

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

D I G E S T O F I N F O R M A T I O N

Washington Office

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For the Information of the WRA Staff Only -- Not for Publication

BOARD OF REVIEW TO SIFT MANZANAR EVIDENCE --

A three-man Board of Review was appointed by Director Myer this week to consider the evidence and make its recommendation as to procedure in the cases of 22 evacuees who have been removed from Manzanar as the result of the recent disturbance there.

Members of the board are Elmer M. Rowalt, Deputy Director, Philip M. Glick, Solicitor, and John H. Provinse, Chief of the Community Management Division.

The evacuees are being detained under jurisdiction of WRA at jails in Lone Pine and Independence, small towns near Manzanar. They are not under formal arrest, however, and the jails are not under control of local or county authorities, but are being used temporarily because there was no suitable place at the center. A military guard is maintained.

Evidence is being submitted to Washington for examination by the Board of Review as to the extent to which these men as individuals participated in the disturbance of December 5 and 6 or the incidents which led up to it. After going over the evidence the board will make its recommendation as to what further steps are to be taken.

If the evidence is sufficient, the cases may be bound over to a state or federal court for trial. The board may also recommend that the men be returned to Manzanar, sent to other relocation centers or that they be sent to a new center, formerly a CCC camp which has been turned over for the use of WRA at Moab, Utah. Ray Best, in charge of transport and supply at Minidoka, has been designated as director of this center on a temporary basis.

E. R. Fryer, Deputy Director, left Washington for San Francisco Wednesday and will go from there to Manzanar.

Progress is being made in working out the problems at Manzanar and the center is gradually returning to normal, according to information brought back by E. R. Fryer, Deputy Director, and Lewis A. Sigler, Assistant Solicitor, who spent several days at the project following the disturbance.

Although military police were called in to maintain order following the disturbance, Fryer said that martial law was not declared and that

operation of the center continued under the direction of WRA throughout the period.

Working with Ralph P. Merritt, Project Director, and other members of the WRA staff in ironing out difficulties at the center is a committee of 108 elected representatives, three from each block. From this group, an executive committee of four, two nisei and two issei, is working directly with the administrative staff.

STAFF CHANGES --

Several members of the WRA staff in San Francisco have arrived in Washington to take positions on the staff here, and other shifts in personnel and positions are also being made in the field as part of the program under which the administrative set-up of the War Relocation Authority is being reorganized.

E. R. Fryer, former Regional Director at San Francisco, has assumed his duties here as Deputy Director.

R. B. Cozzens, former Assistant Regional Director at San Francisco, has been named Field Assistant Director for the Pacific Coast area, with headquarters in San Francisco. Also named Field Assistant Directors were E. B. Whitaker and Joseph H. Smart, formerly Regional Directors at Little Rock and Denver, respectively. WRA offices there will continue as field offices.

Edward McMenamin, Personnel Officer, said that about 30 members of the San Francisco staff are expecting to transfer to Washington under the reorganization plan. Those who have arrived thus far include:

Edwin Ferguson, Regional Attorney, who will be Head Attorney on the Solicitor's staff, and Reginald M. Watt who will be Associate Attorney in the same office.

C. H. Powers, construction supervisor, who will hold a similar position on the Washington staff; Larry Collins, head of the community enterprise section at San Francisco who will work with the same section here, principally in the field.

Robert Petric, Executive Assistant to Mr. Fryer, who will be Assistant to Robert Frase in the Employment Division.

Joining the staff of Leland Barrows, Executive Officer, are Jack Gilbert, Hall Stenz, and Hugh Alexander.

Charlotte Dixon, formerly in Mr. Fryer's office, will be senior administrative assistant in the Employment Division. Helen Hanson, formerly in the employment division at San Francisco and Margaret Biddle, formerly handling work in connection with repatriation, will also be on the staff in the Employment Division.

Catherine Scott has joined the Office of Reports staff.

Other shifts in personnel and position resulting from the reorganization include:

The appointment of Harvey M. Coverley, former Assistant Regional Director at San Francisco, as Project Director at Tule Lake, effective December 30, 1942.

The appointment of Elmer L. Shirrell, former Project Director at Tule Lake, to head the Chicago field office of the Employment Division.

Most of the other members of the San Francisco staff who are being transferred to Washington are expected to arrive within the next ten days. Several transfers from San Francisco have also been made to project staffs.

EMPLOYMENT DIVISION EXPANDING --

Plans are being made for the establishment of additional field offices and for a considerable expansion in the staff of the Employment Division for handling leave clearance and placement work in connection with the program by which evacuees will move out of relocation centers to take jobs in private employment.

Donald R. Sabin, formerly in the Agricultural Division, has been named Assistant Chief of the Employment Division, and will head up a new section dealing primarily with the employment of evacuees in agricultural work.

Robert Frase will be Assistant Chief in charge of urban employment, and a third field, employment at the projects, will be in the charge of Davis McEntire who was head of the employment division at the San Francisco office.

