

MINUTES

COMMITTEE OF IMMIGRANT SERVING AGENCIES

FAMILY WELFARE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY CHEST OF SAN FRANCISCO

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1941 -- 10:00 A. M.
45 Second Street

PRESENT:

Blaisdell, Allen, Chairman

Baker, Miss Betty
De Andreis, Frank
Duveneck, Mrs. Josephine
Kahn, Mrs. Sidney
Kimber, Mrs. Mary
Leonard, Miss Marjorie

Picard, Herbert
Rispoli, Milano
Shea, Rev. Eugene
Tichner, Miss Henrietta
Treguboff, Sanford
Watson, Miss Annie Clo

International Institute Board

American Friends Service Committee
State Dept. of Immigration & Housing
American Friends Service Committee
National Council of Jewish Women
American Friends Service Committee
Northern California Committee for
Foreign Born
Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society
Italian Welfare Agency
Affiliated Catholic Charities
National Council of Jewish Women
S. F. Committee for Service to Emigres
International Institute

ABSENT:

Elliott, Robert
Hastings, Mrs. Russell
Miller, Miss Persis
Taylour, Miss Emilie
Tomas, Mark

American Red Cross, S. F. Chapter
International Institute Board
American Committee to Save Refugees
Travelers Aid
American Red Cross, Pacific Area Office

ALSO PRESENT:

Born, Ronald
Bridge, Miss Helen
Conard, Joseph
Domoto, Yiniko
Kamata, Rev. R. M.
Kanai, Lincoln
Kaneko, Rev. T.

Kimbell, Major Irene
Kito, Saburo
Leffler, John C.
Maguire, Miss Essie L.
Miniclier, Louis
Mukaye, Miss Kimiko
Nugent, W. Carl
Okazaki, Mari

Public Welfare Department

American Friends Service Committee
Alameda County Charities Commission
Buddhist Mission of North America
Japanese Branch, Y.M.C.A.
Chairman, Japanese Transfiguration in S.
First Evangelical and Reformed Church
Salvation Army

Rector, St. Luke's Episcopal Church
Y.W.C.A.
American Red Cross
Japanese Center, Y.W.C.A.
First Evangelical and Reformed Church
International Institute

ALSO PRESENT (Continued)

Plant, Robert
Saugen, Major Inga
Sprunger, Ellis
Thompson, S. H.

Watland, Miss Ella B.
Yoakum, Mrs. Wilhelmine

International Institute
Salvation Army Japanese Children's Home
Y.M.C.A.
Director of Alameda County Charities
Commission
American Red Cross, Pacific Area
International Institute of Alameda County

PRESIDING Mr. Allen Blaisdell, Chairman, presided.
OFFICER:

The Chairman explained that this special meeting had been called to discuss the problems facing Japanese both American born and aliens since the declaration of war between the United States and Japan.

The problems are:

1. Finance
2. Transportation
3. Loss of employment
4. Education
5. Care of children

FINANCE: Miss Watson and Mr. Born met with Mr. Naiden of the Federal Reserve Bank and were told that it is absolutely necessary for all Japanese to prove citizenship. Those who are American citizens without documents can swear an oath of allegiance to the United States and be considered citizens. The Public Welfare Department can give relief in kind and small amounts of cash when necessary to Japanese who are eligible under the Indigent Act. Some of these Japanese are anxious to repay this money as soon as the crisis is over. According to Mr. Naiden, anyone employing alien Japanese may pay them in cash enough for actual living expenses. The employer will have to use his good judgment in individual cases. Churches can give meals and small amounts of cash in gifts.

This information is not for publication but members of the Committee can ask Washington for a written statement if they want it. Mr. Blaisdell thought that it would be a protection if the employer obtained a statement from Japanese that the funds are needed for subsistence.

TRANSPORTATION:

Mr. Saburo Kito said that the Southern Pacific has issued a statement that no Japanese will be allowed on bus or train following out orders of the F.B.I. and that since this came from Washington, D.C., it will take an order from there to rescind same. The Santa Fe is selling tickets but Japanese will be unable to use them. Japanese driving their own cars have been stopped and turned back. Mr. Kito stated that very exceptions have been made.

LOSS OF EMPLOYMENT:

The question was raised whether or not Japanese would be eligible for unemployment benefits. Since five weeks must elapse before these benefits can be collected, there will be ample time to find how this will be handled. No one had any information as to the method being used by the State Employment office in regard to the employment of Japanese. Since the Federal Reserve Bank has a law which subjects a person assisting an alien to either \$10,000 fine or ten years imprisonment, it makes the situation quite serious.

The Chairman thought that persons already employing Japanese should not discharge them, but that there should be no movement agitated for employment of Japanese at this time.

The Chairman urged all agencies to use discretion where the Government is concerned and to preserve their reputations as sound intelligent organizations.

EDUCATION:

The Chairman stated that they are asking Japanese students if they desire to return to the University and what obstacles are standing in their way. They are hoping to clarify this situation before the second semester as the University feels all education should proceed normally

Mr. Kanai remarked that the public schools in San Francisco are making every effort to maintain normal relationships between Japanese children and others in their group and are stressing the fact that Japanese children are just as much citizens as any other nationality.

CARE OF
CHILDREN:

An instance was cited where parents had been picked up by the F.B.I. leaving two small children alone in the house for several days.

Mr. Kito stated there has been some relaxation in the ruling in regard to persons picked up by F.B.I. and visiting privileges have been allowed to relatives.

The Chairman stated that he thought the following things should be done at once. A committee of outstanding Community Chest leaders should be asked to work with the Committee of Immigrant Serving Agencies and exert influence wherever it may be necessary in handling the Japanese situation in this area.

The following persons were suggested for this committee:

Mrs. George Egleston
Mr. Jean C. Witter
Mr. Daniel Koshland
Mr. Louis B. Lundborg
Mr. W. P. F. Brawner

A meeting with the Chairman and the Advisory Committee is to be held Monday, December 15th at 4:00 P.M. at the Chest.

CENTERS
OF CLEAR-
ANCE:

In keeping with the principle of the Committee that existing community agencies should be utilized, it was decided that the Adjustment Bureau would be used as the referral center for all social welfare problems.

Miss Ruettell stressed the fact that agencies should be asked to register with the Social Service clearing house.

Mr. Kito and Miss Watson were asked to procure up to the minute information on the financial situation and send a report to the Adjustment Bureau. All cases eligible for public relief will be referred to the Public Welfare Department and all others to the International Institute. Miss Taylour of the Travelers Aid or someone whom she will designate will get similar information on transportation. Miss Helen Bridge will be responsible for information on child welfare care.

ADJOURN-
MENT:

The meeting adjourned to meet December 17th at 10:00 A.M.

Rhea Wendling, Secretary

rw:lg