

FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF PROJECT DIRECTOR JAMES G. LINDLEY'S SPEECH DELIVERED ON NOV. 12, 1943 AT THE RELOCATION FORUM DISCUSSION SERIES AT TERRY HALL.

"RELOCATION - YOUR RESPONSIBILITY AS A MEMBER OF YOUR COMMUNITY"

The United States is engaged in total war against powerful, ruthless, and highly resourceful enemies. When a country is at war it becomes perforce a military despotism. The democracy for which we are fighting does not function while we are fighting. Nevertheless, it is worth fighting for so that in the interludes of peace we may enjoy government of the people, by the people, and for the people. Bearing this in mind, there are hard and practical considerations of a strictly military nature which justify the West Coast evacuation.

The attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, started evacuation. On February 19, 1942, the President signed an executive order authorizing designated military commanders to prescribe military areas from which all persons might be excluded, or in which their movements might be restricted. On March 2, Lieutenant General J. L. De Witt issued a proclamation defining Military Areas Nos. 1 and 2, and requested voluntary evacuation. On March 14, the Wartime Civil Control Administration was established to supervise an evacuation program, and work was started to erect housing for an assembly center at Manzanar, California. On March 18, an Executive Order signed by the President, created the War Relocation Authority, a non-military agency, with authority to formulate and carry out a program for a planned and orderly relocation of persons evacuated from military areas.

The War Relocation Authority has three major functions: (1) To provide the evacuated people with an equitable substitute for the living and homes given up; (2) To re-establish them as a productive segment of the American population; (3) To facilitate their reassimilation in the normal currents of American life.

The present population of the ten relocation centers is approximately 106,000. Roughly, two-thirds of these people are American citizens by virtue of birth in this country. The remaining one-third are aliens, whose naturalization is not permitted under the laws of the United States. There are approximately three hundred thousand Japanese in the United States and Hawaii--the figure of two-thirds American citizens still holding. The average age of the aliens is 58; of American-born, 23 years. They comprise a close-knit minority, and the so-called "Japanese problem" in this country stems from the concentration of this population on the Pacific Coast and in the Pacific Islands. America must find a sound and permanent solution of this problem through thoughtful attention of American leaders. These leaders must strive to end, immediately and forever, all proposals that American citizenship of Japanese born in this country be revoked. Our whole program is based on the premise that all persons of Japanese ancestry living in this country, except those who request repatriation and those who may be deported for illegal activities, will continue to live in the United States after the close

of the war.

The aims of the Project Administration have been: (1) To conduct the operation of the centers so that the substitute for the homes of the evacuees be as adequate as possible under war-time limitations; (2) To provide schooling for the evacuees of school age; (3) And training and jobs on the Center for adults so that the group need not stand still or slip backward, but can go forward and fit themselves for their chance in life; (4) To work toward a gradual depopulation of the relocation centers, and a dispersal for assimilation into American life of loyal evacuees.

The sincere and selfless efforts of the Japanese Americans must be enlisted in this program. The first step must be taken by them. It is easier to stay in the Center than to go out; it is easier to sit than stand; it is easier to play than work. Resentment, inertia and fear of the unknown must be overcome. If this is accomplished,--and it is our duty to work unceasingly toward such an end--then the immediate future of the WRA program is a wholehearted participation in center activities by evacuees and administrative staff alike, and a wholehearted acceptance of the relocation program by all who can look forward to relocation as a resolution of their present problems.

The program of segregation was undertaken to enable the center residents who wished repatriation and expatriation to Japan and those who could not bring themselves to declare unqualified loyalty to the United States and, in the case of United States citizens, to renounce their loyalty to Japan, and those who were overtly disloyal to this country to be removed to a single center where others of like beliefs, desires, and loyalties would be concentrated. The removal of this group gives those evacuees who want to be American the opportunity to express their Americanism without interference. This expression of Americanism should be by deeds as well as words. "By their works shall ye know them."

