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June 5, 1942

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MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. M. S. Eisenhower, ✓ Director  
War Relocation Authority

Mr. E. R. Fryer, ✓ Regional Director  
War Relocation Authority

SUBJECT: Trip to Portland and Nyssa, Oregon  
May 28 - 31, 1942 - *Seasonal leave*

When I got out to the Portland Assembly Center Wednesday afternoon about 2:30 I found that forty four evacuees were leaving in the evening for Nyssa, Malheur County, Oregon. The baggage was all packed and assembled just inside the front door. The manager of the Center, Mr. Sandquist, and the representative of the Employment Service, Mr. Leonetti, were getting nervous about receiving authority from W.C.C.A. in San Francisco to let the evacuees go. A truck had been ordered to come for the baggage at 4:00 o'clock. About 3:30 the manager received the desired authorization, either by wire or 'phone. The baggage was taken down to the Portland depot as scheduled.

The captain of the Military Police then started to get nervous about his orders to provide an escort for the evacuees down to the train. When the time came for departure he said he hadn't been notified by his superiors to provide a guard but he went ahead anyway on the assurance of the manager of the Center that permission had been granted the evacuees to leave.

After supper, at around seven o'clock, the evacuees who were going assembled in the space inside the front door. Several families went along this time, among them a boy about twelve years old and a little girl about four. Among the older people there was considerable ceremony involved in the leave taking. Most of the people, however, were young and their leave taking was just like any group of departing Americans.

At 7:30 the door was opened and the departing Japanese were checked off a list by the Assembly manager. Several soldiers were stationed along the route of three hundred feet the evacuees passed along in order to get to the bus. When they were all in the bus and the final check up completed a list was given to Mr. Ketterman of the U. S. Employment Service. He signed some sort of form relating to the release of the Japanese for the trip and it appeared to be his understanding and the understanding of the Camp Manager that from that point on the U. S. Employment Service was responsible for the Japanese

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making the trip. Mr. Ketterman, I gathered, is second in charge of the Employment Service in Oregon. He is a taciturn gentleman, very cautious and reserved. He made the arrangements with the railroad for conveying the evacuees to Malheur County and upon arrival there instructed his local representative to see that they were not allowed out of the Camp alone. He had developed some forms for checking them in and out. In general, Mr. Ketterman regarded the Employment Service to be charged with responsibility for recruiting, for the transportation, and for the ultimate control of the Japanese during their stay in Malheur County.

It has been essential in this emergency that some agency be responsible for getting the Japanese from the Portland center out to the camps in Malheur County. I think that the Employment Service has done an efficient job of this. There is also an Employment Service function to be done at the camp. Here the U.S.E.S. maintains an office and a local agent takes the employers' requests for labor and recruits the desired work force from among the campers. This is the regular process in all F.S.A. migratory camps and is not new to the present situation.

I don't think that the U. S. Employment Service <sup>+</sup> should go beyond this function at the camp. There is practically no understanding that W.R.A. is the responsible agency for the Japanese allowed to go out in private employment, and this holds for everybody I came in contact with. I urge very strongly that we let all these people know by some official announcement from W.R.A. and W.C.C.A. that W.R.A. is the governmental agency responsible for the evacuees in private employment. I also recommend that the Employment Service be diplomatically advised not to extend its supervision to the conduct of the Japanese in private employment but to confine its activities to recruitment and to transportation matters.

On this latter item I thought the Sugar Company would attend to transportation but apparently the Employment Service has been willing to take over the job, although the company pays the costs. It is my impression that in Oregon the Employment Service has worked out this whole business of using the Japanese in Malheur County pretty closely with the sugar company.

But to get back to the trip. As soon as the Japanese were loaded a small procession started for Portland, several miles away. Two members of the Portland State police led in their car, then came an army truck and a jeep, then the bus, and last the employment service officials and myself in a car. There was no notice paid to us. Probably no one on the streets on the way in or at the station realized what the small procession was about.

At the station two passenger cars and a baggage car were on a siding and the evacuees were transferred directly from the bus to their cars. The cars were the ordinary type of day coach with adjustable seats. There was plenty of room for all. Two members of the Oregon State police rode in the coaches.

At 9:40 the cars were attached to the Union Pacific "Portland Rose" and the railroad trip began. The cars were on the end of the train and no one was allowed in from the other cars. One of the state troopers told me that there was no incident of any kind to report during the trip. At one of the stops in the early morning a representative of the sugar company got aboard with breakfast for all. This was the first appearance of a sugar representative in the picture although I met Mr. Berning, the president, in the Portland station. He was on his way down to Los Angeles.

At the station in Nyssa the train was met by Mr. Larsen, one of the main officials of the sugar company in Malheur County, Mr. Paradis, the local representative of the Employment Service and a local policeman. Quite a little crowd of Nyssa people had gathered. They were curious to see the Japanese. I had about 20 minutes at the Nyssa station and listened and talked with people. No animosity was expressed; the sentiment of all those I talked with favored the arrival of the Japanese.

The cars were switched off the train, baggage was unloaded, and the Japanese got into a school bus. Again a small procession formed headed by the local police officer. Then came the baggage truck and the bus. Mr. Ketterman had come along from Portland and I went along with him and Mr. Paradis to the camp.

The Federal Security Administrator's mobile labor camp is 3 miles southeast of Nyssa. We were there in a few minutes and as we turned in at the entrance went by a Deputy Sheriff of Malheur County who is stationed at the camp. He lives in one of the tents at the entrance and is on duty or on call 24 hours a day. The deputy is a large, strapping gent, very opinionated and officious. However, be the deputy whatever he is, there is no doubt that police protection has been provided for the camp by the County and the State, too, has furnished adequate protection all along the route after the military relinquished control.

The weather was wet and on the coolish side during my two days in Nyssa. This was explained away as "unusual". No work was possible in the beet fields and the 15 Japanese who constituted the first contingent from Portland, arriving the week before, were in the camp to meet us. Mr. Thomas is manager of the camp

and he and his assistant took charge of the assignment of quarters and other details of settling the new arrivals.

In this he had the assistance of the first contingent. Inside of two or three hours the newcomers had unpacked and the camp began to look settled. One man came in before the afternoon was over and wanted to know where he could plant a garden.

The camp officials and Mr. Larsen of the sugar company both said that they welcomed the families and wished that more children had come. The first contingent was all single men.

The Federal Security Administration has worked out a standard setup for mobile labor camps and this one at Nyssa follows the pattern. It is composed of tents, 12 by 12 in size, with wooden floors. Each tent has a stove and the sugar company is providing the wood. During the two days I was there it rained hard and none of the tents leaked. It is my guess that the main discomfort in them would come from the summer heat. There are no screens or netting but probably the latter is still available in the stores and the Japanese will buy it if they want it. The sugar company has furnished the tents with canvas army cots. The evacuees brought their own bedding. The tents have never had electric lights before but the company is installing them.

