

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Washington

May 13, 1944

AIR MAIL

Mr. Guy Robertson
Project Director
Heart Mountain Relocation Center
Heart Mountain, Wyoming

Dear Mr. Robertson:

Relocation Officers are reporting that many evacuees are heading into difficulties because they seem to be unaware of their responsibilities under seasonal leave. In conformity with the Handbook on Seasonal Leave Section 60.3.12, please duplicate for issuance to each evacuee prior to his departure on Seasonal Leave the following instructions:

Instructions to Evacuees on Seasonal Leave

This summer many of you will be going out into the farming regions to help produce crops which are vitally needed in the war effort. The areas into which you are going will in many cases be districts with which you are familiar. The high type of conduct and good workmanship of evacuees in the past has been responsible for a continuing demand for your services and the good public relations which evacuees now enjoy. The following information is given in order that you may more clearly understand your status and responsibilities while on seasonal leave and to help you solve problems which arise in your new job.

1. You are working under contract with the War Food Administration, in cooperation with the State Extension Service, which will be responsible for all placement and transfers on the different jobs to which you may be assigned. The County Agent of the Extension Service will provide you with information as to the prevailing wage which you will receive.
2. If you become unemployed or have any justifiable complaint concerning your employment or need medical care or have any other problems, you should take them up with the placement man at the camp or the County Agent of the Extension Service or his labor representative.

3. Permission to travel outside the travel district specified on the seasonal leave card must be obtained from the District Relocation Officer of the War Relocation Authority, and also from the U. S. District Attorney if you are an alien. Any travel outside the travel district must be fully justified and will be held to an absolute minimum. Permission to visit your center before completion of your contract will not be given by the Relocation Officer except in case of genuine emergency. A visit to the center without permission of the Relocation Officer may result in cancellation of your seasonal leave permit and inability to secure another seasonal leave without prior approval from the Director of WRA.

4. An evacuee who breaks his seasonal leave work contract without the permission of the Government agent in charge of the labor group or the District Relocation Officer will be required to return to the Center at his own expense. In no instance will permission be given an evacuee to break his Government labor contract to accept private employment unless indefinite leave has been applied for.

You may convert from seasonal leave to indefinite leave at any time without returning to the Center provided you first secure the approval of the Relocation Officer supervising the territory which includes the community in which you propose to relocate. Application for indefinite leave should be made to the Relocation Officer supervising the territory in which you are working. If you did not apply for a leave assistance grant at your center prior to your departure and you are eligible for one, you may apply for such at the same time you apply to the District Relocation Officer for you indefinite leave.

5. If you are of draft age, you will receive the same consideration for deferment as any other citizen. Each application for deferment is judged on its own merits by the local selective service board. As a general rule very few deferments are being granted for seasonal farm work at the present time.

6. Most evacuees will find it desirable to keep a daily work record on time worked or the amount of production in case of piece work. This record should be checked with the employer at regular intervals.

We also suggest that these instructions be publicized in the center newspaper and posted on bulletin boards.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ D. S. Myer
Director