

QUESTION REVISION

The registration of aliens at Manzanar held February 12 to 16, inclusive, was primarily for the purpose of securing from each registrant information to be used as the basis for his leave clearance.

Among the questions asked was No. 28, which read as follows:

"Are you sympathetic to the United States and do you agree faithfully to defend the United States from any and all attack by foreign or domestic forces?"

The above question was worded by the staff at Manzanar under authority of the War Relocation Authority given by Dillon S. Myer, the Director. Similar authority was given to each of the other Projects. Our staff acted promptly and for the best interests of the residents of Manzanar. Other Projects delayed registration in order that their Question No. 28 should be worded for them by Washington. After the Manzanar registration had closed, Director Myer advised other Projects which had not yet begun registration that they might ask Question 28 as follows:

"Will you swear to abide by the laws of the United States and to take no action which would in any way interfere with the war effort of the United States?"

It is now clear that the revised question worded by the Washington authorities is so different from the question asked at Manzanar that many of our people are requesting the opportunity of answering the same question that was asked at other Projects. It is stated that the revised question is more easily understood and more clearly translated into Japanese than was the question originally asked at Manzanar.

In order that our residents at Manzanar may have every advantage that is offered to the residents of other Relocation Centers, I am advising our residents that other Centers have answered a different question No. 28 and that the residents of Manzanar may answer the same question if they so desire.

I am asking the various organizations of Manzanar to give careful consideration to this very important matter and to advise me of the wishes of our residents.

If a sufficient number indicate that it is the desire of the people of Manzanar that all aliens in our Center who may have answered "Yes" or "No", or qualified their answer to No. 28 should be given the opportunity of answering this new question by saying "Yes", then such opportunity will be given. If the showing is sufficiently important of those changing from "No" to "Yes", I will then request our Washington office of W.R.A. to consider the cancellation of answers given for the first registration and ask permission to substitute the answer now given to the revised Question 28.

In case sufficient changes from "No" to "Yes" on Question 28 are made by the non-citizen group, I will then ask to be authorized to accept changes from "No" to "Yes" by citizens. The time and place for receiving such changes by citizens will be stated in a bulletin to be issued as soon as possible after the results are known on the changes by non-citizens. No change will be made in the wording of the question asked citizens.

Ralph P. Merritt
Ralph P. Merritt
Project Director

外人に對する

質問第三十八項修正する

通般二月十二日より十六日迄の間當センターに於て
 實施した外人登録は主として出所許可に對し
 基礎となるべきものを得たものがあつた。
 質問書第三十八項の向は即ち、貴殿は米國に同
 情し若し外敵より襲撃を受けたり或は内亂
 が起つた場合に合衆國政府を忠實に擁護する事
 に賛成するかであつた。右の質問は轉任局長
 からマイヤー氏の指令に基いてセンター當局より
 マンザナー住民に為早送發せられたものである。
 同様の質問書が各轉任所迄送られたのであ
 るが他の轉任所では質問書第三十八項を華府よ
 り與へて貰はんが為登録を遅滞せしめられた。聽てマ
 ンザナーでは登録が終了し、一方登録を開始してゐ
 ながつた他のセンターでは第三十八項の質問を次の如
 く変更して改良の旨マイヤー局長より忠告された。
 貴殿は米國合衆國の法律を遵守し米國の
 戦争遂行を妨げずが如き如何なる行動をも採
 らざる事を誓約するか。

この修正されたる質問はマンザナーのそれと外常に相違
 してゐるので多数のマンザナー住民は他のセンターに於けると
 同様の質問に返答する機会を與へて貰ふべく要請
 してゐる。

茲に於て私は他のセンター住民と同等なる便益をマンザナー
 住民に與へんが為、他のセンターの質問書第三十八項はマン
 ザナーとは異なる事、希望を以てマンザナー住民に同じ
 質問に返答し得る事を、住民に告げてゐる。

又、私はマンザナーの諸團體が斯か、重大事項を
 慎重に考慮し、マンザナー住民の欲する所を忠告
 されたく望んでゐる。

若し第三十八項の質問にイエスと答へ、又はノーと答へ
 或は條件を附して返答した全外人は新質問にイエ
 スと答へる機会を與へられるべきであると望む住民が
 かなりの數に及べば其の機会は與へられるだらう。

その事が是れ外ローイイスに變更する事に大切であるなら
 私はWRA華府オフィスに最初の登録に對する返答の取
 消修正第三十八項の質問に對する答の承認を考へて
 貰ふやう要請する事になつてゐる。若し第三十八項の問
 題に對しノーからイエスに変更する外人の數が多数に達す
 る場合は市民に對してノーからイエスへの変更し得る機
 会を與へられる様願ふつもりである。市民に對する詳細な
 説明は外人の登録変更後、而告示板に掲示され
 る事になつてゐる。但し市民の第三十八項質問の内容
 は何等の變更は行はれない。

マンザナーセンター所長
 アルバート・メリット