

JOINT BLOCK MANAGERS' AND COUNCILMEN MEETING
CONFERENCE ROOM

DATE: January 8, 1944
TIME: 9:45 A.M. - 12 Noon

Attended: Messrs. Robertson, Project Director; Ryan, Acting Asst. Project Director; Macfarlane, Employment Officer, from the Administration. Evacuee representatives from divisions and sections: Legal Division: Mr. H. Shioya, Reports Division: Mr. John Kitasako. Employment Division: Mr. Jiro Sakaguchi. Community Management Division: Mr. Arthur Okado. Internal Security section: Mr. J. Kubo. Education Section: Mr. K. Inouye. Health Section: Mr. Harry Ito. Welfare Section: Mrs. H. Ota, Community Activities Section: Mr. S. Hara. Post Office: Mr. H. Inouye. Community Analysis Section: Mr. Mason Funabiki. Agriculture Section: Mr. E. Sakauye. Construction and Maintenance Unit: Mr. I. Tanaka. Carpenter Crew: Mr. Goto. Janitor Crew: Mr. Hosaka. Fire Protection Section: Mr. Frank Sakaguchi. Supply Section: Mr. Harry Shimada. Mess Management Unit: Mr. A. Nose. Finance Section: Mr. C. Yamane. Personnel Management Section: Mr. Jiro Sakaguchi. Office Service Section: Mr. Harry Nomura.

Roll call was taken and the following councilmen and block managers were absent: Messrs. Saito, Ritchie; Messrs. Okada, Block 12 respectively.

Presiding Chairman was Mr. S. Nagumo from the Council.

The meeting went into session at 9:35 A.M. The Chairman explained the purpose of the meeting followed by his request of opinion of all delegates present concerning the provision of the Fair Labor Practice Committee. He added that no decision nor resolution should be made at this meeting, and that all discussion should be limited within the circumstantial reports of sections these delegates represent.

Mr. Masunaga suggested that Mr. Macfarlane explain the set-up of this committee as per Washington instructions. According to Mr. Macfarlane, Employment Officer, this fair employment practice procedure shall be established to give a hearing for workers who feel that they have received unjust treatment. This procedure relates only to complaints regarding employment working rules and employment compensation. The committee shall be composed of seven members of the Work Corps. Members of the committee shall be elected by members of the Work Corps for a six month term. Any labor complaint shall be submitted to the committee in writing and if the committee does not come to a solution, a written statement shall be prepared and be submitted to the Project Employment office for action. Appeal may be taken from the action of the Employment officer to the Project Director, whose decision shall be final.

When asked if there is any provision whereby the Council may appoint such a committee instead of a general election by a democratic procedure, Mr. Macfarlane stated that the Project Director may waive regulation until the election can be held. He added that the procedure in setting up such a committee should be followed in accordance with Washington instructions when Mr. Sashihara interjected that the community council has a sole power to appoint any committee as may be necessary for the conduct of its business according to the charter.

Mr. Nakaki moved that opinion of the delegates present be expressed relative to the set-up of the fair labor practice committee. Motion was seconded and carried. It was an unanimous opinion of all delegates, except Mr. H. Inouye and Mr. H. Shioya whose opinion was failed to be requested, that the fair labor practice committee should be set up.

With respect to a question as to whether the Council has the appointive power in setting up a committee or any committee to be set up should abide by WRA regulations, Mr. Robertson was called in. Mr. Ryan, Act. Asst. Project Director, pointed out that the function of the fair labor practice committee should be clearly made so as to avoid misconception. He stated that the value of the committee is to channel all labor complaints to Mr. Robertson properly. He stressed that the fair labor practice board should have been set up long ago. Mr. Nose of the commissary pointed out the necessity of setting up an emergency board as mess workers will be terminated within a few

days. Mr. Macfarlane informed that a number of mess workers shall be terminated in order to conform to the new budget set for the new quarter, and such reduction is made at the request of divisional or sectional heads.

Mr. Sashihara informed Mr. Robertson of the critical condition that evacuees would have to face should the reduction in janitorial section for example be effected. Mr. Robertson stated that he wanted the Council to understand that we must cut down employment and must have 8 hour efficiency. He flatly declared that there was no compromise in it. It was learned by Mr. Robertson's information that budgets are set up quarterly. He contended that evacuee employees should establish an efficient work habit. In reply to a question that the Council be permitted to appoint a committee for fair labor problems, Mr. Robertson stated it was immaterial to him how it was organized so long as it was a fair representation. However, Mr.

Robertson added, all rules and regulations of the committee should conform to the WRA ruling as set forth in the Administrative Instructions. Mr. Sashihara at this point questioned the power of the Council as it was understood heretofore that since the Council has a power to appoint any committee, it was the Council to formulate rules and regulations of such committee according to the charter. If all rules and regulations of a committee were prescribed for in the Administrative Instructions, the Council has no alternative or saying in it but to adopt them, according to Mr. Robertson.

In conclusion, Mr. Robertson advised that Mr. Macfarlane instruct each section and work class to hold an election to have a representation as candidate to the member of the fair labor practice committee. Mr. Macfarlane stated that the Employment Division shall take initiative in setting up said committee. All delegates, Messrs. Robertson, Ryan, and Macfarlane and block managers left the conference at 11:25 A.M.

The Council resumed session.

Mr. Masunaga reported on conference of the Relocation Committee with Mr. Robertson and Yoshio Kodama, of the Relocation Office. According to the report, Mr. Robertson could not see in any way of the WRA saving expenses for evacuee representatives at the relocation conference to be held in Chicago this month. However, Mr. Robertson sanctioned as to a teletype message to D. S. Myer justifying funds for two official delegates on the ground of importance of relocation and public relations between residents and WRA. A telegram from the Granada Community Council stating that a wire was sent to Mr. D. S. Myer requesting postponement of notification date of January 10th to January 20th. Mr. Masunaga informed that this Council had sent back a wire to the Granada Community Council informing them that this Council had requested WRA to pay expenses of delegates. It was decided by the Council that relocation discussion shall be postponed until further notice and unless the present labor problems were clarified.

Mr. Nakaki charged that a member of the Council, had violated a Council's decision. Mr. Yonemura moved a motion that be it resolved that all councilmen shall abide by the Council's decisions. Motion was seconded and passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon. Next Council meeting was set for 9:00 A.M., Monday January 10, 1944.

Respectfully submitted,

Shyogo Iwamoto
Shyogo Iwamoto, Secretary
Heart Mountain Community Council