true.

Ques. Were there any attempts to organize against the J.A.C.L.? Did the issei, for instance, try to do anything on their own to correct the situation created by the J.A.C.L.

K.T.: No, there wasn't any organized opposition to the J.A.C.L. so far as I know. The issei felt that they were aliens, I think, and didn't have any authority to say anything. Besides, all the

issei leaders had been picked up by the F.B.I. before the evacuation and there wasn't anyone to follow. The people who were leaders down in Sacramento were the issei like Mr. Nakatani, Mr. Sakata, Mr. Itandé and Mr. Kambara, (mostly Buddhist leaders). but they were all picked up. Mr. Ikeda wasn't a strong leader although he's a very well educated man and a shrewd person, but people down in Sacramento didn't have much faith in him. They didn't organize to do anything, but there was always the under-current of discontent. I think the discontent was quite apparent. against  
The nisei couldn't organize/the J.A.C.L. For one thing they were too young. They wanted someone to come out for their rights, but they needed leadership and there was noone to lead them. It was because the J.A.C.L. was so weak and willing to give in to the Caucasians that they were mostly griped about the organization. Of course, the J.A.C.L. could always come back and say, "Why don't you do something about it yourself?" and there wouldn't be any answer to that. But most nisei didn't feel they could do anything themselves. What they wanted was to have a strong leadership fight of the kind that would go out and/for them."

Ques: What was your first impressions of Tule Lake? Did you think it an improvement over the assembly center?

K.T.: "I looked on it as a place that would do for the time. I wasn't happy being in a center but there wasn't anything you could do about it. Yes, of course, it was an improvement over the assembly center, especially in the latrines and other facilities. But I didn't feel that it was so much of an improvement; conditions weren't a great deal better. I was living in Block 36. We didn't have such good food during the first month. Lumber was very hard

to get. We had trouble with that. The effect of the situation was that it made everyone individualistic; they were out to take care of themselves, and to hell with the rest of the people. That kind of an attitude. The same was true in employment. I remember there was a rush for the employment office, and the idea was to see Mr. Smith (the employment head) and take care of your own welfare. If you could carry away more lumber than other people, so much the better."

Ques: I've been wondering about the effect of the conflict down at Walerga and its influence on the adjustment of the people to Tule Lake. One fellow told me that he thought the J.A.C.L. trouble made the Sacramento people determined that the same thing shouldn't happen again. Did you feel the same way?

Ans: "Well, I don't know about that. You see, I wasn't much interested in the political affairs of the camp. I just wanted to make the best of the situation. You might call my reaction "passive resistance". I didn't like being there, but I just accepted it. I suppose you might say, though, that the people were determined not to let the same thing happen again, at least among those who had political interests. My feelings on the question weren't aroused until I was elected to the council, and then I began to feel that we ought to fight for our rights. I became interested in trying to do something about the injustices."

"I think the issei just felt that the nisei had no backbone. At Walerga, I don't think they felt they had anything to say. But they did feel that the nisei had a right to make demands, and they criticized us for not defending ourselves when our rights were being taken away. They would say "ikuji ga nai" (no will or boldness or spirit).

They criticized us for not finishing things we started when the going got tough. They said we were afraid to stand up against the hakujin and that we always took the easiest way out. Even when we were being mauled around, being called names, and slandered in every way, we wouldn't fight back but would allow ourselves to be kicked around. I suppose what they said was true, but the trouble is that most nisei are too young yet. If the nisei get to be fifty or so, they'll learn to fight back, but when you're still young, you're afraid to fight back."

Ques: "You mentioned 'passive resistance'. Was there any talk about wishing the nisei had done the same thing as Yasui and Hirabayashi and the others who refused to be evacuated.

Ans: "Oh, yes, I heard talk of that kind. It was mostly talk of course, but I think a lot of fellows felt they wished they'd done something to react to the evacuation. In general, the people wanted to protest their condition, but they didn't know what to do. I know that I didn't like the idea of being at Tule Lake, and I didn't expect the conditions to get much better."

Ques: Wasn't there quite a bit of general antagonism to the J.A.C.L.

