

February 15, 1943  
Monday

Chairmen's Meeting  
10:00 a.m.

At Administration  
Recreation Hall

Questions to and answers by Mr. Robertson  
regarding registration questionnaires

- Q: If we apply for clearance, must we go out of the Center?  
A: No. There are three kinds of leaves:  
1. Short term leave--up to 30 days. Director can issue permit.  
2. Group work leave--permit issued by Director.  
3. Indefinite leave--This has to get Washington's ok. It took 30 to 60 days to obtain clearance from Washington.

Present proposal is to obtain clearance for all residents beforehand, so that if and when resident want to go out, Director can issue permit without asking Washington.

- Q: Is registering compulsory?  
A: Yes, except for those who signified their desire to be repatriated or expatriated. However, whether to go out of the Center or not is optional. One can remain in the Center.
- Q: Can one come back to the WRA Center after staying outside, say for 90 days?  
A: Yes, but in that case, application to come back to the Center must first be approved by Washington.
- Q: Can anyone, who had voluntarily evacuated to free zone, come into the Center?  
A: Yes, But application must be sent to Washington.
- Q: Those desiring to stay in the Relocation Center for the duration, do they have to register?  
A: Yes, they must register.
- Q: Applying is voluntary; registration means compulsion. Isn't it misleading to title this registration form "application for leave clearance"?  
A: I can see your point, but this form was printed at Washington. Hard to change it now.
- Q: Would you issue special bulletin clarifying this point?  
A: Bulletin has been distributed; but I will issue another one if necessary.
- Q: As to Question 28. It states: "Will you swear unqualified allegiance to the United States of America and forswear any form of allegiance or obedience to the Japanese emperor, or any other foreign government, power, or organization?" Such question would not be asked. Can anything be done about this?  
A: As a matter of fact, this question has been done away with. In place of this one, we have the following:

Handwritten notes in the right margin, including "28" and "1/15/43".



"Will you swear to abide by the laws of the United States and to take no action which would in any way interfere with the war effort of the United States?"

Q: Can a parolee obtain clearance?

A: Yes, but his case has to go through different channel, that is, it has to go through his board. If the boards ok's, then permit can be issued.

Q: Can a person cancel his "repatriation application"?

A: I should think so.

Q: Will the WRA pay fare to those who go out?

A: WRA does not pay, but it insists that the employer pay the fare.

Q: How about the transportation of household goods?

A: New instructions are as follows:

- 1) WRA will pay the cost of transferring of personal (not business) property stored at private storage to the government warehouse.
- 2) WRA will ship, free of charge to the evacuee, personal property stored at government warehouse direct to the place the evacuee is resettled.
- 3) In addition, WRA will pay transportation for 500 lb. of baggage from the Relocation Center to the place evacuee is resettled. Hand baggage is of course free.

Q: Those who already received their personal property shipped without specific request, what happens in their case?

A: There would be some adjustment.

Q: Suppose son is killed at the front. What happens to his property?

A: Best way is that he writes "will" now. Then his property will be properly handled in case of his death.

Q: Will there be any punishment to those who refuse to register?

A: There is no specific punishment.

Q: Saturday's "Sentinel" writes that parents of soldiers might be reclassified as friendly alien", is there anything to that?

A: At the time of Denver Conference, this was discussed. We tried to have this reclassification through special edict. Nothing definite is decided yet.

Q: Can those who signified their desire for repatriation ever obtain clearance?

A: No.

Q: Can they ever go out?

A: Yes, to settle personal affairs which cannot be settled otherwise before going back to Japan.



Q: Will you issue special bulletin clarifying the meaning of "application for Leave Clearance"? And when you do, will you also explain about the change in question " 28?"

A: Yes, I will.

Q: When do you expect to start registration?

A: February 16th.

Q: Did the young people ask you for postponement?

A: Yes, I postponed. But the instruction from Washington is that we have to finish it by February 23rd. If we do not start registering very soon, there will be a strong pressure from Washington.