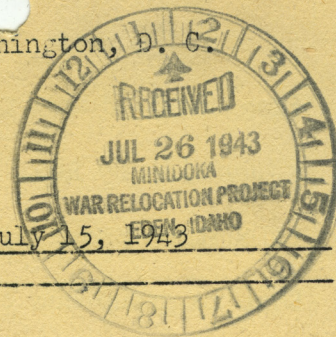


INFORMATION DIGEST

No. 46

July 15, 1943

For the Use of the WRA Staff



DIES COMMITTEE INVESTIGATION

Investigation of the WRA program by the House Committee on Un-American Activities (the Dies Committee) came to a climax this week with appearance of Director Myer at public hearings held by the Costello subcommittee in Washington. The Director testified before this three-man group on Tuesday afternoon, July 6, and throughout nearly all of the following day. By Wednesday evening, he had succeeded in correcting (for the record and for the benefit of the assembled press representatives) practically all the major items of misinformation which have been disseminated during the course of the investigations over the past six or eight weeks.

On Tuesday afternoon the subcommittee, composed of Rep. John M. Costello of California (chairman), Rep. Karl E. Mundt of So. Dakota, and Rep. Herman Eberharter of Pennsylvania, questioned the Director chiefly about (1) his own personal background, (2) the organizational set-up of WRA, (3) the origin and mechanics of the leave program, and (4) the wage scale and the agricultural program within the relocation centers. On Wednesday morning attention was directed first toward relations between WRA and JACL and then to the type of investigation made by WRA prior to the granting of leave. The Wednesday afternoon session included a wide variety of topics but was given over chiefly to an even closer examination of the leave procedures.

The Director started his positive effort to present the WRA side of the

case about midway through the session Tuesday afternoon. In response to a question by Rep. Mundt about the importance of community acceptance in the relocation program, he replied that this was one of our major problems and that no group had contributed more toward making that problem difficult than the Dies Committee. He ^{then} read into the record and made available to the press a prepared statement on the Committee's investigation of the WRA program. This statement, emphasizing the grave national and international implications of the program, pointed out that sensational publicity, inaccuracies, and downright falsehoods emanating from Committee representatives and witnesses over the past several weeks have done incalculable harm both to the Japanese-American people and to the American war effort.

From this point forward, the Director seized every available opportunity to drive home (1) the misleading character of nearly all public statements on WRA and Japanese-Americans made by spokesmen and investigators of the Committee, (2) the unreliability of the testimony presented to the subcommittee by Harold H. Townsend, former assistant chief steward at Poston, (3) the refusal of the subcommittee to accept the assistance of Field Assistant Director Cozzens during the hearings in Los Angeles, (4) the dubious constitutionality of indefinitely detaining American citizens in relocation centers; and (5) evidences of Americanism among Japanese-Americans both in and out of the relocation centers. He also took occasion to inform the subcommittee that WRA would start a segregation program about the first of September.

The one question which seemed to concern the subcommittee most of all was the adequacy of the check made by WRA prior to granting leave. Rep. Mundt in particular questioned the Director with great persistence on criteria

for obtaining indefinite leave to go to the Middle West and criteria for obtaining entry into the Eastern Defense Command. He could not understand, he declared, how a man could be "a good Jap in Omaha and a bad Jap in Baltimore." The Director explained at some length that special clearance through the Joint Board was obtained for all evacuees coming into the Eastern Defense Command because of a gentleman's agreement between WRA and Gen. Drum. This, however, apparently failed to satisfy Cong. Mundt. On Friday, July 9, the subcommittee called the War and Navy Department representatives on the Joint Board before them in executive session and presumably quizzed them on the whole question of clearances by the Board.

