

## INFORMATION DIGEST

No. 32

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For the Use of the WRA Staff Only - Not for Publication

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SENATE COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE --

A sub-committee of five members was named Friday by the Senate Military Affairs Committee to investigate conditions at relocation centers and determine the truth of charges that evacuees are being "pampered".

Director Myer is scheduled to appear before the sub-committee January 20, after which the committee is expected to make a tour of several of the centers. Senator Chandler is chairman of the investigating group.

A resolution calling for a similar investigation has been introduced into the House of Representatives by Congressman LeRoy Johnson of California.

OUTLINE EVACUEE PROPERTY POLICIES --

Policies governing the operations of the Evacuee Property Division are set forth in an Administrative Instruction which was submitted for the Director's signature this week.

Russell Robinson, Chief of the Division at the San Francisco office, and three members of his staff have been in Washington for the past ten days for conferences with WRA officials here in outlining policies and procedures to be followed. Others from San Francisco at the meetings were J. H. Fitzhenry, Transportation Officer, Edgar Bernhard, Attorney, and Victor Furth of the Property Division.

CHICAGO EMPLOYMENT CONFERENCE --

A four-day conference on problems dealing with the placement of evacuees in outside private employment was concluded Sunday in Chicago. Director Myer attended the last two days of the session, meeting with representatives of church and welfare groups co-operating in the re-employment program. In the opening sessions, Mr. Holland and Mr. Sabin met with members of the field staff. Frank Cross of the Reports Office was also in attendance at the conference.

SMART COMPLETES STUDY --

Joseph H. Smart, Field Assistant Director, has completed his study of internal security organization at relocation centers and has submitted a report to the Director with his recommendations for strengthening such organization.

TO MEET WITH REPORTS OFFICERS --

M. M. Tozier, Assistant Chief of the Office of Reports and Allan Markley, Senior Reports Officer, left Friday for Little Rock and will then spend three days at each of the Arkansas projects. They will work with the Project Director and the Reports Officer in setting up organization and procedure to facilitate the flow of information to Washington and project staffs, the evacuee community and surrounding area.

From Arkansas they will visit the projects in Arizona and California, and also meet with newspaper editors and heads of OWI regional and branch offices in project areas.

WRA MEETINGS ON CONSTRUCTION CONTINUE ---

Following the meeting on Friday, January 8, at which Director Myer and other members of the WRA staff appeared before the Facilities Review Committee of WPB to discuss the WRA construction program, another meeting was held Tuesday, January 11. Present at the second meeting were Mr. Powers, head of the Construction Section, Morris Seltzer of the Procurement Section, Mr. Provinse, Chief of the Community Management Division, Mr. Silverman of the Solicitor's staff, and two representatives from the Indian Service. The group continued its presentation of WRA's construction program, both past and projected. WPB had previously approved priorities for schools and administrative quarters. If the over-all program is approved by the Review Committee, it will still be necessary to submit PD 200 forms for priority ratings on each separate construction job.

SPANISH CONSULS VISIT CENTERS --

Senor Martin, Spanish vice-consul in San Francisco, and Bernard Gufler of the State Department are now visiting western relocation centers to discuss repatriation problems and to make a general survey of living conditions at the centers. Beginning on the 21st, the Arkansas projects will be visited by Jose Garay, Spanish Consul from New Orleans and a representative of the State Department.

INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE --

Fully equipped shops for building ship models and for making silk screen posters are being requisitioned from WPA, which is in process of liquidation. On January 11, Mr. Scheidt, Acting Chief of the Industrial Division, and Lieut. Streiffler inspected the shops in New York.

ADE'S TRIP PRODUCTIVE --

Dr. Ade, Education Consultant, returned this week from a trip to Philadelphia, New York, and New Haven to recruit teachers for the relocation centers. He interviewed prospective school teachers at the University of Pennsylvania, Temple, Drexel, the American Friends' School, and in New York he contacted placement offices at Teachers College, Columbia University, New York University, Queens, Brooklyn, and Hunter colleges and the College of the City of New York.

