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REVISED ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY TEMPORARY
COUNCIL OF BLOCK CHAIRMEN AT HEART MOUNTAIN
October 1, 1942

1. Q. If any part of the administrative instructions is found to be hindering in actual practice the smooth functioning of community machinery, as in the case of certain ruling regarding private employment of the evacuees, which caused acute labor shortage within the project compound (Administrative Instruction No. 27, Private Employment), we consider its modification to be necessary, as well as essential, for the welfare of the center.
- A. If necessary and if it is recommended, we will consider modifying any policy. It is evident that if we are to have cities of the type you have at Heart Mountain, provision must be made for the many services necessary to run the cities. Provision will have to be made for training additional people to take over jobs left by those who go out in private employment on indefinite leave or on group leave. (Since the meeting was held with the Block Chairmen, it has been determined that there will be no private employment at relocation centers at prevailing wage rates. Administrative Instruction No. 27 relating to private employment is being revised accordingly. The only exception to this statement is in those cases where commitments have been made previous to the revision of the policy.)
2. Q. Is it the present policy of WRA to encourage outside living of evacuees within non-military zones, thus gradually contracting scope of various relocation projects; or is it to encourage settlement within the centers by adoption of some sort of homestead act, thus laying the foundation for economic independence? The greatest cause of uneasiness of all evacuees is uncertainty as to their future.
- A. It is the policy of the WRA to assist in relocating as many people outside of relocation centers as possible and feasible. We do not know as yet how much relocation will be possible. Just last week I signed leave regulations which are a revision of Administrative Instruction No. 22 and much broader than the original instructions. The essential features of this leave policy are as follows:
- Anyone may make application for indefinite leave from relocation centers. There are certain conditions though that will have to be met. Those requesting leave must have a definite place to go to and be able to take care of themselves. We must have reasonable assurance that the community will accept them. There will be an investigation of the records of the individual, including a check against the records of the FBI, and a determination by WRA that

those requesting leave would not jeopardize the internal security of the United States. If leave is granted, each individual receiving leave must agree to notify WRA of change in location so we can have at all times the address of evacuees. Under these conditions those granted leave may locate any where outside of areas restricted by military order.

There are two other types of leave provided under the leave regulations, one is temporary leave from the centers to attend funerals and for other urgent reasons, and the other is group leave for employment in private industry for limited periods on the outside of the centers.

We realize there is a great deal of uneasiness among evacuees as to their future just as there is a great deal of uneasiness among people generally as to their future after the war. We are not in a position at this time to encourage settlement within the centers by adoption of some sort of homestead act. I would suggest that no one plan to continue to live in the areas which are now relocation centers after the war, because I doubt very much whether this will be feasible or possible.

3. Q. Please explain and clarify the status of the Japanese evacuees as interpreted by the WRA.

A. The status of Japanese evacuees. WRA accepts the fact that evacuation was a military necessity. The WRA was established as a civilian agency to handle the relocation of evacuees. As a step in this direction, relocation centers were established as a place to live until a more satisfactory relocation policy could be worked out. It will be the policy of the WRA to assist applicants for indefinite leave from centers to relocate in communities on the outside of the centers in private employment, insofar as it is possible to do so.

There is much misunderstanding on the part of many people in the United States regarding the status of evacuees. It is our hope that a large number of evacuees may become reestablished in normal community life outside of relocation centers. The speed with which this can be accomplished will depend on an understanding by the public, as well as cooperation on the part of evacuees. WRA will do everything in its power to see that the public is properly informed and to assist evacuees with good records in relocating. Anything we can do during the period of the war to create a better understanding and to bring about sound relocation would, from our point of view, be very helpful in the post-war adjustment program.

4. Q. Are all adult evacuees within the center allowed equal opportunity and equal rights to participate in all Project activities, both economic, social, and political, regardless of sex or nativity? We consider in a community of our type this to be of paramount importance, especially in the formation of a self-government. If this special community is not founded on democratic principles, the success might be rather ambiguous. Anything to this should be amended immediately.

A. The policy relating to community government now provides that anyone 18 years of age and above may vote in an election of a representative council. Those who are elected as members of the council must be citizens of the United States. The appointive officers on boards and commissions are not limited to citizens. It is hoped by the WRA that sound plans will be worked out within each of the centers where the active, sound leadership of all ages and groups can be utilized to the fullest capacity in developing the program within the centers and maintaining sound, orderly government. It will take time to work out the detailed procedures in each of the centers and to clarify the detailed relationships between the evacuee representatives and the administration. It is hoped that any ambiguities and misunderstandings can be clarified within a reasonably short time.