The way for leave clearance is now open. You came to this center against your will, perchance. You stay of your own free will. The front gate is open for your relocation and for your assimilation into the American stream of life. We are all here to help you in any way we can when you decide to take that step. But, remember, relocation is your problem; it is not the problem of the Administration.

I have departed from the assigned topics of this discussion because I felt that this rather long introduction was necessary. The topics assigned were:

1. How to make new friends in your new home.
 2. Your part in Civilian Defense Programs.
 3. Attendance at Civic activities.
 4. The fusion of the Japanese and American Culture.
 5. Assimilation and what it means.
- I will take them briefly in the order

of assignment:

1. How to make new friends in your new home.

The first step is to get in practice in your present home. The one group that is set up by the Government to be your friend and to plead your cause is the War Relocation Authority. We know that we're not perfect, but we're sincerely trying to do the best we can for you. Why continue to criticize administrative measures and to passively resist the accomplishment of necessary work? The houses for the administrative staff could have and should have been completed last spring. If the administrative staff were housed here, they could better serve the population. The entire construction program calling for a building for the silk screen project, boys' and girls' dormitories, a hostel for the aged and infirm, farm buildings, a cannery, a slaughter house--all of which would save the Government money at a time when it needs to save and which we have had ample manpower to build at a time when the country is crying out for manpower--this entire program has lagged--months behind schedule. The hauling of coal, the plowing and seeding of land, irrigation and harvesting of crops, all has called for special meetings of august bodies, special appeals. The work gets partially accomplished but on the whole it is "too little and too late". Too many people to do too little work. Of those who come to work, many will not put in a day's work. What can we, as WRA officials, say to the general public, to prospective employers, to social minded people, who wish to champion your cause, when they ask us, "Are these people loyal? Are they industrious?" We can only reply, "Well, they say they are." You have lost and are losing your chance to make us strongly partisan. I am not talking to the fellow sitting next to you; I am talking to you.

Make your friends on the outside at work and at play. Do your share of the job, be cheerful and friendly with your fellow workers; your fellow worker will be your friend. Do your job the best you know how; your boss will be your friend. Outside of work hours keep your dignity; your neighbor will become your friend.

2 & 3. Your part in the Civilian Defense Program and Attendance at Civic Activities.

Proceed carefully in these fields. Find out who are the civic leaders and the leaders in defense work. Among your friends and fellow workers will be participants. Talk to them and offer your services. Read the literature and figure out where you can be most helpful; then be helpful. You will be happier when you are carrying part of the load.

4. The fusion of the Japanese and American Culture.

This simply calls for you to bring into use in your daily life the talents that are inherent in you. Music, art, dancing--what is Japanese or what is American makes no difference to the lover of art. Your contribution will be welcome. Join social clubs, participate in games and recreation. Help out in decorating the halls and in preparing the

programs. There is always a place for those who will do this work and, though the idlers who benefit by the work of others do not know it, there is more joy and happiness for those who carry the load in the consciousness that these good times for all are the fruit of their labors. Yes, you will meet rebuffs. Turn them aside. "A soft answer turneth away wrath."

5. Assimilation and what it means.

Assimilation has been defined as the acquisition of the cultural traits of a particular society by people of foreign origin or parentage. You have gone far in your acquisition of American traits, particularly in religion, language, and in material culture and manners. You Nisei as a group are American in your dress, manners, eating, recreation, language and, I believe, in your way of thinking. Issei have also become assimilated in spite of handicaps. However, you still have to acquire more of American customs, especially of the language. I feel that you Issei who intend to remain here and live the American life should learn from your children. You should take every opportunity to learn English and to talk English. It is the language of Americans.

