

Weekly Report to Director
March 18, 1944 Minidoka

D.S. Myer, Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Hogs: The enclosed memorandum from the chief of agriculture to the assistant project director in charge of operations, indicates to what degree evacuees are willing to test the mettle of personnel and management. We have gone a long way at Minidoka to give the average evacuee the benefit of the doubt. We are at this time, as you know, providing widespread joint participation through the council and their various committees. I believe such joint activity to be entirely sound. The questions I am raising here are:

1. Where does the burden of proof lie; can the WRA positively prove that any particular hog or chicken belongs to the government?
2. Shall we submit this question to the council?
3. Is the project director correct in this instance in assuming that we have an evacuee pig growing into a WRA hog?

Chefs: I have received a report that the chef in Block 32/1s ~~(redacted)~~ the author of a petition which has gone the rounds of the project asking all chefs and chief cooks in the dining halls from Block 1 to Block 12, inclusive, to tender their resignations * to the community council at the council's regular meeting Tuesday, March 21. The petition reportedly expresses disgruntlement over the February 15 employment cut and the fact that the hospital kitchen staff was not reduced in proportion to the other kitchens.

*

According to the information ¹ received, the agitators involved in this proposal decided to test the mettle of the administration by limiting their activity to the 12 blocks mentioned. It is interesting to note that ~~some of the~~ the evacuees most concerned in this matter live elsewhere than in the 12 blocks although the chef in Block 5 (~~insert name of Block 5 chef~~) is one of the prime movers together with (insert name of Block 32 chef). The source of our information reported that these two men have had considerable difficulty in developing a following.

I sent two Internal Security officers to visit mess halls 1 to 12 to raise pointed questions concerning whether or not such a petition was circulated; whether or not the chief cooks

Saichiro Soeda

Shigen
Fred
Kaseguma

had signed such a petition and if so whether or not they had voluntarily signed in good faith or had been coerced into doing so. Kenneth Barclay of Internal Security reported that the reactions to these visits indicated frustration and confusion.

Mr. Fujii, chairman of the community council, was advised that the administration had information concerning the contemplated action and would look forward to active cooperation of the council.

Council Clerks: Mr. Fujii, chairman of the council, appeared on March 16 to request the approval of Kenji Ito's accepting the position of clerk to the council. I advised Mr. Fujii that we could not approve of Mr. Ito in such a ~~position~~ ~~position~~ position and that I was proposing to assign Mr. Ito to the legal staff where he would be available to render legal service to the evacuee residents. You will recall that this plan was discussed with you during my recent visit in Washington. Ito accepted the ~~job~~ ~~offer~~ ~~with~~ with good grace.

Commuting: Pursuant to the conversation I had with Leand Barrows in Washington all commuting of project employees with government cars parallel to common carriers will cease on March 31. Rates and schedules have been worked out with Sun Valley Stages, Stages which has a route to the project and the announcement has been made to the staff.

Selective Service: The Army medical examining board from Fort Douglas arrived Saturday morning (March 18) to examine give pre-induction physical examinations to evacuee boys and men. We do not have official figures yet, but about 210 were examined. Unofficially, the examiners said that the rejections were running nearly 50 per cent, principally because of poor eyes. We have not had time yet to check the list for hold-outs, but you will be notified when we have done so.

Sincerely yours,

H.L. Stafford
Project Director