

INFORMATION DIGEST

No. 49

September 15, 1943

For the Use of the WRA Staff

SEGREGATION

Segregation continues to move ahead smoothly without any major disturbances. Train movements began September 13 and will continue through mid-October. The population of Tule after segregation, which was originally estimated at around 15,000, now seems more likely to run in the neighborhood of 18,000. Of the 13,000 evacuees residing at Tule Lake before the movement started, roughly 6,000 will be moved to other centers and about 600 are expected to move out directly on indefinite leave. The 7,000 or so who remain will eventually be joined by 10,000 or 11,000 segregants from the other centers. Plans are now under way to construct additional blocks at Tule bringing the capacity of the center up to 18,500.

REPATRIATES SAIL ON THE "GRIPSHOLM"

The SS GRIPSHOLM sailed on September 2nd, carrying nearly 1400 Japanese to be exchanged for Americans in the Far East. Of the total number of Japanese who sailed, 314 were from relocation centers. Included in this number were 149 American citizens 29 expatriates having dual citizenship, and 136 aliens.

The GRIPSHOLM will stop at Rio de Janeiro, where a small number of additional repatriates will be taken aboard to make the full exchange quota of 1500 persons. From Rio, the vessel will sail to the Portuguese port of Mormugoa on the west coast of India, where the exchange of Americans and Japanese repatriates will take place.

PRESIDENT TO STUDY PROBLEMS OF RACIAL CONFLICT

The President has requested that all Government agencies bring to his attention any problems of racial conflict and maladjustment in connection with the administration of Government programs. Jonathan Daniels, Special Assistant to the President, has asked that the WRA designate an official of the agency with whom matters of racial differences and problems can be discussed. John H. Provinse, Chief of the Community Management Division, has been appointed and will confer with Mr Daniels from time to time on problems of Japanese-American relations.

RELOCATION IN AGRICULTURE

The general outlook for farm relocation is good at this time. Demands for seasonal workers have increased and employers are apparently well satisfied with results. A number of recent developments are of interest.

The South Haven Fruit Company of South Haven, Michigan recently recruited from Jerome and Rohwer 60 seasonal workers who will be employed through October. It is hoped that this start will open up other employment opportunities in Michigan farming areas.

An intensive program of farm employment promotion will be undertaken in Maryland and Delaware under direction of Robert Cronin of the Baltimore office. A general increase in community interest has been reflected and efforts will therefore be made to effect quick relocation in these areas.

In addition, E. B. Whitaker of the Little Rock office is now in Florida investigating farm employment and community sentiment in that area.

War Food Administration Food Production Plans.--

It is believed that the War Food Administration will recommend an increase in vegetable production near large centers of population in the East. If such a program is adopted, WRA will make efforts to effect further relocation of agricultural workers to meet the needs of this new plan.

ACTIVE SCHOOL YEAR TO BEGIN SOON

Despite segregation and relocation activities, plans have been completed for the opening term of the new school year. While the total enrollment has decreased slightly due to the relocation program and the enrollment of smaller classes of beginners, several centers will actually find more students on the rolls this year than last. Granada, Heart Mountain, Minidoka, and Tule Lake schools all anticipate an increased enrollment.

Five new superintendents will join the educational staff this fall, replacing those who have resigned during the past few months. The rate of turnover for teachers has been approximately 50 percent, which necessitates an intensive recruitment and replacement program. Manzanar, Tule Lake, Jerome and Minidoka schools are particularly short of teachers at this time.

Supplies and school equipment will be available in quantities to meet most needs. Most of the necessary equipment, with the exception of shop apparatus, has been installed and is now ready for use.

New high school buildings will be completed and opened this fall at Granada, Tule Lake, and Poston. Barracks buildings will be remodeled at all centers except Poston for use as elementary schools.

While there have been no major changes in curricula, more emphasis will be placed this year on relocation problems and attitudes, to prepare students to effect a better and more useful relocation in outside communities.

With the exception of Tule Lake and Poston, all schools at the various centers have been duly accredited by the departments of education or universities in the states where the centers are located.

