

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

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For the Use of the WRA Staff

SENATE HEARINGS CONTINUE --

Director Myer has been asked to appear again before the subcommittee of the Senate Military Affairs Committee investigating the relocation program. No date has been set, but it is expected to come up shortly. On April 9, Senators Chandler, Murphy, and Wallgren and Mr. Malone, consultant to the committee, made their report to the subcommittee.

The investigators reported to the Committee that testimony was overwhelming on three points: (1) that selective service should be reopened to evacuees; (2) that all loyal and law-abiding evacuees be resettled in locations approved by the Army; and (3) that all those answering "no" on questions 27 and 28 of the registration schedules be interned for the duration of the war.

WPB APPROVALS--

The War Production Board has added the following construction projects to those already approved: Stores and warehouses at Central Utah; garage at Rohwer; vegetable storage at Tule Lake; and bakery, cattle feed lots, and poultry unit at Heart Mountain.

SENTRY HELD FOR COURT-MARTIAL --

The sentry who shot and killed a 63 year old issei at Central Utah on April 11 is to be held for court-martial upon the recommendation of a military board of inquiry which met on April 13.

The issei bachelor was killed when he failed to heed the sentry's challenge as he attempted to cross the center boundary.

BUDGET SENT TO HOUSE --

The 1944 budget for WRA is now on its way to the House Appropriations Committee, after having been reviewed by the Bureau of the Budget, which has recommended a budget of \$48,170,000. The number of positions authorized for WRA places a ceiling of 251 on the Washington staff, 308 on the field outside of the projects, and 2073 on the projects. Within the next few days each division chief will be given a list of the positions authorized for his division.

SUPREME COURT TO HEAR CASES --

The Yasui, Hirabayashi, and Korematsu cases involving the constitutionality of the evacuation and curfew, sent to the U. S. Supreme Court by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, will be called up by the Court for argument sometime during the week of May 3. A decision may be expected within about two months.

LEUPP READY FOR OCCUPANCY --

The isolation center at Leupp, Arizona, which has been undergoing repairs preparatory to receiving the Moab group, is reported to be ready for occupancy. The power plant is practically complete; the Employees' Club, which has been reconditioned to house the administrative staff, was to be ready on April 14; the hospital building, to house the military police, on the 15th; the kitchen and dining room on the 15th; the east wing of the dormitory, which will accommodate 200 evacuees, on the 16th. The west wing can be refitted later if there is any need to expand the center. The steam and water lines were in service on April 10.

LEAVE APPLICATIONS SENT TO FBI --

Thirty-eight thousand five hundred leave applications have been sent to the FBI for clearance. Under the new administrative instructions which place most of the granting of indefinite leave in the hands of the project director, the Washington office is concentrating on leave clearance entirely. It is estimated that at the present rate, the job of clearing approximately 60,000 applications can be accomplished by July 1.

POPULATION ROSTERS RECEIVED --

Requested on February 4, rosters of persons on Projects have now been received from all projects except three. The first center to send in its roster was Rohwer; the second was Minidoka; and the third was Jerome.

These rosters were requested as a part of the undertaking to get an accurate, up to date, and continuing record of the present location of all evacuees coming under the jurisdiction of WRA. Another part of the job consists in a system of daily population advices on admissions and departures. Projects were also advised on February 4 that these advices were to be prepared for all persons who had arrived or departed since the opening of each project except those who arrived in transfer units from the evacuated area. All projects are now on a reasonably current basis, and all but Colorado River, Granada, Heart Mountain, and Rohwer have sent in the advices for the period prior to February 1.

MILITARY AREAS ESTABLISHED --

The Central Defense Command has issued a public proclamation establishing a military area as a basis for an exclusion program. It is mainly concerned with the Sault Ste. Marie district.

WATER SITUATION CRITICAL AT GILA --

Between February 20 and March 25, production of the Butte well at Gila River dropped from 1200 to 800 gallons per minute. The Senior Engineer on the project disclosed that at the present rate of water consumption, the faucets used to water the project grounds and lawns will have to be closed.

PUBLIC ATTITUDE IMPROVES IN MICHIGAN --

Sentiment in Michigan on receiving evacuees in that state has improved immeasurably. Earlier antagonism due to unfavorable resolutions submitted to the state legislature, and the opposition of certain labor groups and growers, seems to be pretty well dissipated. When a growers' association recently polled its membership on accepting evacuee labor, there were only two dissenting votes out of a hundred, compared to a previous poll which showed about half and half. Many requests have been coming in for workers in truck crops.

MOTION PICTURE SCHEDULED --

The Office of Strategic Services has agreed to assist WRA in the production of a motion picture in color covering the story of the evacuation, life at the centers, relocation, and Camp Shelby. The Army has approved the filming of the nisei combat team. The film when finished is to be about twenty minutes in length.

Pictures taken during the evacuation by OEM will be included, as well as some footage by WRA photographers. New footage will be done by the OSS crew at one relocation center and at Camp Shelby. It is hoped that the film will be completed by mid-June.

PLANS FOR FINANCING RECREATION PROGRAMS --

Several plans have been suggested to the centers for the financing of Community Activities programs. Two of the alternatives have a cooperative basis. One proposal is to set up a department in the existing Consumer Cooperative for the purpose of handling the recreational program. A second possibility is the organization of a separate recreational cooperative, or "play co-op".