Ans. "Oh, sure. It appeared right after evacuation. The people didn't like the attitude which the J.A.C.L. took on the evacuation question. The feeling was that the J.A.C.L. should have tried to do something to prevent it. But they weren't fighting for our rights and that was what gave the J.A.C.L. such a bad name. There were some personal things, too, like Tsukamoto's charging exorbitant rates for law work that he did for the Japanese just before evacuation. That's talk, of course, I don't know how true it is, but

the people were saying those things. The thing is, Tsukamoto didn't understand Japanese psychology. The way the Japanese look at it, they want others to do something for you especially in a crisis like the evacuation, while the American way is for the person who wants something to go and ask for it. That's the difference, you see. If Tsukamoto had made an announcement in the newspapers, for instance, that he was willing ~~mix~~ to offer his services to help the Japanese people in a time of need, the Japanese would have thought he was really a great man. The trouble was that instead they got the idea he was trying to make money off of them in the crisis."

"I heard from a very confidential source--I don't know whether I should be telling you this because the fellow who told me said not to tell anyone--but I heard that the J.A.C.L. knew way back in December right after the war started that the evacuation was going to take place, but the J.A.C.L. didn't let anybody else know about it. This isn't rumor because the lawyer who told me was in on a meeting where they discussed the subject. One of the Chiefs of Police of a place somewhere around Sacramento heard that this thing was coming, and because he liked John and didn't want to see him get involved in a thing like that, he felt that something should be done to prevent it. I happen to know because I called John the day he was attending this meeting where there were about five prominent people of the city present, and he told me he had to attend this meeting and couldn't see me at the time. They knew then that the ~~Java~~ evacuation was coming, they even worked over the New Year's holdiay on the problem, and the J.A.C.L.

knew about it. But they didn't do anything about it, and they didn't let anyone else know the thing was coming. That's why when evacuation came, everyone was unprepared and were thrown in a panic. It just came "boom" and that was all there was to it. That's the kind of thing that shows the lack of interest on the part of the J.A.C.L. in helping the Japanese."

Miyamoto Notes  
Dec. 28, 1944

LIFTING OF W.D.C. JAPANESE EXCLUSION ORDER:  
EVACUEE REACTIONS TO

Dec. 17, 1944

We learned from Shig this evening, after he came back from the Kinoshita's, that there had been a radio announcement of the lifting of the West Coast exclusion order. Coming at second hand, the information was sketchy, but it seems that evacuees will be permitted to return after Jan. 2, 1945.

Members of the Study have been looking for this announcement for some time. I recall that very shortly after the registration in Tule Lake, there was some talk that the exclusion order might be lifted, and as the segregation program got under way, it seemed that the W.R.A. was very optimistic about the prospects of having the ban lifted. In fact, up to the time that DeWitt made his public statement of "A Japs a Jap" it seemed that the government agencies and the War Dept. were building up to the removal of the exclusion order and I then thought of it as imminent. When Morton and I were in Washington, Myer spoke in confidence to his staff about the possibility of its removal; not directly, of course, but by implication.

All during the past summer, I discounted the possibility of any change in the order until after the presidential election, but as soon as the elections were past, I felt that the announcement might be made at any time. The chief basis of this belief was that I had the impression, principally from Gleucks statement at Washington, that the constitutional basis for continued exclusion of the citizens of Japanese ancestry was very weak and the Government, I thought, would not place itself in a position subject to attack by a test case. Gluecks argument was that populations could be moved during wartime as long as there were "reasonable military need" for such movement, but he also cited the case of a German alien in Massachusetts who won his case against exclusion from the Eastern Defense Command because the judge decided that reasonable grounds show-

ing the need for individual exclusion in this case had not been proved. How much stronger was the case of citizen Japanese by the summer of 1944.

At our recent conference in Salt Lake City (Nov. 28-Dec. 6, 1944) Jim Sakoda seemed quite expectant of a change in the exclusion order. He declared that the JACL expected the lifting of the ban on Jan. 1 or 2, and we were disappointed to find nothing in the newspapers on the subject on these days. There must have been other indications, chiefly from WRA sources, that the exclusion order would be lifted about that time for there were innumerable rumors among the more or less informed people that something was in the air. During my visit to Minidoka, I was convinced by remarks from Ed. Smith, community analyst, that the lifting of the order was very near and would probably occur in February. He said:

"Mr. Stafford picked me up in his car the other day when he was driving around the project and said he wanted to talk to me. He said that he'd received a wire from Province asking to release me from work at the project to serve with a team of community analysts on the West Coast. What they desired was an estimate of the sentiment in various West Coast communities, and the orders were to join Cozzens and his staff. DeYoung has just returned from India and is to replace me during my absence, but Stafford gave me to understand that I was to return to Minidoka after the West Coast job was finished. My guess is that the announcement will be made some time in February."