Bathing is done in one of the large mobile bath trucks that are an ingenious contribution to civilization made by the F.S.A. There are plenty of toilets, and they are clean and sanitary despite the fact that they are glorified privies. There is a place fitted up for washing and ironing clothes. There is a large tent for community meetings. A nurse is in attendance at the camp almost constantly and a doctor comes twice a week. There is some one to take care of the children and the nursery school arrangements permit mothers to work. There is more to it all but, no doubt, everybody is familiar by this time with the services provided by the F.S.A. labor camps (I confess I wasn't until this trip).

Soon after we arrived luncheon was served. In the F.S.A. camp the regular campers cook for themselves. No provision is made for the feeding of the campers. In view of our requirements as to food the sugar company put in a building for a kitchen and a mess hall. The dishes are metal and the tables are pine. Benches stretch along each side. The kitchen is well equipped and the whole place is kept clean. At present the company has employed a local white cook but hopes to find a Japanese cook among the evacuees. Mr. Larsen said the company would like to turn the whole kitchen and diningroom over to the Japanese themselves if they would run it co-operatively.

I imagine that the Japanese will do this. Although board is given at cost the Japanese could probably run it even cheaper than the company can. From several of them I gathered that while there was no kick about the food at the Assembly Center they would like to have more Japanese cooking. I had two meals in the Nyssa camp and they were very good. At lunch we were served a baked salmon loaf, a vegetable, and the inevitable rice. For dessert there was canned peaches. Bread, butter, sugar, milk and cream were on the table without stint. I was particularly taken by the rich milk that was served and found later that the cows in that part of the country are very contented and very renowned. At supper we had short ribs of beef, potatoes, a vegetable, and rice. The dessert was canned pears and there were plenty of the other things mentioned. This wasn't just a splurge for the day I learned from talking to the evacuees of the first contingent. The food had been uniformly good since their arrival.

In the afternoon I circulated around the camp and got acquainted with the evacuees (called campers by P.S.A.) and with the camp management. The campers first reaction was a relief that there was no barbed wire and no soldiers in sight. Every one of them seemed to be possessed of a strong urge to go into town to do their own shopping. Especially the young people wanted to get around and see the sights. It was the perfectly normal reaction that any young healthy group would have to getting out of close confinement. But, as I will point out later, they were somewhat disappointed about the extent of their release from restrictions.

Registration on P.S.A. forms is required for all campers. Since these forms will not give us the information we want, and the people in these camps will need to be registered on our form, I did as much interviewing as I could. I was able to get about 20 of the evacuees registered and will transfer the notes I took on rough paper to the W.R.A. form. Later we will have to arrange to get the other evacuees in the camp registered for our records.

After looking over the interviews I took it looks as if the group that went out from Portland is predominantly young. There is a high proportion of younger men who are high school graduates and who are farm workers. There seems to be a tendency for those who have lived previously in the same community to stick together and come along on this new venture.

During the afternoon there was much talk and advice given about sugar beet work. I doubt whether any of the evacuees had ever worked in the sugar beet fields before, although a number had worked on lettuce and this seems to be similar. A number of the new arrivals sent to town at once for hoes and when they came spent an hour or so sharpening them. The hoes cost 75¢ or 85¢ apiece and the camper bought his own. In town the supply of short handled hoes ran out

and so the campers bought the long handled ones and cut them off to the proper length.

I spent some time talking with Mr. Thomas, the camp manager, and the other people connected with camp operation. Mr. Thomas is a man about thirty years old. He appears to be an intelligent man and his experience with migratory workers has given him an understanding of the problems of the more unfortunate of our fellow men. This is the first time he had handled Japanese in his camps and the circumstances were a brand new experience but he remained calm and altered the regular F.S.A. routine of dealing with migratory labor just as little as he had to. One of his camp assistants is a young man, alert and intelligent. An older man acts as general handyman and there is the camp nurse. They appeared to be competent in their particular spheres.

The U. S. Employment Service has a man stationed in one of the tents constantly. The tent has a sign on it "employment office" and here the farmers come to ask for help. The campers are registered in the employment office. It is the job of the employment man to bring the prospective working force together with the farmer who needs help. The farmer states the wages he will pay when he makes his application. In sugar beets, of course, the minimum is fixed by law. Starting with the minimum the wages range upward depending on what the farmer is willing to pay. The wage will vary in accordance with the condition of the field. Some beet fields are planted and cared for in a manner that permits more wages to be earned per acre in some fields than in others. However, while wages may vary there seems to be a pretty well accepted standard as to the wage that should be paid for any particular kind of acreage; in other words, there does seem to be prevailing wages for the community.

The employment service office is operating now substantially as it did when Mexicans or Americans lived in the camp. I presume that the farmers who raise sugar beets are being favored in the recruitment of help in the camp but this is not surprising in view of the effort the sugar company has gone to in bringing in the Japanese labor. Also, sugar beets are pretty generally raised and the Amalgamated is the only sugar company in the vicinity.

The new thing that the Employment Service has undertaken is to check the Japanese campers out in the morning and back at night and to approve trips out of the camp at any time and to secure some one connected with the camp or a deputy sheriff to go along on any trip approved. I don't think that the Employment Service representative should do this latter thing. Any control of that sort would be better done by the manager of the camp, Mr. Thomas, who is very definitely several cuts above the local employment man. It was rather amusing to see that the Japanese were moving in on the employment office and had begun to take the initiative themselves

in recruiting the labor to go out to the various farms.

As I said, the F.S.A. camp is being operated along its usual lines. The deputy sheriff is something new. Mr. Thomas is wisely insisting from the start that the deputy is there to protect the Japanese from outside aggression. The deputy is pretty officious and probably will want to run things inside the camp if he isn't told his province at the very start.

There are no campers at the Nyssa camp other than the Japanese. There were a few Mexicans and Americans recently but the camp has had only a few migrants this year. At times it has been entirely vacant. This appears to be the situation in other F.S.A. camps and accounts in part for the willingness of F.S.A. to be very cooperative in allowing the Japanese to be quartered exclusively in some of the camps.

The F.S.A. is giving the camp service without cost to the sugar company. Mr. Certz, the regional supervisor of the F.S.A. camp program saw no reason why the company should pay. The service is generally rendered migratory labor without cost to the company or to the farmers. This year the camps are almost deserted and the cost of upkeep would go on anyhow. Hence, the camps are offered for the Japanese very willingly by F.S.A. The regular charge of \$1.00 a week is made by F.S.A. for each tent. The occupants of a tent may, if they wish, have the tent free if two hours of work a week is put in on maintenance of the camp. The Japanese appear to have agreed to do this work without any objection.

