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A PRIVATE REPORT ON THE INCIDENT OF DEC. 6, 1942

BY Koichi Tsuji

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INCIDENT?

I think it was an obvious abuse of authority that Mr. Campbell not only had Mr. H Ueno arrested and questioned, but also had him put in the county jail in Independence. Mr. Campbell claims that Mr. Ueno participated in the beating of Mr. Fred Tayama in the evening of Dec. 5, 1942. But to us it is obvious that Mr. Campbell had Mr. Ueno arrested because of his personal grudge against Mr. Ueno and not because of Mr. Ueno's imagined participation in the attack upon Mr. Tayama.

Since the Manzanar Mess Hall Workers Association was organized, Mr. Campbell, together with Mr. Winchester, has been in an embarrassing situation in connection with the problem of sugar distribution and the dispute about the personnel of the food supply division etc. His explanation of these matters has never been clear.

Also when the F.B.I. agents came to investigate the advice episode, which occurred when advices were sent to the member of the Commission on Self-Government; it seemed it was Mr. Campbell, who persuaded the F.B.I. agents to call in Mr. Ueno for inquiry. The result of the inquiry, however, turned out unfavorably to Mr. Campbell; because after the inquiry, Mr. Ueno was given a chance to expose inside Manzanar to the agents of the F.B.I.

About that time, hand-written bills demanding the expulsion of Messrs. Campbell, Winchester, H. Brown, and the Japanese informers appeared on the walls of the mess halls. It seemed that the agents who were concerned with fair and just administration of the Center, suspected that there was something wrong going on in the Center in

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view of the fact that there had also been other hand-written bills posted on the walls of the mess halls before. And thus there is a reason to believe that Mr. Campbell himself was investigated by the F.B.I. agents. Mr. Campbell's grudge against Mr. Ueno became still worse and he even had some one spy upon Mr. Ueno's activities.

Again on a Friday, when the Block Managers had their regular meeting, Mr. Ueno attended in order to talk with the Block Managers on the matter of sugar situation. Mr. Campbell, seeing Mr. Ueno's presence at the meeting, went to the Time-Keeper's Office and checked whether it was Mr. Ueno's working day or not. He then told the office worker to subtract a half a day's time from Mr. Ueno's working hours. Mr. Campbell, however, did not know that Mr. Ueno had sent my uncle to take his place while he was attending the meeting.

How Mr. Campbell was afraid and hated Mr. Ueno, is well seen in such small episode. There must be something behind Mr. Campbell, the Assistant Director, who was in such a dread of Mr. Ueno. He certainly had no dignity as the Assistant Director. Even a humble farmer in the country will not be so mean.

I, neither the residents of Manzanar as a whole, have never admired him too much. What was his attitude, for instance, at the time of the trouble between Mr. Akahoshi and Mr. Kuramoto of Block 24? What did he say when the communist Mr. Yoneda made a distorted report on the speech of Mr. Tateishi at the Kibei meeting? At the Block Leaders' meeting, Mr. Yoneda made an assertedly untrue report on Mr. Tateishi's speech saying things which were even outright contrary to what Mr. Yoneda at his apartment and pointed out the distorted points of his report, demanding him to retract his statement

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made at the Block Leaders' meeting. Mr. Yoneda replied then that he would retract his statement at the Block Leaders' meeting which was to be held on the next day for the reason that his report was originally made at the Block Leader's meeting. After the boys left, Mr. Yoneda went to see Mr. Campbell to inform and appeal his plight with his usual eloquence.

At the meeting on the next day, Mr. Campbell told the Block Leaders that there had been an intrusion into a private apartment by a group and that such persons may be beaten to death. He even stated that he would not hesitate to shoot them dead with his firearms which he kept at his residence if such persons should appear. The fact that the boys had never violated the customary courtesies when they visited Mr. Yoneda.

Mr. Campbell has never tried to listen to others except to those who hang upon his sleeves. How can we cooperate with such a person!

