

MINIDOKA PROJECT
Hunt, Idaho

Relocation Planning Commission
22-3-E
February 23, 1944 -- 2:00 P.M.

In the absence of the chairman, Mr. Beeson, Mr. Ishii took charge of the meeting.

Those present: Tsutomu Fukuyama, Frank Watanabe, Frank Kawahara, Rev. G. Y. Kimura, R. Matsuda, Rev. T. Torakawa, K. Ishii, Helen Amorman, Ellen B. Herndon and Dick Kanaya.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read by the members and approved.

A motion was made by Tsutomu Fukuyama and seconded by Frank Kawahara, that the meetings begin on schedule and a set time should be made for the closing of the meetings, if during that time the business can not be transacted the meetings should be prolonged or the business may be continued at the next meeting. The motion was unanimously carried.

Miss Amorman: I wonder if we are getting the information about relocation to the people. I still don't believe the majority of the people know that you can be reinducted into camp if you go out on indefinite leave and all does not go well with you outside.

Mr. Ishii explained that Mr. Beeson was planning block meetings to explain to the residents and especially the issei and to discuss the relocation program.

Miss Amorman: I wonder what the reaction of the residents would be. Wouldn't they feel that they were being pushed out?

Mr. Ishii: These meetings would be to give information to the people and they do not have to relocate.

The visitation of the relocation team was discussed. Mr. Ishii explained that the meetings for the relocation team was very well attended, and it was thought that each time more than 600 people attended the lectures, and movies presented by Mr. Fister and Dr. Jobber, and thought the visit of the relocation team was a success.

Mr. Kanaya: Mr. Ishii, when Mr. Clapp and Mr. Guether were here and held meetings in our section those meetings were not very well attended. They did not bring pictures but those people who did attend the meetings found it very interesting. I think more publicity should have been made for those people so the people could attend the meetings, also at those meetings they did not have interpreters so they called on somebody at the last minute to interpret to the issei people. I think it is up to the committee to have a person at meetings like those who can interpret.

Mr. Ishii: I think each block has someone who can do that.

Mr. Kanaya: You know that the plan Mr. Beeson has for such block meetings should be handled very carefully. The people may think they are putting pressure on relocation and will not like that. The success of such meetings will depend on how it is handled.

Mr. Ishii: Mr. Beeson had me translate several sheets from English, 2 or 3 sheets, and in that paper Mr. Beeson stated the government has a policy for the relocation program. Before, the government made some mistakes in the relocation program but now they have changed the plan, and it is up to the people of the center. The government is not going to force any one out. At the meetings Mr. Beeson plans to give out these mimeographed sheets to everyone who attends the block meeting.

After a discussion it was agreed that it would be a good idea to give out informations about the meeting before the block meetings are held.

Rev. Terakawa: Mr. Ishii, those forms you gave us last year to have each family fill out, how far did we go on that.

Mr. Ishii: That is finished Miss Hughes, the high school teacher helped us with it and she covered 10 or 15 blocks during harvest vacation.

Mr. Kanaya: I heard that during Dr. Smith's talk, this may be just a rumor because I heard it from another person who heard Dr. Smith, he mentioned something about this center being closed soon. That is this center and Manzanar would be closed.

Mr. Ishii: I haven't heard anything about it but I will ask Mr. Beeson about it.

The meeting was adjourned.

Officers:-

1. Chairman: (One)
2. 3 members - Executive Body. (2)
known as Executive Board.

- Nominating Com.
1. Frank Eaton
 2. James S. Nomura
 3. Frank Oyama
 4. Mrs. Y. Arai
 5. S. Sogeda
 6. K. Nakashima
 7. Fara Nakamura

Wed - 22nd - 1:30