

ing it close to his right ear with the elbow of his right arm resting on the arm of the chair he began to speak again. "We are glad to have you here Pollock. Your Department is going to have the responsibility of making this Center a community and not a reformatory. In a very short time this place is going to be filled with frightened and worried people. People with oriental faces that the other people out there do not want to see or live near. I do not know how long we will have them with us but it will take months before the permanent Relocation Centers can be ready for them. We have to give them what ever it takes to keep them from brooding over their problems while they are here. Some way or other we have to try and make life normal for a large group of people brought together under abnormal conditions. So we've got one hell of a job to do. What ever you think you will need, to give it our best shot, I'll get for you, if it is within my power and authority. The material Henrietta gave you will answer a lot of questions in your mind. So read it over, look over the entire Center, and bring in your questions anytime and we will give you, or get for you the answers. If I'm not here check with Dunn, because one of us will always be here".

Then pointing his cigar at me and accenting each word he spoke with a slight flick of the wrist that dropped a bit of ash with each motion, he continued. "There is no precedent for this kind of project. We have to try and find answers for questions before they are asked and we have to live within the authority granted by the W.C.C.A. and the Western Defense Command. You are here because somebody in authority, knowing about your qualifications, selected you from a lot of other people and the rest of us are here for the same reason. I have feeling that we have an excellent team. I am not going to be a coach because you all know what you are doing. I guess I am to be a sort of quarterback, to call plays, so we will all coordinate our efforts." He paused long enough to take an abbreviated pull on the cigar and then proceeded to ask me. "Pollock, what do the people of Bakersfield think about the local Japanese?" I replied, "Its difficult to say what the majority feel but I do know there are a lot of people that believe anyone with oriental features, is suspect. From what I read in the local papers there seems to be almost 100percent agreement with the Governments decision to remove them from the west coast.