

**FROM: Investigation of un-American propaganda activities in the United States. Hearings before a Special Committee on Un-American Activities, House of Representatives, Seventy-fifth Congress, third session- Seventy-eighth Congress, second session, on H. Res. 282, to investigate (1) the extent, character, and objects of un-American propaganda activities in the United States, (2) the diffusion within the United States of subversive and un-American propaganda that is instigated from foreign countries or of a domestic origin and attacks the principle of the form of government as guaranteed by our Constitution, and (3) all other questions in relation thereto that would aid Congress in any necessary remedial legislation**

**June-July, 1943, page 9009ff.**

“... Will you call the next witness, Mr. Steedman.

Mr. Steedman. Mr. Wickersham is our next witness. He is the chief warehouseman at Poston Center.

Mr. CosTELLO. Will you please stand and be sworn.

TESTIMONY OF ERNEST S. WICKERSHAM, CHIEF WAREHOUSE-  
MAN, COLORADO RIVER WAR RELOCATION PROJECT, POSTON,  
ARIZ.

(The witness was duly sworn by the chairman.)

Mr. CosTELLO. Will you state your name for the record and your occupation?

Mr. Wickersham. Ernest S. Wickersham; chief warehouseman at Poston. Ariz.

Mr. CosTELLO. Will you proceed with the uiterrogation of the  
■ witiu'ss. Mr. Steedman.

Mr. Steedman. What is your present address at Poston?

Mr. Wickersham. Do you mean my personal address?

'Sir. Steedman. Yes; your personal address.

^fr. Wickersham. Parker. Ariz., box 1633.

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Mr. Steedman. Do you live inside the center at Poston or in the town of Parker?

Mr. WiCKERSHAM. No, sir; I live in Parker.

Mr. Steedman. Where do you live, Mr. Wickersham?

Mr. Wickersham. I live in what they call Silver City irrigation headquarters at Parker.

Mr. Steedman. And you travel back and forth by automobile every day to the center?

Mr. Wickersham. Yes, sir,

Mr. Steedman. Where were you born, Mr. Wickersham?

Mr. Wickersham. Bowie, Ariz.

Mr. Steedman. When?

Mr. Wickersham. I will have to do some figuring; 56 years ago.

Mr. Eberharter. What is your birthday?

Mr. Wickersham. April 15.

Mr. Steedman. Have you ever served in the United States Army?

Mr. Wickersham. Yes, sir.

Mr. Steedman. When?

Mr. Wickersham. From, I think it was June 6, 1916, to, I think, back in 1919. Just about 6 days less than 3 years.

Mr. Steedman. Did you serve overseas?

Mr. Wickersham. Yes, sir.

Mr. Steedman. Are you a member of any organizations?

Mr. Wickersham. The American Legion.

Mr. Steedman. Will you state briefly for the committee what your educational training has been?

Mr. Wickersham. Most of my schooling was in Los Angeles up to about the tenth grade.

Mr. Steedman. You attended school to the tenth grade?

Mr. Wickersham. Yes, sir.

Mr. Steedman. What type of work have you been engaged in during your life?

Mr. Wickersham. Cattle business, banking mostly, wholesale grocery.

Mr. Steedman. Where have you lived during your life?

Mr. Wickersham. I spent most of my life in Safford, Ariz.

Mr. Steedman. When did you take your present position at the Poston Center?

Mr. Wickersham. April 8, a year ago.

Mr. Steedman. April 8, 1942?

Mr. Wickersham. Yes, sir.

Mr. Steedman. And that was just after the project went under the jurisdiction of the War Relocation Authority, is that correct?

Mr. Wickersham. Well, the project wasn't completed at that time.

Mr. Steedman. But it was under the jurisdiction of the W. R. A?

Mr. Wickersham. Yes, sir.

Mr. Steedman. Prior to going to Poston had you had any Government experience?

Mr. Wickersham. Yes, sir.

Mr. Steedman. Where?

Mr. Wickersham. Worked for the Soil Conservation Service at Safford and was transferred from there to the Indian Service.

Mr. Steedman. When did you first go to work for the Soil Conservation Service?

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Mr. WICKERSHAM. I think it was about 8 years ago.

Mr. Steedman. Have you been working for the Government continuously since that time?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Yes, sir.

Mr. Steedman. What was your starting salary with the Soil Conservation Service?

• Mr. WICKERSHAM. I think it was \$1,800.

Mr. Steedman. What was your title at that time?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Principal clerk.

Mr. Steedman. And were you stationed at Safford, Ariz?

Mr. Wickersham. Yes, sir.

Mr. Steedman. And you were later transferred to the Indian Service?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Ycs, sir.

Mr. Steedman. When were you transferred?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. I don't remember the exact date. It was when the reorganization took place.

Mr. Steedman. Can you give us the approximate date?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. July about — I don't remember the exact date. It was when the relocation took place — when the Indian Service took over so many of the Soil Conservation employees.

Mr. Steedman. What type of work were you engaged in while with the Indian Service?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Warehousing.

Mr. Steedman. And what was your starting salary with the Indian Service?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. \$1,800.

Mr. Steedman. And how long were you employed by the Indian Service?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. About 4 years, I believe.

Mr. Steedman. Did you resign from the Indian Service?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. No, sir.

Mr. Steedman. Where were you transferred?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Yes, sir.

Mr. Steedman. Did you transfer from the Indian Service over to the W. R. A.?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Ycs, sir.

Mr. Steedman. What was your salary with the Indian Service at the time you transferred to the W. R. A.?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. \$1,800.

Mr. Steedman. What was your starting salary with the W. R. A.?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. \$2,600.

Mr. Steedman. What is your present salary?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. I receive \$2,900.

Mr. Steedman. When you went from the Indian Service to the

W. R. A. your salary was increased from \$1,800 a year to \$2,900 a year?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Ycs, sir. I only been at \$1,800 for 7 months. Prior to that it was \$2,300.

Mr. Steedman. You had a reduction in salary?

Mr. Wickersham. Yes, sir.

Mr. Steedman. Back to \$1,800?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Ycs, sir. And then when I went — —

Mr. Steedman. Wlien you went with the W. R. A. your salary was increased to \$2,900?

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Mr. WICKERSHAM. Yes, sir.

Mr. Steedman. Were your duties more important to the W. R. A. than they were in the Indian Service?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Ycs, sir.

Mr. Steedman. More responsibihty?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Yes, sir. Only had one warehouse in the Indian Service and I have got 90 with the W. R. A.

Mr. Steedman. What are your duties and responsibiUties at Poston?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. I am receiving agent for all sup2)lies that are shipped into the war relocation project.

