

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
DIGEST OF INFORMATION

Washington Office

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CONFERENCE OPENS MONDAY —

Administrative heads of the War Relocation Authority were converging on San Francisco this week preparatory to the opening of a policy and progress conference there Monday, August 17. The conference is expected to continue throughout most of the week.

Members of the Washington staff who will be present, in addition to Director Dillon Myer, are: E. J. Utz, R. I. Kimmel, Philip Glick, Leland Barrows, John Baker, Dr. Kneier, John Provinse, and T. W. Holland.

Also in attendance will be Regional Directors E. R. Fryer, E. B. Whitaker and J. H. Smart, together with various members of their regional staffs and project directors.

HEART MOUNTAIN CENTER OPENS —

With the arrival of the first contingent of about 300 evacuees at the Heart Mountain project Wednesday this week, WRA has its fifth relocation center in active operation. This project is the first to be opened in the Denver region, and Regional Director J. H. Smart was at the center to participate in arrangements for receiving the first evacuees. Project director at Heart Mountain is Chris Rachford.

Those in the initial contingent will be assigned to work in the project administrative office, the hospital, kitchens and mess-halls. They will also assist in the registration of other evacuees scheduled to arrive at the rate of 500 per day. The Heart Mountain project will have a population of 10,000, and has a land area of 46,000 acres. Evacuees are coming from the assembly center at Los Angeles.

2,319 SEEK REPATRIATION —

A total of 2,319 Japanese at assembly and relocation centers have made application for repatriation to Japan according to latest figures received by Ralph Stauber, Relocation Planning Officer. Of this total, 638 persons are at four relocation centers.

The evacuee-ship Gripsholm left Rio de Janeiro this week, bound for New York with Americans returning to this country, among them many newspaper men who have been writing accounts for United States papers of their treatment by Japanese while interned.

Manzanar had the largest number of applications for repatriation of any of the relocation centers, with 274 applications covering 334 individuals. At Poston, there were 119 applications for repatriation of 170 individuals; Tule Lake, 98 applications for 110 individuals; and Gila River 14 applications for 24 individuals.

Applications for repatriation at the assembly and relocation centers totalled 1,765 for the list of 2,319 persons.

It is likely that only a small part of this number can be accommodated on the next sailing of The Gripsholm since State Department reservations for about 700 Japanese evacuees from other sources have already been made.

RELOCATION PROJECTS TO BE MILITARY AREAS --

The four relocation centers located outside the Western Defense Command will be designated as military areas in a proclamation expected to be issued shortly by the War Department.

Agreement as to the advisability of making such a designation and the nature of the proclamation was reached after discussions this week between Assistant Secretary of War John J. McCloy, U.S. Solicitor General Charles Fahy and representatives of WRA, Deputy Director Elmer M. Rowalt and Acting Solicitor Lewis A. Sigler.

Since the relocation projects at ~~Heart Mountain, Colorado,~~ Jerome and Rohwer, Arkansas are outside any of the prescribed military areas it was agreed that the proclamation should be issued declaring them military areas in themselves, with the necessity for such action subject to reconsideration at a later date.

MAGAZINE ARTICLES PUBLISHED --

Articles dealing with the evacuation and relocation program appear in several national magazines now on the news stands.

The American Magazine for September carries an article by William Robinson. The August 15 issue of Colliers has an article by Jim Marshall, accompanied by several colored pictures taken at Manzanar.

The Nation and the New Republic last week carried short items of editorial comment on the WRA program.

The Post War World Council has issued a pamphlet written by Norman Thomas entitled "Democracy and Japanese Americans" which takes rather a critical view of the whole evacuation and relocation program insofar as it affects Japanese citizens of this country.

RELOCATION POSTOFFICES NAMED ---

TOPAZ has been selected as the name for the postoffice at the Central Utah relocation center, according to information received from the postoffice department in Washington. It will be a branch of the postoffice at Delta, Utah.

The postoffice at the Heart Mountain relocation project in Wyoming will be a branch of the Cody, Wyoming postoffice.

NAME PROJECT MEDICAL OFFICER ---

Dr. Charles E. Irwin, former superintendent of a hospital at Keota, Iowa, has been named medical director for the Heart Mountain relocation project.

RAILROAD ASKS 500 WORKERS ---

Permission to recruit 500 evacuee laborers for railway maintenance jobs has been asked by the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad in a letter to the WRA Employment Division. The company has been advised that recruitment for this type of work would be limited to citizens investigated in the manner required by Administrative Instruction No. 22.

