

INFORMATION DIGEST

Nos. 36 and 37

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For the Use of the WRA Staff Only - Not for Publication

REGISTRATION PICKS UP --

Registration at the projects of all men and women over 17 years of age is increasing after making a fairly slow start. It is expected that from now on daily registrations will increase rapidly. Evacuees have had to have time to adjust themselves to this new development and to think out and have explained the details of the program. Figures on the number of volunteers for the nisei combat unit have not yet been released by the War Department.

WALLGREN MISQUOTED --

Senator Mon C. Wallgren, who introduced into the Senate the bill asking that the relocation program be transferred to the War Department, says in a letter to George Ishiyama, community enterprises representative of the Heart Mountain Sentinel, that his position in regard to relocation centers has been misrepresented. The Senator wrote:

"I have repeatedly told newspapermen here that there were rumors of all kinds in regard to the evacuation camps and that if these rumors were true immediate steps should be taken to isolate the disloyal Japanese from these who want to be loyal.....

"It is my hope that out of this investigation will come a new policy for handling the Japanese which is both humane and realistic. There is no doubt in my mind but what there should be rigorous control of all suspected disloyal individuals among the Japanese.

"On the other hand, I think that in this time of vital manpower shortages the nation can ill afford to waste the manpower resources represented by the loyal Japanese who now, at best, are making no real contribution to the nation's well-being. I think that loyal Japanese men who want to join our army should be allowed to fight against the common enemy."

Senator Wallgren's letter was printed in full in the February 13th issue of the Heart Mountain Sentinel.

WPB TURNS DOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS --

The Facilities Review Committee of the War Production Board has withdrawn its approval for the construction of elementary schools at

the projects, with the exception of the school in Unit 1 of Colorado River. Work on schools at all the projects but Colorado River had been stopped earlier. Project directors had indicated that it would be possible to continue to use barracks for elementary schools, but that in some cases, if the high-school construction did not proceed as scheduled, more barracks would have to be built.

WPB also turned down coolers which had been proposed for the Gila River administrative quarters.

LEAVE APPLICATIONS CLEARED ---

As of February 16, 1990 indefinite leaves had been granted, including 605 students. Of the former number, 69 were aliens and the remainder citizens. Of the students released, six were aliens.

Applications are coming in at the rate of approximately 125 a day from each project. About 7600 applications have been received to date.

FRYER LEAVING ---

E. R. Fryer, Deputy Director and formerly Director of the San Francisco Regional Office, is leaving WRA for the State Department. Mr. Fryer will be in the Office of Foreign Relief and Rehabilitation and will leave before March 1 for Algiers to assist Fred Hoehler in organizing the staff for that region. Mr. Hoehler is in Algiers now conducting a survey of needs.

1944 BUDGETS ---

Ben Runyon, Fiscal Officer of the Little Rock office, is in Washington on a month's detail to assist in the preparation of the 1944 budget. He will work with each division in planning its needs.

PERSONNEL REORGANIZED ---

The Personnel Division has finished its reorganization. Appointments have now been made to complete the staffs in the Transaction, Placement, and Classification sections.

One person will spend full-time on clerical appointments and making arrangements for housing for newcomers to Washington.

STUDENT RELOCATION OFFICE MOVED ---

The San Francisco office of the National Student Relocation Council has been closed, and headquarters are now in Philadelphia.

Church groups and a foundation grant have contributed sufficient funds to keep the council going at least until next October, thus assuring its immediate future.

Robert W. O'Brien, national director, has had to return to his position at the University of Washington. His successor has not yet been named.

EVACUEES PLEAD GUILTY --

Seven of the eight evacuees of Colorado River who attacked Saburo Kido, national JACL president, entered pleas of guilty to the charges of assault with deadly weapon when they appeared in the Yuma County Superior Court. The attack took place in Unit II early in the morning of January 31. Eight were arrested. Kataru Urabe pleaded not guilty and will await trial. Sentence was to be passed on the other seven on February 16.

BAKER ADDRESSES FORUM --

John Baker, Chief of the Reports Division, participated in a forum on Japanese Americans in the victory program, co-sponsored by the Japanese American Committee for Democracy and the American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born. The meeting was held in New York on February 13.

Other speakers were Blake Clark, of the Office of Civilian Defense; Donald Henderson, of the United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing, and Allied Workers of America; Michael J. Overmeier, of the Hotel and Club Employees Union; Louis Goldblatt, of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union; Janet Fukushima, of the Japanese American Committee for Democracy; and Abner Green, of the American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born. The labor leaders expressed their belief that unions can be a major factor in aiding the relocation program.

