

2 pp (DICK 4) JAPANESE RETURN 2/14 SNELL

C O P Y to Governor Snell

TIME 5:40 P. M.

OFFICER'S REPORT

No.

Place The Dalles, Oregon

OREGON STATE POLICE

County Hood River

Subject INFORMATION
JAPANESE SITUATION
HOOD RIVER COUNTY

2/14 file

January 30th, 1945

At the request of Captain Gurdane a check was made by the writer regarding rumors circulating in Hood River County and opinions of prominent citizens in the Hood River Valley, regarding the return of Japanese.

Contacted MR. JOHN H. MOORE, Attorney, Hood River, who stated he had been the attorney for several Japanese families prior to their evacuation and did not believe there would be any mob violence, but was afraid there would be scattered cases of fires and assaults. Mr. Moore believed the greater part of the agitation was caused by the American Legion removing the names of Japanese soldiers from the Honor Roll. Mr. Moore is also attorney for the Apple Growers' Association and stated that while the Association could not refuse to accept the produce of the Japanese the employes had definitely refused to handle any Japanese produce, and that he was unable to advise as to what the outcome of such a situation might be.

Chief of Police Hollenbeck, who has been a resident of Hood River County for many years, stated in his opinion the feeling toward the Japanese was not more serious at this time than it was in 1922. He also stated there were a few signs posted in stores in the Hood River Valley to the effect that no Japanese trade was solicited but to his knowledge there were none in the stores in the city of Hood River. Chief Hollenbeck did not believe there would be any mob violence.

Mr. ROY HAYS, Superintendent of the Hood River Irrigation District, who is known to be friendly toward the Japanese and has probably been more criticized than any other citizen in Hood River County, seems to believe there will be acts of mob violence if the Japanese are returned to Hood River County and on January 24, 1945 went to the Relocation Center in Portland and requested permission to visit Japanese from the Hood River Valley in order that he might advise them against returning at this time, but Mr. Hays was not granted this request. Mr. Hays met with the American Legion and attempted to work out a plan whereby the names of the Japanese soldiers could be restored to the Honor Roll but was met with considerable opposition.

Mr. Tunis Wyers, District Attorney of Hood River County, stated he had not received any reports of violence or assault on the three Japanese who had returned to the Hood River Valley; that it had been rumored in and around Hood River that there had been such assaults but so far as he knew there was no truth in the reports. Mr. Wyers personally, did not believe there was any great danger of mob violence but has requested the Sheriff and the State Police Department to keep in constant contact with him regarding this matter.

MR. TOM JOHNSON, Justice of the Peace, Hood River, Oregon, and former Sheriff of Hood River County, stated he did not believe there would be any mob violence but did look for acts of assault if any great number of Japanese returned to Hood River at this time. Mr. Johnson stated this was a very poor

time to return the Japanese due to the fact that every time a casualty was reported from the South Pacific feeling against the Japanese would naturally increase. He also believed that the rumors circulating around Hood River were due primarily to the action taken by the American Legion.

MR. JOHN SHELLDRAKE, Sheriff of Hood River County, stated he did not believe there would be any mob violence and in fact did not believe there would be any serious acts of assault. It was the opinion of the Sheriff that the people of Hood River had received so much criticism due to the action taken by the American Legion that they did not wish any more publicity.

MR. WILLIAM SHAKE, Druggist, Parkdale, Oregon, stated one Japanese boy, RAY SATO, had returned to Parkdale and on several occasions he had talked with him regarding the return of his parents to their farm. Mr. Shake had made inquiry of the neighbors and found only a few instances where people were opposed to the return of the SATO family.

MR. C. D. NICKELSON, County Judge, Hood River, stated he was of the opinion there would be no danger of mob violence should the Japanese be permitted to return but did not believe this was the proper time to allow them to return due to conditions in the Pacific Area and also from the action taken by the American Legion.

MR. HUGH BALL, Editor of the Hood River News, was of the opinion there would be no acts of violence if the Japanese were returned. In his opinion Hood River County had already received so much criticism from the action of the American Legion that the major part of the citizens did not wish additional publicity. Mr. Ball also stated he had heard it rumored that certain men, name not given, were carrying fire arms and had made the statement they would shoot the first Jap on sight, but due to the fact that he was acquainted with these men, believed this was only a rumor.

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Numerous rumors/have come to the attention of the writer have been checked and all have been found to be false. It is also my understanding that the Draft Board of Hood River County is immediately giving 1 A Classifications to all Japanese citizens who return to Hood River County.

(sd) Charles A. U'Ren,
Sergeant