

INFORMATION DIGEST

No. 33

January 23, 1943

For the Use of the WRA Staff Only - Not for Publication

SENATE HEARINGS --

Director Dillon Myer testified Wednesday before a sub-committee of the Senate Military Affairs Committee on the program and policies of the War Relocation Authority. The committee also called witnesses representing the War and Navy Departments. After the hearings are concluded several committee members plan to tour the Centers for a first hand picture of the problems of administration involved. Further testimony may be requested from WRA before the hearings close.

Members of the Senate sub-committee are:

Albert B. Chandler of Kentucky, Chairman
Mon C. Wallgren of Washington
Rufus C. Holman of Oregon
Chan Gurney of South Dakota
Joseph O'Mahoney of Wyoming

Senate Bill No. 444, introduced jointly by Senators Rufus C. Holman and Mon C. Wallgren on January 18, provides for the transfer of the WRA to the War Department.

FIELD MEETINGS --

Director Myer left for San Francisco Thursday for a three-day conference with Project Directors and other key members of California and Arizona project staffs. Members of the Washington staff in attendance at the conference, in addition to the Director, were John Provinse, Chief of the Community Management Division, and Philip Glick, Solicitor.

A similar conference is scheduled to be held at Denver on January 28, 29, and 30 at which staff members of the Granada, Central Utah, Minidoka, and Heart Mountain Centers will be present.

The meeting with Arkansas project staffs is tentatively scheduled for February 1, 2, and 3.

Purpose of these meetings is to discuss administrative policies and procedures and major problems at the centers.

FIELD RELOCATION OFFICES OPEN --

Field Relocation Offices for the Employment Division of the WRA have been opened at Chicago, Salt Lake City, Denver, Kansas City, and Cleveland. The functions of these offices will be : (1) to sound out local community sentiment toward the acceptance of evacuees; (2) to make placements and to assist cooperating individuals and agencies in finding jobs for evacuees; (3) to assist evacuees in getting settled and adjusted.

In charge of each office is a Relocation Supervisor. In addition to his office staff, each Supervisor will be responsible for the operation of sub-stations located at various points.

Location and supervisors of the Field Relocation Offices are given below:

<u>City</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Supervisor</u>
Denver	Midland Savings Bank Building	Earl D. Brooks (Temporarily)
Cleveland	Union Commerce Bank Building	Harold S. Fister Fred Ross (Ass't.)
Chicago	226 West Jackson Blvd.	Elmer L. Shirrell
Salt Lake City	318 Atlas Building	H. Rex Lee
Kansas City	Space now being arranged for	Theodore Waller (Temporarily)

EVACUEE PROPERTY POLICY CLARIFIED --

Two Administrative Instructions, one dealing with general evacuee property problems and the other with transportation and storage, have been completed and will be distributed to the field as soon as possible. These have been prepared by officers of the Property Division working in Washington. An inventory of farm and other essential equipment owned by evacuees and privately warehoused has been planned. The establishment of an Economic and Statistical Section and a documentation unit in the Evacuee Property Office has been decided upon.

Working on this problem have been Russell T. Robinson, Chief of the San Francisco Evacuee Property Office of the Division of Relocation Assistance, Victor L. Furth, Assistant Chief, Edgar Bernhard, Principal Attorney representing the Solicitor at San Francisco, and J. G. Fitzhenry, Sr. Traffic Officer.

Mr. Furth will attend the Denver meeting to discuss the new Administrative Instructions with Project Directors.

PLANS FOR GROWING PYRETHRUM DISCONTINUED --

WRA will not undertake the raising of pyrethrum this year, according to a decision recently made by Director Myer. Pyrethrum is used in insecticide manufacture.

It is felt that the production of subsistence crops will utilize most of the available agricultural manpower remaining at the Centers during the coming crop season and that a long-range project such as growing pyrethrum should not be undertaken.

It was originally expected that this crop would be raised at Granada, Central Utah, and Tule Lake.

CHEYENNE INTERNAL SECURITY CONFERENCE --

Joseph Smart left Washington on January 21 to confer with Governor Hunt of Wyoming at Cheyenne. Also present at the conference will be Guy Robertson, Heart Mountain Director, and other representatives from that project.

EMPLOYMENT --

Applications from evacuees wishing to leave Relocation Centers are coming in at the rate of about 100 a day and are increasing. More than 5000 have been received.

A total of close to 1200 indefinite leave applications have been granted. This figure includes 600 applications for student leave and about 250 for the reunion of families.

The number of evacuees entering skilled and professional jobs is increasing. Several are engaged in direct war work as mechanics, welders, etc.

A comparison of the labor force at the projects with employment figures taken from the 1940 Census shows that about the same percentage of evacuees are working at the projects as were employed in 1940.

The first of a series of occupational inventories has been completed by the Division. Evacuees who need help in finding jobs are classified by occupation desired, family status, experience and training. WRA Field Relocation Offices and private cooperating committees will use the first inventory, and it is planned that future inventories will be used by the United States Employment Service.

GRANADA SCHOOLS --

Morris Seltzer, Equipment and Priorities Officer, reports that negotiations are underway to revise the contract for the schools at Granada.

REPORTS DIVISION STAFF IN FIELD --

M. M. Tozier and Alan Markley will be at Gila on Monday, January 25. From Gila, Mr. Markley will go to the Project Directors' San Francisco conference, rejoining Mr. Tozier later for visits to Poston, Manzanar, and Tule Lake. Before returning to Washington, they plan to spend a few days in Los Angeles and San Francisco in connection with public relations work.