In New England, Dr. Ade conferred with Dr. Clyde M. Hill of Yale and Dr. Finis Engleman, president of Connecticut State Teachers College at New Haven.

A second objective of Dr. Ade's trip was to secure educational materials for the schools. While in Pennsylvania he obtained copies for each center of 64 bulletins on modern education issued recently by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Instruction.

EMPLOYMENT TO TAKE OVER STUDENT LEAVES ---

The Employment Division has set up a system for the processing of student leaves, which up to now has been a function of the Community Management Division. The files are now being consolidated, and the Employment Division will soon take over the responsibility of processing the leaves. Some negotiations with the National Student Relocation Council and other educational groups will continue being handled by Community Management. The executive committee of the Council will meet in New York, January 20, and it is expected that Ed Marks, Community Management Division, and Robert Petrie, Employment Division, will attend the meeting.

RATION BOARDS TO BE SET UP ---

Arrangements have been made with OPA to establish ration book panel boards which will have the authority to issue ration books One and Two to evacuees going out on leave. The board will be made up of the project director or assistant project director, one other member of the administrative staff, and one person from the civilian rationing board adjacent to the project.

PERSONNEL DIVISION ADDS TO STAFF ---

The reorganization has resulted in the addition of several persons to the Personnel Division. Earl Brooks, employment investigator in the Denver office, will assume the duties of Chief of the Placement Section about February 1. Miss Glen Jonscher of the San Francisco office is also in the

Placement Section. Richard Robinson, of the same section, is on temporary leave from OEM. Miss Gladys Pearlson, Classification Investigator, has just been appointed on WRA rolls, coming as a transfer from OEM, and Miss Jacklyn Burton from San Francisco is also on the Classification Section staff.

BATES IN WASHINGTON --

Edwin Bates, former Chief of the Office of Reports at the San Francisco office, arrived Monday to begin a 30-day detail with the Reports Office here.

EMPLOYMENT PAMPHLET --

A pamphlet explaining policies of WRA in relocating evacuee workers in outside jobs and giving detailed information on the skills and occupational groupings of the evacuated population is being prepared for distribution to the general public. The pamphlet was prepared by the Reports Division in co-operation with the Employment Division and will be distributed through employment field offices and local committees of citizens working with WRA in finding employment for evacuees.

REPORTS HANDBOOK --

A handbook outlining the duties of Project Reports Officers and suggestions for carrying on information and public relations work has been prepared by the Office of Reports and will be distributed to the field shortly. The manual outlines the work of Reports officers in five major fields of activity: information to evacuees; public relations work in outside communities; administrative reports; historical and documentary materials; and photography.

NEW YORK CO-OP OFFICE --

The central purchasing office for community enterprises recently opened in New York City has OEM communication facilities, including tactical line and teletype. Telephone number is Murray Hill-3 6805, Ext. 463.

PERSONNEL CHANGES IN COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT --

At Minicoka, John Essene is being made Superintendent of Community Enterprises, succeeding Charles Beltt, with Neil MacNeil taking the Associate's job vacated by Essene. Mauritz Erkkila will supervise Community Enterprises at Jerome, and at Rohwer, Sam Sahlman is expected to take up his duties February 3 as associate community enterprise superintendent.

Edward B. Marks, formerly Administrative Assistant in the Community Services Division, has been transferred to the Community Organization and Government Section as assistant to Sol Kimball. His work will be chiefly with the community activities program.

Oleta A. Dunbar, formerly secretary to Mr. Barrows, has been named Administrative Assistant to Mr. Provinse.

Thomas Temple has resigned as Chief of Community Services at Manzanar, and his place will be taken temporarily by Mrs. Lucy Adams. Prior to taking up her new duties at Manzanar, Mrs. Adams will meet with California school officials on legislative matters.

