FILE COPY 2

Heart Mountain Relocation Project
Heart Mountain, Wyoming

MEMORANDUM

Files (HP)

February 12, 1944

TO: Dillon S. Myer, Director

FROM: Guy Robertson, Project Director

SUBJECT: Weekly Report

The Relocation Committee completed an enthusiastic and I think beneficial meeting last week. All of the meetings were well attended and much interest was evidenced by the issei group. Mr. Cullum joined the team here and was unfortunately taken ill with the flu and was confined to the hospital for almost the entire week. However, he is up and around now and plans to join the team in Topaz next week. Dr. Webber made a fine impression and it was said that his Japanese was better than the ordinary nisei Japanese. He has, by the way, indicated the desire to have project employment, particularly at Heart Mountain. If I can find an opening on the staff, I would like to have Dr. Webber here as I believe he is perhaps one of the most potential forces in the Relocation Program.

The Selective Service Order has been claiming wide attention and, as usual, a great many of the boys claim to be confused. We have set up a little division under Mr. Todd to endeavor to take care of their problems and furnish what information they require. In this connection, our friend, Mr. Okamoto, is again very active in agitating resistance to the Selective Service program. It seems to be general knowledge that he is counseling the younger nisei not to report to their draft boards and to take whatever penalties are assessed against them for failure to report. I am endeavoring to get someone to make statements to this effect and so far have not been able to find anyone who is willing to give direct evidence or sign a deposition. However, he is being watched closely and I expect to be able to upset his apple cart pretty soon. The camp is worked up over the matter as it would, of course, be about the worst publicity we could get. I believe that I will finally succeed in finding a number of people who will be willing to testify against him. He has also been holding small group meetings throughout the camp, making fiery speeches against the War Relocation program, but, since they are not scheduled meetings and very impromptu, we have not been able to catch up with him. He is a bad element and

fortunately does not have the respect of the people of Heart Mountain.

Bennie Meehan of the Reports Division received his notice to report for physical examination in Denver on Monday, February 14th. He will advise us as soon as he hears the outcome of this and if Bennie is to be inducted, I will immediately wire Mr. Baker to have Mr. Acree come to Heart Mountain.

Mr. Barnhart from Topaz arrived on the project yesterday morning to help us out in the Attorney's office until such time as we know Mr. McGowen will be able to return to work.

The project operations are running along about as usual. We are now below the allotment for evacuee labor as prescribed by the Washington office and hope to be able to further reduce the force to an extent that the increase of agricultural workers which we will need in the spring will not put us over the quota. We have a surplus of workers now and work efficiency is better than it has been at any time but we realize that this condition may not obtain in the spring if we have trouble recruiting help.

Mr. Wt

We are sending three mental patients to California this morning, accompanied by Mr. Martin and two members of our staff as one of the ladies is very violent and the other might be under the right circumstances.

Relocation

Mr. Parmeter from Omaha has been here for two weeks and I believe he is getting some people interested in farming propositions in the tri-county area.

We have been having some pretty severe weather but have been fortunate that our weather has been much better than it was last year.

Two of our staff joined the WAGs last week and quite a number of the boys are being reclassified. I accompanied the Personnel Department to Denver last week on a recruiting expedition. It is still hard to get capable help to fill the vacancies as they occur. I had a nice visit with Messrs. Pitts and Lindley and the Relocation Committee in Mr. Pitts's office Saturday at which time we spend most of the day reviewing and rehashing the relocation problem.

Mr. Pitts called me Thursday regarding a basketball team from the Denver area which was going to play at Heart Mountain and suggested that there was a suspicion that they were making the trip with black market gasoline. Mr. Kurtz was in Denver at the time and I had him make a complete investigation. He assured me that they were coming by common carrier and were scheduling other games enroute. The game had been advertised for a week and I did nothing to disturb the arrangements after I was sure that it was legal as I believe that it is good public relations. Our basketball boys have been playing the different teams in the Basin area and I think it has done much to help us in our outside relations.

I shall endeavor to settle the controversy about Selective Service as quickly as possible and will keep you advised as to the developments.

FILE COPY 2

Heart Mountain Relocation Project
Heart Mountain, Wyoming

Files (MP)

MEMORANDUM

February 26, 1944

airmail

TO: Dillon S. Myer, Director

FROM: Guy Robertson, Project Director

SUBJECT: Weekly Report

Mr. McMillan of the FBI dropped into the Center last Tuesday and told me that his office had suggested that he stop at Heart Mountain and investigate any resistence to the Selective Service law that might be apparent here. We gave him what information we had and suggested that Mr. Okamoto was the organizer of what resistence we had at Heart Mountain and that he was ably abetted by Paul Nakadate. We had not been able to obtain any incriminating evidence against either of these boys but we know that they are carrying on an agitation in this camp. Mr. McMillan left Thursday evening and said there was no evidence to justify any action by the FBI but requested us to keep him advised.

