

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

No. 44

May 15, 1943

For the Use of the WRA Staff

SUPREME COURT HEARS CASES --

Beginning in the afternoon of May 10 and continuing through the following day, the U. S. Supreme Court heard the oral arguments in the Hirabayashi, Yasui, and Korematsu cases. Four attorneys, including counsel for the JACL and the American Civil Liberties Union, presented the cases for the evacuees. The JACL also submitted a brief as a "friend of the court." Solicitor-General Charles Fahy presented the case for the government. No decision has yet been handed down.

INCREASE IN RELOCATION SHOWN --

On May 15 those evacuees out on indefinite leave, as reported by the projects, numbered 5494; on short term leave, 653; and on seasonal leave, 4879, making a total of 11,026.

Evacuees returning address cards give some indication of the distribution by the areas served by the relocation offices. As of May 15 a total of 4912 had reported--1312 in the Salt Lake City district, 1264 in the Denver, 339 in the Kansas City, 1374 in the Chicago, 366 in the Cleveland, 122 in the Little Rock, and 135 in the New York. The largest increases during the past two weeks have been 442 in the Salt Lake district and 388 in Denver.

Project populations as of May 15 are: Central Utah, 7647; Colorado River, 16,393; Gila River, 12,860; Granada, 6586; Heart Mountain, 10,033; Jerome, 8121; Manzanar, 8907; Minidoka, 8150; Rohwer, 7964; Tule Lake, 13,942; and Leupp, 54. The total number of evacuees in centers is now 100,503.

FARM MACHINERY TO BE REQUISITIONED --

The California State Legislature has passed a bill authorizing the requisitioning of all idle farm machinery in the state. Since the legislature has been working on the bill, the hue and cry on the West Coast about idle farm machinery owned by evacuees has somewhat abated. Although evacuees will be affected, the bill is not restricted to them. The bill provides \$150,000 to acquire the machinery.

PROPERTY OFFICERS AT CENTERS --

Evacuee property officers are now located at all the centers but Granada, Jerome, and Rohwer. These officers will facilitate the handling of the property problems of evacuees and will take a considerable load from the project attorneys, who have been acting for the Property Office. The Property Office is very anxious to have residents of the centers go directly to their property officers with their problems, rather than contacting the San Francisco office.

A field office has now been opened in Portland to handle evacuee property problems in Oregon. It is located in the American Bank Building and Claude G. Walker is in charge.

CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS --

A report brought back from the field indicates that the high schools at Granada and Heart Mountain are practically complete. The Tule Lake high school is partially finished, the work being done almost exclusively by the evacuees. Evacuee labor is also being used at Jerome and Rohwer, and is working out very well. The latter two projects are well along with their staff housing. About one-third of the staff housing at Minidoka has been completed, but work has not started on the schools.

Ground has been broken for the high school at Central Utah, but Manzanar and Gila River have not started. Gila is having difficulty securing materials. At Colorado River, where adobe is being used for the walls, the elementary school buildings in Unit I are ready to be closed in. The elementary schools will be used as a high school for awhile.

CANNING AT CENTERS POSSIBLE --

Last week discussions were held regarding the possibility of canning and preserving foods at the projects. A number of the projects have the necessary equipment and some are partially equipped. A few have tin cans.

There is no intention of embarking on a large canning program, but just enough to take care of surplus foods which cannot be stored. Extra acreage might be planted in string beans and tomatoes for canning. Tomatoes are particularly important since they can replace citrus fruits, and their point value is high. The relocation centers are classified

as institutional and have to include home canning in their point allowance. However, the point value for home canned foods is less than that for commercial. Canned foods would be particularly desirable for consumption during May and June, when the Gila crops are pretty well harvested and those at the northern centers are not yet ready for harvest.

An inventory of equipment on hand is being made so that the additional amount needed may be determined. The restrictions on tin cans have been lowered, and little difficulty is anticipated in securing them.

The canning would probably be done by the agricultural division with the cooperation of the home economics department of the high school.

#### EXCLUSION OFFICER APPOINTED --

Harold Fistere, relocation officer at Cleveland, will act as the WRA individual exclusion representative with Major General Lawton for the Sioux Ste. Marie military area. This military area was recently established by the Central Defense Command.

#### NAVY ORDERS MODELS --

The Navy Department was well pleased with the ship models recently submitted by the Gila River ship model factory and is expected to place an order for 1000 models of one ship next week. The models are now in New York where they are being displayed at a meeting of naval officials.

Since the models which have been built so far have been made individually by one person, the rate of production possible on large orders is not known.

#### CHANGE IN RELOCATION OFFICERS --

The Employment Division announces a change in relocation supervisors at Kansas City. Vernon Kennedy, chief of the Employment Division at Colorado River, will be the new supervisor and E. H. Leker will go to Manhattan, Kansas. Mr. Leker will be relocation officer for the entire state of Kansas. The dividing line between the Denver and Kansas City areas will be adjusted accordingly.

