

February 2, 1945  
Tuesday

At Conference Room

At 9:30 A.M.

Absentees: Messrs. Kaneko and Hara

Mr. T. Sashihara (28-20-D) and Mr. Shuji Oshio (7-10-F) succeeding Messrs. Yokota (B-28) and Kawahara (B-7), respectively, were introduced as new Block Chairmen.

Mr. Hagusa proposed to request construction of a means whereby vapors and moisture in the attic of the washrooms. The Council concluded this matter be referred to Block Managers who, in turn, enter requisition in Luzzia's office for action.

Mr. Barber reported on the Conference with WRA in Denver. The statement by Sec'y Stinson marked the turning point in the manner of WRA attitude toward Washington from defense position to offense that Washington would have to cooperate with the effort of relocation centers. Billen Myer is interested in opening up civil service positions for nisei as well as WAAC for girls. It was reported that defense industries have been opened up. As to the question of numbers in volunteer combat unit will not be known to general public in order to avoid criticism.

For secondary issue in the conference was dealt on relocation programs. Relocation is thought of as relocation of not only nisei but also issei as well. Employment offices will line up employment for evacuee and then clear with communities to locate evacuees generally. The offices will send to relocation centers (specifications of jobs: No more college graduates for housework jobs. The offices will clear with local unions and work with them in accordance.

Thirdly, farm work policy was discussed. A plan was set up to relocate farmers in a small group of not more than 30 persons in one locality: Concentration may bring panic, mentally as well as economically, upon local people. To relocate evacuees on far land, Government will pay their transportation and moving personal belongings to the place of destination as well as expenses for transportation of property from the west coast to such place of resettlement. A revolving fund of \$200,000 was set up for F.S.A. for such purposes. 300 acres of farmland has been located in Indiana. In connection with such relocation it is planned to provide a course in geography, community relationship, and agriculture which pertains to Middle-west as well as a course in clerical work to train evacuees in resettlement. Due to opposition of seasonal workers it is planned to provide farm work on permanent basis.

The reaction of WRA and Billen Myer in presenting evacuee representatives in WRA Conference was negative. However, the WRA trend in establishing a self-government was in favor of issei participation. Evacuees are discouraged to return to relocation centers after leaving for outside work.

As to clothing allowances, it was ruled out that there shall be no general clothing allowances. As the WRA is thinking that relocation

February 2, 1943  
Tuesday

(2)

centers are temporary they want to avoid evacuees to settle down in relocation centers with such comfortable and easy provision as uniform clothing allowances, etc. As to work clothing; gloves, aprons, cover-alls will be distributed in about ten days. 20-25 bunker suits will be given to firemen, caps and badges to policemen.

Agenda, 1/26:

1. Cemetery ground fences:  
Posts have been provided and it now remains to wire them.
2. Chimney inspection:  
Mr. Robertson will look into this matter.
3. Protection of Property:  
Since WRA has no authority in taking steps to inspect evacuees' property without authorization of evacuees, WRA field representatives may be provided for such purposes.
4. No provision for insurance policy protection.

Mr. Maruyama of Topaz Relocation Center was introduced by Mr. Oka. Mr. Maruyama stressed on following points:

- a. Conference of evacuee representatives from all relocation centers.
- b. Get together and fight for common good.
- c. Community council as investigating body.
- d. Caution on election of elective offices--be democratic.

Mr. Koide requested Mr. Maruyama to correspond on center opinion on JACL, Spanish Consul, and other information. Mr. Maruyama gave name and address of the chairman of the community council as Tsuneichiro Saba, 36-10-B.

The Council advised Mr. Kakuuchi who complained of too many dance schedules in his block to refer the scheduling to the Recreation Space Committee:

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 A.M.