

Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco  
Fiscal Agent of the United States

March 14 1942

(Date)

Name: DAVE M TATSUNO  
(Print)

Telephone:  
Interview: ☒

Address: 1625 Buchanan St.  
(Street and Number)

Adult: ☒

Minor: ☐

Male: ☒

Female: ☐

Citizenship: U.S.

San Francisco Calif.  
(City) (State)

Date of last entry into United States: born here (father-partner Nov. 1928)

Operating under Treasury License now?: 68 A

Type of Business:

Partnership: ☒

Proprietorship: ☐

Corporation: ☐

Individual: ☐

Person Interviewed: Dave Tatsuno

Address: same

Telephone Number: Filmore 8513 4/11-Call

Fellman 2117 Desconnection

Principal property involved and scope of problem:

X R

- 1. Nichibei Bossum Co, Jap. - american dept. store, partnership between D.M. Tatsuno and father. Now moving stock at retail prices but anticipates being left with about \$10,000 mdse. in his hands. What is best way of handling it?
- 2. Has <sup>applied</sup> home. Should he leave it under care of a "friend" who would occupy it at no rent, or should he turn over to real estate co or bank for renting, etc.  
SEE.
- 3. Is Pres. of S.F. Chapter Citizen League - wanted general picture of function of this Dept. Having meeting Sunday March 15, at 2 pm. - requested a representative from this dept. (see attached memo to Mr. Armstrong)

Action taken:\*

1. Suggested immediate attention to disposal of (or storage of merchandise) through quicker channels than selling over counter, i.e. auction clearance sale, contacting wholesalers or others selling or handling similar stock - and obtaining some agent such as bank or its rec. medium for doing this should he be evacuated immediately. He seemed to favor storage in view of the possibility of opening another store. Mdse. is standard dry goods.
  2. Because of uncertainty of funds offer, it was suggested he consider rental or other means of securing income from property through bank or real estate firm as agent.
  3. Gen'l picture given. Mr. Armstrong given memo.
- \* Attach additional pages where necessary

Handled by: J. D. Baker

# NICHIBEI BUSSAN CO.

Japanese American Department Store



Native Japanese Goods

1701 POST STREET

S. W. Cor. Post & Buchanan

Phone FI 11more 2117

San Francisco, Calif.

REFERRED BY MR. H.D. ARMSTRONG

TO MR.

*Mrs. Mathew*

SEP 28 1942

*File: Tatsuno*

September 28, 1942

Mr. R. R. Zellick, Assistant Trust Officer  
Anglo California National Bank  
San Francisco, California

Subject: Dave Tatsuno

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is an inventory of the property of Mr. Dave  
Tatsuno which remains in the rooms occupied by Mrs. J. Alvarez  
at 1625 Buchanan Street, San Francisco, California.

Very truly yours,

Assistant Cashier

Enclosure  
ARMSTRONG:krf



INVENTORY OF PROPERTY OF DAVE TATSUNO IN USE BY MRS. J. ALVAREZ  
AT 1625 BUCHANAN STREET, SAN FRANCISCO      SEPTEMBER 28, 1942

LIVING ROOM

- 1 Bookcase
- 3 Rows of books, as follows:
  - 20 Volumes "Book of Knowledge"
  - 6 Volumes "Story of Great War"
  - 7 Volumes de Maupassant
  - 5 Volumes "Library of Universal Literature"
  - 4 Volumes, miscellaneous
- 1 Floor Chest or Window Cabinet

DINING ROOM

- 1 Round Oak Table
- 1 Buffet
- 1 Case and miscellaneous personalty on upper shelf
- 1 Mirror
- 1 Picture (Palace of Fine Arts)

DOWNSTAIRS HALL

- 1 Mirror

KITCHEN

- 1 Refrigerator
- 1 Cupboard
- 1 Water Heater
- 1 Picture (Fruit)

LAUNDRY

- 1 Cabinet

UPSTAIRS HALL

- 1 Chiffonier



-2-

FRONT BEDROOM

- 1 Chiffonier (Oak)
- 1 Square top inlaid table
- 1 Straight chair

MIDDLE BEDROOM

- 1 Rectangular library table
- 1 Straight chair
- 1 Rocking chair with arms
- 1 Dresser
- 1 Bed, including spring, mattress, blankets, spread.

