

YOUR JOB AND MINE

We, as Nisei, are confronted today with many problems, problems which seem so trivial to others and yet so important to us.

One of the main topics of conversation among the colonists is that of resettlement or relocation. The question is, when, where, why, and how should we go about this great job which has been set before us.

It is true, rumors and tales, some of which may be true, come flying back to us from those already relocated stating numerous unpleasant incidents. However, we do find a great majority of the Nisei, already relocated finding the treatment good. How we are received from those on the outside will depend largely upon us. If we act like an American, we will be treated as an American.

It is true again that we were forced to come into the relocation centers. Assigned certain blocks, barracks and even apartments to live in. Mess halls were assigned to us as well as everything else. We had no say so about these things, but a time has come when we can move on our own power. A time has come when we have been given a chance to make our own decision. Sooner or later we will all be leaving the project. It is of utmost importance to decide wisely when we should resume our life in a normal community.

There is a real job awaiting us, young Americans, if we would only take the initiative, show our courage and confidence, face the job, face it squarely and unafraid. No one has gone through life without some hardship, and by all means, we should not expect our lives to roll merrily along without a few obstructions on our road to life. Democracy will not be handed down to us on golden platters, nor will it be sprinkled upon us like magic flakes. We must fight for it and fight hard.

Your job and mine, as Nisei, is to take the first steps in blazing the trail. No, not only for ourselves, but for the older generation as well as for the younger generation, so that their way may be easier to tread. Our parents, as well as others, who came to America in the past worked and sacrificed so that we have a better life. Now, it is up to us to do the same.

Though our paths seem very narrow, our roads rough and bumpy, our future black, and the world insecure for us Nisei, we must not falter on the threshold of our lives. Let us make this our aim, yours and mine, to do the job with which we are faced in the right way and in the clean way which is the American way of achievement.

--- Sadamu Kageta