

Y. Demoto

WARTIME CIVIL CONTROL ADMINISTRATION  
MERCED ASSEMBLY CENTER  
Merced, California

August 6, 1942

INFORMATION RELEASE NO. 26

TO: ALL RESIDENTS OF MERCED ASSEMBLY CENTER  
FROM: HARRY L. BLACK, CENTER MANAGER  
SUBJECT: REGULATIONS GOVERNING EVACUEE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
FOR WCCA ASSEMBLY CENTERS

Paragraph No. XXVIII of the WCCA Operation Manual, pertaining to Regulations Governing Evacuee Advisory Committee for WCCA Assembly Centers, as revised by Supplement No. 8, dated August 1, 1942, is herewith published for the information and guidance of all concerned.

"XXVIII. Regulations Governing Evacuee Advisory Committee for WCCA Assembly Centers.

A. General

1. No type of self-government organization is authorized in an assembly center.
2. Advisory committees which have no administrative, executive or judicial power or authority, but which serve as advisers to the Center Manager as hereinafter prescribed are authorized.
3. Immediately upon receipt of these instructions all reference on the part of the administrative staff to evacuee self-government in Assembly Centers will cease. Evacuee organizations constituted contrary to these regulations will be dissolved by the Center Manager immediately. His action will be evidenced in writing and in all cases by letter to evacuee officers concerned.
4. The contents of this entire Section (XXVIII) will be published, posted and disseminated so that all evacuees in each Assembly Center are informed of its contents.

B. Composition and Selection of Advisory Committees.

1. Advisory committees will be composed of evacuees with membership in the number indicated below:
  - a. Centers having a population of 5,000 or less - 7.
  - b. Centers having a population between 5,000 and 10,000 - 9
  - c. Centers having a population of over 10,000 - 11.
2. Members of the advisory committee will be selected by the Assembly Center Manager from a panel to be elected as follows:
  - a. The panel will be composed of three (3) times the number of advisory committee members authorized for each center.
  - b. Both alien and citizen Japanese over 16 years of age are eligible for election to the panel.
  - c. All persons over sixteen (16) years of age, of sound mind, are eligible to vote.
  - d. Election to the panel will be by secret written ballot.
  - e. The details of nomination and balloting will be as determined by the Center Manager. Each Center Manager will report to the Headquarters, WCCA, immediately the method and detail prescribed by him for nomination and balloting.
3. Selection of Advisory Committee,
  - a. The Center Manager will select from the panel, elected as above, an advisory committee in the number authorized for the particular assembly center.
    - (1) In the discretion of the Center Manager, he may authorize the members of his advisory committee to select and organize sub-committees from among evacuees generally. Each such sub-committee will have the function of assisting the advisory committee member organizing it in some particular field. Examples of this are: Sub-committee on baseball or on recreation generally. Sub-committees may not sit with the advisory committee in its general meetings. The names of sub-committee members shall be submitted to the Center Manager for approval but need not be submitted to WCCA headquarters.

- b. The advisory committee will be composed of English speaking Issei and Nisei in proportion to the total numbers (without regard to age) of Nisei and Issei within the respective assembly center.
- c. Should the panel elected not provide a sufficient number of Nisei or Issei for the selection by the Center Manager in the prescribed proportion, the Center Manager will select without further election from among evacuees generally a sufficient number of Issei and Nisei to provide proportionate representation on the advisory committee.

#### 4. Appointment of Advisory Committee

- a. Subject to the approval required in the succeeding paragraph, the names of the evacuees selected by the Center Manager to serve on the advisory committee will be published and their appointment will be confirmed in writing to each member by the Center Manager.
- b. Prior to such appointment, the name, age, sex, place of birth, and information as to whether or not each was selected from the elected panel or at large will be submitted to this office for approval. No announcement of selection or appointment will be made of committee membership prior to receipt by the Center Manager of approval by this office.
- c. Members of the advisory committee will hold office at the pleasure and discretion of the Center Manager and may be removed by the Center Manager at any time.
- d. After appointment of the original advisory committee subsequent selections therefor will be made from the remaining members of the elected panel except when necessary to select from the center at large in order to maintain the prescribed proportion of Issei and Nisei. After exhaustion of the elected panel a new panel will be elected by the same procedure as in the case of the election of the original panel.

#### C. Functions of the Advisory Committee.

1. The advisory committee will have no administrative, legislative, executive or judicial power or authority. Its sole function is advisory to the Center Manager.
2. The following field of assembly center operations will be included in committee advisory functions:

- a. Recreation and Education.
- b. Health and Sanitation
- c. Lodging and Messing.
- d. Employment and Personnel.
- e. Religious and Welfare Activities.
- f. Interior Security

(Maintenance of good order and discipline and observance of Center rules and regulations).

D. Meetings of the Advisory Committee will be held only when authorized by the Center Manager, and at all such meetings the English language will be used exclusively. The Center Manager and the Chief of the Interior Security Police, or their authorized representatives, will be in attendance at all such meetings. The above instructions apply equally to sub-committees appointed in accordance with B 4 e, above, except that it is not necessary that representatives of the Center Manager and Interior Police attend sub-committee meetings unless desired by the Center Manager as to his staff or by the Chief of Interior Security Police as to his staff. The Center Manager will provide for notification of all committee meetings to be communicated to Chief of Interior Security Police.

*Harry L. Black*  
 HARRY L. BLACK, Center Manager  
 Merced Assembly Center, WCCA

- c.c. Council Members
- c.c. Ward Representatives
- c.c. Administrative Coordinator
- c.c. Dept. Heads
- c.c. H. E. Pittwood

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