

Nagumo

BLOCK CHAIRMAN'S MEETING

FEBRUARY 6, 1943

SATURDAY

1. request Mr. Ierin to send one responsible person in the Dental Clinic Staff to give accurate information regarding Clinic work.
2. request thorough discussion of gambling problem with the Council, and, request adoption of some basic rule on the same.
(Mr. Robertson)
3. request removal to proper place of iron-beds now piled up outside Housing Dept. office at 21-22. (Mr. Embree)

BLOCK CHAIRMEN'S MEETING

FEBRUARY 6, 1943

10:00 a. m.

1. Request that your office supply us with the amended text of the Temporary Judicial Code, if and when it is finally adopted.
2. Request Mr. Housel to prepare digest on Administrative Instruction No. 77 (property evacuees) for the benefit of the residents in general and chairmen in particular.

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Saturday

Administration recreation

10:00 A.M.

Joint Meeting with Block Managers.
Special Speaker--Lieutenant Ray McDaniels and three others.

Mr. Todd introduced Lieutenant McDaniels and his aide.

Lieutenant McDaniels read War Dept. Statement regarding voluntary enlistment and formation of Special Combat Unit of "Japanese-Americans". War Dept. chose this method instead of letting representative to each of the ten relocation Centers, to make verbal reports so as to avoid any chances of War Dept's aim from being misunderstood, or from giving wrong impression.

MAIN POINTS ARE:

War Dept. realized that mass evacuation, which was necessary as an emergency measure, has done injustices to the loyal "Japanese-Americans".

Now it wishes to correct this, and give equal treatment to Americans of Japanese blood like any other American citizen, and return them to normal community.

It will accept voluntary enlistment so as to form special combat unit of Japanese-Americans at Shelby, Mississippi.

Eventually, Selective Service will be applied to Japanese Americans.

Purpose of forming Special Units is to symbolize the loyalty of "Japanese-Americans" in the eyes of the American public, and this contribute towards breaking down of erroneous conception held by the American public regarding "Japanese-Americans". Success or failure of putting into effect of this radical extension and broadening of policy depends upon voluntary act of the Japanese Americans. Questionnaire will be distributed among the residents, and those over 17 will be asked to fill in.

(For full detail--see text of Statement.)

QUESTIONS to and ANSWERS by Lieutenant McDaniels

Q: Who drafted this statement?

A: Undersecretary Patterson participated, but this is an official Statement of the War Dept., and not of individual. The President personally approved it.

Q: Will all those who volunteer be accepted?

A: Those physically fit will be accepted.

Q: Will there be an discrimination against the Kibei?

A: No.

Q: What does a combat unit consist of?

A: Infantry, engineering artillery, and medical corps.

Q: If those volunteers wish to be in regular army unit rather than special "Japanese-American" unit, will they be allowed?

A: So far as present effort is concerned, they are to volunteer for the Special Combat Unit.

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Q: Will those holding reserve commissions be allowed to volunteer?

A: Yes, but there would be no definite promises made at this time that they would be accepted at their present rank.

If a doctor holds Captain's Commission, he should wait until called into service. He will be more useful as doctor, and not as infantryman.

Q: Does Government recognize that it has done injustice to the evacuees?

A: To loyal elements among the evacuees--Yes.

Q: Why ask for volunteers? Isn't it better to re-classify first, and then ask for volunteers?

A: There will be re-classification of all.

Q: Wasn't 4C classification wrong?

A: That classification was arbitrarily assigned.

Q: Isn't formation of special unit discrimination?

A: Not meant that way. It was for focusing public's attention.

Q: How about Navy? Can one volunteer for Navy?

A: Navy is now conferring on this matter. Decision will be made known.

Q: Why can't loyal Japanese Americans be permitted to Military Zone?

Leut. McDaniels lists Military reasons. Mr. Carroll, however, stated that so far as WRA is concerned, indefinite leave will be granted if Western Defense Command OKS.

Q: Can those discharged before Pearl Harbor volunteer?

A: Yes.

Q: What is the criterion of loyal and disloyal?

A: Those who are not definitely proven disloyal will be regarded as loyal.

EXPLANATION for indefinite leave for aliens Japanese given.

Q: Will there be any curfew for those who go out?

A: No.

Q: Father in internment camp; son in U.S. Army. Will father be let out if charges against him is not serious?

A: No. But consideration may be given to facilitate re-hearing.

Q: Will those who volunteer get exactly the same treatment as any Caucasian?

A: Yes.

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Q: Will those who volunteer get exactly the same treatment as any Caucasian?

A: Yes.

Q: Will they receive compensation for their dependent even if the dependents stay in WRA Center?

