

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
War Relocation Authority
Tule Lake Center
Newell, California

June 2, 1944

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Willard E. Schmidt
Chief of Police

FROM: Harry L. Black
Assistant Project Director

SUBJECT: Disorders in Block #54

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide some of the background considerations pertinent to the disorders in Block #54 which have involved the detention in the stockade of 12 evacuees of the block or neighboring blocks.

It has been pointed out in some of the statements of evacuees now on file in the dockets of the Police Department that the friction between factions and individuals in Block #54 goes back to the issue of "status quo"; and that some of the arguments which have taken place between residents have been over the issue of status quo.

However, the single prominent issue in the block, according to statements of adherents of both factions, concerns the operation of the Japanese Language Schools; and the only relation that is apparent between the Block #54 friction and the "status quo" issue of last November and December is found in the fact that there is the same division among residents on the question, namely, that the violently active proponents of the Japanese Language Schools (and incidentally the opponents of the Center School) is the same group which violently supported the "status quo" issue in the former center-wide friction (and incidentally were the opponents of the Administration program in fomenting a disruptive work stoppage.) There is evidence that the politically active group in the latter case pursue the same violent terroristic tactics to impose their will upon their neighbors who ask nothing more than to be permitted to live peacefully and without interference.

Specifically the evidence shows that the members of the disorderly group have made use of the following tactics to impose their will on others:

1. Presented to the administration a petition making the request (in terms paramount to a demand) that other residents of the block be removed to other quarters outside the block within 48 hours.
2. Warned other residents to move outside the block within 48 hours under threat of bodily harm.
3. Coerced other residents to sign petitions against their will.
4. Five leaders detained a resident in the ironing room of the block and threatened to hold him prisoner until he agreed with them.
5. Coerced residents against their will to withdraw their children from Center School and have them attend Japanese Language School full time.
6. Coerced residents against their will to require children and youths to participate in early morning physical exercises.
7. Forced residents in their disfavor to eat in a separate section of the mess hall.
8. Subjected residents to gross insults and embarrassments, jeppardizing their mental health.
9. Uttered threats of death and bodily harm to residents and their relatives and friends.
10. Established and carried on Japanese Language school classes in conflict with the classes of the Center School, after they assured the administration that they would not do such.
11. Deliberately changed the schedule of Japanese language school classes to make it impossible for children to attend both the Center School and the Japanese language school.
12. Appropriated recreation halls, ironing rooms and other project facilities for the use of Japanese language school classes without proper authorization.
13. Intimidated workmen of the construction crews who were sent to install partitions in some recreation halls so that these recreation halls might be used for the housing of incoming segregees.
14. Interfered with the work of the Community Activities Section by the stoppage of dances, athletic contests and parties and by interference with participation in athletics and motion picture shows.

Two items of information have come to Mr. Harkness and Mr. Gunderson from various evacuee sources which indicate the possible plans of the trouble-making language school leadership:

1. Persons who wish to keep their identity anonymous have reported that it is the intention of the leaders of language school activity to exercise pressure throughout the colony on parents to withdraw their children from enrollment in the Center School to the point where it would be uneconomical to make use of the present school plant for the small number of pupils in attendance. Then the heads of the Japanese language school would point out that only a few pupils attended the Center School while thousands were attending the language schools and demand that the Center School plant be turned over to the Japanese language schools.
2. It has likewise been reported from several anonymous sources that the present pattern of friction, coercion, threats and intimidations in Block #54 is merely a test case; and if the trouble making leaders of language school activities in Block #54 are successful in their campaign, the same program will be carried out in other blocks, and the more or less passive residents throughout the Center will be required to conform to the nationalistic language school program.

We come to the following conclusions:

1. That the friction is instigated by a minority strong-arm group.
2. That the present language school issue is a tool of the disruptive forces in the same manner as the "status quo" was the tool in November, December and January situation.
3. That the activities and attitudes of minority strong-arm leaders is disruptive of phases of project operation for which WRA is responsible.
4. That the Project Director is justified in taking disciplinary action through the medium of the stockade, the Fact-Finding Committee and the Police Department in the same fashion as with others whose actions and attitudes have disrupted other phases of project operation.
5. That the disciplinary action set forth under Item 4 above is in conformity with the policy statement.

