

CONFIDENTIAL(To Colonel Koenig re military utilization
of US citizens of Japanese ancestry)

July 23, 1942

In my judgment, it is logical to subject them to service under combat conditions. If practicable, they should not be rendered immune or shielded from exposure to the risks of combat. However, their use should be limited to those theaters where contact with enemy Japanese troops is improbable. In view of the proposition stated in 2 b above, viz., that rapid segregation of loyal from disloyal is impossible, unlimited combat usage is unsound. Similarly, their induction for service in mixed units is not considered sound. This is so, notwithstanding the argument that the composition of an all-Japanese unit may play into the hands of enemy design, or place within reach the opportunity for fifth column action in concert.

Of the forementioned possibilities, limited combat service in theaters with low probability of contact with enemy Japanese troops is recommended. Types of limited service in such theaters favorably considered are: as combat engineers; as combat quartermasters; or to perform general service in labor battalions in the combat zones of such active theaters for the construction of such combat works as roads, railroads, airfields, communications, revetments, trench systems, underground storage, depot works, etc. In all events, surveillance, suited to the circumstances, should be constant.

d The advantages and disadvantages of b and c above

As paragraph b above embodies a discussion of possible methods of utilization, a discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of mere "possibilities" is obviously not apropos. Accordingly, these comments will be limited to the consideration of advantages and disadvantages of paragraph 2 c above. The present conflict has been characterized as "total war." Hence, the maximum use of available manpower is mandatory. Viewed against the back-drop of this mandate, military employment of the Nisei reservoir is a manifest advantage. Conversely, its rejection for military usage is disadvantageous. However, a disadvantage consequent upon its use, rather than upon its disuse, may result from the opportunity thus accorded for disloyal action. In turn, the degree of opportunity for hostile action is governed by the character of military employment. Under conditions of

CONFIDENTIAL

(To Colonel Koenig re military employment
of US citizens of Japanese ancestry)

July 13, 1942

CONFIDENTIAL

total war, the opportunity for effective disloyal action by employment for military purposes may be as great in the zone of the interior as it is commonly considered to be in a theater of operations. Therefore this consideration, fundamentally speaking, is resolved into the question of whether to employ Nisei in any military capacity. Perforce, if militarily employed at all, that employment should be to the best advantage. This has not been attained under present policies. Certainly to the same extent that prisoners of war can be employed in any theater under supervision, or that the domestic population of hostile occupied territory can be employed to maintain local economy and industry, Nisei can be engaged in the armed forces under military control. It is only thus that they may demonstrate their protestations of loyalty.

4. Specifically, you have asked for my opinion on three questions set forth in paragraph 2 of your letter. My views follow:

- a Responsive to the first question, you are advised that in my judgment this should be answered in the affirmative, subject to the limitations set forth above. Stated otherwise, Nisei, as herein defined, should be recruited or inducted into the armed forces for service (1) in a theater where contact with enemy Japanese is improbable; and (2) in combat labor units.
- b In view of the foregoing comments, the organization of a division is not recommended. For the performance of labor under combat conditions, the maximum sized unit should be a battalion to be assigned with corps or army special troops, or GHQ Reserve for employment as the situation requires. Initially at least, the armament issued should be sufficient only for defensive but not offensive action.
- c You inquire further specifically as to my opinion on the question whether American-born Japanese now scattered throughout the military service should be concentrated into units. In order to give effect to the views set out above, such action would be essential. Moreover, if their service is to be utilized at all, consideration should be given to the resentment that some non-Japanese soldiers may harbor against serving in the same unit with Japanese. Such resentment will find repercussions in lowered morale among both Japanese and non-Japanese.

