

M I N U T E S

COMMITTEE OF IMMIGRANT SERVING AGENCIES

FAMILY WELFARE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY CHEST OF SAN FRANCISCO

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 1942 - 3:00 P. M.

International Institute

PRESENT:

|                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Blaisdell, Allen<br>(Chairman) | International Institute Board, Berkeley |
| Baker, Miss Betty              | American Friends Service Committee      |
| Duveneck, Mrs. Josephine W.    | American Friends Service Committee      |
| Kahn, Mrs. Sidney              | National Council of Jewish Women        |
| Kimber, Mrs. Mary C.           | American Friends Service Committee      |
| Miller, Miss Persis            | American Committee to Save Refugees     |
| Picard, Herbert                | Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society            |
| Rispoli, Milano                | Italian Welfare Agency                  |
| Treguboff, Sanford             | S.F. Committee for Service to Emigres   |
| Watson, Miss Annie Clo         | International Institute                 |

ABSENT:

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| DeAndreis, Frank        | Department of Immigration & Housing       |
| Elliott, Robert         | American Red Cross                        |
| Hastings, Mrs. Russell  | International Institute Board             |
| Leonard, Mrs. Marjorie  | Northern Calif. Committee of Foreign Born |
| Shea, Rev. Eugene       | Affiliated Catholic Charities             |
| Taylor, Miss Emilie     | Travelers Aid Society                     |
| Tichner, Miss Henrietta | National Council of Jewish Women          |
| Tomas, Mark             | American Red Cross                        |

ALSO PRESENT:

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Bridge, Miss Helen H.      | Y.W.C.A.  |
| Brownlee, Miss Aleta       | U.S. Children's Bureau                                  |
| Cadbury, Emma              |   |
| Domoto, Yuriko             | Alameda County Charities Commission                     |
| Faverman, Mrs. A. W.       | Refugee Committee                                       |
| Fee, Dorothy W.            | International Institute                                 |
| Fisk, Dr. Alfred G.        | International Institute                                 |
| Harwood, Mrs. Franklin B.  | International Institute                                 |
| Haviland, Miss Florence E. | International Institute                                 |
| Kanai, Lincoln             | Y.M.C.A.  |
| Kido, Saburo               | Japanese American Citizens League                       |
| Kimbell, Major Irene       | Salvation Army  |
| Korematsu, Hi              |   |
| Kumata, Rev. K. M.         | Buddhist Mission of America                             |
| Leffler, Rev. John C.      | International Institute                                 |
| Maguire, Miss Essie        | Y.W.C.A.  |
| Moses, Effie               | Women's Division, Democratic State<br>Central Committee |

Nugent, W. Carl  
Pitts, Lorenne  
Plank, Robert  
Porter, Mrs. Julia G.

Porter, Margaret James  
Rosenberg, Alice J.  
Sprunger, E. H.  
Van Loghem, Theodora  
Yoakem, Mrs. Wilhelmine

Post Japanese Church  
Alameda County Charities Commission  
International Institute  
Northern Women's Division, Democratic  
State Central Committee  
A.C.L.U.  
International Institute  
Y.M.C.A.  
Refugee Committee  
International Institute of Alameda County

PRESIDING  
OFFICER:

Mr. Allen Blaisdell, Chairman, presided.

Mr. Blaisdell introduced the following guests who were meeting with the committee for the first time: Miss Aleta Brownlee, U. S. Children's Bureau; Mrs. Paul Eliel and Mr. Chauncey Tramutolo of the Governor's Civil Rights Committee; Mrs. Bruce Porter, Civil Liberties League; Mr. Leland Cutler, Civilian Defense Council.

Mr. Blaisdell outlined the purpose of the Committee of Immigrant Serving Agencies for the benefit of the guests and then stated that the situation is growing more serious because of the gathering momentum of discrimination against aliens and that this must be met realistically. The problem of evacuation of Japanese from California; loss of civil service positions and employment in defense industries are some of the latest developments. He asked the group what the Committee could do to have its influence felt.

Mr. Rispoli of the Italian Welfare Agency said that the present releases are confusing the people. His office is filled with Italians who want to know which orders are true. He feels that the newspapers and radio should assist us in interpreting rulings rather than adding to the general confusion. There was discussion of the difference between Federal and State rulings and confusion arising from the different departments of the government giving different rulings on the same order.