Mr. Okamoto is operating in the name of Fair Play Committee. He appeared before the Council about a week ago and requested them to endorse his Fair Play Committee. The chairman asked him to submit details of the organization, its purposes, and officers, etc., and told him that they would be glad to consider the matter. Mr. Okamoto advised him that it was necessary for him to have their quick endorsement as the Selective Service business was very important and it was before the camp right then and that he would not have time to go into the details that they requested. They advised Mr. Okamoto that they would take no action whatsoever without complete information regarding the purposes of the Fair Play Committee and he has not submitted this information to them. That he is not pleased with their answer is evidenced by the bulletin which the Fair Play Committee distributed in camp Thursday night. This was not printed on the project and I have not been able to find out who did the work. However, it does not seem of any great importance and we are paying no attention to it. A copy is attached for your information.

Forced resistance

The Park County Draft Board has sent notices to 25 nisei of Heart Mountain to appear at Powell at 8:00 o'clock tomorrow morning. (Sunday) Of the 25 notices sent out, 6 have relocated and one is in the hospital recovering from a recent appendectomy. This leaves 18 to go and 17 of them have indicated that they will report tomorrow morning. If the

knowledge. It is a question why the "grapevine was so inefficient in this case and so efficient in others. For instance, the item on the suppose blanket rejections of two weeks ago reached almost everybody with incredible speed. It seems that unpleasant news travels less rapidly than does news which conforms to the wishful thinking of many evasnees.

A few more matters may be mentioned briefly:

The circulation of Rocky Shiape has increased from about 1000 to 1200 during the past three weeks, a growth of 20 per cent.

The analyst heard for the first time of the explisit anti-relocation stand of FPC. It takes the position that to go out now and accept the "skimpy" aid offered by WRA at present is to sign away one's rights to "adequate" future compensation.

A change of policy or attitude of FPC was reported. Earlier it had said in substance, "Give us your two dollars and we'll keep you out of the Army". Now it tells its members and prospective members that it does not want them if they are concerned just with avoiding military service. It wants only those whose objections are purely on the ground of the existing discriminations.

Most, or at least a great many, people still think that failure to follow selective service orders will not bring serious penalties. But this view seems not to be so widespread nor so fully-accepted as it was earlier. There are more questions and doubts about it. The delinquents themselves were jittery even before they learned of the issuance of the warrants.

There was a fair crop of rumors. That the draft had been called off was heard on Monday and Wednesday. It was reported that pre-induction physicals had been shifted from Cheyenne to Denver due to the large percentage of rejections and that hereafter the examinations would be much more lenient. One conversation was passed on to the effect that the Project Director was afraid he would lose his job and had gone to pull some strings with the proper officials; but this idea appears not to have gained much currency.

It is difficult to summarize the state of feeling or to discern any clear trends in sentiment. Things are bubbling, but more quietly than at many previous periods. There is some evidence that people are just a little bored with FPC meetings; they have heard about enough words and they want some results. The organization still has plenty of support, but it is not expressed so ardently and actively. The resisters are persistently and tenaciously busy, but their deeds have lost part of their dramatic appeal. At the same time, those who favor accepting the draft have been making their stand known through the Sentinel and in other ways. This has served to remind some persons who were carried away by excitement earlier that they cannot talk or wish the draft away.

FILE COPY

In reply, please refer to:

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

CENTRAL REGION
Heart Mountain Relocation Project
Heart Mountain, Wyoming

MEMORANDUM

March 11, 1944

TO: Dillon S. Myer, Director
FROM: Douglas M. Todd, Acting Project Director
SUBJECT: Weekly Report

The chief matter of interest for the week ending Saturday, March 11, concerns selective service. A memorandum from Mr. A. T. Hansen to the chief of his division covers this subject rather thoroughly and is well written. We are enclosing a copy of his report.

There was called up for preinduction physical examination during this week a total of sixty-six (66) men, fifty-one (51) of these men left for Fort Warren at Cheyenne, Wyoming. Eleven (11) had justifiable excuses—illness or relocation. Twelve (12) failed to respond to the call. Of the men who were examined, nine (9) passed as physically acceptable to the Army. One is held pending further examination.

We were considerably concerned by the fact that twelve men failed to report as ordered. Mr. Macmillan of the Federal Bureau of Investigation stayed on this Project during Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and a part of Thursday, covering the period when these men were leaving for their preinduction physical examinations. After a meeting of Colonel Boyack, Acting Head of the State Selective Service, and Mr. Carl Sackett, United States District Attorney at Cheyenne, the procedure was set up for handling men who failed to report as ordered by Selective Service. This procedure involves the following: Immediately when a man fails to report as ordered, his name is turned over to the agent of the F.B.I., who in turn reports this to the United States District Attorney. An investigation is then initiated and the records of the original local board on the West Coast are carefully checked. Any pending appeals are disposed of. All paper work such as transfer of the papers to the local board in Wyoming are carefully checked to make certain they are in proper order. Following this it is likely that an immediate order for induction into the Army will be issued to the person delinquent. The United States District Attorney seems to favor basing any action on this order for induction into the Service rather than on the

preinduction physical examination. Should the man fail to report to the order for induction, he will then be arraigned and the case presented to the Federal Grand Jury. The next meeting of this body will be the 8th of May, 1944. If an indictment is returned, the case will then be prosecuted.

The last cases handled in the State of Wyoming, as reported to me by Colonel Boyack, received a sentence of four years in the penitentiary. This involved some delinquent Caucasians.

Other matters in the Center are going along about as usual. The repair work on the canal, necessary before water can be delivered to the Project, is well under way and should be finished well ahead of time. The building of the personnel barracks is going along very well, also improvements on the buildings and fencing in the live stock area.