DAILY POPULATION REPORTS AVAILABLE --

Daily population reports from the projects will be available to any member of the staff wishing such information. In accordance with Administrative Instruction No. 76, projects were to start keeping daily reports on February 1. Figures for that date are preliminary, since some discrepancies in the reports have yet to be dissolved. As they stand now for February 1, the total population was 107,751. By projects, the populations on that date were: Central Utah, 7,948; Colorado River, 17,682; Gila River, 13,331; Granada, 7,223; Heart Mountain, 10,687; Jerome, 8,246; Manzanar, 9,878; Minidoka, 9,274; Rohwer, 8,461; Tule Lake, 15,015; and Moab, 16.

PETITIONS RECEIVED FOR FAMILY INTERNMENT CAMP --

A total of 477 petitions for entering the family internment camp had been received here as of February 15. The camp is expected to be

completed between March 15 and April 1. German as well as Japanese families will live there. The following chart shows the distribution by project and recommended priority for transfer, Class A being the most urgent:

| <u>Project</u> | <u>Class A</u> | <u>Class B</u> | <u>Class C</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Central Utah | 2 | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| Colorado River | 67 | 31 | 26 | 124 |
| Gila River | 27 | 10 | 24 | 61 |
| Granada | 2 | 3 | 3 | 8 |
| Heart Mountain | 25 | 5 | 19 | 49 |
| Jerome | 97 | 6 | - | 103 |
| Manzanar | 10 | 1 | - | 11 |
| Minidoka | 30 | 15 | 9 | 54 |
| Rohwer | 31 | 23 | 5 | 59 |
| Tule Lake | - | - | - | - |
| <hr/> | | | | |
| Total | 291 | 96 | 90 | 477 |

FIELD OFFICES ESTABLISHED --

Under the five main relocation offices of the Employment Division outside of Washington, field stations are being set up to handle the increasing number of employment opportunities for the evacuees. The main offices and their field stations are:

SALT LAKE CITY: Salt Lake City; Richfield, Utah; Helena, Montana; Chinook, Montana; Reno, Nevada; Idaho Falls, Twin Falls, and Boise in Idaho; Spokane, Washington; and Phoenix, Arizona.

DENVER: Albuquerque, New Mexico; Grand Junction, Fort Collins, and Pueblo in Colorado; Scottbluff, Nebraska; Laramie, Wyoming; Worland, Wyoming; Billings, Montana; Bismarck, North Dakota; Garden City, Kansas; and Rapid City, South Dakota.

KANSAS CITY: Wichita, Kansas; Manhattan, Kansas; Kearny, Omaha, and Norfolk in Nebraska; St. Louis, Missouri; De Moines, Sioux City, and Cedar Rapids in Iowa.

CLEVELAND: Ann Arbor, Kalamazoo, Bay City, and Detroit in Michigan; Toledo, Columbus, and Cincinnati in Ohio.

CHICAGO: Minneapolis, Minnesota; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Madison, Wisconsin; Peoria, Illinois; Rockford, Illinois; Indianapolis, Indiana; and Fort Wayne, Indiana.

The Employment Division in Washington will employ about ten evacuee girls on indefinite leave. The first one, from Minidoka, arrived on February 15. The girls will come from all of the projects.

Harold Choate has been appointed Senior Relocation Officer for Denver.

INSTRUCTIONS ON SHOE RATIONING --

On February 15 a wire was sent to all projects that an emergency issuance of Stamp #17, to be used for the shoe ration, has been approved for those persons who do not have Ration Book No. 1. The nearest ration board is to be contacted and referred to the administrative exception sent to all regional administrators of the OPA by their Washington office. The exception further provides that the person in charge of the institution is empowered to represent the individuals in his care and obtain the stamps for them.

ASSISTANCE FOR EVACUEES --

Negotiations are in progress with the Public Assistance Bureau of the Social Security Board to arrange an agreement to care for those evacuees who through no fault of their own need services or assistance after they have left the projects to enter private employment.

CO-OPS AND RATIONING --

Superintendents of cooperative enterprises and evacuee buyers for the Central Region projects held a conference in Salt Lake City with Charles Beltt of the New York office and representatives of cooperative wholesales and commercial wholesales. Jack Gilbert, Priorities Officer, explained what effect rationing would have on the business of the enterprises and answered questions with regard to priorities. The conference was held from February 13 through 16, during Salt Lake City Market Week when orders could be placed for spring merchandise.

