

MINUTES

COMMITTEE OF IMMIGRANT SERVING AGENCIES

FAMILY WELFARE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY CHEST OF SAN FRANCISCO

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1942 - 10:00 A. M.

45 Second Street - Room "D"

PRESENT:

Blaisdell, Allen, Chairman	International Institute Board, Berkeley
Baker, Miss Elizabeth	American Friends Service Committee
Kahn, Mrs. Sidney	National Council of Jewish Women
Kimber, Mrs. Mary	American Friends Service Committee
Picard, Herbert	Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society
Shea, Rev. Rugene J.	Affiliated Catholic Charities
Tichner, Miss Henrietta	National Council of Jewish Women
Treguboff, Sanford	S.F. Committee for Service to Emigres

ABSENT:

deAndreis, Frank	Department of Immigration and Housing
Duveneck, Mrs. Josephine	American Friends Service Committee
Hastings, Mrs. Russell	International Institute Board
Leonard, Mrs. Marjorie	N.C. Committee for Foreign Born
Miller, Miss Persis	American Committee to Save Refugees
Rispoli, Milano	Italian Welfare Agency, Inc.
Taylor, Miss Emilie	Travelers Aid Society
Tomas, Mark	American Red Cross
Watson, Miss Annie Clo	International Institute
Miniclier, Louis	American Red Cross

ALSO PRESENT:

Plank, R.	International Institute
Heck, Virginia	Young Women's Christian Association
Kingman, Ruth W.	Berkeley Community Chest
Yoakum, Wilhelmine	Oakland International Institute
Kanai, Lincoln	Young Men's Christian Association
Tanis, Henry	Japanese American Citizens League
Roberts, Curtis	Community Chest of San Francisco
Musser, Helen	Travelers Aid Society
Bannister, Miss Phoebe	Social Security Board
Cadbury, Emma	American Friends Service Committee
Doubleday, Gorman Y.	Berkeley
Coxnard, Mary	Plymouth Church, Oakland

PRESIDING
OFFICER:

Mr. Allen Blaisdell, Chairman, presided.

The Chairman read the following letter received by Mr. Picard from the United States Attorney's office:

"I received your letter of February 13, 1942, and in response beg to say that a student of the University of California, residing in San Francisco, may commute to Berkeley for the purpose of attending classes".

The Chairman called attention to a letter from American Friends who are working in the enemy alien detention camp at Fort Missoula, Montana. The information was optimistic and the letter ended with the following recommendations:

"In conclusion we recommend that nothing more be done here unless the situation changes. The hearings must be completed and the men freed or interned. When we learn where the internees are to be held and under whose jurisdiction we can, in cooperation with the International Y.M.C.A., undertake service for them. They will above all things need creative work with which to occupy their time. Gardens, arts and crafts, study and recreation. The age of the men and their former occupations will govern the type of work undertaken. Any worker should speak the Japanese language and be capable of giving adequate spiritual guidance. They are capable of doing their own organizing but they need contacts with their homes and the outside world.

"We will keep in close contact with the new developments but just now we must be chiefly concerned with those people who are being forced to remove from their homes and occupations and reestablish themselves in the face of great odds.

"On my way home I shall discuss this matter of possible resettlement projects in the Yakima Valley with Japanese leaders and others there and report my findings later".

Mrs. Kingman reported on the housing survey which was made in Berkeley. The Chairman asked Mrs. Kingman to write up one page on the procedure followed which will be on file with the Secretary. He also suggested that copies be sent to other Community Chests.

A report was given on Miss Watson's meeting with the Board of Directors and Mr. Landis. The Board of Directors has given Mr. Landis authority to take up any emergent matters without clearing through them whenever this seems necessary.

The Chairman stated that a group from the Committee of Immigrant Serving Agencies would probably affect National policies very little and that we will have to accept the orders of the government and try to carry them out. The Committee that is being reorganized by Mr. Fisher will be able to assert more influence than this Committee.

The radio broadcast of February 19th was discussed and the Chairman suggested that Stewart Ward, the General Secretary of the Commonwealth Club, should be telephoned by all people who are interested in the attitudes taken toward the Japanese. It was felt by those who heard the broadcast that Mr. Ward had pointed up the discussion in such a way as to misrepresent the attitudes of certain people who were participating in the broadcast.

Miss Phoebe Bannister of the Social Security Board stated that in the first two days they had received only 31 cases in the whole State of California that had needed financial assistance. In the last two days it has jumped to over 140 cases. The Social Security Board feels that a great many people will move under their own steam and then will find they need help in a couple of months. For this reason it is hard to anticipate the extent of the problem.

Few Japanese have asked for help up to this time through the employment office. The Social Security Board believes that the whole group on Terminal Island in Los Angeles will probably need financial assistance.

The issuance of permits to move is handled by the employment managers who check the old address as well as the new if financial aid is asked.

In answer to the question whether or not they would use concentration camps or congregate shelters, Miss Bannister stated that two S.R.A. camps have been loaned them by Mr. Young of the State Welfare Board.

If February 25th arrives and some people have not been able to move, it may be necessary to use these camps.

The Social Security Board has assisted one person in moving business equipment in Monterey. They are not in a position to advise on financial matters and suggest that these inquiries be referred to the Federal Reserve Bank. The Social Security Board was set up to take care of an emergency on a temporary basis. However, this may become a permanent emergency. The problem that seems to be causing the most anxiety at the present time is that of second generation Americans and no one seems to know at this point just what will happen to this group.

The Chairman called attention to the program of meetings to be held under the auspices of the Department of Adult Education February 23rd to 25th and suggested that members of the Committee might be interested in attending hearings of the Tolan Committee to be held in San Francisco February 24th and 26th.

Miss Bannister is leaving a copy of the handbook of information which they are using in the employment offices. (On file with Secretary.)

ADJOURNMENT: The Committee adjourned to meet March 6th at 10:00 A.M.

Rhea Wendling, Secretary.

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