

**WHEN YOU LEAVE  
THE  
RELOCATION  
CENTER**

A Message to the Residents of Relocation Centers:

Ever since the earliest days of evacuation, the ultimate aim of the United States government has been to help you who were evacuated to reestablish yourselves outside the military areas in cities and towns and on farms throughout the Nation. Relocation centers were established primarily as places where you might live and work until an orderly program of individual resettlement could be developed and put into effect.

Early in 1943 this program got actively under way, and by the end of the year nearly 17,000 people had departed from the centers to resettle in outside communities. An average rate of about 1,500 departures each month was reached and continued into 1944. The War Relocation Authority and a number of other agencies, public and private, are making every effort to encourage this movement, and to open new opportunities for the people who participate in it. We hope that, in the months that lie ahead, the rate may be increased as the advantages of relocation become more apparent to the people still living in the centers.

I am confident that this course is a wise one both for you and for the Nation. The energy and the resourcefulness that are characteristic of the great majority of the evacuated people are qualities which we need in our shops and on our farms today more than ever before; they are qualities which we shall also need abundantly during the reconstruction period that will surely follow the peace.

I believe you should leave the relocation center confident that you are entering a new period of life which is full of opportunity, that you are taking the right step to insure security and happiness for yourself and your family now, and in the years to come. You take with you my very best wishes.

*D.S. Myer*

Director

## WHEN YOU LEAVE THE RELOCATION CENTER

As a nation made up of people from many lands, seeking means of making a better life for themselves, the United States frequently has seen large segments of its population on the move, responding to new opportunities, making new homes, developing new resources. The demand for wartime workers has prompted the movement of thousands of families to new communities, where these grandchildren of pioneers have displayed an ability to meet new conditions that would have done credit to their ancestors. So the resettlement of American citizens and long-time residents of Japanese ancestry is paralleled by the movement of other groups of the population and is a sequel to the pioneering of the Issei who brought thousands of acres of western land into production.

In this newest, great movement of which you are a part, the War Relocation Authority and other agencies of the government, as well as interested private groups, are ready to assist each person and family to make a successful readjustment. No government or private agency, however, can relieve you of the major responsibilities that every person must assume for himself and for members of his family who are dependent on him. The decision to relocate rests with you, and you must accept the initiative in adjusting yourself into the community where you plan to reside. The assistance of the WRA and other cooperating agencies will be most helpful to those people who actively try to help themselves.

This pamphlet has been prepared to inform you of the assistance which you may expect; of certain things which are required of all persons leaving relocation centers on indefinite leave; and to give you the benefit of suggestions which have been received from those who have gone before you.

1. *Giving Notice of Time of Arrival.* If you have a specific job lined up before you leave the center, notice has been given to your employer that you will arrive at your destination on a specified day. You will, of course, want to make every effort to report on the day indicated. If you should be delayed for any reason, make it a point to notify the employer or relocation officer when you expect to arrive.

If you are expecting some one to meet you at the train at your destination, you should wire ahead to him regarding any change in your schedule that may become necessary while

you are enroute. In going to destinations that require a change of trains in Chicago, you may not be able to plan your connection definitely before you get there.

2. *Travel Suggestions.* Nearly every train carries a diner, and every traveler on the train, regardless of whether he occupies a coach seat or a Pullman accommodation is, privileged to use it. You should have no hesitancy about eating in a diner, if you feel you can afford the price. A breakfast usually costs from 50 cents to \$1.00; other meals range in price from 75 cents up. Tips are expected by the waiters.

On many trains, sandwiches, hot coffee, and milk may be purchased from waiters who pass through the coaches with trays and coffee pots. Food may also be purchased in restaurants at the larger railway stations. Sometimes your train may stop long enough to permit you to eat in a railway station restaurant, but always ask the conductor how much time you have. If the stop is a short one, you may still have time enough to buy a sandwich box lunch in the restaurant for 40 to 50 cents.

If you are traveling with a baby on the train, do not hesitate to ask the porter or a dining car waiter to warm a bottle of milk for you. They are accustomed to giving such service.