The extent of the medical service to be furnished the Japanese campers is not entirely clear. They will get the service of the nurse at all times. A small dispensary is maintained in the camp. They will get the services of a doctor twice a week when he comes to the camp. The services of the nurse and the doctor at the camp are free to the campers. But what about the more difficult cases that need special attention and hospitalization? For other campers the F.S.A. has a health card system whereby any situations are taken care of. But in the case of the Japanese campers the health cards are not being issued.

It is not clear to anybody I talked with just who will pay for the medical expenses occasioned by the more serious cases. Mr. Larsen told me that he didn't know whether or not the company had agreed to take care of these cases, but not to worry because if any medical situation arose that needed extra attention the company would see that the expenses were paid. We ought to get this question settled

definitely. A question may arise when one of the Japanese falls ill while working for a farmer on work other than sugar beets. Will the sugar beet company still pay the expense of treatment that can't be secured at the camp? A question of extra medical attention arose almost at once. One of the young men who came out of Portland on Wednesday had injured his finger playing basketball at the Portland Center. It pained him badly and the camp nurse after examining the finger thought it might possibly be broken, and advised a trip in to see the local doctor in Nyssa. The nurse took him in and the doctor X-rayed the finger and found that it was not a fracture. We had some discussion as to how this should be handled and as a result F.S.A. just sent the man on in to have anything done that was necessary.

As the Employment Service at the camp operates there is no obligation to recruit help exclusively for sugar beets nor are the Japanese obligated to go out to work only on sugar beets, (or on any other work for that matter). What the sugar company has done is to spend considerable money this year to bring in the Japanese workers in order to have a labor supply for the beet field work. Probably the Employment Service will see that the farmers raising sugar beets get first call on the labor in the camp. But after the beets are thinned the rush on this crop will be over until the harvesting. Hoeing won't take so much labor. As the beet work becomes less critical other crops will mature and I was assured by everybody I talked to that there was enough agricultural work in the county to keep all the Japanese who may come to Malheur County busy throughout the summer. In the Fall the sugar beet harvest again becomes the big user of labor and this demand continues into the early part of December.

The labor shortage in Malheur County is genuine. Migratory labor has become scarce and the war has drained off an appreciable part of the steady resident workers. Schools have been closed and stores, offices and banks have been operating only part time in order to allow the townspeople to get out on the farms to help save the sugar beet crop. This accounts for the reception the Japanese have received.

Thomas Holland  
Chief, Employment Division

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In reply please refer to  
Employment Division

June 24, 1942

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. Thomas Holland  
Chief, Employment Division

SUBJECT: Report on Field Inspection Trip in Idaho  
and Malheur County, Oregon, June 11 - 21.

I. Brief Resume of Itinerary.

I arrived in Visalia Thursday evening, June 11th. The next day I rode around with Mr. Norton of the Employment Service and John Haynes of the Utah-Idaho Sugar Company, who were recruiting workers. The recruitment, in this instance at least, seemed to be done primarily by the Sugar Company man, and the role of the Employment Service was largely paper work. I learned later, on arriving at Blackfoot, Idaho, that some of the representations made by the Sugar Company agent in recruitment were not accurate, and there is reason to believe that this has been the case in previous recruitment as well.

The next morning, Saturday, Norton and I registered the 50 persons who had definitely decided on going, in the office of the J.A.C.L. in Visalia. This office was about the only place we could get, considering the fact that WCCA did not want us to use the local Employment office. I handled the family data registration and the WRA release; and Mr. Norton handled the travel permit, change of address card, and Employment Service registration.

The next day we left Visalia by bus at 1:30 P.M. and transferred to a special car leaving Fresno at 4:00 o'clock on the Southern Pacific. Only one of the 50 whom we had signed up on Saturday failed to show up when the bus left Visalia on Sunday. The Sugar Company representative did not handle the transportation very well, and it was not until the last minute that we were sure of getting transportation facilities.

We had a two-hour layover in Sacramento while waiting for the train for Ogden. As soon as we arrived there, a squad of five or six Military Police showed up and stayed with us until the train pulled out for Ogden.

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In Ogden we were met by a man from the Sugar Company's Salt Lake office, and the evacuees had dinner in the station dining room there. They were given the freedom of the station from 6:00 to 10:00 P.M. in Ogden, and a city detective was assigned to the station during that period. We arrived in Blackfoot about 10:00 o'clock Tuesday morning.

The Manager of the local Employment office in Blackfoot, the District Supervisor of the USES, the District Manager of the Sugar Company, the General Superintendent of the Utah-Idaho Sugar Company from the Salt Lake office, and several local Sugar Company officials met the train.

It took about two hours for the Employment Service and the Sugar Company officials to get the evacuees assigned to various farms and loaded up into trucks with their belongings for transportation to the farms. Most of the delay was occasioned by one large group of 20 single men who had been living together in a boarding house in Reedley, California, and who had been promised by Mr. Haynes of the Sugar Company that they could live together in an old hotel at Blackfoot and have their cooking done by the family who ran the boarding house in Reedley, who were coming up to Blackfoot in a shipment later in the week. It turned out that the hotel in Blackfoot didn't exist and the Sugar Company wanted to send these men out on farms in groups of four to six each. I finally arranged with the Company and with the evacuees that the Company would house these 20 men in the mobile FSA camp at Blackfoot, which is empty, as soon as the cooks arrived later in the week; meanwhile, the men were to go out in groups of four to six on individual farms.

That afternoon I drove around with the District Supervisor of the USES, Mr. Cowan, looking at housing on farms and talking to evacuees. The next morning Cowan and I had a session with Mr. Paul Scalley, District Manager of the Sugar Company, and Mr. Cannon, General Superintendent of the Company. Cowan and I drove around most of the remainder of the day with the agricultural man from the Lincoln mill of the Company, looking at the housing and talking to evacuees. During the day I also talked to the doctor in charge of the paralyzed man in the hospital, three evacuees who didn't like the work, the local sheriff, and the Manager of the FSA camp at Shelley where some 65 evacuees are housed.

I caught the bus out of Idaho Falls at 11:00 Wednesday night for Pocatello, spent the night there, and caught a morning train over to Minidoka where I was met by the Manager of the Employment office at Burley, Mr. Fisher, and the District Manager of the Amalgamated Sugar Company, Mr. Harry Elcock. We visited the FSA mobile camp at Rupert where some 170 evacuees, mostly from Manzanar, were housed. Mr. Elcock drove me over to Twin Falls, stopping on the way to inspect the abandoned CCC camp at Paul about two miles from the Sugar Company's mill, in almost the exact center of the irrigated district, which the FSA is now arranging to take over to replace the tents in the mobile camp at Rupert. I spent the evening talking to the Manager of the Employment office in Twin Falls, and inspecting the FSA camp just outside the City where some 36 evacuees are housed.

