



August 11, 1943

There seems to be some basic deficiency in procurement system, for we are frequently told that the procurement department is unable to buy the required amount. We request you to streamline the procurement procedure so that we would be supplied with full amount of budget.

## 2. Unemployment compensation and clothing allowances:

The pending policy of reducing the project employment will make a large number of our workers involuntarily idle with subsequent deprivation of wages and clothing allowances. As this idleness will be caused not by their fault, these workers should be paid unemployment compensation. In fact, WRA should provide unemployment compensation in all other similar instances.

As to the clothing allowances, we hold a firm conviction that the clothing is one of basic necessities of life, and as such our government is obligated to furnish it to all evacuees. We are told that WRA considers clothing allowances as a part of wage and not as a payment for subsistence. We cannot see any logic in this. No one needs to be reminded that clothing is just as essential as food and shelter for one's existence. Employment or any other condition should not be imposed as prerequisites for granting clothing or clothing allowances. We ask, therefore, WRA to furnish clothing to all residents without any exception.

The clothing allowance of \$3.75 per person was figured more than a year ago on the basis of prevailing prices of that time. You are undoubtedly aware of the increase in prices, certain items of clothing doubling or tripling their prices within past year. We request WRA to increase the amount of clothing allowances commensurate with the advanced prices.

## 3. Shortage of Doctors:

We have only four evacuee doctors to the total population of 9,200 residents. The standard established by WRA, we understand, is one doctor to every 1,400 persons. We believe the maintenance of this standard is absolutely necessary if we are to receive adequate medical care. To meet this requirement our center must secure the service of at least two more doctors.

Due to the shortage, our doctors are obligated to take a twenty four shift every three days. This is too heavy a burden for our doctors to bear, and particularly so for our two aged doctors who are around seventy years old. Under such shift it is humanly impossible to give proper individual diagnosis and care. There is a limit to human endurance. At the present rate of overwork our doctors may soon need a doctor themselves.

Our clinic also suffers the consequences of insufficient number of physicians. Quite frequently a large number of clinic patients is sent home without seeing a doctor, because whenever there is an emergency operation, at least three doctors are needed, leaving only one in charge of clinic which necessitate sending home majority of patients.

The chief medical officer, Dr. Irwin, is too busy with administrative duties and has no time to give direct service to evacuee patients. A suggestion is made

that if his administrative duties are shared by some other persons, Dr. Irwin may devote at least a part of his time to see some of our patients. This will partly lighten the burden of other overworked doctors.

When Mr. John Provinsse visited this center some time ago we made a suggestion that some of the physicians in the internment camps may be available for service in the relocation centers. Such transfer may involve many complications, but under the present critical situations no stone should be left unturned to find needed doctors. We request you to look into this possibility personally at your earliest convenience.

There are indications that the present shortage of doctors may further be aggravated by relocation of some of the doctors now in service at our hospital. Some measures should be adopted immediately so that our doctors will be induced to stay in the center. As the shortage of doctors is constant source for mental anguish to all residents, anything that you could do to alleviate this situation would be greatly appreciated.

#### 4. Psychopathic Ward:

A number of psychopathic patients is placed in our hospital with no special equipment or facilities and without a specialist's care. We ask WRA either to install proper facilities and hire a specialist or to send the patients out to an outside institution which is equipped to handle mental cases.

#### 5. Dental Service:

At present we are receiving limited dental service free of charge. Bridge and plate works are done at the patient's expense. This is contrary to our understanding, for we are told that our government, by virtue of forced evacuation, took upon its shoulder the responsibility of furnishing all essential health requirements of its wards. We believe that we are entitled to secure free of charge all standard dental services which are considered as part of modern health requirements.

### RELOCATION PROBLEMS

#### 1. Business and Professional Licenses:

Reports are circulated that the local authorities in many sections of the country refuse the issuance of business or professional licenses to resettled evacuees or, at best, are very reluctant about doing so. Recently, in Denver, a nisei barber obtained his license which was refused at first by State Authority but finally granted after a special plea of the WRA resettlement officer. In case of non citizens, it is reported that licenses are next to impossible to obtain. We believe that similar difficulties prevail at many other places. We ask WRA to exert every effort to combat this discriminative attitude of local authorities.

## 2. Resettlement by Family Groups:

A successful resettlement program cannot be worked out without due considerations to family groups whose means of sustenance were previous to evacuation independent farming or business enterprises. This group constitutes about two-third of center population.

Regarding a group resettlement program we wrote you previously expressing our desires and plans, but at that time your reply indicated that WRA was not interested in such program. However, according to the recent publication of "Sentinel" WRA is seriously considering, in complete reversal of its former positions, a relocation program for family groups. We hail this as a step in the right direction.

## 3. Return to West Coast:

The recent announcement of Honorable James F. Byrnes, War Mobilization Director, which bolstered the position of evacuees to American public states in part, "It is the policy of the War department and the Army, in all respects, to accord American soldiers of Japanese ancestry, the rights and privileges of all other American soldiers". It states lastly, "The present restrictions against persons of Japanese ancestry, will remain in force as long as the military situation so requires". In view of this statement, we could expect that the families of soldiers would be the first to return to their former homes. Then, after the completion of the present segregation program, the military reasons which restricted the loyal evacuees shall no longer exist, and consequently, the evacuees should be permitted to return to the west coast.

We believe if the WRA combined with other government agencies, endeavor to eradicate prejudices against persons of Japanese and Japanese ancestry, by channeling the efforts of church, welfare organizations, and other community groups, using all other machinery at their command and so convince the public on the west coast that the source of uncertainty which existed in their minds has been cleared, and with true American justice and fair play, should pave way for evacuees to return to their former homes on the west coast. According to the informations reaching us from our west coast friends there is a strong and persistent movement among American people demanding the return of evacuees to their former farms in order to ease the deplorable food shortage.

The rehabilitation via this avenue would produce the greatest result with a minimum effort and expenditure, for the evacuees in former surroundings and occupations would require least amount of readjustment to be independently established. Without questions, they would add substantially to the American productivity in shortest possible period of time.

We have presented foregoing problems merely in outline. If you so desire, we shall be pleased to discuss more fully any one of the above problems.

Respectfully submitted,

Ninejiro Hayashida, Chairman