

Diary of Elder John K. Berokoff:

World War 2 Excerpts

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PREFACE TO THE DIARY
BY
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A serious bone of contention during the two World Wars, which might even have a dormant relevance today, is the question regarding to what extent should a conscientious objector to war cooperate with the government.

There is a huge difference between what our “predkee” experienced in Russia and the one into which they brought us to live in the United States. In the old country, when the peasant’s civil rights, what few they had, were in conflict with the Tsar’s or the nobility’s, the peasant was usually the loser. The totalitarian regime of Tsarist Russia was a system where few civil rights were allowed. Adapt or take the consequences of exile or death, or both, was the rule. However, in America, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights protect individual freedoms for citizen and alien alike. These American “inalienable rights” were as difficult for our predecessors to understand as the unyielding Tsarist system might be for their heirs to understand.

Since the nation began in 1789, these rights were often challenged and intruded upon by well-meaning individuals or by self-interested persons and groups. The built-in safeguards of the Constitution, however, has upheld the primacy of those “inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”

Even our elders in both wars had occasion to butt heads with the United States Government. It was only twelve short years or so after landing in Los Angeles that WWI began and a Molokan face-off with democracy began.

Our people were accustomed to a system where a “petition” was the only real tool available for redressing grievances. They immediately turned to that tool to gain total exemption from war because as the Petition of 1917 said “even the inclusion of our names in the military rolls is prejudicial to our consciences.” (See J. K. Berokoff’s *Molokans in America*, Page 160). It is very hard to tell what its impact was in Washington DC when they presented the “petition” to whom they might had believed to be the American Tsar, President Wilson and his staff. That was one effort. Done by elders. Another effort was done by twenty-year olds, especially the six written about in Alex F. Wren’s *True Believers Prisoners for Conscience*, who directly, boldly and courageously took on the US Government and its representatives—the military or Federal prison authorities.

Whether the efforts of the elders and the efforts of the twenty-year olds were done with complete knowledge of how the American system operates is pure speculation. Whether they knew or cared, for example, that the President cannot issue an edict to make a blanket exemption from the army for hundreds of men without Congressional approval, is problematical. Did they know how extremely slow it usually was for 96 (at a time) Senators and 435 Representatives to agree on passing a law, that for example, it takes a Congressman’s sponsorship, that it must pass through an assigned Committee with the appearances of witnesses, that it has to pass both Houses of Congress with the wording being exact, and that it finally has to be signed by the President? It is really doubtful that they took that into consideration.

What’s the point? The point is that the elders were wrong if they believed that the Executive Branch, or the Legislative Branch, each on its own and if each wanted to, could make a sweeping exemption for a single group not to participate in a nationwide mobilization program. The six young men were wrong in believing that the Federal System was unjust or without understanding and mercy.

When Abraham Lincoln passed the Draft Law to recruit soldiers for the Civil War in 1861-1865, the people of New York City rioted. Earlier than that, in the Seventeenth Century, the King of

England gave William Penn the whole state of Pennsylvania to bring his people, the Quakers, to have religious freedom which in their case, among other things, meant not to participate in wars. In addition, America never had peacetime military conscription until after WWII. In short, custom, history, precedence, and the Constitution with its Bill of Rights practically guaranteed that a peaceful group as the Molokans were, would be protected during WWI. In response to the Petition given to the Office of the Provost Marshall General, submitted in the name of the Molokan Brotherhood by I. G. Samarin, M. P. Pivovarovoff and P. M. Shubin, Provost Marshall O. H. Crowder replied: “. . . . Registration is not enlistment in the Military Service. It creates in and itself no obligation to perform military service. . . .” (see *Molokans in America*.)

Moreover, the Federal Government in 1917 already had a law that was incidentally very crucial and relevant to Molokan interests. The Draft law exempted people who were aliens. Almost all Molokans of military age at that time were aliens. The only string attached was that one had to state it in writing by a process called “registering.” (My cousin still has in her possession her father Ivan K’s registration card; and her father, incidentally, was a devout diehard Molokan to his last day.) The act of registering could not be done on a petition, it could not be done orally before a judge, it could not be done as a group. It had to be done as an individual and on a governmental form. Those were the terms to be exempt.

This nation which goes out of its way to protect everyone’s rights, logically should have been expected that it itself had the right to govern these rights as it saw fit, short of not violating its own Bill of Rights. It knew that people of every stripe and motivation exist within its confines, and that to govern fairly and equally, that is democratically, what then was probably 90,000,000 people, it should have been expected to require registering its citizens and aliens who were of age to register.

Mr. Wren ably describes the suffering and hardships the six men endured. Apparently, registering was viewed by them as being tantamount to “selling out” their consciences and their faith to either or both the American “Tsar” or the American Government. That was their decision. As stated earlier above, this is where Molokans can differ. Once again, it comes down to the question: At what point does cooperation with this government stop? Those six decided that the line stopped behind prison walls.

It may be very true that the life of later Molokan conscientious objectors, in some cases was made easier by the precedence established by the six men. If that is indeed a fact, we all have to be grateful. In this regard, I recently asked a now elder of the Arizona church who served in the CPS program whether or not I was correct to believe that the Arizona Molokans, during WWII, contributed a large number of men, percentage-wise, to the CPS system and also if I was correct in assuming that the Glendale, Arizona Local Boards were generously responsive to Molokans when they requested CO classification. He answered, “Yes, except for the first few of us, but once that the Boards knew we were of the same religion of those people who went to prison in WWI, we all go CO right away.” He then admitted, “Yeah, we were ‘kinda wild,’ but we got CO anyway.” That seems to corroborate that the six men who made a strong stand also made a strong impact that lasted long after WWI ended—especially in Arizona.

(In 1912, the Territory of Arizona became the 48th State when it finally acquired a population of about 230,000 people to become eligible for statehood. There were 334,162 people living in Arizona according to the 1920 census. Thus, it is not unreasonable to believe that since Glendale is a short distance from Phoenix, The State Capital, and the State’s most populous area, that the six men who themselves lived in Arizona at that time and were prosecuted in Arizona’s Federal Courts, were newsworthy, and were given much newspaper coverage and, therefore, became well-known.)

On the other hand, as the following pages seem to indicate that was not the case with the Local Boards in California, especially in the Los Angeles area.

The discord in 1941-1945 was a continuation of the differences in approach to the CO problem of the earlier era. Again, it amounted to where one believed that the line should be drawn with this democratic government of which we are beneficiaries.

This diary of my father's turned up, curiously and coincidentally, the week the foregoing essay was completed. Immediately, I attempted to glean excerpts from his diary that I believed would better reveal the tensions of the World War II period in one man's personal life and in the life of the Molokan community—tensions that were very considerable from all aspects and for all people.

When my father wrote his book *Molokans in America* he obviously must have carefully reviewed his own comments in his diary. After reading his book and then reading his diary, (which by the way is quite short), it became clear that he made a very critical "judgment call" to omit some of the emotional statements which were written during emotional times. His published book glossed over words that in later years he must have believed to be unwise.

His judgment call to let "by-gones-be-by-gones" is respected in these excerpts. However for purposes of best trying, according to my opinion, to portray the tensions and "high stakes" of the war years, some things were included, but it is hoped that for people who lived in that era, that they realize that personalities were in most cases eliminated. It is furthermore hoped that nobody will be become offended because my father when he himself in his book could have offended, did not. The diary excerpts were copied not to malign anyone but were noted to help relate the mood of the times, and perhaps in a small way to encourage any reader, once more, to remember what a long ago anonymous elder said: "... military service... is the greatest sin in the world!"

EXERPTS FROM THE DIARY OF JOHN K. BEROKOFF (WORLD WAR II)

(Elder Andrew J. Berokoff, who originally published the diary, omitted several names to protect their identity, and some items and places and them replaced with *****)

Dec 9, 1941: War is here. Last Sunday the 7th, Japan opened war on the US. Last night Japanese planes were said to have been over California. Tonight San Pedro, Long Beach and Torrance are blacked out. A few minutes ago the President finished speaking over the radio exerting to bigger efforts to victory. Molokans with the exception of our church (Podval) are working on the "Relief to the Soviet Union" project, which I feel will not improve our status as CO's. The whole Molokan community is disorganized and leaderless at a time when a strong leader is badly needed. The majority of our boys have either volunteered for or are being inducted into the armed forces. The rest, about 250 have filed CO claims and are now going through the process of FBI investigation and appeals. A while ago an announcement came over the radio that in case of an expected air raid the fire stations will sound their sirens for three minutes. I can't see what use the warning will be because there are no air-raid shelters and I can't for the life of me think what to do in case the bombs are falling. We will just sit and pray and hope that they will miss us. Our church has set aside next Fri, Sat, Sun (Dec 12, 13, 14) for a fast and prayer for preservation.

Dec 10, 1941: I am writing this at a time of the first total Blackout in L. A. The local radios went off the air at 7:45 and shortly after came the blackout. We were all sitting in the kitchen with the radio turned on listening to long distance stations and did not hear the signal for the blackout. As I stepped out into the front room for some writing paper and turned on the lights a local air raid warden knocked hard on the door and bawled us out for not cooperating. We then realized how quiet the city was. It must be a test blackout but it sure does bring the war close to home. Everybody is very nervous and upset from it all.

Dec 13, 1941: Yesterday we had a solemn church prayer after fasting Friday and Saturday. The people are disturbed, especially the mothers whose sons are already in the service. Last night's church service was held early between five and seven o'clock owing to the possibility of a blackout.