One other thing--do not attempt to lose your race consciousness. Take pride in your Japanese origin as most of us do in our origin in some small bit of Europe--England, Scotland, France and, yes, Germany, if we remember that we are Americans first. Be more race minded and less individual. We have had many letters from former evacuees who have successfully located asking that we send no more Japanese to that locality. One boy even wrote, "I don't think they know I'm a Japanese, and I don't want a lot of Japs around to spoil it for me." He has missed the point and is entirely selfish. He should be thinking how to make room for his fellow Japanese and yet them accepted as Japanese Americans--as citizens. This is a democracy, and none of us has to hide behind any resemblance to a Chinese.

Another thing--when you get a job, stick to it. In some places the reputation of the nisei youth is that they are flighty and run from one job to another. Be a little particular before you take a job and then give your employer what you owe him--work that will repay him for the effort of hiring you. Suppose a higher paying job does show up, try to get a replacement for yourself before you run to it. You owe it to your employer; and when the war is over and labor is plentiful, the good graces of your boss will be a swell thing to have. I know. Others have written and asked us to be careful of the calibre of people we send out, saying that irresponsible, lazy, dirty, loud-mouthed or impudent applicants or workers would ruin the reputations and endanger the jobs of steady and industrious relocated evacuees. This, of course, is true, and this again is your problem. It comes back to home training and, if the center is your home, get into practice here. Be honest, be industrious, be loyal, be conscious that by being all these things, you are helping to win this war.

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| <p>之即ち我が民主主義の義の之則ち余が前言の如く 一義にして、何ぞ求め諸子の爲すべきを爲す て支那人類似の陰影に所以にして、其責任觀 隠れて因循姑息の手段念の発露に必ずや僱傭 を弄するの要あらんや者の認むる所たるべし 諸子、就職に際し特に斯くて大戦終局を告げ 注意すべきは、其職業労働戦線に於て、求職 に執着する事なり。 各地に於ける二世青年も嚮に諸子が明示した の世評は、輕卒にしてる表裏無き眞心を認知 常に轉々と職を更へ更する僱傭者の存在は、 に恆心無くと聞く。蓋し諸子を益する所深 諸子は就職に當り特別甚なるものありべし。 なる関心も以て之を採更に多數の再轉住者は 擇し、而して一度就職書翰を以て我が當局に せる上は、諸子に就職對し、所民を再轉住せ の機会を與へたる僱傭一むるに際し其人物の 者の恩義に對し、終始如何に就き一層の注意 一貫報恩の赤誠を捧ぐを拂ひ小度しと要請し べし。来たれり、即ち曰く、 假令諸子就職中に於て「無責任にして怠惰な 更に高額なる給料を支る、不潔にして騒々し 拂ふ職業の出現ある共、更に鐵面皮なる求 諸子に之に轉する前に職者或は從業者等は、 先諸子に代つて現職に既に再轉住せざる者堅実 從業する者を補充したに於て勤勉なる就職関 る後に於て徐ろに轉職係を危態に陥らしむる する様心せよ。</p> | <p>損するに至るべしと。 勿論斯かる事情の存在 は肯定的事實ならむも 之再び他人事に非ずし て諸子自身の問題なり 畢竟するに以上講述し 来たれり諸問題は、總 て家庭に於ける様に帰 するものにして、現在 當所即諸子の家庭に於 以上先其家庭に於て、 外部轉住に關する有ら ゆる良習を養ひ不勤の 心構へを堅持せしむる を以て最も肝要なりと 余は確信する次第なり 諸子、眞摯、勤勉、忠誠 を旨とし、堅忍不拔の 信念に立ち以て其の顯 現を期するところ之即 ち今次大戦窮極の戦捷 に貢献する所以なり。</p> | <p></p> |
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計子の友人及び後業局
言子の角重白告あは
石を受くる事あるを堂
福銀館に達ししにも不