The New York office is making arrangements for getting commodities that are difficult for community enterprises to purchase, and also for securing scarce articles such as soap.

COURT ACTIONS COMING UP --

Several cases bearing on the constitutionality of evacuation and detention in relocation centers are to come up soon in federal courts on the West Coast.

Status of evacuees now in the projects may be clarified on March 9 under a writ of habeas corpus issued on February 2 by Federal Judge Harry A. Hollzer. The petition for a writ was filed by the American Civil Liberties Union in behalf of Ernest Wakayama, Hawaiian-born Japanese, and his American-born wife, Toki Wakayama. The petitioners' attorneys argue that even assuming the military exclusion orders were valid, the authority to exclude the evacuees did not include authority to detain them.

On February 19 three criminal cases involving the constitutionality of the evacuation orders and the curfew regulations will be heard on appeal by the Circuit Court of Appeals: the Yasui case of Portland, the Hirabayashi case of Seattle, and the Korematsu case of San Francisco.

The Regan vs. King case, which attempts to force the registrar of voters for San Francisco County to strike the names of Japanese Americans from the election rolls, will also be heard by the Circuit Court of Appeals on February 19.

JANUARY AT THE PROJECTS:

GRANADA: Articles of incorporation for the cooperative were drafted and executed as were the proposed by-laws for the corporation.....The proposed charter for the local government was ratified on January 20 by a vote of 2183 to 451.....83 individual work leaves issued.....247 men and 933 women registered in adult education courses.....17 students left for colleges, making a total of 52 from the center.....Public relations damaged by the criticism leveled at the project by the Pueblo Chieftain and the Denver Post in connection with the school construction program. Lamar Daily News, however, defended the program and did not favor army control of the center. Public opinion was expected to be improved by the announcement of the combat team.

MINIDOKA: Increase in volume of legal work for evacuees.....86 work leaves issued.....40 acres cleared of sagebrush.....Initial clothing grants all paid.....53 out of a possible 171 applications for family internment camp..... School staff lacked only five of quota.....By-laws of Consumers' Cooperative adopted and membership drive begun.....General health situation excellent..... Minidoka mass choir of 83 voices presented successful concert in Jerome..... Twin Falls Squelch-the-Rumor continued active and urged better understanding of the center.

CENTRAL UTAH: 104.5 acres prepared for truck crops, 275 acres of barley planted, and 200 acres of clover. 800 lbs. of bean sprouts harvested..... 71 indefinite leaves issued.....Furniture valued at \$1,070.00 manufactured. Home calls initiated by community welfare section.....1551 men and 2036 women are enrolled in adult education classes.....5304 members of co-op. Articles of incorporation and by-laws approved by temporary board and temporary co-op congress.....An exceptionally fine series of newspaper and radio publicity features in Utah aided public relations.

HEART MOUNTAIN: Apple canning valued at \$1,144.73, sewing project production, \$1,131.61.....Judicial Code drafted.....131 indefinite leaves issued..... Draft of Charter approved by commission.....20 students left for college..... Physical examinations of policemen and firemen completed.....Salvage program initiated.....A Space Committee is adjusting the usage of recreational hall space.....Basketball team invited to compete with Lovell all-star team.

ROHEER: Draft of a Constitution submitted for approval.....Five indefinite leaves issued.....30 acres cut over, brush piled and wood hauled.....Judicial Commission of seven appointed.....Cash clothing allowances for October paid... School program made considerable progress.....Introduction of several anti-Japanese bills in state legislature had an unfavorable effect on public opinion. American Legion post at McGehee refused to pass an anti-Japanese resolution.

GILA RIVER: 405 employed at net factory with average production of 1576 sq. ft. per day per person.....Bactaic, cabbage, carrots, daikon, lettuce, green onions, and turnips shipped to other centers, total poundage 1,213,546 out of total production of 2,828,564 lbs. of vegetables.....23 students left for college.

JEROME: 23 indefinite leaves granted.....60 acres completely cleared and 200 acres partially.....20,000 bd. ft. lumber cut in sawmill. Second sawmill operation waiting for hauling equipment.....School enrollment exceeded anticipated figures.....Two most important problems during the month were the fuel situation and the publicity given to the center by the highly-colored article in the Memphis Commercial Appeal.

