

M I N U T E S

COMMITTEE OF IMMIGRANT SERVING AGENCIES

FAMILY WELFARE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY CHEST OF SAN FRANCISCO

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1942 - 10:00 A.M.

Room D - 45 Second Street

PRESENT:

Blaisdell, Allen (Chairman)	International Institute Board, Berkeley
Baker, Miss Betty	American Friends Service Committee
deAndreis, Frank	Department of Immigration & Housing
Duveneck, Mrs. Josephine W.	American Friends Service Committee
Elliott, Robert	American Red Cross
Hastings, Mrs. Russell	International Institute Board
Kahn, Mrs. Sidney	National Council of Jewish Women
Kimber, Mrs. Mary C.	American Friends Service Committee
Leonard Mrs. Marjorie	Northern Calif. Committee of Foreign Born
Picard, Herbert	Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society
Rispoli, Milano	Italian Welfare Agency
Shea, Rev. Eugene	Affiliated Catholic Charities
Treguboff, Sanford	S.F. Committee for Service to Emigres
Watson, Miss Annie Clo	International Institute

ABSENT:

Miller, Miss Persis	American Committee to Save Refugees
Taylor, Miss Emilie	Travelers Aid Society
Tichner, Miss Henrietta	National Council of Jewish Women
Tomas, Mark	American Red Cross

ALSO PRESENT:

Doubleday, Gorman	Friends Methodist Church, Berkeley
Fisher, Gale	Berkeley
Garvey, Victor	National Refugee Service, New York City
Hance, Miss Eva	Council of Social Agencies, Oakland
Inglis, Robert	East Bay Church Federation
Kelley, Patrick	Community Chest of San Francisco
Leffler, Rev. John C.	International Institute
Malamuth, Diana	Oakland Jewish Federation
Miniclier, Louis	American Red Cross
Neustadt, Richard	Social Security Board
Perkins, Eloise B.	American Friends Service Committee
Plank, R.	International Institute
Sprunger, E. H.	Y.M.C.A.
Steelquist, Francelia	Community Chest of San Francisco
Stut, Bertha	Travelers Aid Society of Alameda County
Yoakum, Wilhelmine	International Institute of Alameda County

Mr. Allen Blaisdell, Chairman, presided.

Mr. Watson reported that no action was taken at the meeting of the Supervisors held on February 2nd.

The Chairman requested that a copy of the report of the contact with the State Personnel Board and also a copy of the telegram which was sent to Attorney General Biddle be filed with the Secretary.

A copy of a letter that had been sent by Mr. Richard B. Goldschmidt, Professor at the University of California, and a group of over 30 other German refugees in the Bay Area, to Attorney General Biddle was read and discussed with the idea of the Committee taking similar action.

Mr. Garvey, representative of the National Refugee Service, New York City, said that his agency has taken the stand that they cannot vouch for the loyalty of thousands of aliens and although they believe this particular group should not be called "enemy aliens" and advocate changing the name to "friendly aliens", they believe that this is no time to make an issue of this. Some of the members of the Committee thought that some aggressive action should be taken in behalf of those aliens who fled Germany because they were oppressed. After discussion it was decided that although the Committee is in complete sympathy with the ideas expressed in this letter it would not help the situation to press action now.

The statement prepared by Miss Watson, Mr. Leffler and Dr. Fisk was discussed and the Chairman requested that it be amplified to contain a paragraph on this subject. The Chairman also felt that the statement should cover the subject of cost in money as well as social values.

Mrs. Aarons of the Social Security Board was asked if the Federal government had any idea of the cost of dislocation of aliens. She said that they knew a certain amount of money has been set aside for this program and that they have had the assurance of the government that adequate money can be obtained for these people. She further stated that when the order was issued affecting aliens, Attorney General Biddle requested Mr. McNutt to make the social plans, which has placed the responsibility for planning in their regional office. They have been assured that there will be no further prohibited or restricted areas unless California should become a combat zone. The Department of Justice will police these areas and enforce the law. February 15th is the date for the restricted areas and the 24th for the prohibited areas. The Social Security Board has asked the State Department of Social Welfare for a loan of some of their field staff who are acquainted with the affected areas. These persons will be on the Federal payroll so that the whole plan will be under the Social Security Board.

The Department of Justice will send notices to aliens to apply to designated employment offices and the Social Security Board will include a friendly note describing the information and service that will be available to them. Employment offices will have social workers to interview these people. The major problems in California will be employment and housing. The problem in San Francisco is largely employment as very few people are living in the prohibited areas. The social workers interviewing these people will make every effort to work out individualized plans using all available community resources. They believe that people should stay within their own County and will discourage them from moving West. There is some

possibility, however, of persons moving into San Francisco as some living in affected areas nearby will have friends or relatives here who will be able to make adequate plans for them.

The following services will be available at the employment offices:

Employment benefits will be paid if it is impossible for an alien to continue his regular employment because of these orders.

They will also have the use of employment services and every effort will be made to help them obtain jobs which will fit in with their skills.

Employers will be discouraged from discharging aliens.

It is believed that all Italians who must move from the prohibited areas will be able to find housing in San Francisco. The Social Security Board prefers not to make a group plan. If orders should come through making moving necessary within 24 hours, it might be that some of these people would be housed temporarily in camps. If this is done, the Social Security Board would like to have the advice and help of this Committee in order that the camps may be friendly ones. Mr. Neustadt of the Social Security Board said that he hopes there will be no "vigilantes."

Mrs. Aarons further stated that the organization will be set up within a couple of days and they may need members of the staff of private agencies on a loan basis for interviewing at the employment offices. Mr. Neustadt said that the Office of Civilian Defense has offered to loan shelters which they have ready for evacuees in case of bombing in San Francisco. However, he is not sure that the people living near these homes would be willing to have them used for aliens. Mr. Neustadt said that the Committee of Immigrant Serving Agencies can help with their advice and by assigning persons to work with them.

He stressed the fact that all work must be under the administration of the Federal Social Security Board. He said that they also should have help in disbursing information and influencing public opinion.

Mr. Fisher brought up for discussion the matter of a Committee which would not be tied in with any organization so that it would be free to act quickly if this should be necessary and would coordinate work of existing agencies. The Chairman asked Mr. Fisher, Miss Watson and the Secretary to meet with him after the regular meeting of the Committee to discuss plans for such a group.

It was agreed that the Committee clear through the Secretary all matters to be referred to the Social Security Board.

Mr. Carver was called into the meeting and he suggested that Miss Watson meet with the Board of Directors of the Community Chest on February 9th and present the problem.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned to meet on Friday, February 13th at 10:00 A.M.

Rhea Whedling, Secretary

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