Mr. Steedman. Do you have the responsibility of supervising the Caucasian employees?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Yes, sir; in the warehouse department.

Mr. Steedman. Do you have the responsibility of supervising the Japanese employees?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Yes, sir.

Mr. Steedman. Wlio is your immediate superior?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Mr. Fred M. Haverland, transportation and supply officer.

Mr. Steedman. And his immediate superior is Mr. A. W. Empie, is that correct?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Yes, sir.

Mr. Steedman. How many Caucasian employees are working for you?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Seven.

Mr. Steedman. Then 8 Caucasian employees supervise, I believe you said, 90 warehouses?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Yes, sir.

Mr. Steedman. How many Japanese employees are working under you in the warehouses?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. At the present I have 42. I have had as high as 130.

Mr. Steedman. Are you able to accomplish as much with the 42 as you were with 130?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Not quite.

Mr. Steedman. How does it happen that you have only 42 at the present time?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. I couldn't answer that. Just doesn't seem to be available. I think it is due to the fact that the majority of the workers have went to the net factories.

Mr. Steedman. Have you requested the Employment Office to send you additional employees?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Numerous times.

Mr. Steedman. Have you had any success?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. No, sir.

Mr. Steedman. Do the Japanese like to work in the warehouse?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. I think they do.

Mr. Steedman. Had you had any actual experience working Japanese prior to going to Boston?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. No, sir.

Mr. Steedman. Had you lived in any communities where Japanese resided?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. I spent vacations where they resided.

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Mr. Steedman. Whore?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Twontv-five milVs out of Frosno at Orange Cove.

Mr. Steedman. You had seen some Japanese prior to going to Post on?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Yes, sir.

Mr. Steedman. Do you speak the Japanese language?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. No, sir.

Mr. MuNDT. Didn't you say you went to school in Los Angeles?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Yos, sir.

Mr. MiTNDT. Until the tenth grade?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Ycs, sir.

Mr. MuNDT. Were there Japanese in Los Angeles at that time?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Some at the Polyteclmic High School when I went there.

Mr. MuNDT. Some of them attended the same school you attended?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Ycs, sir.

Mr. Steedman. Have you had any trouble with the Japanese under 3'our supervision in the warehouses?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. I wouldu't call it trouble-; I would say there is friction.

Mr. Steedman. Between you and the Japanese employees?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Yes, sir.

Mr. Steedman. Will you please explain to the committee the nature of the friction?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Well, wdien I would tell them to do something they would tell me that they didn't do that. I will give you just exactly how it happened.

At the Parker warehouses at the railhead, we had 41 cars on the track to unload, including steel, cement, lumber, subsistence — in fact everything.

I had about 60 Japanese there so I told the foreman to put a crew to unloading steel. He said: "We don't unload that damn junk."

I said: "All right, go unload lumber."

He said: "No; we unloaded lumber yesterday."

I said: "All right, go imload cement."

He said: "We don't unload cement."

Mr. MuNDT. Then what happened?

Mr. WiCKERSHAM. Nothing.

Mr. Steedman. Did the Japanese return to the project following that?

Mr. WiCKERSHAM. No, sir.

Mr. Steedman. What did they do?

Mr. WiCKERSHAM. Just sat around and finally decided to do something that they wanted to do.

Mr. Steedman. Were they paid for the time they were sitting around?

Mr. WiCKERSHAM. I assume they were.

Mr. Steedman. Are you in charge of making up the pay rolls for the employees at the warehouses?

Mr. WiCKERSHAM. It is under my supervision; yes.

Mr. Steedman. Did you approve the hourly pay for these workers who refused to work?

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Mr. WiCKERSHAM. Yes. They didn't absolutely quit all day.

They sat around and talked for awhile and then picked out the job they wanted to do and proceeded to do it.

Iff\* Mr. Steedman. They wanted to select the type of work that they did?

Mr. WiCKERSHAM. Yes, sir.

Mr. Steedman. Is that the condition generally at Poston?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Well, all I can speak about is my own department.

Mr. Steedman. Is that generally true in your department?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Ycs, sir; that is true.

Mr. Steedman. That is the situation that exists generally in your department?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Ycs, sir.

Mr. Steedman. It is difficult to secure the cooperation of the Japanese?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Yes, sir.

Mr. Steedman. Why is that true?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Well, I couldn't tell you the reason.

Mr. Steedman. Is it due to a lack of discipline on the part of the project administration?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Well, it might be — it might be due to a misunderstanding upon the part of the Japanese. They seem to think all they have to handle is subsistence ; anything that is not subsistence they think somebody else should handle.

Mr. Steedman. In other words, all they want to handle is their own food?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Yes.

Mr. Steedman. Arid sanitary service, is that correct?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. That is the conclusion I have arrived at.

Mr. Steedman. In connection with your supervision of the warehouses, have you had any personal difficulty with any of the Japanese?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Do you mean physical?

Mr. Steedman. Any physical encounters?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. No, sir.

Mr. Steedman. Have the Japanese threatened you at any time?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Oh, they muttered threats and that is about all.

Mr. Steedman. What type of threats?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Oil, I have had a habit of smoking a cigar all the time and they said they were going to ram a cigar down my throat.

Mr. Steedman. What was the occasion for these threats?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. We happened to get in a load of lumber that day and they were not stacking it the way they should and I went out to correct them and one of them made the remark that, "That was all damn foolishness." I told him it didn't make any difference whether it was damn foolishness or not, that I wanted it stacked my way and he made the remark to the other Japs that, "Some day he would ram a cigar down my tu-oat."

Mr. Steedman. Was that the only mstance of threats having been made to you or about you by the Japanese?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. That is the only one that I actually know about — that I heard.

Mr. MuNDT. Have you ever had a Jap at any time lay a hand on you physically?

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Mr. WICKERSHAM. No, sir.

Mr. MuNDT. Have they ever tlu-own anything at you?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. No, sn\

Mr. MuNDT. Have you laid hand on a Japanese, physically?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Xo, sir.

Mr. MuNDT. "What happened at the railhead when they wouldn't unload steel and wouldn't unload hunlx^r and wouldn't unload cement and they sat down? What did you do? Did you go to them and try individually to urge them to do the work?"

Mr. WICKERSHAM. No, sir; I only spoke to the foreman of the crew.

Mr. MuNDT. How long did they engage in the sit-down strike?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Fi'om 20 to 30 minutes.

Mr. MuNDT. During that interval you were talking to the foreman?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. No, sir; the foreman walked off and I went on about my business.

