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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

DIGEST OF INFORMATION

Washington Office

No. 25 & 26  
November 21, 1942

For the Information of the WRA Staff Only -- Not for Publication

REGIONAL CHIEFS IN WASHINGTON --

The three Regional Directors of WRA were in Washington this week for conferences with the Director and members of the staff on the relocation program in general and to discuss a proposal for administrative reorganization within the Authority.

At the close of the conferences Saturday Director Myer and Leland Barrows, Executive Officer, left on a field trip to the relocation projects at Gila River, Poston and Central Utah. They were accompanied part of the way by E. R. Fryer and Joseph H. Smart, returning to their posts as regional Directors at San Francisco and Denver. E. B. Whitaker, Director for the Southern Region, expects to leave Washington for Little Rock Monday.

While in the West Mr. Myer and Mr. Barrows will also attend a conference of the Japanese American Citizens League at Salt Lake City.

1,000 APPLY FOR LEAVES --

More than 1,000 applications by evacuees for indefinite leave have been filed for clearance with the FBI by the Employment Division. According to Robert Frase, Assistant to the Chief of the Division, about two-thirds of these already have offers of jobs or other means of support outside the centers.

About 150 leave applicants have been approved by FBI. Most of these, however, are persons who filed applications for leave before getting offers of employment.

The Employment Division is planning in the near future to have all those interested in outside work, including those who wish to go out in seasonal farm labor, to file such applications for leave as soon as possible. Thus, with FBI clearance already obtained, they would be able to leave the centers as soon as a job offer is made.

Director Myer discussed with J. Edgar Hoover this week the steps that may be taken for expediting clearance of leave applications with FBI, and received assurances that such applications would be handled as speedily as possible.

The efforts of évacuees themselves to locate jobs outside the centers are also beginning to bear fruit. Offers of employment for évacuees are continuing to come in to the Employment Division in a steadily increasing number.

WRA MOVIE RELEASED --

The moving picture taken during the early stages of the evacuation and relocation program was released by the Office of War Information this week at commercial theaters throughout the country. The picture is one reel in length and is narrated by M. S. Eisenhower, first Director of WRA.

BACKGROUND BULLETIN COMPLETED --

An informational bulletin briefly tracing the history of the Japanese people in this country and giving the background for the relocation program has been prepared by M. M. Tozier, Assistant Chief of the Office of Reports and will be distributed to members of the staff at WRA centers within the next few days.

WELFARE AGENCIES MAP PROGRAM --

John Provinse, Chief of the Community Management Division, and two members of his staff, Miss Selene Gifford and Edward Marks, attended the meeting of the National Social Work Council in New York City Friday. The Council is made up of representatives of social welfare agencies and the meeting was held for the purpose of discussing ways in which these organizations can be of assistance in the relocation program, both at the project level and in helping évacuees to establish themselves in outside employment.

PLAN WRA OFFICE IN CHICAGO --

Arrangements are being made to set up an office of the Employment Division in Chicago to co-ordinate employment and placement work in connection with jobs for évacuees, according to T. W. Holland, Chief of the Division. The office will also cooperate with various church and social welfare organizations which are taking an active interest in the program.

Mr. Holland returned last week from a trip in which he conferred with representatives of those and other organizations in Chicago, Minneapolis, St. Paul and Madison, Wisconsin, and assisted in setting up committees to aid évacuees in finding jobs.

COMPLETE AGRICULTURAL CONFERENCES --

Agricultural production for 1943 will vary considerably at the different centers but present prospects are that all centers will produce the bulk of the food for their own subsistence, according to E. H. Reed and Donald R. Sabin of the Washington Agricultural Division staff who returned this week from conferences held at each of the centers on the agricultural program.

The land development and farm production program will depend on the amount of labor available and on obtaining the necessary equipment.

Most of the projects are planning hog and poultry projects as soon as building materials and equipment is secured. Establishment of dairy herds has been tentatively approved for the Gila River and Poston projects and a beef cattle herd is planned at Central Utah.