Dr. Lester Ade, who has been with WRA as consultant from the Office of Education, will be in charge of the WRA education program while Mrs. Adams is at Manzanar. Dr. Ade and Mr. Marks recently met with Office of Education officials regarding funds available from that source for certain types of training and retraining.

#### PERSONNEL CHANGES IN AGRICULTURAL DIVISION --

Alan Laflin has recently arrived from San Francisco to be in charge of the Irrigation Section in the Agricultural Division. Messrs. Thunberg and Wilt, also new arrivals in the Washington office from the San Francisco staff, have gone to the field. Both are in the construction and maintenance section.

#### COOPERATIVE ENTERPRISES --

The business volume of project co-ops increased nearly 50 per cent during December, as compared with November, according to reports received by Gerald Richardson. Figures for the seven centers reporting are given below. It should be noted that Tule Lake figures are for October and November period, rather than November and December.

BUSINESS VOLUME OF COMMUNITY ENTERPRISES

<u>Project</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>November</u>
Gila	\$115,247.00	\$ 87,058.00
Manzanar	77,514.48	65,961.07
Granada	33,153.29	17,010.05
Heart Mountain	96,850.34	75,581.39
Rohwer (Enterprises unorganized)	.....	.....
Central Utah	45,364.39	31,598.15
Minidoka	57,310.90	30,493.37
Jerome	30,128.61	16,752.85
Tule Lake	114,480.00 (Nov.)	101,060.00 (Oct.)
Poston (No reports rec'd.)	.....	.....
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TOTALS (excluding Tule Lake)	\$455,522.68	\$304,465.36

STAUBER VISITING CRYSTAL CITY CAMP

Ralph Stauber, Relocation Planning Officer, is making a visit to the new family internment camp being established at Crystal City, Texas. The camp is being set up by the Department of Justice as a center at which persons who have been interned may be reunited with their families.

Stauber also plans to confer with project officials at Central Utah, Tule Lake and Minidoka on matters pertaining to repatriation and the gathering of statistical material relating to evacuees and the operation of the centers.

RETURN FROM ARKANSAS ---

Problems and procedures on matters of fiscal policy, procurement, and subsistence supplies were discussed with project officials at Jerome and

Rohwer on a recent visit by Leland Barrows, Executive Officer, Hall Stenz, Chief of Procurement, and Frank Harding, Mess Operations Officer.

They spent two days at each of the projects and were accompanied by E. B. Whitaker, Field Assistant Director at Little Rock and two members of his staff, Henry Baker and Ben Runyon. On the return trip, Barrows, Stenz and Harding stopped at Memphis to meet with officials of the Army Quartermaster depot there.

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CORRECTION: A typographical error occurred in the item concerning the Gila River community enterprises as carried in last week's DIGEST. The corrected figures for the gross business of community enterprises at Gila River are \$115,247 for December as compared to \$87,058 for November.

WEEKLY PROJECT REPORTS:

COLORADO RIVER(January 1): Pratically every resident visited the Unit II fair held January 1, 2, and 3. Many outside visitors present.

GRANADA(January 9): Over 65% of first quarter clothing allowance paid.... About 1/3 of the Army contract of 22,000 tons of coal has been delivered.... Of the 88 boys in the 18-year-old group registering for draft, in Prowers County, 37% were evacuee citizens.

TULE LAKE(January 9): Progress is being made on rebuilding center roads.... 188 new applications filed for indefinite leave, exceeding by more than 50% the total number received prior to January 1....19 cases of chicken pox, 30 cases of German measles, and 54 cases of measles reported.

CENTRAL UTAH(January 9): Governor Maw accepted invitation to be present at inauguration of new City Council on January 14. Residents will arrange a tea for Mrs. Maw....First meeting of Red Cross held....On January 8 pupils stayed home from schools and parents went instead....Social and business meeting held by Cooperative on January 9. Labor analysis of assignments begun....Crew organized to salvage tin cans....Report completed on possibility of setting up a rabbit farm on large scale....First teacher training curriculum work started on January 2....City-wide tubercular test planned.... 5,000 tons of coal on hand in stock pile and at blocks.

