

December 2, 1942

12-26 South End

9:30 A.M.

Joint Session of Block Chairmen and B.A.O.

Report on J.A.C.L. Conference by Mr. Bill Hosokawa of the Sentinel. Mr. Hosokawa reported that 9 out of 10 relocation centers were represented to the Conference while 10 of outside J.A.C.L. chapters attended; conference was approved by Dillon Myer, W.R.A. Director.

First part of the conference dealt mainly with discussions to see what could be done for the evacuees in various centers. Reports of conditions prevailing in centers and various recommendations made as to evacuees' wishes of what could be done were submitted. JACL will cooperate with WRA in the courses of evacuees resettlement.

Policy of Resettlement--major program of W.R.A.

1. Effective immediately
2. 25,000 to be resettled
3. Efforts in expeditiousness in issuing permit for leave
4. Objection to concentration in order to avoid saturation to create evacuee domination in the community
5. Field men to establish supporting bodies which will be interested in evacuees
6. Educational campaign: Radio, newspaper, magazines, and through churches and civic organizations

Second part of the conference was directed on the question of what JACL could do for the evacuees.

1. In favor of WRA Resettlement Policy.
2. Push resettlement movement.
3. Establishment of public relation work: Laying foundation for community acceptance of evacuees.
4. Educational work in the fields for evacuees: Farmland in western states.
5. Delegates carried plans for pushing JACL organization and providing services within the relocation centers.

Mr. Hosokawa further reported that no provisions were made as to government subsidy for evacuees, however, government loans are not feasible for the time being and WRA will promote private loans to set evacuees financially in starting a new life.

In connection with provisions for government subsidy, Congress did not even approve an allotment of appropriation for centers' recreational facilities. Nevertheless, through protests entered against Government by various church groups and civic organizations, the evacuees may be granted to a certain extent approval on requests made by them; and which applies to the erection of fences around the camp grounds.

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With the WRA's intention for educational campaign by ways of radio and magazine, and newspaper articles a contradictory situation to such efforts was pointed out by Mr. Tomo, and that is the restriction placed upon evacuees' freedom of speech and press. Consequently, discussion had entered the subject of policy of papers, the matter was rested open for further discussion at another joint meeting inasmuch as such discussion was outside the topic of JACL Conference.

Then the questions were asked on the evacuees' status in selective service. No definite conclusion had arrived on this matter; however, it was considered the nisei may be restored with selective service status as any other citizen in the near future regardless of whether he is in the center or has resettled in an outside community. As to classifications no specific provisions were announced.

In answer to the question of internal security was brought up by Mr. Koide, Mr. Hosokawa pointed out in reference to the Poston incident, that the report was made to the conference by K. Higashi of Poston that the Police cannot assert authority among residents. Mr. Myer ruled that it was along the same cause occurred in Manzanar and Tule Lake, in which personal grudges had been the main issue rather than political motives. The incidents were caused by natural disaffection fermented from confinement, and in these cases, issei-nisei disturbance had very little to do with direct causes. Mr. Myer advocated the power of internal security that any flagrant violation of Administration of center be drawn to his attention and the office of the WRA Director is open to such attention for fair investigation.

As to the possibilities in raising wage scales and allowances, Myer said it is not contemplated but also not impossible.

It is the objective of the WRA to resettle as many evacuees as possible to as large an area as possible, on the conditions that:

1. Places and jobs are available
2. Reasonable assurance is accepted by community
3. Records of FBI and relocation centers are g recommendable
4. Reports to WRA of whereabouts are agreed by evacuees
5. It is agreed to keep out of areas excluded to evacuees.

The policy of resettlement is not compulsory. The relocation centers shall be limited to basic needs of evacuees within them.

The Joint Session adjourned at 11:30 A.M.

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Block Chairmen's Meeting 12-26 S. 11:30 A.M.

Absentee: Mr. Kakuuchi

Mr. Nagata reported that Mr. Carroll, Housing and Employment Division, will have announcement on Fair Practice Organization.

Mr. Nagumo reported that Mr. Stanton will issue requisition for work order upon approval of boiler crew for additional fireman and upon understanding of the additional fireman that the crew will take charge of boiler and stoves in three shifts on a 24-hour basis.

The Chairmen's Council assigned its secretary to submit a memorandum that above mentioned terms had been thoroughly understood and approved by the firemen crew in all blocks.

Mr. Fujimoto reported in connection with work clothing that Miss Virgil Payne would discuss the matter with Mr. Barber and the stock would not be released for public until Monday, 12-7-42.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 P.M.