MEETS WITH LEGION OFFICIALS --

John C. Baker, Chief of the Office of Reports, met with officials of the American Legion at the national headquarters of the organization in Indianapolis this week to discuss the relocation program and the Legion's stand in regard to it. Taking part in the discussions were Frank Samuel, National Adjutant, and Homer Chailleaux, Chairman of the Americanization Committee.

Returning to Washington from a trip to the field, Mr. Baker reported that arrangements had been completed to set up a central photographic unit for WRA at Denver and that construction of a dark-room and installation of equipment is in progress.

The dark-room will be located in the Midland Savings Bank building and plans were being made to transfer all WRA offices to this building. Heading up the photographic unit will be Francis Stewart, formerly of San Francisco, with Tom Parker as his assistant. Other members of the staff are Charles Mace, in charge of the dark-room and Mrs. Edna George, secretary.

In addition to conferring with officials at the San Francisco and Denver offices, Mr. Baker visited the relocation projects at Minidoka, Manzanar, Central Utah, Heart Mountain and Granada.

DR. THOMPSON HERE --

Dr. C. D. C. Thompson, head of the health and medical section of WRA, spent most of the week in Washington conferring with members of the staff and officials of the U. S. Public Health Service. He had previously visited several cities in the East and Mid-West in efforts to recruit doctors and nurses for project staffs.

ARNOLD LEAVES FOR HAWAII --

Edwin Arnold, Assistant to the Director, left Saturday for San Francisco from where he will go by plane to Hawaii to confer with military and civil officials with regard to the program for a limited evacuation of persons of Japanese ancestry from the "Islands".

TO SURVEY PROJECT REQUIREMENTS --

Project requirements in materials and equipment for construction of buildings (other than schools and administrative quarters) and in carrying forward irrigation and drainage programs will be surveyed by E. J. Utz, Chief of the Agricultural Division beginning next week. He expects to leave Washington Sunday to meet with regional officials at San Francisco and Denver and project people at six of the relocation centers.

After data and information have been gathered on project requirements it is planned to submit the program as a whole for the general approval of the War Production Board, after which requests for priorities on specific projects will be submitted as the need arises. Officials of the Office of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Reclamation met with WPB officials this week to urge favorable consideration for proposed irrigation programs at WRA centers.

Centers to be visited by Mr. Utz are: Minidoka, Tule Lake, Poston, Gila River, Central Utah, Heart Mountain, and Granada.

CHANGE SCRIPT IN "LITTLE TOKYO" --

Members of the Washington staff who pre-viewed the motion picture "Little Tokyo, U.S.A." some weeks ago will be interested in knowing that a change has been made in the script along the lines recommended by Milton Eisenhower, former Director of WRA, and Lowell Mellett, head of the motion picture division of OWI.

M. M. Tozier, Acting Chief of the Office of Reports, saw the picture at one of the Washington theaters several days ago and it now carries spoken lines to the effect that a great many people of Japanese ancestry living on the Pacific coast prior to evacuation were loyal to the United States. As originally released, the picture implied that all U. S. Japanese were disloyal.

RAILROADS SEEK WORKERS --

Three western railroads have expressed an interest in the possibility of employing evacuees for their track-maintenance crews.

The Northern Pacific and Great Northern railways have made inquiry in regard to hiring several hundred evacuee workers after the beet harvest is over. The Burlington railroad is considering the possibility of recruiting 75 such workers from the centers this fall on a try-out basis with the idea in mind of hiring a much larger number in the spring if the experiment is successful.

#### PROGRESS IN LAND PURCHASE --

Considerable progress has been made in the land-purchase program for the Granada project and indications are that most of the tracts in the project will be available for WRA use on schedule. The X-Y Ranch tract has been acquired and purchase of the tracts owned by the American Crystal Sugar Company is expected to be completed by the end of the lease-year, January 31, 1943.

#### MARKS RETURNS FROM FIELD --

Edward Marks, Administrative Assistant in the Community Management Division, has returned to Washington after a trip to the field in which he conferred with community service officials at five relocation centers, Rohwer, Jerome, Granada, Heart Mountain and Central Utah, and members of the WRA staff at Denver.

