

A Message to the Residents of Relocation Centers:

Ever since the earliest days of evacuation, the ultimate aim of the United States government has been to help you who were evacuated to reestablish yourselves outside the military areas in cities and towns and on farms throughout the nation. Relocation centers were established primarily as places where you might live and work until an orderly program of individual resettlement could be developed and put into effect.

Such a program is now actively under way. Thousands of evacuees have left the relocation centers to take jobs in private employment and to establish new homes; many thousands more will be going out, we hope, in the months that lie ahead. The War Relocation Authority and a number of other agencies--public and private--are making every effort to encourage this movement and to find positions where evacuee talents and energies may be used to best advantage.

I am confident that this course is a wise one both for you and for the nation. The energy and the resourcefulness that are characteristic of the great majority of the evacuated people are qualities which we need in our shops and on our farms today more than ever before; they are qualities which we shall also need abundantly during the reconstruction period that will surely follow the peace.

I believe you should leave the relocation center confident that you are entering a new period of life which is full of opportunity, that you are taking the right step to insure security and happiness for yourself and your family now, and in the years to come. You take with you my very best wishes.

D. S. Myer
Director

WHEN YOU LEAVE THE RELOCATION CENTER

As a nation made up of people from many lands, seeking means of making a better life for themselves, the United States frequently has seen large segments of its population on the move, responding to new opportunities, making new homes, developing new resources. Recently, the demand for wartime workers has prompted the movement of thousands of families to new communities, where these grandchildren of pioneers have displayed an ability to meet new conditions that would have done credit to their ancestors. So the resettlement of American citizens and long-time residents of Japanese ancestry is paralleled by the movement of other groups of the population and is a sequel to the pioneering of the issei who brought thousands of acres of western land into production.

Moving to a new community during wartime is pioneering in a very real sense, and it demands the same sort of courage and adaptability which led earlier generations to cross the Allegheny Mountains and settle the wilderness that is now the Middle West, and later to travel the Oregon Trail, to populate California; in short, to move wherever there seemed to be a better opportunity. In this newest, great movement of which you are a part the War Relocation Authority and other agencies of the government, as well as interested private groups, are ready to assist each person and family to make a successful readjustment.

This pamphlet has been prepared to inform you of the assistance which you may expect; of certain things which are required of all persons leaving relocation centers on indefinite leave; and to give you the benefit of suggestions which have been received from those who have gone before you.

1. Giving Notice of Time of Arrival. If you are taking a job, notice has been given to your employer (or to a relocation officer if you are to secure employment after arrival) that you will arrive at your destination on a specified day. You will want to make every effort to report on the day indicated. But if you should be delayed for any reason, you will want to be considerate enough to notify the employer or relocation officer when you expect to arrive.
2. Travelers' Aid Society. The Travelers' Aid Society maintains an office in the railroad stations in all large cities and important railway junction points. Travelers' Aid will be glad to furnish information and to give you directions for reaching the local address to which you wish to go.
3. Report of Arrival and Change of Address Cards. One of the conditions under which you received indefinite leave was that you would report changes of address to the Director. You have been given one copy of a Report of Arrival postcard (Form WRA 147) and two copies of Change of Residence Report Card (Form WRA 148) addressed to the Director of the War Relocation Authority in Washington, D. C. When you arrive at your destination do not delay in filling out and mailing the Report of Arrival card. Whenever you move, send a Report of Change of Residence card to the Director. Every time you send one of these cards to the Director, you will receive another from Washington to use in case you move again. It is highly important for your own good and for the good of all others that you notify the Director of WRA of every change of address, so no search will be necessary to find you, in case someone wants to communicate with you concerning relatives, property, or other matters.