Dec 18, 1941: Yesterday had a visit from ***** of Arizona. He complained of the poor organization of Molokans and lack of understanding of the problems confronting us. He said we should offer to voluntarily serve in some capacity of civilian defense. I agree with him 100%. Last Sunday night I proposed to our elders in church that we should send a delegation to the mayor with some such offer. There seemed to be utter lack of knowledge of the problem. This A.M. before seven o'clock I had a phone call from the mother of *****. She is worried about his possible induction. I do not know what to say to her although previously I advised him to appeal his case on the grounds of dependency. I do not think he is sincere in his CO position.

Tonight I had a visit from a neighbor who is taking census of our neighborhood as a precaution of an air raid. He enumerates names, ages and whether able or not to take care of ourself.

Dec 23, 1941; Last night had a visit from a *****, a writer who says he has an assignment to write an article on Molokans for the magazine "Common Ground." He is a very persuasive talker. He is trying to convince me to assume leadership of young Molokans with the idea of preserving our traditions and culture.

Jan 2, 1942: With each succeeding day I am more and more reluctant to take up this task. I am naturally lazy especially at any mental task. Last Sunday there was considerable discussion in church about “vsayobbshee mir” (reconciliation) of all the churches, all people to assemble at an open space for a prayer after a fast. In our church there was no agreement on this. The people in America still do not realize fully that they are in a war. Their principal worries are business readjustments and curtailment of automobile sales and production. No new tires could be purchased by private individuals. There is a big rush on re-threaded tires.

Jan 14, 1942: There is some worry on the Molokans’ part about “civilian defense” because pressure is exerted on employees by super patriotic employers. Some of our more conscientious are more worried than others so that a meeting was called to discuss the subject on Sunday the fourth. Everybody is more or less in the dark as to what “civilian defense” really means. Some are under the impression that it is the same as army service. Others feel that the coming registration of 18-65 year-olds which will be on the 16th of February will classify each individual to some defense work. At this meeting a delegation was appointed to attend a Quaker meeting in Pasadena on Sat. the 10th to get their slant on the subject. As a member of the delegation I attended that meeting and heard the Friends discuss various ideas about civilian defense. They are generally in favor of working some plan of their own which they could accept with clear conscience. Their meeting adjourned without any definite action.

An officer of the California National Guard called on D.P. Miloserdoff and proposed to form a Russian Home Guard “battalion.” D.P.M. said he would submit the proposal to the people at the meeting on Sunday the 4th of January. It was unanimously agreed that the elders invite the officer on some appointed day and inform him that the Molokans will not serve in any Home Guards.

There is a notable resurgence of religion among the young Molokans at the present time. Two Sunday P.M. churches are held and well-attended by the young. There is also a notable outpouring of the Spirit.

There is also opposition to the idea of Civilian Public Service camps. Opponents are of the opinion that if the Molokans rejected the CO camps in the beginning, all our youth would now be exempted as a group from military service. Their leader is exerting his influence to reject CO camp service as well as military service and it is evident that some followers will eventually land in prison.

Jan. 27, 1942: Last week had talk with CO ****. It seems to me he is about as sincere in his CO convictions as anybody could be; yet the Local Boards and the Appeal Board rejected his request for CPS camp. I have been advocating to our Advisory Committee to call on the Board for a discussion, but could not convince them of the necessity. They would rather have somebody else do the work for us. Or they perhaps dislike to assume responsibility for a showdown.

“Even as in the days of Noah, so shall the coming of the Son of Man be.” These words could well apply to us at the present time. The Molokans are disturbed individually as each family loses a son to the armed forces but collectively there is little change. Weddings and other doings in church every Sunday. The people are not greatly depressed or excited. Everyone is working and making money. The other day I heard a remark from a man who makes an item that the government is buying for military use. He will be deferred from military service.”It’s none of my business what the government does with my ****. I’ll make my fortune too.”

Little does he realize that he weakens the stand of Molokans on the CO question. Many are working on other defense industries, such as shipyards and plane factories, etc. Money is plentiful although prices on everything is skyrocketing. Sugar will be rationed next month. It is planned that one pound per person per week will be issued. Right now sugar could only be bought two pounds at a time.

Next Friday night January 30, the officer from the State National Guard who wants to form a Russian battalion of Home Guard is coming for his answer. I am anxious to hear what he has to say.

Feb. 10, 1942: The officer failed to appear at the meeting. Things in general are not very bright. The war against the Allies, which makes the outlook darker. No doubt it will be harder for CO's from now on. It may be possible that some of our draftees will have a showdown this or next week. The colony is not in condition to support any firm stand. Its leadership is poor and the people are demoralized.

Last week I took part in a conference with a lawyer who was recommended by the Friends. He advises us to make a test case of one Molokan boy on a Writ of Certiorari. In other words to make the Local Boards prove that they did not err in classifying our boys to 1A (ready for armed services induction) or 1AO (ready for service as a nonj-combatant in the armed forces). I was personally opposed to the plan because of the danger of unfavorable publicity and a possibility of antagonizing the Local Boards. It is my belief that it is easier to prove sincerity by pleas of Nolo Contendere.

Feb. 16, 1942: Last Tuesday a triple tragedy occurred among our people. Three persons died of ptomaine poisoning, by eating among other things hamburgers and pickles. But the rumors are fantastic. It is claimed that some Germans had a grudge against one of the victims and poisoned him. I do not believe this but I recorded it as an example of the thousands of groundless rumors that travel thick and fast among our people at this time.

The principal worry among the population is the shortage of sugar and rationing of tires and the complete cessation of the manufacturing of new cars. There is talk of rationing of sugar although other food is plentiful. I am trying to kick myself in the shins for being so shortsighted as not to have a supply of sugar on hand.

Last Sunday I went to the nearest registration place to register under the third registration of the Selective Service Act of 1940. All men between the ages of 20 and 45 who have not previously registered had to do so on February 16th (I turned 44 this month).

Mar. 2, 1942: I am getting lazier with every passing day insofar as this diary is concerned. Last Tuesday night or to be exact, last Wednesday at 3AM, L A had a real scare with shooting. We were sound asleep with a little light on in our bedroom when an air-raid warden banged loudly on the window and told us to put out the light. I heard what sounded like shooting. I did not believe it and went back to sleep. In the morning I was very surprised to learn that the shooting was real, but later we heard that the whole thing was a test for air-raid defenses.

There is talk of Martial Law on the Pacific Coast mainly because of the fear of a Japanese Fifth Column. The authorities could not determine the action to take in regards to enemy aliens. The poor Japanese. I hate to be in their shoes at this time. The Quakers are helping the Japanese. They are showing real Christian spirit by doing their best to care for those who can't help themselves.

Our colony is worried but helpless because of lack of unity. I am amazed at the ignorance of some of my contemporaries in world matters. It seems that some of them believe that the only thing necessary for us to do to escape military service is by making an "announcement to the proper authorities" that we are conscientious objectors and then we will automatically be released from all obligations to the country—civil or military. The legend that we were exempted by such action in 1917 is so strong that no amount of counter-argument prevails. That we were exempt because we were aliens in 1917, and now that our boys are native Americans and are not exempt, are facts that some cannot or will not comprehend.

Mar. 21, 1942: The Japanese around our neighborhood are all preparing to move to camps as provided by the military. This mass evacuation is not so easy on them. They are selling out their personal property at 25 cents on the dollar.

Today I made a visit together with Eropkin and Ohanessian to the Superintendent of Angeles Nation Forest. It was in regards to working out possibilities of assigning CO's to Forestry works

instead of CPS camps. He made it clear that all assignments must be made by Selective Service. Although he did express great satisfaction with the work done by several of our boys in San Dimas and furthermore would be glad to get more men.

Mar. 23, 1942: Yesterday heard the expected news that **** and **** were arrested by the FBI. There is much excitement and wailing.

Apr. 6, 1942: The two arrested boys will be up for a hearing in Federal Court next Thursday.

April 16, 1942: The above boys had their hearing last Monday. They pleaded Nolo Contendere and the judge referred their cases to the Probation Dept.

May 18, 1942: Today I turned in my Selective Service Questionnaire. My order No. is 10056. The clerk told me they are not taking anybody in my age category with dependents.

The Molokan CO's who were under arrest were placed on probation today. The terms of probation are that they are to serve the nation in some civilian work such as forestry or agriculture to be determined by the PO officer.

Yesterday in church one member made a speech attacking us who are working in the CPS program as traitors. No one arose to defend us. It was hard to bear and I am beginning to think that our efforts will never be appreciated; although in court today, one of the dependents expressed gratitude.

The Japanese are being evacuated. They had to sell their furniture and businesses for a song and be ready to leave on short notice. You could see convoy after convoy going through the streets of L.A. The Quakers are advising and assisting them in their difficulties.

June 10, 1942: The CO problem is getting more difficult. There are ten boys to take care of at \$350 per month (total) and collections are not improving. We are trying pretty hard to meet our obligations and will keep on trying as long as possible.

There are disturbing rumors that the boys in **** camp are causing trouble to the directors by rowdyism, etc.

June 22, 1942: Last Friday a few people went up to **** camp to look into the matter referred to above. I am anxious to know the results.

Last week on Tuesday or Wednesday, **** was arrested for failure to report for induction. He is out now on a \$10,000 bond. By the way I should note that when he received his classification of 1A, he notified the Local Board of his desire to appeal, but that day he had to go to Kerman for the funeral of a close relative. The Local Board at that time told him that they will send him a card to notify him when to come in to sign for an appeal. He never received the card and when his notice of induction came he reminded them of the card. They replied that they phoned him while he was away and left the message with his brother. For that reason they denied him the right to make an appeal.