Efforts in pushing relocation are receiving the major attention of the staff. A great number of leave clearance dockets are flowing into the office. This activity is consuming the major portion of the time of several of the staff members. It is the hope that this matter can be brought to final consideration in about two or three weeks as far as the stay files on this Project are concerned.

Douglas W. Todd
Acting Project Director

Enclosure No. 1167

DWT/lb

FILE COPY

~~Moore~~
~~Baker~~
~~Bottelsen~~
~~Foster~~
~~Olson~~
Files (HP)

Heart Mountain Relocation Project
Heart Mountain, Wyoming

EM:PM:PR:TM

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

Attention: John Baker

Subject: Weekly Report

Dear Mr. Myer:

During the past week, twelve drafters out of eighty failed to report for their preinduction physical examinations.

The serious consequences for these delinquents and the detrimental effect such response to Selective Service will have upon our public relations program prompted us to editorialize sharply on the forces at work in this Center which are apparently responsible for the delinquency.

While it is still too early to judge any effects it might have had upon the community, we were informed this morning that the tone of the leader of the "Fair Play Committee" (one of the groups we took to task in our editorial) at their meeting yesterday, was softened in sharp contrast to his previous highly inciting speeches.

Acting Project Director, D. M. Todd, brought the matter of draft delinquency to the attention of both the block managers and councilmen at a joint meeting Friday. He pointed out the seriousness of draft evasion and reminded them of their responsibility as community leaders to advise properly all young men of draft age.

Only nine of sixty-three draftees called this week passed their preinduction physical examinations at Fort Warren this week.

The community council this week completed two petitions

FILE COPY 2

~~Original~~ ~~Project~~ ~~Director~~ ~~Chrono~~ Files (HP)

Heart Mountain Relocation Project
Heart Mountain, Wyoming
MEMORANDUM

March 13, 1944

TO: Dillon S. Myer

FROM: Guy Robertson

SUBJECT: Weekly Report

About the only unusual happening at Heart Mountain the past week was the Selective Service question. Contrary to what I told you when I was in Washington, Mr. Chimoto is still a member of the Fair Play Committee and he and Paul Nakadate are carrying on an active resistance to Selective Service. The fact that we have not been able to take the 12 boys, who refused to answer their pre-induction physical, out of camp has complicated matters and has given the Fair Play Committee a feeling of security and boldness.

I talked to Mr. Glick about this and he advised me that the Justice Department had consented to immediate removal of the 12 boys and that the United States Attorney in Cheyenne, Mr. Carl Sackett, has been advised, both by airmail letter and by telephone to see that this was done. That was several days ago and there has been no action taken up to this time. Our next call is next Wednesday for 23 boys and we will have two more calls of 25 each or a total of 73 for next week.

It is my opinion that unless some action is taken to remove the 12 boys from camp, that there will be general resistance and a great many of the 73 will not report for pre-induction physical. The camp is in a turmoil and there have been rumors of threats which we have tried diligently to nail down but have been unable to secure evidence for conviction. The irreconcilables seem to be in control and there is little we can do to counteract their activity until we can settle the Selective Service question. This activity is reflected in the Council and in the leaders generally in the camp. It is very unhealthy and dangerous and we are using every effort to overcome their influence.

We are starting some activity in the Agriculture Department, getting out the hot bed plantings and general clean up and planning for the summer program.

Guy Robertson
Project Director

FILE COPY 2.

Heart Mountain Relocation Project
Heart Mountain, Wyoming

HM:PM:PR:VM

March 27, 1944

Mr. Dillon Myer
Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
910-17th Street
Washington, 25, D. C.

Attention: John Baker

Dear Mr. Myer:

Warrants for the arrest of twelve delinquents out of the first group of draftees called were issued this week by U. S. Commissioner M. E. Reynolds. All twelve delinquents were picked up over the weekend.

Out of the second group of draftees called this week, sixteen were declared delinquent.

Lt. Moe Yamamura of Camp Shelby, a former resident of this center, expressed the belief that the youth of the center should be made more war conscious by publicity and contact with enlisted men. The isolation of center residents from the tempo of wartime activity on the outside has tended to make the consideration of their status paramount to the war effort. He suggested the visit of army teams to the centers to create a glorification of the armed forces.

Showing of the WRA picture, "Go for Broke" is a step in that direction.

A girls basketball team, composed of outstanding players in the center, was invited to play a women's team in Powell Thursday night. Transportation for the team was provided by the Powell women.

We are attaching reports from the Welfare department and the Community Analyst's report for your information.

Sincerely,

Douglas M. Todd
Ass't. Project Director

VM:ks

FILE COPY

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

In reply, please refer to:

CENTRAL REGION
Heart Mountain Relocation Project
Heart Mountain, Wyoming

~~Robson~~
~~Smith~~
~~Myers~~
~~Fickeson~~
~~Crane~~
File (HP)

In Reply, Refer to
RM:PM:PD:CR

MEMORANDUM

April 1, 1944

AIR MAIL

TO: William S. Myer, Director

FROM: Guy Robertson, Project Director

SUBJECT: Weekly Report

The selective service program at Heart Mountain is causing me considerable concern. We have had 113 people called for preinduction physical examination and fifty-four of them have refused to report. Twelve of the fifty-four are now in the Cheyenne jail in custody of the United States Marshall. We expect to have some action on the other forty-two very shortly. I am disturbed that this action is being delayed, but Mr. Macmillan of the F.B.I. says that he is handling the situation as rapidly as he can.

