

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Washington

January 15, 1944

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTICE NO. 8

Subject: Evacuee requests for material from Chambers of Commerce and other local agencies

Distribution: A

A letter the Relocation Supervisor of the New England Area indicates that, contrary to the suggestion made in a Directorial memorandum dated June 11, 1943, requests for information have been made by evacuees in centers to Chambers of Commerce in that area. The letter states in part:

"High school students at some of the Centers making surveys, are writing various Chambers of Commerce in this area, requesting all-inclusive statistics of population, principal industries, housing conditions, etc.

"While this is a perfectly normal and reasonable thing for an American boy or girl to do, the fact that names of Japanese derivation are signed to them is not only causing considerable misunderstanding, but creating adverse public relations....

"These boys and girls at the Centers will not understand some of the replies they will get, or the lack of replies. The danger is that this will create additional distrust toward relocation. From several such requests for information which I have received, I gather that the writer has more personal interest in the question raised than in merely completing a class room assignment, and that replies are the basis for family and group discussion concerning a location for resettlement.

"I suggest that, if possible, steps be taken to discourage individuals writing to Chambers of Commerce selected at random and that such inquiries be channelled through the relocation office. While it is quite an order to fill some of these requests for information without writing a volume, we will see that each request receives prompt attention."

Please make certain that members of your staff, particularly teachers, are reminded of the suggestions made in the June 11 memorandum and that they redouble their efforts to discourage haphazard correspondence of evacuees with outside local agencies.

R. L. Myer
Director