Mr. ^iuNDT. But of their own volition they gradually started to work?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Ycs, sir,

Mr. MuxDT. "What was the nature of the work they undertook there?"

Mr. WICKERSHAM. They were unloading some subsistence. I don't recall just exactly what they unloaded.

Mr. MuNDT. And that is not an isolated case; that happened several times in your department?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Yes, sir; it happened several times.

Mr. MrxDT. Have you ever tried telling those fellows, "Either you are going to unload steel or else you are going to get off the pay roll"?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. No, sir; I haven't because I didn't figure that was my part of the job. I report the happenings to my superior and what action he took I don't know.

Mr. MuNDT. Did he ever tell them that?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Not that I know of; no, sir.

Mr. MuNDT. Do you think it is good policy to determine what kind of stuff they are going to unload and what they are not going to do?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. No, sir.

Mr. MrxDT. Have you so advised your superior?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Yes, sir.

Mr. MuNDT. And that is as far as you can go with your authority?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. That is as far as I can go.

Mr. MrxDT. Have you advised him of this in writing?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Yes, sir.

Mr. MuNDT. Did you ever receive a written reply?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. I don't recall that I did.

Mr. MuNDT. That is all.

Mr. Steedman. I believe there is a warehouse at the railhead at Parker, is that correct?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Yes, sir; we have six of them.

Mr. Steedman. And in those warehouses material belonging to the center is stored?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Everything.

Mr. Steedman. Have you had so much trouble with the Japanese

at the warehouse at Parker that you had to substitute Indians for the Japanese?

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Mr. WICKERSHAM. Yes, sir.

Mr. Steedman. Are Indians handling the material going into the warehouses at Parker in an efficient manner?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Yes, ' sir.

Mr. Steedman. And you are not having any trouble with the Indians?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. No, sir.

Mr. Steedman. Have any goods or materials been lost in transit from Parker to Poston?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Yes, sir.

Mr. Steedman. What is your\* estimate of the amount of material that has been lost?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. One crate of oranges but that wasn't by a Japanese.

Mr. Steedman. How was the crate of oranges lost?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. One of the Indian drivers took that.

Mr. Steedman. Did he take it without permission?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Yes, sir.

Mr. Steedman. What action was taken against him?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. He was tried before the justice of the peace and fined \$50.

Mr. Steedman. There have been no other losses of goods between Parker and Poston?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Not that I know of.

Mr. Steedman. What is stored in the warehouses at Poston?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. What is stored in the warehouses at Poston?

Mr. Steedman. Yes.

Mr. WICKERSHAM. May I answer it this way?

Mr. Steedman. Yes.

!Mr. WiCKERSHAM. You take a town of say 20,000 people and what is required to run those 20,000 people, the small articles are stored in the warehouses — toilet paper, subsistence, pencils, books — everything.

Mr. STEEP^N. Is furniture stored in the warehouses? \*

Mr. WiCKK SHAM. Yes. sir.

Mr. Steedman. What type of furniture?

Mr. WiCKERSHAM. Japanese household furniture and also furniture for personnel quarters and office furniture.

Mr. Steedman. Is furniture stored there for the. personnel quarters that are being built at the present time?

Mr. WiCKERSHAM. No, sir; not at the present time.

Mr. SiEEDMAN. Are any refrigerators stored in the warehouses?

Mr. WiCKERSHAM. We have some, yes.

Mr. Steedman. Frigidaires?

Mr. WiCKERSHAM. I think there are some Frigidaires — all types.

Mr. Steedman. There are all types of electric refrigerators stored in the warehouses at Parker?

Mr. WiCKERSHAM. Ycs, sir.

Mr. Steedman. Do they belong to the Japanese?

Mr. WiCKERSHAM. No, sir.

Mr. Steedman. To whom do they belong?

Mr. WiCKERSHAM. In the Japanese household goods departments there are some refrigerators.

Mr. Steedman. Has the project pm-chased any furniture for the homes of the white personnel at the project?

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Mr. WiCKERSHAM. Do you mean the now homes that have been buUt? ^

Mr. Steedman. Yes.

Mr. WiCKERSHAM. Tlicre hasn't any come fti yet.

Mr. Steedman. Has tiic project recently purchased rugs or carpets?

Mr. WiCKERSHAM. No, sh".

Mr. Steedman. Have any shipments of furniture been received from Barker Bros, of Los Angeles in the last 3 or 4 months?

(No answer.)

^Mr. Steedman. Barker Bros, fiuiituro store here in Los Angeles?

Mr. WiCKERSHAM. I don't recall any.

Mr. Mundt. Would your records show all receipts into the warehouses?

Mr. WiCKERSHAM. Yes, sir; and all issues.

Mr. Mundt. Did you receive a carload of groceries from the Heart Mountain project?

Mr. AViCKERSHAM. Yes, sir.

Mr. Mundt. About when?

Mr. WiCKERSHAM. About 3 weeks ago, I think it would be.

Mr. Mundt. That would be in May?

Mr. WicKERHSAM. Ycs, sn; I have the date here somewhere— 28th of last month.

Mr. Mundt. 28th of May?

Mr. WiCKERSHAM. Ycs, sir. Do you want the car number?

Mr. Mundt. Yes.

Mr. WiCKERSHAM. P. F. E. 42844.

Mr. Mundt. I would like to go back for just a minute to the reports you made to your superior about the sit-down strike at the rail head.

To whom were those reports made? What was the name of the superior officer?

Mr. WiCKERSHAM. That was to Mr. Townsend.

Mr. Mundt. Have you ever made any similar reports to his successor. Mr. Potter?

Mr. WiCKERSHAM. No; excuse me. The first one was to Mr. Potter and the second one was to Mr. Townsend.

Mr. Mundt. Did Potter follow Townsend?

Mr. Steedman. Potter was the original chief of supply and transportation and Mr. Townsend was the second and the present

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Mr. Haverland.

Mr. Mundt. Have you had occasion to make any such reports to Mr. Haverland?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Yes, sir; but we don't have the Japs up at Parker now.

Mr. Mundt. You quit using them altogether?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Yes, sir.

Mr. Mundt. That is all.

Mr. Steedman. How long did you work under Mr. Townsend?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Just the short time lie was there.

Mr. Steedman. Do you know how long lie was there?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. No, sir; I do not.

Mr. Steedman. Did Mr. Townsend attempt to do anything about disciplining the Japanese who refused to work?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. If he did I never saw any effects of it.

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Mr. Steedman. Did he ask you to tighten up on discipline in the warehouses?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. I don't recall that he did.

Mr. Steedman. What kind of system do you have for keeping records in the warehouse?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. We have the regular Indian Service system — store cards which is a perpetual inventory.