June 23, 1942: Just had a visit from one registrant who is classified 3A. In our talk it was revealed that he is now studying welding in order to build tanks. I explained to him the inconsistency of a CO building tanks. He replied that all our people are working on some defense work so why not him. An example why Local Boards are not lenient to our claims of CO.

July 28, 1942: In the US there is anxiety about price inflation. Despite the laws on price ceilings the cost of living went up about 15% since January. The president is preparing some action on this point. Right now sugar is rationed at ½ pound per person per week. Meat is very high and in some cities there is shortages of beef because the farmers believe that they are not getting enough for their cattle, therefore they are refraining from selling. The price of meat is as follows: Boiling beef 25 cents per lb. ; Steak 27 cents per lb. ; chops 28 cents. Bread is 11 cents for a 24 ounce loaf. Sugar 7 cents per lb. ; vegetables and fruits are very high. Watermelons that usually sell 1-1/4 to 1-1/2 cents are this year at 2-1/4 to 2-1/2. Lettuce is 90 cents per dozen and potatoes are \$3 per gunny sack.

The CO problem is as bad as ever. Some people are still convinced that the community is betrayed to the Friends and Mennonites. The other day I asked **** what they intended to do regarding paying for the boys whom the court placed on a five year probation and are now in a camp. I was told, "We do not intend to pay for anybody in camp. We had things arranged so that they will be given jobs on farms. But somebody called in that Quaker and spoiled everything for us. So we are not paying for any camp fees."

July 30, 1942: Brother-in-law **** is to leave for the army on August 4th. Father-in-law is very upset because I would not go to the Induction Office and plead for his release. Father-in-law says that while he was "up there" that they were nice to him, asked him to show up so that they could talk to them both. Brother-in-law **** refused to go because he says he does not want to make a fool of himself. The old folks could not understand that when a person is sworn into the army it is next to impossible to get him out. As usual I am the goat. He says I went to Arizona and other places for the other boys but would not go with him downtown.

Aug. 29, 1942: Last Sunday the Annual UMCA picnic at Brookside Park. We went down in the afternoon to see what it was like. There were about 500 present. Barbecue and soda pop was consumed in large quantities. (About 750 lbs. of meat was prepared.) There was singing and games for the young. From comments heard all around it was considered a success. It was a novel way for Molokans to spend Sabbath. A considerable let down from the attitude of Molokans of the "Old Country" who frowned on games of all kinds even the chewing of sunflower seeds on Sunday.... . During the day it was said that over \$300 was collected for Russian War Relief. The UMCA is devoting a lot of time and effort to the relief. If the Molokans put 25% of their efforts to the success of the CPS program as they do for the Russian War Relief, then it would have been a pronounced success.

As it is the whole CPS program is on its last legs. There are about twelve boys in camps now and three more to report on September 10. Two boys have quit the CPS camp and signed up with the army. This fact undermines the program in the colony. It is being spread about the colony that the camps are about to close up. This causes camp backers distress, and difficulties are created in collections. I would probably have quit the whole thing before this if not for the fact that son **** is awaiting his classification from the Draft Board and we are strained to the utmost to hold him to being a CO.

In the meantime the war is going full blast. Since the battle of Midway there has not been any "blackouts" or any period of "alerts" on the Pacific Coast of US.

Sept. 20, 1942: At a special meeting called to discuss the support of CO's, over \$500 was collected and pledges of \$10 and \$15 a month for CPS support was secured. Altogether about \$100 per month was pledged this way.

Oct. 7, 1942: Yesterday received a letter from **** from Camp 31 at Placerville. He is very well pleased with conditions in camp. His report is brief but complete. Tonight I am to see one of the Mennonite boys from the same camp, and who is here with others to collect food for the camp from their own churches.

Oct. 12, 1942: The President just finished talking on the radio. Among other things he said manpower will be rationed for defense plants and farms. Also draft age will be lowered to 18 year olds for military service. This will make three boys in our family subject to the draft. I hope son **** will be a CO. So far he talks like he will be.

The Draft Boards are taking married men now. They plan to take men with children next year some time. I understood the President's speech to mean that older men will not be drafted but kept for defense work. We shall see very soon how it will work out.

Yesterday heard a married man **** say that a few days ago he was reclassified to 1A whereupon he says he went to his Local Board and told them that he will not go into the army, "Do

what you like with me.” We tried to explain to him that he should immediately appeal his case to which he replied “I don’t know what to do. Some say do this, others say do that.” Another case of the confusion that abounds in our brotherhood.

Oct. 24, 1942: Last Monday night, had an appointment with the Local Board regarding **** whose classification is 1A. The Board was acting difficult. I asked permission to speak. Just as I got started one of the members asked me “If the country was invaded would I fight?” I replied that I would not. In response a member, Mr. **** gritted through his teeth with as much hate in his voice as he could manage and exclaimed, “And the boys at Corregador bled for us!” I asked to be allowed to continue and was given permission. When I finished my statement, the Board was not so hostile as when I began. The chairman even remarked that it was a fine statement and said that “we will refer the case to the Appeal Board and that they might give you what you have asked for.”

Nov. 8, 1942: America has entered the European War in earnest. Night before last, the US army landed in French Africa.

The law to draft 18-19 year olds has not been passed yet, but the Local Boards are already sending out questionnaires to them. Son **** received his last Friday the 6th.

Nov. 11, 1942: Today I had a call from a parent of a boy who has already been inducted and who came home on his two week leave. Apparently the boy is now anxious to get out of the service. Originally, I helped him with his CO form 47 and the regular questionnaire. He did not claim CO to non-combatant service. Said he did not want to go to a CPS camp. I asked the father at that time whether he understood what that meant and he replied that he did. Now the father is trying to pass the blame to me. The boy wrote a letter to the Local Board asking to be classed a 1AO from 1A.

Nov. 25, 1942: Tomorrow is Thanksgiving Day. So far as our family is concerned we have much to be thankful for. The shortage of food is becoming more and more pronounced. Today my wife tried to buy butter and was given half of a quarter-pound piece. There is no rationing of food except sugar which is bad policy. There is talk of rationing meat and butter beginning in January. Meat is also scarce. There is a meatless Tuesday and meat is rationed voluntarily by the packers but apparently the plan is not successful. I would prefer government control. The other day we paid 35 cents a pound for chops.

The other day went to a Hearing Officer with a **** boy. In my opinion the boy made a very poor showing at his hearing. In the first place, he is working in a Defense Plant. He could not rationalize his stand as a CO and could not explain his principles on the basis of his belief. I also had a discussion with the Hearing Officer. We talked about the various aspects of our religion and its relation to the war effort. He is not an unreasonable man. Our whole trouble is that we did not train our youth in our way of life. The consequences are such that the boys, while sub-consciously are CO’s, do not live as real Molokans should.

The CPS camp problem is still being debated by those who oppose it. The opposition dug up some letter from somewhere where it claims that Congress had appropriated 34 million dollars for CPS camps. They would not show us the letter, but are spreading the rumor that we are taxing the people unnecessarily. I was forced to write to the Selective Service System in Washington DC for information on the subject, but not because I was in doubt, but because I want to show the letter on the letterhead of SSS to convince others of the necessity to support the camps. The other day received the reply and had ten Photostat copies of it made. I intend to explain the letter at the next Sunday church meeting.

Dec. 19, 1942: One year after Pearl Harbor. The war has already come to every American home. Nearly every home has someone in the armed forces. There are already about 50,000 casualties including dead, wounded or prisoners. And now the economic effects of war are ever present. There is a shortage of meat, butter, eggs and other foodstuffs. Butter is sold two or three times a week in ¼ lb lots. I hope the government starts rationing foodstuffs very soon, as I fear that the rich are taking

advantage of the poor in that they are able to buy from larger and better stocked stores. Gasoline rationing has started nationwide on Dec 1st. Yesterday and today gasoline is not sold to any non-essential user in 17 eastern states because all facilities are needed to have fuel oil for heating during the winter months.... The government released news and pictures of damage to Pearl Harbor on Dec 7. The country was shocked to learn the actual extent of damage. We realize now that the country was in real peril one year ago.

Jan 4, 1943: Today, son **** received classification of 1A. He will appeal on grounds of CO. Yesterday, heard that **** was arrested for failure to report to a CPS camp. I'm wondering if people now will understand that no CO is exempted from CPS service – as according to rumors spread in the Molokan colony – simply by saying he doesn't want to be in CPS. Now we are hearing of a new rumor going around that any soldier who is really a CO can ask for a discharge successfully. Indeed if this were true, we could all rejoice, but sadly it is not true.

The funds for CO's in hands of the Advisory Council is way down. We are now paying approximately \$500 per month and collections are nil. The bank balance is about \$90. Woe is us.

Jan 11, 1943: Tonight went to Local Board 199 regarding son ****'s appeal. By avoiding the issue the Appeal Agent kept putting us off from making an appeal for the 4E classification. We insisted and finally let us sign in the proper place. Apparently an attempt by the Hearing Agent to try another "fast one" to force a CO in the army.

General rationing of food has not started yet. It is claimed that a shortage of meat exists although we get enough meat for our needs. We have about two meatless days a week now. Butter could only be bought in ¼ pound amounts and then only if you are lucky enough to be at the store first. Milk is sold without limit. Plenty of bread. Dried fruits are very scarce. Peanuts very hard to get. So far no shortage of fruits or vegetables in the markets although prices are high.