While in the Sale Lake City area, Marks also took the opportunity of visiting the Keetley farm project operated by a group of about 100 Japanese who left the West Coast during the period of voluntary evacuation.

At Parkville, Missouri, he met with the President of Park College and the 10 evacuee students in attendance there.

#### WRA LIBRARY ESTABLISHED --

A library of books and articles dealing with the evacuation and relocation program and with the Japanese people in general has been established in the Documents section, Office of Reports, in Room 628. Any member of the staff is invited to make use of these publications.

Among the books available at the library are:

"From Many Lands", by Louis Adamic, particularly the section "A Young American with a Japanese Face", Pages 185 to 226.

"Books and Articles on Japan", Borton, Elisseeff and Reischawer, a bibliography.

"Report of the American Red Cross Survey of Assembly Centers in California, Oregon, and Washington".

"Our Racial and National Minorities", Brown and Roucek, particularly the section on Japanese Americans by John Rademaker, Pages 472-493.

"New York Times Index for 1941".

John Embree, Documentarian, has also compiled a bibliography of articles published in newspapers, magazines and pamphlets between January 1941 and November 1942, many of which are on file in the library.

#### MORE EVACUEES TAKE JOBS --

During the week ending November 21, 40 evacuees were approved by Acting Director Rowalt to receive indefinite leave to accept employment, most of the jobs being in the Middle West. All approved applicants have been cleared through the FBI, and the number during the current week is the largest in any week thus far. Assistant Employment Chief, Robert Frase, credits this to the accelerated rate at which FBI is providing information for clearance.

#### HOLLAND TO VISIT PROJECTS --

Thomas W. Holland, Chief of the Employment Division, will leave Washington on Sunday, November 22, to visit Heart Mountain, Central Utah, Granada, Rohwer, and Jerome Relocation Centers. His trip is expected to cover approximately one month.

#### JAPAN ASKS FOR 1521 REPATRIATES --

The State Department has sent the WRA a list of 1521 names of persons requested by the Japanese Government for exchange with American nationals in Japan. It has also requested that persons named on the list be advised that the Japanese Government has requested their repatriation and that they be asked whether, in view of that circumstance, they now desire to return to Japan. Those who are on the list and desire to be repatriated will be advised to get their affairs in order and to hold themselves in readiness for sailing, although positive assurance cannot yet be given that all persons named on this list will be included on the final sailing list.

Persons on the list who do not desire to go to Japan are to be asked to so indicate. The State Department has assured the WRA that persons of Japanese ancestry born in the United States, who have retained American citizenship, will not be sent to Japan unless they choose to go. Persons requested by Japan and who were not born in the United States but who, nevertheless, desire not to go to Japan, will be

withdrawn from the next sailing list and will receive further consideration. The Japanese Government may regard the alleged unwillingness of a Japanese subject to return to Japan with much the skepticism as that with which the U. S. Government would regard the alleged unwillingness of an American national in Japan to accept the opportunity to return to the United States; hence a visit by the Spanish Ambassador may be involved in some instances, to determine whether the choice was voluntary or otherwise.

#### PORTLAND COURT FINDS CURFEW VIOLATOR GUILTY --

Minoru Yasui, American born Japanese, living in Portland, Oregon, violated the curfew regulations imposed by the Western Defense Command, and was arrested last spring. The court's opinion in the case was delivered this week. According to newspaper accounts, the only report received thus far on the outcome of the trial, the court held that Yasui, in spite of his American birth, was not a citizen, because of his propaganda activities for the Japanese government; and that since he was not a citizen, the curfew regulations applied to him and he acted in violation of the law. Accordingly he is being held in jail. The court offered the comment that had Yasui been a citizen of the United States, the curfew regulations could not validly be made applicable to him.

