

## LEAVE CLEARANCE PROCEDURE

### I General Leave Clearance Hearings to Start -

Following an instruction from the WRA Headquarters in Washington, general Leave Clearance Hearings at Manzanar will begin immediately and will continue until all hearings are completed. January 1, 1944 has been set as the dead-line when all leave clearance records must be in Washington. During the past three weeks, Leave Clearance Hearings have been given only to those individuals who had job opportunities or desired immediate relocation. They will now be held for all persons required to have clearance to remain in a relocation center, or to relocate or go out on furlough; and on and after October 25th, hearings will be scheduled in alphabetical order.

### II What is a Leave Clearance Hearing -

A Leave Clearance Hearing is an interview by a board or boards appointed by the Project Director to inquire into

- a. The loyalty of American citizens who because of their original answer to Question 28, or their conduct or associations prior to evacuation, or their record on the Project, have cast doubt on their loyalty to the United States.
- b. The attitude of aliens, whose answer to revised Question 28 for aliens, or whose conduct or associations prior to evacuation, or on the Project indicate unfriendliness to the United States, to determine whether if they leave the relocation centers they can be trusted not to impede in any way the war efforts of this country.

Leave Clearance for the above persons can only be granted on the recommendation of the Leave Clearance Board in Washington. To assist this

Board in reaching its decisions, interviews are held on the Project and a transcript of the testimony, together with a summary of the individual's activities, education, travel, and associations prior to evacuation, and his record on the Project, with the recommendation of the Project Leave Clearance Board and of the Project Director, are forwarded to the Board in Washington. If the Board there is satisfied as to the loyalty of the individual, Leave Clearance will be granted, and the individual is then free to leave the Project for furlough or for permanent relocation, under the regulations governing departure from Manzanar Relocation Center. If the Board in Washington is not satisfied of the loyalty of the individual, Leave Clearance may be denied, or the Project asked to make further investigation. Where Leave Clearance is denied, the individual will be scheduled for segregation under the regulations which governed the previous segregation procedure.

### III The Purpose of a Leave Clearance Hearing -

The purpose of the Leave Clearance hearing given on the Project is to obtain such evidence concerning an individual's attitude toward the United States and the obligations of citizenship, as will enable the Project Board and the Project Director to make a just recommendation, and guide the Leave Clearance Board in Washington in making the final decision as to whether the individual is to be given Leave Clearance or to be scheduled for segregation.

### IV Who Have to Have a Leave Clearance Hearing -

The following persons - not on the list to go to Tule Lake - will be called up for Leave Clearance Hearings:

- a. Those who originally answered "No" to Question 28, and later changed to "Yes."
- b. Male citizens, regardless of their answer to Question 28, "who have returned from Japan to the United States since January 1, 1935; if they have lived in Japan for 10 years or more after the age of 8, or if they have received all, or most of their, formal education in Japan, or if they have had formal education in Japan after the age of 15."
- c. Those whose dockets have been returned from Washington for further investigation on the Project.
- d. Those who are for any reason on the Stop List sent out from Washington.

V How Leave Clearance Hearings will be Conducted -

Beginning Monday, October 25, 1943, Leave Clearance Hearings will be scheduled in alphabetical order, beginning with "A", and individuals will be notified at their homes the day prior to the hearings, of the time and place of the hearing. Husbands and wives, where both have hearings, will be interviewed together, and members of an immediate family to have hearings will be scheduled consecutively.

A Leave Hearing Board will consist usually of two persons, who will talk with the individual and question him about his attitude and understanding on questions of loyalty and citizenship, and will be glad to listen to any statements he may wish to make. A stenographic record will be made of the Questions and Answers and transmitted to Washington, together with the recommendation of the Board and the Project Director as to whether Leave Clearance should be granted or denied.

Anyone who, because of illness, is unable to keep his appointment, should arrange to notify Mrs. Adams' Office so that a record can be kept, and another appointment scheduled. Every effort should be made to come and to be on time. Workers will be excused from their jobs for the time necessary for the Leave Clearance Hearings.

VI When Will the Results of the Hearings Be Known -

The War Relocation Authority hopes to have all Leave Clearance Hearings concluded and passed on by the Leave Clearance Board in Washington by January 1, 1944. In order to complete hearings at Manzanar on time, it will be necessary to schedule about 170 interviews a week. Beginning October 25, 1943, some 35 to 40 hearings a day will be held until all hearings are completed. Projects will be notified promptly as decisions are made, and the Project will then immediately notify the individual concerned.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mrs. Adams' Office is in general charge of Leave Clearance Hearings and has asked Town Hall to hold as an information center. Town Hall has been given information concerning leave clearance procedures, and all questions should be referred there.