The Molokan colony of "Flats" is being liquidated because of various reasons. One of which is slum clearance that eliminated the sections north of First Street and south of Fourth Street. Another is the new highway that will skirt the east boundary of Flats. This has caused more Molokans to move out than the first reason. The highway will pass right through the location of the United Molokan Church (Big Church). The site of the United Church was acquired by the Highway Commission. Then the Commission moved the building to the new location on Lorena Street about three months ago. During the process of removal the congregation of the United Church used the UMCA buildings for church services. The church on Lorena is a fine site having two other buildings besides the Church building. Apparently they will use one building for a funeral chapel and the other for the caretaker. I hear it will reopen next Sunday.

Last week the busiest grocery store in the Russian Flats, "Shubins," moved to the new Molokan center of Lorena Street. This store acted as a clearance house for Molokan Colony news. It was very useful in this respect.

Right now the old Flats looks very much like a deserted village. I would say that no more than fifty Molokan families are left there. The trend for decentralization which started about fifteen years ago is approaching the finale. It is not very difficult to foresee that the disappearance of the Russian Colony in Flats will unfavorably affect the unity of Molokanism. Already the results are apparent. The attendance at Sunday evening church services which usually had the best attendance has fallen off considerably.

Jan. 26, 1943: today heard the rumor that **** who refused to report to CPS camp was sentenced to six months in jail. If that proves to be true then that sentence is very light. I wonder what other CO's are going to do. Will some who have been thinking that taking a strong stand against the CPS program would exempt them entirely from both the army and the CPS program continue to be as adamant in their opposition?

Feb. 3, 1943: Last Sunday the 31st the United Molokan Church had a grand reopening. It is said that about 1000 persons were present. One of the things done at this reopening was the collection of \$1000 for Soviet Relief. Of this sum we expect to get \$200 for the CPS fund.

Feb. 5, 1943: Note today from "The Conscientious Objector," a publication of the War Resisters League, that the Senator from Oklahoma introduced a bill to abolish all forms of CO status. The chances are that it will not pass, but it shows that some group must be putting pressure against CO's. If the war lasts another two years, there likely will be much more pressure exerted.

Feb. 15, 1943: The cost of living has risen beyond expectations. Chops sell for 50 cents a pound if you can get them. Oranges that sold earlier for 80-90 cents a box are now selling for \$2.50. It is not unusual to see a line in front of a butcher shop waiting for meat. This is a phenomenon entirely strange and unpleasant in America.

The Manpower Commission announced that all men physically fit and not on essential work will be in the armed forces before the end of the year.

A bill is now before Congress to prevent inducting of fathers into the army until all men without children are taken in. I hope and pray that it will become a law.

I am now in a position to appreciate the nervous strain on a doctor when he is about to lose a patient. Last week **** received a 1AO classification after his appeal. I spent four nights that week in figuring ways to help. Finally, after a talk with the Agent in an out of town Local Board, who promised that he would do all he could, because, as he said, any Molokan who is sincere against military service does not belong in the service. The boy was advised by the Agent to have me write a letter to the Local Board about the boy's character and for the boy to write his own letter asking the Board to reopen the case. We both wrote our letters. Later when I read the report of the Hearing Officer on the boys appeal, I found that his case fell through because he was working in a defense plant making parts for warplanes.

Today, I had a telephone call from a frantic mother whose son refused to be a CO and is now inducted. His father was operated on the other week. The boy secured a three week leave before going into active service, but the mother is so frantic at seeing him slipping away from the family that it is pitiful. She expects too much from me. She does not realize that the boy is now a soldier and that I am helpless to offer advice or suggestions that he hasn't already heard.

Yesterday, at a wedding, I was again told of being a traitor. This time by a man who I thought was a friend of mine. However, this time he was effectively answered by my brother **** and by ****.

March 8, 1943: Meat shortage is becoming more serious. Butcher told us that perhaps there will be no meat this week. It has not been rationed as yet, but canned goods are on ration since 1st of March. So far there hasn't been any hungry stomachs due to the food shortage. Large eggs are selling at 50 cents a dozen. Butter is very scarce. Vegetable oil probably will be rationed next month. Lettuce is \$1 per dozen. Oranges \$2.60 a box. Cheapest apples about 5-½ to 6 cents a pound wholesale.

We have planted a small garden and are raising chickens for meat and eggs.

The draft and manpower problem is worrying the whole nation. The administration is running itself and the country dizzy with numerous and conflicting orders issued to the Draft Boards. A month ago 38-year olds were told that they won't be drafted, but they must get farm work or become drafted. Who knows if fathers will be drafted. Congress apparently does not want them to be, but President Roosevelt and the War Department believe that an army of 8,000,000 men is required. This together with the Navy and Coast Guard means about 11 million men in the services before the end of the year.

The labor shortage on farms is acute. They can't feed the world and fight at the same time. But apparently they will try.

Son **** will have a hearing before the Hearing Officer a week from tomorrow. Son **** is being investigated by the FBI right now.

Mar. 16, 1943: Went to Hearing Officer with son ****. His questions did not follow a particular pattern. Apparently the Hearing Officer thought he had **** cornered when he said, "You say in your letter to the Local Board that your parents and grandparents came to America because they found that the Constitution guarantees religious freedom. Don't you know that the Constitution was the result of a long war?" Before **** could answer, the Hearing Officer turned to me and asked me to explain my views on that point. I answered that the religious freedom preceded the American Revolution. The Revolution was fought over "taxation without representation." That answer turned him to other questions.

Last week another Molokan boy was sentenced for Selective Service violation. He is married and has one child. His trouble was that he did not file an appeal when his Draft Board classified him as 1AO.

Mar. 29, 1943: The Young Peoples' Church held a discussion yesterday to make a donation to the Red Cross War Fund. It might had carried but for the words of **** who said that "since we are opposed to war why should we donate to the Red Cross which wants to use 90% of the donation for war purposes?"

Today was the first day of meat rationing. But there was not much meat in the butcher shops. We bought enough last Saturday for two or three days. Butter, cooking fats and oils are also rationed and nearly all canned foods, including canned fish, are rationed.

April 12, 1943: The War Manpower Commission released new regulations for Draft Boards. They eliminated dependency as cause for deferment. Hereafter, deferment will be allowed only to farmers and those employed in essential industries. The Molokan farmers will be in a much better position than we in all respects.

April 23, 1943: The harshness and mercilessness of the Selective Service System was demonstrated to me last week. My sister whose husband is crippled with an amputated hand and arthritis in his hip has had two sons in the service for quite some time. The eldest son was their support and only hope, but last week he was ordered to report for induction. Previous to that another son 18 years old was ordered for induction. Thus last week two boys were to leave.

We tried to save the eldest. First we appealed to the Draft Board without avail. Next an appeal was made to the Appeal Board. No success. We talked with the Appeal Agent who expressed that "This family has contributed enough to the war effort." He asked the Local Board to reopen the case, but no luck there either. Last week mother, father and son tried their luck with the Appeal Agent. When they were told that the Board refused, my sister fainted and had to be carried out. A doctor had to be found, but due to the war, there is a scarcity of doctors. One was finally found. He diagnosed the case as very serious. Said that another shock like that will cause a cerebral hemorrhage. He put her to bed and told her to stay put for a long while. Next day I went to the Coordinator's Office to try to get a stay of induction while she gets better. I was bluntly refused. Their basis for refusal is that four sons in the service could allocate part of their salary toward the parents' support. When I told them that the father could not accept any money from the war effort, I was told, "It's just too bad." Yesterday, he went for his physical.

My son **** will probably be in the service soon. He had already been to the recruiting office regarding voluntary induction into the Air Corp. He refused to try to get a job in a dairy even though he has a child.

Today son **** received notice from the Hearing Officer to appear on May 13. He has final exams on that date and is going to ask for a postponement.

Food rationing is operating pretty well. So far there is no shortage of any rationed goods. If it doesn't get any worse we should not complain.

The United Molokan Church is continuing to send relief to Soviet Russia. The other night heard the announcement that \$16,000 was contributed so far. I cannot support such an attitude on the part of a "pacifist church." It seems to be inconsistent with the CO position taken by our community essentially because the war is conducted on the "total war" principle, that is, everyone is fighting, including men, women and children.

May 3, 1943: The food situation is improving since rationing started. We have meat three or four times a week. Butter too.

Yesterday I heard from Mrs. **** that she received a letter from a son in the army who writes that on Easter Sunday their unit was ordered out for church service and when he refused because it was a Catholic service he was punished by being compelled to carry a 50 pound burden on his back during the whole length of the church service, and later made to wash dirty kitchen rags. Very strange and hard to believe!

I like to set my views down on paper about the attitude of our people with regards to their boys who are in the army. It is becoming a custom for parents to pray in church for their sons' deliverance from war, or more correctly for the boys' preservation, so that they may return home whole in body. That of course should be their prayer, but they should also pray to ask God to lead the boys into the Molokan belief that they should drop their weapons and return to the doctrine of Jesus. Likewise, as a community, a prayer should be directed to God by his chosen so that He might shorten the days of tribulation.

The brotherhood is without a positive type of stance to take regarding indirect participation in the war effort. Even the most bitter antagonists of the CPS idea work in shipyards, building destroyers and sub-chasers. Defense workers and workers in other businesses are buying defense bonds. No one is much concerned about the inconsistency of a religious objector buying defense bonds. I made a feeble attempt to introduce the Quaker scheme of buying alternate Civilian Bonds. The response is nil.