A: Yes. (Sgt. Tamara said *that* his wife is receiving compensation although she is in Heart Mountain.)

Meeting adjourned at 12:05 P.M.

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Conference Room

Even Session

Absentees: Kaneko, Tsunokai, Oshio, and Hara.

1. Communications from Minidoka and Foster read. Reply to be drafted by the Secretary.

2. Temporary Judiciary Code. Mr. Barber read letter signed by Mr. Doi of the Judicial Commission proposing eight amendments to the Temporary Judicial code which has already been approved in principle by the Council.

Mr. Barber stated that Messrs. Robertson, Housell, and himself examined these eight points and accepted four, rejected three, one point is already covered in the original text. He asked for Council's opinion--as presented by Mr. Barber. Mr. Doi's suggestion and administration's position on each are:

(1) Mr. Doi's suggestion No. 1

The clerk of Court (Mr. Umemoto in this case) "shall preside as the chairman of the Preliminary Hearing Board".

Accepted.

(2) Suggestion No. 2.

Members of judicial body "not to serve" on the Preliminary Hearing Board.

Rejected.

Reason: "If representative of judicial body take part, there will be greater harmony, and hence, purpose of the board better achieved."

(3) Suggestion No. 3.

To allow chairman of the Board to sign a written complaint concerning an offense--

The phrasing in the original text which says "any resident--may sign" already covers this point.

(4) Suggestion No. 4.

Presence of the accused at hearing.

"the accused shall be present but may not testify".

Rejected.

Reasons: a) not advisable to make the presence of the accused at Preliminary hearing ~~is~~ ^{compulsory} ~~inadvisable.~~

b) at the same ^{time}, if the accused is not allowed to testify, the Board's work would be greatly hindered.

(5) Suggestion No. 5.

Preliminary hearing board to "set the date for trial if a case is accepted for trial."

(6) Suggestion No. 6.

The Police Dept. "shall prepare all complaints, amended complaints as amended by the Hearing Boards, summons, etc.--"

Rejected.

Reason: Undue strain on the Police Dept. which has not sufficient technical facilities yet.

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(7) Suggestion No. 7.

Administration to "provide reporters, interpreters, and other necessary personnel--for each trial"
Accepted.

(8) Suggestion No. 8.

The P.D. to present the case at the trial.
Accepted.

After Mr. Barber left the Conference room, the Council took each point separately, and concurred with the Administration stand on each.

3. Copy of Administrative Instruction No. 77 (on evacuees' property) transmitted.

Council decide to ask project attorney to prepare digest of same for residents.

4. Eye examination and eye glasses:

Mr. Matsushige proposes purchase by WAA of one more instrument to facilitate eye-examination.
Passed.

5. Problem of Mental Clinic:

To request via Mr. Irwin some responsible person in the Clinic to come and give accurate information regarding this problem.

Passed.

6. Question of "show money" for student relocating to colleges.
referred to Education sub-committee.

7. Proposal to ask moving of night school to more centralized location or, establishment of a branch.
Rejected.

8. Mail delivery problem:

Mr. Matsushige on request from Mrs. Hashimoto, Block Manager 6, suggested that we request Administration that 1st class mail to be brought to Block office, sorted, and then delivered from there, and for this, to add another personnel to the Block office.
After considerable discussion proposal was withdrawn.

9. Showing of privately owned movies:

Suggestion that the owner of the film to obtain official sanction for each film before showing same.

10. Chairman's party:

Date: February 17 at 7:00 P.M.

Place: Block 7 messhall.

Each to bring 50 cents.

In addition to present chairman, following to be invited:
Four retired chairmen, secretaries (Iwamoto and "Akagawa");
Samuel Nagata.

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11. Question of gambling:

Proposal to discuss this problem with Project Director at next meeting, and recommend adoption by Administration of some rule on gambling.

Passed.

12. Mr. Carrol:

Mr. Carrol was called in to give brief talk on his official visit to Washington Headquarters of the WRA.

Among others he stated:

- a) outside sentiments are definitely turning better; in some localities sentiment was 80-20 against Japanese, now it is 50-50.
- b) Defense jobs are now open for Japanese-Americans including aliens in some cases; final say on this is in the hands of War Dept, not plant work owners.
- c) Civil Service status for evacuees.
(one from each Relocation Centers)
10 are leaving within 2 weeks to east on full civil service status.
- d) indefinite leave and registration:
There are two forms.
Form 304-A
for those male citizens of 17 or over
Form 126
for those female citizens of 17 or over as well as male and female aliens over 17 or over.
- e) return to center:
Story that once obtaining leave and gone out, one cannot come back to center is misleading. If there is valid reason, one can return to Relocation Center, though WRA will not encourage such.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 P.M.