The next morning I took the early morning bus over to Boise, arriving about 1:00 o'clock and spending the afternoon talking to the Farm Placement Supervisor of the Idaho Employment Service, Mr. Beeson. Beeson was in charge in the absence of the State Director, Mr. Tillman. Beeson drove me over to Nyssa that evening, stopping on the way to look at the FSA camp at Caldwell in which the Sugar Company would like to house some additional evacuees if they can be recruited. In Nyssa that evening I had a chance to talk to the Manager of the FSA camp there before going up to Ontario with Mr. Benning of the Sugar Company to spend the night.

The next day, Saturday, June 20th, was spent out at the Nyssa camp talking to the camp manager and Sugar Company officials and inspecting some of the housing out on farms. The local Employment Service man, Mr. Paradis, was out of town several days, so I didn't get a chance to talk to him.

I left Nyssa about 5:30 Saturday afternoon to drive down to San Francisco with Mr. Benning of the Sugar Company. We arrived in San Francisco about 9:00 P.M. Sunday evening, June 21st.

## II. The Upper Snake River Section.

The Utah-Idaho Sugar Company territory in Eastern Idaho extends from the neighborhood of Blackfoot about 70 miles north along the Snake River to Sugar City. The Company has sugar factories in Blackfoot, Shelley, Lincoln, and Sugar City. This region is generally known as the Upper Snake area.

A. General situation. There are now 525 evacuees in this area, including the 49 in the shipment which I accompanied from Visalia and the 55 that left Military Area No. 2 on June 17th. When I was in this area, all but 66, who were housed at the mobile FSA camp at Shelley, were living on farms. There are probably a larger number of families in this area than in any other.

The relations between the Employment Service and the Sugar Company are rather strained in this area. The Employment Service, particularly Mr. Beeson, takes its responsibilities for placement and housing rather seriously; whereas the Sugar Company apparently has felt that the agreement on the employment of evacuees was entirely between the Sugar Company and the War Relocation Authority. On the first shipment or two the Sugar Company distributed the evacuees on various farms without consulting the Employment Service at all. Beeson went over to Eastern Idaho to try to straighten the situation out, and while he was there the third shipment was to arrive. The District Manager of the Sugar Company, Mr. Paul Scalley, told Beeson that the shipment was to arrive in Blackfoot, whereas actually it was scheduled for arrival in another town. When Beeson finally caught up with the shipment Scalley said, "I thought we had succeeded in losing you." Beeson stood his ground on the Employment Service responsibilities for placement and the inspection of housing, and the Sugar Company finally backed down. Nevertheless, the situation is still quite strained, and the Company seems inclined to transfer the workers from one job to another and even from one house to another without consulting the Employment Service.

B. Housing. The housing on the individual farms seems to vary a great deal from the examples that I inspected. At the one extreme one evacuee was living in the farmer's own house and at the other several evacuees were sleeping on the floor in a rather dilapidated wooden structure which had been occupied by the farmer some years ago. None of the evacuees to whom I had talked, however, expressed any particular dissatisfaction with the housing itself. There was considerable complaint about bathing facilities. In much of this area wells are very expensive, and only about 10% of the farmers have them. Water for drinking and cooking, and even for bathing, while the irrigation water is muddy must be hauled by hand or by team. Evacuees are used to a daily hot bath, and in many cases have not been able to arrange this even by use of washtubs and other improvised methods. The other main difficulty with housing on the

farms in this area is the cooking arrangements. Although the farmers are providing cooking equipment, some of the groups of single men are not very well satisfied to do their own cooking. I think this is one of the reasons why the Utah-Idaho has shown a preference for family groups. In any future recruitment we should see to it that the cooking arrangements are fully explained to evacuees.

The farmers have been bringing evacuees into town to do their shopping.

C. Security. There is no curfew in this area, and there does not seem to be any intention on the part of the local authorities of applying one because the evacuees have not means of getting around and are <sup>accompanied</sup> ~~accepted~~ by the farmers when they come into town. I talked to the sheriff at Idaho Falls, and found that he had instituted a so-called "voluntary registration" of resident Japanese and voluntary evacuees prior to the arrival of any of our shipments. Copy of the registration form is attached. He has extended this registration to evacuees. He goes around with a couple of secretaries furnished by the J.A.C.L. and makes the registration at the same time that he assists the alien evacuees in filling out the change of address card for the Immigration Service. This voluntary registration was worked out with the support and cooperation of the local Japanese residents through the J.A.C.L. The sheriff regards it as his protection against local protests that no control or supervision is being applied to voluntary evacuees or shipments which we authorize.

D. Earnings. It is rather difficult to get an accurate picture of how much evacuees had been earning in the thinning operation, but my impression is that it has averaged about two-and-a-half or three dollars a day. Most of these people are inexperienced at this work. Some of those at the FSA camp at Shelley were reported to be earning less than the cost of their board at the camp. Before leaving, I asked the Employment Service District Supervisor to check into this matter with the Company, to have the Company make up the difference or to have these people shifted to other work where they could earn more. The beets that are left to be thinned are generally in very bad condition, and this explains in part the low earnings. The Company is going to make a report to us on the wages earned by each individual.

E. Continuity of Employment. Employment seems to have been almost full-time to date, except for one or two days when it rained. There is a great deal of work to be done in this area during the rest of the summer, but the district supervisor of the Employment Service is somewhat concerned about the problem of displacement of local labor. Apparently, the local labor which is still available is so poor in quality that many farmers are likely to ask for evacuees in preference to local labor. I asked the District Supervisor of the Employment Service, Mr. Cowan, to keep a close check on this situation and to keep us informed so that evacuees can be returned if necessary.

F. General attitude of evacuees. There was much more complaint about various matters among the evacuees to whom I talked in this area than in any other. There were complaints about low earnings, misrepresentation ~~in~~ the amount of money which could be earned, the housing, bathing, and cooking facilities. Several evacuees wish to return to assembly centers and the Company also desires to return some. Before leaving the Upper Snake area, I agreed to send word back as soon as possible on arrangements for return. I think it would be desirable to require the Employment Service to concur on the individuals to be returned. There is some tendency on the part of the Sugar Company to push evacuees around and not to consider their side of the story in any disagreements with farmers on complaints on housing and working conditions. This is in rather sharp contrast to the Amalgamated Company, which is leaning over backwards to satisfy all the legitimate requests of the evacuees.