CONFIDENTIAL

(Colonel Koenig re military utilization
of US citizens of Japanese ancestry)

July 23, 1942

CONFIDENTIAL

5. You have further requested that I make any other pertinent general comments, specifically on the effect of present restrictions on future citizenship.

a. If it is concluded that military utilization of Nisei is not practicable, then it is my considered judgment that those persons of Japanese ancestry now in the military service should be released from active duty and transferred to the reserve corps. There are close relationships between Japanese in evacuee centers and those in the service. The recommendation is made that they be transferred to the enlisted reserve in order to maintain military control, should it ultimately become desirable. If this were done, it is believed only sound that the soldiers thus released join their families in relocation centers and be accorded some opportunity to contribute to the war effort in such centers, through organized effort under government supervision.

b Effect on future citizenship

If no further Nisei are accorded an opportunity to serve in the armed forces, though they may be of troop age and otherwise physically qualified, it is highly probable that a stigma will thus attach which can never be overcome and that the possibility of future useful citizenship will be virtually concluded. If this condition arises and the United States then has within its borders a group of persons whose loyalties have been thus alienated, the solution of the problem must rest with the Congress, because of the social-political aspects of the problem.

J. L. DeWitt
Lieutenant General, U. S. Army
Commanding

Inclosures - 2

1 - Tab A

2 - Tab B

(Attached to memo of
July 23 '42 to Assistant
Chief of Staff - S-3) -6

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

August 19, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Chief of Staff,
Civil Affairs Division.

SUBJECT: Report on Proceedings of Meeting Held
at Manzanar Relocation Center, in which
Japanese Language was Used.

Please let me have your comments on recommendations 3a of the attached report of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, and your opinion as to what other action would be advisable and desirable under the circumstances, that would lead to depriving individual Japanese concerned of their citizenship, with a view to their internment.

DeW.

1 Incl.
G-2 Report.

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18 August 1942

MEMORANDUM TO: Chief of Staff.

1. The attached report (copy already furnished Civil Affairs Division) is a result of a survey ordered by me to determine the amount of subversive activity in assembly camps. Manzanar was selected because of its size and the fact that it contains a good cross section of Japs from the West Coast Generally.

2. This report shows the proceedings of a meeting held within the Manzanar Camp in which the language used was Japanese, and confirms beliefs held by this section for sometime, viz:

- a. That Kibei, the most Japanized and truculent of the Japs, are gradually assuming unofficial control within camps.
- b. That the loyalty of Kibei is growing more doubtful day by day.
- c. That these or similar conditions exist in other camps, notably Puyallup where a Kibei clique was discovered. Appropriate steps have been taken already to break this up.

3. Recommendations:

- a. That Civil Affairs Division discover the Kibei leaders in all assembly centers and camps through security police, camp management, and the use of Nisei stooges in staging a similar meeting as was held at Manzanar.
- b. *That/the/leaders/be brought before/Individual / Exclusion Boards/ ((There are at/least/5/possible candidates/revealed in/attached papers)).// // //*

DeW

Incl: - Report.

DECLASSIFIED	
Authority	<u>NND730027</u>
By	<u>Spc</u> NARA Date <u>10/5/89</u>

/s/ J.W.
/t/ J.W.

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COPY

#24-9-4 Manzanar, Calif.
August 10, 1942.

Dear Major Riorand:

I have been in this camp for over three months, Sir, but I am still carrying on for our Uncle Sam. I often think of you and wonder why you don't come to see us or bring us some champaign or cignarettes.?? Hee Haw!

Anyway Major, if there were any doubts as to why the military authority put us Japanese into these camps, you saw plenty reasons why we blong here. La t Sat. evening, the Kebeis egged on by pro-Japan Issies put on one of the most vicious, seditious, riotous Pro-Jap demonstration any where at anytime! It was a riotous bedlam and vocifouous Jap Pandamonium! Shouting, hollaring, stumping of feet and insulting remarks could be heard for blocks.

ENCLOSED COPY OF THE REPORT OF THAT MEETING IS HERE WITH ATTACHED FOR YOUR PERUSAL. I SENT COPY TO FBI ALSO. I hav warned them long ~~ago~~ ago that this was brewing..And compatibel with the trend of the war with those Japs temporarily having the upper hands over the allies, these Kebeis and Pro-Jap Isseis are ~~holding~~ boldly and brazenly showing their fangs. I have been leading the PropDemocracy and 100% block in this camp for America. I have received innumerable threats, intimidations and redicules. But we are carrying on! Many pro-Americans want protections for their life and limbs. Many others are in the same fix as I am. I admire them. Right or wrong, we are for America and WE KNOW SHE WILL WIN!