From the WRA point of view, the net effect of the hearings was unquestionably excellent. Because of careful advance preparation, the Director was in position not only to provide clear-cut answers for practically all the questions of the subcommittee men, but was also able to go a long way toward clarifying issues that have been misrepresented to the public over the past several weeks. Director Myer has indicated that it remains for the WRA staff and other interested people to follow up locally and try to undo the tremendous amount of damage that has doubtless been done by seeing to it that a large number of people throughout the country have the specific facts. Supplies of all material prepared in connection with the hearings are being sent to all assistant field directors and property offices in the field and to all relocation officers, and to all projects.

RELOCATION POLICY MEETING

Six of the relocation supervisors and three of the relocation officers were in Washington to attend a policy meeting June 29 to July 2. The whole

range of problems presented in the relocation program were discussed and some major decisions based on experience were reached. A revision of the seasonal leave procedure was discussed and a number of changes are planned.

Another decision reached was to place more emphasis on relocation in smaller cities and rural areas of the middle-west rather than in large cities where housing conditions are acute. Some 8,000 people have now been approved for work in the Eastern Defense Command area and plans were discussed for finding suitable employment for some of these people. It was also decided to change some of the areas served by the offices of the relocation supervisors and to create a New England area which will be under the direction of Roger Clapp, with offices in Boston. These adjustments will be made official in a revision of Administrative Instruction 76.

The matter of finding year-round employment for people out from the centers on seasonal leave and changing the leave status to indefinite was also discussed and plans made for this work.

Capt. John Hall, chairman of the Joint Board handling clearances for war plant work and for entry into the Eastern Defense Command attended one of the meetings and participated in discussions on this type of clearance. One of the sessions was addressed by the National Director and all were attended by various division heads in the Washington Office. At one of the meetings a representative of the Department of Agriculture was present to discuss relocation of people in farm areas. Relocation supervisors attending were: Rex Lee of Salt Lake City, Harold Choate of Denver, Vernon R. Kennedy of Kansas City, Elmer L. Shirrell of Chicago, Harold Fistere of Cleveland, Robert Cullum of New York and Roger Clapp of Boston.

SENATE RESOLUTION

By a voice vote on July 6, the U. S. Senate adopted a resolution asking the President to order immediate segregation of evacuees in relocation centers, and calling for an authoritative public statement on relocation plans and procedures. The resolution was offered by Senator Downey of California.

MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

In addition to testifying before the Costello subcommittee, Director Myer also appeared recently before the Chandler subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Military Affairs. With Senator Chandler out of the city, Senator Downey presided. The committee met in executive session and issued no statements to the press. Mr. Myer approved the Downey resolution, referred to above, at the hearing on Saturday previous to its passage by the Senate.

SUPREME COURT DECISIONS

On June 21 the Supreme Court handed down its decision in the Hirabayashi and Yasui cases and earlier, on June 1, decided the Korematsu case.

In the Hirabayashi case, the Court held that the curfew regulations imposed on German, Italian, and Japanese aliens, and on citizens of Japanese ancestry, were valid under the war powers of Congress and the President. The same holding was made in the Yasui case. In the Yasui case, the Court also held, however, that the case should have been disposed of on the basis that Yasui was a citizen, and therefore sent the case back to the District Judge who had held that Yasui had lost his citizenship.

The Court did not pass on the constitutionality of evacuation, even though that issue was presented to the Court in the Hirabayashi case. Hirabayashi had been convicted on two charges: one for violating curfew and one for violating evacuation orders. But inasmuch as he had been given a 3-month prison sentence on each count and the prison sentences were to run concurrently rather than consecutively, the Court held that the sentence imposed could be sustained on the curfew ground alone and that it was unnecessary to consider the constitutionality of evacuation.

The Court was unanimous in its decision that curfew was constitutional. The Chief Justice delivered the Court's opinion. Justices Douglas, Murphy, and Rutledge filed concurring opinions which emphasize that the Court was careful to limit its decision to curfew and to express no opinion on the constitutionality either of evacuation or of detention in a relocation center.

The Court's opinion in the Korematsu case merely held that the appeal had been properly brought to the Circuit Court of Appeals. The Korematsu case, which involves the constitutionality of evacuation is, therefore, now up for decision in the Circuit Court. In the normal course of events it should reach the Supreme Court during the Term beginning in October.