### III. Rupert Mobile FSA Camp.

A. General situation. There are about 175 evacuees in this area, all but 8 of whom are in the Rupert camp. This is a relatively small irrigated section, and transportation to and from the camp has not been difficult.

B. Housing. I did not get an opportunity to examine the housing of the few individuals who are not living in the camp. Some problem of disposing of waste water is anticipated in the location, and the FSA has about completed negotiations for taking over a CCC camp 4 or 5 miles west near the town of Paul in which the sugar factory is located. I inspected this CCC camp and it appears to have excellent facilities, including a small swimming pool which has been

created by enlarging and lining a section of an irrigation canal. A number of evacuees from the Rupert camp have examined this CCC camp and are quite enthusiastic about it. It is located almost exactly in the center of this irrigated section.

C. Security. There were some initial difficulties in this location. The sheriff of Minidoka County and his deputies were intoxicated when they met the train bringing 129 evacuees from Manzanar; and they threatened to shoot anyone who got off the train. The situation seems to be well in hand now, however. The Sugar Company arranged with the Governor for the District Attorney of the county to take over the sheriff's duties and the Governor has also sent down a state trooper to prevent occurrence of any further incidents with the sheriff. There is an 8 P.M. to 6 A.M. curfew here, which apparently is the result of permission given by the Western Defense Command to all governors to apply the curfew if they consider it desirable. Aside from the curfew, there is a good deal of freedom: the camp is located on the outskirts of the small town of Rupert, and the evacuees are perfectly free to go into town except during the curfew period.

D. Earnings. I wasn't able to check on the question of earnings to any great extent in this camp because I was there during the day, and practically all evacuees were out working. Everyone was quite enthusiastic about this group of evacuees, who were mostly young men from Manzanar, because of the way they pitched into the work and their general attitude and deportment. The Amalgamated Company in this area is not only paying doctor bills, it is also paying cost of board for evacuees on days on which the doctor or nurse certify that they are unable to work. Several boys went at it so hard the first few days that they blistered their hands badly or strained their arms. I saw one boy working with one arm in a splint because of over-exertion.

E. Employment. There seems to have been practically full-time employment in the Rupert camp. This was one of the worst areas which the Amalgamated Company had, and even now the Company expects to lose about 700 acres of sugar beets in this factory district. The Employment Service Manager at Burley nearby believes that this camp could be kept at 200 for the remainder of the season, and reasonably full employment provided without displacing local labor. The construction of the Eden relocation center, about 25 miles away, is now starting, and it is thought that the

construction will further deplete the already scarce supplies of local farm labor.

F. General Attitude of evacuees. Evacuees in this camp, especially the group from Manzanar, seem to be well pleased, and the community seems to appreciate their efforts. The county War Board of the Department of Agriculture has sent them a very nice letter of appreciation; I ~~had~~ <sup>have</sup> asked that we be supplied with a copy of this letter. There are 5 or 6, however, who wish to return at the end of the thinning season and the company inquired about the procedure for accomplishing this.

#### IV. The Permanent F.S.A. Camp at Twin Falls.

A. General Situation. There are now 36 evacuees in this camp, 10 having been transferred from here over to Rupert about 45 miles away.

B. Housing. The evacuees are living in one of the three precincts in this camp. About an equal number of white persons are living in another precinct, and the third is vacant. This is quite an attractive camp, with lots of lawn and excellent facilities. The white residents raised some objection to the evacuees' using the regular showers and laundry facilities, so a temporary shower tent was set up in their own precinct. The F.S.A. camp manager hopes to do away with this very shortly. The evacuees here are now doing their own cooking in small groups after having started out by having meals sent out from a Japanese restaurant in Twin Falls. There are not enough of them in this camp to set up a co-operative community mess like that in the Rupert Camp.

C. Security. There are two deputy sheriffs assigned to this camp, one of whom is on duty all the time. I met the sheriff and one of the deputies, but did not press the point about the necessity of this arrangement with them. The District Manager of the Sugar Company is gradually working toward a relaxation of restrictions, and I do not feel we are in a position to push this question very far until the W.R.A. has taken some steps to segregate the sheep from the goats, such as the proposed segregation of the ~~river~~ <sup>river</sup>. The evacuees here are not permitted to go into Twin Falls, a city of about 10,000, three miles away, without an escort. They are now being permitted to go into a store a few blocks from the camp between 5 and 7 o'clock each day to make purchases. Despite the rather tight rein which is kept here, the sheriff and his deputies seem to be quite friendly. The night I was there the

sheriff came out with the school bus to take the boys into town for a baseball game.

D. Earnings. I did not secure much definite information on earnings in this area, but there did not seem to be any complaint on this score during the thinning season which is just about over.

E. Employment. There apparently is not as much prospective employment within a reasonable distance of this camp as in most other areas. Ten evacuees have already been shifted from this camp to the Rupert Camp, and I think it is quite possible that this camp may have to be given up during the summer and opened up again during the harvest season in the fall. In this Twin Falls and Rupert area there may be some possibility of employing evacuees this fall in sorting potatoes in warehouses. This potato sorting will probably not be possible in the Upper Snake area because of unionization and a more ample labor supply for this work, which is well paid.

F. General attitude of evacuees. Boys in this camp appear to be well satisfied, but there does not seem to be the same degree of enthusiasm or favorable local sentiment as in the Rupert Camp.

V. Discussion with the United States Employment Service in Boise.

The State Director of the Employment Service was not in town, and I spent the afternoon with the Acting Director who is the Farm Placement Supervisor, and he drove me over to Nyssa that evening. Beeson has taken a very active interest in this program, partly because of its importance in the farm labor picture in Idaho and partly because he is interested in an employment job with the W.R.A. He is well acquainted with Stafford, the Project Director at Eden, and has applied for the employment job at that project. Rex Lee is checking on him while up in Boise, June 23rd, and if his report is favorable I would be inclined to recommend him for a field inspection job at \$3800 up in that territory this summer. Stafford may want to take him over as employment man on the Eden project when it opens up this fall, but that could be handled when it came up. I am inclined to believe that outside employment should not be left up to the employment men in the relocation centers, especially in this area. I tried to get some idea of the magnitude of private agricultural opportunities which could be supplied from the Eden relocation center next year. A rough estimate would be about 3,000 workers, and Fryer

tells me that an equal number will be needed in the center. Unless we can pack this center with a very high agricultural working population by sending one or two thousand old bachelors to this center, it looks as if there might be a rather serious conflict between inside and outside employment in this center.