You have an M.P. post here and they seem to be fine fellows. Some time you may come this way for Trout fishing or sumpthin. If you do, drop in for chow and chat.

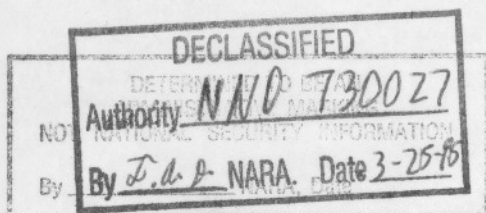
Please try to get these underisrable and seditious group out of here as soon as possible so this camp will be a better place for all innocent parties.

Yours truly

/s/

Tokie Slocum
Ex-Sgt Major U.S. Army

EXHIBIT 3

**CONFIDENTIAL**

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Notes and Observations of "Kibei Meeting" held August 8th, 1942
at Kitchen 15 - only Japanese spoken.

At 8.10 p.m., chairman Ben Kishi opened the meeting and announced that Chief and Asst. Chief of Police - Horton and Day - are to be removed and we want signatures on petition asking that they be retained. By this time hall was jammed with more than 400 and hundreds were standing outside. Speakers were heard outside thru loud-speaker.

Chairman then asked audience to stand up for one minute of silence without giving reason. After everyone was seated again the chairman said that "this one minute of silence is for hope of peace at an early day" - everyone laughed and applauded. Chairman introduced the first speaker:

Raymond Hirai, Issei, Subject; "Internal Improvement of Manzanar"; I want to speak on the 'Seven Mysteries of Manzanar' - 1) Hospital has only 6 doctors and 3 dentists - not enough doctors. Any patient must wait 4 days for an appointment slip and then another 4 days for an actual examination. 2) Schools are supposed to be built here but instead Blocks 1 and 7 must move out to make place for schools. I will crack head of anyone who tried to people out of Blocks 1 and 7. 3) Food is supposed to cost 50¢ per day but now it is announced that it only costs 38¢, and maybe July's cost will be 28 or 29¢, because it was so bad. I lost many pounds. Demand more meat, eggs and butter. 4) Wages is another mystery here. I worked 28 days and got paid \$2.78 (general laughter - "because of U.S. government" someone in the audience said). Some got paid \$8.24 for not working a single day. Demand more money. 5) Housing is another mystery. No partitions - government promised us to make partitions, where are they? 6) Relection of Block Leaders is needed. Some leaders are getting medals from administration. Block leaders use magic that's why I resigned. 7) Comouflage net project is not started by the government - One block leader suggested it and the block leaders meeting voted for nets - vote was 7 for, 3 against. (who is this one leader, someone asked) He is Ted Akahoshi." (beat him to death, throw him out, goddam and other remarks were made - big applause with stamping of feet followed) (Some 20 girls, Kibei, were joining in this excited inflamable demonstration.) In conclusion I want to say something about my case. The administration has no sympathy for Japanese. Nash is dictator like Stalin. I told him, I would crack his head off and this Japanese girl chaser, Nash ran away. I'll start to circulate petition to oust Nash." (applause and feet staming. "Heil Hitler, Heil Hitler" said Jackson Isjima, Kibei, always dressed in part of U.S. Army uniform and on Manzanar police force)

Chairman. I want to take a vote on 7 points - audience overwhelmingly approved speech of Hirai, with big demonstration - applauding and feet stamping.

Kiyoshi Hashimoto; Kibei, Subject; "Status of Kibei". Only difference of ours is that we are educated in Japan. We are Americans why did they put us in camps? Why are they forcing us to work on camouflage nets? We are treated as enemy aliens. Why should we get sympathy from Americans? (usual demonstration - applause, etc.)

Chairman: I welcome all kinds of heckling but not cheap one.

Joe Kurihara - War veteran. "I was born in Hawaii, Never seen Japan. I have "YAMATO DAMASHII" (Japanese national spirit) ("That's right, we ar Japanese", many said from the audience) We have no citizenship. From now on I am 100% Japanese. If the FBI or Army will take me into custody, I'll remain Japanese. Don't get scared. Look those Japanese in Japan who are making greatest sacrifice. Let's follow suit." (This same speaker spoke along the same line at the Manzanar Citizens

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-2- Notes & Observations 8/8/42

Federation and seems to have many followers).