4. Travel and Change of Address for Aliens. In addition to keeping the Director of the War Relocation Authority informed as to change of address, aliens on indefinite leave must also abide by the regulations of the Department of Justice. If you are an alien, you have been given a copy of these regulations which apply to all aliens who are nationals of enemy countries. You must secure permission from the U. S. District Attorney for any travel after you reach your destination, and you must keep the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Immigration and Naturalization Service informed of your address at all times by means of the special postcards which can be obtained at any post office. Failure to comply with Department of Justice alien regulations may result in serious penalties.
5. Relocation Assistance Payments. If you applied, and were eligible, for a relocation assistance grant, your check is being sent to the relocation officer serving the area to which you are going. You should call at his office to pick up the check, or if your destination is at some distance from his office your check may be sent to you General Delivery at the post office of your destination. If the check is not requested within thirty days, the relocation officer or the Postmaster will send it back to the project or to the disbursing officer.
6. Special Regulations in Western Defense Command. There are Army regulations applicable to all persons of Japanese descent residing in Idaho, Nevada, Utah, Montana, eastern Oregon, eastern Washington, or northern Arizona. These are regulations of the Western Defense Command which include all the states mentioned, plus California. The regulations are set forth in Public Proclamation No. 3 of the Western Defense Command. If your initial destination is in the Western Defense Command you have received a copy of this Proclamation.
7. Relocation Officers. Relocation Officers are located in the principal cities and towns in which evacuees have relocated. More than likely there is a relocation officer representing the War Relocation Authority in the area in which you are planning to live. (A list of relocation offices accompanies this pamphlet) It is important that you understand his responsibilities, what service he can give you and what should not be expected of him.

The first responsibility of the relocation officer is to develop job opportunities, by getting in touch with prospective employers and letting them know of the availability of workers now living in relocation center. More than likely, the job which you will accept when you leave a relocation center was made available through the efforts of a relocation officer, who then notified each of the relocation centers of its existence.

Many of the evacuees who are away from the relocation centers on seasonal leave may wish to accept permanent employment on indefinite leave. Finding job opportunities for these people and facilitating the change in their leave status is another of the tasks of the relocation officer.

In some instances, there may be several job opportunities at one place, and evacuees may be authorized to go from a relocation center to the relocation officer's headquarters and interview prospective employers before actually accepting a job.

In many areas, housing is difficult for anyone to find. The relocation officer may have current information on the location of available housing; or he may have the assistance of a local committee which takes certain responsibilities for finding housing, either temporary or permanent.

In general, you probably are safe in expecting some assistance in finding temporary housing, at a hotel or a hostel (in a few large cities) but usually you will have to locate permanent housing largely through your own efforts, just as any other newcomer to a community.

Since the primary responsibility of the relocation officer is to develop employment opportunities for people still in the relocation centers, he should not be asked or expected to assist in finding second or third jobs for evacuees who already have established themselves, but who may be dissatisfied with their present positions or to intercede in matters which they should handle themselves. Once you have accepted a job on indefinite leave, your status for all practical purposes, is the same as that of any other person. There are many opportunities but accompanying the opportunities are responsibilities which you alone will be expected to assume, as is the case with all other Americans.

8. War Manpower Restrictions on Job Changes. There are no special restrictions on you in changing from one job to another so far as WRA is concerned. There are, however, limitations on changing jobs imposed on all persons by the War Manpower Commission. These restrictions vary somewhat from one area to another, but generally, for all types of work except private domestic service, the War Manpower Commission regulations require a release from the previous employer or from the local office of the U. S. Employment Service before a person can leave one job and take another. Failure to get a release results in an enforced waiting period before new employment may be accepted.
9. West Coast Property Problems: Problems regarding property on the Pacific Coast should be addressed to one of the evacuee property officers listed below:

Russell T. Robinson
Chief, Evacuee Property Office
Whitcomb Hotel Building
San Francisco, California
Dean C. McLean
Evacuee Property Supervisor
340 Henry Building
Seattle, Washington

Claude G. Walker
Evacuee Property Officer
836 American Bank Building
Portland, Oregon

L. S. Sloan
Commercial Property Supervisor
955 - 1031 South Broadway
Los Angeles, California

10. Shipment of Furniture. Persons on indefinite leave are entitled to one shipment at government expense of all their furniture and other personal property to any place they may designate, if (1) the property is in private or government storage on the Pacific Coast, or (2) the property is stored at a relocation center but has been moved there at the evacuee owner's expense, or for the convenience of the government and not at the request of the evacuee owner. If you have had your personal property

moved at government expense from the Pacific Coast to a relocation center at your request, you are not entitled to have it shipped somewhere else at government expense. The government will not pay for the shipment of any commercial property.