The company proposes to recruit the workers from the Heart Mountain center for employment in extra-gangs doing re-ballast work on its roadbed in Wyoming and Nebraska. The workers would be single men, get 46¢ per hour for eight to ten-hour days, with housing and transportation furnished but each worker paying for his meals. The work would last until cold weather sets in.

The interest of the CB & Q in such a recruitment program can perhaps be partly attributed to the fact that at the present time it has on its pay-rolls 17 Japanese section foremen who have been with the company for many years.

GILA MEMO AWAITS FINAL SIGNATURE ---

The memorandum of understanding between WRA and the Department of Interior in regard to the Gila River relocation center has been approved by WRA and now awaits signature of the Secretary of the Interior.

HOUSEL TO DENVER ---

Jerry Housel, a member of the Washington staff of the Solicitor's Office, has been appointed regional attorney for the Denver region. He has spent the past week at the regional office in San Francisco, prior to taking up his new duties at Denver.

Another member of the Washington Solicitor's staff, Anthony E. O'Brien, left early this week for San Francisco where he joins the staff of the Regional Attorney.

TO ANALYZE SUBSISTENCE COSTS --

Preparations are being made and forms drafted for an analysis of subsistence costs and other related costs at WRA relocation centers by Ralph Stauber, Relocation Planning Officer. The analysis is being made to give WRA accurate and comparative data on costs of food and other supplies and services furnished to evacuees by the Authority.

In addition to food costs, the survey will cover costs in providing and maintaining laundry facilities, housing and sanitation, the hospital and dispensary.

The proposed analysis is being referred to regional officials for review after which cost figures will be obtained from each of the centers.

JAPANESE FILE PROTEST --

The WRA has been advised informally that the Japanese government has filed a protest with the United States State Department regarding treatment of Japanese aliens at relocation centers.

The charge, in substance, is that conditions at these centers are such as to be equivalent to forcing Japanese aliens to work against their will, and that therefore, the United States is violating the conditions laid down by the Japanese (and accepted by the United States) in agreeing to the extension to civilian internees of the Geneva Convention concerning treatment of prisoners of war. In agreeing to extend the Convention to civilian internees, Japan stipulated that such internees must not be forced to work against their will.

JOBS OFFERED IN CHICAGO AREA --

The Employment Division has received several inquiries from people in the Chicago area who are interested in the possibility of employing Japanese evacuees as household servants and domestic workers. Mr. T. W. Holland, Chief of the Division, recently spent several days in the Chicago territory surveying the private employment possibilities there.

The fact that a considerable number of Japanese came into the Chicago area to find jobs during the period of voluntary evacuation from the West coast may also have stimulated interest in getting others to come.

In addition to individual inquiries received, church and welfare organizations in the area have manifested a great deal of interest in finding jobs for evacuees, and Mr. Holland or Mr. Frase may spend several weeks there during the month of September in order to co-ordinate these various employment efforts.

PROJECT MEDICAL GUIDE PREPARED

Dr. E. R. Coffey, Public Health officer at the Washington office of WRA, has prepared a manual for the guidance of the medical service at relocation projects. It has been reviewed by the Solicitor's office and transmitted to San Francisco where its contents will be discussed at the conference there next week.

Material is now being gathered in the preparation of a similar manual for the guidance of project recreational staffs.

SCHOOL PLANS PROGRESS --

Dr. Lester K. Ade, head of the education section in the Community Management Division, expects to leave Sunday for conferences at Little Rock relative to the initiation and formulation of the school program for the two Arkansas projects.

Plans for the school buildings have been approved in each of the regions but contracts for construction in the Denver and Little Rock regions have not yet been awarded. In these two regions, school buildings will be erected by private contractors, while on projects in the San Francisco region where evacuees have already moved in, the construction work will be done with evacuee labor.

Work has been completed on the classification and qualification requirements for teachers and administrators to be employed at relocation projects.

SURVEY INDUSTRIAL POSSIBILITIES --

A survey into the possibilities of using evacuee labor for manufacture of articles needed by the armed forces is being made this week in a tour of inspection to relocation centers by Col. Roy E. Hughes, liaison officer to WRA from the War Department, and Capt. H.G. Munson, representing the Joint Army-Navy Munitions Board. The latter will report his findings and recommendations to the War Department.

NEW NAVY LIAISON OFFICER --

Commander Wallace Prior who has been detailed to WRA for several weeks as liaison officer for the Navy Department has had to relinquish

that post because of the press of other duties, and his successor will be named next week, according to Melvin Scheidt, Acting Chief of the Industrial Division.

