

Arkansas State Archives

Arkansas Digital Archives

Japanese American internment in Arkansas

Online exhibits

Weekly general comment by project director

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalheritage.arkansas.gov/exhibits-online-japanese-american-internment>



Part of the [United States History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Weekly general comment by project director, Austin Smith papers, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Use and reproduction of images held by the Arkansas State Archives without prior written permission is prohibited. For information on reproducing images held by the Arkansas State Archives, please call 501-682-6900 or email at state.archives@arkansas.gov.

GENERAL COMMENT BY PROJECT DIRECTOR

The effect of the Japanese atrocity stories on local public opinion has not yet created a serious problem at this center. It appears that resentment in general against the Japanese nation has increased considerably, but it does not seem that there has been an increase in hostile attitude toward the center and the people here. However, for the time being only absolutely necessary trips are being made to McGehee by evacuees, and efforts are being made to keep down the number of people going to town and being seen on the streets. No restrictions have been placed on any kind of leaves. It is believed that the atrocity stories and the resulting increase in hostile sentiment will have an adverse effect on relocation for a short time. It is thought, however, that it will not greatly handicap the program in the long run since most of the people here are convinced that they will have a fairly friendly reception on the outside.

The announcement that Nisei would be drafted for army service has not caused an undue amount of excitement at this center. Most of the young men affected are accepting the announcement with little show of approval or disapproval. Some of them appear to be pleased that they may be taken into the army. Others take the attitude that they will not go until it is absolutely necessary, but there has been no indication that there will be any opposition to the program. There has been considerable discussion of this matter among the older people.

Much of this arises over the fact that they are not very well informed as to their rights under the Selective Service Act. The special combat team is still not popular either among the older or the younger people.

There was a considerable increase in the number of people expatriating and repatriating this week. There were 21 new requests.

Twenty-eight persons were granted indefinite leave this week; and 110 leave clearance cases were forwarded to Washington for consideration there.