Beeson told me, and this was corroborated to a large extent by Benning from the Amalgamated, that Governor Clark did not make his famous statement about rats in a public meeting, but to three or four people afterwards, one of whom was the reporter who broke the story. It is not quite clear whether the quotation was accurate.

Beeson was anxious to get a little clearer definition of the employment responsibilities in this outside employment. He did not appear to stress any of his responsibility for "custody", but he did seem to think that the Employment Service was the guardian of the evacuees' interests in a good many respects.

I arranged with Beeson, subject to confirmation in a letter from Fryer and approval of the Idaho State Director of the Employment Service, for the Employment Service to conduct our registration. Their men assigned to the F.S.A. camps at Twin Falls, Rupert, and Idaho Falls would do the job without cost, and we would reimburse them for the salary and expenses of one of their men who would do the job among the evacuees housed on individual farms in the Upper Snake territory.

Beeson would like to secure about 200 evacuees for employment in fruit and other crops around Payette, Idaho, this summer and fall, but the farmers do not appear willing and able to pay transportation. He wondered whether it would be possible to secure workers en route from Washington and Oregon centers to Eden, and thus avoid the need for the farmers' paying transportation expenses. I would be inclined to consider this plan if the circumstances are as stated, but Lee seems to feel that the Army would not agree to this arrangement.

#### VI. The Nyssa Mobile F.S.A. Camp.

I shall not attempt to cover the Nyssa situation in as much detail because you have visited this area. This seems to be going very well except for the 200 single men who came over from Portland on the two-week work excursion. The two-week period ended on Sunday, June 21st, and somewhat over 100 wish to return--some of them to persuade their families to come

back with them to Nyssa. The sugar company is trying to persuade those who wanted to bring their families back to stay there and have their families come out from Portland, but the boys were sure that they could not persuade their families to come unless they went back to Portland to talk to them personally. Leonitti had come over from the Portland center on Friday night to try to persuade them to stay, but without much success. I just learned today, June 23rd, that 131 went back last night. I do not know how many families will go back to Nyssa. The Army is somewhat concerned about this shuttling back and forth. The Sugar Company would like to maintain the camp at Nyssa at about 300 and get enough families to supply 50 or 75 workers at the Caldwell, Idaho, camp. These Portland people seem very reluctant to go over into Idaho. There are about 40 evacuees living out on farms in Malheur County at the present time, and this situation seems to be ironed out now so far as the public agencies are concerned. The difficulty now is in persuading the evacuees to go out on farms. This Nyssa group have all kinds of objections to living on farms, including the problems of getting into town, bathing facilities, etc. It looks as if more will gradually go out, however. The combination of a central F.S.A. camp with housing on private farms would seem to be almost ideal because the camp will furnish a center for community and recreational activities.

The deputy sheriff is still out at the camp, but he does absolutely nothing and I do not believe he will be kept out there much longer. An experiment was tried the night I was arriving in Nyssa in keeping the stores open in town one night a week and transporting the evacuees into town in school buses. It seemed to work out very well, both from the point of view of the evacuees and the local merchants who did a land-office business. Movies on Sunday morning have also been arranged, and last Sunday almost the entire camp was transported to a double-header baseball game in which a team from the Nyssa camp participated. One man had a very serious injury to his eye which he received while playing ball, and he is now in a Boise hospital. The latest report was that his eye-sight could probably be saved. The Amalgamated Company is paying doctor bills here and the bill for George Doi has already been paid by the Company.

Earnings and employment in the Nyssa Camp seem to have been quite satisfactory.

I looked at a few of the houses in which evacuees were living on private farms, but did not get a chance to talk to their occupants because they were out working. The houses that I

saw seemed to be a cut above those in the Upper Snake territory; and the Company and the farmers seem more willing to make improvements than they are in the Upper Snake, probably because the labor shortage is more acute in Malheur County.

Robert W. Frase  
Principal Consultant  
Employment Division

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Empl Div

F.S.

✓

July 21, 1942

Mr. E. R. Fryer ✓  
Regional Director  
War Relocation Authority  
Whitcomb Hotel Building  
San Francisco, California

Attention: Mr. McEntire

Dear Mr. Fryer:

I meant to write some time ago to tell you how pleased I am that the San Francisco Employment Division has been set up with Mr. McEntire<sup>x</sup> at the head of it. I would like to keep in touch with what is going on in the region. Also, I believe it would be desirable for the San Francisco Employment Division to be pretty well informed on what developments are taking place here in the Washington office.

I would like to know briefly how the collecting of statistics on the individual record from now stands and whether it has been possible to extend the work to the assembly centers. Have any statistical personnel been hired in the Regional Office, and are plans being made to have the statistical work done at one of the projects by the Japanese evacuees? Have the project employment offices been satisfactorily established and manned, and have the necessary personnel forms been printed and put into use? Have the other Regional Directors been furnished with copies of the forms in use by the San Francisco region for their employment offices? What is the situation now with regard to the outside employment of the evacuees? Is recruiting still going on for agricultural work in the Northwest? How many are out now? Have there been any incidents of any kind, and what machinery has been established for continuous investigation of problems and complaints up there?

Mr. Frase told me that the Region is about to employ Mr. Beeson<sup>x</sup> to take care of the situation up in the Northwest. Has this been done, and is Mr. Beeson performing satisfactorily? What are we planning to do about the evacuees up there for the winter? If they want to stay up there and can make arrangements, are you folks agreeable? How is my young friend, Mr. Lee<sup>x</sup>, and where is his report on his trip through the sugar-beet country. I would be very glad to have a word

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from Mr. Lee now and then.

Turning to our work here in Washington, since I got back from California, I have spent considerable time conferring with other Government agencies on employment problems and policies, and there has been a good bit of work in connection with policy-making for W.R.A. Needless to say, this perpetual conferring is not to my liking, but I am trying to bear up bravely and hope to get out into the field again within the next few days. However, I don't believe I will get farther west than Denver this trip, although I certainly would like to see you folks again.

Now, as to the procedure for private employment--I had one designed immediately after my return from San Francisco and thought that, long before this, we would be operating under it. However, it has been reviewed and checked a number of times, and only yesterday afternoon it was finally signed by the Director and is now being put into the form of an administrative instruction which you will receive very shortly. Most of the ideas that I had in the start will be in the administrative instruction, and the only thing that I object to seriously about the new order is the restrictions put upon the evacuee as a condition to his going out. These restrictions are by no means in the class of the civilian restrictive orders which apply to the sugar-beet workers, but they do definitely tie the evacuee down to the relocation center, provided the Director wants to call them back, which I don't suppose he will do unless a very grave situation should develop throughout the country. The Assistant Secretary of War, Mr. McCloy, approved this procedure

yesterday afternoon, and he talked with Colonel Bendetsen on the tactical line, and, as I understand it, Bendetsen is fully aware of what we are about to establish and, as far as I know, approves also.

