

M I N U T E S

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRANT SERVING AGENCIES

FAMILY WELFARE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY CHEST OF SAN FRANCISCO

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1941 - 10:00 A. M.

45 Second Street

PRESENT:

Blaisdell, Allen, Chairman	International Institute Board
Baker, Miss Betty	American Friends Service Committee
de Andreis, Frank	State Department of Immigration and Housing
Leonard, Mrs. Marjorie	Northern California Committee for Foreign Born
Miller, Miss Persis	American Committee to Save Refugees
Picard, Herbert	Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society
Treguboff, Sanford	S.F. Committee for Service to Emigres

ABSENT:

Duveneck, Mrs. Josephine	American Friends Service Committee
Elliott, Robert	American Red Cross, S.F. Chapter
Hastings, Mrs. Russell	International Institute Board
Kahn, Mrs. Sidney	National Council of Jewish Women
Kimber, Mrs. Mary	American Friends Service Committee
Rispoli, Milano	Italian Welfare Agency, Inc.
Shea, Rev. Eugene J.	Affiliated Catholic Charities
Taylor, Miss Emilie	Travelers Aid Society of S.F.
Tichner, Miss Henrietta	National Council of Jewish Women
Tomas, Mark	American Red Cross, Pacific Area Office
Watson, Miss Annie Clo	International Institute

ALSO PRESENT:

Abiko, Yasno W.	Japanese American Citizens League
Cleary, Eustace V.	Public Schools
Fisher, Galen M.	Berkeley
Fisk, Alfred G.	International Institute
Graves, A. D.	San Francisco Public Schools
Kanai, Lincoln	Japanese Branch, Y.M.C.A.
Kelley, Patrick	Community Chest of San Francisco
Kido, Saburo	Japanese American Citizens League
Layman, Dr. Mary H.	International Institute
Leffler, John C.	Rector, St. Luke's Episcopal Church
McWilliams, Carey	State Department of Immigration and Housing

ALSO PRESENT: (Continued)

Moses, Miss Effia D.	Women's Division, Democratic State Central Committee
Mukaye, Miss Kimiko	Japanese Center, Y.W.C.A.
Porter, Mrs. Julia	Women's Division, Democratic State Central Committee
Ruettell, Miss Margaret	Adjustment Bureau
Wyckoff, Miss Florence	Women's Division, Democratic State Central Committee
Yoakum, Mrs. Wilhelmine	Internation Institute of Alameda Co.

PRESIDING
OFFICER:

Mr. Allen Blaisdell, Chairman, presided.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the previous meeting were distributed, discussed and accepted.

Mr. Kanai estimated that about 50% of businesses which had been padlocked are now open.

If a depositor had placed money in a bank before June 17th, 1940, he can draw out any amount. No one seemed to know why June 17th, 1940 had been fixed as the date although several people present have endeavored to find out.

The Chairman said that three other committees are also interested in the same problem. First, a committee to assist the government in safeguarding the rights of loyal and innocent citizens has been appointed to act in an advisory capacity to the Council of Social Agencies in Berkeley, Mr. Galen Fisher, Chairman. Secondly, a State committee appointed by Governor Olson. Thirdly, the Civilian Defense Committee. The purpose of the latter committee was discussed by Mr. Kelley, Miss Bridge and Mrs. Wyckoff. They have set up a Speakers Bureau on Civilian Defense and will include in their five minute talks interpretive material on fair play to minority groups. The Chairman said that the importance of the morale of these groups cannot be overemphasized. The government

is endeavoring to sell bonds and stamps and certainly people will not subscribe if they do not receive fair treatment.

The following problems were then discussed. Itinerant Japanese clergymen have not been allowed to travel between churches.

Mr. Fisher discussed this with the F.B.I., and was told that they could drive their own automobiles but a non-citizen cannot ride on public conveyances. Since the two cases that had been cited owned automobiles this problem was solved. If any other questions of this kind arise, they can be reported to Mr. Fisher. Mr. Kido said that Japanese gardeners are driving their own cars to San Mateo where they have employment.

Mr. Kanai is interested in assisting some stranded fishermen who have not been able to go home. He was referred from the F.B.I., to Mr. Wixon who in turn referred him to the Army where he was referred back to Mr. Wixon. This seems to be happening in several instances where individuals have made an effort to clarify the situation.

Mr. Treguboff believes that non-citizens can travel and Mr. Carey McWilliams offered to obtain information on this and telephone the Secretary.

Mr. Kido has tried to advise a group of workers who are chick setters. They are ready to travel to different parts of the country as it is time for this work to begin and are afraid they might be picked up and held away from home even though they have birth certificates to prove their citizenship. The Chairman suggested that social agencies write letters of identification for these men to carry with them. He has done this in several instances and it has proved successful.

Since birth certificates do not serve as identification, it was suggested that these men could contact the Travelers Aid Society in San Francisco before leaving the city and this would make it possible for this agency to identify men through the Travelers Aid Society in whatever city they need service.

Persons arrested by the F.B.I., are being moved to Montana and North Dakota without hearings. All testimony will be taken there and the hearings will take place here. Members of the Committee thought this would work a hardship on the individuals and Mr. Leffler offered to talk this over with Mr. Dill and Mr. Lillick who are members of the Appeal Board. Mr. Fisher said that any interested individual could write testimonies of character on these cases and send them in.

Mr. Graves of the San Francisco Public Schools said that he had made a tour of the schools and had found that the teachers and principals were doing everything that could be done although it is impossible to keep children from teasing each other. No notice relating to the Japanese situation has gone out from the Superintendent's office. Mr. Graves would like to work with this Committee. Mr. Campbell of the school system in Berkeley will work with Mr. Fisher's Committee there.

Mr. Leffler's Committee was discussed and it was decided that for the present it would not be enlarged to take in outside groups but rather it would confine itself to outlining a program for the larger committee to undertake. Mr. Treguboff thought that since there were several committees working on the same problem it might be wise for representatives of the different groups to meet together and to decide on programs so that there would be no duplication of

effort. After discussion it was decided that members from other groups would be invited to meet with this Committee so that everything could be cleared through thus making all effort cooperative and this Committee could serve as a clearing house for information for agency representatives.

Mr. Kido said that they were looking into all reports of stealing but that so far they did not believe that there had been many cases of this kind. The question was raised as to what is being done in the small towns in the State. The Chairman said that Miss Watson will survey some of the smaller districts and report to the Committee.

Mr. Kido attended a meeting of 24 chapters of the J.A.C.L. and learned what was happening in other places. The Chairman asked all agencies represented to report on the State situation from their agency's point of view.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned to meet on Tuesday, January 6th, 1942, at 10:00 A.M., at the Community Chest office.

Rhea Wendling, Secretary.

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