

MINUTES

COMMITTEE OF IMMIGRANT SERVING AGENCIES

FAMILY WELFARE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY CHEST OF SAN FRANCISCO

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1942 - 10:00 A. M.

45 Second Street

PRESENT:

Blaisdell, Allen (Chairman)	International Institute Board
Baker, Elizabeth	American Friends Service Committee
Duveneck, Josephine W.	" " " "
Kahn, Mrs. Sidney	National Council of Jewish Women
Kimber, Mrs. Mary	American Friends Service Committee
Leonard, Mrs. Marjorie	Northern California Committee for Foreign Born
Picard, Herbert M.	Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society
Rispoli, Milano	Italian Welfare Agency, Inc.
Tichner, Henrietta	National Council of Jewish Women
Treguboff, Sanford	S.F. Committee for Service to Emigres
Watson, Annie Clo	International Institute

ABSENT:

de Andreis, Frank	Department of Immigration and Housing
Miniclier, Louis	American Red Cross, S. F. Chapter
Hastings, Mrs. Russell	International Institute Board
Miller, Miss Persis	American Committee to Save Refugees
Shea, Rev. Eugene	Affiliated Catholic Charities
Taylor, Miss Emilie	Travelers Aid Society of San Francisco
Tomas, Mark	American Red Cross, Pacific Area

ALSO PRESENT:

Aaron, Azile	Social Security Board
Cadbury, Emma	American Friends Service Committee
Carpenter, Margery	City of Berkeley
Carver, Ransom	Community Chest of San Francisco
Coxnard, Mary	Plymouth Community Church, Oakland
Fisher, Galen M.	Berkeley Council of Social Agencies
Fisk, Dr. Alfred G.	International Institute
Hance, Eva	Oakland Council of Social Agencies
Inglis, Robert	East Bay Church Federation
Kanai, Lincoln	Young Men's Christian Association
Kingman, Ruth W.	Berkeley Community Chest
Love, Grace	International Institute
Malamuth, Dianna	Oakland Jewish Federation
Masaoka, Mike	Japanese American Citizens League
Plank, Robert	International Institute
Porter, Mrs. Charles B.	
Porter, Robert R.	Community Chest of Berkeley
Ruettell, Margaret	Community Chest of San Francisco



ALSO PRESENT: (Continued)

Sapper, Henry J.  
Schmuck, Rev. Francis John  
Yoakum, Wilhelmine

Oakland Jewish Federation  
S.F. Church Federation  
International Institute of  
Alameda County.

PRESIDING  
OFFICER:

Mr. Allen Blaisdell, Chairman, presided.

MINUTES:

The minutes were accepted as distributed.

The Chairman announced that Attorney General Earl Warren has ruled that Japanese American citizens cannot be denied civil service ratings and jobs.

A letter from the Japanese Church Federation of California expressing appreciation for the work done by this Committee was read by the Chairman.

A statement of the problems of the Japanese can be obtained by writing Mr. Fred Fertig, 822 E. 20th Street, Los Angeles.

Mr. Inglis of the Plymouth Congregational Church, Oakland, said that his church has a fund of \$600.00 which can be used for persons in Oakland who have to be evacuated.

The Chairman raised the question whether the Bay area should coordinate the services to aliens for the war period and establish a separate office through which all information could be cleared. The fact that this Committee has gradually expanded over the last two months to include the whole Bay area may indicate that a clearing house is needed both for information and influence. The discussion of this subject brought out the fact that one of the greatest problems, the difficulty of obtaining orders from the departments of the government, cannot be corrected by this effort, as coordination of government agencies, is not a function of any group of professional and lay persons.



The Chairman interrupted this discussion to give Mrs. Aaron of the Social Security Board an opportunity to give a progress report obtained from the experience in employment offices where aliens affected by the recent orders are being interviewed.

Mrs. Aaron stated that social assistance workers established in the employment offices since February 9th have received 2,000 inquiries up to this time. One hundred and eighty-thousand aliens registered last week and the Department of Justice could not sort out and mail notices nor could they give the list to the Social Security Board, so that individual notices have not been sent to aliens. This situation raises the following questions:

- (1) Do all individuals affected know they have to move?
- (2) If they need assistance, do they know where to get it?

