



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY COMMAND
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY OFFICE
FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND 20755-5995

July 23, 1990

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:
FOI/Privacy Office

Mr. Michi Weglyn
957 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10028

Dear Mr. Weglyn:

This is in response to your March 22, 1988 letter, to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), requesting records pertaining to the Japanese American Citizens League, under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), Title 5 U.S. Code 552. The FBI, on July 6, 1990, forwarded your letter with Army-originated records, retrieved from their files, to this office for a decision as to the releasability of the information to you. This correspondence was received on July 12, 1990.

We have reviewed the information in the Army records and have determined it is releasable to you. A copy is enclosed for your use (Enclosure 1). Duplication fees of \$2.25 are waived.

We have been informed by the FBI that the information, highlighted in black, has been deleted to protect the identity of Special Agents of the FBI pursuant to Title 5 U.S. Code 552 (b)(7)(C) of the FOIA.

The withholding of the information by the FBI constitutes a partial denial of your request and you have the right to appeal this decision to the Assistant Attorney General. If you decide to file an appeal you have 30 days from receipt of this letter to appeal to the Assistant Attorney General. Appeals should be in writing to the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legal Policy, ATTN: Office of Information and Privacy, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC 20530. The envelope and the letter should be marked "Freedom of Information Appeal" or "Information Appeal".

If you have any questions regarding our action pertaining to the Army-originated information, please feel free to contact this office at any time. Please refer to case #956F-90.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Walsh, Jr.
Chief
Freedom of Information/Privacy Office

Enclosure

Copy Furnished:
FBI FOIPA BR (Request 296, 866)

February 9, 1942
(Date)

Subject: ⁰ JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

Summary of Information:

It is reported that the Kibei Society, which was recently merged into the Japanese American Citizens League, has voluntarily dropped out of the League. However, the Kibei leaders have been retained and are now entrusted with more responsible positions in the League.

It is believed that if the above information is true, the Japanese American Citizens League will be more dangerous than ever before.

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ON 20 JUL 1990
BY CDR.USAINSCOM FCW/PO
AUTH Para 1-603 DCD 5200.1R

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Questionable	_____
Undetermined	<u>X</u>

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WAR DEPARTMENT
Military Intelligence Service
Washington

JAN 8 1943

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Carson
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Hendon
- Mr. Kramer
- Mr. McGuire

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Subject: Letter of Transmittal.
To: Lt. Col. J. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice

The attached communications are forwarded for your information and such action as you consider advisable.

For the Chief, Military Intelligence Service:

J. T. Bissell
J. T. BISSELL

Colonel, General Staff,
Asst. Executive Officer, M. I. S.

Enclosures:

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WID 095
Japanese-American
Citizens' League,
1/4/43 (12/17/42)

WAR DEPARTMENT
M. I. D.

MIS/CI
JFP

January 4, 1942.
(Date)

Subject: Japanese American Citizens' League

Summary of Information:

The following information has been received which reflects the prevailing sentiment among delegates from relocation centers and free-zone chapters, as well as national officers, who attended the meeting of the Japanese-American Citizens' League (JACL), held in Salt Lake City, November 17 to 23, 1942. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the problems of the relocation centers, the matter of resettlement of evacuees, War Relocation Authority Policy, and JACL organization, problems and policy.

The JACL is allegedly in complete accord with the future policy of the WRA, which policy is to be one of resettlement of Japanese throughout the inland area of the U. S. as rapidly as possible without concentrating any sizeable group in any one community or building up permanent relocation centers. This is the original policy of the Army which could not be carried out due to political pressure from the various states, however, the WRA believes it is politically practicable to initiate such a program at this time, on the condition that care be exercised not to concentrate many Japanese in any area and that provisions are made for the evacuees to have jobs awaiting when they arrive at their destinations. It is believed this policy simplifies many problems of the relocation centers since they will be temporary affairs.

To assist in this resettlement program and to gain public acceptance of the evacuees in various communities, the JACL proposes to carry out a careful public relations policy, however, such activity on the part of this organization will be limited due to lack of funds.