RELOCATION IN EAST BECOMING MORE ATTRACTIVE

The demand for additional labor and the continued elimination of prejudices and barriers have rapidly made the Eastern Seaboard and Middle Atlantic states a most desirable place to relocate. Opportunities for work in the New York area have greatly increased in the past few months, due to an active program of relocation work in the Washington, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia area.

One plan now being practiced is to bring a group of evacuees into the area on "hospitality offers" and assist them in finding jobs after they arrive. Between June 1, 1943 and the present date, 38 evacuees have come to Washington, the greater percentage of them on hospitality offers, and it is expected that another 30 or 35 will arrive here during September and October.

Cases submitted to the Joint Board for clearance are now moving through at a faster rate than ever before.

District of Columbia Employment.--

In the district, employment opportunities in pharmacy, optometry, civil service, beauty culture, nurses training, and laboratory technical work have been made available. In addition, the International Business Machines Corporation is considering the creation of a key-punch course for Japanese-American girls.

Farm Employment.-- Highly attractive offers for farm employment have been received from Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and some southeastern States, particularly North Carolina. An offer has been made by North Carolina truck farmers for workers to farm on any desirable basis--crop sharing, renting, or buying land. In general, the Southern region affords desirable farming opportunities and the chance for permanent settlement.

EMPLOYMENT REDUCTION PROGRAM PROGRESSING WELL

The program to bring evacuee employment on the centers into line with the Authority's budget is progressing well according to reports received from the centers covering first quarter activities.

Minidoka was able to effect the full 30 percent cut by July 15. Central Utah has reduced on-project employment by 700 persons, which represents 21 percent of the required 30 percent cut. Tule Lake has been granted a temporary exemption because of the segregation program.

It is interesting to note that the entire reduction program was well accepted by evacuees, and in some cases even welcomed. Issei residents had become concerned over the "bad work habits" which the younger people were acquiring as a result of the laxity in the employment program. This condition, they seem to feel, will be remedied by the new program, inasmuch as full-time work will be required of those who do continue to be employed. Stress will be placed on building good work habits and evacuees will receive actual vocational training in all jobs.

The Program of reducing employment of evacuees does not mean that essential activities will be eliminated. The plan merely calls for discontinuance of non-essential jobs.

STUDENT RELOCATION COUNCIL MEETING

A meeting of the National Japanese-American Student Relocation Council will be held in New York on September 29th. Among the important matters to be discussed will be the problem of further liberalization of restrictions against Japanese-American students. Both the WRA and the Student Relocation Council have been negotiating with Army and Navy authorities in an effort to secure further modification of the existing proscriptions against the admission of Japanese-Americans at a number of major universities throughout the nation.

DEPARTURE ON INDEFINITE LEAVE

The rate of evacuees leaving the centers of indefinite leave continues to rise. The tabulation below reveals that a considerable increase in the total number of indefinite leaves took place during the week ending Sept 4:

	<u>Week Ending</u>	<u>Total</u>
August 21	417	11,891
August 28	385*	12,276
September 4	610	12,886

* Excluding repatriates who sailed on the GRIPSHOLM

Tule Lake.--

Spurred by the segregation program, the number of indefinite leaves granted at Tule Lake continued to climb during the period between August 21 and September 4. It is expected that more than 600 persons will relocate between August 2nd and the completion of the segregation program. The comparative figures of relocation are shown below:

	<u>Week Ending</u>	<u>Total</u>
August 21	66	1069
August 28	83	1152
September 4	91	1243

General Indefinite Leave.--

Between April 1, 1943 and July 31, 1943, a total of 6,796 persons left the centers on indefinite leave. A breakdown of this group revealed that 75 percent of the evacuees who left were workers, the remaining 25 percent being dependents. Of the group of workers, 88 percent were citizens while 12 percent were aliens.

Efforts have been made to determine the type of work being accepted by this group. Only 70 percent of the workers thus released reported, but on this basis it was found that 25 percent were employed as domestics, 21 percent in agriculture, and the remaining 54 percent in other jobs.