The ground of the Court's opinion in the Hirabayashi case was that the military emergency on the West Coast and the special military hazard represented by this minority were such that the military commander could, constitutionally, impose curfew upon the group subsequently evacuated (and upon German and Italian aliens) as a way of assisting in the protection of the West Coast from invasion.

DEPENDENTS DEFINED UNDER INCOME TAX LAW

The question has been raised as to whether or not, under the new income tax law, an evacuee working in an outside job can claim as dependents those members of his family who still live at relocation center.

In the opinion of Philip M. Glick, TRA Solicitor, the Bureau of Internal Revenue is not likely to recognize such persons as bonafide dependents (for income tax paying purposes) since the relocated evacuee would not be able to show that he was the principal means of support for members of his family as long as they remained at a relocation center and were provided with subsistence by the government.

Such family members may, however, be claimed as dependents as soon as they leave the relocation center and when their chief support is derived from the wages of the one claiming them as dependents. Treasury Form WF-4 which all taxpayers were required to fill out under the provisions of the withholding tax law may be changed at any time to cover any change in the taxpayer's status with regard to his dependents.

Mr. Glick pointed out that a married evacuee working in an outside job can consider himself a married man living with his wife when filling out Treasury Form WF-4, even though his wife is still at a relocation center, if the wife intends to join the husband as soon as he becomes settled.

FARM RELOCATION

Donald R. Sabin, assistant chief of the employment division, recently made a field trip for the purpose of studying the prospects for relocation in year-round jobs on farms. He met with state extension service officials

and members of state war boards in several midwestern states, and before returning to Washington visited the two Arkansas projects. He reports that many opportunities for relocation of families in farm areas are now opening up and that in many cases housing is provided. There are also opportunities in some sections for families to locate on farms where they may share in the crop or profits in addition to receiving a basic wage.

OWI FIELD OFFICES CLOSE

Due to the cuts made in the budget for the new fiscal year, the field offices of the domestic operations branch of the Office of War Information have been closed. The news bureau in Washington will continue to operate.

This means that the war agencies, including WRA, will be deprived of the field service previously rendered in public relations and dissemination of news by the OWI, and other means of carrying on this work will have to be developed. The release of news from Washington, certain radio activities, syndicate contacts, and some of the news picture services of the OWI will continue to be available to the war agencies.

"OPEN HOUSE" FOR THE PRESS

The Minidoka, Granada and Rohwer Centers held "open house" July 1 and 2 for members of the press and representatives of radio stations in their respective areas. Reporters, editors and photographers representing ten newspapers in Arkansas, Tennessee and Louisiana visited the Rohwer center, along with two radio newsmen and the public relations officer from a nearby Army airbase. Most of them spent the night at the project, took their meals

at the messhalls, talked with evacuees in their homes, and in general were given complete freedom to go anywhere and talk to anyone they liked about the center.

The "open house" for the press at Minidoka and Granada was similarly conducted. Visiting Minidoka were representatives of the leading newspapers in Idaho and Utah, while at Granada invitations were extended to newspaper and radio men from Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska and Colorado.

APPROPRIATION BILL PASSED

The War Agencies appropriation bill, carrying the funds for WRA, was passed by Congress on the eve of its recess for the summer, July 8. The amount approved was \$48,170,000 which is the full amount approved by the Bureau of the Budget for the fiscal year. The only limitation imposed was the reduction in the amount of money which may be used for travel from \$425,000 to \$400,000.

SUMMER ACTIVITY PROGRAM AND SCHOOL PLANNING

Dr. Lester K. Ade, Director of Education, and Edward Marks, community activities advisor, are leaving the Washington office soon on an extended field trips. Dr. Ade will attend a meeting of the State Board of Consultants to be held at the Arkansas centers July 15 and 16, and then visit the six western projects. In addition to surveying progress made on the summer activities program, he will also discuss plans for the fall school term. Because of the cut of funds in the education budget for the new fiscal year, local school superintendents are finding it difficult to maintain standards which will guarantee accreditation.