One of the outstanding problems at the present time is the fact that a sizeable criminal element, disloyal Japanese, and agitators are intermingled with the loyal groups, as reflected by reports from

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ENCLOSURE

nearly all centers indicating that pro-Japanese agitators are spreading Jap propaganda in the centers and causing strikes, riots and other trouble; that gangsters terrorize loyal groups; and that the criminal element, including professional gamblers, operate quite openly in the centers. The opinion of the delegates concerning the cause for this condition is the failure of WRA officials to support the Japanese - American police and loyal Japanese - American officials in the relocation centers, and their refusal to severely penalize the trouble makers, plus the fact that the project directors and their assistants are largely social workers with no practical experience in government and policing. They know nothing about Japanese, and cannot discriminate between loyal and disloyal, thereby enabling the criminal and disloyal elements to intimidate the law-abiding and peaceable group and the internal police organization. Another difficulty is the lack of liaison other than the Administrative Staff between the internal police and the FBI or Military Police, and reports invariably leak back into the center about any informant, subjecting him to threats, intimidation and even beatings of himself and his family.

The convergent trend of opinion apparently was that the plan of action of the pro-Japanese agitators and disloyal element in the centers is to attempt to cause trouble, strikes and riots and get the camps into such an uproar that troops will have to be called in, thus affording the Japanese Government the opportunity to claim that American troops are being used to suppress and abuse the Japanese in the centers. Arguments in the centers are to the effect that concentration camps would be superior to relocation centers as the people would be as well treated and wouldn't have to work as they do now.

One item of Japanese Government propaganda noted circulating in the camps, and believed by some of the ignorant, is that all Japanese in the United States who remain loyal to Japan will receive 10,000 yen when the Japanese win the war.

One delegate, a member of a center police force, warned the other delegates that disloyal Japanese groups in the other relocation centers, were planning to cause strikes and trouble similar to that occurring in Poston Unit One, and advised them to take precautionary measures upon their return home to prevent such trouble. It is believed that the difficulty at Poston Unit One was due to the fact that most of one of the largest trouble making groups were sent to that unit.

The delegates were of the opinion that most of the Nisei are loyal, or at the worst passive, but there is a fairly large disloyal group in the relocation centers, the outspoken element of which is predominantly Kibei, or Issei without families or with families residing in Japan. A large proportion of the Japanese are passive with no apparent opinion one way or another and many Nisei are so disgruntled over the loss of their citizenship rights and confinement in a resettlement

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center, that it is difficult to judge what their loyalties may be. However, the delegates believe that in general the Issei with sons in the U. S. Army are quite loyal.

The delegates at the JACL meeting unanimously passed a resolution advocating the application of selective service to Japanese Americans on the same basis as other citizens.

Regarding the loyalty of JACL members, it is reported that all members take an oath of allegiance to this country which contains a repudiation of allegiance to any other country. The policy of the organization is completely loyal and in support of the war effort, although there may be some of the local chapter membership which is of questionable loyalty. The national officers seem to be an unusually competent group of men and appear to be loyal and patriotic. The JACL provides a valuable means of obtaining information regarding Japanese propaganda and activities in the centers and the most effective means of combatting same.

Concerning the attitude of the JACL with reference to Negro organizations and Communists, it is stated that the organization refuses to affiliate with these elements.

Subject organization is not extensive and present finances comprise \$31,600, including both pledges and cash on hand, which is to be used during the coming year. The maximum budget hoped for is \$50,000, which goal probably will not be achieved.

Because of their policy of cooperating in the evacuation of the Japanese from the West Coast, JACL leaders have been criticized by many in the centers on the basis of two views: either that evacuation was unnecessary and should have been fought, or that there was too much cooperation and the evacuation should have been resisted enough to slow it down and obtain a better deal. Much of this criticism is based on resentment at the evacuees' hardships, while a great deal of it is merely expression of unreasoning resentment. The attitude of the JACL leaders is that its members voluntarily cooperated in a move that was thought to be a military necessity at the time, although some of the leaders knew that the Army had a second, non-voluntary plan of evacuation ready for use.

A large percentage of the internees are reported to be Buddhists. The Buddhist Churches are also in financial difficulties as they have no outside assistance, and since the WRA cannot pay priests, they must work for their living, leaving them little time for their work as priests, while Christian Ministers, supported by Christian churches

outside, can devote their full time to their work. A Protestant church organization, the Committee for American - Japanese Resettlement of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America and the Home Missions Council of North America, whose national director is George E. Rundquist, NYC, is furnishing most of the money for student relocation.

