

O'Brien Back at U. of W.; Lauds N. W. Nisei

Japanese in the United States must get into the war effort, or there will be no place for them in this country when peace comes, Robert W. O'Brien declared to the Seattle Times after his return two weeks ago to an administrative post at the University of Washington from nearly six months' service with the National Student Relocation Council.

O'Brien spoke of many former University of Washington Japanese students who have successfully re-entered civilian life, and 100 who have been accepted in the armed forces.

"These nisei know they are not winning the war by staying in relocation camps," O'Brien said.

"The biggest possible boost to their morale was the opening of enlistment in an army combat unit and President Roosevelt's endorsement of the move."

O'Brien's job took him to all 10 relocation camps and to many of the 400 colleges designated as suitable for furthering the education of more than 1,000 nisei released from the camps.

University of Washington nisei have accounted for themselves admirably, according to O'Brien.

"Typical of the high positions they now hold is that of Jack Maki, formerly an instructor in the

Far Eastern Department at the University.

"Maki is interpreting Tokyo propaganda broadcasts for the Federal Communications Commission in Washington, D. C. There are nine former students attending the Army Intelligence School at Camp Savage, Minn. One is an instructor at the Naval Intelligence school at Boulder, Colo., and another at the Army Meteorological School at Haverford College, Penn."

O'Brien said that the American-Japanese are fully aware of the prejudices they must overcome in establishing themselves.

"It is a tremendous and discouraging job for many of them who go into communities where manpower is needed, perhaps with a job selected for them by one of the agency offices in the Midwest.

"But the sincere ones always are accepted. Martha Okuda is another former University of Washington teaching fellow, who also worked with the Family Society in Seattle, and now is teaching sociology at the University of Nebraska," O'Brien said.

Among the hundred or more students now in the Army, Sergt. Pat Hagiwara of Ketchikan, Alaska, is typical. He was a member of the National Guard in Alaska, and

when he was called into service was sent to a camp in Illinois, he said. He is the star of the camp's basketball team.

"Other athletes at the University who have continued their sports at colleges and in non-military zones are Frank Watanabe, who was the No. 2 tennis player at the University, now at Syracuse University, and Ike Yoshino, who made the varsity basketball squad at the University of Denver."

O'Brien also told of several former U. of W. students who have not left the camp, but have preferred to remain part of the governing bodies within them. Bill Hosokawa, former Tokyo and Seattle newspaper man, now editing the Heart Mountain Sentinel at the center in Wyoming, was mentioned.

Dick Takeuchi of Seattle, also a journalism student at the University, was editor of the Minidoka IRRIGATOR at Hunt, Idaho.

At Tule Lake, California, Frank Miyamoto, a former sociology teaching fellow at the U. of W., is making a study of the effects of evacuation on the personality of the nisei. Abraham Hagiwara, another University student whose home was in Alaska, also has a responsible position in Minidoka, O'Brien said.