

WAR DEPARTMENT

G-2, HQ. WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND & FOURTH ARMY

(Office of Headquarters

Presidio of San Francisco, Calif.

(CIB) IX/O-X-7662

September 3, 1942

(Place)

(Date)

Subject: AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE

Summary of Information:

1. References:

- a. Letter this office, file 7790 (7-2-42), July 18, 1942, subject "Colorado Council of Churches".
- b. Letter this office, file 7790 (7-2-42), August 15, 1942, subject "Church Interest in Japanese Evacuees".
- c. Summary of Information this office, file (CIB) IX/O-X-7661, August 27, 1942, subject "American Friends Service Committee".

2. In Seattle, Washington, as in the San Francisco Area, the FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE and the FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION are working together in the interest of conscientious objectors and the evacuated Japanese. FLOYD W. SCHESS, former instructor at the University of Washington, is director of the Seattle Branch, FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE, and a member of the FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION. In the columns of the "Pacific Cable", a pro-Japanese bi-monthly pamphlet published jointly by both organizations, SCHESS has unfavorably compared the Army's administration of Camp Harmony, at Puyallup, Washington with the WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY'S management of TULE LAKE RELOCATION CENTER. KENJI OKUDA, Japanese agitator and reported member of an alleged subversive group at Camp Harmony, is a staff writer for the "Pacific Cable", whose material necessarily is submitted by mail. His father, HENRY OKUDA, is considered by the F.B.I. to have been the most dangerous Japanese propagandist in the Seattle Area.

3. In 1940, SCHESS was executive secretary, Seattle Branch, KEEP AMERICA OUT OF WAR CONGRESS. He was quoted in the April 15, 1942, issue of the Seattle "Post-Intelligencer", as having told a group of University of Washington alumnae...

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at a meeting on the campus, that he had visited an enemy alien internment camp in Montana, the Santa Anita Assembly Center, near Los Angeles, California, Camp Harmony, Puyallup, Washington, and the assembly center at Toppenish, Washington, where he had found that conditions were "terrible".

4. FRED BERT PARQUHARSON, University of Washington Civil Engineering Professor, notorious for his long record of radical and pacifist activities, is head of the Seattle FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION. He is also a member of the AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION in Seattle. His wife, MARY PARQUHARSON, Washington State Senator and member of the AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION, was instrumental in obtaining CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION counsel for GORDON KIMOSHII HIRABAYASHI, presently in jail awaiting trial for violation of the evacuation order. Should HIRABAYASHI, who has requested classification as a conscientious objector, be so classified by his draft board, the FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE will provide financial assistance to him when he enters a CIVILIAN PUBLIC SERVICE CAMP.

5. While SCHMIDT has not actually urged Japanese evacuees to become conscientious objectors, as indicated erroneously in paragraph 4, reference letter paragraph 1b above, both the FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE and the FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION in Seattle have been attempting to convert potential conscientious objectors to pacifist views, according to MARY S. SULLIVAN, Seattle "Times" writer, who has made a study of activities of conscientious objectors at the University of Washington. SULLIVAN further stated in an interview with a Special Agent from the Seattle Branch Office, AG of S, G-2, WDC and 4th Army, that representatives of the FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE and the FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION are apparently deliberately misrepresenting conditions at Camp Harmony to other persons as being bad.

6. At a meeting in the ENGINEERS' CLUB in Seattle on August 27, 1942, SCHMIDT denounced the Japanese evacuation and claimed that it was making Fifth-Columbists of 70,000 American citizens of Japanese ancestry.