Mr. Steedman. Is that system satisfactory?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Yes, sir.

Mr. Steedman. Are you able to keep accurate records with the Indian Service system of accounting for the warehouse?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Yes ; fau'ly so. I was taking into consideration the type — that is taking into consideration the type of employees we have got.

Mr. Steedman. Are you referring now to the Caucasian employees or to the Japanese employees?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. No. The Japanese do all the clerical work; the Caucasians are only supervisors.

Mr. Steedman. The implication of your reply is that you are dependent upon the Japanese to keep up with the details of what is in the warehouses, is that correct?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Yes; under our supervision.

Mr. Steedman. Do you feel you can trust the Japanese to maintain the records in an honest manner?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Some of them.

Mr. Steedman. Not all of them?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. No, sir.

Mr. Steedman. Is there any record of any articles or materials or goods, or anything of any nature whatsoever being removed from the warehouses by the Japanese in an unauthorized manner?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Yes, sir.

Mr. Steedman. Would you please state to the committee just what was removed?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. It is impossible to do that because there are numerous little items and the written reports have all been submitted to the Department heads.

For instance, there will be little pieces of fly screen and push switches outlet boxes — small things that they can use in fixing up their\* quarters, and also stuff they can eat.

Mr. Steedman. Did you say things they can eat?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Yes, sir.

Mr. Steedman. Food?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Well, such as pineapple juice and food that they don't have to cook; oranges and apples and cheese.

Mr. Steedman. Have you kept records of the amount of materials, that have been stolen from the warehouses at Poston?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Only in memorandums in reporting them to the division head.

Mr. Steedman. Then your records do not indicate the amount of missing material from the warehouses?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. You mean in dollars and cents?

Mr. Steedman. Dollars and cents; yes.

Mr. WICKERSMAH. No, sir.

Mr. Steedman. Have you ever submitted a statement to your superiors as to the amount of material that you thought was missing?

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Mr. WICKERSHAM. No, sir.

Mr. Steedman. That you determined was missing daily from the warehouses?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. No, sir.

Mr. Steedman. You have never made any statement that you thought about \$100 per day was missing from the warehouses?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. No, sir.

Mr. Steedman. Do you have any record of the Japanese truck drivers attempting to steal mattresses from the Government?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. I have no record of it.

Mr. Steedman. How often have you ordered an inventory of the warehouses?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. That is continuous, my system is. When posting or deducting an article I will instruct the supervisor to take that amount and go out and check what is in the warehouse.

Mr. Steedman. Has that always been the system employed at Poston?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Yes, sir.

Mr. Steedman. And at Parker?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Yes, sir.

Mr. Steedman. Since the inception of the project?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Yes, sir.

Mr. MuNDT. How often do you audit that system to see whether it is working accurately or not?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Well, since we began there hasn't been any real audit of it, but that is going on all the time in all three camps. We just pick out a card at random and have it checked and then we

will go to camp 2 and do the same thing and at camp 3, or in my inspection I count the number of articles and go back and check the card.

Mr. MuNDT. You have never had an over-all audit of the entire warehouses?

Mr. WiCKERSHAM. No, sir; we have had a partial audit by two investigators, going way back to the time at the beginning, and they had all the records and all the receipts at their disposal.

Mr. MuNDT. Did they find any discrepancies?

Mr. WiCKERSHAM. No, sir; not in our records.

Mr. MuNDT. Were those auditors of the Indian Service?

Mr. WiCKERSHAM. No, sir; they were auditors — they were investigators.

Mr. MuNDT. From where?

Mr. WiCKERSHAM. I think they were from G-2.

Mr. Steedman. Did you report on the condition of the inventory to Mr. Townsend during the time he was handling the project?

Mr. WiCKERSHAM. Report on an inventory? Why?

Mr. Steedman. Did you keep him advised as to what you had in the warehouses while he was at the project?

Mr. WiCKERSHAM. No one ever submitted an inventory; he never asked for it.

Mr. Steedman. "What kind of reports do you submit to your immediate superior regarding the condition of the warehouses and the amount of material and goods stored in them?"

Mr. WiCKERSHAM. To my immediate superior?

Mr. Steedman. Yes.

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Mr. Wickersham. There is none except all the papers we prepare flow to the main office. The only time we submit an inventory is when they ask for it — a special inventory of certain items or all the items when they ask for it.

Mr. Steedman. Mr. Chairman, we introduced in the record yesterday a memorandum dated December 16, 1942, addressed to Mr. A. W. Empie from H. H. Townsend. I would like to quote today from that memorandum which has already been received in the record.

Mr. CosTELLo. Very well.

Mr. Steedman. I quote:

In the first pLace an inventory cannot be accurately expected from employees within the warehouse where we know that more than \$100 a day is being mis-appropriated.

That statement was made by Mr. Townsend in a memorandum to Mr. Empie, dated December 16, 1942.

Mr. Steedman. Did Mr. Townsend receive that information from you?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. No, sir.

Mr. Steedman. Do you know how Mr. Townsend obtained that information?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. No.

Mr. Steedman. Did Mr. Townsend discuss that loss with you?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. No, sir.

Mr. Steedman. You never discussed the loss of Government material from the warehouses with Mr. H. H. Townsend?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. No, sir.

Mr. Steedman. Did you discuss the loss of material from Government warehouses with any other project official?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Ycs; with Mr. Potter and Mr. Haverland and Mr. Empie.

Mr. Steedman. But never with Mr. Townsend?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. No, sir.

Mr. Steedman. That question was never brought up?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. No, sir.

Mr. Steedman. I would like to quote agam from this memorandum:

It is now being generally discussed among the Japanese warehouse people thai they will be able to cover up their records and in many instances they have already discussed the matter of hiding out various types of supplies and equipment so that they could not be compelled to show them on their inventory.

Mr. Steedman. Do you think that statement is correct?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. No, sir; it is not.

Mr. Steedman. It is an mcorrect statement?

Mr. WiCKERSHAM. Yes, sir.

Mr. Steedman. Where do you think Mr. Townsend received his information?

Mr. WiCKERSHAM. I dou't know, sir. I don't know where he would — how he would arrive, the first place, at the value of the stuff

Mr. Steedman. He could arrive at an approximate value, couldn't he?

Mr. WiCKERSHAM. It would have been very difficult unless he knew just exactly what was stolen and the cost of it.

Mr. Steedman. Is there any way you have to ascertain the amount of material that has been improperly removed from the Goveinment warehouses at Poston?

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Mr. WiCKERSHAM. By checking our perpetual inventory and taking a phj'sical check.