REAR BEDROOM

- 1 Rectangular library table
- 1 Straight chair.

September 28, 1942

REFERRED BY MR. H. D. ARMSTRONG

TO MR. *Evans*

SEP 29 1942

MEMORANDUM

REFERRED BY MR. H. D. ARMSTRONG

TO MR. *Bard*

SEP 29 1942

Subject: Property of Dave Tatsuno at  
1625 Buchanan Street, San Francisco

At 1:30 Saturday afternoon, September 26, 1942, Major Santelli telephoned from the above address to request assistance in settling a dispute between Tatsuno, owner of real property, and Mrs. J. Alvarez who, together with her husband and two foster children, occupied the premises.

At Major Santelli's request the writer went to the address and there met the Major, Dave Tatsuno, Mr. Ross, a civilian guard for the Wartime Civil Control Administration in whose custody Tatsuno was released from Tanforan, and Mr. O'Connell, a plain clothes detective of the San Francisco Police Department.

By way of background, it appeared that the Tatsunos leased the premises to the present tenant, exclusive of a store room on the main floor and two store rooms in the basement in which the Tatsunos stored large quantities of furniture and other personal property, including some from their dry goods store. A few items of property they permitted the tenant to use. The store rooms were allegedly locked by Tatsuno before evacuation.

Upon receiving notice of his transfer to Delta, Utah, Tatsuno obtained permission to come to San Francisco to select from the stored household goods the pieces he desired forwarded to him in the relocation area.

He called at this residence on September 25th, the tenant then being away and is understood to have forced the front door and gained access to the premises. He found innumerable items which he had left in the store rooms being used by the tenant, who had made a practice of frequently calling at Tanforan to assure the Tatsunos that everything was all right at home. The original call was made by Tatsuno in the company of a Joe Gibbs. He was permitted to return to the premises from Tanforan on Saturday, September 26, 1942.



Tatsuno was much concerned over the fact that the store rooms had been entered and, according to his story, they gave evidence of having been ransacked and the contents disturbed. He was much incensed and appeared desirous of instituting some form of legal action against the tenant for violation of the terms of the lease agreement which was understood to exclude the rooms in question. The lease was not presented for examination. As a corollary, a dispute had arisen between Tatsuno and the tenant as to the ownership of certain of the items of property in use.

After long discussion, the items in dispute narrowed down to four, including a coffee table, a table lamp and two bedspreads. A considerable quantity of property was returned to the main floor store room Saturday afternoon and the room temporarily sealed by the writer.

Arrangements were made for the return of Tatsuno to San Francisco on Monday, September 28th to complete the business of selecting goods for forwarding to Delta, Utah and complete the discussion with the tenant.

This morning at nine o'clock the writer again returned to 1625 Buchanan Street. The following persons were also present:

Mr. R. R. Zellick, Assistant Trust Officer, Anglo California National Bank, agent for Tatsuno;

O'Connell of the San Francisco Police Department;

Captain McFadden of the Wartime Civil Control Administration;

Ross, civil guard of the Wartime Civil Control Administration;

Dave Tatsuno, Alice Tatsuno, his wife; Chiye Watanabe, sister of Dave Tatsuno and Roy Watanabe, her husband.

After continued altercation, the ownership of the remaining items in dispute was clearly established and all property of the Tatsunos then visible and in use on rented portion of the premises was returned to the main floor store room, which was locked and sealed with seals provided by Mr. Zellick. The basement store rooms were examined and they were likewise locked and sealed.

The tenant agreed to quit the premises at the earliest possible moment, as soon as new quarters could be found, and Tatsuno proposed to have the house occupied by a friend.

