

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
Heart Mountain Relocation Project
Heart Mountain, Wyoming

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JHP

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Confidential

Mr. Dillon S. Myer
Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
Washington 25, D. C.

Declassified by *Free*
on *4/2/44*
Security Officer *[Signature]*

Attention: John Provise

Dear Mr. Myer:

I have your letter of June 15th enclosing two confidential reports relative to conditions at Heart Mountain. It is my opinion that the reports give a fairly accurate picture of our situation here and of War Relocation Authority Centers generally. My weekly report of May 6th discussed some of these conditions.

Your reply to this report, dated June 2nd, indicated that you may have misunderstood my concern. It is true that a situation of this kind makes administration more difficult. We follow the suggestions outlined in your letter generally and have been able to maintain peace and harmony in the Center. My greatest concern is not, however, peace and harmony in the Center but rather a deep concern for the preservation of Americanism and the maintenance of respect and admiration for our government and the American way of life.

After almost two years association with evacuees in the Center, I am convinced that the majority of the Issei are pro-Japanese and anti-American and that this majority is augmented by a considerable number of Nisei who are disgruntled and have lost hope in America. We have now relocated approximately 2500 of the more intelligent, aggressive, nisei and our remaining adult or voting population is preponderately Issei and disgruntled Nisei and it is this group that elects our Councilmen and controls our city government.

I do not mean to indicate that we expect strife or turmoil because of this condition but am concerned because of the difficulty in keeping alive the smoldering embers of Americanism in the face of this strong and subtle opposition that endeavors to discredit the efforts being made by our government for their welfare.

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The confidential reports imply that our Americanization program at Heart Mountain is weak. The casual observer might readily gain this impression by viewing the results accomplished with the adult group. Our program of Americanization is strong and generally effective with the children but has to be carried on against the passive resistance of a majority of the Issei group.

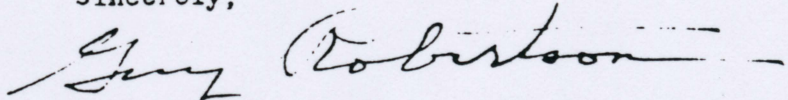
Contrary to the expression in the report, the youngsters are the ones who do have a respect for law and order and, except in isolated cases, have not been implicated in stealing government property. We have never had occasion to suspect appointed personnel of stealing government property and our property control is pretty rigid.

Doi and Shioya have been under observation for a long time. A report by our Internal Security, enclosed herewith, covers some of the points mentioned in the reports.

The fish market racket has some spark of truth. One Tsuchiya went to Granada and set up a fish market. He sold fish to Granada Center and to his brother who remained in Heart Mountain. Our community stores were not equipped to handle fish and we did not stop his activity until they set up their market. When Business Enterprise got their equipment installed, we stopped his business. We also purchased fish from the Granada Market for our Mess department. The first shipment came in short and we refused to authorize payment for their weights. He became angry and refused to sell us any more fish and Mr. Main was subtly approached with an intimation of a bribe. We broke relations with him and I understand the Quartermaster later resumed purchases for us from this market and we watched their weights closely. The Project Director was not offered the opportunity to accept their bribe.

We now know the source of the reports and believe that they were compiled over a period of time rather than the three or four days the man and his wife spent at Heart Mountain. Nevertheless, they should not be passed lightly by but should have consideration in future policy, particularly, in considering a possible modification in community government.

Sincerely,



Guy Robertson
Project Director

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