Harry L. Black
Assistant Project Director

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
TULE LAKE CENTER
NEWELL, CALIFORNIA

March 30, 1944

ADMINISTRATION OF JAPANESE LANGUAGE SCHOOLS AT TULE LAKE CENTER

- I. CENTER SCHOOLS. The administrative manual and the policy for the operation of Tule Lake Segregation Center provide that Center Schools shall be conducted for the benefit of children of evacuee families. The cost of operating the Center Schools is the responsibility of the War Relocation Authority.
- II. JAPANESE LANGUAGE SCHOOLS. The administrative Manual and the policy for the operation of the Tule Lake Segregation Center also provide that Japanese Language Schools may be operated by the evacuees if they so desire. This authorization is subject to two restrictions:
- A. The expense of establishing, operating and maintaining the Japanese Language Schools shall be entirely the responsibility of evacuees. The War Relocation Authority is specifically prohibited from incurring any expense on the part of the government for the operation of such schools.
- B. Classes of the Japanese Language Schools may not be held in conflict with classes of the Center Schools.
- III. OPTION OF ATTENDANCE AT CENTER SCHOOLS. The administrative manual and the policy for the operation of Tule Lake Segregation Center provide that attendance shall not be compulsory either in the Center Schools or in the Japanese Language Schools.
- IV. BOARD OF EDUCATION. It is understood that the people of the Center have elected a Board of Education of the Japanese Language Schools composed of the following representatives:
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|-------------|--|
| Ward I | Sanaye Ikeda (President, Jisabura Fujino |
| Ward II | Tadayoshi Ishida, Ainosuke Nakino |
| Ward III | Rinzo Kiyohara, Masaaki Kawasaki |
| Ward IV | Yasunosuke Myamoto, Iwao Matsumoto |
| Ward V | Junichi Nimura, Kiyoshi Kinoshita |
| Ward VI | Yasushi Shinohara, Isamu Tanisaka, Kaichi Sano |
| Ward VII | Masazumi Adachi, Shigeru Uyenaka |
| Ward VIII | Kakudo Ohashi, Kinzo Wakayama |
| Exec. Sec't | Shigeru Yamamoto |

V. RECOGNITION. The above Board of Education of the Japanese Language Schools is hereby recognized by the Project Director as a body to assume responsibility for the direction and supervision of the Japanese Language Schools, and for the coordination of the activities of the Japanese Language with those of the Center Schools.

VI. POLICIES AND PRACTICES. By agreement between the Superintendent of the Center Schools and the Board of Education of the Japanese Language Schools, the duties and powers of the Board of Education are hereby defined.

- A. The present Board of Education shall make arrangements for a new election at the close of the terms of the respective members, and shall supervise the election in any district when it may be necessary to fill a vacancy.
- B. It is understood that the War Relocation Authority will not be responsible for any obligations incurred by the Board of Education, nor for the payment of any salaries of its employees or of members of the Board itself.
- C. The Board of Education may employ an Executive Secretary if it so desires. It shall be the privilege of the Board to establish Japanese Language Schools. The Board therefore will be responsible for the acts of its teachers and the content of its curriculum.
- D. Attendance in the Japanese Language Schools or in the Center Schools will not be compulsory, and under no circumstances will pupils who are enrolled in both schools be enrolled for more than a three-hour period in any half-day. Pupils of the elementary grades may not attend a Japanese Language School or a Center School in the afternoon if they have attended it in the morning and visa versa; except, that if parents wish to have their children attend the Japanese Language School or the Center School for a full day, they will be allowed to do so by presenting a written request to the Superintendent of Center Schools, who shall grant the permit.
- E. The Board of Education assumes the responsibility to file in the office of the Superintendent of Center Schools a list of the Japanese Language Schools, giving their location and the names of their teachers and principals.
- F. The Board of Education assumes the responsibility to have in its office at 4608-B the following information:
 - 1. Number of pupils enrolled in each school.
 - 2. Names of pupils.
 - 3. Attendance records of pupils of 18 years of age or under.

- G. Minutes of all meetings of the Board of Education shall be kept on file in its office and open to inspection.
- H. The superintendent of the Center Schools and his staff shall be available to consult with the Board of Education on educational problems and other matters of common interest. Mutual helpfulness is intended to be the keynote of the relationship between the staff of the Center Schools and the Board of Education and the teaching staffs of the Japanese Language Schools.

R. R. Best
Project Director

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
War Relocation Authority
Tule Lake Center
Newell, California

May 18, 1944

There seems to be some confusion in the minds of the parents and students regarding the directive from R. R. Best, Project Director, of March 30, 1944, relative to the permission granted students to attend either the Japanese Language Schools or the American School for a full day.