Robert Petrie will be assistant to Mr. Frase in the urban employment section, with Mrs. Charlotte Dixon handling leave clearance, Ken Nishimoto in charge of placement work, and a member of the staff yet to be appointed will handle matters dealing with adjustment and follow-up assistance to evacuees after they get located.

Elmer L. Shirrell, former project director at Tule Lake, will be in charge of the Employment Division field office at Chicago, with Rex Lee, formerly of the San Francisco staff, assisting him during the month of January, after which Lee will be in charge of the field office at Salt Lake City.

Plans are being made to set up other field offices at Denver, Cleveland, Kansas City or Omaha, and probably in other major employment centers. Harold Fistere has been appointed to take charge of the Cleveland office. Theodore Waller, formerly on the San Francisco staff,

has been working in Omaha on matters pertaining to employment of evacuees and will later go to Des Moines and other Iowa cities. Harold S. Choate, also a former member of the employment staff at San Francisco, will shortly start similar work in Minneapolis and St. Paul.

A general conference on employment will be held in Chicago around the middle of January, attended by members of the field and Washington staff, and representatives of agencies and local committees cooperating in the employment program. Director Myer is expecting to attend this conference.

"REPORT FROM TOKYO" --

"Report From Tokyo", current best-seller by Joseph C. Grew, former U. S. Ambassador to Japan, is now available at the WRA library to members of the staff.

48-HOUR WEEK ESTABLISHED --

The 48-hour week was established for all administrative employees of the War Relocation Authority effective December 26, in accordance with provisions of the recent enactment by Congress providing pay increases to federal employees for over-time work.

REPORTS OFFICER NAMED --

Russell Bankson, Spokane newspaperman, has been appointed Reports Officer at Central Utah and expects to assume his new duties January 4.

PRIORITIES --

Priorities for needed materials in the construction of school buildings and administrative quarters at Poston and Gila River have been granted by the War Production Board. All ten of the centers now have such priority ratings.

A statement of the overall requirements for other construction materials for all the centers is now being prepared and is expected to be submitted to the Facilities Review Committee of WPB within the next ten days. This statement will set forth anticipated needs of the projects for materials needed in land development programs, irrigation, drainage, and road construction, farm and shop buildings and other construction. If the overall program is approved, individual applications will be submitted later on specific construction projects.

A similar overall statement of machinery and equipment needs at the centers is also being prepared for submission to WPB.

SPANISH CONSUL VISITS GILA --

The Gila River project was visited recently by the Spanish Consul, Mr. de Amat of San Francisco, and Bernard Gufler, Assistant Chief of the Special Division in the State Department, the first of such visits which the two officials are making to relocation centers. Mr. de Amat is representing the Spanish government which is the protecting power for Japanese interests in the United States. From Gila they were scheduled to go to Poston, and later to Manzanar.

After a tour of inspection of facilities at both communities at the Gila project, Mr. de Amat indicated his satisfaction with the treatment being accorded Japanese nationals and of living conditions generally. He and Mr. Gufler were accompanied on their tour at Gila by L. H. Bennett, Project Director, and R. B. Cozzens, Field Assistant Director.

Interviews were also arranged for residents of the center to discuss their problems with the Consul.

CAMERAS OBTAINED --

Cameras for use at the projects in taking identification photos have been obtained by the Employment Division. They will be used in providing pictures for identification cards for evacuees going out on indefinite leave.

REVIEW COMMITTEE NAMED --

A committee to study and evaluate the progress and experience thus far in the field of community government and internal security at relocation centers has been appointed by the Director and is expected to submit its report next week. Members of the committee are John Provinse, Chief of the Community Management Division, Philip Glick, Solicitor, and John Embree, Documentarian.

GROUP ACTIVITIES STATEMENT --

An administrative instruction relating to the group activities and recreational programs at relocation centers is now in the final stage of preparation and is expected to be sent to the field within the next few days.

Authorization has been obtained for the appointment of a group activities leader on the WRA staff at each center.

BUYING TYPEWRITERS --

With rental of typewriters by government agencies prohibited after

January 15, procurement officials of WRA are taking steps to purchase machines for use at the centers. Efforts are being made to buy as many as possible of the machines being used on a rental basis.

58 WAGONS TO ARKANSAS CENTERS --

Priorities have been obtained for the delivery of 58 wagons to the Jerome and Rohwer projects for use primarily in hauling firewood to the center from timber lands in the area. Mules and horses are also being acquired to furnish the motive power.

REPORTS OFFICER NAMED --

Austin Smith has been appointed as Reports Officer for the relocation center at Rohwer. During the past two months he has been assistant to Dr. Hunter, head of the community services division at the project, and prior to that time was on the staff of the Office of Government Reports at Little Rock.

CONFERS WITH MAGAZINE EDITORS --

John Baker, Chief of the Office of Reports, has returned from conferences with magazine editors and writers and officials of national radio networks in New York and Philadelphia.