The War Relocation Authority is prepared to open the warehouse at 1595 Van Ness Avenue if it becomes necessary to move the property from the house for its protection, but the present plan is to leave all the property there due to its great bulk.



The Anglo California National Bank will continue to represent Mr. Tatsuno and make arrangements for the forwarding of certain property to Delta, Utah, or arrange for the necessary crating and hauling of the property if they desire to store in the War Relocation Authority warehouse.



H. D. ARMSTRONG

INVENTORY OF PROPERTY OF DAVE TATSUNO IN USE BY MRS. J. ALVAREZ  
AT 1625 BUCHANAN STREET, SAN FRANCISCO      SEPTEMBER 28, 1942

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- 1 Cupboard
- 1 Water Heater
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LAUNDRY

- 1 Cabinet

UPSTAIRS HALL

- 1 Chiffonier



FRONT BEDROOM

- 1 Chiffonier (Oak)
- 1 Square top inlaid table
- 1 Straight chair

MIDDLE BEDROOM

- 1 Rectangular library table
- 1 Straight chair
- 1 Rocking chair with arms
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- 1 Bed, including spring, mattress, blankets, spread.

REAR BEDROOM

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- 1 Straight chair.



# The Anglo California National Bank

of San Francisco

TRUST DEPARTMENT

October 2, 1942

Mr. H. D. Armstrong  
Evacuee Property Department  
Federal Reserve Bank  
San Francisco, California

Dear Sir:

I received the letter from Mr. Everson of ~~September~~ 28 enclosing the inventory of the heavy pieces at the home of Dave Tatsuno 1625 Buchanan Street.

We also have received a letter from Dave Tatsuno, dated September 29, going into three pages, which, for the most part, repeat the many accusations which came up out at the house. He gives us several names of prospective tenants whom he feels he can trust (?) to look after the house and take care of the personal property.

However, there is one paragraph of his letter that I believe is worthy to repeat, as follows:

"If you can also arrange for periodic check-up of other properties under your jurisdiction in cooperation with the WCCA and the Federal Reserve Bank, it would be a good thing as so many evacuees have been telling me and Mr. Tamotsu Sakai that they are not completely satisfied with the handling of their affairs. Surely, as innocent victims of mass hysteria kindled by war, we should have a little more consideration by the Federal authorities. As agent of many evacuee accounts, will you confer with Mr. Armstrong and Major Sanitelli to see if some way can be found for better check up of the evacuee's property. Of course, when I say this, I do remember the shortage of man-power and the fact that this is war and others are losing much, but if it is at all possible to have something done, all of us will more than appreciate. I do realize the practical difficulties that you are up against."

This paragraph did not make a very favorable impression on us, although we believe that his remark that "they are not completely satisfied with the handling of their affairs" was not intended strictly for us, but apparently included all kinds and types of property handled by your organization and ourselves and other banks and agencies. My own objection is that a great deal of time, effort and money is being expended to make things as easy as possible, and certainly everyone is trying.

10-3 Answered

Ans'd. by Routine Advice

No Answer Required

Directed to File

By

Surname

FILE ONLY WHEN SIGNED  
RRE:AD

Very truly yours,

R. R. Zellick  
Assistant Trust Officer

October 3, 1942

Mr. R. R. Zellick,  
Assistant Trust Officer,  
The Anglo California National Bank,  
San Francisco, California.

Subject: Dave Tatsuno.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of October 2, 1942, relating to Mr. Tatsuno's remarks regarding the need for further protection of the property of evacuees, has been received.

In view of the somewhat broad nature of the suggestion made by Mr. Tatsuno, we have felt it well to pass your communication on to the Wartime Civil Control Administration for its consideration. Bearing in mind that the War Relocation Authority ultimately has the responsibility for the welfare of Japanese evacuees, we believe the Wartime Civil Control Administration will communicate this material to that agency for its consideration.

Your assistance in bringing the subject to our attention is indeed appreciated.