Myer, Director of WRA, has done a good job of protecting the Japanese from exploitation by excluding most organizations and individuals from the relocation centers. Many crackpots and others desiring to exploit the Japanese attempt to get into the centers and governors of six western states petitioned that the Japanese be sent into the best fields, regimented, and paid \$16 a month, however, Myer stopped this plan.

Reports of Delegates regarding Project Directors at various centers:

Lower Arkansas: The project director, TAYLOR, is sympathetic but young and inexperienced. He is trying to direct two centers with the result that he must leave much of the direction to the assistant directors. The assistant director at this center, ELTON, who runs the project was a truck driver, but is capable. The directors need prodding but are cooperative.

Upper Arkansas: The directors are not acquainted with the Japanese people. Southerners running the project could not understand western speed in talking. They are very slow in getting things done. They need some western speed and a western man in the director's office.

Minadoka, Idaho: Only recently moved into this project and do not know very much about the director. He has two sons in the Army, one of whom has been wounded. SHAEFFER, his assistant, is a humanitarian.

Manzanar, California: This project has had four directors. HASE, the second director, treated them like Indians. He made promises that were not kept. He was not popular. COVERLY was a nice fellow who understood their problems, had vision and understood the Japanese psychology better than the average. KIMBALL, the present director, is trying to help the Japanese. There is a wave of hoodlumism at present, but he is trying to stamp it out.

Sale Lake, California: This project has the oldest director in point of service. They started off with an unpleasant relation. Then the OWI came in to get information to combat Japanese propaganda about the treatment in the centers. The older Japanese refused to cooperate. The younger ones had to take over, and since then have been running things.

Tule Lake was originally homesteaded by veterans of the last war. They are hostile to the Japanese. Newspapers in the area are hostile. The manager is under fire. He is sincere. Perhaps he is too lenient. However, it is doubtful if there is a better manager.

The people in the centers can't be informers because of danger to their families. The disloyal and criminal element must be ferreted out by Caucasian personnel. Practically all of the pro-Japanese element that is agitating in the camps were no-accounts on the outside. No responsible persons have done any pro-Japanese agitating.

Heart Mountain, Wyoming: The director here is a former Forest Service man. He gets along well with all concerned. He meets regularly with the center council. However he will be leaving soon and the project is concerned as to who his successor will be. The Assistant director has some unfortunate views on the Issei, Nisei, relationship. He was inept in handling the police strike that occurred there a short time back. The Heart Mountain staff was not acquainted with Japanese but they are learning and doing very well.

Granada, Colorado: The project manager is weak on understanding of the Japanese. His health is bad. He spends only part of his time on the project. The assistant director is better known. He has had no great experience in handling large groups. He is too old and not aggressive.

Granada, Colorado: LINDLEY, the director, is a southerner. He is slow in motion and talk. Most of the staff are all right. Two are not sympathetic with the Japanese. One of these is supervisor of the garage, and he is a very inefficient man. The assistant director knows more about the project than anyone else.

Poston, Arizona: The Poston camp is the only one under the Indian Service. The Director uses the community council as his advisor and takes their advice. He fires the men in his organization they disapprove of. He is somewhat lax on discipline in the center and does not back up the internal police as he should.

Topaz, Utah: This project has an experienced director who knows the Japanese people. He is a humble man. He appeals to the public. He appears to try his best. He recognizes self-government and meets with the people. He gets good cooperation. The Nisei took the initiative from the beginning in this camp and there has been no trouble with the Issei.

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Sila River, Arizona: This project has had one director and three acting directors. The director resigned because of army control of the project and the fact he was not given a free hand. The people had better relations with the superintendent at the Fulare Assembly Center than they have had with the administration of the center.

Delegates report there is a color problem in the centers, there being a difference in quarters and meals. Whereas the Caucasians have painted houses, the Japanese have tarpapered barracks and are not allowed to enter Caucasian eating places unless accompanied by a Caucasian.

There is a need for a more specific policy by WRA for the guidance of project directors who should be more permanent to learn to know the people and their problems; there is need for closer contact between the administration and the internees; more delegation of authority to evacuee leaders in internal matters; more self-government. Delay in paying wages and giving clothing allowances affords the agitators excuses to cause trouble.