February seemed a reasonable guess considering that it would take a little time for the analyst team to get around to the various communities and assuming that no public announcement would be made until this size-up of the situation had been given the WRA. There was also much talk among the evacuees of the prospect of the closing of the centers--a matter of great concern to them as I could see and as a consequence of which they seemed to cling with more tenacity than ever to the project community and its security.

Shig's news of this evening affected us only mildly for we have not build up any expectation of returning to the Pacific Coast, at least immediately. The subject has hardly ever come up for discussion, except when we were comparing the

living circumstance out there with those here and remarking on the advantages of living in a place like Seattle. As far as Michi and I are concerned, it is evident that we must go wherever I can find a job when this one folds up, and that could be almost anywhere in the country. Shig, on the other hand, is more likely to return to the Pacific Coast sooner or later. For one thing, he owns a house in Seattle. (2) He has taken even less a liking to Chicago than Michi or I and has more definitely held to the idea of returning to the West Coast. (3) We are agreed that if Michi's folks are to leave the centers, the best thing for them would be to return to the house in Seattle where all their belongings were left and there is a prospect of Papa's returning to his old chef's job at the University Club. It would be quite undesirable to bring them out to Chicago for Papa would be lost in a city like this, cooped up in an apartment, possibly tied down to a job for which he had no liking, and without even a garden (his favorite pastime) for him to work off his energy upon. Mama-san could adjust to any conditions which we could bear, but not Papa-san. But if the folks go back to Seattle, Shig or Fumiko would have to go with them for they would probably be somewhat lost in a big house and among strangers without some Nisei member of the family with them. Shig thus feels some responsibility about going back, although his immediate situation is complicated by the fact that he is contemplating marriage in the very near future.

Shig: "I don't think it would be a good idea for the folks to come out here. The chances are they'll want to return to their home in Seattle, and it would only be an added expense for them to visit Chicago first. The best thing would be if Dad could get back the old job he had at the University Club."

Michi: "Yes. I'm sure Dad would be quite unhappy living in Chicago. Of course, Seattle won't be what it was before the war, but the folks don't need very much more than a place to live and Dad's job. I don't think it would be a good idea for them to be out there alone though, and one of us would have to live with them."

Shig: "What do you think are the job opportunities out there? Don't you think jobs would be as easy to get as here considering the number of defense plants out there and the labor shortage. I'd want to get into a defense plant because of my draft status. I wouldn't want to take a job that isn't deferrable."

Myself: "Well, I don't know. I imagine you could get some kind of work out there because of the labor shortage. Besides, one of the problems now is that so many workers are trying to get out from under defense work because of their concern for the post-war period that jobs might be easier to get than we think. But I am a little skeptical because I think there must be still a certain amount of hostility to the idea of the Japs returning, and there's also been a tradition of keeping the Japanese out of many occupations."

Shig: "Yeah. If there develops any large scale opposition to the idea of the evacuees returning, I suppose employers might hesitate about hiring a Nisei and the labor unions might try to keep us out. Well, I guess there's plenty of time yet to find out things. We'll see how things go when some of the others go back."

The following are the reactions to the announcement expressed by other Nisei in Chicago.

Tom Okabe Dec. 19, 1944

"Oh, I don't have any intention of going back. I think the opportunities in my line of work (chemical engineering) are greater here than out on the Pacific Coast. There's no advantage in my going back there. For the time being, I'm satisfied with the job I've got. It's nothing much, but I'm having a lot of fun going all over the plant these days and I feel I'm learning something. The research work is pretty much routine, but I am learning how to deal with workers and get along with other men. That's the main thing I'm getting out of this work. At least as far as I'm concerned, and fellows like Chihiro and Ichiro too, the evacuation was a good thing because I'm not sure we would have left Seattle to look for jobs out here. We would have stayed in the same old rut out there and possibly never got anywhere in our professional field."