Too much hand luggage is a handicap on any trip. Take with you on the train only what you really need to carry you through the trip and the first two or three days after your arrival at your destination. Use your railway ticket to check the rest of your baggage through to the place where you are going. If you need help with the hand luggage that you carry with you, call a red-cap porter at the station. The customary charge for red-cap service is 10 cents per bag.

3. *Travelers Aid Society.* The Travelers Aid Society maintains an office in the railway stations in all large cities and important railway junction points. The Travelers Aid representative will be glad to furnish information and to give you directions for reaching the local address to which you wish to go. If you stop along the way to your destination and then find that you can not reach it on the day and hour planned for your arrival, the Travelers Aid representative will help you to wire ahead regarding the change in your schedule. Arrangements may also be made through Travelers Aid to have someone meet you at the train on your arrival, and to direct from there to your final destination.

4. *Report of Arrival and Change of Address Cards.* One of the conditions under which you received indefinite leave was that you would report changes of address to the Director. You have been given one copy of a Change of Address Report Card (Form WRA 148-B), addressed to the Director of the War Relocation Authority in Washington, D. C. When you arrive at your destination, do not delay in filling out and mailing Form WRA 148-B. Whenever you move, send a Report of Change of Address card to the Director. Every time you send one of these cards to the Director, you will receive another from Washington to use if you move again. It is highly important for your own good and for the good of all others that you notify the Director of WRA of every change of address, so no search will be necessary to find you in case someone wants to communicate with you concerning your relatives, property, or other matters.

5. *Indefinite Leave Card.* Your indefinite leave card with photograph and fingerprint is an important paper. Carry it with you at all times and be careful not to lose it. If you should lose your indefinite leave card, get in touch with the nearest relocation officer regarding the proper procedure to follow in securing a replacement. Take your birth certificate and other identification with you to his office when applying for a new card. If you are an alien, you should always carry your Alien Registration Card as well as your Indefinite Leave Card. If you are a citizen, you may find it helpful to carry a copy of your birth certificate with you.

6. *Travel and Change of Address for Aliens.* In addition to keeping the Director of the War Relocation Authority informed as to change of address, aliens on indefinite leave must also abide by the regulations of the Department of Justice. If you are an alien, you have been given a copy of these regulations which apply to all aliens who are nationals of enemy countries. You must secure permission from the U. S. Attorney for any travel after you reach your destination, and you must keep the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Immigration and Naturalization Service informed of your address at all times by means of the special postcards which can be obtained at any post office. Failure to comply with Department of Justice alien regulations may result in serious penalties.

7. *Relocation Assistance Payments.* If you applied, and were eligible, for a relocation assistance grant and have not yet received it, your check is being sent to the relocation officer serving the area to which you are going. You should call at his office to pick up the check, or if your destina-

tion is at some distance from his office, your check may be sent to you "general delivery" at the post office of your destination. If the check is not requested within thirty days, the relocation officer or the postmaster will send it back to the relocation center or to the disbursing officer.

When you applied for your leave assistance grant, you signed an agreement certifying that the destination which you specified at the time of your departure from the center was your true destination. Failure to go to this destination will make you liable to the penalties listed in the statement that you signed to get your relocation assistance grant. However, if unpredictable circumstances arise which make it impracticable or undesirable for you to continue your trip to your destination, you should communicate as promptly as possible with the nearest relocation officer and obtain his advice.

8. *Relocation Officers.* Relocation officers are located in the principal cities and towns in which evacuees have relocated. More than likely there is a relocation officer representing the War Relocation Authority in the area in which you are planning to live. It is important that you understand his responsibilities, what service he can give you, and what should not be expected of him.

The principal responsibility of the relocation officer is to develop support for the relocation program in the community or district where he is assigned to duty. On your arrival, he will counsel you regarding the various committees and agencies that are available to help you with your personal problems. He will make appointments for you to interview the representatives of any specific agencies whose assistance you may need, and will refer you to job opportunities. It is not the function of his office, however, to provide services which are available to you elsewhere, or to give you individual assistance on problems that you should be able to handle for yourself.