A. L. Wirin, Los Angeles representative of the American Civil Liberties Union, spoke on the subject of "General Japanese-American Problems," in which he discussed an unsuccessful suit promoted by U. S. Webb to take away citizenship of Japanese Americans. The Sons and Daughters of the Golden West and the California American Legion are appealing the case, defense of which is being handled by Lawyers' Guild and the Northern California Civil Liberties Union.

Dean Robert W. O'Brien, University of Washington, Director of the National Japanese-American Student Relocation Council stated that the Council was organized to assist in the relocation of Japanese-American students attending school on the West Coast. Whereas this fall they had only 28 schools pledged to take students, today they have over 300, and they hope to have between 500 and 1,000 students attending school next semester.

A need for Japanese language articles to educate Issei unable to read English was discussed. It was reported that some of the present Japanese language papers publish articles they should not thru the use of characters of double meaning, which only persons with a thorough knowledge of the language would catch the full importance of.

There are reportedly three Japanese language newspapers still being published in the intermountain area, one in Salt Lake City, which papers are allegedly disseminating pro-Japanese propaganda through this device of Japanese double talk.

One delegate stated that the first OWI releases were very inept and there is a need for regular newspaper releases by someone understanding the Japanese people. "OWI" on a headline makes a story look like government propaganda.

It was reported that short wave radio is exceptionally well received at the Idaho center, and that Jap propaganda is circulated in the center. Reportedly much pressure is put on internees who stress pro-American matters.

A delegate from Manzanar, who investigated reports of bad working conditions in Montana, reported that conditions were generally bad in that state. The fact that a section of the area was much better than the rest was attributed to the efforts of a better WRA representative in that territory. He reported that Frank Regan failed badly in his job as WRA representative in the area where there was so much trouble—housing was inadequate; contracts were not carried out and there was considerable misrepresentation in them; and there was some coercion by sugar company officials. Western Montana was reported to be unsuitable for Japanese-American labor because of the attitude of the residents.

It is reported that workers employed outside but living in the center must give all earnings beyond their basic wage of \$19 to a community trust fund, however, there is some doubt as to the status of these evacuee trust funds, and who they belong to or how they may be expended is a matter of dispute. Tule Lake is allegedly planning a producers cooperative to collect and disburse profits from various community enterprises.

It was reported by delegates that there is a strong element, particularly the Kibei and pro-Japanese, who are opposing the JACL in the centers. The "Pacific Citizen", edited by Larry Tajiri and his wife, has been published in Salt Lake City for approximately six months. It depends on the JACL for financial support and its alleged purpose is to represent JACL to the general public and educate and supply information to Japanese-Americans. Its editorial policy is determined by whether or not subject matter is in the best interests of the people in the centers and of the war effort—if it is the Pacific Citizen will support it.

National Officers of the JACL:

President: SABURO KIDO, Poston Relocation Center, Arizona, Formerly an attorney practicing in San Francisco.

Exec. Sec'y: MIKE NARAOKA, Salt Lake City, Utah, formerly a university student in Salt Lake City.

Exec. Asst.: GEORGE INAGAKI

Treasurer: HITO OKADA

Addresses:

JACL National headquarters--Bacon Building, Salt Lake City.

JACL, Washington, D. C. -- P. O. Box #1721; telegraph address --
1509 - 22nd St., N. W.; telephone -- DEcatur 4336.

New York City--545 West 111 Street, Apt. 5-D.

Chicago--c/o American Friends Service Committee, 189 W. Madison St.

Philadelphia--c/o Robert O'Brien, 1201 Chestnut St., Philadelphia.

It is informant's opinion that the national officials of
the JACL are loyal and reliable individuals, such opinion being based
on observance of these persons at this meeting.

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ON 20 JUL 1990
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WAR DEPARTMENT

MIL 201
McCoy, Commander Melvin

M. I. D.

CI/EVAL

JF



Handwritten signatures and initials, including 'H-44' and a large scribble.

4 April 1944
(Date)

Subject: Commander Melvin McCoy; Alleged Statements Concerning Japanese-American Soldiers in Italy.

Summary of Information:

The 25 March 1944 issue of the "Pacific Citizen," official publication of the Japanese American Citizens' League, contained a leading article which alleged that Commander Melvin McCoy, United States Navy, in a newspaper interview in San Francisco, California, 18 March 1944, stated that the Japanese were fighting "a race war" and inferred that Japanese-American soldiers in Italy were similarly fighting "a race war against the Germans because they are whites." His specific statement is quoted as follows: "They are killing white men. They would just as soon be killing Germans as other white men." Commander McCoy is also alleged to have stated in the course of the interview that "every Japanese-American should be shipped back to Japan after the war." The article stated that a high Navy Department official reportedly told a representative of the "Pacific Citizen" that Commander McCoy's slur against the loyalty of the Japanese-Americans would not "reflect the opinion or the views of the Navy Department."