Yours very truly,

  
Assistant Cashier.

HDArmstrong:EM

cc: Wartime Civil Control Administration,  
San Francisco, California.



41 - 6 - EF,  
Topaz, Utah,  
December 17, 1942

*Mr. Miller -*  
*Pls. file -*  
*Law Zetsumo*

Mr. Herbert D. Armstrong,  
Federal Reserve Bank,  
Evacuee Property Division,  
San Francisco, California.

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

At long last, I am getting off this much-belated letter of thanks to you for all the help you gave me during the trouble I had in my house in San Francisco late in September. Ever since then I often thought of writing to you to show you my appreciation, but, somehow, I did not get around to it till this evening. I had written Major Carl Sanitilli about two weeks after the incident, and it was my intention to thank you formally about the same time, but here I am now. Not only would I like to thank you for your beyond-routine aid, but I am truly thankful that we niseis can look up to men of your calibre for understanding and intelligent sympathy.

Just to add a personal touch, this is what I am doing now here at the new boom city of Topaz: am acting as head of the Cooperative Dry Goods Division since the beginning of October. Had our grand opening last Wednesday, and we had over 3,000 people come into the new store building which is the regulation WRA recreation hall (100 x 20 ft.), and our sales for the first day ran up to \$2,700. We have a staff now of 12 young people, and you can well imagine that our staff is kept mighty busy. We have the following 9 departments: men's wear, ladies' wear, boy's wear, girl's wear, baby shop, shoe-slipper shop, household goods, notions, piece goods, with an additional toy department for the holidays.

Associating with such fine men as our superintendent, Mr. Walter Honderick, former Washington University man, a YMCA man, and Mr. Emil Sekerak, a Ohio State grad and Co-op expert, makes the work very interesting. Last week our Co-op group went to Salt Lake City for 4 days, and I spent all Friday and Saturday buying dry goods for the store. They are now talking about sending me to St. Louis within a month to do our spring and summer buying for the dry goods store. This is a wonderful experience for me, and I am truly enjoying it all.



I have come to realize more and more that this is indeed a very small world, for here at Topaz I have already met a caucasian young lady who used to sit three rows behind me for three years in my junior high school registry class in San Francisco. She is now the wife of the director of the Community Welfare department here. Also Mr. Caleb Foote, the executive secretary of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, a Friend service group, who is now residing at our troubled home, was here to visit us on his round of all the WRA centers, and I was really surprised to find that he had known Mr. Sekerak of our Co-op from before.

We are all fairly well settled now and are getting quite acclimated to the extreme weather condition here. Though we had several snow storms about a month ago, we are having sunny weather here almost every day these days. Of course, as a San Franciscan, accustomed to the mild Bay Area weather, it is quite a hardship to have to stand the cold weather here. It was 12 degrees yesterday morning, and we hear that the thermometer can go as low as 30 below zero. I never knew what they used ear-muffs for before, but now I realize they are very handy items to have around.

I hope that this letter will find you and yours in good health. And again, as I close, thank you very much for everything. Fellow Americans like you make us realize the worth of democracy and spurs us on to do our share, though so little, behind wire fences in American's hinterland.

Gratefully yours,

*Dave M. Tatsuno*  
Dave M. Tatsuno

..... Answered  
..... Ans'd. by Routine Advice  
..... No Answer Required  
..... Directed to File  
By *[Signature]*  
Surnama  
FILE ONLY WHEN SIGNED

Tatsuno, Dave  
1625 Buchanan St.  
San Francisco, Calif.

DIRECTED BY MAIL DEPT  
TO MR. EVERSON

REFERRED BY MR. EVERSON

TO MR. ....

The Anglo California National Bank  
of San Francisco

TRUST DEPARTMENT

December 15, 1942

Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco  
Sansome & Sacramento Streets  
San Francisco, California

Attention: H. D. Armstrong

Gentlemen:

Attached are duplicates of a letter written today to Mr. Dave M. Tatsuno with reference to the property at 1625 Buchanan Street, San Francisco, owned by Mr. Tatsuno and formerly occupied by Mrs. Alvarez. You will recall our telephone conversation of yesterday in this regard.