Other methods have been suggested as a supplement to, rather than a substitute for, the cooperative alternatives. These include the diverting of all money derived as commissions for orders placed with mail order houses; the use of cash register receipts to be donated by persons not intending to redeem them; and the sale of tickets, handicrafts, etc.

MEMORANDUM TO FIELD ON RELOCATION PROGRAM --

Recent developments in the outside relocation program have been summarized in a memorandum, dated April 10, for the relocation supervisors and project directors. Recent administrative instructions which have been designed to simplify and facilitate leave procedures are listed. The instruction providing for the issuance of indefinite leave prior to the completion of the process of leave clearance in Washington is explained particularly.

The memorandum goes into considerable detail on the responsibilities of the relocation officers and their relations with the projects. Other subjects covered include the payment of fare for evacuees; provision for public assistance; factors governing the return of evacuees to the projects; the distinction between the two basic leave procedures; jobs and standards; agricultural work; Civil Service; the Eastern Defense Command; jobs in war plants; seamen; the cooperation of private and public agencies with the program; student relocation; checking on the location of evacuees after they leave the centers; and draft status of evacuees.

ROTOGRAVURE LAYOUTS TO BE RELEASED --

The Office of War Information is distributing WRA photographic layouts to 65 rotogravure sections throughout the country. The date for the release is May 2.

Photographic documentation of the relocation centers is virtually completed. From now on the emphasis will be on getting pictures which are of value for public information. Francis Stewart, who has been Acting Head of the Photographic Section, will devote his entire time henceforth to the photographing of picture stories with Tom Parker. Charles Mace of the Denver office will handle administrative and production details for the unit.

QUARTERLY REPORTS REQUESTED --

Reports from the projects on the quarter ending March 31 are due in Washington on May 1.

PAMPHLET ISSUED --

A six-page printed folder entitled "Relocating a People" has been issued by the Office of Reports for use in publicizing the relocation program. Copies have been sent to all of the relocation offices. The folder is illustrated with photographs of evacuees showing a variety of skills.

EVACUEE BAND BROADCASTS --

The Hawaiian "Surf Riders", a string orchestra at Heart Mountain, broadcasts weekly over Station KPOW in Powell, Wyoming, on Thursday nights. This is a direct result of the orchestra's playing free of charge for the benefit of the Powell Red Cross. A fourteen piece dance band at the same center is slated for outside entertainments on almost every week-end until school graduations are over.

NEW BOOKS IN LIBRARY --

Playing with dynamite--the inside story of our domestic Japanese problem. A report compiled at the request of the 23d District of the American Legion by John R. Lechner.

Restless Wave. An autobiography by Haru Matsui. Modern Age Books. 1940.

Man's most dangerous myth: the fallacy of race. By M. F. Ashley Montagu. Columbia University Press. 1942.

MARCH AT THE PROJECTS --

Heart Mountain: 383 indefinite leaves issued thus far.....Evacuee food committee formed to act in advisory capacity to Chief Steward..... Juvenile delinquency problems rise.....Total of 100 enrolled in retraining courses: mechanics, general metals, electricity, rural woodwork, and agricultural commodity.....Three barber shops and two beauty shops opened..... Progress made in number of people who are registered, participating, and spectators in community activities.

Central Utah: Furniture manufactured valued at \$951.66.....200 acres developed for truck crops, 240 acres for field crops.....Advisory Board to Community Services formed, also a Juvenile Board.....Child welfare department now well organized.....High-school library facilities greatly improved. Detailed report of pre-school program available.....Consumer Enterprises now working on a cash basis.....Most significant development: the formation of the volunteers of the army combat team and adoption of credo, which was submitted to other nine centers.

Tule Lake: Completed entire order for school furniture for Manzanar, Minidoka, and Central Utah.....263 indefinite leaves issued to date..... 6,170 members of Cooperative Enterprises.....479 men and 1843 women enrolled in adult education courses.....First boxing tournament was very successful.

Gila River: 426 men and 155 women employed at camouflage net factory... 802,479 lbs. of vegetables produced, of which 522,795 were shipped to other centers.....1,170 lbs. of red radishes harvested from the Agricultural Vocation Field.....75 indefinite leaves issued.....Certified copies of the Articles of Incorporation of Consumer Enterprises received.....Butte divided into five natural districts for development of local recreational activities. Each district is to be self-governing and to present to the CAS Council its decisions for community wide planning.

Minidoka: Articles of Incorporation for Recreational Cooperative formulated.....392 indefinite leaves issued.....Male manpower shortage increasing.....75 acres developed in the outside farm area and 100 acres in the camp area.....Increasing number of requests to decline applications for repatriation which were made in assembly centers.....Vocational courses organized in auto mechanics, carpentry, electricity, and in the production, conservation, and use of food.....300 volunteers for army team the focus of most community activities.

Jerome: Sawmill produced 45,000 bd. ft. of rough lumber.....Rain prevented field plantings during the month.....American Legion post organized.....Retraining courses given in education, fire fighting, nurses' aid, theory of cooperatives, cooks and bakers, with total registration of 219.....92 indefinite leaves issued.....Proposed charter and by-laws under consideration of the Organizing Commission for the Community Council.

