

JEROME RELOCATION CENTER
Community Analysis Section
May 11, 1943

OFFERS OF EMPLOYMENT TO RESIDENTS

OF JEROME RELOCATION CENTER IN RELATION TO THEIR PREVIOUS SKILLS ^{1/}

A comparison was made of the former occupations of the evacuees and the outside offers of employment. The data assembled, especially the former occupations, may be helpful to the WRA field offices in providing the kinds of jobs wanted.

This study shows clearly that one of the lags in the resettlement program has been the lack of adjustment in the type and quantity of employment offered. In certain major fields there has been no correlation between the skills of the evacuees and the opportunities for employment. To illustrate: domestic jobs make up 38 percent of the total openings, while only 4 percent of the evacuees had previously done that type of work. In fact, there were over 400 openings with only 178 experienced evacuees to fill them. There are openings for 30 electricians and only 2 evacuees skilled in that work.

On the other hand, agricultural work was done by 49 percent of the evacuees, but farm labor offers were comparatively few, only 18 percent. (Some of this disparity will be made up by the farm offers which neglected to specify the number of workers needed, i.e. sugar beets) Another point is, most of the job offers have been for laborers while many evacuees operated and managed their own farms. And while 11 percent of the evacuees previously did sales work, only one company offered employment to retail clerks. There are many with managerial skill and experience but relatively few openings for them. There are no openings for those skilled in transportation service and metal work offers are disproportionately small.

To a certain extent this discrepancy cannot be avoided, but WRA employment offices could seek more suitable jobs. It should not be necessary to further emphasize that a successful program of resettlement would require better correlation between outside employment offers and the skills of the evacuees. Until that adjustment is made, the program is not running at its peak efficiency.

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~~NOTE:~~ Sources for this study were the occupational files derived from WRA Form 26, and the file of employment opportunities in the Leaves Office. Some of the positions have already been filled but were included in the study to show the complete field of offers. The occupations have been classified according to the Dictionary of Occupational Titles.