

August 19, 1943
Thursday

Attended: Messrs. Anderson, Lechliter, Matsui, Doi, and Miss Payne.
Mr. Nakaki was the sole absentee
Minutes of August 18 were read and passed without correction.

Messrs. Lechliter and Doi present.

Mr. Chairman explained the urgency of establishing a Judicial system and requested legal opinions in the kind of system that should be installed under the Community Council.

Mr. Doi took the floor and expressed his choice of the kind of Judicial system for this center. He illustrated three categories that can be installed here: namely, the kind of Judicial Commission we have been familiar with heretofore; secondly, panel jury system; and lastly, the Administration handle all criminal cases. He designated 3-7 commissioners under the Judicial Commission under the first category. Under the panel jury system, one issei and one nisei should be selected in each block to be listed for summoning for jury duty. From this list 7 commissioners may be selected to serve as judicial commissioners or jurors for any one case, no two or more cases shall be tried by same jurors. Assignment to jury duty may be done in the alphabetic order. The difficulty in this procedure is the selection of persons for such duty. Chairman of the jurors may serve indefinitely throughout all cases, but shall not participate in the rendition of verdict.

Mr. Lechliter was asked to express his opinion in the selection of court system. Although he was interested in the proposal of panel, lack of experience on the part of jurors may prove inefficient. He commented on the Judicial Commission such as we have been following as his choice since commissioners do not alter, thus, giving more experience. If the Council favors panel system, he urged strongly to have only three members instead of seven as designated by Mr. Doi to participate in each trial. He chose that the chairman of the jury should have the power to vote. As to the employment status, at least the prosecutor should be assigned to the Project Attorney's office as between the Administration and evacuees. He informed that this center is the only one with a preliminary hearing board set up.

Messrs. Anderson and Matsui, and Miss Payne attended.

Mr. Anderson asked Mr. Lechliter what constitutes jurisdiction under the Judicial Commission. All misdemeanors and violations of ordinance adopted by the Council shall be tried under the jurisdiction of said body.

Mr. Okamoto questioned as to the right of WRA to exercise the power of conviction of evacuee in the same manner as carried on the outside courts. Mr. Lechliter stated that Congressional Appropriation had ratified Presidential Executive Order #9102 which gives the Director of WRA the authority to maintain and operate relocation centers. However, the Judicial Commission in the center is not a court of law as such: it is an administrative body more nearly.

There is no possibility of personal liabilities attached to evacuees who as court members should have any connection with the verdict or conviction of the accused. As to the number of employees allowed compensation by WRA under the community government are limited to five: three in the Judicial Commission and two in the Community Council, namely, an executive secretary or a secretary and a clerk. Court clerk, prosecutor, and public defence attorney may be put on the pay roll. Discussion on the court conduct followed. Mr. Anderson declared that the court shall be conducted in English. Mr. Yonemura pointed out the necessity of an official interpreter with pay. Mr. Anderson assured he will provide one.

Opinion of Mr. Anderson relative to the selection of court system was asked.

Mr. Anderson preferred panel jury system, composed of 4 jurors with a presiding judge having a vote on decision of each trial.

Mr. Matsui favored panel system because in this system, until the case is open persons connected with the case cannot approach jurors to influence the final decisions as jury duty is in rotation, hence, no same juror can serve on two different

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and successive cases.

Miss Payne, Messrs. Lechliter, Matsui, and Doi left the conference.

Mr. Anderson requested the ~~list~~ of blocks which do not have block managers. Both issei and nisei are qualified. *to have names submitted*

As to the question of respective functions of councilmen and block managers, Mr. Anderson suggested to have a committee chosen from both groups and meet with Mr. Todd and Mr. Anderson for clarification of duties and function.

Mr. Anderson left the conference.

Food Committee entered and each member was introduced by Mr. Chairman. Mr. Okazaki briefly gave a report on the history of the Food Committee. Mr. Suzuki, member of the committee, revealed that most part of food shipped via railroad is spoiled when received at Heart Mountain. Mr. Main, Project Procurement Officer, had cancelled further order for fresh fish and cantaloupe as the result of such conditions as stated, reported and in place of cancellation frozen herring and Canadian lake carp were ordered. He went on enumerating prices for project products that have been harvested and charged against food allocation fund. For reference, he illustrated as follows: nappa at $6\frac{1}{2}$ -8¢, pea @ $7\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ string beans @ 6¢, radish @ 6¢, Cux @ 15¢ sometimes @ \$1.74 per lug, china pea @ 12¢, all items at pond basis. These prices are based on Denver daily price quotations are considered unfairly charged against evacuees in comparison with labor remunerations of \$12, \$16, and \$19 per month, Suzuki charged. Mr. Suzuki asked the Council's opinion on uniform dinner as a farewell party of segregees on the same day throughout center mess halls. The council designated September 4 for the day for such a feast

Mr. Suzuki requested Councilmen to clarify the status of the Food Committee in reference to charges that food degradation has been brought about by the incompetency and inefficiency of the committee. Menus are prepared three days prior to servings on the inventory in the warehouse and on anticipated shipment of requisitioned food. Balanced diet is prepared to the best possibility out of what foodstuff we get by a dietician of the Food Committee.

The purpose of the Food Committee's attendance was to request the Council to push the matter of requisitioning fresh fish and vegetables by pointing out faulty provisions in transportation with proper authorities. Mr. Sashihara assured him that the matter will be referred to the Council Food Committee.

Janitors group requested the Council's assistance in maintaining six persons, two of whom are women in each unit. Mr. Fujii informed that reduction of janitors of laundry buildings from eight to five will go into effect next Monday. The Council agreed to refer the matter to the Manpower Commission. Mr. Matsushige, member of Commission, denied consultation or conference on the question of manpower reduction in the janitors group.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m. Special meeting was scheduled at 9 a.m. tomorrow morning.