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Different Views on Relocation

On March 6, 1942, the *San Francisco News* offered its opinion on the relocation of local Japanese Americans:

Although their removal . . . may inconvenience them somewhat, even work serious hardships upon some, they must certainly recognize the necessity of clearing the coastal combat areas of all possible . . . saboteurs . . . That is a clear-cut policy easily understood. Its execution should be supported by all citizens of whatever racial background, but especially it presents an opportunity to the people of an enemy race to prove their spirit of co-operation and keep their relations with the rest of the population of this country on the firm ground of friendship. Every indication has been given that the transfer will be made with the least possible hardship.

Yoshiko Uchida was a teenager when she and her family were forced to leave their homes. Their first stop was Tanforan Racetrack, which had been turned into a temporary camp for Japanese Americans before they went to the relocation centers. She later wrote about her experiences:

The stall was about ten by twenty feet and empty except for three folded Army cots lying on the floor. Dust, dirt, and wood shavings covered the linoleum that had been laid over the manure-covered boards, the smell of horses hung in the air, and the whitened corpses of many insects still clung to the hastily white-washed walls. . . . We spent most of the evening talking about food and the lack of it, a concern that grew obsessive over the next few weeks when we were constantly hungry.