

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
Washington

October 23, 1942

Mr. Clarence Pickett
American Friends Service Committee
20 South Twelfth Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Attention: Mr. Homer L. Morris

Dear Mr. Pickett:

I am very glad to learn that the Friends Service Committee is actively engaged in finding employment for the evacuated people of Japanese ancestry and is aiding them to get relocated and readjusted in the new communities where they are going.

Relocation of the people of Japanese ancestry who have been evacuated from the West Coast, is, as you know, the principal task to date of the War Relocation Authority. During the past few months, most of the evacuees have gone into relocation centers. Many of them will desire to remain in these centers as a refuge for the duration of the War and there are some who should not be allowed their freedom until the War is over. But a large number, and it is hoped that in time this will be the large majority, should be enabled to leave the relocation centers permanently.

The War Relocation Authority has recently adopted regulations which should enable all of the evacuees who are qualified and care to do so to leave the relocation centers. These regulations were discussed with the War Department and the Department of Justice and have the approval of these Departments. In cooperation with various public and private agencies we are now working out procedures to assist the evacuees in finding employment outside the relocation centers. The new regulations and the program of outside employment are meeting with the approval and receiving the assistance of other agencies of the Federal Government. The leading religious, social, and philanthropic agencies of the country are taking an active part in this program.

The whole country is facing the problem of an insufficient supply of labor and the employment of evacuees wherever they are needed on the farms and in the cities will aid materially to relieve the present acute shortage of manpower. I am convinced that the absorption of the evacuated people into the normal channels of American life, insofar as possible, is the most practicable solution for the economic and social problems created by the evacuation of these people.

Sincerely,

Director

(D.S. Myer)