Commander McCoy's remarks are said to have received comment in this particular issue of the "Pacific Citizen" in the column of Bill Hosokawa, under the heading of "A Hero of Bataan Joins the Coast's Bigots." His remarks included the fact that McCoy's words as they stand are an affront to the uniform of the United States armed forces, as well as to Nisei soldiers, many of whom have paid the supreme sacrifice in defense of their country. Further statements were to the effect that McCoy is entitled to his personal views, but when he makes uninformed charges, highly damaging to the American cause, and from the position of an officer of the armed forces, nothing less than official disavowal of his words is sufficient to right the wrong thus perpetrated.

McCoy has recently received considerable publicity as a national hero who lead nine other Americans in their escape from a Japanese prison camp in the Philippines. He is also reported to have been broadcast

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a message to the Philippines thanking his friends in the Islands for their help in assisting him to escape. It is reported that the objections voiced by Mr. Hosokawa are well-founded and that Commander McCoy has unthinkingly committed what amounts to sabotage of the Army's effort to maintain the morale of its Nisei combat units.

An informant, said to be reliable, who was acquainted with Commander McCoy in the Philippines prior to the war, stated his opinion is that McCoy has an unbalanced type of mentality.

The opinion has been expressed that several recently reported incidents of inadvisable utterances on the part of returned heroes, who have escaped from Japanese-occupied territory, point to the advisability of some strong and definite policy on the part of the War and Navy Departments for the prohibition, or at least, the official discouragement of such careless talk. Opinion was further expressed to the effect that there are definite indications that such utterances in the past have resulted in the execution by the Japanese of individuals suspected of complicity in such escapes or even the execution of innocent individuals, merely as an object lesson to discourage any help to other escaping American prisoners.

It has been suggested that if a statement could be publicized by some higher ranking officials of the Army and Navy, the newspaper editors and heads of broadcasting companies would be willing to cooperate, as a patriotic gesture, in the suppression of such statements.

Insofar as personnel of the Army are concerned, it is reported that comment concerning their experiences in Japanese imprisonment and escape therefrom is prohibited by a direct order of General Marshall. The control of civilians, however, was said to be more difficult, although it is possible that an official warning might have some temporary value. The policy of the Navy in this respect was said to be unknown.

Further information received states that the Japanese-edited newspaper within the Heart Mountain Relocation Center assailed Commander McCoy's assertion that Japanese-American soldiers in the United States Army in Italy enjoyed killing the Germans "because they were white men."

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February 9, 1942
(Date)

Subject: ⁰ JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

Summary of Information:

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- Mr. Tolson
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- Mr. Ladd
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- Mr. Carson
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- Mr. McGuire
- Mr. Quinn
- Mr. Nease
- Miss Gandy

chf

Subject: Letter of Transmittal.

To: Lt. Col. J. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice

The attached communications are forwarded for your information and such action as you consider advisable.

For the Chief, Military Intelligence Service:

J. T. Biswell

J. T. BISSELL
Colonel, General Staff,
Asst. Executive Officer, M. I. S.

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MID 095
Japanese-American
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1/4/43 (12/17/42)

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M. I. D.

MIS/CI
JFP

January 4, 1942.
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center, that it is difficult to judge what their loyalties may be. However, the delegates believe that in general the Issei with sons in the U. S. Army are quite loyal.

The delegates at the JACL meeting unanimously passed a resolution advocating the application of selective service to Japanese Americans on the same basis as other citizens.

Regarding the loyalty of JACL members, it is reported that all members take an oath of allegiance to this country which contains a repudiation of allegiance to any other country. The policy of the organization is completely loyal and in support of the war effort, although there may be some of the local chapter membership which is of questionable loyalty. The national officers seem to be an unusually competent group of men and appear to be loyal and patriotic. The JACL provides a valuable means of obtaining information regarding Japanese propaganda and activities in the centers and the most effective means of combatting same.

Concerning the attitude of the JACL with reference to Negro organizations and Communists, it is stated that the organization refuses to affiliate with these elements.