Parents were asked to make a request in writing to the Director of Education if they desired this permission. In cases where the parents have not applied for repatriation or expatriation this permission has been denied. Some parents and students have misinterpreted this to mean that wherever parents have applied for repatriation or expatriation, the children must attend the double session of the Japanese Language Schools and are not eligible to attend the American School, or that if parents have not requested repatriation or expatriation, the students must attend the American School. Both of these ideas are erroneous.

Education is not compulsory. However, if a student is attending a double session of Japanese Language Schools, it is compulsory that he first be given a permit to attend. Those attending without such permit are violating the directive of the Project Director, and the principals of the Japanese Language Schools who are permitting such students to attend without such permit are likewise disregarding this same directive.

If the request of the parents has been denied because the project records do not show that they have applied for repatriation or expatriation, and the parents have a letter from the Project or the Spanish Consul, stating that they have requested repatriation or expatriation, on presentation of this letter to the director of education, permit will be granted for the children to attend a double session of the Japanese Language Schools.

(Prepared as a public announcement by Mr. Harkness, Superintendent of Schools, and submitted for approval. It was not approved for publication by the Project Director.)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
War Relocation Authority
Tule Lake Center
Newell, California

May 21, 1944

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Kenneth M. Harkness
Superintendent of Schools

FROM: Mr. Harry L. Black
Chief, Community Management

This is in reference to your memo of May 18, referring to operations of the Japanese Language Schools and the Administration policy concerning them.

The Project Director's memorandum of March 30, 1944, was intended to outline a working agreement between the Administration and the Japanese Language Board of Education. It was intended, furthermore, to assist the Japanese Language School Board of Education by the Administration's recognition of the Board of the Board as the colony representative body in charge of Japanese Language Schools activity to assume a definite responsibility and authority to conduct all Japanese Language school activity on an organized basis. It was contemplated that the Board would be willing and able to bring all Japanese Language Schools within its jurisdiction and that the whole program of education in the Japanese Language Schools would be subject to a plan of organization devised by the Board.

It now appears that the Japanese Language School Board of Education has been neither willing nor able to devise a plan whereby the schools are operated on any organized plan. For example:

1. Schools are in operation entirely independent of the Board and which do not recognize even the existence of the Board.
2. Schools operate under varying conditions in various wards, without consistency as to curriculum or administration.
3. Tuition charges vary from school to school.
4. The Board as a body exercises no real jurisdiction over ward schools which have representatives on the Board. Thus we have a collection of Ward Schools, all operating independently, instead of a center-wide school system operating under a Center School Board.

5. So far as the Administration has been advised, no plans have been made by the Board for the elections of new members or to fill vacancies which might occur.

6. The Board has been unable to provide for the Superintendent of Schools information as to the number of schools, the number of pupils enrolled in each school, the names of the pupils, or any attendance records.

7. The Board is unable to provide any reliable information to give assurance that Japanese Language School classes do not operate in conflict with classes of the Center Schools.

8. Either with or without the knowledge and approval of the Board, a considerable illegal pressure is exercised on children and parents to influence attendance or non-attendance at Center Schools.

9. The provisions of the Project Director's memorandum of March 30 were developed by Mr. Gunderson in repeated conferences with the Japanese Language School Board. Its context was modified many times to conform to the wishes of the Board. It was published in its final form after the draft had received approval of the Board although members of the Board did not sign any statement that the memorandum represented an agreement and understanding between the Board and the Administration, the several conferences left no room for doubt that the Project Director's memorandum definitely embodied an operating agreement.

In view of the inability or the unwillingness of the Board to observe the provisions of the memorandum, and in view of the failure of the Board to establish jurisdiction over the Japanese Language Schools, it is now proposed that the memorandum be rescinded and all of its provisions nullified.

The Administration would then pursue the following policy:

1. Extend no form of recognition to the Japanese Language Schools or to any groups who assumed to be spokesmen for them.

2. To operate the Center School system for the benefit of pupils who are enrolled on a voluntary basis.

3. Take whatever measures are necessary to see that language school classes do not conflict with Center School classes.

4. Assume no obligation to permit language schools to be operated in recreation halls, ironing rooms, or other project facilities.

5. Continue the policy already established that no Japanese language School classes shall be held in any classroom or other facility provided for the use of the Center Schools.

6. Continue the policy already established that no materials, supplies or equipment provided by WRA for the Center Schools shall be available for the Japanese language schools.

7. Require persons who have use and custody of mimeograph and other duplicating equipment to register such equipment with the Police Department and assume responsibility for its proper use.

Harry L. Black
Chief, Community Management

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WASHINGTON, D. C.

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Mr. Willard E. Schmidt
Department of the Interior
War Relocation Authority
Chief, Administrative Police
Tule Lake Center
Newell, California

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