

MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL AND THE CO-ORDINATING  
COMMITTEE OF THE TULE LAKE CENTER

February 8, 1944

Special joint meeting of the Advisory Council and the Co-ordinating Committee of the Tule Lake Center was held on February 8, 1944, from 10:15 a.m. at the Project Director's office. Assistant Project Director Harry Black presided.

Those present were: Advisory Council: H. Black, M. Opler, P. Robertson, Markley, I. Lechliter, L. Huycke, and N. MacNeil.

Co-ordinating Committee: M. Shimada, G. Yamatani, I. Namekawa, K. Okamoto, J. Naydo, J. Nakao

Others: Lt. Forbes, B. Mayeda, F. Furukawa, Utz.

Mr. Utz from the Washington Staff was introduced to the body.

Mr. Yamatani was then called upon to give the synopsis of the joint meeting of the Co-ordinating Committee and two stockade internees held at the latter's request on Saturday, February 5. Thereupon, Mr. Yamatani requested the release of some 18 men listed namely, Shimizu, Kozuma, etc. and assured that if these men could be granted release they can be of an invaluable assistance to the Committee's work. Mr. Black questioned whether the Committee was fully convinced of the sincerity and integrity of those two interviewed or whether the internees had schemed such as a step toward expediency on their part. Mr. Yamatani believed that if the group of 18 could be called together, the Committee could question them, thus enabling them to ascertain and verify their sincerity and integrity. However, opinions were voiced by some of the members of the Advisory Council that interviewing of the 18 would be a matter of doubt and question, inasmuch as the Committee had bungled in its last attempt of interviewing only six. Mr. Yamatani opinioned on the contrary and said that a man who can express himself and is not afraid to express himself in the presence of a group can be of a greater help to the Committee's work. Mr. Huycke asked whether the signing of statement will be consistent with the Japanese psychology -- can a Japanese sign a statement like this and really live up to it when he had formerly supported the Negotiating Committee and promised that he will never yield. (Tentative statement was drawn up by the Committee as a sample of a statement which may be drawn up by the detainees. The statement includes a pledge of the undersignees to support the Co-ordinating Committee by working for the good of the Colony.) Mr. Yamatani stated past actions and records will clarify such doubts. Lt. Forbes commented that there is no objection from the military point of view because the Center was turned over to the WRA on January 15; moreover, all those being released are being done on the basis of Army clearance. Mr. Black added that if there are other charges against a detainee other than mere allegiance to the Negotiating Committee, implications may be encountered in obtaining their release. Nevertheless he stated that subsequent to clearance by the Army, Police Department, and records of FBI, these parties may be considered for a release.

Mr. Markley thought that the statement tentatively prepared by the Committee was slightly off-base and suggested that such should be written from a broader basis rather than purely to support the Co-ordinating Committee and its work. It may be thought that the obligation of the detainees will terminate upon dissolution of the Committee.

In reference to the Block 49 janitor dispute and block 6 trouble, Mr. Black requested for further additional informations.

Mr. Black went on to say that he and Mr. Thomas will go to Manzanar probably next week to give preliminary information regarding this Center. He also mentioned that Manzanar people should be given proportionate employment opportunities, for example,

their own blocks should be manned by their own people such as kitchen crew, block manager, secretary, etc.

Pertaining to the stockade question, Mr. Black said that available CCC Camp was negotiated, but was found that the space was inadequate. Another available CCC Camp was found but the buildings had been entirely taken away. Loupe was also considered, but it was deemed too expensive to operate it inasmuch as it was recently closed up. Converting the chicken farm into a segregation center would incur an expense of \$75,000 merely to install sewage and water facilities. Another suggestion was to utilize the extreme three-end blocks of the new construction -- one to be inhabited and other two to be used as 'buffers'. By so doing it will avoid the necessity of sacrificing the nine blocks in Ward 7.

Mr. Nakao requested that the south gate be opened even for the period of 'rush hour' for the convenience of the workers. Mr. Black promised to clear it with Mr. Schmidt.

Mr. Huycke then summarized the future plan of a Civic Center in Block 18, in which such offices as Social Welfare, Housing, Placement, Co-op, Community Activity, etc. will be centralized.

Upon inference that some difficulties will be incurred in our attempt to clear the residents of Block 18, Mr. Black indicated that the order is definitely an Administrative one, and if oppositions are met 'such people can go into the stockade.'

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Byron Akitsuki  
Executive Secretary