

Sandoz

Poston, Arizona
April 21, 1943

Mr. Carl V. Sandoz
Head Counselor
Mindioaka Relocation Project
Hunt, Idaho

Dear Mr. Sandoz:

Thank you for your letter of April 16. I, too, am sorry that we didn't manage to have a longer talk or two while I was in Minidoka. I am also sorry if I said things about clothing allowance which have resulted in giving you any extra worries.

I distinctly remember a conversation, after one of the block manager meetings, with Mr. Hara and one of the block managers. We touched on clothing allowance. They asked me how it was handled in Poston, and I am afraid that I failed to sufficiently qualify my statement that unemployed persons are receiving clothing allowance here.

Here is how clothing allowance has been carried out in Poston: When the clothing allowance order was issued, as you recall, it was made retroactive from the beginning of the project. Our last evacuees came in in July, and hence our clothing allowance was set up as beginning in July. It was the opinion of our chief of community services (who has handled clothing allowance here) that employment records were inaccurate and inadequate for the first three months of the project, and hence she proposed that the clothing allowance be made universal for all evacuees during this period. Mr. Barrows, of the Washington office, approved. Consequently for the months of July, August, and September everyone in Poston who applied for clothing allowance received it, regardless of whether or not they had actually been employed.

Since October an effort has been made to place clothing allowance on the basis set up in the administrative instruction. However, it is the opinion of the chief of community services that it is only in the past two or three months that that goal has been achieved. Unemployment compensation has never been set up on this project. Consequently there were only two categories of persons eligible to receive clothing allowance under the technical terms of the instruction: employed persons and those receiving Public Assistance. There was a strong feeling against applying for Public Assistance on the part of the evacuees. It seemed necessary to suspend strict adherence to the clothing allowance regulations until this feeling changed. Gradually persons who

required assistance have come on to the Public Assistance rolls and now received their clothing allowance from that source. For example, a mother who is not working and who has no working members of her family goes on the Public Assistance roll and gets clothing allowance by that means. Persons who have been employed for fifteen days out of a month receive the regular clothing allowance along with their dependents. Family heads to whom the clothing allowance is made may be fathers, mothers, sons, or daughters. It is probably true at present in Poston that only persons who are on Public Assistance or persons classified as heads of families who are working (and their dependents) are receiving clothing allowance. It is also true, however, that this situation has only been attained very recently. There has been from the beginning a number of wealthy persons who have not cared to work and who have not asked for or received clothing allowance.

I suppose you could sum up the policy at Poston ~~xxxx~~ by saying that the principle of no work, no clothing allowance has not been set up as the point of departure from the beginning, but that we have gradually worked toward that. The problems of the classification of the family head and the attitudes towards Public Assistance were approached on a case basis at first, and only after they have been solved has the thing been established in strict accordance with the original program.

I hope that this answers your questions, and again I wish to say that I am sorry if any of my remarks at Minidoka have caused you trouble. I do not know what specific cases the block managers with whom I talked had in mind. If they understood me to say that unemployed persons in Poston were receiving clothing allowance, they are perfectly right, and I am to blame for not having explained more fully the whole situation here. If there are any other points on which you would like information, I should be glad to furnish it.

I am enclosing the form which has recently been adopted by the clothing allowance department. The information is filled in and turned in monthly by the block manager to the clothing allowance department.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Edward H. Spicer

Edward H. Spicer
Social Science Analyst