The letter is self explanatory and although we gave few details in the letter to Mr. Tatsuno, we were supplied with quite a few circumstances and details which we thought it best not to repeat to Mr. Tatsuno.

We are enclosing an extra copy of the letter with the thought that you may desire to forward it on to the Agency now in charge of matters of this kind and if there is anything further you would like us to do or if one of your agencies would like to contact Miss Sheppard direct we would be glad to furnish her address.

Sincerely yours,

*R. R. Zellick*  
R. R. Zellick  
Assistant Trust Officer

12-17-42  
RRZ/hb  
Enc. 2  
Answered  
By Routine Advice  
No Answer Required  
12 18 10:15

Directed to File  
By *R. R. Zellick*  
Surname  
FILE ONLY WHEN SIGNED



December 15, 1942

Mr. Dave W. Tatsuno  
41 - 6 - EF  
Central Utah Relocation Project  
Topaz, Utah

Dear Mr. Tatsuno:

I am writing you with reference to a conversation which I had yesterday at my desk with Miss Grace Sheppard who is the former adopted daughter of Mrs. Alvarez, although I understand she was never legally adopted. Apparently there has been some family friction which has caused the young lady, who is 18 years old, to leave the Alvarez home and place herself in the hands of the proper civil authorities.

In the course of the investigation by the authorities and in conversation with Miss Sheppard they received information relative to Mrs. Alvarez which caused the visit of yesterday at my desk. I am passing it on to you with the thought that you should be apprised of the circumstances.

Miss Sheppard in her statements, confirmed your allegations relative to the withdrawal of your furnishings and personal effects from the storerooms on your premises at 1625 Buchanan Street at various times during Mrs. Alvarez's residence there, and the appropriation of these articles to her own use and some cases, it was stated, that she actually sold them and retained the cash. Miss Sheppard's accusations go into some detail with reference to approximate time and methods and also refers to particular pieces about which you argued with Mrs. Alvarez. Particular reference is made to such items as the sale of a vacuum cleaner and various yardage material, and the use of your automobile on one occasion for an extended trip. Your car apparently was taken off of the blocks and operated with a temporary battery.

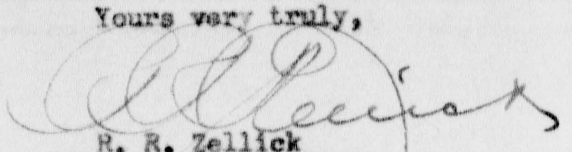
Obviously there is no proof or legal substantiation of these instances which is available to us and they merely confirm your thoughts and opinions as expressed during your last visit to the premises. It is evident that there is no method of protecting yourself against a tenant who may be inclined toward acts such as these and there is no agent or management service which could take over to prevent such happenings. The various U. S. Government agencies and the many private firms and banks such as our own, do everything possible to protect the properties and prevent damage or confiscation. When an instance of this kind happens it is almost impossible to project or take action because of the lack of proof and the inability to identify the personal property.

00 / 100  
RECEIVED  
FEDERAL RESERVE BANK  
DEPT. OF THE TREASURY  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
The matter was brought to our attention in this instance because it was necessary for the young lady to establish reasons for leaving the Alvarez family and the relief agency felt that the charges were sufficiently important to bring them to our notice.

We are writing to the Federal Reserve Bank informing them tentatively of this matter. If there is any way in which you would like to have us follow this matter up or if you have an attorney whom you would like to have us consult we should be glad to do so.

May we hear from you at your early convenience.

