

August 13, 1943

At Project Director's Office

10:00 AM.

Present: D. S. Myer, Director; Guy Robertson, Project Director; M. O. Anderson, Assistant Project Director; former Block chairmen and new councilmen.

Former chairman of Block Chairmen's Council, Mr. Hayashida, addressed welcome on behalf of the former Block Chairmen and present councilmen. Mr. Myer addressed in reply, stressing his appreciation for mutual cooperation and understanding between evacuees and the Administration. Spokesman for the meeting, Mr. Sashihara, requested Mr. Myer's answers to the questionnaire previously submitted to him for his consideration.

Following are his answers in the order of topics:

#### FOOD:

Mr. Myer after reviewing the questionnaire pointed out a mistake or two in it, and said the figure of 30¢ per capita per day is low. He alleged that the present cost of food per capita a day is running at 35-40¢, however, he assured no concern over food problem. Budget was based same as the last year except WRA figured our cash outlay at 31¢, balance to be produced on the project.

Mr. Sashihara pointed out inconsistency in the procurement procedure. He declared that leavey must be provided without having to go through the quartermaster in the event that the latter fails to procure food ordered on the market. Mr. Robertson informed that the latest Administrative Instruction calls for only channel whereby food is purchased shall be the quartermaster. Mr. Myer indicated his want of knowledge in procurement procedure and agreed to check up on it.

When asked what settlement will be made of the project fails to produce the difference between 45¢ and the cash outlay of 31¢, Mr. Myer revealed that such a figure was set up as an estimate, hence, it is not to be a binding. With respect to the matter of food surplus as questioned by Mr. Okamoto, Mr. Myer explained that food appropriations do not carry over from one fiscal year to another. WRA figured for 132,000 evacuees and for 14 relocation centers instead of present 10; hence, the surplus. He explained that the major reason for not expending 45¢ is:

- a. We could not utilize our ration beyond a certain point;
- b. and we got all the food we wanted.

As to fish problem, Mr. Robertson commented that the services in this connection has been rendered by the Food Committee set up under the supervision of Block Chairmen's Council and that the storage facilities are excellent.

#### UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION AND CLOTHING ALLOWANCES:

Mr. Myer admitted that the unemployment compensation has not been utilized in a wide degree. WRA is not planning a drastic reduction of employment as a whole over a long pull but plans to reduce employment in one project and so as to increase employment in other projects. It is not his intention to create hardship in the center to force evacuees for outside employment.

As to higher clothing allowances, Mr. Myer said he is not in position to commit in making commitment. The high clothing allowances would interfere with relocation. He also emphatically denied uniform clothing allowances irrespective of employment status as policies cannot be changed at present. He explained the reason for providing clothing allowances to workers. He said working people should get better breaks.

**DOCTORS:**

Mr. Myer informed that WRA is requesting the War Department to have additional doctors. Inspecting the hospital situation here, Mr. Myers said that he found the hospital services well organized. Not much progress has been made in securing interned doctors as it is a questionable thing to do. Mr. Myer assured that he would handle the doctor situation somehow.

**Psychopathic ward:**

Mr. Myer said he cannot install specialists for mental patients. Best thing to do is to send patients to outside wards.

**Dental services:**

The Spokesman Mr. S<sub>2</sub>shihararevealed dental situation here in this center. He explained that dentists are inclined to order dental plates on the outside; hence, outside prevailing prices are charged to evacuees. Mr. Myer said WRA provides minimum dental services if needed. He said he is not in position to change policies now. WRA regulations provide that physicians determine as to whether a person needs dental plate and furnishes such free of charge in case of necessity. Mr. Myer expressed ignorance of private dental business in the center. He stressed that it is absolutely against the WRA policy to allow private enterprises in relocation centers. He requested support of councilmen to cure such situation.

**RELOCATION:**

a. Licensing:

WRA will assist evacuees in securing licenses.

b. Family group resettlement:

Mr. Myer depicted that colonization in a large number of family group resettlement would instigate the legislation and result in unfavorable reactions on the part of the community. He advocated a group resettlement of 5-20 persons in one area so that they can more easily mix with the other population and create a better inter-relationship between the Japanese and the Americans.

As to financing farmers, it may be obtained from the Farm Security Administration or some other finance agencies, but the WRA declines to institutionalize over a long period of time by financing evacuees in farming.

c. Return to west coast:

Sentiment getting better. Slow process.

Meeting adjourned till afternoon session: 12:00 M.

AFTERNOON SESSION  
1:30 PM  
PROJECT DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Session continued from morning discussions.

**FARM EQUIPMENT:**

California law restricting removal of commercial property outside of the State will not be put in effect except in books, said Mr. Myer, although this law applies to not only all Californians but to evacuees formerly made their residences in the State and now store their commercial property in the State. However, there is no way of preventing compulsory requisitions by the Army or the Government. When requesting transfer, the equipment must be indicated as to where it will be used and for what purposes. In order to have it shipped outside of California. Just to evade the issue of freezing or Governmental requisitions, removal of commercial property to relocation centers will be not be permitted. All individual cases for such request may be considered, said Mr. Myer.

**LEUPP CENTERS:**

Leupp Center. Population, 70. Location: Near Winslow, Arizona. Established as a place for agitators and trouble makers. In case of alien agitators, they will be taken to detention camps.

The Leupp Center is called an isolation center, not a concentration center. Mr. Myer said it may be in the xx tree sense of word a violation of civil liberties to confine persons in an isolation camp. Transferees to such a center may not necessarily be doomed to stay there for the duration.

**Health and sanitation:**

Evacuees at the Leupp Center are well taken care of with respect to health conditions. But there is no doctor nor nurse. Those who need medical attention are sent back to relocation centers.

Food and housing facilities are better than relocation centers.

Although in such a case where immediate transfer of evacuees is warranted without hearings in the project, a thorough documentation shall be prepared and every case shall be reviewed at Washington before such removal is effected. Mr. Myer admitted that there may be some mistakes in some cases and requested the new council to take up action if some error is involved in a case on the part of the administration by presenting substantial evidences. Mr. Myer said he will be glad to review such cases and rectify mistakes if found to exist.

Mr. Achiyama submitted a signed statement of an evacuee who was treated with discrimination on a train. Mr. Myer asked for more detail facts in order to trace the case with the railroad company.

Having no more questions to ask, the meeting was adjourned at 2:27 PM.