Mr. Marks will visit the centers in Arkansas, Utah, Colorado and

Wyoming. He will observe trends in community activities, progress in evacuee financing of the program, and the status of relations with national organizations. At the centers visited he will also study the summer activities program.

PORTNER RESIGNS

Stuart Portner, head of the documents section, Reports Division, has resigned to accept the position of chief of the Division of War Department Archives of the National Archives.

MEDICAL SUPPLIES

The new procurement procedure, which makes it possible for relocation center hospitals to receive supplies from the Army depots, has been put into effect. The centers are treated the same as an Army station hospital. There are a number of advantages to the new arrangement which eliminates open market purchases and the need to get priorities.

WORK ON CANAL FINISHED

The relining of the main canal at Heart Mountain and repair of its laterals bringing water to the fields was finished in time to get in the crops. Water was delivered to all of the fields by June 10.

Administrative personnel, block managers and evacuee volunteers put in extra hours so that the fields could be planted in time to assure maximum food production. More than 1000 acres are in vegetables, 230 acres in feed crops and 250 acres in hay. An additional 500 acres is being prepared so that it can be planted next year, if needed.

WAR BOND PARTICIPATION

The following is the latest percentage reports on the war bond, payroll deduction plan in WRA:

	<u>Employees</u>	<u>Part.</u>	<u>Percent part.</u>
<u>WASHINGTON OFFICE</u>	231	208	90%
Office Services	20	20	100%
Eighth Floor	38	37	98%
Administrative Management	50	48	96%
Employment	54	49	91%
Solicitor	17	15	88%
Community Management	38	28	79%
Reports	14	11	79%

FIELD OFFICES

Gila River Center	169	26	15%
Manzanar Center	179	115	64%
Tule Lake Center		No Report Yet	
Minidoka Center	136	122	89%
Central Utah Center	136	110	81%
Heart Mountain Center	183	156	85%
Granada Center	164	145	88%
Arkansas (Field Assistant Director Rohwer, and Jerome)	302	282	93%
Denver (Field Assistant Director and Reports)	15	15	100%
San Francisco (Field Asst. Director, Solicitor, and Relocation Assistance Div.)	95	36	38%
Relocation Offices:			
Salt Lake City	27	12	44%
Denver	26	17	66%

No report from other Relocation Offices and Individual Exclusion Offices.

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED

The following administrative instructions have been issued since June 15:

Number	Title	Date
15 Part III, Sup. 1,	WRA Style Manual - Printed copy paper	6-17-43
22 Rev. Sup. 10 Rev.	Issuance of Leave, etc. - Paroled Aliens and Deportees	6-28-43
27 Sup. 8	Employment and Compensation - Change in Family Head for Clothing Allowance	6-21-43
33 Sup. 2	Project Mess Operations - Meatless Days	6-16-43
46 Rev. Sup. 2 Rev.	Travel of Evacuees - Transportation for Personal Effects of Evacuees	6-24-43
46 Rev. Sup. 4	Travel of Evacuees - Reports on Transfer of Evacuees between Centers	6-16-43
65 Sup. 4	Amending Declination Form WRA-152b	6-16-43
78 Sup. 1 Rev.	Storage and Transportation of Household Goods, Personal Effects, and Commercial Property of Evacuees	6-22-43
85 Sup. 1	Trial and Punishment of Offenses against Law and Order in Relocation Centers	7-3-43
97 Sup. 1	Short-wave radio receivers	6-24-43

NEW BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY

The following books have been added to the WRA Library: Report of hearings, National War Agencies Appropriation Bill for 1944; Part 3 of the Hearings before the sub-committee of the Committee on Military Affairs, U.S. Senate; "The Japanese in South America" by Normano & Gerbi; "Principles for Peace", selections from papal documents edited by Rev. Harry C. Koenig;

American Guide Book series for the following states: Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Utah and Wyoming.