Bill Kito, Block leader #3 spoke on "Ameridan Democracy and Duty of Nisei": "Democracy is not functioning in this country. Nisei must work with Issei. Don't attack Issei, anyone who denounces Issei should be punished.

Karl Yoneda; Block leader #4, Kibei, spoke on "Prepare for Post War" - (Many booed and heckled, some applauded - Kurihara shouted, "sit down, shut up, you so and so", someone said "you die"! "Don't worry Japan will come over here") "I believe that majority of Nisei will stay in this country when this war is over and we should prepare right now to meet the post war situation. Let's not be discouraged because we are put in camps and we are unable to use our full citizen rights. Demand our rights as Americans. Look at the Negroes, most exploited people in America. They are lynched and discriminated against without any reason - but they are determined to fight for citizens rights and democracy we should encourage ourselves and use our citizenship rights" (many heckled all thru the speech, shouting "traitor", etc.)

James Oda, Kibei: "Proud to be an American of Japanese origin. We should unit together and show American people that we are just as good Americans as they". (many heckled.)

Tateishi, Kibei, Block Leader #23. "I have "Yamato Damashii" (Japanese national spirit) I want the following to be taken up at tonight's meeting: 1) Investigate who pocketed \$14,000 of canteen profit. 2) Reelect all Block leaders. 3) Who authorized Campbell to make contract to print "Free Press" and pay out \$2000 of canteen money. 4) Block land 7 should not move out. This is richest country in the world, let's get lumber and get school built. They gave citizenship to myself and my sons - why don't they take it away. It is no good."

Chairman: Took vote on 4 points which overwhelmingly carried amidst noisy demonstrations and cry of "Heil Hitler".

Masaki Tanaka: Kibei spoke on "Suggestions to Nisei", "Some nisei circulated petition to be drafted. Why should we approve such action. We kibeis and isseis are same. We are Japanese. American don't recognize us as Americans. Nisei are not Americans. Nisei should realize that they are Japanese and don't ask for citizen right. Keep quiet and when we get out of camp, we will use our citizenship rights. We are educated in Japan and we don't want Americans to look upon us as loyal citizens of this country. Don't give up your citizenship, we will use it when war is over." (big applause with stamping feet.)

Kazuhara, Kibei. "We are Japanese, not nisei, issei or kibeis. We are in pig sty because we are Japanese. Don't raise citizenship right. No one here use it anyway. Some one said we should be loyal to America ("Baka Dayo", damn fool, said Kurihara) why should we be loyal to USA because we are Japanese. We don't need Manzanar Citizen Federation.

Juichi Uyemoto: ("General Araki! General Araki! some said in audience - because of his long mustache) "I was born in Hawaii, been in Japan and Manchuria for 30 years. Came to USA one year ago. Surprized to see that Japanese here are not united spiritually, like in Japan. Trouble with Japanese here is that there are too many reds among you (general applause - this is the man who said on way to Manzanar, aboard train March 23rd, that nisei ought to have guts and kill President. Karl Yoneda who

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-3- Notes & Observations 8/8/42

sat 3 rows behind Uyemoto reported this to the W.C.C.A. on March 24 and again to R. Nash and R. E. Fryer on July 11th and no action as yet has been taken)

(At this time Tokio Slocum left audience and several persons said "get out, you dog". Slocum is under police protection for the past three days, because Ken Tanaka, foreman of linoleum crew told K. Yoeda that Slocum will get beaten some day not by San Pedro boys but by downtown kibeis. Also on August 5th, while Slocum was sitting on steps of Block #4 office, linoleum crew truck driven by a San Pedro boy deliberately backed up truck against door, breaking it and drop linoleum right near Slocum - breaking the floor)

Hirai, Kibeis, formerly with Manzanar police force (dressed only in jeans, no shirt): "I want all kibeis to withdraw from camouflage nets immediately. Also kibeis should quit working on the "Free Press".

