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

No. 45

June 15, 1943

For the Use of the WRA Staff

DIES CHARGES ANSWERED --

Comments on the charges against WRA made by the Dies Committee have been prepared and will be distributed to the field within a few days. All the charges have been listed and analyzed for accuracy. They have been grouped into two general classifications: the most flagrant inaccuracies and those which are partially factual. Distribution has been made to the WRA staff, but public release will not be made until Director Myer is called before the Committee for testimony, when hearings are held in Washington. Newspaper accounts of the Dies Committee investigations are being followed in the Press Review.

FIRE LOSSES SMALL --

A compilation of the figures on fire losses at the projects from their opening to date shows a remarkably small per capita loss -- twenty-five cents per capita. The following table gives the breakdown by projects:

<u>Center</u>	<u>No. fires</u>	<u>Loss</u>	<u>Per capita loss</u>
Central Utah	27	\$ 480	\$ .048
Colorado River	45	13,700*	.685
Gila River	2	25	.0016
Granada	43	497	.0625
Heart Mountain	12	3,840	.384
Jerome	5	250	.025



<u>Center</u>	<u>No. fires</u>	<u>Loss</u>	<u>Per capita loss</u>
Manzanar	15	\$ 125	\$ .1025
Minidoka	6	105	.01
Rohwer	1	12	.001
Tule Lake	<u>64</u>	<u>5,860</u>	<u>.3967</u>
Total	220	\$24,894	Ave. .25

\*Includes one mess hall fire with \$3,000 loss and one with \$5,300; both due to poor installation of kitchen stoves.

#### INDEFINITE LEAVES DROP --

The net number of persons leaving the centers on indefinite leave shows a drop for the weeks of June 5 and June 12, after having reached an all-time high of 916 during the week of May 29. However, last week's 499 was an increase over the previous week's 474. The progress during the past three months for work leaves is shown by weekly figures beginning with March 20 when 87 left; March 27, 133; April 2, 287; April 10, 305; April 17, 454; April 24, 427; May 1, 472; May 8, 398; May 15, 398; May 22, 885; May 29, 916; June 5, 474; June 12, 499.

Seasonal leaves have shown a sharp decrease during the past month: from 701 the week of May 15, to 310, May 22; 194, May 29; 18, June 5; and -21, June 12. Since all of these figures are net, the minus indicates a greater number returning to the centers than leaving.

The total number of persons out on leave as of June 12 was 14,313, compared with 13,791 the previous week. Of the 14,313, a total of 8,086 were out on indefinite leave, 5647 on seasonal leave, and 580 on short-term leave.



NUMBER RETURNING TO CENTERS NOT LARGE --

Contrary to a rather general supposition among staff members, there have not been many who have returned to the centers after having gone out on indefinite leave. A total of 171 (or 2.3 per cent) have returned to the projects since the beginning. December saw the return of two; January, 6; February, 9; March, 10; April, 48; May, 96. The May figure includes 12 men who had left with the intention of entering the armed forces, and seven returned to Granada from lumber cutting in Wyoming.

HEART MOUNTAIN TURNS DOWN CO-OP --

Residents of Heart Mountain voted not to have a consumers' cooperative. The final count showed twelve blocks with 2316 votes against it, and seven blocks with 1346 votes for it. This is the only project which does not have a co-op. They will continue to have a trust. Profits will be returned to the consumers on the basis of the amount purchased.

PROPERTY SURVEY UNDER WAY --

Ten men from the Washington staff are now in the field inventorying the property at each center and cutting down all supplies to three months' stock. The survey is expected to be completed by June 19.

HOUSE PASSES APPROPRIATION BILL --

House of Representatives has passed the appropriation bill, which includes the WRA appropriation. The amount approved was \$48,170,000, which is the full amount included in the original estimates of WRA's requirements for the coming fiscal year. The bill is now in the hands of the Senate.