Subject organization is not extensive and present finances comprise \$31,600, including both pledges and cash on hand, which is to be used during the coming year. The maximum budget hoped for is \$50,000, which goal probably will not be achieved.

Because of their policy of cooperating in the evacuation of the Japanese from the West Coast, JACL leaders have been criticized by many in the centers on the basis of two views: either that evacuation was unnecessary and should have been fought, or that there was too much cooperation and the evacuation should have been resisted enough to slow it down and obtain a better deal. Much of this criticism is based on resentment at the evacuees' hardships, while a great deal of it is merely expression of unreasoning resentment. The attitude of the JACL leaders is that its members voluntarily cooperated in a move that was thought to be a military necessity at the time, although some of the leaders knew that the Army had a second, non-voluntary plan of evacuation ready for use.

A large percentage of the internees are reported to be Buddhists. The Buddhist Churches are also in financial difficulties as they have no outside assistance, and since the WRA cannot pay priests, they must work for their living, leaving them little time for their work as priests, while Christian Ministers, supported by Christian churches

outside, can devote their full time to their work. A Protestant church organization, the Committee for American - Japanese Resettlement of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America and the Home Missions Council of North America, whose national director is George M. Rundquist, NYC, is furnishing most of the money for student relocation.

Myer, Director of WRA, has done a good job of protecting the Japanese from exploitation by excluding most organizations and individuals from the relocation centers. Many crackpots and others desiring to exploit the Japanese attempt to get into the centers and governors of six western states petitioned that the Japanese be sent into the best fields, regimented, and paid \$16 a month, however, Myer stopped this plan.

Reports of Delegates regarding Project Directors at various centers:

Lower Arkansas: The project director, TAYLOR, is sympathetic but young and inexperienced. He is trying to direct two centers with the result that he must leave much of the direction to the assistant directors. The assistant director at this center, ELTON, who runs the project was a truck driver, but is capable. The directors need prodding but are cooperative.

Upper Arkansas: The directors are not acquainted with the Japanese people. Southerners running the project could not understand western speed in talking. They are very slow in getting things done. They need some western speed and a western man in the director's office.

Minidoka, Idaho: Only recently moved into this project and do not know very much about the director. He has two sons in the Army, one of whom has been wounded. SHAEFFER, his assistant, is a humanitarian.

Manzanar, California: This project has had four directors. HASH, the second director, treated them like Indians. He made promises that were not kept. He was not popular. COVERLY was a nice fellow who understood their problems, had vision and understood the Japanese psychology better than the average. KIMBALL, the present director, is trying to help the Japanese. There is a wave of hoodlumism at present, but he is trying to stamp it out.

Sale Lake, California: This project has the oldest director in point of service. They started off with an unpleasant relation. Then the OWI came in to get information to combat Japanese propaganda about the treatment in the centers. The elder Japanese refused to cooperate. The younger ones had to take over, and since then have been running things.

Tule Lake was originally homesteaded by veterans of the last war. They are hostile to the Japanese. Newspapers in the area are hostile. The manager is under fire. He is sincere. Perhaps he is too lenient. However, it is doubtful if there is a better manager.

The people in the centers can't be informers because of danger to their families. The disloyal and criminal element must be ferreted out by Caucasian personnel. Practically all of the pro-Japanese element that is agitating in the camps were no-accounts on the outside. No responsible persons have done any pro-Japanese agitating.

Heart Mountain, Wyoming: The director here is a former Forest Service man. He gets along well with all concerned. He meets regularly with the center council. However he will be leaving soon and the project is concerned as to who his successor will be. The Assistant director has some unfortunate views on the Issei, Nisei, relationship. He was inept in handling the police strike that occurred there a short time back. The Heart Mountain staff was not acquainted with Japanese but they are learning and doing very well.

Granada, Colorado: The project manager is weak on understanding of the Japanese. His health is bad. He spends only part of his time on the project. The assistant director is better known. He has had no great experience in handling large groups. He is too old and not aggressive.

Granada, Colorado: LINDLEY, the director, is a southerner. He is slow in motion and talk. Most of the staff are all right. Two are not sympathetic with the Japanese. One of these is supervisor of the garage, and he is a very inefficient man. The assistant director knows more about the project than anyone else.