Mr. Steedman. But that has not been done?

; Mr. WiCKERSHAM. No, sir.

Mr. Steedman. Is it customary to take an inventory of Govern-ment property once a year?

Mr. WiCKERSHAM. Ycs, sir.

Mr. Steedman. Then why hasn't that been done at Boston?

Mr. WiCKERSHAM. I doii't know.

Mr. Steedman. Has Mr. Head instructed you to take an inventory?

Mr. WiCKERSHAM. Instructions were issued when Mr. Townsend was there. I think what prevented it was the distm'bance and that came on shortly afterward.

Mr. Steedman. You are referring to the so-called strike or riot; is that correct?

Mr. WiCKERSHAM. Dism'bance.

Mr. Steedman. That was during November of 1942?

Mr. WiCKERSHAM. Ycs, sir.

Mr. Steedman. Was that a strike?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. I don't know — I don't think — I don't know what it was.

Mr. MuNDT. I can't hear you.

Mr. WICKERSHAM. I don't know what it was. You see here is my position ill that, gentlemen: I spend my time between the railhead and camps 1,2, and 3. I didn't know there was any disturbance or strike or riot or whatever you want to call it until I arrived at Boston camp 1 about 3 o'clock in the afternoon. I walked in and nothing was doing and I asked what was the matter and they said: "WeU, there is a strike on."

That is the first I knew of it.

Mr. STEEDMAN. Had the Japanese taken a strike vote?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. I doii't know.

Mr. Steedman. You haven't any information regarding that?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. No, sir.

Mr. Steedman. Have you heard that the Japanese took a strike vote?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. No, sir.

Mr. Steedman. But you would have heard about it had they taken one, wouldn't you?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Well, rumors would be all. The warehouse department don't get that information.

Mr. Steedman. You said on the 18th of November you returned to Boston from Barker and you went to camp No. 1 and no one was working. Will you describe to the committee just what happened at that time?

(No answer.)

Mr. Steedman. What was going on at camp No. 1 when you arrived there?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Wasn't anything going on.

Mr. Steedman. Were the people congregated before the administration building?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Not that I recall; I didn't stop there.

Mr. Steedman. Were any groups marching any place in the camp?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. I didn't see any.

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Mr. Steedman. Did you see any flags raised or after they had been raised?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. No, sir.

Mr. Steedman. Did you hear any music being played?

Mr. Wickersham. No, sir.

Mr. Steedman. Was everything in an orderly manner at the camp?

Mr. Wickersham. It was in the warehouse area.

Mr. Steedman. What was the situation at the administration building?

Mr. Wickersham. Seemed to be all right. After I heard the news I went up there and it seemed to be very quiet.

Mr. Steedman. Did that quietness prevail during the entire 7 days of the strike or riot?

Mr. Wickersham. I don't know for this reason: The strike took place I had to spend my time at the railhead, so I spent 90 percent of my time there and then I returned to Parker or to Poston for a short time and then go back to Parker.

Mr. Steedman. Were you inside unit No. 1 during the course of the strike?

Mr. Wickersham. In and out of it ; yes.

Mr. Steedman. You describe the condition there as being quiet and orderly; is that correct?

Mr. Wickersham. All I can answer for on that is, I didn't go over to where the disturbance was; I confined my activities to the warehouse area which is on the outside of the main camp.

Mr. Steedman. You heard a disturbance and you stayed away; is that correct?

Mr. Wickersham. I attended to my own business.

Mr. Steedman. Didn't you feel a curiosity as to what was going on over at unit No. 1 ?

Mr. Wickersham. No, sir.

Mr. Steedman. Did you later hear what happened at unit No. 1 ?

Mr. Wickersham. Yes, sir.

Mr. Steedman. Will you tell the committee what you heard?

Mr. Wickersham. I heard they were playing the Japanese national anthem. Whether it was or not I don't know. And they said they put up a Japanese flag but I didn't see it. I never looked for it.

Mr. Steedman. How many people told you they were playing the Japanese national anthem?

Mr. Wickersham. I judge five or six.

Mr. Mundt. White people or Japanese people?

Mr. Wickersham. White.

Mr. Steedman. It was general knowledge at Poston that they were playing the Japanese national anthem; isn't that correct?

Mr. Wickersham. That was the general rumor and discussion and talk.

Mr. Mundt. How many told you they saw the Japanese flag flying?

Mr. Wickersham. I should say about two.

Mr. Mundt. Was that also the general rumor and talk?

Mr. Wickersham. Yes, sir.

Mr. Steedman. Did you have any reason to disbelieve the information given you to the effect that the Japanese were playing the Japanese national anthem and flying the Japanese flag inside the center at Poston?

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Mr. WICKERSHAM. I dooi't place much confidence in any general conversations in such times as that.

Mr. Steedman. Arc you inclined to believe that the Japanese flag was flying?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. I do not know, sir. I don't think so myself.

Mr. Steedman. You don't thuiik so?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. No.

Mr. Steedman. Do you think they were playing tiic Japanese

national anthem?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. I don't think so.

Mr. Steedman. You don't think they were?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. No.

Mr. Steedman. Do you know whether or not the Japanese have phonograph records or transcriptions of the Japanese national anthem, the piece known as the Kimagowa, in their homes?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. I do not.

Mr. Steedman. Have you ever made a search of their homes?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. No, sir.

Mr. Steedman. Have you at any time been instructed to search the barracks of the Japanese since you went to work at Poston?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. No, sir; I am a warehouseman.

Mr. COSTELLO. If it is all right to break off here, we will take a recess until 20 minutes after 2 o'clock.

(Thereupon, at 1 p. m., the hearing recessed until 2:20 p. m. of the same day.)

#### AFTERNOON SESSION

(Whereupon the hearing was resumed at 2:20 p. m., pursuant to the taking of the noon recess.)

Mr. COSTELLO. The committee will be in order.

Mr. Steedman, will you proceed with the interrogation of the witness.

#### TESTIMONY OF ERNEST S. WICKERSHAM- Resumed

Mr. Steedman. In connection with your duties as warehouseman\* have you had any occasion to observe the Japanese workers in the warehouses harassing other Japanese workers who were attempting to carry out their duties as prescribed by you?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Not in the warehouse.

Mr. Steedman. Have you noticed that at any other places at the project?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. No, sir.

Mr. Steedman. You have never heard idle Japanese harassing those Japanese who were attempting to work?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. No, sir.

Mr. Steedman. And you have never seen any Japanese try to keep other Japanese from working. ^

]Mr. WICKERSHAM. No, sir.

