

Bigelow
I N F O R M A T I O N D I G E S TNo. 53November 15, 1943For the Use of the WRA StaffTULE LAKE SITUATION

Director Dillon Myer held a press conference in Washington on Saturday, November 13, at which time he reviewed the situation at Tule Lake from the completion of the segregation movement until the night of November 4, when Project Director Ray Best asked that the Army assume control of the project.

Following are the highlights of the statement given newsmen by the Director:

After the completion of the main segregation movement, it became apparent that a small but well-organized group of incoming segregants at Tule was attempting to gain control of the center and disrupt orderly administration. On October 15, a serious accident occurred when a truck carrying farm workers and driven by an evacuee was overturned. One evacuee farm worker was killed and several injured. The day following the accident, no evacuees reported for work on the farm, and work on harvesting of vegetables stopped for ten days thereafter. On October 25, a committee of evacuees, claiming to represent the community, met with Project Director Best and submitted certain demands. Best advised that WRA would not listen to any "demands" but would entertain suggestions within the framework of national policy. Evacuees were asked to return to work. When they refused, it became necessary to recruit 234 evacuee farmers from other centers to work on the Tule Farm. This harvesting is continuing at this time with the volunteer workers being quartered outside center boundaries.

On Monday, November 1, Director Myer and Robert Cozzens, Field Assistant Director in San Francisco, arrived at Tule to confer with Project officials. At 1:30 p.m., a few hours after their arrival, a crowd of evacuees, estimated at between 3,500 and 4,000 men, women, and children gathered in front of the administration building after being told without authorization by certain evacuees that Mr. Myer was to make a speech. A committee of 17 evacuees met with the Director, Cozzens, Best, and other WRA officials, and presented a series of demands, including the resignation of Project Director Best and several other WRA staff members.

While the conference was in progress, word came that Dr. Reece M. Pedicord, Chief Medical Officer at Tule, had been beaten by about a dozen evacuees. The conference was immediately stopped until a check at the hospital could be made. Passing through the crowd unmolested, a WRA employee went to the hospital and returned to report that Dr. Pedicord was badly beaten but was receiving adequate medical care.

After the conference was completed, Director Myer addressed the crowd briefly over the public address system. He told the crowd substantially what he had told the committee: 1) That WRA would not accede to demands,

but would consider requests made provided they were consistent with national policy; 2) that is center residents could not deal peacefully with WRA, they would have to deal with someone else; and 3) that the community should select a representative committee to deal with WRA. After the conclusion of Mr. Myer's remarks, two members of the evacuee committee addressed the assemblage briefly in Japanese, after which the crowd broke up peacefully and evacuees returned to their family quarters.

Aside from Dr. Pedicord, no WRA employee or visitor was beaten or injured during the demonstration. Calm, marked by evidences of sub-surface tension, prevailed during the next three days.

On Thursday afternoon, November 4, work was started on a fence separating the evacuee community from the administrative section where WRA employees are housed. That evening, about 400 evacuees, many young men—some armed with clubs—entered the administration area. The advance of this crowd was resisted by several internal security officers, one of whom tripped, struck his head on a stone, and was then beaten by evacuees with clubs. No other persons were injured. As the crowd advanced on Project Director Best's home, he telephoned Lt. Col. Verne Austin, commanding officer of the M. P. unit outside the center, and asked the Army to assume full control of the project. Troops entered the center at once and are still in charge at this time.

Concluding his statement, Director Myer warned newsmen that inflamed press accounts of the events at Tule Lake are being watched by Tokyo. Unless care is taken to present only the factual story of the incident, this situation may be used by Japan as an excuse for retaliatory action against American civilians and prisoners of war under Japanese control.

The events which have occurred at Tule Lake are now under investigation by several State and Congressional Committees. In addition to the Dies Subcommittee and California State Senate Committee on Resettlement, the situation is also being examined by the F. B. I. and by the congressman for the district where Tule is located, Representative Clair Engle of California. Representative Engle is conducting a private inquiry.

SUMMARY OF NEW RELOCATION DIVISION

Effective November 1, 1943, a Relocation Division was established in the Washington office to replace the former Employment division. The Relocation Division will be responsible for all employment and relocation functions of the former Employment Division, and will coordinate the contributions to relocation which may be made by other divisions.

At the same time Evacuee property administration and responsibility for leave clearance were transferred to the Administrative Management Division, while matters pertaining to the individual exclusion program were assigned to the Relocation Division. This reorganization has been effected to centralize the responsibility for a broader relocation program and to provide greater continuity in the relocation program from the project through to the outside community.

Edwon G. Arnold has been named Acting Chief of the new division, which is divided into four principal sections: (1) The Field Supervision Section, headed by Rex Lee, with Edward Marks as assistant, which will be responsible for the direction and supervision of all relocation offices; (2) The Coordination Section, with Philip Barber as chief, which will coordinate all contributions to relocation made by other divisions of WRA as well as by outside agencies; (3) the Project Liason Section, with Luther Hoffman, Assistant Director at Gila River as Acting chief, which will supply technical guidance to relocation divisions at the projects; and (4) the Administrative Analysis and Procedures Section, headed by Edgar McVoy, which will prepare and review all materials issued for the direction and guidance of members of the Relocation Division.

COLORADO RIVER CENTER TRANSFERRED TO WRA

The administration of Colorado River Relocation Center at Poston, Arizona will be transferred on January 1, 1944 from the Indian Service of the Department of the Interior to WRA, according to a joint announcement made by Interior Secretary Harold Ickes and Director Myer.

