

There is a definite purpose for joining any organization. We join because of certain advantages and benefits that we can derive.

We have a cooperative enterprise here with already over fifty-three hundred members. Now what are the benefits and advantages of being a Co-op member?

Economy! Thrift! Savings! These are one of the primary advantages. In a cooperative we pool our funds to utilize same to gain maximum benefits. This builds our capital structure and thus establishes a firm credit standing. With such, we are in a position to obtain discounts. Naturally we have the instrument for advantageous buying.

We are a member and part owner of the Associated Cooperative Wholesale of Northern California. This affiliates us with the National Cooperative Society. Together with our collective bargaining instrument, we are in a position to receive the benefits of the voluminous purchasing power of the entire cooperative organization in the United States.

If we did not have a cooperative here we would not have these advantages.

In a Co-op you are patronizing your own store. You are the owner of a million-dollar enterprise here. Any profits derived from your business will be used for your advantage to gain added benefits. The purposes of the Co-op can be furthered with this profit which we would not have if this was a private enterprise. Furthermore, in a private enterprise, we would not only have no profit returns, but we would also be paying higher prices than is possible now.

SAVINGS IN INCOME TAX

All membership purchases, which naturally will be recorded, (recorded by the use of scrip books) will not be subject to income tax. Non-member and non-record purchases or cash purchases will be subject to income tax. (State sales tax must be paid.) If all purchases were by members and with established record of such purchases, we will not have any taxable income.

OLD COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE PROFIT

The present patronage record that we are establishing for the period between December 1, 1942, to June 30, 1943, according to a telegram received from Washington upon the ruling of the Collector of Internal Revenue, has a significant reflection on the Community Enterprise profit prior to December 1, 1942. That is; the patronage record established between December 1, 1942, to June 30, 1943, will be the basis upon which the taxable income of the old profit will be determined. In other words, if we establish a fifty percent patronage record within the above period, fifty percent of the old profit will be subject to income tax; but if we establish a hundred percent patronage record during the present period, there will be no taxable income. Therefore it is up to the residents of Tule Lake to determine whether or not we want to save this tremendous amount on income tax. The income tax rate will be about fifty percent of the taxable profits or more. This huge amount can be saved and kept here on the Project if we can establish a hundred percent patronage record. This can and should be done. (Membership alone is insufficient if such members do not use scrip, for scrip is the method that we are using to record patronage.)

Between now and June 30, 1943, everyone has an opportunity to establish this patronage record. Naturally, everyone will be entitled to the old enterprise profit through this channel.

Another economy feature is the use of Sears Roebuck and Company mail order service. On all mail orders placed through the Co-op to Sears Roebuck and Company, a small discount is realized by the Co-op. This discount will not be a direct disbursement to the person ordering, but it will be retained by the Co-op as patronage record. (Your scrip books are honored for mail orders.) Sometime in February, we are anticipating a similar agreement with Montgomery Ward and Company.

Thus we endeavor to mold together our purchasing and sales to bring utmost advantage and economy to all concerned: If we are to have many individual-profit business here on the Project, these advantages

cannot be realized. In unity there is strength, and it is the duty of every resident to cooperate to realize a common end. Economy is essential in view of our gigantic relocation problems.

In addition to the immediate material advantages there are very definite future benefits. Though we as a Co-op will not reorganize as a single unit after we leave this Project, the knowledge of the cooperative movement plays a vital role in our future lives.

Statistics show that in the United States, some two hundred corporations monopolize most of our big business ventures. These corporations are owned by about thirteen families. On a percentage basis the statistics show that about ninety-four percent of our money is controlled by about three percent of the people. While we must watch our immediate surroundings, it is necessary to comprehend the country's economic situation in order to realize future success. We are presumably enjoying democratic freedom. However, the above statistics have a tendency of the trend toward losing economic democracy. Through a cooperative enterprise of every nature---consumer's, purchaser's, and industrial cooperatives---we will be able to control our economic future. Through a cooperative, monopolies can be broken.

If we can picture our economic situation prior to evacuation, we may come to realize many things that could have been accomplished through Co-ops. For instance, our truck gardeners who competed against each other for the survival of the fittest and thus gave the purchaser much advantage. I can visualize what cooperatives could have done for a better marketing source. Also the purchasing of equipment and supplies could have been done through a Co-op and thus realize economy and reduce overhead.

The knowledge of the Co-op plan, the education of the cooperative movement, will undoubtedly play an important role in our relocation. If many have the idea of starting anew in a new country, the knowledge of a cooperative could be very vital.

The cooperative believes in racial equality and racial tolerance. Today Niseis are being welcomed into cooperative societies outside. Actually some have been relocated already into Co-op jobs. In the very near future several people will be leaving this Project into Co-op jobs and institutes. We are making profound friends through the cooperative organization.

MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR OUR CO-OP HERE

Compare to the material advantages and the knowledge of a Co-op, \$1.00 membership fee cannot be compared in value of the knowledge of a Co-op. Being a member; one creates pride. Pride creates interest. Interest will develop knowledge which will be invaluable to many.

JOIN AND COOPERATE!

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