He discussed the relocation program as a possible source of magazine articles with editors of Collier's, Common Ground, Country Gentleman, the Saturday Evening Post, and the Writers' War Board. He also conferred with a free-lance writer who is working on an article intended for publication in Liberty Magazine, and discussed various aspects of the relocation program with Norman Thomas, director of the Post-War World Council.

Baker also made arrangements to provide background material on the WRA program to the Columbia Broadcasting System and the Blue Network for use of their announcers and commentators. Similar material will also be sent to NBC.

J. P. McEvoy, well known magazine writer, recently visited the Washington office in gathering background material for an article which he is writing for Readers Digest and scheduled for publication in the February issue. McEvoy also planned to visit Heart Mountain, Central Utah, and Tule Lake Relocation Centers.

QUARTERLY REPORT ISSUED --

The first quarterly report of the War Relocation Authority was distributed last week. It covers the period from March 18, when the

Authority was created, through June 30. The report for the second quarter, July 1 through September 30, has been completed and is now being reviewed.

EXCLUSION PROGRAM --

Only a few exclusion orders have been issued thus far by the Eastern Defense Command, but a considerable number of hearings have been held on pending cases, according to Edwin G. Arnold, Special Assistant to the Director, who is in general charge of the WRA phase of the exclusion program.

Arnold returned Saturday from New York where he conferred with officials of EDC and the heads of WRA offices in New York and Boston, Robert Cullum and Roger Clapp.

In the Western Defense Command, more than 100 individual exclusion orders have been issued and the program is also getting underway in the Southern Defense Command, with four exclusions reported to date. Henry C. Baker, assistant to Mr. Whitaker at Little Rock, is representing WRA in handling exclusions in the southern states.

HAWAIIAN EVACUATION --

Arnold has recently returned from a trip to Hawaii where he made a survey of the evacuation program there. While military officials have made no official announcement of the extent to which persons of Japanese ancestry are to be evacuated from Hawaii, Arnold said that it was his impression that the number would be small and confined almost entirely to those who are not engaged in productive work for the war effort.

MISS GIFFORD RETURNS --

Miss Selene Gifford, public welfare consultant in the Community Management Division, has returned to Washington after spending several days at the Little Rock offices and the Arkansas relocation projects where she conferred with officials on welfare, housing and clothing problems.

On December 12 she gave a talk on the relocation program at the annual meeting of the American Public Welfare Association in Chicago, and conferred with public welfare directors from several states present at the meeting.

STUDENT RELOCATION --

Applications of more than 200 evacuee students for indefinite leave to attend college have been cleared through the Community Manage-

ment Division and submitted to FBI during the past two weeks. Under new procedures outlined in Supplement No. 1 of Administrative Instruction No. 22, Revised, most of the clearance work in connection with student relocation which was formerly done on the Pacific Coast will now be handled through the Washington office.

REPORTS ON SCHOOLS --

General satisfaction with the progress being made in educational programs at Tule Lake, Minidoka, and Central Utah was expressed by state superintendents of education or their representatives who visited the centers in the company of Dr. Lester K. Ade, educational consultant on the WRA staff.

Dr. Ade, who returned to Washington Thursday, also conferred with state educational officials of Montana, Oregon, and Washington, in addition to those of California, Idaho, and Utah who accompanied him on visits to the centers.

Due to the difficulty in getting teachers, school staffs at some of the centers are still incomplete, with most of the vacancies being for elementary teachers and for agricultural and industrial arts teachers in the high schools. The administrative and supervisory staffs are practically complete for all center schools.

Textbook requirements have been met for the most part but some shortages exist in other school supplies and equipment. Particularly lacking are typewriters, industrial arts, and laboratory equipment. Building materials are starting to arrive at the projects for the construction of school buildings.

While in the West, Dr. Ade conferred with Mrs. Lucy Adams, educational consultant in the San Francisco office who is on temporary duty as acting superintendent of the schools at Manzanar, and with California school officials at Los Angeles with reference to the preparation of a standard list of school supplies and equipment for center schools. Enroute to Washington he met with the superintendents of schools at the Arkansas projects at Little Rock.

COMMUNITY ENTERPRISES --

A report showing the progress made by community enterprises at relocation centers was given at the weekly meeting of the WRA staff by Gerald W. Richardson, head of the community enterprise section.

Charles Beltt, superintendent of community enterprises at Minidoka, is on detail to the Washington office and accompanied Mr. Richardson to New York City last week where they made arrangements for purchase of merchandise stocks for relocation center stores.

They were joined in New York by Ralph D. Currie who expects to go from there to the Central Utah project as superintendent of the community enterprise set-up there. Mr. Richardson returned to Washington, and Mr. Beltt went to St. Louis to discuss project merchandise needs with wholesalers there, after which he will spend some time at the Jerome center to assist in setting up the community enterprise organization.

Carl M. Erkillia who has been associated with cooperatives in Minnesota for a number of years will join the WRA staff after Christmas to become associate superintendent of community enterprises at the Rohwer center.