At the present time the brotherhood is engaged in discussions seeking the proper persons to blame for the response of the youth to the war effort. Some blame the elders who emigrated from Russia for not locating the Molokans on farms immediately upon arrival. Others blame the Quakers and Mennonites and others of us who accepted their CPS program. None are willing to assume responsibility for failing to bring up the youth in the Molokan spirit. Everyone conveniently forgets that for the last 25 years or since the last war that there was no effort made to impress the new generations of future wars and what should be our attitude toward them. The elder Ivan G. Samarin once did make some effort in this matter, but due to community inertia or the strange new democratic system in America, the issue was not carried forth.

May 15, 1943: Was surprised to see a man with a "B" gas ration book buying new tires today. Apparently, the rubber shortage in civilian use is easing up. There is a shortage of other household articles such as a water hose or other tubing. However, there are "victory" articles on the market. Being "ersatz" they are not much good. Other shortages are things that contain copper and brass such as plumbing fittings. It is impossible to buy a bathtub unless one is considered to be an employee in an essential defense and is building a home near his work place. Silk stockings for women are not to be had at any price. The other day a local department store was mobbed by women shoppers when it advertised a limited supply of nylons. One magazine is predicting a future shortage of cereal, because farmers are raising more cattle than usual and are using the grain as feed.

The other day made a trip to the Presidio of Monterey with **** who said he was inducted despite his claim as a CO. In our interview with the Assistant Adjutant it was revealed to us that the boy signed an affidavit at the Induction Center previous to taking an oath to the effect that he was not a CO anymore. Consequently our trip was a total failure.

May 29, 1943: Have neglected to put down that son **** had a hearing before Officer ****. Evidently there was nothing derogatory in the FBI report. The hearing lasted about 30 minutes.

Last week we mailed checks to the amount of \$1200 for CPS camps for the payments of last two months. This cleaned out our bank account. There are about 25 Molokans in CPS and more certified to go soon. It looks like we will have to depend on the Quakers from now on.

****, a boy who interested me because he was one of the few Molokan boys who showed interest in being a CO even before the Selective Service Act, received an adverse report on his appeal. His main difficulty is due to his having been employed at an army camp building project at the time he filed his CO claim. The Hearing Officer based his recommendation of 1AO solely on the testimony of a man who was evidently very prejudiced against him and on the above past employment. It looks like another case for the courts.

June 26, 1943: Food situation right now is good on the surface, everybody has a victory garden or is raising chickens if their back yard is good enough. An undercurrent of feeling exists that the country will have a food shortage in the winter. Even chicken feed is not plentiful. Floods are causing poor crops.

July 3, 1943: Today is the second day of a three day fast by our church and two other churches. Tomorrow will be a general prayer for deliverance from the wrath of God as foretold by our prophet that we will be victims of God's wrath in the form of a pestilence.

Yesterday, son **** received classification of 1A from the Appeal Board. It was quite a shock because we were almost sure he would get a 4E. The Hearing Officer based his recommendation on the alleged fact that I was too active at the hearing. The report also was full of untruths, errors and omissions. The FBI report however was very favorable. That was disregarded. The Hearing Officer claimed that **** was entirely under my influence and if he were to decide for himself he would accept any kind of service offered him in this conflict. An appeal is being prepared. It seems like we are up against it.

July 9, 1943: Regarding the war there seems to be a feeling of overconfidence in America. Some are expecting the war to be won at the end of this year.

Among our people also is a strong current of thought that it will be over by 1944 because of the prophetic drawing by E. G. Klubnikin where the figures "99" and "44" are thought by some to mean a period of travail between those years to be followed by peace or millennium or something. There are some among our people who take the other extreme and say that it probably means that in 1944 the reign of the antichrist will begin. One elder, ****, is positive in his belief that the war will be followed by something far worse—a period of great stress and tribulation. My own belief is that all the antagonists will be too exhausted after the war to plunge into other wars although there will probably be internal struggles in the losing countries.

July 19, 1943: There are now two different cemeteries for the Molokans. Yesterday the "new-old" cemetery was officially opened. The land was purchased nearly two years ago or shortly after the new land on Slauson Avenue was bought. The objection to the new style Slauson cemetery is this: The committee in charge ruled that no mounds are to be allowed on the grave, hence the earth has to be tamped and pounded down after or during internment. This is to be done by the gravedigger after a grave is partly covered by the relatives. The old faction insists that that is against traditional and scriptural basis. So they now will have their way in the "new-old" place. In the "old-old" cemetery the markers have rotted and collapsed. After heavy rains the mounds settle leaving a ditch over the grave. In many instances stones over the graves settled at a sharp angle and some have fallen altogether. Wooden markers have rotted and in some cases are carried away from their locations confusing relatives about the location of their loved ones. In one case two different families debated about the interred at one grave site. The new cemetery will have uniform markers to be set back about one foot back of the grave and on solid ground and in a straight line. The

Molokan community is in a bewildering state of mix-up regarding the new cemetery on Slauson Avenue. Some who are 100% anti-United Church are participating in the cemetery, others who are in the United Church are 100% against the Slauson cemetery. Some people have been jumping back and forth, pro and con. One man who regularly denounces the "committee" in violent language owns a share in the new cemetery because he hates certain people who led in the purchase of the "new-old" cemetery more than he hates the United Molokan Church. The causes for all this confusion as I see it are all personal and because the ability to reason out the problem is lacking. Personal hatred and pride are at the basis of many of the misfortunes afflicting the Molokan group today.

Aug. 17, 1943: Son **** received his card with 4E on it. I thank God.

Aug. 20, 1943: Had a visit from two detectives who were ordered to investigate and report on why I corresponded with **** who is now in the Federal Prison at McNeill Island. One of them tried to convince me that I was wrong in my CO stand, but he was very ineffective and did not know his Bible very well.

Received a letter from **** of the Quakers advising us to have elders visit **** Camp because some of our CO's are drinking. Have to get elders to a meeting and have someone take a trip out there.

The food situation is almost normal except for the inconvenience of ration stamps. We are eating as well now as we ever did. We canned about 100 quarts of tomatoes, 20 quarts of peaches, some pickles and varenia. Expect to can more.

The food situation has also affected church dinners to some extent. The Big Church has secured permission from the Ration Board to use 1000 pounds of meat per month by claiming to be an institution that normally used more than that. When we had our father's funeral the Ration Board allowed us about 1/3 pounds per person for 1000 persons which was not enough for three dinners. But the butcher added some without stamps and that made enough for two nights; so the third night had to be meatless.

Next Sunday the 22nd, the UMCA is having their annual picnic. They are preparing a chicken dinner instead of the usual shashlik.

Aug. 30, 1943: Last week received letter from Mr. **** in which he advises us to pay a visit to **** CPS camp. It seems some of our boys are taking up drinking. (See above). Yesterday we had a meeting with some elders and it was agreed that we should make periodic visits to the camps.

Sept. 8, 1943: There were no results from the above meeting. People are all too busy with their own affairs. Gas is had to get, tires are too precious. All this together with our typical present day inertia made it impossible to send visitors to the boys.

Son **** is due to be inducted in a couple of weeks. He tried to sign up with the Merchant Marine, but was turned down because they were all filled up. So now he has to take what's left of the armed forces.

Sept. 27, 1943: Last week another Molokan, a ****, was sentenced to one year for not reporting to CPS.

The day for next remittance for CPS is nearly here but our treasury is nearly empty. We are beset by difficulties from all sides. On one side are people whose sons are in the service and they are broadminded enough to support the general principle. On the other are those who say that no one needs to go to CPS if he does not want to. The monthly dues almost dwindled down to nothing. We are relying mainly on a few contributions and on some of the parents whose sons are in CPS.

Son **** has not received his induction papers yet. Likewise nothing is known by us as to the outcome of son ****'s appeal to Washington.

Oct. 11, 1943: Last week three CO's were seeking advice on procedure of a Presidential Appeal. Each one got a 1A. I looked at the "findings of fact" taken from the Hearing and they are unfavorable. There seemed to be little hope of getting favorable action.

CPS fund is short about \$600 to make remittance for last two months.

Oct. 25, 1943: There is no doubt that people world over are tired of the war. Even in the US you hear constant remarks such as "O, I hope this thing is over soon." Although people are all working and making large wages, yet if they were given the choice of depression at low wages and little work, or war with high wages and lots of work, the choice would be 95% in favor of depression.

Last week an attempt was made at reconciling the two factions among the Molokans regarding the draft situation. It was suggested by me that a letter of protest be sent to authorities in Washington about the Hearing Officers of the Dept of Justice in LA. The reason is that very few of our boys have been able to convince the Hearing Officers of their sincerity in their CO claims. They are being rejected regularly for minor reasons such as irregular attendance at church and inability to quote Bible verses and also their ability to rationalize their CO positions.

We met twice during last week and although our opponents admitted their mistake in accusing us of betrayals and were willing to work towards fuller cooperation, the conference collapsed as follows: (1) They wanted us to back those who refuse the CPS camp system; (2) we were unable to satisfy them regarding the "absolutists," when we insisted that nothing could be done to alleviate their situation; (3) There was an apparent fear and suspicion of the United Molokan Church by the other side.

Nov. 6, 1943: Son **** has been inducted into the service and is to report Nov. 23.

Casualties of the war were brought home to Molokans with a vengeance. One of our servicemen was buried today. Very strange to see a coffin draped in the flag standing in a Molokan church. This makes three actually killed. Another is rumored to have been killed on a boat. This last one, a relative of mine, was a very young and handsome boy. Blond and over six feet tall. About three years ago he was pushing an ice-cream cart around the street to help support himself because his father and mother were both dead and he was still attending school.