TULE LAKE: New set-up of the City Ordinance Committee organized.....City Council adopted a number of regulations to handle the problem of juvenile delinquency.....An Executive Secretary of the Block Managers was appointed to promote greater efficiency within the organization.....473 men and 1673 women enrolled in adult education classes.....6,115 members of co-op.....Co-op educational program gaining momentum.....184 cases of measles and 127 cases of German measles reported.....42 indefinite leaves granted.

MANZANAR: 6408 lbs. bean sprouts produced and 3550 gals. soy sauce.....133 granted indefinite leaves.....In spite of considerable project employment readjustment, no labor difficulties were experienced.....25 acres cleared. Heavy rain and snow on the mountains indicate plenty of water for irrigation during the coming season.....Clothing allowances paid through September.....805 men and 779 women in adult education classes. Over 2/3 of entire community enrolled in classes.

BOY SCOUT ACTIVITIES PLANNED --

Stanley A. Harris, national director of interracial activities of the Boy Scouts of America, consulted with staff members of the Community Activities section here in the development of Boy Scout programs at the projects. He is particularly interested in getting types of activities that troops at the centers can develop. Mr. Harris stopped in Washington on his return from visits to Colorado River, Gila River, Manzanar, and Rohwer.

GRANADA OUTLINES AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM --

Present plans for agriculture at Granada for the coming year indicate that about 500 acres will be planted in vegetables for subsistence needs at the center. Five hundred acres will be in alfalfa this year, and 1200 acres will be in feed crops. A herd of about 600 head of beef cattle will graze on 2400 acres of pasture.

In addition to the cattle, the project will have available for its meat supply both hogs and poultry -- 2000 hogs and 16000 meat birds. There will also be 8000 laying hens.

From 100 to 150 boys who are enrolled in vocational agriculture want to farm as much as 500 acres under the supervision of their instructor.

ADMINISTRATIVE HOUSING PROGRESS REPORT --

| <u>Project</u> | <u>% Materials Ordered</u> | <u>% Materials Received</u> | <u>% Construction Completed</u> |
|----------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Central Utah | 90 | 20 | 2 |
| Colorado River | 25 | 2.8 | 0 |
| Gila River | 35 | 15 | 0 |
| Granada | 100 | 80 | 15 |
| Heart Mountain | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Jerome | 100 | 100 | 62 |
| Manzanar | 80 | 75 | 20 |
| Minidoka | 90 | 7 | 0 |
| Rohwer | 98 | 95 | 80 |
| Tule Lake | 100 | 95 | 92 |

The above table represents the progress of construction as of February 14, and it represents work done with evacuee labor. At Gila River the Army has completed 30 percent of the six housing units which it is building.

The efficiency of evacuee labor varies from one project to another and depends in good part on the number of skilled workmen who are available.

REQUESTS FOR REPATRIATION SMALL --

Evacuees named on List 6, submitted by the Japanese government, have shown little interest in being repatriated. The table below tabulates the returns as of February 9.

| <u>Project</u> | <u>Inquiry Letters Sent to Projects</u> | <u>Total Returns</u> | <u>Requests for Repatriation</u> | <u>Declarations of Declination</u> |
|----------------|---|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Central Utah | 204 | 79 | | 79 |
| Colorado River | 269 | | | |
| Gila River | 166 | 1 | 1 | |
| Granada | 228 | 16 | 16 | |
| Heart Mountain | 244 | 173 | 6 | 167 |
| Jerome | 87 | 83 | 1 | 82 |
| Manzanar | 130 | 3 | | 3 |
| Minidoka | 413 | 339 | 18 | 321 |
| Rohwer | 129 | 24 | 5 | 19 |
| Tule Lake | 189 | | | |
| Total | 2059 | 718 | 47 | 671 |

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED --

The following Administrative Instructions have been issued since February 3:

- No. 83 Organization of Police Force at Relocation Centers. February 15.
- No. 82 Income Tax Liability of Evacuees for Payments Received at Relocation Centers. February 10.
- No. 26 Supplement 3. Consumer Enterprises in Relocation Centers. February 11.
- No. 22 Supplement 4. Issuance of Leave for Departure from a Relocation Area. February 17.
- No. 14 Revised. Determination of the Agricultural Production and Distribution Program. February 15.
- No. 15 Supplement 1. Handling Confidential. February 4.