Yours very truly,

  
R. R. Zellick  
Assistant Trust Officer

RRZ/bb



December 17, 1942

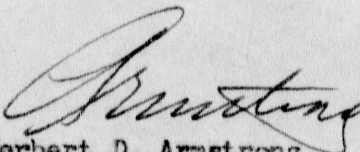
Mr. R. R. Zellick,  
Assistant Trust Officer,  
The Anglo California National  
Bank of San Francisco,  
One Sansome Street,  
San Francisco, California.

Re: Dave M. Tatsuno.

Dear Sir:

We have received your letter of December 15, 1942, and the enclosures relating to the above-named evacuee, and have transmitted the information to the Wartime Civil Control Administration and to the War Relocation Authority for the information of those agencies.

Yours very truly,

  
Herbert D. Armstrong,  
Acting Assistant Cashier.

Armstrong/els

December 17, 1942

Mr. Russell Robinson,  
Evacuee Property Division,  
War Relocation Authority,  
Hotel Whitcomb Building,  
San Francisco, California.

Re: Dave M. Tatsuno.

Dear Sir:

We are enclosing a copy of today's letter to the  
Wartime Civil Control Administration, together with each of  
the enclosures mentioned in it.

As our letter to the Wartime Civil Control Admini-  
stration indicates, we are forwarding this data for your  
information.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "H. Armstrong".

Herbert D. Armstrong,  
Acting Assistant Cashier.

Enclosures  
Armstrong/els



December 17, 1942

Captain Chas. A. Middleton, AUS,  
Assistant, Misc. Branch,  
Warline Civil Control Administration,  
Hotel Whitcomb Building,  
San Francisco, California.

Re: Dave M. Tatsuno.

Dear Sir:

You may recall that at the time of the transfer of the residents of the Tanforan Assembly Center to the Central Utah War Relocation Project we were requested by a representative of your agency to render assistance to the above-named evacuee in settling a dispute with a tenant of his residence property at 1625 Buchanan Street, San Francisco, California.

Briefly, prior to evacuation from his home area this evacuee had leased the property to a family named Alvarez under a private arrangement, and had stored considerable quantities of goods in two storerooms in the property. The goods stored included certain household furnishings which the tenants were not permitted to use, and also included a rather large quantity of merchandise from the Tatsuno's dry goods store.

On the eve of departure from Tanforan Assembly Center, Mr. Tatsuno was given permission to visit his old home and select needed personal property for his trip, at which time he discovered that the tenant had obtained access to the storerooms and had placed in use certain of the property which they contained. Our problem was to re-segregate the property then in use by the tenants and return Tatsuno's goods to the storerooms. Tatsuno proposed to make arrangements for a new tenant, and with the help of The Anglo California National Bank of San Francisco, his agent, succeeded in doing so.

So far as we were informed the transaction was satisfactorily concluded, Tatsuno being transferred to the Central Utah War Relocation Project and a new tenant having taken possession of the property.

- 2 -

Captain Chas. A. Middleton, AUS

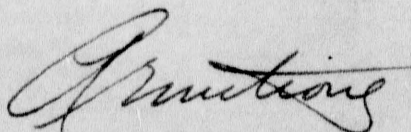
December 17, 1942

We are now provided with a letter from The Anglo California National Bank, dated December 15, 1942, a copy of which is enclosed for your information, as is a copy of that bank's letter to Mr. Tatsuno of the same date.

It appears that further problems have been encountered with respect to this property, and it is to be expected that Mr. Tatsuno may seek the assistance of the appropriate agency with regard to the matter.

In view of these circumstances we believe the subject should be called to your attention and, feeling that you may consider it within the jurisdiction of the War Relocation Authority inasmuch as our authorities in respect to matters of this character have been withdrawn, we have taken the liberty of forwarding a copy of this letter, and of each of the enclosures, to the attention of the Evacuee Property Division of the War Relocation Authority.

Yours very truly,



Herbert D. Armstrong,  
Acting Assistant Cashier.

**Enclosures**

Armstrong/els

cc: Mr. Russell Robinson  
Evacuee Property Division  
War Relocation Authority  
Whitcomb Hotel, San Francisco