LIVESTOCK FOR GRANADA —

Twenty-seven milk cows and other livestock are being acquired for the Granada relocation center from surplus stocks of NYA. The other livestock consists of 16 calves, one registered Jersey bull, two hogs, one riding horse, and two draft mules, all at Dodge City, Kansas.

AGREE TO JEROME ACREAGE CUT —

The recommendation of the WRA Agricultural Division that three tracts of land totalling 650 acres be eliminated from the agreement and lease covering the Jerome, Arkansas project has been approved by the Farm Security Administration and Regional Director E. B. Whitaker.

The land to be eliminated is part of the Alluvial Farms tract and about 350 acres is already under cultivation by FSA tenants. Some of the acreage eliminated is also remote from the community center.

ASK EVACUEES FOR HARVEST —

Despite insistent demands on the part of prospective private employers, military authorities have remained adamant in their refusal to permit evacuees to leave assembly or relocation centers for seasonal agricultural labor within prohibited military areas.

Alleging an acute labor shortage for the potato harvest, growers in the Klamath irrigation district near the Tule Lake relocation center have petitioned for release of evacuees from that center to help in the harvest.

The district, part of which is in California and part in Oregon, lies wholly within military areas No. I and II, and the Army has refused to permit Japanese to take private employment in such areas, with the exception that restrictions have been modified for Military Area No. II on the Oregon side and evacuee laborers will be allowed to take jobs there.

Several inquiries for evacuee labor as cotton pickers in southern Arizona have also been received but this region also lies within Military Area No. I.

ACQUIRING BAND INSTRUMENTS —

At the request of Virginia school officials, WRA has withdrawn its request for 600 musical instruments which were to have been acquired from surplus stocks of NYA in the state and sent to relocation centers for use of bands and orchestras to be organized there.

It is now planned to obtain these instruments from NYA surplus stocks in other parts of the country, in Kentucky, Texas and Mississippi. Indications are that these stocks are more than adequate to meet the needs of all relocation centers.

NYA instruments in Virginia have been on loan to schools throughout the state for several years, and rather than deprive these schools of the use of these instruments and the opportunity of buying them from NYA, the WRA request was withdrawn. Surplus stocks of stage-lighting equipment obtained from the Virginia NYA will, however, be transferred to relocation centers as planned.

From NYA surplus stocks, WRA is also acquiring equipment for relocation beauty shops.

SCHOOL HEADS LISTED —

Superintendents of education for all relocation projects with the exception of Central Utah have been named as follows:

Poston	Miles Carey	Heart Mountain . . .	Clifford D. Carter
Gila River	Lafe Nelson	Minidoka	R.A. Pomeroy
Manzanar	Genevieve Carter	Granada	Paul J. Terry
Tule Lake	Kenneth Harkness	Rohwer	John Albert Trice
		Jerome, Arkansas . .	Amon G. Thompson

MAY IMPORT MEXICAN LABOR —

Conditions under which Mexican labor may be imported to the United States have been agreed to by the Mexican government on the basis of a proposal prepared by a committee of the Manpower Commission made up of representatives of various federal agencies concerned. Mexican labor would be used to relieve an acute shortage of farm labor in certain sections of the country.

U. S. employers of Mexican labor must agree to pay prevailing wages and a minimum of not less than 30¢ an hour; must pay transportation both ways; provide free housing; and guarantee employment and wage payments for at least seventy-five per cent of the contract period.

BRIEF MENTION —

Evacuee employment at Tule Lake has passed the 6,000 mark.... Three airplanes will be regularly stationed at Manzanar as part of the Civil Air Patrol force and a hangar is now being built..... American Red Cross officials have made a survey of living conditions at assembly centers and three relocation centers (Manzanar, Poston and Tule Lake) and will make a report to the Secretary of War and the Director of WRA.

The Oregonian reports that out of 3,383 evacuees at the Portland, Oregon assembly center only 23 single persons and 13 families composed of 40 members made application for repatriation Seventy prospective nisei teachers for the Poston schools are being trained at the Indian Service school near Parker Three steam-boilers are being installed for the hospital-heating plant at Manzanar.

Production of adobe-brick at Poston now exceeds 1,000 per day.... at last report, 126 college students at Tule Lake were registered for the student relocation program.....Manzanar expects to harvest between four and five thousand boxes of pears, 600 lugs of appls this year.