In addition to the one shipment of furniture and personal property mentioned above, each person on indefinite leave is entitled to have 500 pounds of personal effects shipped from the relocation center to the place to which he is relocating. The request for shipment must be submitted before leaving the relocation center, although the actual shipment may be made at a later time.

Persons on indefinite leave wishing to have their personal property which is stored on the West Coast shipped to them either at government expense in the circumstances described above or at their own expense, should write to the relocation center from which they came and ask for four copies of Form WRA 156, "Request for Transportation of Property". These forms are also available in the offices of relocation officers. Three copies of this form are to be filled out, signed, and sent to the Transportation Section, Evacuee Property Office, WRA, Whitcomb Hotel, San Francisco, Cal. A fourth copy may be kept by the person concerned.

11. Selective Service. All men registered for Selective Service are required by law to keep the local selective service board with which they are registered informed of their addresses and to carry a Registration Certificate (DSS Form 2) and a Notice of Classification (DSS Form 57) on their persons at all times. Failure to fulfill either of these requirements may lead to difficulties with law enforcement officers and even to prosecution for violation of the Selective Service Act.
12. Assistance and Other Welfare Services. The Federal Social Security Board through local public welfare agencies provides financial assistance and other services to relocated evacuees who are in need of such service. WRA provides financial assistance, including medical care, only to evacuees residing in centers, not to evacuees who have relocated.

Services available from public welfare agencies for those evacuees who are in need of them include: temporary financial assistance, including necessary medical care; advice in budgeting; assistance in securing housing; child welfare services; counseling regarding family problems; and information regarding social services. Should you need assistance or service you may apply to the local public welfare agency in the community in which you are working. If there is more than one local welfare agency in the community, the Relocation Officer will advise you as to which agency will take your application.
13. Relocation of Family and Friends. Consult the nearest relocation officer if you wish to have members of your family or your friends relocate near you. If means of support for them have been arranged and they are eligible for leave, the relocation officer will request the project director to give them leave. If employment or other means of support have not been arranged, the relocation officer will assist in securing employment for them.
14. Return to Relocation Centers. It is not expected that persons on indefinite leave will return to relocation centers to stay. If you feel you must return, consult the nearest relocation officer. If you cannot work out your difficulties with his assistance and he agrees that is best for you to return to the project, he will recommend to the project director

that you be readmitted. If the relocation officer does not agree that you should return, or if you return without consulting him, he is required to make a report which will go into your permanent WRA record. He may recommend that no further leave be granted you until your case has been reviewed and approved by the Director in Washington.

You may return to the project for brief visits by letting the project director know when you are coming. In such cases, however, get your employer's permission before you go.

15. Indefinite Leave Card. Your indefinite leave card with photograph and fingerprint is an important paper. Carry it with you at all times and be careful not to lose it. If you should lose your indefinite leave card, contact the nearest relocation officer as to the proper procedure to follow in securing a replacement. Take your birth certificate and other identification with you to his office when applying for a new card. If you are an alien you should always carry your Alien Registration Card as well as your Indefinite Leave Card.

IN GENERAL: By establishing yourself in a community, making friends, and developing a normal, satisfying life for yourself and your family, you will help to create a public attitude favorable to yourself and to other Americans of Japanese ancestry; at the same time, your success may encourage other evacuees who have been hesitant to seek opportunities to leave the centers. Letters to relatives and friends still in the centers will aid in this respect.

In your work and in social contacts, be alert to opportunities for employment for other evacuees. If and when other evacuees move to your community, you can be helpful to them in locating places to live and in getting acquainted with the community and with people you have met. Friends of evacuees have expressed concern over the individual evacuees who have left jobs within a few days after taking them, leaving behind disappointed and disgruntled employers. Such acts, of course, reflect unfavorably not only on the persons who leave the jobs, but on evacuees in general.

In a very real sense, you are an "ambassador" for the entire group of evacuated people.