Poston, Arizona: The Poston camp is the only one under the Indian Service. The Director uses the community council as his advisor and takes their advice. He fires the men in his organization they disapprove of. He is somewhat lax on discipline in the center and does not back up the internal police as he should.

Topaz, Utah: This project has an experienced director who knows the Japanese people. He is a humble man. He appeals to the public. He appears to try his best. He recognizes self-government and meets with the people. He gets good cooperation. The Nisei took the initiative from the beginning in this camp and there has been no trouble with the Issei.

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Sila River, Arizona: This project has had one director and three acting directors. The director resigned because of army control of the project and the fact he was not given a free hand. The people had better relations with the superintendent at the Tulare Assembly Center than they have had with the administration of the center.

Delegates report there is a color problem in the centers, there being a difference in quarters and meals. Whereas the Caucasians have painted houses, the Japanese have tarpapered barracks and are not allowed to enter Caucasian eating places unless accompanied by a Caucasian.

There is a need for a more specific policy by WRA for the guidance of project directors who should be more permanent to learn to know the people and their problems; there is need for closer contact between the administration and the internees; more delegation of authority to evacuee leaders in internal matters; more self-government. Delay in paying wages and giving clothing allowances affords the agitators excuses to cause trouble.

A. L. Wirin, Los Angeles representative of the American Civil Liberties Union, spoke on the subject of "General Japanese-American Problems," in which he discussed an unsuccessful suit promoted by U. S. Webb to take away citizenship of Japanese Americans. The Sons and Daughters of the Golden West and the California American Legion are appealing the case, defense of which is being handled by Lawyers' Guild and the Northern California Civil Liberties Union.

Dean Robert W. O'Brien, University of Washington, Director of the National Japanese-American Student Relocation Council stated that the Council was organized to assist in the relocation of Japanese-American students attending school on the West Coast. Whereas this fall they had only 28 schools pledged to take students, today they have over 300, and they hope to have between 500 and 1,000 students attending school next semester.

A need for Japanese language articles to educate Issei unable to read English was discussed. It was reported that some of the present Japanese language papers publish articles they should not thru the use of characters of double meaning, which only persons with a thorough knowledge of the language would catch the full importance of.

There are reportedly three Japanese language newspapers still being published in the intermountain area, one in Salt Lake City, which papers are allegedly disseminating pro-Japanese propaganda through this device of Japanese double talk.

One delegate stated that the first OWI releases were very inept and there is a need for regular newspaper releases by someone understanding the Japanese people. "OWI" on a headline makes a story look like government propaganda.

It was reported that short wave radio is exceptionally well received at the Idaho center, and that Jap propaganda is circulated in the center. Reportedly much pressure is put on internees who stress pro-American matters.

A delegate from Manzanar, who investigated reports of bad working conditions in Montana, reported that conditions were generally bad in that state. The fact that a section of the area was much better than the rest was attributed to the efforts of a better WRA representative in that territory. He reported that Frank Regan failed badly in his job as WRA representative in the area where there was so much trouble—housing was inadequate; contracts were not carried out and there was considerable misrepresentation in them; and there was some coercion by sugar company officials. Western Montana was reported to be unsuitable for Japanese-American labor because of the attitude of the residents.

It is reported that workers employed outside but living in the center must give all earnings beyond their basic wage of \$19 to a community trust fund, however, there is some doubt as to the status of these evacuee trust funds, and who they belong to or how they may be expended is a matter of dispute. Tule Lake is allegedly planning a producers cooperative to collect and disburse profits from various community enterprises.

It was reported by delegates that there is a strong element, particularly the Kibei and pro-Japanese, who are opposing the JACL in the centers. The "Pacific Citizen", edited by Larry Tajiri and his wife, has been published in Salt Lake City for approximately six months. It depends on the JACL for financial support and its alleged purpose is to represent JACL to the general public and educate and supply information to Japanese-Americans. Its editorial policy is determined by whether or not subject matter is in the best interests of the people in the centers and of the war effort—if it is the Pacific Citizen will support it.

National Officers of the JACL:

President: SABURO KIDO, Poston Relocation Center, Arizona, Formerly an attorney practicing in San Francisco.

Exec. Sec'y: MIKE NASHOKA, Salt Lake City, Utah, formerly a university student in Salt Lake City.

Exec. Asst.: **GEORGE INAGAKI**

Treasurer: **HITO OKADA**

Addresses:

JACL National headquarters--Eason Building, Salt Lake City.

