



[field notes]

Tues. Jan. 26, 1943

Today I heard various things during my wanderings. In Block 220, at the back steps of the Recreation Dept. I met an old friend from Salinas, L.U. After conversing on sundry topics for some length of time, we started to talk about the way the people we knew had changed since their arrival in this internment camp. "Yeah," says he, "I never would have believed that Toya was that kind of a guy. Of course in Salinas, I didn't mix with him but I knew from casual contacts with him that he wasn't a bad sort. Here in camp people start to show their true colors. I'd try to help those who have been good to me in here but damn it I'll help those who were my friends on the outside and changed their colors in here." Then I asked about the agitators in his block. To which he answered in this manner; "There's two of them in our block— Kojima and my damn fool second brother. As far as he is concerned we were always on the outs even on the outside. Kojima's been going to 221 to agitate that block. It seems that he was quite successful in his efforts. That block is a mix-up now. He was responsible for having the Block Manager of that block changed about two or three weeks ago. Another thing, that guys been beating his wife at least 5 days out of every 7. C.A. Lives next door to him and can hear him slap her. He says that he beats her just about every night. Kojima's out till late every night. He expects his wife to wait up for him. If he finds her already asleep when he returns, no matter how late it is, he beats the hell out of her. That guy's a coward. If I should ever beat my wife, it may be once a year. But a guy who beats his wife just a bout every night must be a coward." At this point I inserted, "Maybe his wife disapproves of his actions. Perhaps he at least expects to receive words of sympathy and approval from his wife." "maybe so. The wife is pregnant at the present time. He was responsible for the death of his first child since he continued to beat her in her tender condition. He's sure taking a chance beating her in her present condition." From here wandered on to the subject of food, and table manners. Kazaoka family —two of the children always crying at the mess hall. Carry off the food in heaping plates etc..... Passing of food, family system, licking off fork before sticking it into jam jar, grabbing the spout of the pitchers to turn them around in order to grasp the handles, doting mothers working in the kitchen hovering near their children and administering to all their needs, leaving letting others do her share of the work, same problems in other blocks.

This same night At night a camouflage meeting was held only for the niseis in the mess hall. At the beginning of the meeting t. told me that he had talked to Charles I. in the Ag. building that day. He asked Charles what the results of the voting was. He tried to feign ignorance but t. in the presence of his brothers and two or three others insisted that told him that he knew what voting he was referring to. He even told him that he had seen Charles in the block manager's office that night. Charles broke down and said that the vote was 154 to 13 rejecting the camouflage.

Jan 27., I went to the Blk. Mgr. Supr. office to find out how many votes block 211 was entitled to. I was unable to get the information. The secretary told me to see George Ono about the From George I was able to get the following information: Block 211 turned in 167 votes(this is the number reported by the blk mgr) and had 31 unused votes. This makes a total of 198 ballots given to the block. According the past survey, if my memory does not fail me, this block had between 165 to 172 eligible voters. This being the case, a maximum number of votes had been turned in from this block. This is an impossibility since many of the Isseis failed to vote.