GILA RIVER(January 9): Butte Council recommended to heads of various religious denominations authority to grant permits to religious groups and individuals for purpose of conducting religious services....opposed granting of permits to groups or individuals to sell merchandise directly to people except through regular channels.

JEROME(January 9): A plan for fuel wood supply was worked out jointly with block managers, community council, and administration, but transportation facilities still insufficient....Processing of leave clearances and requests for indefinite leave gaining momentum daily.

ROHWER: Inauguration of motion picture shows -- 4 shows for 5 nights a week... First freezing weather, but fuel supply was sufficient, and colonists found it was not hard to endure.

HEART MOUNTAIN: Site of ceramics factory plowed and leveled. Crew assigned to erect first unit....Project Attorney's office and War Works Division worked out recommendation for memo of understanding with the U. S. Dept. of Interior covering lands within Heart Mountain....Education staff preparing estimates on school building equipment.

DECEMBER PROJECT REPORTS:

MINIDOKA: 755 applications filed for individual work leaves, 160 sent to Washington....Editorially, evacuees have been credited with saving Idaho harvest....Apprentice training program started in every division to replace workers going out on leave....Elementary school and high school each lack only three teachers of quota....Arrangements made with State and Federal Departments of Vocational Education to supply night schools with certain shop equipment....Consumer Enterprises grossed \$80,647.41 compared with \$40,727.39 in November.

'SQUELCH-THE-RUMOR' COMMITTEE FORMED ---

Claude H. Detweiler, president of the Twin Falls Chamber of Commerce, has formed a 'Squelch-the-Rumor' committee because a number of false rumors circulated in that town had been injurious to business and impeded the war effort. The committee of twenty-seven is made up of the chief of police, sheriff, four ministers, one of whom is chairman, five club women, business and professional men, and the commanding officer of the Idaho volunteer reserves. Speakers will discuss the work of the committee before the city's business, fraternal, and civic organizations. Primarily, the rumors to be squelched concern the Minidoka evacuees.

Passes from the center were practically halted as the result of a widely prevalent discriminatory attitude in Twin Falls toward the evacuees. Detweiler told the Kiwanis Club that Magic Valley farms faced the loss of 2700 evacuee laborers as a result of unfounded rumors. On December 31 a front-page story in the Times-News killed the rumor that evacuees had received a consignment of Prostone while other citizens in the area could not secure the anti-freeze solution. An investigation proved that the evacuees were not permitted to own cars.

FROM THE NATION'S PRESS ---

The Wichita Beacon of January 5 reports that at a meeting of the city commission, the city heads went on record opposing the hiring of servants of Japanese ancestry, even of the third generation, declaring that if they are not desirable on the west coast, they are not desirable "in a war production area such as Wichita". Several prominent families have either hired evacuee servants or are about to. Two days before, a letter to the paper vehemently denounced the plan of some Wichita housewives to hire evacuee servants, saying that they are asking "for another 'Pearl Harbor' in Wichita." This followed a story on December 30 announcing that several families had employed or planned to employ evacuees from Granada to solve the difficult servant situation.

HAWAIIAN EVACUEES ARRIVE --

WCCA announced on January 2 the arrival of 433 persons of Japanese ancestry from Hawaii. The group was en route to Jerome.

PRESS SUPPLEMENT

ANNOUNCEMENT --

This week the Information Digest includes a review of newspaper clippings received in this office during the last several weeks. It is expected that a separate Weekly Press Review, which will include reviews of magazine articles as well as news stories, will be started next week.

CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATION --

On January 8 Representative J. Leroy Johnson, Republican, of California introduced a resolution (H-Res. 37) calling for the establishment of a special Congressional committee to investigate the educational and administrative program of the WRA.

Press forewarning of this came in an editorial of the Sacramento Bee, January 2. Johnson had announced that one of his first official acts would be to introduce such a resolution. The Bee commented that public sentiment on the coast would favor such a move because of "rumors" that Japanese are to be released from camps and because the Manzanar incident had "caused thousands of Californians to wonder about the operation of these so-called relocation centers."

Press interest in the resolution thus far has been limited. We have received only four clippings. The United Press reported that the investigation was demanded because of reports that evacuees were not being food-rationed, quoted Johnson as saying that Center teachers receive higher pay than teachers in the State school systems and that "frills" were being taught, quoted Representative Voorhis as saying that camps should be kept simple and made self-sustaining", and reported Representative Harry Sheppard's statement that his personal investigation had shown that neither food nor teachers' salaries were out of proportion. New York Herald Tribune, Washington Post, Washington Times Herald. 1/10/43

The Associated Press reported the introduction of the resolution. It quoted Representative Johnson as saying that he wanted an investigation, "so that the Japanese won't be discriminated against and so that our people won't be discriminated against." San Francisco Examiner. 1/9/43

GRANADA SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION -- Senator Edwin Johnson of Colorado continued his efforts to halt school construction at Granada. He telegraphed the editor of the Pueblo Chieftan (Colorado) as follows:

"Dillon Myer would not stop building at Jap camp, so I have requested Eberstadt, vice chairman War Production Board in charge of such matters, to stop its construction."

In reporting this, the Chieftan referred to WRA officials as "spendthrifts" and "bureaucrats" and to evacuees as "enemy internees."  
Pueblo Chieftan. 12/29/42

On December 27 the Chieftan came out in a vigorous editorial favoring Johnson's stand and criticizing WRA as another case of New Deal extravagance.

JEROME SMEARED -- Scripps-Howard correspondent Eugene Rutland wrote a long syndicated article on Jerome. Bitterly attacking WRA management, Mr. Rutland's main points were alleged civil unrest at Jerome, threatened evacuee assault on a U. S. Army engineer and construction foreman, refusal of evacuees to work, food waste, evacuee sabotage of construction supplies, thefts, unwarranted delay in school construction. Memphis Commercial Appeal, San Francisco News and Washington News. 1/2/43

Following up Rutland's article, the Commercial Appeal on January 5 fulminated against the "theorists who have been placed in charge of the WRA", called for "firmness and directness in handling evacuees", and for an investigation and a change to "A realistic attitude about this thing."

#### WHITAKER DENIES CHARGES OF "CODDLING" EVACUEES

In a press release dated January 8, E. B. Whitaker, Field Assistant Director in Little Rock, replied to press criticism of conditions at Jerome that was carried in full in the Memphis Commercial Appeal and the Knoxville News-Sentinel and picked up by other papers throughout the country.

Mr. Whitaker pointed out that the public should keep in mind that the evacuees have had to adjust to entirely new weather, working, and living conditions. Mr. Whitaker answers each accusation of waste and unrest mentioned by the Commercial Appeal. The release was sent out over the AP wires.

#### OTHER REPORTS IN THE NATION'S PRESS ---

Employment--- WRA release of many chick-sexers from the evacuee group will help the nation as a whole to increase poultry production and help relieve the meat shortage. Des Moines Register. 12/16/42. (Editorial)

Local war board votes to take no action toward helping farmers obtain evacuee workers until farmers clearly express their wishes. Reed Baily, director of the Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station at Ogden, Utah, states that farmers seeking evacuee labor must take them without any strings attached as to their location after the war. Ogden Standard Examiner. 12/24/42.

