

MEETING OF THE HEART MOUNTAIN RELOCATION PLANNING COMMISSION

March 18, 1944
9:30 A.M.

Members present:

Mr. T. Oki
Rev. D. Toriumi
Rev. M. Kubose
Mr. D. Fujioka
Mr. K. Hatchimonji
Mr. N. Kawai
Mr. T. Kimura
Mr. G. Nakaki
Mr. A. Okado
Mr. E. Sakauye
Mr. K. Sugimoto
Mr. K. Nose
Mr. T. Sashihara
Mrs. T. Fujimura
Mr. Y. Kodama, presiding

Absent:

Mr. M. Funabiki
Mr. K. Otani

Mr. Guy Robertson, Project Director, was in attendance at special request.

Mr. Kodama requested that those present should suggest names to be added to the Relocation Planning Commission after due approval by the Community Council. The following persons were recommended:

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| Mr. Toshio Kimura | - | Japanese translator of Sentinel |
| Mr. Thomas Sashihara | - | Board of Trustee, Community Enterprise |
| Mr. Shoji Nagumo | - | Gardener |
| Mr. Ricardo Ritchie | - | Board of Trustee of Community Activities |
| Mr. Atsuji Okado | - | Social Welfare Department |
| Mr. Kazuo Nose | - | Agriculture Department |
| Miss Peggy Fujioka | - | Counseling Aide, Social Welfare Dept. |
| Mr. Eiichi Sakauye | - | Assistant Farm Supervisor |
| Rev. Jutaro Yokoi | - | Representative of Community Christian Church |
| Mr. Peter Osuga | - | District Chairman of Boy Scouts |
| Mr. Dick Y. Izuno | - | Red Cross Committee Chairman |
| Mr. Saburo Nakashima | - | Chairman of Community Council |

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Chairman briefly reviewed the functions of the Relocation Planning Commission and of the Executive Board.

Mr. Robertson was asked to report on the Project Director's Conference which was held in Washington D. C. on March 6 to 11, 1944, insofar as it related to the problems of relocation. He stated that all the items on the memorandum given him by the Planning Commission before his departure, had been discussed.

Thereafter, he made the following points:

- I. The present five hundred pounds limit on freight will be eliminated and the existing regulations will be considerably liberalized.
- II. The persons in charge of the evacuee property on the Pacific Coast are quite concerned about property stored there-- particularly that in private warehouses. WRA encourages and will make concentrated effort to move all property into government warehouses.
- III. There can be no assurance of increase in grants since the budget is to be further reduced. The WRA will attempt to put more money into the field office and into public relations in order to give more protection to evacuees and to create more confidence in them.
- IV. The idea of a large family hostel was favorably received but the matter will have to be carried by other organizations.
- V. It was considered not a very wise idea to include business opportunity experts in the WRA field personnel. WRA does not wish the evacuees to invest their savings from the start. Evacuees should get acquainted with the communities thoroughly before investing money into business enterprises.
- VI. The Community Council will receive a letter in regard to the National Evacuee Conference from Mr. Myer. First there will be a conference among the evacuees from the nine centers. Then a National Conference will take place between evacuees and WRA personnel. In all probability this will be several months from now.

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VI. WRA is aware that there are a lot of people just waiting for their leave clearance after their hearings have been recorded and their leave clearances recommended. The reason for this is that there are thousands of urgent cases on file in Washington. In order to expedite the clearance in Washington, Project Directors have asked that one representative from each center be sent there to work on the cases for their respective centers. They expect to clear them up within the next five weeks. John K. Corbett represents this center in Washington for this purpose.

VII. Every effort will be made to relocate successfully those who wish to go out but for those who do not intend to leave, the centers will continue to operate.

A question was asked as to whether the savings in expenses by closing the Jerome Center will absorb an appreciative amount of the out in next year's budget.

Mr. Robertson replied that it may effect some changes in the administration but not so far as the evacuees are concerned.

(Mr. Robertson was excused at this time.)

A copy of the memorandum prepared by Chairman Yosh Kodama with materials submitted by the Commission members and the Education Section survey and addressed to the Project Director on the subject, "Inconsistencies in the WRA Program which Retard Relocation," was passed out to each member present. This was used by Mr. Robertson at the Project Directors' conference. (A copy of this is attached to the minutes).

It was reported that Mr. Hatchimonji is working on the compilation of "Questions and Answers" to serve as a handbook on relocation. Every member was asked to cooperate in building up the set of questions.

Since Mr. Hatchimonji, visual education supervisor in the Relocation Division is going to resign to become the councilman of Block 27, the members were asked to recommend someone in his place. No action was taken.

The Chairman stated that the Planning Commission was preparing a handbook designed to give information to evacuees on what their thousands of friends on the outside are doing to help the resettlement program. Evacuees are largely ignorant of the fine work of the Pacific Coast Committee on American Principles and Fair Play, American Friends, Church Groups, Social Agencies, and other organizations.

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It is up to the Relocation Planning Commission to carry out some public relations activities among evacuees to dispel this ignorance and to teach them to appreciate the efforts of their fellow Americans in their behalf.

Dick Fujioka gave a report on YMCA Conference of Middle West area which he and Mr. Nakaki attended. Both YMCA AND YWCA have gone out their way to help the evacuees. They will continue their policy of aiding relocatees, announced by the National Council at its meeting in October, 1942. These organizations feel that the basic issue in relocation is favorable public opinion and they have been very active in this field.

Mr. Kodama said that several people have asked about the procedure of getting clearance to work in war plants. This requires completion form PWCO -ID Form No. 58, which is available at the Employment Office. The applicant must tell which company he wants to work for and to what locality he wishes to go or leave this up to the WRA area officer. He also explained that there is going to be a new type of leave called "intermediate leave." This has not been officially announced but will be published soon.

Mr. Kodama distributed the pamphlet, "How to Relocation Through a Hostel". He pointed out that the hostels have helped relocate more than 700 people. The result has been very successful because they try to follow through and are in touch with them right along. Information regarding hostel services are available at the Relocation Counseling Section.

Mr. George Nakaki was elected unanimously to take the place of Mr. Shig Masunaga as one of the three members of the Executive Board. Mr. Masunaga is out on short term leave and he may or may not return to the Center.

Mr. Hachimonji suggested whether it would be a good opportunity from a public relations angle to send Victory Garden experts out to various communities to give helpful advice as goodwill gesture for producing favorable community acceptance for evacuees, for there are many capable farmers in this camp. The Chairman replied that he will investigate this matter.

Mr. Kawai mentioned in regard to the Fair Play Committee that the Fair Play group has opposed phases of the relocation program. Inasmuch as we are interested in hearing all view on relocation, we should let it be known again that this Planning Commission is eager to consider the criticisms and suggestions of all individuals and groups within the community. We can perform our best service by knowing all the view on the subject. Mr. Kodama reiterated the policy of the Planning Commission that this was certainly not a

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pressure group giving pressure on relocation. It was pointed out that the Fair Play Committee was not a economic unit nor a participating aid in the resettlement program, but that they should nevertheless have an opportunity to express their views.

It was announced that Mr. Thomas R. Bodine will be here in Heart Mountain the first part of April.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni Fujimura

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