Dr. Tashiro Dec. 19, 1944.

"Well, what have you heard from your friends about the lifting of the exclusion ban. Are the nihonjin going back to the West Coast or are they going to stay out here?..... I haven't talked to very many people since the announcement, but the few I have talked to weren't especially interested in going back. They've got jobs here, and there's nothing for them to go back to. I don't think most of them are very much concerned about getting back there now. Yah, they talked a lot about it before the announcement was made, but now its a different story. I think the one group of people who probably will go back there are those who have property out on the Pacific Coast, the farm owners and home owners. I know of a fel-

low for instance, a doctor, who had an office in a nice location downtown back in California and had a good trade with Caucasian clients before the war. That fellow decided at the time of the evacuation that he was going back to that city and so he's been paying rent on that office right along. He'll go back there, open up, and probably get a lot of his old clients back again. You see, he had a good office location where he had friends in the offices next to him, he'd built up his clientele in that city, and he was probably smart to continue paying rent on that office. I haven't talked to him, of course, and I'm not sure he's going back, but I think there's little doubt that he will."

Tashiro contd.

When the Japanese first started coming out here, I had the idea that a group of dentists and doctors might get together and start a clinic. We could have had a suite of offices and if we'd all cooperated we could have developed a very good business, I'm sure. I talked to several people about it, but noone seemed interested in trying the thing, but I think we missed an awfully good chance. The trouble is the Japanese Nisei aren't ready for that sort of thing yet. That's the only explanation I have.

One difficulty with the professional field is that you have to pass the state-board examination before you can get a license to practice in this state. I think that's another reason why a lot of the doctors and dentists will want to go back to California. I know that if I had to take the state board again, I'd have to study up for a year beforehand and get a private tutor to help me out. The examination is a barrier to a lot of those fellows remaining out here to practice in their profession."

Dec. 19, 1944 Japanese Language Teachers

Michi kept her ears open today to see if she could get any reactions from the teachers in the department about returning to the West Coast. According to her, there was very little discussion of the subject except for a mild show of interest in what the meaning of the announcement might be. As far as she could tell, there are very few if any who are at the moment interested in getting back to the West Coast. Of course, it's too early to get an accurate estimate of the people who will return. But the relative absence of discussion on the subject would indicate that the people are by and large not yet prepared to think about it.

Mae Okada Dec. 19, 1944.

"Yes, I heard about the announcement last night over the radio. Oh, no, I don't think Dave and I will be thinking of going back there, at least right now. He has to finish up his schooling here, and then welll start thinking about where to go. What does the announcement mean? Does it mean anyone can go back any time, or will we still have to get clearance from the Western Defense Command?

In the first few days following the announcement of the lifting of the exclusion order, Charlie and I as well as others were of the opinion that there was relatively little response to the idea of returning to the West Coast. "They haven't had time to discuss the subject and haven't made up their minds yet," Charlie remarked, and I agreed that this was the main reason for the early response of the people. In my letters to friends interested in the problem, I repeatedly mentioned the present lack of interest on the part of the bulk of Chicago resettlers in returning to the Pacific Coast. On Dec. 20th, a WRA announcement arrived by mail giving Myer's statement of policy with regard to the lifting of the exclusion order and the procedures to be followed by any desiring to relocate to the Pacific Coast. These announcements were sent to every evacuee on the WRA mailing list; the announcement included among other things the proposal to close all projects within a half year to one year and the assistance which the WRA would give to those desiring to return to the Pacific Coast. Measured in terms of the number of people turning up at the local WRA office to inquire about the procedures for getting back to the Coast, it is clear that this publicity served to accelerate interest in the return.

Hanaye Ichiyasu Dec. 19, 1944

Michi and I had lunch with Hanaye, one of the teachers in the language school, and she told us of her families intention of returning to San Francisco. She had not yet received the WRA announcement on policy and procedure, but she was quite definite about their desire to return.