5. Q. We desire an explanation on what basis the decision of standard cash allowance of \$12, \$16, and \$19 was made. Please explain what is the trust fund and how does it operate.

A. The decision on the \$12, \$16, and \$19 a month wage scale was made quite some time before I became associated with the WRA; consequently, I cannot answer this question completely. I am quite sure that one of the factors which entered into the decision at that time was the fact that the soldier boys in the Army were receiving \$21 a month. I do not care to make any commitments regarding changes in wages in the future. We would much rather that those who wish to make money above the amount provided in the centers would look forward to relocating on the outside of the centers, rather than hope for increased pay inside the centers.

The question regarding a trust fund and how it operates was raised. There is no trust fund, however, there has been some discussion of such a fund. A study is now being made of the feasibility in establishing a fund that might provide larger returns to evacuees in relocation centers. We do not care to establish such a fund unless it is determined there would be funds to be distributed; unless it proved to be feasible from the standpoint of the administration of such a fund; and we would need to have it thoroughly understood and approved by Congress before we could put any such plan into operation.

It has been determined that community enterprises, such as community stores and other similar activities, will be handled and supervised by evacuees if they care to do so, and any profits may be redistributed to members through patronage dividends or through reduction in prices. It is assumed that this will be an evacuee operated program. (Since visiting Heart Mountain, it has definitely been determined that there will be no trust fund established in relation to production enterprises, such as agriculture and industry, and that anyone who works in the center will receive pay in accordance with the WRA wage scale policy. This determination was made after making a further study, as was indicated above, and we found such a plan was not feasible and would prove entirely impractical from an administrative standpoint.)

- 6. Q. Are we to expect to share in all the profits from the community enterprises over and above the cost of running the enterprises ?
 - A. The answer is 'yes'. It does not seem feasible to have private business operate within the center as it would normally on the outside in providing services such as those operated by stores and other community enterprises. Provision is being made for these services to be established in a cooperative basis and any profits that accrue may be distributed to members. In the interim period any funds that may accrue in the operation of enterprises will be maintained as a separate fund and turned over to the directors of the cooperative group when the cooperative program is fully established.

- 7. Q. What is the relationship of a private enterprise, for example, Polarizing Instrument Company of New York to the Heart Mountain Relocation Project ?
 - A. The policy on private enterprises as it now exists provides as follows:

All industrial enterprises must be approved by the Director. If and when private industries are established at the center, those working in them will be required to pay subsistence to the WRA. There will be no clothing allowances provided for those working in private industries and securing prevailing wages. It will be determined by the Council whether the wages received in private industry above the WRA wage scale and after subsistence has been paid will be retained by the worker, or whether this money will be put into a fund to distributed to all employed evacuees, whether in private industry or rendering service within the center.

One such industry has been approved for Heart Mountain on the recommendation of the Army Air Force. It is planned to make polarizing

10/1/42

instruments which are badly needed in the war effort. (Since this meeting the Army Air Force has canceled its contract with the Polarizing Instrument Company, and in line with the present policies of the WRA, we are not planning to have any private industry which would operate at prevailing wage scales at the Heart Mountain Relocation Center. It is assumed that the building which was constructed by the Polarizing Instrument Company will be utilized for some other purpose.)

8. Q. Does the original government plan contain the establishment of schools at the same time with living quarters and recreation halls? If it does, what is the cause of the delay?

A. It was originally planned that schools and administrative quarters for members of the administrative staff would be constructed during the summer and fall, utilizing evacuee labor insofar as it was possible. WRA did not anticipate the trouble that developed in securing materials for such buildings, consequently, there has been a drastic delay. The policy of trying to construct these buildings following the construction of the barracks by the Army proved to be a mistake that no one could foresee, in view of the fact that we had to secure all clearances through the War Production Board. This made us from three to six months late in the building of our program in relation to these items. (It is my understanding that a contract has been let for schools and administrative quarters at Heart Mountain, and I am assuming that these buildings are now in the process of construction.)

9. Q. In view of the approaching severe weather we desire supply of a complete winter outfit before the regular clothing allowance is issued. All of us are deprived of our independent source of income by evacuation order. We are at present located at the Heart Mountain Relocation Project in Wyoming, which is one of the coldest among the ten relocation centers.

A. (The draft which I received did not indicate that this question was answered.) It has been the policy of the WRA to provide clothing in such amounts as necessary to assure that no one would be cold. It is my understanding that this problem has been reasonably well solved at the Heart Mountain Relocation Center.

20-4135