CONVERSATION WITH DICK NISHIMOTO IN MY OFFICE IN WARD 7, 8 P.M. TO 12 P.M., THURSDAY NIGHT.

Dick had received a notice from AHL through Miss Mohri to appear in AHL's office for an appointment tomorrow. It turned out later that he came to see me, so he said, in order to find out how "the land lies" before his interview with AHL.

RN: Hello, Dr. Spicer, how are you tonight? I wanted to ask you if you are going to have an examination in your course any time soon. EHS: No, I explained that there will only be a final.

RN: That's a good thing. I have forgotten everything the last few days. I have been very busy. I had job of taking care of our block. I didn't sleep more than ten hours in those first five days. That's not much. But now I have been sleeping a lot. I was sleeping still when Florence came to tell me. (EHS commented on how fresh he looked.) Yes, I am out of it now. It is all over as far as I am concerned. I figure I have done my part. I was taking care of morale in my block. That is some job. I was going around all the time, back and forth from the block to the fires. They wanted me to come in to the council, but I wouldn't. My job is done. It is peaceful now. When they voted last night, they all voted, everybody, for the trial. That means my work is over. Did you see how they cleaned the place over there? It was all done by nine o'clock, better than it ever was before. When I saw them do that, I knew it was all right. And do you know who cleaned it up. It was all issei. When I saw
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that, I said that they had carried it through. There was nothing to worry about. It began well, it went along well, and now they have finished it well. You will see now how the issei will do. All the work will be better. There is spirit now and the issei are satisfied. They will do everything in good spirit and it will be much better than before. It is the issei now.

I have been worried. There is always some radicals. They came in. There was a chance that would do more, but we stopped them off. I am glad it all happened. I know where I stand now, in regard to allegiance. These nisei think that I am a reactionary, they do not know that I am one of the most liberal. I wonder if you can understand that I knew I was fighting for my life. When they were putting those flags up. It was a struggle. I began to feel peaceful when they began playing the American music. Do you remember when that begun? I knew that it was alright then. I knew I had saved my life. It is a good feeling when you have lost your life, when you have been down to that, and you come out. I am glad it happened and I am happy now. But that had to come out and I found out about the issei. They are loyal.

(EHS: You mean that they are loyal to the U.S., but that nevertheless they would just as soon see Japan win?)

No, I mean that they are ready to help the United States win. I found out that there are many issei who want to work in the camouflage net factory. When it is a showdown they will be for the United States. I found that out about myself, when it is a matter of life and death.
When the flags were going up and when they started the Japanese music, we were worried. I knew what you would be thinking in the administration, but I also knew what it was. It was like boys who are mad at someone and they begin sticking their tongues out. The one who sticks his tongue out farthest wins. When you were worried about who was leading them, I was worried for my life.

(EHS brought up the subject of terroristic methods employed by the leaders.) I will tell you how I handled things in my block. There was one who did not want to go to the fires. So I told him to work in the messhall. He did that and is happy. I think that was justice to him. There was one who was frightened of what was going to happen to him. That was Albert Kaniye. I talked with him for an hour. Then I told him to go and work in the messhall. He went there and worked in the messhall all through. He is still working in the messhall and he is very happy. He was smiling even before it was over. He will be all-right now. There were rumors. They said that Bill Tanaka was beaten. But that was not true. He is being taken care of now, that case. That was not a beating. You heard the story that there fifteen men who came to the council meeting on Wednesday to beat up a councilman. Well, I was there. You saw me. I came with fifteen men, big young fellows. I came to bring information to Nagai. Those fifteen men were my bodyguard. I didn't need fifteen, but they came along. That is what it was.
(EHS mentioned the apparent conflict in the residents' understanding of the new employment policy and the administration's.) Yes, someone asked me about that. I said that I thought it would be best to handle it in a negative way. I think they could allow the jobs to be filled. They can go over everyone. But when there is one in that they don't like, then they can ask to take him out, just work on the ones that do not satisfy them. I think they will ask for the resignations of some Caucasians. That is the next thing. They will ask for the resignations of H.W. Smith and Moody Palmer and Dr. Powell. Those are the ones they will go after first. Smith has been asking if they haven't been talking against him. He will be the first one to go.

I thought Mr. Head's talk to the crowd was a masterpiece. I was asking myself who was thinking that up. It was just right. (EHS: Did you think it was too casual, too light in tone?) No, not at all. It was what everyone wanted. Especially when he said that no one was to blame. They might have been expecting a scolding, but he didn't do that.

I felt sorry for Mr. Evans. When he came to the crowd. They were all isses there. He told them to go and they didn't. They made so much noise he couldn't finish. He just said to trust in the administration. They couldn't accept that. And the interpreter couldn't translate the last part, asking them to disperse. I think he was afraid. He never translated that. I was sorry for Mr. Evans. When he came among the crowd on
Wednesday night. He was alone. He stood around there. And no one went up to him. No one greeted him. I saw him there. The people he had trusted didn't come up to him, his friends. I thought I would like to go up to him. But I didn't. I thought I had more important things to do. It was too bad for him to be there. Do you think he will leave the project? If he does, if he thinks that he has lost face with the people, then he is not as great a man as I think him to be. 

(EHS asked what the committee on reputations would do.) They will teach the people to act right. You have to understand how the Japanese people manage that. They believe that when a man is spoken against that he should withdraw. That is his duty. They judge whether charges are true through the daily contact, but it is duty to withdraw, when they begin to be made. He does not stay in office. I think they will look into Dr. Ishimaru. He was a member of the anti-Axis committee of the JACL. They say that each member had to pledge to turn in the names of five Japanese to the FBI. They will look into him. I think that when Tomo Ito comes up, I will have to defend him. I have had two run-ins with him, but he has done well now. I think he has learned a lot this time. You see the trouble there was that he was in the class below me in college. I am used to hazing him. Then when I come here, he is up there with the block managers and he tells everybody what to do. We do not allow boys to be cocky. I feel sorry for Ed. Ouchi. He was kicked off the
central committee. He came out for seniority on the jobs. The Caucasians do not understand when we talk about the nisei in the jobs. They think we want something for ourselves. John Evans told me I could have anything I wanted, when I talked about that. I thought it was an insult when he talked that way. I didn't want anything for myself. ... They thought Ouchi had been seen talking to Caucasians during this. They would not allow that. No one could talk to any Caucasians about it. They saw Albert Kaniye talking to Dr. Leighton, but I took care of him when I put him in the messhall. They saw Ouchi talking to you. It is going around that is you said, "This a sorrowful sight."

It is a delicate matter to talk to Dr. Leighton. It is not like talking to you and Mr. Evans. I want to know what he is going to bring up tomorrow. I have to get some idea of what he is after. It seems that I am on the spot with him. I have told him many things. I predicted all this. Last week he asked me to come into his room in the barracks and talk. All this was in the air. I guess maybe I was afraid. I am a little ashamed. I had to stop and look all around before we came out of the barracks. I guess there was cowardice. I don't think I have ever lied, but I want to know what not to say. I want to know whether Dr. Leighton's opinions carried weight at the time the settlement was made, before I talk with him.
Everything will be allright now. There is harmony in the blocks. The nisei have learned that the issei know how to act, that they can handle things. I think the nisei will behave right now. Isn't that strange that Dr. Leighton thinks the settlement is good and that I am happy, too. I guess you could see how nervous I was for a couple of weeks before this happened. But now I am happy. It is all over and everything is allright.

(EHS)