Public attitudes toward evacuees -- Northern Baptist Convention approved a fund of \$20,000 for a Christian ministry to Japanese evacuees. Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (New York) 12/28/42 (editorial)

Premature legislation by California restricting the post-war rights of Japanese citizens "might interfere with the peace, even prolong the war" and the "post-war status (of evacuees) possibly will be a factor in the peace negotiations. San Francisco News. 1/8/43 (Editorial)

Civil Liberties Union scores evacuation as the most serious threat to civil liberties during the first year of war, but adds, "The present liberal policy of releasing as many as possible...is helping in part to undo what was done." Arizona Republic. 12/27/42 AP dispatch

Rumors that "Japanese internees at the Minidoka, Idaho, relocation center are furnished a quart of milk for every child and a pint for every adult" are "obviously designed to cause anger and resentment against government officials and to create a spirit of disunity", according to an Oregon State Defense Council report. Oregon Journal. 12/20/42

A Japanese-American soldier who "joined the Winged Commandos to get back at the Germans and Japanese for what they did to him and 140 million other Americans" was described in the Denver Post. 12/23/42

The Gallup Poll which showed 31 per cent of Pacific State residents opposing post-war return of any evacuees, 29 per cent favoring return of all, and 24 per cent favoring return of citizens drew two additional editorial comments. The Seattle Times on December 30 indicated that this was a somewhat less harsh attitude than expected and stated that it was unlikely that the people of the area would reach final conclusions until the war is ended. The Birmingham (Alabama) Age-Herald on December 20 expressed fear that bitterness toward a treacherous Japan is preventing us from distinguishing between individuals and masses. The seeds for future trouble are being planted if we fail to protect the rights of individuals, to give evacuees a chance to work, and to help them in every way we can, according to this paper.

Blake Clark continued promoting sympathetic feeling toward Americans of Japanese stock with an article on a battalion of soldiers from Hawaii now stationed at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin. He described their loyalty, social acceptability to Wisconsin town of Sparta, high personal calibre of the men and their delight in seeing the U.S.A. Mainland.

Alien Control -- Lieutenant General DeWitt abolished all prohibited military zones and all curfew restrictions in Nevada. Reno Gazette. 12/28/42

Health -- Protesting against the admission of six evacuee patients to already over-taxed Idaho hospitals, Dr. Lewis Williams, retiring State Charitable Institutions Director said: "If that rate is maintained, it will crowd our hospitals and prevent us from doing that which we ought to do for our legal residents." Lowiston Tribune. 12/24/42

Miscellaneous -- Dies Committee year-end report denounced by Jerry Voorhis as "inaccurate", referring to the work of Mr. Dies alone rather than his committee; criticized for and failing to take advantage of its opportunity to present a "guide to help people identify and avoid enemy agents and their activities." Among the highlights of its year's accomplishments the report took credit for évacuation. Voorhis characterized this claim as "extravagant" and stated, "The Committee report could accurately have been described as one among many factors which brought about Japanese relocation." Voorhis also criticized the Dies' technique of dubbing anyone on a membership or mailing list of certain organizations as being subversive. New York Herald Tribune. 1/4/43 UP Dispatch.

Very few of New York's Japanese are "pro-Fascist", but most are "only pro-Japanese-nationalistic"; most Japanese people (in Japan) know that it is only through an Allied victory that they can win, according to Executive Secretary Yoshitaka Takagi, Japanese-American Committee for Democracy, in an article describing activities of that organization. PM (New York City). 12/27/42

Sister of James Y. Sakamoto, former publisher of The Japanese American Courier was wounded in a shooting fray in her home in New York. Seattle Times. 12/23/42

In picking the ten top Wyoming news sources of the year, editors of Wyoming papers with AP service selected 15 events. These included Japanese resettlement at Heart Mountain and the controversy over the use of evacuee labor to relieve the agricultural manpower shortage. Cheyenne Tribune. 1/1/43

Jerome described favorably by Center resident. In a column and a half story Eddie Shimano depicted all aspects of community life. Little Rock Gazette (Arkansas) 12/27/42