NO COURT DECISION YET --

A decision on the Hirabayashi, Korematsu, and Yasui cases has not yet been handed down by the U. S. Supreme Court. It seems likely that next Monday, June 21, will be the date. Monday is the day on which decisions are handed down, and the Court is about to recess for the summer, clearing up its calender first.

LEAFLETS PREPARED BY AGRICULTURE --

The Agricultural Division is getting out a series of leaflets for the guidance of the agricultural staffs at the centers. Sketches and drawings will be included wherever feasible.

One leaflet is on the use of root cellars for both winter storage and to supplement cold storage in the summer. Another is on the organization of project facilities and layout for the canning of vegetables. Suggestions for the preserving of crops that might not otherwise be utilized are made. The pickling and brining of vegetables is the subject of another leaflet. Because a much greater amount of produce can be handled in shorter time by this method, its use is being encouraged. A fourth circular will deal with slaughterhouses, particularly with their organization and operation.

GILA NET FACTORY CLOSED --

The contract having been completed, the Gila River camouflage net factory closed last month. About 75 million square feet of nets were garnished. WRA is negotiating for the plant as the buildings can be used for warehouses and other purposes. With the close of the factories at



Colorado River, negotiations will be made there, too, for the buildings. The contract at Colorado River is believed to be about finished.

INFORMATION ASSEMBLED FOR EVACUEES —

The Reports Office in cooperation with the Relocation Committee in Washington has been active for the past three weeks securing informational material of many kinds for distribution to the projects.

A library of source materials on all phases of life outside the centers that are of interest to evacuees is now being built up at each center. As of today, 162 have been sent out, including mimeographed bulletins, printed pamphlets, maps, and posters.

Government agencies in Washington have been thoroughly canvassed for free material. They have contributed information on the cost of living, wage scales, rationing, manpower shortages, women in war work, census breakdowns, farmers' bulletins, weather data, and other subjects.

The Community Services Division is working with the Committee in the selection of educational films for showing at the projects. Exhibits of photographs on the middle west and east will also be arranged.

With general background material now available for center use, the Washington staff will concentrate on securing information on specific localities: the cost of living, housing, industries, recreational facilities, etc.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES PROGRAMS STARTED —

Although some projects will not have completed the required 180 days of school by July 1, summer programs are beginning to get under way, particularly at Manzanar, Granada, and Heart Mountain. Where school terms are



in employment. People in the communities where evacuees were stranded have been very helpful. Assistance has also come from the NYA field staff.

#### PUNCH CARDS RECEIVED --

About one half of the International Business Machine punch cards containing the basic information on WRA 26's have been received for the locator file. When the file has been completed, it will be a fairly simple matter to find the current location of evacuees.

#### ANALYSTS AT PROJECTS --

Community analysts are now functioning at seven of the nine centers operated by WRA. Plans are under way for filling the other positions. The Community Analysis Section in Washington has inaugurated a series of circular letters to the field for the exchange of ideas and information.

#### PHOTOGRAPHY FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS --

Photography will play an increasing part in WRA's public relations. Within the next two or three weeks a number of photographs of relocated evacuees will be released through OWI to newspaper photographic services throughout the country.

Staff photographers Parker and Coffey have completed center shots for the colored motion picture which they are making. They will next photograph successfully relocated evacuees.

This week film strips are due to be finished for the lecture on the evacuation and relocation which has been prepared for the use of relocation officers and cooperating committees. As soon as the films



come in, they will be distributed to the field. Projection machines have been purchased for the five main relocation offices.

Suggestions have been made to the motion picture industry through OWI of ways in which nisei might be presented so that their loyalty and Americanism may be demonstrated.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS MADE FOR LIBRARIES —

Recommendations for developing the most efficient library service at the centers have been sent out. The method of operating school and community libraries has varied from center to center. At some projects general supervision of both school and community libraries has been exercised by a trained librarian on the Education staff, and at others Community Activities operated the community library alone.