FAMILIES MOVED TO CRYSTAL CITY --

Four families from Jerome and about seven from Rohwer have been moved to the Crystal City family internment camp to join relatives. The camp sent an immigration inspector to Arkansas to arrange the details of the move. He will next go to Colorado River and following that, to the other projects.

The families chosen were those of men who agreed to help with the construction of the camp. No age limit was set on the children allowed to go in this group, but one will be for those who go later.

PROJECT DIRECTORS TO MEET --

A conference of all project and field directors is scheduled to be held in Washington the week of May 24. An agenda for the meetings is being prepared to include discussion of all the significant problems facing the projects. This conference will also afford an opportunity for division heads and project directors to get together on problems at individual centers.

MYER HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE --

The first press conference held by the Director in Washington took place on May 14. Representatives of both Washington and out-of-town papers and of the wire services were present. A general statement on WRA and the relocation program was released, and most of the questions asked the Director showed an active interest in having the facts rather than playing on the publicity the Authority has been having lately.

ANSWER TO DENVER POST PREPARED --

All the charges made by the Denver Post in Jack Carberry's series of articles on Heart Mountain have been analyzed, and the complete report is now being mimeographed. It will be available to anyone who is interested in knowing what basis there was for the charges and where the author ignored or was ignorant of the facts.

NAVY ORDERS POSTERS --

The Navy Department has placed an order for 4,000 posters to be printed at Heart Mountain in the silk screen poster shop. Two posters

have been mailed out there, and two thousand of each kind are to be made.

Sample posters were submitted to the Navy, and the order was placed immediately. Since the shop is small, there was not enough paper on hand, so the Navy ordered it at once. The shop expects to be able to produce the 4,000 within ten days or two weeks after receiving the materials. A four-color process will be used.

#### SUMMER PROGRAM OUTLINED --

A guide to the development of a summer program for school children and other residents has been sent out to the projects. The recommended objectives for children's activities are (a) improvement of physical health and well-being; (b) opportunity for self-expression; (c) opportunity for work experience; and (d) opportunity for group experience in a program of civic betterment or other ways.

The actual curriculum planning is to be done at each center with full regard to length of summer session, climatic conditions, availability of instruction, and other factors. Suggestions for programs, however, have been made available, including ways of organizing them. Inasmuch as facilities are limited and materials are not liberally available, the summer director and his staff will have to use ingenuity to solve many of their problems.

#### RELOCATION COMMITTEE FORMED --

A committee has been formed in the Washington office to coordinate the relocation guidance work of the entire Authority. Philip Barber, representing the Community Services Division is chairman, and the other members are Frank Cross, representing Reports; Harold James, alternating with Davis McEntire, Employment; and John Embree. The committee will act in an advisory rather than operating capacity.

The need for integrating into a single focus all existing efforts of the relocation program and for devising additional or improved techniques was realized as being essential in the successful guidance of the relocation program. The Washington committee will make recommendations for (1) collection and dissemination of relevant material; (2) organization and functioning of project committees; (3) securing of assistance from evacuees already located; (4) channeling of efforts of church welfare, and other community groups; (5) development of group and family relocation; (6) use of hostels; (7) making of reports and surveys on relocation progress; and (8) changes in relocation machinery and policy.

Project responsibility for relocation guidance will be undertaken by a similar committee, appointed by the Project Director, representing Employment, Reports, and Community Services, and both citizen and alien evacuee representatives.

HEALTH PERSONNEL ANALYZED --

The following chart shows the effect relocation is having on the size of the health staffs at the projects. The indications are that the numbers will be rapidly reduced from now on.

<u>Evacuee classification</u>	<u>Originally available</u>	<u>Working April 1</u>	<u>Working May 15</u>	<u>Required Staff</u>
Physicians	86	69	55*	86
Reg. nurses	72	42	30#	273
Stud. nurses	79	45	28	
Dentists	101	93	75	45
Pharmacists	118	91	77	45

\* 13 appointed physicians in addition

# 73 appointed registered nurses in addition

The general formula for determining the necessary number of physicians is based on one to 1500 residents, which is the prevailing ratio for the general public. This requires some modification, however, because of the peculiar project needs resulting from the concentration of certain types of cases and because of the distance of the centers from specialists and hospital facilities available to the person outside. The formula for dentists is based on one to 2500 residents.

The number of nurses needed is based on one to 21 patients (per 24 hours). This does not include the chief nurse or public health nurse, since ordinarily only those giving bedside care are included. As of March 31, only four projects approached this minimum ratio. One came between that and 1 to 40, and the rest ranged above 1 to 40 to 1 to 60. This includes both evacuee and appointed personnel. When the evacuee nurses leave, the ratios will change so that only one project will have the minimum desired ratio, two will be between that and 1 to 30, two between 30 and 40 and the remainder as high as 1 to 70 and 1 to 162.

The recruiting of nurses, which has always been difficult, is further aggravated by the new War Manpower freeze. During the period between April 1 and May 15, 140 Civil Service certificates of nurses who had indicated their interest in federal employment were reviewed. Of these 26 were not selected for various reasons, 96 failed to reply, 11 rejected any offer, 9 could not be located, 1 was interested but stopped by the freeze, 3 are considering WRA positions, and 1 was appointed. During the year, prior to April 1, 1200 Civil Service certificates were reviewed, of which about 36 accepted positions. The balance were personal recruitment by WRA staff members, referrals from nursing and health agencies, and some project recruitment.