Mr. Blaisdell mentioned the apparent change in Attorney General Biddle's attitude toward aliens and wondered whether or not he is being misquoted. Mr. Tramutolo said that California is fortunate in Mr. Biddle's appointment of Mr. Thomas Clark as Department of Justice Coordinator and Enemy Alien Control. Mr. Clark is held in high regard and is considered one of the best men who has come out of Washington. He is calling a meeting in Sacramento this week and this may prove to be a solution to or at least a clarification of some of the problems. Mr. Tramutolo thought that a statement to Mr. Clark from the Committee of Immigrant Serving Agencies would be valuable. Mr. Blaisdell appointed Miss Watson, Reverend Leffler and Dr. Fisk to prepare such a statement.

Mr. Tramutolo said that the Governor's Civil Rights Committee is divided into a Northern and Southern Division, each with its own Chairman. Mr. Treadwell, Chairman of the Northern Division, is now working on a definition of the scope and function of the Committee. That Committee would like to attempt whatever the Committee on Immigrant Serving Agencies feels they should undertake. They want to work closely with this group.

Mr. Cutler was asked to report on his recent trip to Washington. He stated that Washington did not want to be unjust but they must be firm. Officials in Washington are showing much concern for they realize that injustices have arisen because untrained people have been taken into the administration. Mr. Cutler is a member of the Executive Committee of the Civilian Defense Council and as a representative of Mr. McAuliffe, Chairman of the Morale Committee, asked that the Committee of Immigrant Serving Agencies appoint a Committee which will work with the Morale Committee in whatever way it may be necessary to

maintain morale. He and Mr. McAuliffe both realize that there is no more important phase to morale than this alien problem and that they need a direct approach to these groups. It was decided that people selected for purposes of preliminary planning should be members of groups that have direct contact with minority nationality groups rather than representatives of these groups. The following persons were appointed: Miss Annie Clo Watson, Mr. Milano Rispoli, Dr. Mary H. Layman, Miss Helen Bridge and Mrs. Sidney Kahn.

The legality of dropping civil service employees was discussed and Mrs. Eliel said that she has requested a ruling on this from Earl Warren, State Attorney General. It was suggested that Mr. Besig of Civil Liberties Union be invited to the next meeting of the Committee to give information on the legal angle of this question to which he has given special study.

There will be a meeting of the Board of Supervisors on February 2nd, to consider action in regard to Japanese and other nationalities of Axis countries. Dr. Fisk on behalf of the International Institute is requesting the Chairman, Mr. Jesse Colman, for the privilege of the floor and will request that the Board urge the Federal government to take responsibility for planning for Axis aliens in San Francisco. Reverend Mr. Leffler will attend this meeting as a representative to speak for the Church Federation. Mr. Blaisdell requested the Secretary to attend this meeting and if possible get another member of the Community Chest to do the same.

The State Personnel Board is having a meeting in San Francisco on Wednesday and Thursday. Mr. Blaisdell asked Mrs. Yoakum, Mrs. Duvneck and Mr. Sprunger to attend. He will discuss this problem with Mr. Mallory. Miss Maguire of the Y.W.C.A. said that she had

received a statement from the State Department of Agriculture requesting a list of all employees and their citizenship. Mr. Kido asked what would happen to Japanese families if all licenses were revoked and the sons of these families are drafted into the Army. Mr. Rispoli said that he is having a similar problem with fathers who cannot fish because they are not citizens and their sons are in the Army. Mr. Tramutolo wondered who would assume responsibility if property is seized and people are placed in camps. He suggested that any problem that is referred to the Attorney General should have a possible solution attached to it. It was suggested that a telegram be sent to Attorney Biddle from the different agencies represented and that Miss Watson draw up a telegram which could be used for this purpose.

The Refugee Committee of the International Institute invited the Committee of Immigrant Serving Agencies to remain for tea following the business session.

It was decided that the next meeting would be held at the Community Chest offices at 10:00 A.M. on Friday, February 6th.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned.

Rhea Wendling, Secretary

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