I spent last Thursday with Mr. Carl Sackett, the United States Attorney in Cheyenne and Lt. Col. A. R. Bayack, the acting head of the Selective Service Division for Wyoming. Mr. Sackett has been reluctant to take immediate action, but after considerable discussion he agreed that he thought it was the proper course and immediately issued warrants for the twelve that were delinquent when I left Heart Mountain. The other delinquencies have happened since that time, and I have not contacted Mr. Sackett further as he told me he would handle them just as rapidly as he could.

The County Jail at Cody will accommodate only eight evacuee prisoners at one time, and the City Jail will accommodate an additional four, so it seems that it is going to be necessary for them to find some other place to hold the boys if they take them in lots of more than twelve.

The agitation of the Fair Play Committee is continuing and it is hard to say what the outcome will be. I believe the removal of Mr. Okamoto and Mr. Harima to Tule Lake is having a very good effect. Several of the members have come to me and told me that they are not

For attachment see Copy 1

sympathetic to Mr. Okamoto's methods, and have indicated that they are willing to endeavor to correct some of the thinking of the boys who are refusing to go.

The Fair Play Committee has found a champion in the Rocky Shinsu, published in Denver. They seem to be carrying on an enthusiastic campaign in sympathy with the Fair Play Committee, and some of their editorials, if not sedition, border very closely upon it. I am wondering if it is not possible for you to have them investigated by some agency responsible for that kind of work.

As reported to you in a telegram from Denver, I find that the examining board at Fort Warren in Cheyenne, was rejecting a very large percentage of the boys on the recommendation of their psychiatrist. In conversation with Colonel Boyrak, he agreed with me that this did not seem a proper thing to do as it was his understanding that the mental attitude had already been determined before the Army agreed to accept the Nisei through their draft board. It is my understanding that the examining board is to be moved to Denver today and that the psychiatrist will also continue on the examining board in Denver.

One of the boys who was transferred to Tule Lake, Mr. Sam Morine, decided that he would put to test the gate procedure, and in some manner got out of the camp and went to Billings. He later returned to Cody and when I was advised that he was in Cody, I asked the County Sheriff to pick him up. He refused to do this as he said he was not clear that we had authority to pick him up. I later sent our Internal Security Chief, Mr. Campbell, into town to get him and incarcerate him in the Cody jail. The Sheriff refused to accept him in the jail as Morine had told him he had $3000 and that he was going to make a test case to determine whether or not the War Relocation Authority could require him to get a pass before going in and off the Center and area. He returned to Heart Mountain of his own accord that afternoon, but the following day, about 2:30 p.m., he and two other boys presented themselves at the gate without a pass. The Military Police told them that they could not go through; they walked through anyway, and the Military Police picked them up and put them in the guard house. I picked Mr. Morine up that afternoon and sent him on to Tule Lake. I kept the other two boys in the guard house and contacted the Sheriff in Cody again and asked for permission to have our man bring them up there and put them in jail. They refused us this permission even though we have a contract with them, as they thought that this might be a test case and they might be brought into a suit either for false arrest or false detention. I went into Cody last night and talked with Mr. Noah Riley, the acting Sheriff, and he finally stated that if we needed to have some place to put the boys after the trial today he would accept them into the jail if we would send a jailer and take all the responsibility of guarding and feeding them, but the maximum time would be one week. I agreed to this pending the time I could locate other accommodations. However, I had the boys appear before me this morning at ten o'clock and they explained to me that

they had no intention hereafter of trying to violate such regulations, also that if they were going to be tried before the Project Director that they thought they should have an attorney to represent them.

After considerable talk, I found that their attitude was not so bad and I agreed that we would dismiss the case with the understanding that they would not try a similar procedure in the future, advising them that if they did try they would be immediately picked up and the sentence would probably be heavy. I do not believe they will try to go through the gate without a pass, as I made it very plain to them that it was a violation of the regulations and was substantiated by proclamations.

The Rocky Shimpo published a report that the Fair Play Committee had petitioned Mr. Jones to have us dismissed. This is the only place I have seen this and members of the Fair Play Committee seemed to be totally ignorant when I questioned them about it. Mr. Barrows advised me over the telephone that he had forwarded the information to me. To date I have not received it.

I have been endeavoring to see if I could get to the bottom of the apparent discontent in the Heart Mountain center. I attribute to selective service 1A4 to Mr. Okamoto the major portion of the trouble. Paul Nakadate took over the Fair Play Committee temporarily, but I understand that he was later kicked out and that Okamoto regained control. Okamoto is now in Tule Lake, and I had a leave clearance hearing for Mr. Paul Nakadate yesterday. I am going to recommend that leave clearance be denied him and that he be transferred to Tule Lake, and will air mail this to you just as soon as it is transcribed.