9. *Cooperating Agencies.* The relocation officer, or the cooperating committee or other agency to which he will refer you, will assist you in finding temporary living quarters where you may stay until you find permanent housing. In seven cities, hostels are operated for resettlers: In Brooklyn (for New York City), Philadelphia, Cleveland, Detroit, Cincinnati, Minneapolis, and Des Moines. In some

communities arrangements have been made with the YMCA, the YWCA, settlement houses, church groups, and similar organizations, to provide temporary housing.

In many communities the services of cooperating committees are available to help you and other resettlers to find permanent housing. The committee in the community where you are planning to relocate will give you information about any houses or apartments that may be open for immediate occupancy. It will also provide you with information about the rental rates for various types of accommodations, furnished and unfurnished, and about the desirability of various neighborhoods with regard to sanitation, convenience, and associations. You may have to do considerable searching to find accommodations that satisfy you, or you may have to live for a time in quarters that are not entirely to your liking. You should recognize, however, that similar difficulties are experienced by many people who are moving into new communities under wartime conditions. The cooperating committee will give you all reasonable assistance, but you must realize that no committee or person can relieve you of the primary responsibility in finding a place for you to live.

The cooperating committee, or some other responsible group in the community, will also help you with your problems pertaining to medical care, schools, and recreation. You will be told about the facilities that are available, and which you are entitled to use as freely as any other resident in the community. If you should need financial aid, or the assistance of a welfare agency, you will be directed to the agency best suited to advise or assist you.

Once you have relocated on indefinite leave, your status for all practical purposes is the same as that of any other person. There are many opportunities but accompanying the opportunities are responsibilities which you alone will be expected to assume, as is the case with all other residents of the United States.

10. *Assistance and Other Welfare Services.* The Federal Social Security Board, through local public welfare agencies, provides financial assistance and other services to relocated evacuees who are in need of such service. This service is not charity; it is made available by the government especially for individuals and families, such as the evacuated people, whose means of self-support have been temporarily impaired by the war.

Services available from public welfare agencies for those evacuees who are in need of them include: temporary financial assistance, including necessary medical care; advice in budgeting; assistance in securing housing; child welfare services; counseling regarding family problems; and information regarding social services. Should you need assistance or service, you may apply to the local public welfare agency in the community in which you are working. If there is more than one local welfare agency in the community, the relocation officer will advise you as to which agency will take your application.

11. *War Manpower Restrictions on Job Changes.* There are limitations on changing jobs imposed on all persons by the War Manpower Commission. These restrictions vary somewhat from one area to another, but generally, for all types of work except private domestic service, the War Manpower Commission regulations require a release from the previous employer or from the local office of the U. S. Employment Service before a person can leave one job and take another. Failure to get a release results in an enforced waiting period before new employment may be accepted.

12. *Wages.* It is highly important that you should not accept less than the prevailing wage of the community where you relocate, for the type of work that you engage to do. Accepting a lower wage is not only disadvantageous in a financial way; if you undercut the prevailing wage scale, you will antagonize other workers and arouse unfriendly sentiment against you and other Japanese Americans who may wish to relocate in the same community.

It is equally important that you should not ask for more than the prevailing wage. Public sentiment is not likely to be friendly toward strangers who try to break prevailing wage scales by demanding more money.

13. *Bank Accounts.* If you wish to open a bank account in the community where you relocate, remember that immediate cash withdrawals can *not* be made from deposits opened with personal checks. You must wait until your personal check has been cleared with the bank on which you issued it, which may require as much as one month. Accounts opened with certified checks or money orders, however, may be drawn on immediately.

Any funds deposited by an alien of Japanese birth will be frozen unless he first obtains a United States Treasury



license of operation. If you are an alien, you should apply for your license on form 68-A, or TR300-J, before you make your first deposit. These forms may be obtained from almost any bank.

You will be wise to familiarize yourself with the banking laws of the state where you plan to make your home.