Mr. Temple and other office staff members arrived at this point and asked Ben Kishi chairman to adjourn meeting. Kishi said that "anything that happens at tonight's meeting he will be solely responsible for". Meeting was adjourned. After adjournment someone remarked - "Tayama is very small fry tonight and couldn't say a word". (referred to Fred Tayama) It was about 10 p.m. and the Internal Police offered to take me (Karl G. Yoneda) home in their car. As I approached the car 20 to 30 persons surrounded me as well as police car and Hirai (former policeman) pointed at me saying "He is a dog (meaning spy) beat him". The police finally persuaded them to disperse and they took me home.

Majority of attendance were kibeis with about 20 girls, 50 issei, altogether about 600. It was evident that this gathering was definitely pro-Axis and anti American. A great many of them would have done bodily harm to pro-American elements such as Slocum, Oda, Tayama and Yoneda and others if it wasn't for the presence of the Internal Police. Also it is quite clear that many Issei and Kibeis who attended this meeting disapproved of the conduct of the majority of kibeis and issei there. Several have already told me so. However next morning in Block 4 several Issei were talking about withdrawing all kibeis from camouflage nets.

Submitted by

Karl G. Yoneda

~~**CONFIDENTIAL**~~

Manzanar Education Center
28-3-11
Manzanar, California

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Major Richard E. Rudisill
Suite 216, Rowan Building
458 South Spring Street
Los Angeles, California

Dear Major Rudisill:

Inclosed you will find a brief report of the Kibei meeting held here last night. I have also sent a copy to the FBI. Some time ago, I sent a report through Chief of Police Horton of Manzanar to the FBI calling attention of some dangerous element here within the camp. Last night's meeting was of such a nature that I believe your department should seriously investigate.

The meeting was entirely conducted in Japanese. In a way I am glad that the Administration gave permission to conduct that meeting because it brought to the open just exactly where the majority of these so called Kibeis stand.

I believe those citizens of Japanese ancestry who does not value the American citizenship should be allowed to renounce their citizenship. There is definitely a strong undercover movement to Japanize all citizens here at Manzanar. I earnestly request your investigation. And for the protection of all those loyal citizens, I sincerely request that some sort of a hearing board be formed to segregate the loyal from the disloyal.

I have a request to make personally. Few days ago, I volunteered for the Army. Lieut. Colonel Rasmussen was here to interview many citizens, mostly Kibeis, to enlist in the Army. I later heard that the Army wants people who can speak both English and Japanese to be used in their Intelligence department. I presume these citizens before they are accepted must go through your department or the FBI. Any recommendation you can give to Col. Rasmussen will be greatly appreciated. I have a wife and one child, a daughter 11 years of age, and aged mother-in-law as dependants, but I am sure I can find some way of having them taken cared for the duration. I sincerely feel that I can do much more toward the American War effort by actually being in the arm forces of our country. This was the first opportunity for me to volunteer. I am ready to go anywhere that the Army might be able to use me.

Sincerely yours,

/s/

Fred M. Tayama

EXHIBIT 4

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

BRIEF REPORT OF THE KIBEI MEETING
HELD AT MESS HALL 15
MANZANAR RELOCATION CENTER
AUGUST 8, 1942

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(Recorded by memory the following morning by Fred Tayama)

The meeting was called to order about 8.30 P.M. by Mr. Ben Kishi, chairman. The Chair asked the audience to rise and bow their heads for a minute of silent prayer. It was then explained by the Chairman that the prayer was for World Peace.

The Chairman, Ben Kishi, then explained that permission had been obtained from the Administration to hold the meeting in the Japanese language -- that five speakers had been obtained. But that before introducing these speakers he had an announcement to make. "There is a petition being circulated among the residents to retain Chief of Police Horton and Ass't. Chief of Police Day", Kishi said. "I, Ben Kishi, will personally ask that every one sign this petition for these two Chiefs have always worked for the common good of the Japanese residents in this Center." The petition was passed around and it was observed that many signatures were obtained.

