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LOS ANGELES EXAMINER. SUNDAY JUNE 20, 1943

POSTON CAMP HEARING BARES SHAMEFUL FACTS.

If the story of conditions at the Poston Relocation Camp in Arizona had not been told under oath by responsible witnesses, if it had not been spread on official records and if the events described had been open at least to a single question- then the account could well be credited to a fiction writer's unrestrained imagination.

The testimony by Harold H. Townsend, former officer at the camp, drawn from the hearings of the Dies subcommittee and released for publication by Congressman Costello of California, is an astounding story.

THE AMAZING DETAILS INCLUDE A JAPANESE UNIT OF 1000 "OFFICERS AND MEN" OPENLY TRAINING IN TACTICAL PROBLEMS; ADMISSIONS BY CAMP INMATES THAT THIS UNIT WAS ORGANIZED AT TERMINAL ISLAND TO FIGHT WITH INVADING JAPANESE FORMATIONS; THEFTS OF \$100,000 WORTH OF SUPPLIES FROM CAMP WAREHOUSES; A REIGN OF TERROR BY JAPANESE STRONG-ARM GANGS AGAINST COUNTRYMEN SUSPECTED OF PRO-AMERICAN SENTIMENTS; OPEN REBELLION AND MOB RULE DURING RIOTS ONCE DESCRIBED OFFICIALLY AS "DISTURBANCES"; CACHES OF FOOD AND SUPPLIES HIDDEN IN THE DESERT FOR THE USE OF EXPECTED PARACHUTE TROOPS AND INVADING RAIDERS. AND ALL WITHIN THE BORDERS OF AN AMERICAN WESTERN STATE, LITTLE MORE THAN A STONE'S THROW FROM ONE OF THE LARGEST TRAINING CENTERS FOR AMERICAN DESERT TROOPS? UNDER THE OBSERVATION OF F.B.I. MEN WHO COULD NOT BEAR THE CODDLING OF SUBVERSIVE PRISONERS AND LEFT THE CAMP IN DISGUST.

What is the reason for this incredible but all-too-true condition?

Is it because Americans are naturally soft-headed and stupid, so indifferent and pusillanimous that they wish their country's enemies to plan and operate a deadly fifth column inside our very front lines? Not at all. Americans want these camps to be run in a humane but strict manner.

But Americans most definitely do not want the enemy to organize, with our money, our food, our ~~supply~~ supplies under our protection and under our noses, military and subversive groups openly dedicated to join the Japanese attack should such an attack ever break on our shores.

The reason for the shameful, the fantastic situation, can be laid directly at the door of Administration bungling, confusion, irresolution and ever-day plain idiocy. Townsend's testimony, not yet contradicted and obviously well borne out by the facts, brought out that there was no central authority that would or could assume responsibility. The War Department, the Department of Justice, the Indian Service, the War Relocation Authority, all shied away from the simple job of taking command and sternly repressing the insolent threats and actions of the Japanese "PRISONERS."

That job still remains to be done. In the meantime, Americans at home will be wondering whether they might not have to take care of a ~~second~~ second front in our own backyard, if the Federal Government has neither the intelligence nor gumption to ~~xxxx~~ clean up the unbelievable mess at Poston.

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