When the Mess Hall Workers Association had a meeting, Mr. Campbell attended with Mr. Winchester - Mr. Winchester is not a good speaker. That was all right. But why was it that he had called four truck loads of police force and had them stay around the meeting place, although the meeting was only a gathering of mess hall workers? Why was he afraid of the Mess Hall Workers Association meeting to such extent? Was it not true that he was afraid of Mr. Ueno's activities?

It was Mr. Campbell, indeed, who sent Mr. Ueno to the Independence County jail and caused the subsequent incident, which claimed innocent victims. To us it is clear that Mr. Campbell is to be blamed for the fateful incident.

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Besides Mr. Ueno, there are a few more who had somehow incurred Mr. Campbell's displeasure and for that reason were subjected to investigation when Mr. Ueno was questioned. They are Messrs. Henry Akira, Kaku, Ben Kishi and others.

Mr. Campbell told Mr. Ueno's room-mates that Mr. Ueno had been taken to the Independence county jail with the understanding of Mr. Ueno himself. But such was proved to be false when I saw Mr. Ueno in the evening of Dec. 6, and asked him about that matter. (Mr. Ueno was temporarily back to the Manzanar Police Station in the evening of Dec.) According to Mr. Ueno, it was Mr. Campbell's idea to have him arrested, and also it was Mr. Campbell himself, who took Mr. Ueno to the jail. Mr. Ueno argued with Mr. Campbell in his automobile until they reached the jail in Independence.

Mr. Campbell says that he had Mr. Ueno taken into custody because of his ambiguous statement as to his whereabouts in the evening of the attack upon Mr. Tayama, Dec. 5. But it has been clearly proved as an alibi that in the evening of the beating Mr. Ueno came home a little after seven o'clock and went to bed. All the testimonies of the witnesses agree upon this point. Why then did Mr. Campbell have Mr. Ueno arrested in spite of the alibi?

I think it was because Mr. Campbell had been obsessed too much by the individual Mr. Ueno and regarded Mr. Ueno's activities as those of an individual, which led Mr. Campbell to brand Mr. Ueno an agitator. Without knowing that there were the whole Manzanar residents backing Mr. Ueno, Mr. Campbell tried to put an end to Mr. Ueno's activities by linking him without evidence with the attack upon Mr. Tayama, and then putting him in jail. That was Mr. Campbell's intended plan.----  
December 12, 1942.

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## Part II

WHO ARE THE RESPONSIBLE PERSONS FOR THE SHOOTING  
INCIDENT?

Again it is quite obvious to me that the persons responsible for the shooting of the evening of Dec. 6, 1942, are the Project Director, Mr. Merritt, and the Army Officer who was in charge of the soldiers at the scene of the shooting incident.

When it was learned that Mr. Campbell, abusing his authority, had Mr. Ueno arrested and had him put in jail in Independence, the angry residents of Manzanar had a mass meeting at the fire-break between Blocks 22 and 23 in the afternoon of Dec. 6, and passed a resolution to demand immediate release of Mr. Ueno. They further decided that, if Mr. Ueno was not released, the residents could not owe the responsibility for the resulting outcome. After the meeting the people immediately proceeded towards the Administration Committee, met the Director, Mr. Merritt, and asked him to release Mr. Ueno. But Mr. Merritt did not listen very seriously to what Mr. Kurihara said. Mr. Kurihara stated that there was a possibility of a strike by the Manzanar Mess Hall Workers Association if Mr. Ueno was not released immediately, because Mr. Ueno had been a very devoted member of the Association. The answer was that even pointed out that there was a possibility of stopping the whole activities in Manzanar, but the answer was the same. Again Mr. Kurihara stated that the people gathered in front of the Administration Building would not go home until Mr. Ueno was released. And again the answer was the same as before. It seemed there was an utter lack of sincerity on the part of the administration.