Mrs. Aaron suggested that the informational job could be done by agencies serving these groups since there is so much confusion about which areas are affected by these notices it has been necessary for the employment offices to have maps on which individuals can spot the location of their homes.

The curfew will not be effective until February 25th. This will affect any alien who has night work and the Social Security Board is suggesting that these persons should try to be transferred to the day shift. Where this is not possible they should write to the U.S. Attorney explaining the situation and asking that an exception be made. Since the blanks for these exceptions are not ready, it is expected they will be sent later to those persons making inquiries now. This may not be done by February 24th. For this reason some people may lose employment.



The employment offices have funds that can be used for enemy aliens and families for actual moving but cannot be used for continuing care. Funds can probably be used for a two month period while they are getting adjusted. The personnel in the employment office will determine the need. It is not necessary for a family to use all their funds for moving if this will jeopardize their future independence. At no time should an alien be encouraged to cross a County line unless his plans are such that it will not be necessary for him to ask for assistance from the Public Welfare Department.

Mr. Galen Fisher said that Berkeley had three problems.

- (1) Financial need. For the most part the Japanese community is in no immediate need but those persons who do need help are most reluctant to ask for it.
- (2) Temporary dwellings. Some are moving in with friends but this is causing over-crowding. Berkeley is asking Caucasians to take in some of these aliens until a more permanent plan can be made.
- (3) Employment.

Mrs. Aaron said that councils of social agencies or private agencies interested in this group could do the following things:

- (1) They could set up a registry of available jobs and housing. If people in the community know about jobs and would like to have them filled by these aliens, they could give this information to the councils and they in turn could give it to the employment office.
- (2) The agencies or churches have assisted in some places in locating housing.
- (3) Has any registry been set up? Berkeley already has done this.

Mrs. Aaron asked the council groups for trained social workers who would volunteer their services for half-day on a continuing basis. Those who are able to do this should go to the Social Security Board at 785 Market Street, Room 1104, on February 14th at 2:00 P.M.



The Social Security Board will arrange a time and place for a similar meeting in the East Bay for instructions to volunteer workers.

Mrs. Aaron further stated that they may use private agencies to contact some of these aliens in their homes as there is a limited<sup>time</sup>/to complete this. They are anticipating that there may be a rush from February 21st to 24th. The workers that have been placed by the Social Security Board in employment offices have worked in these communities and know the resources. All inquiries should be centered in the employment office and the Social Security Board will ask assistance from agencies when it is needed.

The Chairman asked whether or not alien students and teachers would be allowed to travel from their homes to attend the University. Mrs. Aaron suggested that the University might want to write a letter regarding the whole situation but in addition individuals should file requests for exceptions. A person may move within a fifty mile radius without a permit. Beyond fifty miles he must secure a permit from the Social Security Board. If there is any question regarding the distance they should obtain a permit. All aliens who move must notify the Department of Justice within twenty-four hours.

Mr. Masaoka said that local sheriffs have stopped people who were within their rights. Mrs. Aaron suggested that where there was any question of this occurring permits should be secured. Mrs. Vera McCord is supervisor for the Alameda area and can be reached either at the Oakland or Alameda employment office.

Mr. Galen Fisher said that in a recent trip to Sacramento he found that there was a stronger feeling of resentment toward aliens there



and wondered how this could be counteracted. Mrs. Aaron suggested that any definite statement of identified happenings which are not legal should be given to the United States Attorney's office. There doubtless will be vigilante activities for many groups distrust all aliens.

Mrs. Aaron believes that there will be no extension of time either from February 15th or 24th deadline.

The Chairman asked the group whether or not they wanted to meet regularly at the same time in order that they may exchange ideas and get the latest information. It was decided that until further notice the Committee would meet regularly on Friday at 10:00 A.M., at the Community Chest office.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned.

Rhea Wendling, Secretary.

rw:arq