Nov 29, 1943: The food situation is nearly stabilized. There is some shortage of all milk products. But no one is going hungry. Besides the shortage is probably more imagined than real due to the fact that people want more and more and have lots of money to spend but no luxuries to spend on.

Son **** is now in the army. He is still in San Pedro but will probably be shipped somewhere any day. The sight of him in uniform is repulsive to me, yet there is nothing I can do about it.

Son **** is going up for his final physical exam. We are worried about him. CPS camp life might not be suitable for his temperament. He's seems to be worried that when he returns to school after the war that his former classmates will be prejudiced against CO's.

Dec. 16, 1943: We have had no cheese in the house for several months. That is because we use cheese ration stamps for buying meat. Eggs are plentiful, chickens too. Apples are scarce and high. Cheapest are 6-½ cents a pound wholesale. 10 cents retail.

Dec. 27, 1943: Collections are almost nil. Three months of payment behind with \$700 in the bank which is good only for one month's payment. It is almost useless to make for appeals for contributions. In our church about 10 people donate about \$10 a month.

On **Dec. 17,** son **** received 4E on his Presidential Appeal.

Jan 8, 1944: Nothing of particular interest to me to write about the war. Everything seems to have fallen into routine. Everyone works. All have plenty of money. I have heard it said second hand that some of our Molokans are enjoying the profitable side of the war so much that they would have it last a little longer. Others are suffering intensely. Especially those who have more than one son in the services. Their sufferings have brought them to a state where they feel that God will

preserve their children no matter where they may be serving. The comparatively light casualties to date are reassuring to them. I only hope that God will shorten this war so that their faith will not be broken.

What I'm trying to bring out is this: Our people are building themselves up for another big fall. They believe that since we are the chosen people, and since our boys are taken into the armed forces against their will, God will preserve them. I contend, although I don't say so in public, that our boys through our own neglect in teaching went into the armed forces voluntarily or without resisting, and therefore are subject to the same punishment from God as any other nationality that has taken up arms. If we build ourselves a wall of false security by believing that no harm will come to our offspring in this war, then the next logical step is to participate willingly in the next or any war, thinking that we are so just and righteous that no harm will befall our sons on the battlefields.

Jan. 18, 1944: Last week the government released figures regarding the casualty lists of 149,000 total including dead, wounded and prisoners.

There is a prevalent opinion among the American public that after the Allies beat the Axis, the Allies are sure to fight among themselves.

Our opposition is rapidly learning. They are copying the methods we are using for Presidential Appeals, but they're claiming credit for discovering such a method. Recently one of them told me that he is having some success in appealing to Washington and asked if we have ever tried it. This after I had made successful appeals on behalf of several CO's. I reminded him that the Appeal made to Washington is handled by the NSBRO (National Service Board of Religious Objectors), who are Quakers and Mennonites, and reminded him of the time the opposition bitterly denounced us for our so-called alliance with the Quakers. He was surprised to learn such appeals are handled through the NSBRO.

I cannot get over my bitterness regarding their accusations of treachery against us. I try had to forget now that they have modified their stand more toward our point of view, but their words were very unkind and they are hard to forget.

Jan 31, 1944: Last week I wrote to NSBRO with a suggestion to allow Molokans operate their own "spike camp." I hope we will get favorable action.

Feb. 20, 1944: Next Tuesday there is to be a meeting at the Big Church at which time the government CPS camps will be discussed. We have invited **** to attend and explain the government CPS camp set-up.

The draft is reaching out after men with families. Last week several men with one or more dependent children were placed in 1A.

Last Friday son **** left for camp. Three other men are in his group two are married without children.

Last Thursday another one of our CO's was sentenced to prison. About three more are potential prisoners.

Mar. 4, 1944: Last Sunday there was a send-off prayer by Young Church for another CO who was sentenced by the court.

I have not received any satisfactory reply to my proposal to the NSBRO for a Molokan-operated camp. The Mennonites replied and said they doubted the wisdom of segregating various religious groups. A week ago we had a meeting about this question. All potential CPS men were in favor of a Molokan camp, and pledged about \$1000 for such a camp. The parents present were also in favor and pledged financial support. At present we are three months in arrears on our CPS payments so something has to be done.

April 16, 1944: The reason I haven't written anything here is because for the past several weeks I have been occupied with: (1) Writing a letter of protest to the Attorney General in Washington regarding Hearing Officers. This letter we mailed last Thursday. I am dubious about the possible

results. It may improve the conditions or make them worse. (2) I have undertaken to translate the Prayer Book of M. G. Rudometkin. I am doing this in my spare time.

The CPS collection has picked up considerably the last couple of months because men with dependents are being drafted. We have received a number of donation of \$100 and other sums.

May 10, 1944: Son **** got his date to report to CPS. He is to report to the camp at North Fork.

We received a reply to the letter to Washington Dept of Justice. They said that they have always recognized Molokans as a "peace group," but that many young Molokans have deviated so far from their faith and lack the proper religious training to be classified as CO's.

June 6, 1944: Tonight at 7pm the president led the nation in a prayer which he himself composed. The prayer did not register very well with me. It seemed hollow.

June 21, 1944: Last Sunday I heard a story of a Molokan boy from the San Francisco area dying in a mental hospital as a result of refusing to report for induction. It seems that he was not informed on privileges of CO, so that when ordered to report for induction, he ignored all letters from the Draft Board and was arrested by the FBI. When brought to court he was believed to be insane when he started jumping. He was taken to a mental hospital for observation. The doctors there decided that he was sane and sent him back to jail. He continued his spiritual testimony and was sent to another hospital. There the doctor tried to quiet him and finally gave him an injection. After the injection he continued to pray and jump and sing. It seems that he grew calmer and while kneeling in prayer he passed away.

A summary of Molokan CPS shows that there are now 36 boys in CPS camps, 11 were discharged since the beginning, 14 reclassified before assignment to camp, 10 are in prison, 2 released from prison and 12 are on various probations; also 2 are on detached service from camps.

July 3, 1944: After a struggle we finally got enough money to make a remittance for the CPS for the April and May payment. At present there are 36 Molokans in camp, but we do not pay for those whose parents are opposed to the CPS program, although the people who were bitterly opposed to the camps are not so bitter now. They object to the maintenance angle and still insist that the government has appropriated money for the purpose. The remittance for this time amounts to \$1574, and the outlook for the next one is dark indeed.

July 17, 1944: A little note about the affairs of our church. It is very poorly attended of late, especially on Sunday nights, which used to be the best attended. It seems as though our people are grooved into the habit of church feasts. If no feast then no attendance. So every Sunday morning there is a "pomenki" or some other special service in one church or another. The custom is to invite the members of other churches who are in sympathy with the views of the inviting party. Consequently each Sunday finds the morning services neglected, because people stay away from both their own church and from the "della" church because they were not personally invited.

The evening services are not attended for several reasons, one of which is the shortage of gasoline and another is that some people, (perhaps many people) after a "pomenki" for example, go directly to the afternoon Young Church and when that is over about 7pm, they go straight home. The elders are not taking steps to remedy the situation. It seems that they do not realize the potential danger of further disintegration resulting from poor attendance. We are "blessed" with some very short-sighted "presveetera" who reject or silently oppose any suggestions for a remedy, perhaps suspecting ulterior motives on the part of those who are simply unselfishly trying to improve conditions.

There was a report that two Molokans in a prison camp accepted service in the army as IAO's. It was a great shock to the father of one of the boys. He is one of those who shouts the loudest against the so-called "betrayal." And he was very proud that his son did not go to CPS but instead went into what the father believed was a government-financed camp. He didn't realize that his son

was really headed for a Federal Prison. Now that his son went into the army the father does not know what to make of it.

Another boy was released from the same place last week on parole. He deserves it because he got a raw deal from his Local Board.

Aug. 19, 1944: One Molokan boy was sentenced to three years in prison for refusing induction. He is a boy who confidently expected to be given probation to remain on his job in a defense factory. About four months ago when he was finally classified 1A by the Appeal Board he asked me to help him prepare a Presidential Appeal. In my talk with him it developed that he wanted to get out of reporting to CPS. After I was convinced that he was going to take an "absolutist" stand, I advised him not to appeal further for 4E, because to refuse to report to camp once getting the 4E, and then going to court as a result of the refusal, that the court would not make it easy on him. He told me that he would think it over and let me know later. A couple days later he came back and asked me to write a letter to General **** to review his case, which I did and several days later I gave the letter to his father who said it was a good letter, but he was not sure whether they were going to send it or not. After this I heard nothing from them until the other day when I saw an article in the newspaper which described a demonstration in court after the boy received his severe sentence. I suppose, though, he would have gotten off easier if there was a local judge sitting in his case, but unfortunately this was some new judge in this court who some say is from the Arizona District. This judge sentenced all CO's to three years that day.

Our CPS treasury is very low, but expenses are high. There is about \$300 in the bank but we need about \$1800 towards the end of the month. No prospects whatever for a donation from any source. We'll have to pay all from our own resources.

Son **** and a couple of his friends in North Fork are trying to publish a Molokan paper in the camp. I am encouraging them as I believe that gives them something else to think about while in camp.

Sept. 9, 1944: There is lots of talk in America about demobilization. Plans are prepared for partial demobilization of the army based on the point plan. So many points for service overseas, so many for dependents, etc. No such plans are talked of for the Navy because it is expected that the Navy more than any branch will have to be used to fight the Japanese.

The food situation is back to almost normal with the exception of high prices. By normal, I mean there is a plentiful supply of everything. Most of the meats are now off ration as well as canned stuff. Butter is also plentiful. This summer the fruit crops are larger than for many years. Nectarines were sold as low as 3 cents a pound, almost pre-war prices. All in all the government has successfully kept the prices from running away. Millions of people are eating better than at any time of their lives.