I also find that the camp is very much disturbed about our reduction in the number of evacuees employed. As stated to you in a previous report, the Project Director at Heart Mountain is now considered to be a hard man. When the order for reduction came out, we carried it out slowly, and I thought, painlessly. In order to meet budget requirements, we went somewhat below the allowed quota, but we are operating more efficiently and are getting more work done with less labor. For the good of project operations, I would not like to have to increase the number of employees unnecessarily. Unfortunately, our Council, our mess hall workers, and other groups are constantly corresponding with the other projects. In many instances they have found that we are considerably below other projects, in proportion, and of course, are insisting that I use my influence to suggest to Washington that we should employ more people on this project. Unless we have work projects that require more people, I, of course, do not feel justified in asking your office for permission to employ more people. I think our present program is sound, and would much prefer to carry through on this plan, even though it makes the Project Director a "heel" in the eyes of the majority of the evacuees. We are constantly carrying on an educational program and hope that we will be able to educate the residents that this is the sensible way to handle the situation, and that it is for their good from every standpoint.

Heart Mountain Relocation Project
Heart Mountain, Wyoming

EM:PM:PR:VM

FILE COPY 2.

April 3, 1944

Mr. Dillon Myer
Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
910-17th Street
Washington, 25, D. C.

Weekly report.

Attention: John Baker

Dear Mr. Myer:

Favored with excellent weather, the annual spring cleanup campaign which was scheduled for this week got off to an early start with residents busily airing their bedding, washing windows and hauling trash away from their barracks.

While the Christian churches are preparing for special Easter services, the Buddhist churches here are planning a Hana Matsuri in celebration of the birth of the Buddha.

Esther Brisenmeister, national YWCA secretary of the Japanese project, and Dorothea Spellman, former staff member of the Honolulu YWCA and present Denver University professor, are scheduled to attend the Y Conference here April 6 to 12.

We are particularly interested in the program of a Pasadena, Calif. group which has proposed to work openly for the immediate restoration of full civil rights to evacuees.

This group, composed of prominent residents of Pasadena, was formerly affiliated with the Pacific Coast Committee on American Principles and Fair Play, but at the time of the Dannen committee investigation in Los Angeles, withdrew when the Fair Play Committee announced it would not advocate the return of evacuees for the duration.

The Pasadena group subscribes to the policy of Rev. Aaron Heist as expressed in a recent issue of Open Forum. Their slogan is "Justice Delayed is Justice Denied".

Through one of our staff members, who is a personal

friend of the leaders of this group, we are able to keep in close contact with the group's activities. We feel that if military necessity for exclusion no longer exists and loyal evacuees are permitted to return to their former homes, the chief reason for opposing selective service by center residents will be eliminated.

The Reports Division is offering facilities of its Japanese Section to assist the Relocation program division in an educational program particularly designed for issei. Although some work has been done in this direction for some time, the efforts of both divisions will now be concentrated along specific lines.

A copy of the community analyst's report is attached.

Sincerely,

Guy Robertson
Project Director

Wm:bm

Heart Mountain Relocation Project
Heart Mountain, Wyoming
MEMORANDUM

FILE COPY 2

April 8, 1944

Files (HP)

TO: Dillon S. Myer, Director

FROM: Guy Robertson, Project Director

SUBJECT: Weekly Report

By to the present time we have had 310 boys called for pre-induction physical examinations. Out of this number 54 have refused to report. The United States Marshall picked up twelve of these boys two weeks ago today. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of this week they completed their work by picking up the balance. These boys are now stationed in different jails throughout Wyoming, some in Casper, and it is my understanding that some will be put in Rawlins and Laramie and maybe a few in Thermopolis. They are awaiting a meeting of the grand jury which, I am advised, is to be held May 5th. They have all been arraigned and placed under $2,000 bond and so far I have not heard of any effort being made to supply the bond.

We have had notice so far of 96 boys being accepted. This is the final report of March 30 and we have had no one called since that date.

Word has apparently come back to the Center from the attorney that the Fair Play Committee has engaged to represent the boys, Samuel D. Menin, that they will be given an opportunity to accept service in the army and if they do accept service, there will be no penalty. The danger in this is that the percentage of acceptances is very small and the majority of these boys will come back into the Center and continue their activities in resisting the draft and we will be bothered all through the summer or until Selective Service has completed its work at Heart Mountain.

I have held a hearing on Paul Nakadate who is now the active leader of the Fair Play Committee and have forwarded this hearing to you with the recommendation that Mr. Nakadate be denied leave clearance and be transferred to Tule Lake. His wife and daughter recently left him to join her father and his family in Denver, Colorado. It is my understanding that her family is very much opposed to the actions of the Fair Play Committee and that it caused a separation in their family. Nakadate is an irreconcilable who has consistently agitated trouble at

For other attachments, see copy 1.
EPM

Heart Mountain and it would be a great relief to get rid of him. He is more intelligent than Okamoto but he is a fanatic of the soap box orator type who likes to be in the limelight all the time.

I think, undoubtedly, a few of the boys are sincere in the action that they have taken but I do not believe this is true of the big majority. The ones who have refused to answer the call are boys who have consistently refused to relocate except to take advantage of lucrative short-term leave and then to return to the Center and spend their winters in idleness. Their work record on the project has generally been unsatisfactory and they are to be found at the bottom of most of our discontent and agitation. The FBI has questioned each one of the boys in an endeavor to find out if there is enough evidence to file charges of sedition but they have apparently been well schooled and their testimony is such that Mr. McMillan does not feel it would substantiate a charge of sedition. He has some of the boys to question this afternoon, one of whom has sent word to me that he is willing to give us some information that will lead to the evidence that we are seeking. I will report this to you as soon as the interview is held.

