

To the Irrigator:

"The policy of relocation is predicated in part upon what is best for you people and in part upon what is best for the United States at this time. Any program that we may have which would hold the people of this minority group for any length of time in ^{an} abnormal circumstance would be detrimental to this group as a whole. We have a war on. It is best for the United States that any reservoir of energy anywhere be directed to the prosecution of the war. Relocation then becomes the most important proposition we have today. Relocation of the evacuees rehabilitates these people and contributes to the war effort. Anything contrary to relocation is detrimental to this minority group and is also detrimental to the war effort of the United States."

This statement defining the basic policy of the WRA's relocation program and of the reason for the current reduction in project employment was made by Project Director H. L. Stafford at a meeting with representatives of the Steward Division in his office Tuesday ~~afternoon~~.

In explaining the reason for the reduction in the number of Steward Division employees, Mr. Stafford outlined many of the policies which the WRA is now following and gave a clear picture of the present and the immediate future of the WRA program.

Mr. Stafford reviewed the entire history of the center in his statement clarifying the policy behind the readjustment in project employment in connection with the relocation program.

"The policies of relocation were not completely formulated at the time we came here last summer," he said. "We started out with an

idea of furnishing the evacuees housing, food, hospitalization, education for the youngsters and gainful employment to the point possible and practical. Our leave situation was almost limited to seasonal work. The procedure for indefinite leave was in process but not completed. The ramifications of relocation were not worked out. By its name, relocation, ^{center} it was well known to everyone that people were here temporarily, that these matters could be ironed out and these people relocated into normal American communities.

"Our problem ~~then~~ ^{both} was sociological and economical, ^{but} Our approach ^{then} was almost purely sociological and we tried to give everybody a job, to provide plenty of social activities to help the people find themselves after the unsettling experience of evacuation. During the time we have been here the relocation program has been clarified and facilities for leave have been continually improved. We have had nearly a year to recover from emotional ⁱⁿ restabilities.

"While we have been in here for a year the situation outside has grown very acute. The war manpower situation has become critical. As a result we are shifting our emphasis from a sociological approach to an economical approach. This is absolutely necessary. We cannot provide other than bare, essentials at public expense and we cannot keep any service which will encourage people to stay here.

"We are working to facilitate the mechanics of enabling people to seek opportunities and to take advantage of the opportunities that exist outside. It is perfectly obvious that this is not a detention camp nor a prisoners' camp. There are some people here, it is true, that are momentarily restricted, but they are very few in number. It is absolutely necessary that we get these people evacuated into normal

American channels. It is not only necessary from the standpoint of the well-being and welfare of this minority group but it is also a necessary movement to support the war effort.

"Since 2500 very active people have relocated from the project and more are going out every day, the economic management of the camp becomes involved. It is necessary to adjust to the situation in here in order to keep the camp going.

"I am concerned with relocation for the benefit of you people, relocation for the benefit of the United States relating to the war effort and I am very much concerned with readjustment inside the project in order to continue its operation in the most economical fashion. In regards to the latter we have sought to avoid discrimination in making adjustments to get down to the quota. There is no change in the relationship and the administration still has the best interest of this group in mind but it will be impossible for many individuals and groups to see the necessity for some of these radical adjustments.

"It is not only a policy of the WRA but the necessity for economic project operation that forces us into this program of adjustment and as long as there is the privilege of relocation we should not have any problems in here as a result of this adjustment. We are aiming at a goal of relocation and along this same course the project operation with its minimum number of employees is a directly contributing factor. I believe that if the people on the project would look at this from the same standpoint, that of achieving an ultimate objective for the future good of this group, we would have better cooperation.

"Some services deemed non-essential are being eliminated simply because we cannot have anything on the project which does not encourage

relocation or contribute to the work program. We have lots of things to do both inside the project and outside between now and winter, and anything that interferes with these jobs must be put aside until they are done. When winter comes and the relocation and farm work programs slow down I have no doubt that the recreation and social program will be revived, including movies.

"Wherever non-essential jobs are maintained we are not only wasting money in war time but we are also undermining the courage and morale of a lot of our people who are going to go outside and face competitive conditions. People who have relocated are writing back that they acquired bad working habits on the project. In an effort to correct this everyone will be required to work a full eight hours and to maintain otherwise work standards comparable to outside conditions.

"Another shift that has come about because of normal work opportunities being available is the inability of those who choose to stay here to accept the jobs of their own preference regardless of whether or not that preference is for the good of the project. We are not pushing you out but you are perfectly free in most instances to go outside and relocate. If you stay here it is just not possible to dictate to the WPA your preference of work and insistence that non-essential jobs and services be maintained at public expense.

"Gradually the workers on the project will be readjusted so that only those who for one reason or another cannot relocate will be employed. We are achieving a cut in the project payroll to 2900 persons as of July 15. By continuous process from now on we will be adjusting the employees so that anybody who is capable of relocation will not be employed if we have some non-relocatable person who can handle his job just as well. It all fits into one pattern and one objective.

"This is not a popular thing to undertake but we must realize that this is a very serious situation. It is something that must be understood by all of the people if we are to succeed without confusion and misunderstanding. I am going to be accused of being tough and unfair to the evacuees. That will only be partly true. There are a lot of able young people around here who are perfectly capable of going outside and making good. Ninety-five per cent of those going out are making it all right. The other 5 per cent are causing themselves and us a lot of trouble and are jeopardizing the interests of this entire project. I don't believe that ships are built to rot out in harbor and I'm not going to be a party to having perfectly sound young people losing their ambition and courage in the center, when they could be contributing to the best interest of this minority group and of the nation by going outside and sticking to a job."