LEAVE CLEARANCES

More than 37,000 cases have been submitted to the joint Board, of which 17,500 have been processed. Included in this number are 2,000 cases which are being processed for war plant employment. About 300 of these cases have been approved. In addition, approximately 12 cases for employment in Army posts and War Department installations have been favorably passed upon.

Enlisted Reserves.--

Between 100 and 150 boys of the 200 evacuees placed in the enlisted reserves after Pearl Harbor have been recalled to active duty by the Army.

Direct Relocation Plan.--

A plan will be put into operation shortly whereby evacuees now in West Coast hospitals may receive indefinite leave clearances without filtering through a relocation center. Before such clearance is given, however, the approval of medical

authorities will be necessary, in order that evacuees confined in hospitals can be declared free from contagious diseases."

Evacuees leaving hospitals in the restricted area will undergo the same investigation and clearance procedure as those now residing in relocation centers. If clearance is granted and relocation cannot be accomplished, the evacuee patient may be inducted into a relocation center through the proper relocation supervisor.

While this plan is designed primarily to enable evacuee patients to join their families who may have already relocated and established themselves in a new locality, it is expected that few evacuees will apply for this privilege. To date, only four applications have been received.

SEVERAL RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY ORGANIZATIONS

American Federation of Teachers.--

A resolution, urging the relocation of all loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry, as well as alien Japanese whose loyalty has been established, was adopted at a recent convention of the American Federation of Teachers which was held in Chicago during the week of August 16th. The resolution stressed that discrimination against loyal Americans and aliens is contrary to American principles and beliefs. Both the President and the WRA were urged to make every effort to effect a speedy relocation of evacuees.

Hotel and Restaurant Employees' International Alliance.--

The Executive Secretary of the Hotel, Restaurant Employees and Bartenders' Union, Local 5, A.F. of L, whose membership is composed of residents of Hawaii, recently issued a scathing reply to an article written by the International President of the organization, in which the union leader called Japanese-Americans a "menace to the catering industry".

The Hawaiian local charged that union president Edward Flore was approached by the WRA in an effort to secure the cooperation of the organization in hiring relocated evacuees. Flore refused to cooperate, however, contending that the employment of Japanese-Americans would lower wage standards and generally jeopardize union solidarity. In condemning this action, the Hawaiian local pointed out that Japanese members of that local account for 80 percent of the total membership and have contributed greatly to the development of the union and to the improvement of labor conditions in Hawaii. The union affiliate urged that prejudices and unfair treatment be eliminated and recommended that the WRA policy of relocation be strongly supported by the international organization.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

Miss Jean E. Sutherland, R. N., has been appointed Nursing Consultant, replacing Miss Joy Barragrey Stewart who resigned to accept an appointment with the U. S. Children's Bureau. Miss Sutherland, who is now in the Washington office, was formerly associated with the Henry Street Visiting Nurse Service of New York City.

Robert Frase, Assistant Chief of the Employment Division, has resigned to accept a position with the War Production Board. No successor has been named to replace Mr. Frase.

James McLaughlin, a member of the legal staff, will leave shortly to assume new duties with the Maritime Commission.

Rex H. Lee, Relocation Supervisor attached to the Salt Lake City office has arrived in Washington on special detail, and will be assigned to the employment division.

Mrs. Eleanor Vaughan, of the Reports Division, and former writer of the DIGEST has resigned and has been replaced by Abe Fischler, formerly with the Minutes and Reports section of OEM.

LITIGATION

Olga Schueller Case.--

On August 20, 1943, the United States District Court in Philadelphia held that the Army was without authority to order the exclusion of Mrs. Olga Schueller from the Eastern Defense Command. The Court's decision was based primarily on the ground that the East Coast is not today so vulnerable to invasion or other military danger as to justify such extraordinary action against a citizen of the United States.

Mrs. Schueller is a middle-aged woman, born in Germany, but now a naturalized citizen of this country. The evidence against her established primarily two facts: (1) that she was a member of certain German-American organizations; and (2) that, after returning to the United States, she wrote a letter to Hitler, commenting on a 1931 visit to Germany, and criticizing some conditions she had found in that country. She concluded her letter with "Heil Hitler".