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The Director showed no sincerity, yet seeing the determined attitude of the crowd, he was a bit nervous. He called the Army in order to scare the mass, but the determined attitude of the people was unshaken. When he saw that, he conceded a little and promised that he would bring Mr. Ueno back if the crowd dispersed. Thus the residents of Manzanar went home that afternoon.

At six o'clock in the evening of Dec. 6, the people of Manzanar gathered again at the same place, at the fire-break between Blocks 22 and 23, and heard the report made by the Negotiation Committee. And again passed a resolution that unless Mr. Ueno's release was affected in the same evening, the demand for his release would be pressed on. And again the residents proceeded towards the direction of the Administration Building and gathered by the Police Station. But neither the Director nor the Assistant Director appeared at the station. It was necessary, therefore, for the Negotiation Committee to talk by telephone. And it was extremely difficult to reach an agreement over the telephone.

Meanwhile, the people outside, having been kept waiting in the cold, became excited and the soldiers threw tear bombs in the midst of the crowd; and while the crowd tried to flee in confusion, the soldiers fired a volley from behind, causing one death and many other wounds.

I would like to ask: Why did the Director Mr. Merritt and the Assistant Director Mr. Campbell not show their sincerity at least by not avoiding to meet the Negotiation Committee? It should have been clearly understood what the people of Manzanar wanted. There was not any need of avoiding the negotiation.

Furthermore, in spite of the fact that it was clearly manifested by the conduct of the soldiers who were present at the scene

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of the gathering during the afternoon that there were a few soldiers who did not even try to conceal their indignation against the crowd, the same soldiers were sent again to watch the crowd in the evening. Is it not reasonable to conclude that the officer who was in charge of the soldiers in the evening was partly responsible for the shooting?  
December 12, 1942.

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Part III

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Mr. Winchester, the Chef of Manzanar Mess Halls

The reason for organizing the Manzanar Mess Hall Workers Association by the 1,500 mess hall workers of Manzanar lies in the fact that Mr. Winchester did not consider the appeal made by mess hall workers when they asked for requests. When workers asked in a strong manner, he would be silenced by Mr. Winchester. The mess halls had no one to ask for a change concerning the unfair distribution of food stuffs, unhealthy condition of the kitchen, etc., prevailing in the mess halls in the center.

In the meantime, the formation of the Fair Practice Committee, which sounded dependable in name, was announced. When the Fair Practice Committee had a meeting one evening at Mess Hall 21, the mess hall representatives attended in order to know whether the new organization was affiliated with the mess hall workers. The representatives asked the chairman, Fred Tayama, about the purpose of the Fair Practice Committee. But his answers were ambiguous.

On the following day, the mess hall representatives decided to form an organization of their own which would be able to take care of the problems of the 1,500 mess hall workers of Manzanar. A report on the purported new organization was made to Mr. Winchester, who agreed to the plan of the organization. The representatives, then talked to the gentleman, Mr. Harvey Coverly, preferring to talk to the ungentlemanlike Mr. Campbell, and got his permission.

As soon as the Mess Hall Workers Association was organized, the organization asked Mr. Winchester to do a few things for the Mess Halls which had surprised Mr. Winchester. Mr. Winchester then told the workers to disband the Association.

There are a few other things which prove his lack of sincerity:

1. Mr. Winchester would always tell the chefs to reduce the number of workers, and if there were acute shortage of workers at some mess halls, he would never allow to remedy the shortage.

Before the Mess Hall Workers Association was organized, he had said that the number of workers should be reduced to one for each ten diners as it is done in the Army. When told that it could not be done, he would threaten to shut down the mess halls which complained. Yet, when the Association made a strong protest he gave in and said that it was all right to hire 45 or 50 if they were absolutely necessary.

If he was to give in, why didn't he show his sincerity by cooperating from the beginning?