This week the council repudiated the statements in the Rocky Shimpo that they had agreed with the Fair Play Committee in asking for my resignation and stating that conditions were bad in the Center. A copy of this is attached.

After talking to you about Sgt Kuroki, I took the matter up with several of the intelligent, leading nisei and they are very much in favor of extending an invitation to Sgt. Kuroki to come to Heart Mountain. The matter was presented to the Council and they have sent me a request to invite Sgt. Kuroki. In talking the matter over, they also suggested that it might be a good idea to have him accompanied by either Major James J. Gillespie of Des Moines or Captain Tara Suzuki who has recently been released from the Chicago General Hospital. They are, of course, very anxious to have Sgt. Kuroki and anything you can do to help us will be greatly appreciated.

I am attaching hereto this week's report from our Community Analyst which gives a very good survey of the situation as it stands at the present time.

We have had some nice rains this week which gives us an opportunity to get going in the Agricultural Department. In this connection, I am still holding up action on the expenditure of money for irrigation on the Center. As explained to you when I was in Washington, the two projects, one for $30,000 and one for $50,000, have been prepared by the Engineering Department. It is my opinion that the $30,000 would be makeshift because of the fact that our ground is so uneven and our mess halls and latrines are so much lower than the surrounding ground that it would be difficult to keep water from open irrigation ditches from flooding these buildings. It would also be necessary for us to siphon this water under each inter-

5

COMMUNITY ANALYST'S REPORT:

It has been another uneventful week. Of course many things have happened, but none of them have caught and held the attention of the community as a whole. Some people have been interested in certain subjects; others in different ones.

Preparations go on for the transfer to Tule Lake of 123 residents. This seems to have concerned only the individuals themselves and their friends and neighbors. There have been many farewell visits and some farewell festivities. But the procedure is sort of "normal", not greatly different from the departure of more than a hundred people at once for any purpose.

There was a fair amount of comment and speculation regarding the outcome of the grand jury hearing of the draft delinquents. When the news was announced over the radio May 10-11 that sixty-two indictments had been returned, few people were surprised. It was what they had expected generally. Moreover, it may be noted that a large section of the population appeared not to know or care that the trial was in process. The persons involved had made their decision and they could suffer the consequences. Most people apparently consider them neither heroes nor reprehensible delinquents.

The plan to contact them and offer counsel has, it seems, been abandoned completely.

Many individuals have their orders to report for physical examination and induction next week. The prospect is of great interest only to the draftees and those close to them. There is nothing that could be designated a community response. The operation of selective service is coming to be taken as a matter of course. An aspect of this "matter of course" is calm expectation that a few individuals will fail to report.

The arrival of the draft calls offer an excellent illustration of the efficiency of the local "grape vine". At 2p.m. the list of names to be called arrived at the project selective service office for checking to discover which individuals were in the center. There was need for haste so that the official notices could be issued as soon as possible. Two boys whose names were on the list were present when the list came. They were asked regarding the presence or absence of the others. Then they departed. A further check at the leave office showed that fifty-one of the fifty-five persons listed were in the center. Before 5p.m. three hours after the list came, forty-seven of the fifty-one had come into the project selective service office to verify the news that had reached them by word of mouth that they were due to be called.

Thursday, the 11th, high school commencement was held. This gave many evacuees an opportunity for participation in something managed by the Administration that they generally approve of. They have criticisms of how the school is run, but they do believe in education. And in a commencement exercise, criticisms tend to be forgotten as they assemble to recognize the academic progress of their children.

Heart Mountain Relocation Project
Heart Mountain, Wyoming

EM:PM:FT:VM

April 10, 1944

~~Manner~~
~~Baker~~
~~Buttenheim~~
~~Logier~~
~~Fowler~~
~~Crocker~~
Files (HP)

Mr. Dillon Myer
Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
910-17th Street
Washington-25
D. C.

Weekly rept

Attention: John Baker

Dear Mr. Myer:

Outstanding among news events during the past week was the arrest of forty-one Heart Mountain boys on warrants issued by the United States Marshall's office charging failure to appear for pre-induction physical examinations.

We carried the story factually in connection with our general story on selective service. In our editorial, we analyzed those forces responsible for the departure of Heart Mountain in comparison to those of other centers. We particularly blamed the Rocky Shimpo for their inciting stories.

While James Omura, English Section editor of the Rocky Shimpo, has taken issue with the Sentinel, the Pacific Citizen, the Manzanar Free Press and the Minidoka Irrigator on the draft question, we are heartened to know that these newspapers are agreed on the detrimental policy of the Denver newspaper.

Saburo Kido, in his column "Timely Topics" in the Pacific Citizen, defends the stand of the Sentinel. He said:

"The Heart Mountain Sentinel deserves the thanks of all nisei for its courageous stand. In the midst of such agitation and pressure as was being exerted by the Fair Play Committee members, it required gumption to oppose the misguided group. We are happy to know that there were those who were bold enough to set forth clearly in the editorial the stand that the nisei should take. We are confident that the residents of Heart Mountain will be thankful when the present disturbance subsides that they were not misled into mass violation of the draft law."