"We're planning to go back to San Francisco. Yes, we have property back there; we own our own home. I've been corresponding with some of my friends in San Francisco and I understand that stenographers are being paid \$185 a month, a lot more than out here. My younger brother is more anxious than anyone else in the family about getting back there. As soon as he heard the announcement over the radio on Sunday night, he was all for packing up immediately and returning to our home. One reason is that he feels he'd have a better chance of getting into a non-segregated army unit if he's drafted from a place where there aren't so many Japanese around than he would if he were drafted out of here. He hates the idea of being in the same combat unit with other nisei. (It was implied that the Nisei units have a higher rate of casualties than others.) We haven't made defi-

inite plans yet, but we expect to go as soon as we can. (I told Hanaye of the WRA policy of offering travellers grants to all those desiring to return.) I could find out about that down at the WRA office, couldn't I? Of course, if they're only giving out government vouchers for a coach seat, I don't think we'd want it because you can't change those vouchers for pullman seats even if you contribute the additional cost. That was how it was when my folks came out of Manzanar; the WRA gave them vouchers but who wants to ride across the country in hard coach seats."

Paul Sugimura Dec. 22, 1944

"Yes, I'd like to go back to the Pacific Coast. I have a home in San Francisco. Of course, we're not planning to return right away, but within a few months we ought to get some idea of how the thing goes. What do you think of the job opportunities back there? Don't you think there'd be something in defense work that we could get into. I understand the WRA will have relocation offices out there just as they have them out here. Well, we'll know more about it in a little while."

Mrs. Izumi, WRA Consultant on Relocation Dec. 27, 1944

(I inquired ~~now~~ whether the WRA was getting very many inquiries about returning to the West Coast.) Yes, we're getting quite a few people coming in every day now to find out more about it. I'm advising all the people who come to me not to be in any hurry about it, but to wait and see what the reaction of the West Coast people is. There's no hurry about their getting back there. It would be very bad if everyone rushed back all at once, and I think that a lot of these people who are thinking of returning right now might change their minds about it later if they hear that things out there aren't as good as they think they are."

Shig regarding the Kinoshitas Dec. 23, 1944

"The Kinoshitas are interested in going back to Los Angeles. Harry Kinoshita was in the produce business before the war, and I think he feels he'd like to get back into that type of work. I think that's Harry's main reason for wanting to get back to Los Angeles. They don't have any home or anything out there so it's going to be a little harder for them."

Shig contd. Dec. 23, 1944

"If you've rented your own home out to some Caucasians out there, they can't kick if you want to go back to it. After all, it wasn't because we wanted to leave it that we had to leave the Pacific Coast. The persons renting such homes wouldn't have any legal reason for protesting if you gave them adequate notice of your desire to return. Still, I can see how, with the housing shortage out there, a lot of trouble could start if the Japanese tried to get back into their homes and the Caucasians had to leave. If they're defense workers, the Government ought to put them into Federal Housing Projects. But I suppose there still would be a lot of kick backs over the housing question."

May and Mother

May and mother show no interest in returning to the West Coast. Almost since the time they came out, May has been planning to remain in Chicago and keep her job even after the war. May has a bookkeeping job at an auto-parts company downtown where she's earning \$130-\$140 a month including overtime, which is about 80% more than she ever earned before on the West Coast. Besides, they have nothing to return to, although I can imagine that if they could get an equally good job for her out there and have housing provided, May and mother wouldn't mind going back there. Certainly, the milder climate in Seattle is more suitable for mother than the hot summers and severe winters in Chicago. Then, too, housing isn't very good although they've made a better adjustment than most people to the situation.

Kaz and Nobu Naito Dec. 28, 1944

Until they opened their own shop three months ago, Kaz and Nobu were still talking about the prospects of getting back to Puyallup, Washington, where their old employer, Mr. Galbraith, is anxious to have them run his farm. In September, Kaz opened a dye work and cleaner shop on the North Side and has been doing very good business considering the shortness of time they have been open. The two of them are kept busy from morning until night six days a week. It is now clear that they have every intention of remaining here in Chicago as long as their business flourishes. Nobu asked of me last night whether the WRA would handle the shipment of their furniture and other belongings which they left back in Puyallup. I indicated that while the WRA office would probably remain open another eight months at least, it would be desirable to start the red tape for getting their material shipped some time in the near future. Getting this stuff out here means a drastic break from the idea of returning to the West Coast.