JACL, Washington, D. C. -- P. O. Box #1721; telegraph address -- 1509 - 22nd St., N. W.; telephone -- DEcatur 4336.

New York City--545 West 111 Street, Apt. 5-D.

Chicago--c/o American Friends Service Committee, 189 W. Madison St.

Philadelphia--c/o Robert O'Brien, 1201 Chestnut St., Philadelphia.

It is informant's opinion that the national officials of the JACL are loyal and reliable individuals, such opinion being based on observance of these persons at this meeting.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

MIL 201
McCoy, Commander Melvin

M. I. D.

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Handwritten signatures and initials



4 April 1944
(Date)

Subject: Commander Melvin McCoy; Alleged Statements Concerning Japanese-American Soldiers in Italy.

Summary of Information:

The 25 March 1944 issue of the "Pacific Citizen," official publication of the Japanese American Citizens' League, contained a leading article which alleged that Commander Melvin McCoy, United States Navy, in a newspaper interview in San Francisco, California, 18 March 1944, stated that the Japanese were fighting "a race war" and inferred that Japanese-American soldiers in Italy were similarly fighting "a race war against the Germans because they are whites." His specific statement is quoted as follows: "They are killing white men. They would just as soon be killing Germans as other white men." Commander McCoy is also alleged to have stated in the course of the interview that "every Japanese-American should be shipped back to Japan after the war." The article stated that a high Navy Department official reportedly told a representative of the "Pacific Citizen" that Commander McCoy's slur against the loyalty of the Japanese-Americans would not "reflect the opinion or the views of the Navy Department."

Commander McCoy's remarks are said to have received comment in this particular issue of the "Pacific Citizen" in the column of Bill Hosokawa, under the heading of "A Hero of Bataan Joins the Coast's Rights." His remarks included the fact that McCoy's words as they stand are an affront to the uniform of the United States armed forces, as well as to Nisei soldiers, many of whom have paid the supreme sacrifice in defense of their country. Further statements were to the effect that McCoy is entitled to his personal views, but when he makes uninformed charges, highly damaging to the American cause, and from the position of an officer of the armed forces, nothing less than official disavowal of his words is sufficient to right the wrong thus perpetrated.

McCoy has recently received considerable publicity as a national hero who lead nine other Americans in their escape from a Japanese prison camp in the Philippines. He is also reported to have been broadcast

of source _____ of information _____
Reliable _____
Credible _____
Questionable _____
Undetermined _____

Previous Distribution:

Pacific Citizen 25 March 44

Distribution:

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ON 20 JUL 1990
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AUTH Para 1-603 DOD 5200.1R

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a message to the Philippines thanking his friends in the Islands for their help in assisting him to escape. It is reported that the objections voiced by Mr. Hosokawa are well-founded and that Commander McCoy has unthinkingly committed what amounts to sabotage of the Army's effort to maintain the morale of its Nisei combat units.

An informant, said to be reliable, who was acquainted with Commander McCoy in the Philippines prior to the war, stated his opinion is that McCoy has an unbalanced type of mentality.

The opinion has been expressed that several recently reported incidents of inadvisable utterances on the part of returned heroes, who have escaped from Japanese-occupied territory, point to the advisability of some strong and definite policy on the part of the War and Navy Departments for the prohibition, or at least, the official discouragement of such careless talk. Opinion was further expressed to the effect that there are definite indications that such utterances in the past have resulted in the execution by the Japanese of individuals suspected of complicity in such escapes or even the execution of innocent individuals, merely as an object lesson to discourage any help to other escaping American prisoners.

It has been suggested that if a statement could be publicized by some higher ranking officials of the Army and Navy, the newspaper editors and heads of broadcasting companies would be willing to cooperate, as a patriotic gesture, in the suppression of such statements.

Insofar as personnel of the Army are concerned, it is reported that comment concerning their experiences in Japanese imprisonment and escape therefrom is prohibited by a direct order of General Marshall. The control of civilians, however, was said to be more difficult, although it is possible that an official warning might have some temporary value. The policy of the Navy in this respect was said to be unknown.

Further information received states that the Japanese-edited newspaper within the Heart Mountain Relocation Center assailed Commander McCoy's assertion that Japanese-American soldiers in the United States Army in Italy enjoyed killing the Germans "because they were white men."

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