Mr. Steedman. Has such conduct been reported to you by any of the other Caucasian employees working under you in the warehouses?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. No, sir.

Mr. Steedman. In your opinion are the Japanese who are keeping the records in the warehouses honest?

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Mr. WICKESHAM. I believe the present force I have— I think they are. You see that has been shifted numerous times until we got what we think are efficient people.

Mr. Steedman. Have you had any instances of Japanese making incorrect records in the warehouses?

Air. WICKERSHAM. No, sir.

Mr. Steedman. You don't know of any such instances?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. No, sir.

Mr. Steedman. I would like to return for a moment to the occasion at Parker when the Japanese told you they would not work unless they were assigned to some lighter task,

Mr. WICKERSHAM. The } ^ didn't tell me they wouldn't work.

Air. Steedman. But they told you they wouldn't unload the steel?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Yes.

Mr. Steedman. And they told you they wouldn't unload lumber?

Air. "WICKERSHAM. Yes.

Mr. Steedman. Well, that was a job you were engaged in at the time, was it not?

Air. WICKERSHAM. Yes, sir.

Mr. Steedman. Was there any other work to be done there?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Yes, sir.

Mr. Steedman. What was it?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. As I recall there were about 20 or 25 cars on the track at the time loaded with various things.

Mr. Steedman. Did you put them to unloading that material?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. That I asked them to unload?

Mr. Steedman. Yes.

Air. WICKERSHAM. No, sir.

Mr. Steedman. What did you do?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. I just walked over and they talked among themselves and then they went to work unloading subsistence as I recall.

Mr. Steedman. Do you think that is the way to maintain discipline?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. I don't think it is; I know it isn't.

Air. Steedman. Well, what authority do you have over the Japanese who are working for you?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. None whatever. The only way that I can punish them is to fire them.

Mr. Steedman. Do you have a record of how many you have fired?

Air. WICKERSHAM. No, sir; I have not.

Mr. Steedman. Would you say you have discharged 10 or 15 or 20?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Well, I have fired 20 at one time and they put them back to work again.

Mr. Steedman. What did you discharge them for?

Mr. CosTELLO. Who put them back to work?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Some of the higher officials.

Mr. CosTELLO. The white officials of the camp reassigned the same Japanese whom you had fired, to the same job again?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Yes, sir; Mr. Townsend did that.

Air. Steedman. When?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. I don't recall the exact date.

Mr. Steedman. Do you recall why you fired them?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Yes, sir.

Mr. Steedman. What was the reason?

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Mr. WICKERSHAM. They caught five of them stealing.

Mr. Steedman. What were they stealing?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Oranges and groceries.

Mr. Steedman. How much did they steal?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. They stole about 5 or 6 dozen oranges and 10 or 15 cans of groceries.

Mr. Steedman. Did you report that back to Mr. Townsend?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Yes, sir.

Mr. Steedman. And you say he returned them to the job immediately?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. No; it was 3 or 4 days later.

Mr. Steedman. Have you in mind any other instances that you can relate to the committee wherein Japanese have been guilty of stealing materials out of the warehouses?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. No, sir.

Mr. Steedman. That is the only instance that has come to your attention?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Yes, sir.

Mr. Steedman. And you took summary action as soon as you learned of the fact that they had stolen groceries?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Yes, sir.

Mr. COSTELLO. Were the stolen goods returned to the warehouse?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Not all the oranges were returned because they had eaten some of them.

Mr. COSTELLO. Were the canned goods returned?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Yes, sir.

Mr. COSTELLO. That is the only instance of stealing that you know of that took place in the warehouses over which you had charge?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. At Parker; yes, sir.

Air. Steedman. Is there a committee composed of Japanese working in the warehouses which you consult with regarding the operation of the warehouses?

Air. WICKERSHAM. I do not; no, sir.

Air. Steedman. Has there ever been such a Japanese committee?

Air. Wickersham. Not in the warehouses; no, sir.

"Air. Steedman. How often do the Japanese call upon you, as a committee, regarding the operation of the warehouse?

Air. WICKERSHAM. They haven't called recently but they did before about, I should judge, about twice a month.

Air. Steedman. What was the nature of these calls?

Air. WICKERSHAM. Oh, it seemed — they seemed to be just seeking general information and the method of handling the materials and supplies.

Air. Steedman. Would they request an interview prior to coming to see you?

Air. Wickersham. Yes, sir; they would come in the office.

Air. Steedman. As a committee representing the Japanese warehousemen?

Air. WICKERSHAM. No, not representing the Japanese warehousemen — representing other departments.

Mr. Mundt. Do you have any other information as to whether Air. Townsend returned those Japanese to your employment of his own volition or was he asked to do that by someone higher up?

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Mr. WICKERSHAM. I couldn't say. All I know is he told me that they were down on their knees begging for the job back and I told him that I didn't want them but he returned them just the same.

Mr. MUNDT. You don't know whether that was his idea or the idea of somebody higher up?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. No, sir; I do not.

Mr. COSTELLO. You say there were 20 men involved in that case?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Yes, sir.

Mr. COSTELLO. You say they only stole a couple dozen oranges and about 10 or 15 cans of food?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Ycs, sir.

Mr. CosTELLO. How were the 20 involved in that stealing?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. There was only five of them that did the actual stealing.

Mr. CosTELLO. How were the other 15 implicated in the stealing?

Mr, WICKERSHAM. They woiddn't work.

Mr. CosTELLO. W^ouldn't work because the other five were being discharged?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. I dou't know, sir.

Mr. CosTELLO. The other 15 just refused to work?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Ycs, sir.

Mr. CosTELLO. And they were not involved in the stealing?

Mr. W^iCKERSHAM. No, sir.

Mr. CosTELLO. But they didn't give you any reason as to why they didn't want to work?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. No, sir; they never do.

Mr. CosTELLO. Did they sit down at the time of the stealing or was it after the 5 had been discharged or were all 20 discharged at once?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. After the five were taken to the Japanese police court.

Mr. CosTELLO. Then the other 15 refused to work?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Ycs, sir.

Mr. MuNDT. Were they the only Japanese that you ever fired from the job?

Mr. W^iCKERSHAM. That is all.

Mr. MuNDT. Just those 20?

Mr. W^iCKERSHAM. Ycs, sir.

Mr. MuNDT. Did you fire any more after that?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Fire any more?

Air. MuNDT. After they were returned to you?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. I w^ould have fired some before that.

Mr. AluNDT. Was that the first offense you had detected?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. That was the only one I ever actually caught myself.

Mr. CosTELLO. Did you have any reports from others as to stealing? »

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Yes, sir.