The first speaker to be introduced was Mr. Raymond Hirai. He announced that he had compiled six points that he would like to have the people consider seriously. The six points were as follows:

1. Hospital
2. School
3. Food
4. Wages
5. Housing
6. Self-government

Mr. Hirai pointed out that there are only 9 doctors here within the center and that three out of the nine are dentists. "We have here a population of 10,000. On the outside there is 1 doctor to every 400 people. We must demand that we have more doctors; instead of 6 doctors we should have twenty-five doctors."

In regards to school, Mr. Hirai said, "When we first arrived here with the volunteer group, we were promised that schools would be the first to be constructed. To this day not a single school building can be seen. America talks about democracy and citizenship. How can we develop good citizens when they deny education to our growing generation?"

"The type of food we get in this Camp can be proven by the fact that since coming to Manzanar I have lost 26½ pounds", explained Hirai. "It is the American government's responsibility that proper food and care be given to us residents (big applause). The residents should demand these conditions and the production of food products within the Center should be secondary (great applause)."

In regard to wages, Hirai said, "When we were asked to come here voluntarily to prepare living conditions for the rest of the evacuees, we were promised union wages. I worked 28 days in April. I received \$2.37 for my compensation. Is there any one in the audience who can figure out the rate of my pay? Look for example, the rate of pay for camouflage workers. Camouflage is a war producing. They are using minors; many around the ages of 15 and 16. Talking about the production of

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CONFIDENTIAL

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one or two Block Leaders were responsible for the entire set-up of the present Camouflage project. I demanded that the workers of the Camouflage project be paid union wages. I demanded many more things of Nash. And Nash told me, 'I am the Project Director here and I can do anything the way I want it to be done'. So I told Nash, "You are like Hitler and Mussolini combined and Nash replied, "I am." So I demanded what he had said in writing and immediately Nash turned around and said that he had never said such a thing. That's the type of Director we have here. I got so mad that I told him that I'd get a rock and hit him right on his bald spot (His head)." (Laughter and applause from the audience)

As for housing, Hirai spoke very little. He pointed out that there is too much congestion.

"We must demand re-election of all Block Leaders", said Hirai about the Self-Government. "We have people now in control who are unable to say anything and are just aking orders from the Administration". This is our camp and the Japanese people should decide for themselves how this camp should be governed; we should not listen to those prejudced whites." (great applause)

The next speaker was Kiyoshi Hashimoto. His title was 'Kibei Nisei no tachiba' (The Stand of the Kibei Nisei). Hashimoto's talk was very poorly arranged. He got stuck many times. He did say however, that he could not say at this time what he would like to say in regards to the stand of the Kibei Nisei. Several persons in the audience shouted out, "wakkate-oru", meaning 'we understand'. At this point a man seated near the speaker's table stood up and asked that he be allowed to speak, giving the impression that he could say what Hashimoto was trying to say. Certain sections in the audience told him to sit down. Immediately another group in the audience followed demanding that he be allowed to speak. The latter won. This man started by saying that his name was Joe Kurihara. "I was born in Hawaii, Kurihara started. "I have never been in Japan but in my vein flows Japanese blood; a blood of Yamato damashii. We citizens have been denied our citizenship rights; we have no U. S. citizenship; we are 100% Japanese." A roaring applause and stamping of feet on the floor which could be heard throughout the camp greeted Kurihara's remark.

The next speaker was Bill Kito. Kito commented on the formation of the Manzanar Citizens Federal. "The citizens can do much in improving the conditions of the camp; benefiting all residents of the center." He stressed the fact that Isseis must be protected and that were certain Niseis who were completely disregarding the Isseis. (At this point a voice came from the audience that those Nisseis ought to be struck down; followed by a great applause favoring such an action).