The nursing service also requires 1240 nurses' aides or hospital attendants. Since the turnover is so rapid, because they do not like night duty or in certain wards and services, it is impossible to keep current figures. However, about 40 to 60 per cent have dropped out of service. Every effort is made to give them an adequate course of study, but they are assigned to duty after only a few hours of lectures and supervised experience. Providing attractive uniforms has had a good effect in keeping them interested in their work. On April 1 there were approximately 1000 aides. But with the increased relocation of young people, the hospitals are having to replace them with older women, many of whom neither speak nor understand English.

The situation with regard to X-ray and laboratory technicians is critical, also. From reports available it is expected that not an evacuee in these fields will remain. Laboratory assistants were evacuees who had been well trained in related fields. The following table is self-explanatory:

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Originally</u>	<u>May 15</u>	<u>Required</u>
X-ray technician	9	4	10
" lab. ass't.	13		13
Laboratory tech.	20	9	21
" ass't.	24		24
Hospital dieticians	25	4*	14

\*Trained and untrained

Until recent months all technicians and dieticians were evacuees. Recently a few appointments have been made in these fields.

APRIL AT THE PROJECTS --

Central Utah: Shooting and killing of an evacuee by a military sentry resulted in a community council sponsored committee of 15 who presented recommendations to the administration and served as vocal outlet for the evacuees' deep concern over the event...160 acres land prepared for truck crops, 70 acres for field crops...2960 lbs. bean sprouts produced... Personnel Committee appointed by Council to study replacement of workers on center...Most of services requested of Community Welfare dealt with persons going out on leave...Volunteers paid clothing allowances for January, February, and March...Re-training courses given in radio repairing, carpentry, commercial sewing, shorthand, and agriculture...Contacts with state editors strengthened and plans made for more constructive publicity for project.

Granada: Balance of surplus farm land licensed...Vegetable program made notable progress with weather conditions generally favorable...All clothing allowances prepared for January, February, and March and first checks distributed...New cooperative board began definitely to take its responsibility and appointed a general manager...Reluctance of residents to participate in and take responsibility for center recreational activities gradually broken down...Denver Post campaign interfered, at least temporarily, with relocation program.

Heart Mountain: Rapid turnover in project employment an acute problem... Community Activities Evacuee Board of Directors formed to act as trustee for the funds made available to the department through sale of salvage, donations, and admission charges to motion pictures, etc....Public relations activities came to abrupt close due to combination of Tokyo executions and Denver Post articles, but weekly radio program continues.

Jerome: Little change in public relations despite Tokyo executions... Truck crops showing generally good...55,000 bd. ft. of rough lumber produced by sawmill...Replacing workers on project becoming increasingly difficult...Revised constitution filed with Washington office...Survey of handicapped persons completed...General school program increased in efficiency...

Manzanar: Following projects achieved 100 per cent of production schedule: bean sprout, garment, typewriter service, woodcraft, cabinet, alterations and repairs to G.I. clothing, sewing machine repair... Labor shortage chiefly in professional, semi-professional, managerial, and office work fields...Good supply of water for irrigation due to early melting of snow on mountains...Clothing allowances from October through February paid...Co-op membership 7,145...Retraining courses given in plant breeding, tailor drafting, accounting, business English, shorthand, typing, police training, and weaving...Local public relations good.



Minidoka: War Works and Public Works divisions hardest hit by relocation... 110 acres prepared for planting...1000 chicks purchased...Organizing Committee considered proposed revision of charter...Clothing allowance office now on current basis...Retraining courses in carpentry and auto mechanics started...Priority tickets issued for shoe repair...Sixty-piece band from Kiberly High School gave concert at the center...Public relations continued good on the whole.

Rohwer: Weather conditions generally favorable for farming, and all crops that are up are in good condition. Nursery progress excellent... January and February clothing allowances paid...Retraining courses given in weaving, sewing, teacher training, nurses aides, firemen, and janitors... Interest in relocation increasing...Little outside publicity with reference to the project during the month.

Tule Lake: 5351 dozen eggs produced...320 acres of oats and 180 acres of barley planted...Civic Organization Planning Board investigated the distribution of shoes, undertook to mediate between administration and the coal crew, and started a movement to give evacuees greater understanding of hospital conditions...Furniture factory made 60 desks, 170 tables, 50 5-drawer chests, 1000 4-drawer filing cabinets...42 photos of Tule Lake shown from April 5 to 25 at Library of the San Jose State College... A court for the trial of all project offenses, presided over by the Project Director, was established.

#### LIBRARY ADDITIONS ---

Although not issued recently, two publications have been added to the Library: "Report of the American Red Cross--Survey of Relocation Centers in Arizona and California," August, 1942; and "Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences, September, 1942---Minority Peoples in a Nation at War." A chapter on "Immigrants and Citizens of Japanese Origin" is included in the latter.