We have not been excluded by the Army from any area outside the Western Defense Command. However, they have exhibited some jitters about Japanese going into the Eastern Defense Command, and so I have been agreeable to the clause in the instruction which gives a priority to jobs in that area lying between the Western Defense Command and the Eastern Defense Command. This, of course, is an enormous area, and we should be able to place a good number of people here without trouble. Placement in the East is not absolutely excluded, but, for the present, it should be discouraged and only in the case where the necessity is very apparent should we undertake to place anybody inside the Eastern Defense Command.

This work of placing people in the middle areas of the country, in my opinion, is about the most important thing the Employment Division can do. This offers the Japanese evacuees some possibility of permanent readjustment of his life, something that the life in the relocation centers--no matter how good they may become--will not do. You folks out there will play a most important part in the outside employment program. I assume that the Regional Director will have you people handle the requests as they come in from the projects, and you should keep on the alert to see that no time is lost and that all acceptable applications are given consideration. For your own part at the Regional Office, don't let the checking process take too long. I am very anxious to see that we don't get bogged down at any point but, rather, move expeditiously in placing the people in jobs.

You will note that the procedure is written in a temporary manner. The important thing now is to establish a sound, safe manner of getting the evacuees into private employment. As experience dictates the possibility of shortcuts or even tightening up in certain points, we will revise the procedure as necessary. For the time being, I am going to handle the contacts with the employers and with the local sponsors and local authorities. Within the next few days, I am going to get out in the field and be on the job to handle the first cases. Bob Frank will be here in the office, and you can communicate with him about any problems in connection with this procedure on which you may need some help.

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There are pending now several requests to take outside jobs which Bob picked out before he left San Francisco. As I recall, there are six of these, and I believe that letters went out to the Project Directors instructing them to make the necessary investigations and give the Regional Office a report. Will you see that these requests do not lag? One of them is the request of a doctor down at Parker to take a job in Illinois. I am not too anxious to take, at the start, the applications of medical men where the Project Director feels that this would disrupt the essential medical service. Bob tells me that, in the case of this particular doctor, the Project Director supported his request. I would suggest that you give special attention to the handling of this particular request and be sure that there will be no problem arising in the minds of the Regional Director or the Project Director about the whittling away of the medical service if this request should be granted.

It is entirely in order now for the Japanese to look up jobs for themselves or to have their friends and relatives on the outside arrange for jobs for them or to have such organizations as the Friends Service scout around for them.

I am writing Mr. Morris about the procedure, but you might get in touch with him also and let him know that we are now prepared to go ahead within the limitations laid down by the new administrative instruction. I have been dealing with Mr. Morris' associates with the Friends Service here in the East and with other religious bodies, and we are going to be able to secure from them a great deal of cooperation as local sponsors for the Japanese.

Here is a case that I would like to have you do something about if you can. When I left San Francisco, I brought with me a digest of the correspondence relating to job requests. One of these was the request of Mr. Tom Arai to go to Chicago to work for Mr. Raleigh Chinn. Between trains in Chicago, I looked up Mr. Chinn and found that he had been in correspondence with Arai and had known him for a number of years. Mr. Chinn is a prominent business man in Chicago and offers a good job to Arai who is very anxious to leave the West Coast to come to Chicago to take the job. Arai is now at Puyallup, and, of course, our procedure applies only to relocation centers. I am wondering if we could take this up with Captain Astrup, inquiring as to the possibility of getting Arai transferred to one of our relocation centers and from there he could go on to take his job in Chicago, or it might be that we could arrange to have the W.C.C.A. let

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him go to Chicago. Will you look into the possibility of getting Arai out as soon as possible, because here is a situation where a man is ready and willing to take a job and an employer is very anxious to get him, and it does seem a shame not to be able to get them together.

Another situation which I investigated in Chicago is that of Miss Martha Takemura also at Puyallup. She has the possibility of a job in Chicago with her sister who is working for a Chicago lawyer, Mr. Kenneth B. Hawkins. This job is a good one, and I understand that Miss Takemura is very anxious to get out to take it and to join her sister in Chicago. She too should be transferred as early as possible to a relocation center so that she can be allowed to go on to take this job or, if possible, to go directly from the assembly center if the W.C.C.A. will agree. I would suggest that you have the correspondence out there reexamined and the cases which fall within our permissible group under the administrative instruction should be referred to the Project Directors to get something started.

Please let me hear from you and let us continue now to exchange informative letters, say every ten days or two weeks.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas W. Holland

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Memo from Davis McEntire, Chief, Employment Division, to Rowalt.  
October 15, 1942

I am taking the liberty of returning the attached telegram from Regional Director Smart for your further consideration and reply.

The Regional Employment Division and the Projects, with the exception of Gila, have done everything possible, consistent with good labor standards, to recruit a maximum number of workers for the sugar beet and other harvests.

The farm labor situation in the Intermountain and Plains states is unquestionably critical. The draft has taken many farmers' sons and hired hands and war industries have taken more. Reports reaching me are to effect that current harvest rates of sugar beets in many areas are insufficient to keep the factories in more than part-time operation. Even with women and children working on the farms this fall, the outlook is for considerable losses of vital crops.

The Director of Mexican labor importation has advised me that no funds are available at this time for importation of Mexicans into states other than California and Arizona. Plans are complete, however, for bringing 5600 domestic and Mexican workers into the Arizona cotton areas, contingent only on agreement by the cotton growers to meet the wage guarantee of 50¢ per hour required by the Mexican Government. If the wage condition is met, the Farm Security Administration is under a commitment to bring in the 5600 workers.

The limitation of Gila to cotton picking recruitment has failed to produce a significant number of volunteers for cotton picking at existing wage rates. There is reason to believe, however, that a fair number of evacuees would volunteer for cotton picking at a higher wage.

It is difficult to find justification for the continued limitation of the Gila evacuees to cotton picking when the growers are unwilling to pay a fair wage, when supplies of labor could be obtained at a wage of 30¢ per hour, and when there are important alternative uses for the labor in the production of other war essential crops at wages which would induce the workers to volunteer.

Under the circumstances I believe that our present labor policy in regard to Gila should be reconsidered. I do not question the urgency of getting the long staple cotton harvested, but I do question seriously the wisdom of continuing to attempt to force evacuees to pick cotton when the industry is unwilling to consider paying a fair wage. Thirty cents is certainly a moderate wage to ask in these times. Inasmuch as the evacuees have demonstrated that they will not pick cotton at existing cheap wages even though denied other opportunities, we have come to an impasse. The present situation is only creating bitterness and recrimination on all sides - from the cotton industry, sugar beet industry, Army, and the evacuees themselves. The tangible results are wastage of labor and loss of crops.