The chairman called n the next speaker whose title was "War Participation". When the speaker's name, Karl Yoneda was mentioned, a great 'boo' greeted him. 'Sit down.' Get out. Shup up. The only place where Yoneda's speech could be heard was when he mentioned, "I agree in more than one way the remarks of the former speakers and how you people must feel. I too, am of Japanese ancestry and although an American citizen, I have been placed within the enclosure of this Camp. But being bitter and just talking about it won't get us any place." Then he started to say that in spite of our segregation and hardship, we must still participate in the country's war effort, Yoneda was booed and it was impossible to hear what he was saying; he tried in vain to say something for about five minutes.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

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The next speaker was Masajo Tanaka. He said, "I am a Kibei Nisei, but the Kibei Niseis are not Americans; they are Japanese (big applause). The Kibeis are not loyal to the United States and they might as well know about it (roaring applause). But the Kibeis should use their citizenship rights for their own benefit (everybody looking around the room; no applause). I cannot understand why there are a few Niseis who still talk about their citizenship rights; and about American democracy. I have heard that there are a few who even send reports outside (boo and down with those rats). Those fools can holler all they want but in the eyes of the American people they too are Japanese and nothing but Japanese."

The Chair announced that this concluded the speakers slated to talk; that anyone who wished to speak could come before the microphone. Five or six speakers appeared before the audience. A fellow by the name of Tateishi, who said he was the Block Leader of Block 23, said that he was a Kibei; appreciative of his U. S. citizenship rights but that meant very little. Jimmy Oda tried to defend the rights of citizenship and he was promptly booed down, after being called a red and 'baka' (fool). Another middle aged fellow, who said that his name was Juichi Uyemoto said "I was born in Hawaii, but I have spent most of my life in Japan; in fact I spent 30 years in Japan. I came to America four years ago thinking America to be a country of the free and in general an ideal place, but I now find myself thrown in this dump like pigs." Another fellow, who said his name was Hirai came before the microphone and announced that he would like to have all Kibeis now working in the Camouflage quit immediately and asked the parents of those camouflage Nisei workers use their influence to have their children quit the camouflage as soon as possible.

There being no other speaker, the Chair adjourned the meeting amidst the clamor that "we may never be able to hold a meeting like this again and Japanese soldiers will be here soon to liberate all of us." The Chairman, Ben Kishi announced that he would personally be responsible for the consequence of the meeting.

The meeting lasted about 2 hours. The mess hall was packed; many standing on the doorsteps. I would say about 400 were inside the building and possibly over a hundred outside; many standing outside by the windows. Many Isseis were observed. Approximately 70 Nisseis were there but none spoke up. It was obvious that any Nisei who tried to defend American's standpoint would immediately be booed down, if not actually thrown out. It is my opinion that if any Nisei or any one else had insisted upon defending America, physical violence would have resulted.

Early this week I had been asked by Ben Kishi to be one of the speakers. I declined to be a speaker on the grounds that in order to make a speech in Japanese I would need more time to prepare. I did tell Kishi however, that I would make an attempt to answer any question in Japanese; especially those questions directed toward the policies of the Japanese American citizens league before and after the evacuation which seems to be one of the things misunderstood by the people. He agreed that I would be given that opportunity, but neither the Chair nor the assembly directed any questions toward me.

CONFIDENTIAL

**Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice**

Suite 1729 - 111 Sutter
San Francisco, California
June 29, 1942

HQ, WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND
 AND FOURTH ARMY
 MAY 4 1943
 323.7 *Morgan*

Lt. General John L. DeWitt
Commanding General
Western Defense Command & Fourth Army
Presidio of San Francisco
California

Attention: Colonel Karl Bendetson

Dear General DeWitt:

Reference is made to our conversation relative to the conditions existing in Manzanar. Mr. Hood telephonically advised me that he had received a letter from an informant in Manzanar, advising that a Mr. Nash who is apparently in charge of that camp, had made a talk before the Japanese being held there and that at that time he had given a wild story about a supposed bombing in San Francisco. Mr. Hood's informant stated that it was apparently given in an effort to frighten the Japanese held there.

Another item mentioned by the informant was to the effect that a Mr. Hicks, who is the assistant to Mr. Nash is having an affair with a Japanese girl and that this matter is the subject of comment of the entire camp. It appears that this Mr. Hicks has the Japanese girl in his quarters at night, which he explains by stating that she is there for official duties.

As this matter does not come within the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau, no effort has been made to confirm the above allegations. It is therefore being called to your attention for whatever action you may deem advisable.