Means are suggested for achieving the following objectives: library service for both school and community under trained supervision; establishment of a library board of evacuee representatives with responsibility for community library policy; space, staff, and suitable supplies to maintain adequate library service; and optimum use of library facilities for stimulation of education, leisure-time reading for school children, youth, and adults, and promotion of relocation.

#### 15% WORKERS ON INDEFINITE LEAVE ALIENS —

Leave statistics which have been broken down by occupation for the period from April 16 to April 30 indicate that 15% of those workers going out are aliens. The following table does not include dependents:



<u>Employment</u>	<u>Citizens</u>	<u>Aliens</u>	<u>Total</u>
Domestic	153	15	168
Agriculture	169	55	224
Not reported	129	18	147
Other	<u>205</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>233</u>
Total	656	116	772

During this period, of the 233 persons classified as "Other" above, 11 or 5% went into professional and managerial occupations; 47 or 20% in clerical and sales; 65 or 28% into personal, protective, and building service; 27 or 11% into horticulture, fishery, and forestry; and 83 or 36% into skilled, semiskilled, and unskilled jobs.

"OPEN HOUSE" FOR PRESS AT TULE LAKE --

On May 18 and 19, sixteen press representatives from Bay area papers were guests at Tule Lake and were given complete freedom to investigate the center and to question evacuees. The "open house" was arranged through the OWI San Francisco Regional Office. As a result, a number of very favorable -- or at least objective -- stories appeared in the press.

SCOTT RESIGNS --

Catherine Scott, who has edited the Information Digest and its San Francisco counterpart, the Information Roundup, has resigned to accept a position with the Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Mass.

STAFF CHANGES IN COMMUNITY ENTERPRISES --

Charles Beltt, head of the New York purchasing office for Community Enterprises, has resigned to go to Colorado River under the Indian Service.



He will be superintendent of community enterprises at Poston. Sulo Laakso is now acting head of the New York office.

Larry Collins, formerly with the Community Enterprises Section in Washington, is now with the Red Cross.

PAMPHLETS ON THE PRESS --

Two pamphlets are now at the Government Printing Office and will shortly be ready for release. One is a statement of WRA policies intended for distribution to the evacuees, and the other is a statement for the public. The Japanese translation of the evacuee policy pamphlet was made by students at the Army Intelligence School and is now being multilithed.

Just out is "A Voice That Must Be Heard", a compilation of statements by prominent government officials which emphasize fair treatment of Japanese-Americans. Press clippings have been multilithed and sent out to the projects. This service is to be on a weekly basis.

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED --

The following administrative instructions have been issued since May 15:

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
6 Rev.	Official Forms	6-2-43
10 Rev. Sup. 1 Rev.	Evacuee Payroll and Timekeeping Procedures	6-10-43
12	Cancellation	6-5-43
15 (Part 1) Sup. 1 Rev.	Teletype	6-12-43
22 Rev. Sup. 12	Additional Center Investigation	6-5-43
27 Sup. 2 Rev.	Unemployment Compensation	5-26-43



<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
33 Rev. Sup. 1	Project Mess Operations -- Reports to Washington	5-15-43
34 Sup. 2 Rev.	Qualifications for Holding Office	6-5-43
42 Rev.	Procurement	5-20-43
45 Rev. Sup. 2	Assistance to Evacuees Granted Indefinite Leave for the Purpose of Accepting Employment	5-19-43
45 Rev. Sup. 3	Change from Seasonal to Indefinite Leave	6-11-43
46 Rev. Sup. 3	Travel of Evacuees	5-15-43
54 Sup. 1	Health Service in Relocation Centers -- Medical Social Work	5-22-43
61 Rev.	Subsistence and Housing Charges for Visiting Japanese-Americans	5-17-43
92	Position Control	5-17-43
93	Use of Motor Vehicles at Relocation Centers	6-5-43
94	Issuance of Work Clothing	6-4-43
95	Leupp Center	6-5-43
96	Relocation Guidance	6-12-43
97	Short-wave Radio Receivers	6-15-43