







By Bill Hosokawa

# From the Frying Pan

**AD TIDINGS**—The telephone, bearer of good tidings had, rang a few minutes ago and brought word that Vaughn Mechau was dead. He had suffered a heart attack while on the sun-seared coast of Libya where his job the United States Agency for International Development had taken him. There were no other details immediately available.

Twenty years ago Vaughn Mechau counted thousands of Japanese Americans among his friends. He was reported as at the Heart Mountain War Relocation Center in Utah, and he was without doubt the best-liked man on the administrative staff. He was outraged by the evacuation, and he did everything possible to make the lives of the evacuees a bit more comfortable, a bit more tolerable, a bit more hopeful, a bit less bleak.

After the war he went into newspapering for a while, his experience in the WRA program had done some good to him. He felt the need to help people, and the people needed him most in other countries. So he joined the foreign aid program and served in Paraguay, Brazil, and finally Libya where time caught up with him.

**FIRST MEETING**—Vaughn Mechau was one of the first I met when the powers that be shipped me off to Heart Mountain. I remember the meeting well. He was hauling into the barracks we would occupy, drenched with sweat and grumpy with Wyoming dust, and grinning to make his first move at ease. He could have sat in his office, but he was out working where it would do the most good. We started the camp newspaper, the Heart Mountain Sentinel, together. It became a good newspaper that helped the camp morale, and he was proud of it. Senator E.K. Robertson of Wyoming took a particular interest in attacking the Heart Mountain camp. But he had taken the trouble to visit Heart Mountain and didn't know what he was talking about. We sent him a telegram, in the Sentinel. The wire service picked it up and printed it. There were no funds available to pay for the telegram, so I cost a tidy sum. Mechau paid for it out of his own pocket.

**SENTINEL STORY**—Last winter, before Mechau and wife, Pat, set out for the Libya assignment, he said he would write a book about the Sentinel, about the people who worked on it and the role it played in the community. It would be an inspiring story, he said with characteristic optimism, in the greatest traditions of a free and militant press.

A few months ago I dug through the mass of stuff piled up in the garage, sorting out my files of the Sentinel, and sent old newspapers on to Mechau so he could work on the book. Now it will never be written, for he knew more about Sentinel than anyone.

**MORE THAN A BOSS**—Over the years of our association Mechau became more than boss and mentor. He was a friend who taught me many things, like compassion, love of mankind and tolerance in its fullest sense, I learned in his pages. Meeting him and getting to know him one of the finest things to come out of the whole sorry experience of the evacuation. And many another Nisei can say the same thing. I hope this thought will make Pat's little career to bear.

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## Walter Reuther says Japanese workers 'underpaid', but Japan claims its labor 'not cheap'; wage comparisons unfair

**TOKYO**—Japanese workers are underpaid compared to their counterparts in Europe and the United States, according to Walter Reuther, head of the United Auto Workers who has been visiting Japan. He departed for home Saturday.

He warned the Japanese labor unions to stick to getting better wages and working conditions with a little emphasis on politics as possible, in an address last week before the Tokyo Correspondents Club.

"We believe Japanese wages are low and that Japanese workers are not getting their fair share of the fruits of progress," Reuther said and warned union men that it is impossible to work with Communists in the labor movement. "Communists use labor unions primarily to advance the foreign policy of the Soviet Union. Our policy is to support the free world with anyone who puts trade union aims behind other aims."

## What Every Candidate Should Know

**DOYLESTOWN, Pa.**—Defeated Congressional candidate James Michener apparently felt that making the race was worth the effort. The Pulitzer Prize-winning author of "Hawaii" and former Ohio resident told some 10,000 voters in the Pennsylvania town of Doylestown, Pa., that he had learned a lot from his experience.

Views Listed  
A few of the Michener observations:

"There are tremendous satisfactions in running for office."

"I have had more of the great conversations of my life, none of the best friendship."

"To battle with one's neighbors for work is an honorable occupation, and men who have not done so should have no pretensions to government."

"Public indifference to politics is depressing."

"If you expect politics to help clean up messes and I find the struggle exciting, drawing in an invincible part of the American political tradition."

Face to Face  
"There is no substitute for meeting voters face to face."

"For when a man, week after week, meets with his fellow men, something happens to him. A certain attitude is bred out of him. Some of the drudgery in his system is burned away. He comes to know what he deeply believes."

"When word trouble that I was going to run for Congress, the opposition spread notice in the newspapers that they were going to face-to-face every man I met."

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Under the exchange rate comparison of workers in manufacturing industries in 1960, the average hourly earnings were \$2.06 for Japan, \$2.29 for the United States, 78 cents for Britain, and 62 cents for West Germany.

The government report says that Japanese workers enjoyed such fringe benefits as year-end bonuses which in total roughly amount to an equivalent of three months' wages, "most of which have been paid in the last few months."

The comparison of wages by countries on the basis of official exchange rates is widely employed, but it is regarded as "grossly inadequate" because it fails to take into consideration other factors, such as the level of national income, price structure, purchasing power, and the traditional wage practices of the countries concerned.

**Industries Vary**  
Wages in such modern, large-scale industries as steel and shipbuilding average 20.00 yen (90.25 to 100.00 yen) per month, or about the same level as in Italy or France even when using the exchange rate comparison method," the report says.

"Turning to wages in export industries, it adds that the average wage levels in these industries producing commodities which serve the main line of Japanese exports to the United States, Canada and Western Europe are not unhampered but differ from industry to industry."

In contrast to the steel and shipbuilding industries, the average monthly wages in the textile, toy, and porcelain industries was given at 13.00 yen (52.50 to 55.00 yen) per month.

Singling out the textile industry, the report notes that the low scale wage levels in these industries for the workers are women with short service time.

Another also believed establishment of a minimum wage would raise the cost of cheap labor. The socialist party has called for a basic ¥1000 (U.S. \$71) a month for workers. Most employees now work at least 40 hours.

**Chicago JACS slates annual meeting Dec. 1**  
CHICAGO—Dr. Mortimer Brown, executive assistant to the director of health, State of Illinois, will speak on "Chicago's Role in the Japanese American Community" at the annual meeting of the Japanese American Service Committee (JACS) Dec. 1, 7:30 p.m. at the Palmer House.

Don Kishimoto, executive director of JACS, will preside, and will give the address on "The Japanese American Community in the United States."

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## Christmas Cheer

**LOS ANGELES**—The 1962 Christmas Cheer campaign is now in its 65th year with a goal of \$2,000,000. The campaign is a joint effort of the Japanese American Service Committee (JACS) and the Japanese American Community Center (JACC).

Various church groups are beginning to collect groceries and staples to make up the Christmas baskets to be distributed to needy Japanese families. The annual "All Church Christmas Cheer" for Christmas is being held on Dec. 15.

Gifts, staples and toys for the baskets should be sent to the JACS, 220 W. 7th St., Los Angeles 5, Calif. All contributions must be in by Dec. 15.

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## Sacramento creams opposition to clinch Long Beach cagefest

**LOS ANGELES**—The visiting Sacramento Creams made short work of the sixth annual Long Beach International Basketball Tournament to clinch the West L.A. JACL cagefest. The Creams won 75-60 in the final game.

The Sacramento Creams, representing the Sacramento JACL, had no trouble with the new coach, the W.L.A. coach, and with Ken Kodaka and Richard Shinkai.

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