Very truly yours,

M. E. Gurnea

M. E. GURNEA
Inspector



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~WRA
ManzanarHEADQUARTERS WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND AND FOURTH ARMY
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
PRESIDIO OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

19 June 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Chief of Staff, Civil Affairs Division
(THRU: Chief of Staff)

1. As a result of a recent inspection of the Military Police Company at the War Relocation Reception Center at Manzanar, the following was reported:

a. There seems to be a distinct attitude of camaraderie and brothership between the camp management and the Japanese. In other words, there seems to be an overly friendly attitude - in the opinion of the officers on duty with the Military Police Company.

b. There has not, apparently, been any special privileges given to the Japanese, but the following two incidents indicate a tendency in that direction:

(1) When Colonel Kress of the WRA Office in Washington visited Manzanar recently, the camp manager had Dr. Goto and his wife (Dr. Goto is the Japanese doctor in charge of the hospital) at a dinner at Independence. There were several of the white staff and Colonel Kress at this dinner. No permit was given Dr. Goto to pass the Military Police and the Military Police had no knowledge of his absence from the camp. Dr. Goto was reported by the State Police as being in Independence and the Military Police Company Commander went up and investigated and found that he was with the camp staff and did nothing more about it.

(2) Recently, three Japanese were permitted to go to work on a tract of land about three miles from camp. They were unaccompanied by white guards and the Military Police Commander asked Mr. Nash about this and was told that it was all right; that they were doing some surveying for the WRA.

2. Other than these two instances, the only parties that have gone out are the work details to unload freight at the railhead for transportation to camp. So while it appears that there has been no laxity on the part of the camp management in allowing Japanese to wander around through the valley, nevertheless there is a tendency that will ultimately lead to laxity, as indicated by the two instances cited above.

3. Dr. Goto and his wife should not have been permitted out of the camp without a written permit and should have been passed by the Military Police. The three Japanese who were reported as doing some survey work should have been accompanied by white guards and should have had written permits to leave the camp.

to Col B on 6/25 for
relatives & files~~CONFIDENTIAL~~For Col B's letter to
note -> file -
Col B was informed
Fryer personally -
& let him meet the CG
on this

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Memo for AC of S CAD (THRU C/S) (continued)

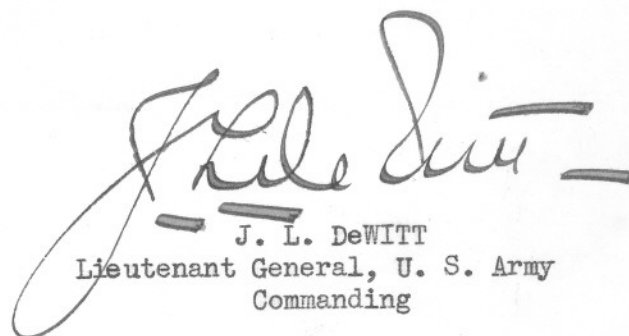
19 June 42

4. It is also reported by the State Police and the Military Police that the camp management has a number of Government vehicles assigned to it; that these cars are speeding and exceeding the speed limits on the State highways and are being used for private purposes in going back and forth to the homes of the employees and taking the employees back and forth to meals at nearby towns. While this is no concern of this headquarters, nevertheless the above all indicates a tendency towards freedom and laxity that should be brought to the attention of the Regional Director of the WRA.

5. The above information should be given confidentially to the Regional Director of the WRA.

6. My opinion is that if this apparent easing down is not stopped in the beginning, it will lead to trouble; and as far as failure to grant permits to leave the camp is concerned, if this is not done instructions will be given to the Military Police to take positive steps to carry out their orders. In other words, the Military Police Company Commander would have been perfectly right in seeing that Dr. Goto and his wife were returned to camp even if they were in Independence as a guest of the camp manager.

7. Mr. Freyer should be informed that if steps are not taken by the camp management to enforce compliance with existing directives in that respect then steps will be taken by this headquarters to see that they are enforced, which may lead to embarrassment for the camp management. In other words, the military responsibility is going to be carried out irrespective of embarrassment to others.


J. L. DeWITT
Lieutenant General, U. S. Army
Commanding

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