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RELEASE TO PRESS

Following a conference in Washington yesterday between representatives of the War Relocation Authority and the American Friends Service Committee announcement was made that for the present plans for using Scattergood as a relocation hostel for persons of Japanese ancestry to assist the W.R.A. in its relocation program would be postponed. Officials of the W.R.A. and the A.F.S.C. expressed regret over this decision but stated that it is the policy to establish relocation hostels only in those communities where cooperation can be readily secured. As a result of this decision the farmers in the West Branch area will not have as accessible a supply of Japanese-American labor ^{as} ~~which~~ the hostel would have provided. The hostel plan would have enabled those persons of Japanese ancestry who are now in the relocation centers and had been issued leave clearances on the basis that no record of disloyalty existed, to go to the hostel and reside there temporarily while they were securing employment.

The WRA plans to continue to release evacuees to points in Iowa wherever there is a shortage of labor but farmers and others will not have the opportunity of personal ^{acquaintance} ~~contact~~ before employment that the hostel plan would have afforded.

The Scattergood hostel which has been conducted during the past five years by the A.F.S.C. has a retraining and orientation center for refugees will be closed on March 15. About 200 refugees have received instruction in English and American citizenship and have now secured jobs in their adopted country.

The first hostel to assist Americans of Japanese ancestry to get relocated into the normal stream of economic life was opened last month in Chicago by the American Friends Service Committee.