2. Mr. Winchester was asked many times to correct the unsanitary situation and the lack of necessary cooking utensils, but he did not pay

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attention to the complaints. The pans he acquired for the mess halls were rusty and if they were to be used outside of the camp, they were not fitted for cooking dog-foods. In a country where it is particularly strict concerning matters of public sanitation it cannot be conceived that it is the WPA policy to make us use such unsanitary cooking pans. There are only few cooking knives supplied by the government, and many of them which originally belonged to the Japanese in camp and supposedly held by the government for safe-keeping. Since such family knives are too small for mess hall kitchens use, where meals for hundreds must be prepared, it was requested many of times to acquire larger knives. But Mr. Winchester explanation was always on the negative. That the large knives were unobtainable because of priority. Yet, when the people were willing to pay \$4.50 from their own pocket for a knife to be used in the mess hall he would get one without any trouble.

There are no adequate pie-pans in the mess halls. When requested to get pie pans so that the cooksean bake the pies as listed on the menu, he would just give a vague answer, and would not acquire any. There are some messhalls where privately purchased pie pans are used. Why was it that those things could be purchased by private individuals and not by the WRA.

3. According to the report from Poston, Arizona, monthly expenditure for food is announced; and if the amount actually spent is less than the amount for the next month and used for purchasing extra materials. Why is it that Manzanar, which is under the management of the same WRA, do not make announcement as to the monthly expenditure? Those who know such facts are suspecting Mr. Winchester of cheating.

4. As soon as the Mess Hall Workers Association was organized, the dismissal of the much detested Tom Tayama (Fred Tayama's brother) was requested with evidence against Tom Tayama. But Mr. Winchester disregarded the request. Tom Tayama's dismissal was requested, because he had taken out food stuffs from the store-room of the mess hall without any explanation and supplied them to the Mess Hall 24, where his brother was the chef. (It is said that at No. 24 mess hall it was a custom of Fred Tayama to have his gang specially served.)

As stated above, Mr. Winchester was asked to remove such unfair supply of workers, but he would not pay any attention to the request. It has been interpreted therefore that there was something wrong, with Mr. Winchester and that Tom Tayama knew of his activities. (It is also reported that Tom Tayama did boast himself; saying that even if the Mess Hall Workers Association wanted his dismissal, it could not be done, for he had Mr. Winchester and Mr. Campbell behind him.

5. It is understood by all that system outside the camp, in regards to sugar rationing, makes each allotment of sugar by issuing a card to each individual. In Manzanar the method of allotting sugar to each mess hall is of mystery as has already been shown in other report.

When inquiries began to pour in on sugar allotment after the establishment of the Mess Hall Workers Association, Mr. Winchester had explained that extra sugar was needed by the Shoyu manufacturing project. Yet Mr. Winchester did not send the requisition paper to San Francisco Office for extra sugar which was to be used for manufacturing Shoyu until

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Some time during November.

In September the Shoyu project was already under its planning stage. Yet, until the inquiry was made upon sugar allotment, one ounce to a person per week, which is, 500 pounds per week allowance to Manzanar had been some how disposed without entering the mouths of the residents.

When Y. Kaku was looking into the records of sugar distribution at the warehouse for a complete investigation under the joint action of the Mess Hall Workers Association and the Block Managers, Tom Tayama saw Y. Kaku and reported to Mr. Winchester as to the investigation. Mr. Winchester immediately appeared at the warehouse and snatched the notes from Kaku's hands and tore them to pieces. Why did he tear the notes? Why is it that soon after the incident of December 6th, Kaku was taken into custody?

6. In other center such as Poston, Arizona, three sacks of special rice for making rice-cakes are being supplied to each block of twelve buildings with the block residents being of some 208 persons. Here in Manzanar, to a block of fourteen buildings with some 300 persons only two sacks are supplied in spite of the request made for at least four sacks per block.

For these reasons aforementioned, the Manzanarians request the dismissal of Mr. Winchester, who is indirectly responsible for the incident of December 6, 1942.

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