TO CONTACT ENLISTEES IN OTHER CENTERS

The credo of the Topaz volunteers for the Japanese American combat team made an exceedingly favorable impression on Dillon S. Myer, national WRA director, it was learned today.

In a telegram to Project Director Charles F. Ernst, Myer wired:

"I received your letter of March 12 with the credo attached. Please present my compliments to the volunteers of Topaz. I recommend that copies be sent direct to the other 9 projects from Topaz. I will write the other directors immediately, calling special attention to the matter and urging that the credo be published in the project papers when it is received."

COMMITTEE AID

The steering committee for the "Volunteers of Topaz" acted today on Myer's suggestion. Copies of the credo were sent to the other relocation centers through Ernst, who also included the following points in his letter to project directors of the 9 other centers:

"It may well be that the volunteers in other centers would like to develop their own credo or suggest a revision in the one offered by the 'Volunteers of Topaz.' You will understand, of course, that this would be quite in order.

"The main thing now is to set up an organization in each project with a temporary organization to serve as a point of contact so that the volunteers in each Center may communicate with each other their plans for developing a long-range program in behalf of all Japanese-Americans and their relatives, and always having in mind the welfare of the United States."

DILLON MYER COMMENTS ON INCREASE OF VOLUNTEERS

The number of Topaz citizens who volunteered to join the combat forces of the U.S. Army has risen from 103 to 104, it was learned yesterday. The recently-named "Volunteers for Victory" committee to the effect that 103 had signed up for Uncle Sam's growing army was in itself quite a surprise as the figures stood at 97 when volunteering formally closed on March 10.

This steady increase in the number of army volunteers was due to the fact that Topaz residents for various reasons were not able to sign up till after the final date for volunteering, it was disclosed.

As an answer to an inquiry made by Project Director Charles F. Ernst, regarding the eligibility of those who volunteered for the Japanese American combat team after March 10, Dillon S. Myer, national WRA director, stated:

"I am not sure how long volunteers will be accepted. It is my impression that March 10 was the deadline. I would suggest that any additional ones who want to volunteer up to the time of induction be encouraged to do so, but with the understanding that they may possibly not be accepted as volunteers at this time. All forms for all male citizens should be mailed to Washington by this time, but if additional persons wish to make changes from negative to affirmative on questions 27 and 28, I suggest it be done by statements which can be forwarded and attached to their files here."

NEWS BRIEFS

CONCERT: The selections for the Recorded concert tonight at the Topaz Public Library, starting at 8 o'clock, are as follows:

- Song Without Words, in A Minor, Peter Tsuchiakosov;
- Firebird Suite, Igor Stravinsky; Symphony No. 4 in F Minor, Peter Tsuchiakosov.

ODOR PRACTICE: Hanatsuri odori practice will be held at Rec 10, 7:30 o'clock tonight, for members of the committee and all those interested.

SERVICE: The Hidatsa

WEATHER REPORT

Max. (Tues.,night) 45 F., Min. (Wed.,morn.) 29 F.
REASONS FOR VOLUNTEERING GIVEN

JOHN YOSHINO PRESENTS SUMMARY OF STATEMENTS

The summary of the statements made by 8 enlistees at the mass meeting of the Topaz volunteers for the Japanese American combat team held last Thursday night at Dining Hall 22 was given by John Yoshino, chairman for the occasion.

Inasmuch as all reasons for volunteering are presented in the summary, it is published in this issue of the Times.

By JOHN YOSHINO

From the statements made by the various speakers tonight, we can summarize the case for volunteering thus: Volunteering is not only an act of loyalty to the country of our birth and allegiance; it is an act of loyalty to our own group, to our younger brothers and sisters, to our wives and sweethearts, to our fathers and mothers.

That they may have a better chance of returning to the normal life of America, that their reception by the outside world will be as cordial and friendly as possible, it is extremely important that every opportunity be utilized to create a better public feeling toward them. Volunteering is just such an opportunity, more than that, it is probably the most crucial opportunity that we have had since evacuation. If we fail to take advantage of it, we may never have another, and we may endanger the success of the whole re-settlement program.

In wartime, people inevitably judge things by wartime standards. Today, the soldier, the man who has pledged his very life in the nation's service, stands highest in public estimation. He is the ranking citizen of the land. But next to the soldier, is the man who has given him to the armed forces of his country, his family, his wife and children—toward whom public good will and gratitude are most fully extended. That the Japanese in this country have also contributed their share of soldier sons and husbands and stand ready to contribute still more must be brought to public attention in the most dramatic fashion possible.

The most human reaction to all this is to say: as well with us, then! If that's the way the country feels about us, why should we risk our lives unnecessarily to defend her? But there are occasions in life when to react in merely the most human way is not enough, when it is necessary to rise above our natural human feelings and force ourselves to take a course of "You've got us wrong, and we're going to prove you wrong the hard way."

This is one of those occasions, and the hard way is the way that we feel is necessary to show the rest of the country that the Japanese belong here. Because in the situation in which the Japanese in this country have been placed, the barriers which divide us from Japanese Americans must be broken down by a more than ordinary demonstration of the fact that most of us are loyal.

In recognition of this, the government has given us the opportunity to volunteer when all the rest of the country is on the selective service basis. Simply to wait for selective service to get us, too, would be to behave as if no special situation confronted us, as if the problem of regaining our full status as Americans existed, but we are confronted by a special situation and we are battling desperately to regain our full citizenship status. The ball has been passed to us; it is up to us whether we shall carry it for good gain or fumble it miserably and lose the game.

The favorable publicity which would inevitably result from successful volunteering will have a direct bearing on the ultimate success of resettlement for over 100,000 Japanese and Japanese Americans. Because it has already received national publicity, the degree of success it attains will be a matter of widespread interest. The unfavorable or negative publicity that we may attend to failure of the volunteer program will be certain to make public reception of Japanese in general much less friendly and trustful and would serve as just another weapon in the hands of those who oppose our re-entry into American life.

Those who volunteer, then, will not be marching off to any personal glory or gain. They will be going forth both because it is the most immediate way of demonstrating their own loyalty and because they sense the importance of their action to the whole future of the Japanese in this country. But their whole purpose and endeavor may be nullified if only a handful of排他ists can be found who are large enough of heart and mind to share their common burden. We hope that tonight's meeting has made clear the dual nature of volunteering—as an act of loyalty to this country and a demonstration of confidence for the future welfare of our own group. We hope, too, that more young men here in Topaz, as well as in all the other centers, will take this double consideration of the need for sufficient numbers to ensure the success of the volunteering program.