

Return to Ethel Bird
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RESETTLEMENT OF JAPANESE EVACUEES

We are sending you two pieces of recently released material which will help to bring up to date our Public Affairs Bulletin No. VI, issued May 12, 1942, "The West Coast Evacuation in Relation to the Struggle for Freedom." They are:

1. "A Touchstone of Democracy," pamphlet of the Council for Social Action of the Congregational Church.
2. Bibliography copied from a bulletin, "Fair Play for American Fellow Students of Japanese Descent," of the National Intercollegiate Christian Council.

We call your attention also to the Bookshelf, Vol. XXVI, No. 3, November, 1942, and the Womans Press for December.

Japanese evacuation has now entered its fourth stage which we are glad to be able to say is resettlement. On September 29 the War Relocation Authority issued an order which may be summarized as follows:

Brief Summary of W.R.A. Regulation Published in Federal Register, Tuesday, September 29, and effective as of October 1.

Several types of temporary leave from relocation centers are permitted, but the new type technically called indefinite leave for work and residence outside the centers is what is meant by the term "resettlement." It provides generally that all applicants for indefinite leave shall have made arrangements for employment or other means of support, shall have agreed to report change of address, and shall have no record which would cause authorities to believe that the applicant would interfere with the nation's war program or otherwise endanger public peace and security.

1. Any evacuee residing within a relocation center may make application for leave.
2. The War Relocation Authority requires a record check of each person by F.B.I. to determine eligibility to leave. This is administered by the Washington Office of W.R.A. The attention of social agencies to this matter is not necessary.
3. The W.R.A. must be provided with a description of the job, salary and other conditions of work, and with some indication that the presence of the new settlers will cause no disturbance in the community to which they go.
4. The W.R.A. provides transportation only to the most convenient railroad or bus station. The rest of the transportation costs must be met otherwise.
5. The persons released under this provision are free. They may change occupation, be discharged by employers, go to other localities to find work, and carry on their daily lives as other American citizens and residents. They are required only to keep W.R.A. informed of changes. They may return to relocation centers.

This means that the government is making a constructive effort to release much needed manpower (and womanpower), to restore American citizens and their families, against whom there is no shadow of complaint, to their former self-supporting status thus relieving the American people of the threat of a new "Indian reservation problem." The Y.W.C.A. is working cooperatively with the government on this project.

Public Affairs Committee
National Board, Y.W.C.A.
600 Lexington Avenue, New York, N.Y.

December 16, 1942

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To be effective we must know the facts. Packets of the first five sources may be secured from the National Student Council, Y.W.C.A., 600 Lexington Avenue, New York, N.Y., for 35¢ each.

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Americans in Concentration Camps, Harry Paxton Howard. The Crisis, September 1942. An interpretation which relates the Japanese-American problem to the total color problem and particularly to the problems of Negroes. 15¢

American Refugees, Fellowship of Reconciliation, 2929 Broadway, New York, N.Y. The Pacifist Statement. 3¢

Japanese Student Relocation, American Friends Service Committee, 29 South Twelfth Street, Philadelphia, Pa. A brief statement from the Friends and letters from the War Department and War Relocation Authority. 2¢

The Japanese in Our Midst, Colorado Council Churches, Mack Building, Denver, Colorado. What Colorado, the first state to accept Japanese for relocation, has done. 5¢

Material in your College Library

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