

V. Garden  
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VICTORY GARDENERS' meeting held at the Messhall 12-27 on November 27, 7 PM. Those assembled numbered 47 (including 5 old ladies and 1 young girl).

Mr. Hatchimonji was made the chairman. Mr. S. Nagumo moved that the Victory Gardeners send a delegation to the Agriculture Department to tender thanks for the department's cooperation that made the victory garden project a success. Delegates appointed: S. Nagumo; S. Tsuneishi; B. Trui; M. Monobe and K. Hatchimonji.

Mr. Terui speaks: "The victory garden project is carried out in accordance with the national policy of using spare time and producing vegetables for the need of the gardeners and their families. As someone said in the Sentinel sometime ago, our gardens also offer one of the greatest opportunities for recreational purposes. As baseball and other ball games are indispensable to youngsters, so are the gardens to us oldtimers. When I came here, I was suffering from an indigestion. Now I feel fine after 3 or 4 months spent in digging every evening in the victory garden. How wonderful it was to see things grow and how happy we were picking cucumbers and string beans! The nine o'clock curfew would come too soon every evening."

"Now, however," he continued, "some criticisms had been directed to us for selling a few Daikon radishes and cucumbers by some disgruntled element in the center. Well, housewives would come and beg and beg us to sell some of our vegetables to them. Why did they not get their gardens and grow them themselves? But to ward off all these criticisms, I move (1) that we discontinue this selling altogether in the coming season (1944) and (2) that we limit our gardens to the smallest sizes possible to produce just enough--so that there will be no temptation for us gardeners to sell surpluses".

Mr. Hatchimonji remarked that there are some 20 new people applying for some patches in the garden. He said he anticipates many more people wanting theirs. In order to give them spaces, we must give up some of the ground we used the last season. Those applied include people from Tule Lake and those who said at the beginning of the 1943 season: "What the use of having our gardens when we would be moved out of this center soon! Now they have seen what we have accomplished. Maybe they are jealous. Now they want their gardens. That is another reason why we should limit the sizes of our gardens. Mr. Hatchimonji seconded Mr. Terui's motion--and it was carried unanimously. Now each victory gardener is allowed two patches and no more.

Then Mr. Okabayashi said "Some people were saying that we were giving too much time to the victory gardens, in such a way as to imply that we were neglecting our own assigned works in the center. That is not of course true. I am a cook and I used to work in the garden only in evenings and on my holidays. But all the same, I advise you people to work in the garden only in evenings, old men and women excepted who may stay on gardens any time. I know a messhall worker get a holiday every week. But even he had better not stay in garden in daytime lest passersby would think he is stealing his time out of his regular work.

This matter was not further discussed. It was decided that this matter will be taken up when we have the next meeting in which a lot of new people are expected to attend.