Two nisei paratroopers who had just won their wings by completing the training course at the U. S. army paratroop school at Ft. Benning, Ga., visited the center this week. We were able to get some pictures of them and are sending the negatives on to the Denver office. Their visit was interesting because we learned for the first time that approximately thirty Japanese Americans are now being used in that branch of the service.

The picture, "Go for Broke", was previewed by staff members and will be shown to various groups throughout the community. While we agreed the dialogue was distinct and inspirational, we were a bit disappointed with the photography which was indistinct through most of the film.

Of interest to us all was the disclosure that the Wing Quong home, a Presbyterian school for Chinese girls in Oakland, donated $2,.25 to the Community Christian church here.

Floyd Schmoe, northwest director of the American Friends Service Committee is due here April 16. He plans to show colored motion pictures of relocated evacuees in areas from Spokane to the East coast.

Announcement was made this week that Frank Brown, mayor of Lovell, Wyoming, has accepted an invitation to speak at our high school commencement exercises on May 11.

Reports on repatriation, a hostel for the aged and the community analyst's report are included.

Sincerely,

Guy Robertson
Project Director

Wishe

(COPY)

FILE COPY

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Heart Mountain Relocation Project
Heart Mountain, Wyoming

MEMORANDUM

Copy

~~MOORE~~
~~BOGGS~~
~~LYON~~
~~BOTTEDAHL~~
~~FISCHER~~
~~JOSEPH~~
~~CROSS~~
FILES (mp)

ack 4-21-44 mp

April 15, 1944

To: Dillon S. Myer, Director

From: Guy Robertson, Project Director

Subject: Weekly Report

There is nothing of an extra-ordinary nature to report from Heart Mountain this week.

Three boys were inducted into the army on Thursday, April 13th and four were called for pre-induction physical examinations on the 14th. They all reported and went to Denver. We have not had a report as to whether or not they are accepted.

As far as I can learn there have been no meetings of the Fair Play Committee and I believe their activities are at a very low ebb. I sincerely hope that we are well over this problem and that the boys will report when called from now on.

Weather is beginning to warm up and the boys are pretty active in agriculture. We have been a little short on motor equipment for the heavy plows but negotiated a lease contract for two tractors temporarily until such time as we can get the four that we have being repaired. We sent these to the Bureau of Roads shop in Denver several months ago and they promised us at that time that they would get them for us by April 1st. It now develops that they are unable to secure replacement parts and it will be June 1st or later before they can have them repaired and returned to us.

Seasonal leave applications from the War Food Administration are coming in in great numbers. We are advised this morning that Utah and Idaho would like to recruit 800 seasonal workers from Heart Mountain and, I fear, will make labor pretty scarce for the agriculture program. This is when our trouble will start but we are going right ahead with the program as outlined and hope it can be carried through to a successful conclusion. There is considerable discontent regarding the new seasonal leave regulation in that they are not allowed to

This is going to take care of our labor surplus at Heart Mountain,

return to the center for a visit during their contract period. This is going to be a little bad in the immediate vicinity of Heart Mountain but it is my opinion that it will encourage indefinite leaves and as this is the object of the regulation, I think it is better to try to fight it through.

We have received a release regarding the movement to Tule Lake and are in somewhat of a quandry as to just how this is going to work unless we can have the files back from Washington in time to arrange for the movement of the 125 people which we are allowed. As you remember, we gave leave clearance hearings to all expatriates and repatriates. These files are now in Washington and while we are certain that most of them should be included in this movement, we would like to have the clearance files returned to us before we begin to make our arrangements, as we do not have 125 people who have been cleared for movement to Tule Lake at the present time. We have in the neighborhood of 350 who should go.

The project seems to be operating very smoothly and if there is any considerable discontent, it is not apparent on the surface.

Indefinite leaves are picking up gradually and we hope the nice spring weather will encourage a great many people to go out.

Guy Robertson
Project Director

FILE COPY

Heart Mountain Relocation Project
Heart Mountain, Wyoming

HM:FM:PF:VM

April 17, 1944

File up

weekly report
April 15, 44

Mr. Dillon Myer
Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
910-17th Street
Washington, 25, D. C.

Attention: John Baker

Dear Mr. Myer:

In our lead story this week we carried a letter written by Ragner Ma Palbrig, national director of the American Civil Liberties union, and directed to Kiyoshi Okamoto, former leader of the Fair Play committee within this center.

The letter, mimeographed and released by the Salt Lake City headquarters of the Japanese American Citizens league with the approval of the New York office of the ACLU, is the strongest documentary evidence that has come into our hands to support our contention that draft resistance is not only ill advised, but unsupported legally as a means toward securing full citizenship rights for Japanese Americans.

Editorially we have prevailed upon the representative bodies in the center--the community council, block managers, and Christian and Buddhist ministers--to make an attempt to save the fifty-three boys now held in jail for draft evasion. We hope to get permission from the Attorney General's office to allow representatives from these groups to interview the boys in jail with the view toward convincing them of their error in judgment and accept induction as an alternative to a penitentiary sentence.

We are heartened by the receipt this week of several letters from relocated evacees supporting the Central stand relative to selective service.