14. *West Coast Property Problems:* After you have relocated, problems regarding property on the Pacific Coast should be addressed, according to the location of your property, to one of the Evacuee Property Officers listed below:

Earl W. Barton 1031 South Broadway Los Angeles 15, California	Russell T. Robinson 461 Market Street San Francisco 5, California
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Chester W. Hatch 1709 - 21st Street Sacramento 14, California	Ralph P. Borst War Relocation Authority Portland, Oregon
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Sheldon C. Hagen  
War Relocation Authority  
Seattle, Washington

15. *Shipment of Personal and Commercial Property.* Persons relocating may have their furniture and other personal effects shipped at government expense to any place they may designate. Shipment may be made from a center, or from your former residence or the place where the property is stored, to your designated destination.

If you are on indefinite leave and wish to have your furniture and other personal belongings shipped to you from government or private storage on the West Coast, you should send your request to the Transportation Section of the Evacuee Property Office in San Francisco (461 Market Street). If the furniture is at a center, your request should be sent to the project director. The request, in either instance, should be made in triplicate on Form WRA-156, which may be obtained either from the relocation officer or the project director.

The WRA will help you to arrange for the shipment of commercial property to any point that you designate, but you must pay the cost of shipment unless the possession of it is

essential to your relocation and you can not replace it because of wartime shortages. Tools, equipment, and machinery (including farm machinery), not to exceed 5000 pounds in weight, may be shipped to you at government expense if the relocation officer, who serves the community where you relocate, certifies that they are necessary for your successful relocation, and if the shipment is approved by the project director.

If you wish to apply for the shipment of tools and machinery to you at government expense, you should consult the relocation officer who will advise you regarding the validity of your request. If he agrees that the equipment is essential to your successful relocation, he will assist you in applying for the shipment.

16. *Selective Service.* All men registered for Selective Service are required by law to keep the local Selective Service board with which they are registered informed of their addresses, and to carry a Registration Certificate (DSS Form 2) and a Notice of Classification (DSS Form 57) on their persons at all times. Failure to fulfil either of these requirements may lead to difficulties with law enforcement officers and even to prosecution for violation of the Selective Service Act.

Men in the Enlisted Reserve Corps, when they leave the centers, must keep the headquarters of the nearest Service Command informed regarding their addresses.

17. *Relocation of Family and Friends.* Consult the nearest relocation officer if you wish to encourage members of your family or your friends to relocate near you. If you are concerned about employment possibilities for them, or have questions as to their ability to earn a livelihood because of their age or health, the relocation officer will be glad to discuss these matters with you. He can also bring in expert advice from cooperating public and private welfare agencies to help you plan especially for family members.

18. *Return to Relocation Centers.* It is not expected that persons on indefinite leave will return to relocation centers to stay. If you feel you must return, however, consult the nearest relocation officer. If you cannot work out your difficulties with his assistance and the help of other agencies cooperating with the WRA, and if he agrees that it is best for you to return to the center, he will recommend to the

project director that you be reinducted. If the relocation officer does not agree that you should return, or if you return without consulting him, he is required to make a report which will go into your permanent WRA record. He may recommend that no further leave be granted you until your case has been reviewed and approved by the Director in Washington, or he may request that you be required to pay visitor charges.

You may return to the center as a paying guest for brief visits by letting the project director know when you are coming. In such cases, however, get your employer's permission before you go.

Men who have passed their pre-induction physical examinations have the privilege of returning to the center where they may remain, without charge, until they are called to active duty. They are encouraged, however, to stay where they are.

**IN GENERAL;** By establishing yourself in a community, making friends, and developing a normal, satisfying life for yourself and your family, you will help to create a public attitude favorable to yourself and to other Americans of Japanese ancestry. At the same time, your success may encourage other evacuees who have been hesitant to seek opportunities to leave the centers. Letters to relatives and friends still in the centers will aid in this respect.

In your work and in social contacts, be alert to opportunities for employment for other evacuees. If and when other evacuees move to your community, you can be helpful to them in locating places to live and in getting acquainted with the community and with people you have met. Friends of evacuees have expressed concern over the individual evacuees who have left jobs within a few days after taking them, leaving behind disappointed and disgruntled employers. Such acts, of course, reflect unfavorably not only on the persons who leave the jobs, but on evacuees in general.

In a very real sense, you are an "ambassador" for the entire group of evacuated people.