

Chronicle Nov 4

# Revolt at Tulelake

## Crop Workers Blamed for Riots; Honolulu Japanese Led the Mob

Recalcitrant Japanese at the Tulelake Segregation Camp for Japanese who objected to raising crops to feed other Japanese disloyal to the United States were blamed yesterday for Monday's revolt at the relocation center.

Robert Cozzens, regional director of the War Relocation Authority, asserted in a press conference at his office that the revolt was led by a Dr. Kai of Honolulu, who later succeeded in disbanding the mob by telling the Japanese, in their own language:

"You must give your all for Japan. Take off your hats, bow your heads and go home."

About two-thirds of the mob left immediately, Cozzens said.

### 4000 IN MOB

Before this, however, between 3500 and 4000 Japanese milled around the Administration building while Caucasian employes and officials were inside.

(An Associated Press story from Klamath Falls, Or., said the employes were so frightened that some of them wrote their wills while being held.)

Meanwhile, a committee of 17 Japanese went into the Administration building, Cozzens related, for a presentation of grievances and while the conference was in progress there came a telephone message that Dr. Reese Pedicord, camp physician, had been attacked in the nearby camp hospital.

Willard Schmidt, an employe, escorted by three Japanese, was dispatched to the hospital, returning with a report that Dr. Pedicord had suffered a black eye and bruises at the hands of a group of internees.

### PLANS GONE WRONG

"The committee was frustrated at this news—apparently some of their plans had gone wrong," Cozzens said.

"The committee presented a number of demands and was told by Dillon Myers (national director of WRA) that we would not submit to any demands.

"They then put it on a grievance basis and complained that we were only spending 17 cents a day per person for food, whereas we actually spend 30 cents a day. They wanted the streets oiled to keep the dust down, and a change in personnel," Cozzens said.

Myer and Ray Best, camp director, then went out and spoke to the Japanese, Cozzens said. Their remarks, aimed at placating the crowd, was translated into Japanese by an interpreter and were "applauded," Cozzens reported. Then the Buddhist priest exhorted the internees in his own language and the crowd gradually dwindled away.

### FOUR RESIGNATIONS

Four employes, including the fire chief, Cozzens said, have resigned and there may be others who have left without the formality of resigning.

The director sought to make peace with newspapermen, who had been informed earlier by his office that there was no trouble Monday at Tulelake. He offered the excuse that the situation was so tense and complicated he couldn't have explained the revolt with any accuracy.

Asked why the Army was not called in, he said the situation was "too dangerous."

"In that crowd were women and children," he said. "It was apparent that the ringleaders were trying to create an incident. Had the Army been called in, and had the mob got out of control, the use of tanks and other weapons might have resulted in tragedy to a great number of persons."

### JAPANESE REPRISALS

He intimated that reprisals to Americans held by the Japanese

would have been an inevitable result of such action.

One consequence of the incident was a decision to transfer the Caucasian hospital staff and substitute seven doctors and 25 nurses of Japanese origin who are confined to the camp. They will be supervised by a WRA official, Cozzens said.

The regional director said he saw no knives or clubs displayed during the revolt "but it was apparent that if anyone had tried to leave the building he or she would have been shoved back in."

### CAMP DIRECTOR

Camp Director Best was quoted last night in a United Press story from Tulelake as declaring:

"I will never permit another demonstration like Monday's."

But the story added he admitted he was powerless to stop one if another occurs.

"I am not going to create an incident if it is within my power to stop it," he was quoted. "They approach me every day to try to get under my skin. It's a reverse game of cat and mouse but I won't let them to inflame me."

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