FILE COPY

~~Fujii~~
~~Fischler~~
~~Owen~~
Filed (MB)

Heart Mountain Relocation Project
Heart Mountain, Wyoming
MEMORANDUM

April 22, 1944

TO: Dillon S. Myer

FROM: Guy Robertson

SUBJECT: Weekly Report

There is nothing to report from Heart Mountain this week. We have been having some nice rains which have slowed up our farming work but, of course, will be a fine thing after the crops are in the ground. We finally succeeded in getting enough equipment together to do our heavy plowing and are going forward with double shifts.

The Fair Play Committee is very inactive. Twenty-five boys have been ordered to appear for pre-induction physicals tomorrow morning at 8:00 a.m. We are hoping that they will all go.

The removal of Jim Omura as editor of the English edition of the Rocky Shimpo was acclaimed, generally, as a very fine thing by Heart Mountain people. Most of them were disgusted with his editorials and apparently were very glad that he was terminated.

We are sending out quite a few people on seasonal and indefinite leave and our labor ppl is gradually being reduced to zero. pool?

The camp is excited over the proposed visit of Sgt. Ben Kuroki and I am sure that he will be enthusiastically received.

The U.S.O. at Heart Mountain is becoming a very active organization and the blocks have been conducting meetings for the past two weeks and giving special emphasis to honoring families of soldier boys. It is having a very good effect.

Routine is as usual and coming along very smoothly.

no report attach 2 → I am enclosing the Community Analyst's report for the wk of April 21—

Land Section

Guy Robertson
Project Director

GR:ek

Heart Mountain Relocation Project
Heart Mountain, Wyoming
MEMORANDUM

May 13, 1944

AIRMAIL

TO: Dillon S. Myer

FROM: Guy Robertson, Project Director

SUBJECT: Weekly Report

Saturday afternoon the United States Marshall picked up the additional eleven boys who had refused to appear for pre-induction physicals. This takes all the boys who have refused to appear and makes a total of 64. One has been released as a probable mental case, leaving 63 in custody of the Justice Department. We have a call for 50 to report for pre-induction physicals Monday morning and are hoping that the majority of them will report. The Fair Play Committee does not seem to be active but some of the boys are still refusing to report for their pre-induction physicals. The committee which the Council proposed to send to Cheyenne to interview the boys has not been appointed and apparently the idea has been dropped.

Captain Ide and his crew have been processing the segregees for Tule Lake and the movement will be made Wednesday of this next week. Everything is all set to go and there should be no hitch in the proceedings.

Reverend Schmidt, Methodist minister from Philadelphia, and Mrs. Schmidt have been in Heart Mountain for the past week assisting with the Relocation Program. Reverend Schmidt is doing this work voluntarily and because of an interest he has worked up in the program in Philadelphia. I think he has been able to do us some good. They are both very fine people and we have appreciated having them at the project. They met with the church, school, and Council, and have been offering some excellent advice on the Relocation problem.

The controversy over the foreman of the poultry plant is still being investigated by the labor and agriculture committees of the Council and they are going to prepare a recommendation for my attention and submit it to me this week. As mentioned in a previous report, this investigation got out of hand and they decided to investigate everything about the poultry project except the dismissal of Hoshizaki. I called them in and explained that this was not the idea, that we allowed them to operate as a Fair Labor Practice Committee and that I would not accept testimony on any other subject

but would be glad to have their advice on some of the matters that they were objecting to.

We are pressing the program to fence the fields in which the crops have been planted as stock from the open range are invading the farm area and it is almost impossible to keep them chased back. The agricultural program is coming along satisfactorily and the water is in the ditch this week.

Otherwise, the project is operating peacefully and as usual.

I am enclosing a copy of the Community Analyst's weekly report.

Guy Robertson
Project Director

Enclosure - 7823

See set 1 for Community Analyst report.

FILE COPY

Heart Mountain Relocation Project
Heart Mountain, Wyoming
MEMORANDUM

July 22, 1944

TO: Dillon S. Myer

FROM: Guy Robertson

SUBJECT: Weekly Report

Things are moving along about as usual at Heart Mountain. The FBI picked up Frank Emi, Paul Nakadate, and Gumtaro Kubota, and took them to Cheyenne on charges of conspiracy. There was apparently no reaction in the camp, although there was some discussion and the discussions I happened to hear indicated that everyone had expected it and thought it had been delayed too long.

Mr. Behnke and Mr. Chamberlain of the Western Defense Command are here today to interview Mrs. Shiramizu regarding her pending case in the court seeking permission to return to the west coast. I have not asked them what they have in mind as they have not volunteered any information. Mrs. Shiramizu is visiting our Center from Poston.

Joe Carroll has just returned from the meeting in Denver and reports there had been interesting discussions regarding the problems of the Relocation Office. That report has been submitted to you and I suppose you have read it by this time.

We are starting the pea harvest today and expect to get our first field of canning peas into the cannery before the end of next week. The farm is looking good although the loss from the hail is going to be considerably more than we anticipated.

Some of our work projects are slowed up to some extent as we are gradually approaching the labor shortage. It is not a crisis, however, at the present time and we are making arrangements to shift and reclassify some of our labor.

Enclosed herewith is the Analysis report for the past week.

Guy Robertson
Project Director

Enclosure - 7803