Mrs. Schueller maintained that she was loyal to the United States, pointing to the fact that her 17-year old son was in the Navy, and that she had granted consent to his enlistment, despite the fact that he was a minor.

In addition to the primary ground for decision, the Court also held that the administrative hearing accorded Mrs. Schueller by a board of Army officers was not legally adequate, and that the findings of fact made by the Army officers were not binding on the Court.

The Justice Department is planning to appeal this decision to the Circuit Court of Appeals. Other cases, raising similar issues, are pending in other Federal courts.

FIRE PROTECTION

Fire fighting equipment and apparatus, which is furnished to the centers by the Army, has been installed in accordance with the agreement reached with Army authorities. William E. Hoffman, head of the Fire Protection Section, recently returned from an inspection trip of the centers reports that there is a fair supply of hose, apparatus, and equipment needed to meet all ordinary safety requirements. At some centers, however, complete fire alarm systems have not yet been installed.

The number of fire protection officers now employed is in accordance with quota requirements. Because of the increased relocation program, however, many trained evacuee firemen have left the centers. Replacements are being made wherever possible, but inasmuch as most new recruits are inexperienced, considerable time and effort must be expended in training and drilling new men. This practice has led to increased wear of equipment, and efforts are being made to limit the mileage and control the wear of fire fighting equipment used for training purposes.

There are no plans to reduce the number of evacuee firemen below the safety level provided for in Administrative Instruction No. 81. There will, however, be certain reductions in the number of evacuee fire inspectors in order to bring this personnel down to a standard level.

NEW BOOKS ADDED TO THE LIBRARY

American Automobile Association Tour Book.-- Southeastern Section. This addition completes this set of books.

Majority and Minority Report of the Subcommittee of the Special Committee on Un-American Activities, Investigating the War Relocation Authority.
(Costello Committee Report.) Not yet available for quantity distribution.

Editor and Publisher, 1943, International Year Book Number.

Editor and Publisher, 1943 Market Guide.

Magazines.--

In addition to copies of articles of special interest to WRA, the Library maintains a complete file of the following magazines:

Asia and the Americas, Survey Graphic, Christian Century, Education for Victory Free World, Manpower Review (published by the War Manpower Commission), Fellowship (published by the FOR), Monthly Labor Review, Common Ground, Congressional Record, Federal Register, and all Project newspapers and magazines.

PROCEDURAL ISSUANCES

The following procedural material has been issued since August 17

Administration Instructions

AI 13, Sup. 8	Basic Personnel Manual - WOC.	8-20-43
AI 76, Sup. 4	Daily Evacuee Population Summaries	8-28-43
AI 76, Sup. 5	Daily Evacuee Population Summaries	8-31-43
AI 100, Sup. 1	Separation of Evacuees of Doubtful Loyalty from Loyal Evacuees	8-25-43

HANDBOOK RELEASES

2	Issuance of Leave - 4 Corrected pages	8-27-43
4	Section D of Finance Manual (Amended)	8-15-43
5	Section E and F of Finance Manual (Amended)	8-31-43
6	Section G of Finance Manual (Amended)	9-15-43

MANUAL RELEASES

5	Operation of Motor Vehicles	9- 1-43
	Identification Cards	"
	Damage Claims against WRA	"
	Purchase of War Bonds	"
6	Internal Security (Transfers to Leupp Center)	9- 4-43
7	Community Analysis	9- 4-43
	Regulations Affecting Evacuees (at centers)	9- 4-43
8	Travel	9- 7-43
	General Administration (at centers)	9- 7-43

Beigland
War Relocation Authority

Washington, D. C.

INFORMATION DIGEST

No. 49

September 15, 1943

Correction

Please note the last sentence of Page 4, carrying over to Page 5 should read as follows:

"Before such clearance is given, however, the approval of medical authorities will be necessary, in order that evacuees confined in hospitals can be declared free from contagious diseases."

OM-333