Sept. 22, 1944: The other night the Advisory Committee called a meeting to discuss the finances of the CPS. The response to the call was less than luke-warm. After a long discussion we agreed to change the system of collecting the funds. Instead of the whole colony taking care of or providing funds for all boys in CPS as heretofore, it was decided to have each church responsible for its own member boys. At this writing we are almost four months behind in our payments with money available for one and half months. For that something has to be done. This will mean that our church will not support the boys and it will make it hard on our family.

I am uneasy about son **** who has written that he has been in camp for eight months or in this "hole" as he puts it. I sure hope for the end of the war. Worried too about son **** but to a lesser extent.

A week ago I was shown a letter from a young boy (18) in the Navy to his sister in which he wrote about a series of visions in which a woman dressed in white appeared at his bed at night and accused him of disobeying her wishes. He tried to get her to tell him in which way he disobeyed her

but she would not say. He went to his chaplain for help and apparently the chaplain was a conscientious fellow because he began to question the boy on his religious background. The boy finally admitted that he was a member of the Molokan religion and explained to him that the sect was a peace church. At this the chaplain advised him to apply for non-combatant service as a conscientious objector which he did. Although the letter was well written and in great detail, yet he did not mention whether or not he saw the woman after he changed his status. It was a remarkable letter and I'm trying to get a copy of it.

Oct. 14, 1944: Things are very quiet about the CPS setup. The new system of collection where each church is to be responsible for their members in CPS is headed for a flop. So it seems that it is up to the parents themselves.

There is a growing desire on the part of the majority of our people to help the war effort, or I should say, that the whole basic idea of objection to military service is dying out among our people. There is a notable feeling of antagonism against CO's. It was lying dormant for a couple of years but now it is coming out in the open.

Nov 20, 1944: I am getting more and more disgusted with the attitude of the so-called leaders of the Molokan religion in LA towards the younger generation in general and in particular with the utter inability to see the desperate need of teaching them the ways of Molokan life. It seems that the elders are deaf to suggestions for innovations and are concerned only with their own positions to their set routines of prayers for the dead and other ceremonial feasts. It is very seldom that a regular Sunday Church service is held. It is either a wedding, a baptismal or a memorial service and the younger people are lackadaisical towards such services. The Sunday A.M. services (when they are held) are poorly attended by the young. It is very seldom that one sees anybody under 30 years old in church. But the elders do not see the handwriting on the wall and studiously ignore any suggestions for changes, suspecting some ulterior motive in those who dare to made them.

This condition prevails in all the churches. The UMCA has been in existence for over fifteen years, but the results of their efforts are not what they would like to think. At the time of the inception of the UMCA, the main Molokan problems were the drifting toward intermarriage and the problem of delinquency. It would had been very beneficial if the whole colony took part in the activities of the UMCA, but since only a small portion of the people cooperated—the rest considered it as an innovation of the devil—the results were showing only a decrease of delinquency but intermarriage continues as before.

At the present time all factions alike are lax in their labors to perpetuate the faith, although everyone of the older generation believes that the efforts are tremendous. But the efforts consist of attending the Sunday PM Young Peoples Churches and making occasional speeches of praise to the gathered young people who are not very numerous. There are probably about 100 people of 21 and younger who could be called regulars attendance.

Dec. 4, 1944: I am awaiting the outcome of a Molokan boy who refused to go back to the service after coming home on a two week furlough. While home on leave he came in contact with some strong CO's and it appears that they influenced him to the extent that he now is a deserter. On the advice of a lawyer he wired his commanding officer that he will not return and he is now walking around in civilian clothes.

Dec. 26, 1944: Last Sunday the 24th was notable in that there was a large collection made in two Molokan churches for the Russian Relief. They made this into a special holiday where supposedly there was to be a prayer for men in the services, in camps, etc. But the main object was to be for a collection of funds for the relief of Russian children. Of course, our church and two others did not participate, but the majority of people belong to the ones that did and apparently their response was wholehearted. Today I hear that the total collection was near \$9,000. I understand that donations from out of town brought the total up to \$16,000.

The war has suddenly turned against the Allies. A week ago the Nazis opened a large scale offensive drive and broke through the American lines in Belgium. They have pushed the Americans back about 50 miles. This is a great shock to the American people. It means that the war will be prolonged considerably. The repercussions are already felt. Meat that was off the ration list is back on now. Also canned goods. Induction has been speeded up again. In short, our vision of a speedy end of the war has been shattered.

Jan. 13, 1945: The American government is putting the pressure on more production. There is talk of drafting 4F's for work in war plants. The draft authorities are now after all youths under 30 regardless of occupation. Even farmers are being drafted. It seems that there were large casualty lists in the German breakthrough of last month.

Last week two more Molokans were sentenced to prison for refusing induction. In his remarks Judge **** made the remark that Molokans in general do not stand up for any of their boys whom they think are not worthy. Evidently the report of the probation investigations was not favorable in one person's case, so he got a prison sentence.

At present there are three or four potential court cases. These boys were advised by me and after Presidential Appeals, they were turned down. They still refuse to report for induction. One of them is nephew ****. He has not been ordered for induction yet, but it sure could come soon.

Jan. 20, 1945: The son of **** who notified his commanding officer that he would report back to service has been arrested and taken up north. It seems he is waiting for the court martial sentencing.

The food situation has tightened up again. Meat is on the ration list. Yesterday, the governor froze the stocks of salad oils on the grocers shelves and they will go back on ration in two days. Eggs are very scarce and selling at 70 cents a dozen. We are well supplied by our chickens, even selling some to our neighbors. One neighbor was so glad to get a dozen the other day that he paid a dollar for a dozen, against the wife's protests.

Feb. 3, 1945: The US Congress is considering passing a peacetime conscription law. The President and the military are pushing the measure against the opposition of Labor Unions, church leaders, and educational people and, of course, all the pacifists. In this respect, as usual, our people are staying in the background.

Feb. 17, 1945: Since I wrote the above our colony stirred itself to write against the passage of the peacetime conscription idea. Two weeks ago tomorrow elder **** started the move to take some action. This resulted in delegates from different churches getting together and agreeing to write Congressmen and Senators, or to be more accurate, to send a copy of a "resolution" that was worked out. Tomorrow the resolution is to be read in the different churches for approval.

Feb. 22, 1945: We are worried about conditions of our boys who are in Three Rivers Camp. They are having trouble with the Director who seems very incapable and is driving them to distraction. Two boys have walked out two week ago. Others are threatening the same. We thought the trouble was caused by a couple of the boys themselves, but it seems that the director is as much to blame. Presently, the boys are writing to the Mennonite Central Committee about their grievances. This misunderstanding is liable to cause a further drift from support to our program.

March 22, 1945: Today, I just got back from Washington DC where I went to see various people relative to releasing CO's to detached service. I was sent by fathers of CPS participants. We thought that it might be acceptable to have them assigned to Molokan farmers in Kern County. I spoke to Selective Service Officials (a Colonel ****), who said that he would insist that CPS men must be 200 miles from home and on dairy farms. Otherwise he has no objections that all Molokans be assigned to farm work. He was very well acquainted with problems of Molokans in the camps. He is just as anxious to solve the problem as we are. Another official said he would wire their agent in Berkeley to inform him of our desire to put men on farms. He explained the priorities of counties

on labor needs and that he has to be careful in assigning men to counties because of jealousies of other counties and political pressure. He implied that if the Berkeley man certifies Kern County as showing a bigger need than other counties, he would go along.

Also talked with other officials regarding difficulties securing the 4E classification. Spoke with a Colonel and a Major in Selective Service and with Mr. **** of the Department of Justice. They acted impressed and suggested sending them a letter listing our grievances and requests. I foresee difficulty because for proof of church attendance we would have to include the UMCA where many of our youngsters attend because they can't understand Russian. We'll get opposition on that.

Altogether the trip was not entirely fruitless, especially if we will be able to secure more 4E classifications.

April 12, 1945: President Roosevelt died today. All radio programs of entertainment were canceled. One remarkable item came over the radio, that the Japanese radio interrupted its regular programming, in honor of this man. I doubt very much that American radios would have done as much if the Japanese Emperor had died.

May 5, 1945: The war in Europe is not yet officially ended. It seems that the German army is surrendering in groups and is disorganized. All the news of course is sensational, but it is given out piecemeal and the emotional outburst which was at one time expected did not happen. There might be a method in this. I suspect the government is afraid that the relief would be so great that the people might want to stop fighting in the Pacific.

May 21, 1945: Nephew **** was sentenced today to eighteen months in a Federal Road-Type Prison. He spoiled his case himself when he wrote his Board two years ago that he was selling 90% of his products (used cartons) to vital war industries. For that reason his appeal was rejected. Today the judge expressed his views in such a way that he was unable to change the decision of the Draft Board. Therefore, in spite of a very favorable Probation Report the judge sentenced him, but gave him a week's stay of execution.

A delegation of our elders left for San Francisco today to talk to a member of the Turkish delegation who is there to discuss some form of a world organization. It seems he is the same man who in 1936 or 1937 was in the Turkish Embassy in Washington DC, and to whom a delegation of Molokans spoke at that time, when they were seeking permission to emigrate to Turkey. His presence at the San Francisco Conference was disclosed by an article in that city's newspaper. This article gave a sympathetic account of the desires of Molokans to find a peaceful country to live in, and the prophetic dream of a Molokan prophet regarding the coming of a war, and of America's part in it, and Turkey's effort to stay out of it.

