

HEART MOUNTAIN RELOCATION PROJECT

HEART MOUNTAIN, WYOMING

FEBRUARY 15, 1943

To: Mr. Guy Robertson, Project Director
From: Temporary Council of Block Chairmen
Subject: Tenure of Office of the Block Chairmen

On November 2, 1942, Mr. E. E. Rachford, then Director of the Project, in his letter addressed to Temporary Council of Block Chairmen, stated:

"In view of the delay in the selection of a charter commission and the subsequent delay in the election of a permanent Council, I am requesting the present Block Chairmen to continue in office until the election of the permanent Council."

Almost three and a half months have passed since that time. In the meantime work of the Charter Commission was completed, and the final draft was, we understand, submitted to you on January 18 with specific request that approval or disapproval be indicated at an earliest possible opportunity, preferably by January 25. To date no intimation as to the approval of same was conveyed either to the Charter Commission or to the Temporary Council. It is already February 15.

Being a temporary Council, tenure of office of its members is not specifically set other than that vaguely stated phrase "until the election of a permanent Council".

As you probably are aware, it is extremely unsound for any governing body to continue on temporary basis indefinitely. There are, in our opinion, at least two angles to be seriously considered.

1. Being a temporary one, and having no firm ground to stand upon, the work of Council is extremely handicapped.
2. Since the Council began its work last August, residents have not been given any opportunity to express their confidence or non-confidence to the Council members. This is contrary to democratic principles.

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Hence, it is to the best interests of the Project as well as to that of the residents if a firm foundation for the evacuee government is laid at an earliest possible moment. The best way, of course, is the election of a permanent Council, under the provisions of a Heart Mountain Charter, whose drafting have already been completed. If, however, prospect of adoption of Charter is not particularly imminent, some emergency measure, such as adopted in the case of Community Enterprises, should be taken.

We hereby respectfully submit the following proposal:

1. To terminate the tenure of office of the present Block Chairmen as of February 28, 1943, continuing however the Block Chairmen system. In this particular case, there should be a general election of Block Chairmen on March 1. The candidacy to be open to all residents of voting age, including the present Chairmen.

Your reply at the earliest possible moment will be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

Minejiro Hayashida, Chairman
Temporary Chairmen's Council
Heart Mountain, Wyoming

MJ:rn