Mr. CosTELLO. Did you take action in those cases?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. No; I didn't because I didn't have, as you might say, the goods on them.

Mr. CosTELLO. How many other reports did you have regarding stealing?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. I would judge about four or five.

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Mr. CosTELLO. Were there large amounts of foodstuff involved in those stealings?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. No, sir; small, petty amounts.

Mr. MuNDT. You have had other Japanese refuse to work besides those 20, have j'ou not?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Yes, sir; I have had them refuse to work twice — ^two different gangs.

Mr. MuNDT. Just that gang and the one at Parker?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. A Vell, both of these were at Parker. I never had any refuse to work down in camp.

Mr. MuNDT. How far apart were those two instances — the one of the fruit stealing and the one that wouldn't move the cement and lumber?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. I judge about a month or 6 weeks apart.

.Mr. CosTELLO. Who actually unloaded the steel and lumber?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Oil Sundays they would call in all the Caucasians and the Indians and all the machines that were available and we would work as high as 38 men and 3 machines and unload the stuff.

Mr. CosTELLO. But none of the Japanese participated in that unloading?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. No, sir.

Mr. Steedman. As a matter of fact weren't these 20 who were involved in the episode you have just related, good workers?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. They were when they first started.

Mr. Steedman. Were they good workers at the time of this occurrence?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. No, sir; they had slacked off for some reason.

Mr. Steedman. Mr. Chairman, I have a memorandum dated September 18, 1942, addressed to Mr. A. W. Empie:

"Subject: Warehouse unloading situation at Parker," signed by Mr. H. H. TowTisend, transportation and supply officer. This memorandum was furnished to me by Mr. Townsend and I would like to read it into the record at this point.

Mr. CosTELLO. You might read the memorandum.

Mr. Steedman (reading):

Unless there is some reason it should not be done, I am attempting to reorganize and install the old crew that was dismissed a few weeks ago due to a similar condition that exists at this time.

Do you recall this memorandum?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. No, sir; I do not.

Mr. Steedman. Do you know what Mr. Townsend was referring to when he refers to "a similar condition?" Did you have another incident like the first one you have mentioned to the committee?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Does he mean he is referring to the first strike or sit-down?

Mr. Steedman. This is dated September 18 — before the strike.

Mr. WICKERSHAM. You see there were two strikes at the Parker warehouse before the big disturbance.

Mr. Steedman. What were the dates of those strikes?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. I don't recall — about a month or 6 weeks apart.

Mr. Steedman. Prior to November 18, 1942?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Yes, sir.

Mr. Steedman. "What were the causes of the two strikes you have just mentioned?"

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Mr. WICKERSHAM. I do not know,

\_ Mr. Steedman. Were the Japanese who struck under your jurisdiction?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Yes, sir.

Mr. Steedman. Did you attempt to ascertain the cause of the strikes?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Well, for instance, they would get in their trucks at 9:30 and they — they had arrived at 9 — one crew would get in the truck and 20 or 30 men drive away. Nothing was said about what was the matter.

The next day they come back and they were asked, "What did you go home for yesterday?"

"Only had eggs for breakfast."

"What else was on the table?"

"Well, that — there was a lot of cereal but we don't eat that junk."

Mr. Steedman. And they just drove off the job?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Yes.

Mr. Steedman. Did you report that to the management?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Ycs.

Mr. Steedman. And what action did the camp officials take?

. Mr. WICKERSHAM. I don't know, sir.

Mr. CosTELLO. Will you speak more loudly?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. I do not know what they did.

Mr. Steedman. Did you receive a memorandum in reply to your memorandum advising them of the situation at the warehouse at Parker?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. I don't recall whether I did or not.

Mr. Steedman. You are referring now to the first strike when you say they drove up in their trucks and said they had only had eggs for breakfast?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. No, no; that was the second strike.

Mr. Steedman. Will you tell the committee what happened

during the first strike?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. We had the men working and I had them split into two crews and I noticed one crew was working very nicely and the other crew was all setting down, so I walked down to the crew that was setting down and I said, "What is the matter?"

Nobody answered. I said, "What in hell is the matter with you?"

They said, "We don't know what we are going to get paid."

So I said, "What has that got to do with working?"

And they said, "We don't want to work until we find out the pay."

So, I proceeded to the office and rang up the main office and they said, "Bring them in."

So, I proceeded to bring them in and they talked to them and sent them back.

Mr. Steedman. And was that Mr. Head?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. At this particular time it was Mr. Evans.

Mr. Steedman. Mr. Evans?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Yes.

Mr. Steedman. Did Mr. Evans give the Japanese any satisfaction?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. He went into some detail to explain to them at that particular time it wasn't decided whether it would be \$16 or \$19 a month.

#### UN-AMERICAN PROPAGANDA ACTIVITIES 9029

Mr. Steedman. What was the center paying the workers who were doing; the work that you are referring to now?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. They were supposed to be getting \$16.

Mr. Steedman. Did Mr. Evans raise their pay to \$19 a month?

Mr. Wickersham. Not at that time; no, sir.

Mr. Steedman. Did he later?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. No; it hasn't been raised until just recently.

Mr. Steedman. It is \$19 now?

Mr. Wickersham. Yes, sir.

Mr. Steedman. I will continue with the reading of the memorandum:

In checking their records I find that they handled more than 3,000,000 pounds of freight during August under adverse conditions.

Mr. Steedman. Does that refer to the crew that you discharged because they were stealing Government property?

Mr. Wickersham. I would judge that is the crew that set down and was wanting to know what they were going to be paid and also the five members that were caught stealing.

Mr. Steedman. That refers to both crews?

Mr. Wickersham. No; that was the one crew.

Mr. Steedman (reading):

This crew feels that they have been given a bad break and are now willing to take over the job and promise to do a better job of work than they did before. I am convinced that in this instance the Japanese boys are not entirely at fault. The Caucasian management is responsible for the existing conditions.

Mr. Steedman. What does he mean by that?

Mr. Wickersham. I do not know, sir.

Mr. Steedman (reading):

It is my intention to work the crew that is now on from 7 to 3 p. m. and the second from 2 to 10 p. m. This will allow the men travel time between their camp and the warehouse. This has been one of the conditions that they have found fault with. They were asked to travel on their own time making their working hours 10 hours instead of 8. We have at this time 30 carloads of freight to be unloaded and I am sure that this emergency can be handled properly from now on.

That is signed "H. H. Townsend."

Mr. Steedman. This is the order directing the men to be put back to work, is it not?

Mr. Wickersham. Yes, sir.