When this article was brought to the attention of our people many of them were all excited and immediately began to find the delegate and get an appointment. I was asked to locate him which I did. A delegation was appointed and I was asked to go along as an interpreter. I refused for personal reasons; I also thought that the man was not connected with the government of Turkey and nothing could be gained in a talk with him.

May 30, 1945: This delegation came back last Thursday and reported concerning their talk to the ambassador. They asked him if it was possible to secure permission to emigrate to his country. He replied affirmatively, but when asked about exemption from military service, he was very emphatic in saying "No." He said that their Constitution required military service without any exceptions.

One phase of their report struck me as typical of our delegates. They asked to settle on that land from which Kamel Pasha had driven out the Armenians. He was very offended by that remark and said that Kamel Pasha did not drive out any people from their land; he merely resettled them. That statement was in bad taste and could well cause an unsympathetic response to any requests.

Nephew **** is now in County Jail awaiting shipment to a Federal Prison Camp.

June 26, 1945: The food situation has worsened a little bit lately. Scarcity in meats, oils, sugar, eggs and fats, although butter and milk are plentiful. The “black market” situation is blamed for all this. Prices are kept down by law; thus they are stabilized.

The war on Japan continues to be intensified. But Japan is doomed. The US Navy is determined to erase Japan off the map. There is no hope for peace unless Japan capitulates unconditionally.

I am hoping that in another twelve months the war and the CPS program, which is constantly on my mind, will be done with. At present about 25 parents are carrying the load. Some parents are absolutely opposed to its support. But I think that if we should step out of the picture that they would take it up and be willing to support it. They hate us worse than they hate the Mennonites or Quakers. Others are too stingy or lackadaisical. But we will have to carry on.

Our CPS program is financed by the fathers of boys in camp, but not all fathers. We send checks to the amount of approximately \$1000 every two months. This contribution is appreciated by both the Mennonites and Friends because their burden is very heavy. Yesterday, I heard a complaint from **** that the San Dimas camp is feeding the boys very poorly. This is surprising because there were no previous complaints about the Quakers. There is nothing we could do because of the ten or eleven Molokans in San Dimas, only three fathers are contributing. Our special Molokan side camp at Kings Canyon is well supplied with food. Our present worry about them is that they don't disgrace themselves and us with a fight among themselves. It seems they let off a lot of steam by merciless kidding of each other. Some of them are finding it very hard to tolerate this.

Aug. 11, 1945: Well, it's nearly all over now. The Japanese offered to surrender on condition that their emperor retains his position and title.

The emergence of the most horrible weapon yet invented, the atomic bomb, did not produce any marked elation in the US.

Aug. 25, 1945: The war has been over for eleven days since Aug 14th. Among CPS boys there is talk that if they are not discharged by New Years there will be wholesale “walkouts.”

I feel that we should express our opinions to the NSBRO that they should not enter into further agreements with Selective Service for continuation of CPS.

Sept. 1, 1945: My activities in support and assistance to CO's is gradually coming to an end. The draft still continues but on a reduced scale. Last Sunday for the annual UMCA picnic, all but three Molokan boys left their posts at the camp, went AWOL to attend, and when they got back to camp, the Park Service people were very bitter about it and I fear there might be unpleasant consequences. I'm afraid now that the end is in sight that the young men are acting rashly.

Nov. 5, 1945: We are arranging for a new system of operating the Molokan CPS camp. The Director of the Three Rivers CPS camp informed us that he would not accept our men into his camp under any circumstances and that he would not assume responsibility for Molokan side camps. In other words we are to take full responsibility for our men. We called a meeting to discuss this. The fathers of the boys, and others present, agreed to take financial responsibility for the Molokan side camp. Our boys are to select a business manager, a director, and they are to buy their own food. They will be provided with a truck two days a week for shopping. The Mennonite Central Committee is to provide medical facilities, coal and incidentals, etc.

The CPS demobilization is getting started very slowly. I hope that things will be speeded up. If not discharged soon, I fear the boys might walk out.

Some of our people are preparing a letter tonight to the Charge de Affairs of Iraq with a request, I presume, for permission to emigrate there.

Dec. 28, 1945: Nephew **** is now released from prison on parole. the parole procedure is much more liberal now. Consequently, about six CO's are now home. This makes it harder for CPS men to bear their lot in camp. Their release may take some months yet. The camp is run by themselves and is financed by us insofar as the food is concerned. All other incidentals are

furnished by the Mennonites. At present there are 32 men on the roll of the Molokan sidecamp and about 10 more in other camps.

Jan. 20, 1946: Son **** is now out of the army. The war is now over approximately five months and only 20% have been demobilized from CPS. The rest are still sweating it out. What makes it harder is that CO's in prisons are receiving much more consideration.

Feb. 26, 1946: today a delegation from the Kerman "Chulok" church was here with a proposal that a movement be started for emigration out of the USA. They did not name any particular country. The meeting was not well attended. Some feel that a movement of such magnitude should have the participation of the Molokan people as a whole. There were proposals that a sort of commune be started to make the emigration successful. they might send delegates to South America or to other points. At present, the only result from these meetings is that three churches are actively showing interest and attending. These are the three churches who are opposed to the Big Church. Last night the three presbyters from these three churches went to the home of Ivan E. Klubnikin to ascertain whether this movement was or was not according to the prophesies of Efeem Gerasimovich.

March 20, 1946: Last night, a meeting was held by delegates of all LA churches to discuss action on a letter from Iran sent by our people who are living there and who asked for help either (1), to secure their emigration to the US or (2), to help them with a shipment of clothes. A collection of a sum of \$4,179 has already been made by the LA people. The problem now is whether to buy used clothing and food, and either to ship that to Iran or instead to send money. A man who arrived from there a year and half ago was invited to address the meeting last night and he gave us a clear picture of the bad living conditions there. On his advice it was decided to send a small amount of money and make an inquiry by letter whether the people in Iran prefer a shipment of clothing or help in cash money.

May 15, 1946: The Draft Law was extended for another 45 days. Our CO boys are now in a government camp at Glendora. They all transferred to Glendora from the Mennonite camp at Three Rivers on April 30. When they arrived in Glendora, other men who were already there initiated a strike so our boys had to fall in line. We are uneasy about it but they think the strike is a big thing. They hope to force the Selective Service to discharge CO's at the same rate as servicemen. Now everything is upset.

The food situation in America has worsened a great deal due to the famine conditions throughout the world. We have to tighten our belts. Everyone has lots of money to spend. There is a terrific demand on goods. Inflation on some things is already here. Real estate two to three times above ordinary times. Houses previously sold at \$3,500 are now \$8,000 to \$12,000. This is disquieting because of a possible crash. We are sitting tight.

June 1, 1946: This week was full of anxiety for our family. The strike at the Glendora CO camp took a serious turn for us because the government ordered the wholesale arrest of all the strikers who are not eligible for discharge in April, May or June. Forty one were arrested in addition to the so-called six ring leaders who were arrested a couple of weeks ago. Son **** is one of those, but son **** escaped arrest because he was eligible for discharge in May. They are all out on bail which was set at \$1000 each. There are twenty one Molokans involved. Thus we had to raise \$21,000. We are now worried that son **** will land in prison after two and half years in CPS. He was so close to being discharged. He seems to be very cocky about it. He thinks it's the principle involved, but I'm trying to argue him and the others out of it. I am opposing the strike because it does not involve any principles of religion. The strike is dealing with only political matter such as pay for CPS "inmates" and their dependents, speedier demobilization, insurance of injuries.

Two days ago a letter arrived from our people in Iran. This was in reply to the sum sent to them in March. They are strongly asking us to get them out of Iran and into America. They described

living there as being very difficult owing to the fanaticism of the Iranians, especially in their preference to give work only to Muslims. Furthermore, work has severely diminished since the Americans and others pulled out of Iran after the war ended. Probably there will be another meeting about it this next week.

June 9, 1946: Last week we had a stormy meeting with the striking CO's. They are seeking moral support from the Molokan people for the strike. But the people as a whole are not in sympathy with the strike, and in particular are against the picketing tactic that they are using to publicize their aims and reasons for the strike. Some are actually very antagonistic. But a meeting of parents was called and a few were selected to help the boys in their difficulty. I am trying again to influence the boys to return to work, but I am not succeeding. In this I am being opposed by several of the other parents and others. However, I gained a point in inducing them to change their strategy from picketing to using Molokan methods, such as, prayers, etc. Last Thursday June 6, many of us appeared in the Commissioner's Court Room and before we entered we gathered in the hallway and had a prayer. The Commissioner again put off the boys' date of appearance until July 5 when they will have to appear before a judge to make a plea.

July 1, 1946: Last week we had a visit from **** of the NSBRO. He wanted to know about future participation in that organization. We told him we were not in position to speak for the Molokan brotherhood. We expect to have a meeting tomorrow night. I do not expect much favorable reaction to his proposal from our people because of a three-way split: (1) those who are simply apathetic to the question; (2) those who might be willing to join; (3) those who vociferously are oppose to it.

Son **** and twenty-two others (six are Molokans) are now indicted for refusing to work in camp. Why son **** is one of the six Molokans is not clear. It is possible that names were picked in alphabetical order. Son **** is not getting his discharge because he refused to work. Very discouraging for every one of us, but especially for him. The strike was a futile effort.

Sept. 1, 1946: Son **** is out now. Son **** was allowed to return to work with others after accepting an offer by the government that if anyone goes back to work, the only penalty will be to serve out the time lost by striking.

End of Diary