

Rev. Thompson, ~~has~~ contacted with SA.

MEETING OF THE HEART MOUNTAIN RELOCATION PLANNING COMMISSION

April 11, 1944

2:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. D. Fujioka
Mr. G. Nakaki
Mr. K. Hatchimonji
Mr. N. Kawai
Mr. T. Kimura
Rev. M. Kubose
Mr. S. Nakashima
Mr. P. Osuga
Mr. K. Otani
Mr. E. Sakaiye
Rev. D. Teriumi
Mr. K. Sugimoto
Mr. E. Sekiguchi
Mr. J. Yamamoto
Mrs. T. Fujimura
Mr. Y. Kodama, presiding

GUESTS:

Miss E. Briesmeister
Miss Michi Shirao

Miss Esther Briesmeister was introduced as National YWCA secretary on Community Affairs. She is visiting the Center for a few days enroute to the YWCA conference in Chicago. She related the nature of her work was two fold, that of visiting all the centers and contacting those who have relocated.

From her experiences in assisting relocatees, she gave some helpful suggestions which can be studied as projects for youth clubs and organizations. For instance they could take as one of their project "How To Write a Good Letter of Application for Jobs" or "What To Remember When Being Interviewed for Jobs".

Since the main difficulty in the resettlement of families seems to be the language barrier, Miss Briesmeister suggested the Isseis should take every advantage of the facilities available in the centers to learn to be able to speak and write the English language.

A question was asked her by what means the YW and the YMs were tackling the racial discrimination. She replied that in Denver, for

Page 2
April 11, 1944

instance, there is a Civil Rights Law under the state law of Colorado which states that there shall be no racial discrimination as to service. The YWCA has been instrumental in enforcing this law in Denver. She further stated that although the popular belief is that a person of a minority group cannot lead a majority group, nevertheless the YWCA and other social agencies have been able to place many Japanese Americans in positions of supervisory capacities.

Mr. Kodama stressed the necessity of an extensive educational program in the Center in order to bring about a more rationalized thinking among the evacuees in regard to what the social agencies are doing in their behalf.

The second important business discussed was the Relocation Program Officers Conference in Chicago to be held the following week and to which Mr. Joe Carroll was going to attend. The Chairman reported he had received many letters from individuals in regards to suggestions on Relocation problems. Among the suggestions turned in were (1) The liberalizations of policy in regards to visits to the Center (2) Increase of subsistence allowances or grants (3) Opening West Coast areas so that we can settle our personal affairs before relocating to the East. The summaries of all the suggestions shall be compiled into a memorandum and be given to Mr. Carroll.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

It was announced that the Brethren Relocation Hostel in Chicago, of which Mr. and Mrs. Smeltzer's letter of April 7th stated that the Brethren and Baptists will open a new Hostel in New York on May 10th. The letter went on to say "Several factors influenced the decision to open a New York Hostel and to close the one in Chicago. It is generally agreed that at the present time, New York City, needs a hostel more than does Chicago. Temporary housing opportunities for those resettling in New York are more difficult to secure than in Chicago. New York offers many opportunities and it is hoped that with the assistance of the hostel many more resettlers will be able to take advantage of these opportunities.

Most resettlers now relocating in Chicago have friends to whom they can turn for assistance. For those few who will need emergency assistance, the Church of the Brethren will continue to employ a staff to assist them. This staff's office will be located at 3425 West Van Buren Street, Chicago 24, Illinois, beginning May 1st.

The Chairman announced that Mr. Floyd Schme and Mr. Gordon Hirabayashi will visit Heart Mountain the week of April 16th. His film on Relocates shall be shown and any group who wish to see the film may be able to do so by contacting Mr. Yosh Kodama.

10-4100

Page 3
April 11, 1944

Correspondence from Dr. Frederick Thorne states that Heart Mountain will get a chance to preview the film he took of this Center as well as those of other Centers.

It was also announced that Mr. Thomas Bodine will arrive in Heart Mountain about April 29.

The two projects which the Commission have been working on (1) The Information Handbook (2) Questions-Answers Handbook, are progressing satisfactorily and it is still in the process of compilation.

The semi-annual report of the work of the Heart Mountain Relocation Planning Commission have been submitted to the Community Council for analysis.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tomi Fujisura

Handwritten in red ink:
Tomi Fujisura
April 11, 1944

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