なるものなり。又常に申ししむるに於たりと

再轉住に就て

轉住民社會の一員としての

諸子の責務

グラタス轉住所長リンドレー

方今我が合衆國は強大な勢力を分ち得べし。殘忍にして而も高貴以上を念頭に置き西部源を擁する敵國と對峙沿岸總撤退問題考へて總体的戰爭の眞只察するに其は軍事上固中に在り。孰れも國家と雖も國運に於て而も必須なる實を賭して千々の向に見除問題として強行し、みゆる時、軍事に際するを露し得べし。る專制的諸制度の発布省るに一九四一年十二を見れば蓋し當然の事月七日の眞珠灣爆撃態と謂ふべし。吾人が常に擁護し来た導火線となれり。然る民主主義と雖も斯望一九四二年二月十九から非常の場合、其本日緊急大統領令発布さ義の顯現は竟の如く、小任命されし軍司令官らざるを常とす。然りと雖も我が偉大な要に應じ同地域より民の民主主義の爲に戦ふ象を撤退せしめ又民衆は聽て平和克復に當り行動を制壓し得る權「民衆の、民衆による能を附与したり。民衆の爲の、」所謂民三月二日陸軍中將丁主政体を謳歌するの感し、デウィット司令官は布

告を以て「オ一オ二軍事要域を公表し更に自發的撤退を從通したり。三月十四日戰時市民管理局創設され撤退方針の管理に當らしむると共に加州マンサナーに建築に着手したり。三月十八日再び大統領令発布され非陸軍代行の機関にして軍事要域より撤退しにる民衆に對する諸方針の遂行と秩序ある轉住と執掌する權能を附与したる戰時轉住局を創設す。我が轉住局の負ふ重要三機能は左の如し。
(一)轉住民の衣食住に關し公平至當なる待遇をなふる事。
(二)轉住民をして我が國民中其の生産的一分子として再生せしむる事。
(三)轉住民をして米國生活の常道に順應し再

同化を期せしむる事。現在十ヶ所に散在する轉住所民の總数は約十萬六千にして概算的に觀れば其の三分の二は米國出生の市民なり。殘余の三分の一は即ち國法に據り歸化權を認められざる非市民なり。尙合衆國本土に布哇に在留する日本人の總数は約三十万にして其の三分の二は依然として日系市民をなす。而して非市民の平均年齢は五十八才、市民の其れは二十三才なり。日本人は數に於て僅少なれ共其の團結頗る堅く又我國に於ける所謂日本人問題ほ乃ち太平洋沿岸並に布哇諸島に散在する斯の集團より端を発するを常とす。

諸すべきなりと痛感する者なり。而して本問題に携はる先覺の二は巷間喧傳に來たりし日系市民の市民權剝奪に關する絶對の建言を即時に而も永遠に終結せしめざるべからず。之則ち刻下の急務なり。之に關する有る才策は、歸國由讀者及び及米行動の理由を以て送還する者を除外して米國に居住する全日本人は戰終後依然として其居住を容認するべき前提を基準として制定せられり。轉住所行政眼目を擧ぐれば乃ち左の如し。
(一)所民の住宅代用の居室は戰時期限内に於て可及的適宜の施設を講ずる事。
(二)學齡兒童の爲適當なる學校設備を爲す事。
(三)成人に對し所内に於て職業の熟練と從業の機会を及べ労働可能なる者をして安逸に流るゝ事なからしめ以て生活

に適する機會を把握するに備へむる事。漸次に所内人口の減小を圖り忠誠なる轉住者を各地に散在せしめ以て米人社會に同化せしむる事。該方針の遂行に當りては日系市民の眞摯にして且滅私的努力に依つて論ずる迄も無く而して其先鞭は之亦日系市民に依り着きしめざる所内に在留するは出所するよりも安易なり。靜居するは直立するよりも易きなり。行樂に耽けりば労働に従事するよりも興深きものにして總て之等は余の贅言を要こそ所なり。未知なる事象に對する憤慨憤懣恐怖等は如何なる事ある共之を征服せざるべからず。而して諸子之等の制壓を完了したる曉に於て余等