

# WRA Deny Japanese In Riot

Eyewitness allegations that 100 Americans, including Dillon Myer, National Director of the War Relocation Authority, were held prisoners for four hours Monday at the Tule Lake Japanese Relocation Center were circulated today, but the WRA continued to maintain that only "minor trouble" occurred at the camp.

The Klamath Falls, Ore., News and Herald printed interviews with persons who claimed to be at the Center when 5000 to 8000 Japanese, some carrying knives and clubs, laid siege to the Tule Lake administration building, where Myer was conferring with a committee representing striking harvest workers.

N. C. Wilkinson, rancher at Tule Lake, told the News and Herald he had gone to the Center Monday to bid on a construction job. He asserted the trouble started about 1 p. m. when most of the adult Japanese males in the camp moved on the administration building.

"I tried to back out and some members of the crowd threatened to overturn my car," a News and Herald staff member quoted Wilkinson as saying.

Wilkinson said he hurried into the administration building and found approximately 100 other Americans. He told the paper that while he was inside the Japanese broke a headlight on his car and also burned sections of the inside with a cigarette lighter.

"One Jap leaned his head in a window and asked me if I'd take a dime for my life," Wilkinson was quoted.

Another eye-witness told the News and Herald that he saw

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Army trucks and tanks "warming up" outside the center and that the Japanese "blocked roads inside with colony trucks."

Wilkinson spoke at a meeting of the Tule Lake Civilian Defense Council last night, which also was attended by American Legion representatives from Klamath Falls, approximately 35 miles away.

## ASK ARMY PROBE

The meeting passed a resolution calling on the Army to investigate the center, charging that the WRA was "unable to handle" the situation.

WRA spokesmen here said the only major incident was an attack on Dr. Reece Pedico, head of the center's medical staff, by two young Japanese.

The Klamath Falls report said Pedico, 62, was "beaten by at least a half-dozen Japanese."

The WRA said Pedico "gave a very good account of himself" and that the fight was broken up by other Japanese.

The WRA also said that its representatives at the center had asserted the eye witnesses "must have been seeing ghosts."

The agency asserted the Army "warmed up tanks every day" and that officials at the center "didn't see any knives or clubs" in the hands of the Japanese.

The WRA yesterday branded report as "inspired by Nazi agents."

## CITIZENS ALARMED

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore., Nov. 3 (U.P.)—Citizens of this area, alarmed over disturbances at the Tule Lake Japanese Relocation Center, have appealed to Government authorities for protection, Clark Fensler, head of the Civilian Defense Council, revealed today.

The appeal, made after a meeting last night of the Tule Lake Defense Council and American Legion members, sought protection from the California State Defense Director, Gov. Earl Warren of California, the national commander of the American Legion, Congressional representatives and of the Western Defense Command, Fensler said.

He said he was informed that the War Department has begun an investigation of the purported rioting. The area, a large agricultural district, is populated largely by veterans of World War I.