#### OPA RULES TYPEWRITERS MUST BE RETURNED --

The Office of Price Administration has ruled that rented typewriters must be returned to the owners by December 15. This ruling affects WRA offices and projects, where many typewriters have been rented, since they could not be purchased. The Washington procurement office is negotiating with the procurement section of the Treasury Department for procurement authority which will permit WRA projects to buy the necessary typewriters.

#### NEW BOOKS --

Books added to the WRA library during the week include American Unity and Asia, by Pearl Buck; Remember Pearl Harbor, by Blake Clark; A Daughter of the Samurai, by Etsu Inagaki Sugimoto; and Japan--a Cultural History, by G. B. Sansom.

#### LIBRARIAN JOINS DOCUMENTS STAFF --

Mrs. Eleanor Moore has joined the staff of the documents section in the office of reports as librarian, after a period of several weeks serving in that capacity on a part time basis, until her transfer from the OEM library could be completed.

SUMMARIES OF PROJECT REPORTS: (Week of November 14)

Colorado River: Visitors to the project during the week included John W. Collier, Commissioner of Information Affairs; J. C. McCaskill, assistant to Mr. Collier; and Senator Carl Hayden, of Arizona.

Stork shipped seven boys and five girls. Eight cases of chicken pox.

Granada: Community Council has prepared preliminary draft of charter. Will be studied by assembly (composed of council and advisory group of Issei).

Visitors included ministers, representatives of Federated Women's Clubs of Eaglewood, Colorado, representatives of the Presbyterian Church, of Colorado Springs, and representatives of the state agricultural extension service.

Shortage of staff personnel has restricted development of community store, and thus evacuees have been permitted to go to Lamar to shop for winter clothing.

Jerome: Nominations for temporary community council are in. Election scheduled for November 17. Visitors during week included Governor Homer M. Adkins; Marvin Bankston, president of A & M College. Twenty persons added to school staff during week.

Heart Mountain: Temporary Council in office; permanent government will be established later. Two evacuees left center to join U. S. Army. Internal Security officers resigned; temporary patrol system established. Over 200 beet workers returned to center; and 44 persons left to take jobs, 37 in agriculture.

Special program on Armistice Day. Adult activities included 3271 persons during week. Small fire in administration building, believed caused by short circuit in wiring.

ADE VISITS SAN FRANCISCO --

Lester K. Ade, head of the education section in the Division of Community Services, left Washington Wednesday, November 18, for San Francisco, where he will confer with members of the education section of the regional office. Following the conference he and Mrs. Adams, regional education director, will visit several relocation centers in the western region accompanied by representatives of the State Departments of Education in the several states in which centers are located. Enroute to San Francisco Dr. Ade planned stops in Chicago to talk with Willard Beatty of Indian Service Education Division and in Montana,



Washington, and Oregon to discuss the W.R.A. program with the respective Superintendents of Education.

STUDENT RELOCATION GROUP CALLS ON NAVY ---

Three University presidents actively concerned with the relocation of Japanese-American students called at WRA office on Friday before visiting the Navy Department to consult with officials there seeking Navy approval of some 18 colleges which already have been approved by the Army for attendance of Japanese-American students. The University presidents were John W. Nason, of Swarthmore; Robert G. Sproul, of the University of California; and Frank P. Graham, of the University of North Carolina. Dr. Nason is chairman of the Student Relocation Council, and his companions are members of the Council.

RICHARDSON AND ROGERS GO SHOPPING ---

Gerald Richardson of the Community Enterprises section returned Friday from a visit to New York, negotiating with merchandising concerns for the consignment of goods to relocation center stores. He was accompanied by Joseph Rogers, head of the community enterprises section at the Granada Relocation Center. They will leave Washington again on Tuesday, Rogers returning to Granada, and Richardson going to the two centers in Arkansas.

PROVINSE AND MARKS MEET WITH SOCIAL WORKERS ---

John H. Provinse and Edward Marks, of the Community Services Division, met with representatives of two federated groups of workers concerned with social problems, in New York City, on Friday, November 13. Representatives of some 25 different organizations were present at the meeting, and information concerning the WRA program acquired by these representatives will be forwarded to local groups and officers throughout the country.