Mr. Steedman. Did any of the Caucasian employees at Poston sympathize with those Japanese? \*

Mr. Wickersham. You mean in the warehouse department?

Mr. Steedman. Yes.

Mr. Wickersham. I don't think so, and I don't think they condemn them.

Mr. Steedman. "What was the attitude of other employees, employees outside of the warehouse?"

Mr. Wickersham. I couldn't say about those. I am not in close touch with them.

Mr. Steedman. Have you experienced any interference in j^our work from the community welfare service department?

Mr. Wickersham. Not directly.

Mr. Steedman. I did not hear your answer.

Mr. Wickersham. I said not directly.

Mr, Steedman. Have you indirectly?

#### 9030 UN-AMERICAN PROPAGANDA ACTIVITIES

Mr. WiCKERSHAM. Yes, sir.

Mr. Steedman. In what way?

Mr. WiCKERSHAM. Well, take for instance they say: "Well, now if these people want to work 2 hours and go home it is all right."

So they work 2 hours and go home.

Mr. Steedman. Do you give them credit on their time cards for an 8-hour day if they work only 2 hours and go home?

Mr. WiCKERSHAM. I try to see that their time is cut down to 2 hours or the time they actually worked, but our timekeepers are Japanese.

Mr. Steedman. The timekeepers who compile the records for these employees in the warehouse are Japanese also?

Mr. WiCKERSHAM. Ycs, sir.

Mr. Steedman. Do you instruct the timekeepers to cut down the number of hours to the actual number of hours that they work? ,

Mr. WiCKERSHAM. Ycs, sir.

Mr. Steedman. Do they comply with your instructions?

Mr. WiCKERSHAM. Ill some cases — where I have checked them,

Mr. Steedman. What about the situation in cases where you haven't checked them?

Mr. WiCKERSHAM. Well, I don't kno-s^ — I haven't checked them.

Mr. Steedman. Don't you check the records each time you tell a timekeeper a certain man has worked only 2 hours? '

(No answer.)

Mr. Steedman. Don't you ascertain whether or not the timekeeper

has complied with your instructions?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. If I tell him that, yes; I check on that. I don't check him every day.

Mr. Steedman. Do you trust the Japanese timekeepers?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Somewliat.

Mr. Steedman. I have no further questions, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Eberharter. Just one question.

Mr. CosTELLO. Mr. Eberharter.

Mr. Eberharter. As I get it, Mr. Wickersham, the reason you took no disciplinary action at the time these Japanese refused to unload this steel and Imnber and cement, was because when you had disciplined them before by dismissing them from the pay roll, they had been put back and you felt it v/ouldn't be of any use to dismiss these men for refusing to unload this cement and steel and lumber?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Ycs, sir.

Mr. Eberharter. That is all.

Mr. CosTELLO. Mr. Mundt.

Mr. Mundt. What is the history of the 20 men who were put back to work by the memorandum read by Mr. Steedman a few moments ago? Are they still working in your warehouse?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. No, sir.

Mr. Mundt. Did you fire them again?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Well, they put in their time riding back and forth and loafing around the warehouse and then the disturbance came along and they never did put Japs back at the Parker warehouse.

Mr. Mundt. They never went back to work?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. No; they never did go back to work.

Mr. Mundt. You said, with regard to the social welfare workers, that they said if they want to work 2 hom-s, let them work 2 hom-s and call it enough. Whom do you mean by "they"?

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Mr. WICKERSHAM. Tlic Japanese people.

Mr. MuNDT. You said: "They said it," referring to some social welfare workers. Whom did you mean by "they"? Yon said they

indirectly at times with the Japanese working there.

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Ycs.

Mr. MuNDT. Whom did you mean by "they?"

Mr. WICKERSHAM. The social workers.

Mr. CosTELLO. We can't hear you. Will you please speak louder?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. The social workers, as we classify them.

Mr. CosTELLO. Who are the social workers? What are the names of those people?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. At that particular time I think it was Miss Findley who was the head of it.

Mr. CosTELLO. Anyone else?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. I do not know who the rest of them were.

Mr. MuNDT. Is Dr. Powell a social worker there?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. He is now. I don't know whether he was there at that time or not.

Mr. MuNDT. Do you ever go to Mr. Head and suggest to him that you be given more authority to exercise disciplinary action against these striking Japanese?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Ycs, sir; I have had several conferences with him.

Mr. MuNDT. What was the outcome of those conferences?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Nothing that I could see.

Mr. MuNDT. What would he say about it? How did he think the Japs should be treated? Did he think they should be entitled to strike like that?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. Well, he didn't express himself on that particular point.

Mr. MuNDT. You went to him and you said substantially: "Mr. Head, this is what has happened and I think I should be given more authority so we can get more work out of the Japanese," didn't you?

Mr. WICKERSHAM. No, sir; I didn't say it in that way. I went to him and explained the difficulties I had doing the work — difficulty in unloading the amount of cars I had — the tonnage that I had to move. I put the facts before him and let him use his own judgment as to what means he was going to use.

!Mr. CosTELLO. Did you make any recommendations as to improving conditions or increased authority for yourself?

Mr. WiCKERSHAM. No, sir.

Mr. CosTELLO. You made no recommendations at all?

!Mr. WiCKERSHAM. No, sir.

Mr. CosTELLO. Simply set before him the facts?

Air. WiCKERSHAM. Ycs, sir.

Mr. CosTELLO. What did he state to you? Did he make any offer to improve the conditions or improve the situation?

Air. WiCKERSHAM. I rccall each one would end up: "Well, we will see what can be done."

Mr. CosTELLO. You were satisfied with that and didn't press him any further?

Mr. WiCKERSHAM. I had to be.

Mr. CosTELLO. Was anything actually done then?

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Mr, WiCKERSHAM. I coiidii't see any results.

Mr. CosTELLO. As far as you know Mr. Head took no action whatsoever in spite of the fact that he was notified by you as to the conditions existing there at Parker?

Mr, WiCKERSHAM. As far as my knowledge goes I would say yes,

Mr, CosTELLO, That will be all, Mr, Wickersham, We appreciate your coming here,

(Witness excused,)

Mr, Steedman, Mr, Chairman, when Mr. Wickersham left the stand he handed me a memorandum entitled "Warehouse, July 1, 1942, to May 31, 1943, tonnage unloaded at Parker," and he asked that this memorandum be inserted in the record at the conclusion of his testimony,

Mr, CosTELLO. That shows the tonnage handled through the ware-

house at Parker between those dates?

Mr. vSteedman. That is coiTect.

Mr, CosTELLO, Without objection, the memorandum will be submitted for the record, ....”