The center has been jointly operated by the Indian Service and WRA since March 1942. Under the new agreement, administration will be in the hands of WRA, with special emphasis to be placed on the continued development of the agriculture program in order to make the center more self-supporting.

STATISTICAL LABORATORY SET UP AT CENTRAL UTAH

Central Utah has been chosen as the site of a new "statistical laboratory." The project has been created to consolidate statistical data gathered by WRA with respect to the location and identification of evacuees who were at any time under the jurisdiction of WRA. In addition, the project will include the preparation of statistical analyses on relocation, segregation, and other current matters.

The job is expected to be completed in about three months, and will employ between 50 and 60 evacuee workers, working under the supervision of Miss Evelyn Rose of the Washington office.

HEART MOUNTAIN TO HAVE BAKERY

The first WRA-operated bakery to be installed in a relocation project is expected to begin operation at Heart Mountain within two weeks. The plant will be supervised by a head baker from the appointed staff and will probably employ about a dozen evacuee workers. Plant capacity will be large enough to supply most of the daily needs of the center for bread and other bakery products.

The equipment for the bakery will be rebuilt or used machinery, purchased from the stores of an abandoned bake shop in Powell, Wyoming. The building for the plant was constructed from materials obtained in dismantling a former CCC camp building in Yellowstone Park. The building was torn down in sections, hauled to the center, then reassembled into the new plant.

INDEFINITE AND SEASONAL LEAVE FIGURE

Following is a summary of the number of evacuees out on indefinite leave for the weeks ending October 9 to October 30:

<u>Week Ending</u>	<u>Number Leaving on Indefinite Leave</u>	<u>Total Number out as of End of Week</u>
October 9	285	14,797
October 16	261	15,058
October 23	267	15,325
October 30	241	15,566

The tabulation below shows the number of evacuees away from the centers as of the dates shown. Minus figures for the last two weeks in October indicate that more persons returned from seasonal leave than went out during the same period:

<u>Week Ending</u>	<u>Net Movements on Seasonal Leave</u>	<u>Total Number out as of end of Week</u>
October 9	861	8,449
October 16	345	8,794
October 23	-151	8,643
October 30	-514	8,129

VOLUNTEERS AID HARVEST

The progress of the relocation program and the large number of evacuees employed on other activities in the centers resulted in a severe shortage of farm workers during the current harvest season.

In some centers, the problem required the combined efforts of all evacuees able to join in the harvesting. In addition to the use of high school students, who were given recesses during afternoons to help in the crop harvesting, many evacuees employed on other center work projects were given time off to go into the fields for harvest work. This cooperative effort enabled centers to complete harvesting of most vegetables before serious frosts occurred.

GIBSON JOINING SAN FRANCISCO STAFF

Robert A. Gibson, WRA Educational Advisor, has been permanently assigned to the staff of Field Assistant Director Robert B. Cozzens, with headquarters in San Francisco.

In his new post, Mr. Gibson will assist Mr. Cozzens in public relations matters, and will deal primarily with organizations and civil groups, as well as with individuals concerned in the problem of relocation.

PERSONAL CHANGES

Raymond Hayward has been transferred to Tule Lake as Project Steward.

Miss Gertrude Wetzel, formerly at Manzanar, has been named Assistant Nursing Consultant in the Washington Medical Section.

Donald Sabin has returned to his post in the Agriculture Section after serving for the past several months in the Employment Division.

ADMINISTRATIVE MEETING IN DENVER

A meeting of all Assistant Project Directors in charge of administration will be held in Denver the week beginning December 6. The conference will center mainly on budget and finance matters, with special emphasis on 1945 budget estimates.

NEW MAGAZINE ADDED TO LIBRARY

Monthly Review, published by Immigration and Naturalization Service of the Department of Justice.

A new publication, containing articles on legislative and judicial rulings on immigration and naturalization, as well as other related discussion. Copies are available at the WRA Library.

CENTER FIRE PROTECTION REVIEWED

Fire protection in relocation centers is described in an article written by William E. Hoffman, WRA Fire Protection Adviser, which appeared in the October Quarterly of the National Fire Protection Association.

PROCEDURAL ISSUANCES

The following procedures have been issued since October 7, 1943:

HANDBOOK RELEASES

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date of Approval</u>
13	Additions to Finance Handbook	10-1-43
14	Additions to Finance Handbook	10-15-43
15	Appeals Procedure	10-15-43
16	Leave Assistance Grants	10-23-43
17	Agriculture Handbook	10-26-43
18	Personnel Handbook	10-13-43
19	Seasonal Work Leave	10-27-43
	Indefinite Leave	
20	Mess Operations	10-30-43
	Priorities	
	Rationing	
21	Amended Exhibit for Supply Handbook	11-2-43
22	Fire Protection	10-30-43
23	Motor Transport and Maintenance	11-9-43

24	Efficiency Rating Handbook	10-13-43
25	Personnel Management	11-5-43
26	Additions to Procurement Handbook	11-5-43

MANUAL RELEASES

19	Segregation	10-6-43
20	Departure from Tule Lake Center	10-18-43
21	Operation of Motor Vehicles	10-18-43
	Damage Claims Against WRA	
22	Budget	10-26-43
23	Evacuee Property	10-19-43
24	Motor Transport and Maintenance	10-28-43
25	Project Employment	10-30-43
26	Budget	11-5-43
	General Administration	
	Additions to Regulations Affecting Evacuees	
27	Priorities	11-5-43
28	Procurement	11-4-43
29	Regulations Affecting Administrative Personnel	11-5-43