On January 25, Oscar Buttedahl, Project Liaison Officer leaves for Denver where he will confer with members of the Photographic Section and attend the Project Directors meeting. He will then visit Granada, Central Utah, Minidoka, and Heart Mountain.

Frank Cross has returned from the Employment Division meeting at Chicago. He also has been in Cleveland where he conferred with Harold Fistere, head of the Cleveland Field Relocation Office, on public relations matters.

NEW WRA PUBLICATION UNDER WAY ---

An illustrated pamphlet on the WRA program for distribution to the general public is being prepared by Edwin Bates, former Chief of the Office of Reports at San Francisco, who is here on a 30-day detail.

RELOCATION PLANNING DIVISION --

Ralph Stauber, Relocation Planning Officer, is expected back in Washington on Monday, January 25. Petitions have been received from a number of evacuees at Colorado River, Minidoka, Granada, and Rohwer to rejoin their families at the Crystal City family internment Camp.

HEALTH SECTION --

Health Section personnel from San Francisco are arriving. Dr. G. D. Carlyle Thompson, Head Medical Officer and Section Chief, is due to reach Washington on January 26. Miss Helen K. Shippy, Medical Social Work Consultant, is already here. She plans to remain for a few weeks before starting on extended field trip. When complete, the staff of this section will also include Miss Joy B. Stuart, as Supervising Nurse, and Robert P. Lowe, as Sanitary Engineer.

MARKS IN NEW YORK --

Edward B. Marks spent several days in New York City this week, in meeting with representatives of several social welfare agencies on various phases of community activity programs to be undertaken at the centers.

STUDENT RELOCATION --

Recent Army approval of 30 additional educational institutions brings to 384 the number of schools approved by both the Army and the Navy. Since January 1, there have been 145 students released. Most of these will leave the centers in time for the opening of the second college semester.

LIBRARY NOTES --

Internews, a collection of newspapers issued by internees at the Manila Santo Tomas Internment Camp for British and American prisoners has been added to the WRA library. The organization, Relief for Americans in Philippines, is the publisher.

CORRECTION --

The January 9 Digest carried an item from the Gila News-Courier that federal orders curbed the shipping of vegetables of low food value. The News-Courier item was incorrect. To date, no federal orders curtailing vegetable production have been issued. Rather, the Department of Agriculture is giving special assistance to farmers producing vegetable crops of high nutritive content while not rendering such assistance in the production of food crops of low nutritive value.

PRIORITY REQUIRED --

Administrative Instruction 37, which covers the procedure for obtaining priorities for maintenance, operating, and repairs equipment by the use of War Production Board Forms PD-408, has been revised and will be released to the projects next week.

WPB has announced that it will issue no more blanket priorities for WRA maintenance, operating, and repairs equipment. This means that PD-408's must be used. They should reach the Washington office 50 days in advance of each quarter. Project Directors have been asked to submit forms for the April-June quarter so that they will reach Washington no later than February 10.

PROJECT PROCUREMENT PROCEDURE TO BE REVISED --

Administrative Instruction No. 42, which deals with procurement at the project level, is being rewritten, and will be distributed within a few weeks.

PROJECT AUDITS PLANNED --

Preliminary to setting up records in Washington of heavy, motorized, and certain other types of project equipment, as specified in Administrative Instruction No. 70, field audits of the operations of the Property Control and Warehousing Section are to be made. A team of two field accountants will work together at each project. The first team--Harold Byrd and Asa Smith--will leave Monday, January 25, to spend two weeks at the Arkansas centers.

Purpose of the audits will be to secure accurate information on property and equipment at the projects. As justification for additional equipment priorities, WPB frequently requires a statement on present equipment utilization.

PETRIE IN WASHINGTON ---

Alexander Petrie, formerly fiscal officer at San Francisco, recently arrived to assume his new duties here as field accountant. On the way from San Francisco, he spent several weeks at the Moab, Utah camp, setting up accounting procedures. In Washington, Mr. Petrie will work on the preparation of accounting instructions.

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED --

The following Administrative Instructions have been issued since January 9:

- No. 41, Supplement 6. Accounting Control Records--Transfer of Forms, January 9.
- No. 27, Supplement 5, Method of Paying Clothing Allowance, January 14.
- No. 76, Daily Evacuee Population Summaries, January 20. Starting February 1, 1943, Project Directors are required to keep daily Project population records, including the number of admissions and departures during the day, and total number of evacuees in the project at the close of the day.

WEEKLY PROJECT REPORTS:

JEROME (January 16): Least essential project activities are discontinued so that all available men may be used for woodcutting. Out of 40 wagons ordered, 10 have arrived. Wood saws have not arrived yet. False rumor current that evacuees have purchased 22 calibre shells in Jerome stores.

GRANADA (January 15): Lamar city teachers were entertained by Center teachers at dinner and an inspection of project. Community Council passed resolutions calling for standard recognition of project schools and hospitals so that proper student credit may be obtained and for medical check-up of all project personnel.

MANZANAR (January 15): Self-government is still suspended.

ROHWER (January 16): Out of 6000 individuals eligible for membership when Rohwer Cooperative Enterprises is set up, approximately 4500 have signified desire to become share-holders. Fears of a fuel shortage have been practically eliminated by large stockpile of wood cut during week.

TULE LAKE (January 15): Piling up of unloaded coal cars was so serious that Project Director feared an embargo on all project freight. Council and city residents responded splendidly to his appeals for coal shovelers, and by week's end were unloading cars at rate of more than 25 per day. 450 evacuees volunteered for this work, in addition to all the farm workers and those in the Construction Division.