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Memo from McEntire to Rowalt contd.

As a way out of an untenable situation, I wish to recommend (1) that we advise the Army and the representatives of the cotton industry that reservation of Gila for cotton picking has failed because of the low wages offered; (2) that we suggest a wage adjustment equivalent to at least 30¢ an hour; (3) that failing a wage adjustment sufficient to attract the workers and bring their labor into use, Gila will be opened to competing war-essential industries.

If action is to follow along these lines, it should be taken promptly.

*Emel*

*Consequences of Policy  
June Policy*

November 9, 1942

To: Dillon S. Myer

With a view toward simplification of employment policy and practice, I am making the following observations:

1. Stabilize the present schedule of cash wages and educate our staff and the evacuees to accept this as all the cash that will be paid out by the War Relocation Authority as wages.
2. Emphasize the policy that all evacuees who are employable are expected to work while they reside in a relocation center.
3. Provide jobs for all who are employable.
4. Avoid any waste of man power. If there is a labor surplus develop enterprise useful to the project. If there is a shortage, confine the work program to essential services. Develop a retraining program to get the project work done if the labor supply is limited or not suited.
5. Distribute the burden of the more undesirable kinds of work by rotating jobs. Make it possible for the late-comers at a project to have an opportunity to get the more desirable kind of work.
6. As an incentive to work, remove the competing incentives. Have social and athletic activities after work hours. Discourage anything but work for the employable people during the work period.
7. Make it clear to the evacuees that they are the only ones who will suffer if the essential services are not performed. Throw the burden specifically on the evacuees for getting the hard and dirty work done if there is any difficulty on this score.
8. The evacuees should know that the War Relocation Authority is keeping a record of their performance at the centers. Their lack of willingness to work and poor work will be entered on their record. This record will be made available to prospective employers outside the center. Such records should be just as effective as incentives to do good work as such devices as a work corps or an order of merit.

APPEANDIX I

9. By far and large the War Relocation Authority should confine itself to enterprise necessary for the operation of the centers. Enterprise which is useful, but not necessary, should be undertaken only when there is a reasonable expectation that there will be a surplus of labor at a center and when the evacuees themselves agree with the War Relocation Authority that the enterprise is useful to the evacuees and that, if necessary, they will assume the responsibility of providing the needed work force from among the center residents.
10. The enterprise of the War Relocation Authority should not aim to produce to any extent for the open market. But where commitments already have been made, such as the net work for the Army, a sum equivalent to the amount of the prevailing wages should be collected and distributed to the evacuees. Whether the wages would be kept by those doing the work, or only the War Relocation Authority scale retained and the surplus allocated to a fund for the benefit of the evacuees, is something that the evacuees in each project should decide for themselves in advance of recruiting for labor for the enterprise.
11. Private enterprise adjacent to the project would be covered also by the statement in the above paragraph. Such enterprise should not be undertaken unless there is a reasonable expectation that labor will be available to operate it.
12. Calculations of available labor supply for a center should be made in the light of the following:
  - a. A large group of people who will remain permanently in War Relocation Authority centers. This group contains the young, the aged, the infirm. Most of the misfits will be in this group although it contains some of the best labor, that of the older aliens.
  - b. A relatively small group of people that we will not allow to depart. This will contain some younger people as well as some aliens.
  - c. A relatively small group of people who are eligible to leave but for various reasons elect to remain in the centers. I refer here to the younger people who will want to stay in.
  - d. A large group of people who intend to leave the centers when they are given permission to do so. This will cover most of the younger employable generation between 18 and 40.

It is evident that our long-range employment policy must be cut to fit the pattern presented by these four groups. A part of (d) will be available but it will always be fluctuating. We cannot fashion our plans on the assumption that this group gives us our basic labor supply. In time most of the group will have left. We must always be figuring on the progressive withdrawal of this group. Moreover, it contains the best work force and we must face the fact that project enterprise will have to be carried on by a possible less effective body of working people. This need not be necessarily so, however, if we do a good job of retraining for those who stay put for the duration.

13. As I see the picture now, we are beginning to develop a very sound foundation for the employment aspects of the relocation of the evacuees. On one hand, we are assisting them to get back into the normal channels of American economic life. All those who are loyal to the United States will have this opportunity. On the other hand, we are providing places of refuge for those who cannot or do not wish to leave.

For those who leave, the employment relationship is simple; they are like any other employee in the economic society. For those who stay, we have a distinctive kind of society operated primarily for the benefit and safety of the evacuees. For this we give subsistence and pay a small amount in cash. As long as we stick to War Relocation Authority enterprise which serves the essential needs of the centers, our problems do not get out of hand. But when we try to combine the features of the employment relationship which govern in economic society with the characteristics of employment peculiar to our centers, the problems become extremely complicated.

As I see it, the main line is employment outside the center. Almost as important, but not quite, is employment which serves the essential needs of the center. Far down the scale of relative importance, I would place the employment resulting from War Relocation Authority operations in the open market of private operations in conjunction with the labor supply of the centers.

Thomas W. Holland  
Chief, Employment Division

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Memo from H. Rex Lee, Asst. Chief, Employment Div., to Employment  
investigators.  
November 20, 1942

Last spring, when evacuees were first released for private employment, the employers were required to guarantee that medical services would be available at reasonable rates, but were not required to guarantee payment of them. However, WRA did not have the funds to pay for emergency bills that evacuees could not pay and as those bills arose, WRA asked employers to pay them, which they did.

This fall, in a meeting between Sugar Companies and WRA officials, the companies asked to be relieved of this expense. WRA agreed that inasmuch as evacuees were receiving prevailing wages, that they should be placed in the same status in regard to medical care as any other laborer (that they pay their own expense unless the employer or someone else was liable through agreement or by law).

It was realized at the time that numerous cases would arise ~~when~~ when the evacuee would not have sufficient money to pay his medical bills. In such event the WRA decided to pay the bill--if careful investigation showed that no other persons were liable and that the evacuee could not pay. This decision was not publicly announced in that such an announcement would have a tendency to cause all bills to revert to WRA ~~WRA~~ for payment.

While this plan is not very satisfactory, we will have to continue on it until a better one is adopted. There are a number of outstanding bills for medical service to evacuees and unless these are paid rather promptly, it is likely that future evacuees cases will be turned down.

As soon as possible will you investigate the cases in your territory? You probably know of all of them or if not, the Sugar Company probably has some record of them. In each instance check to see if the employer or some other persons might be liable. If they are not, check whether the evacuee is financially able to pay. If either of the above should pay, ask the doctor ~~or~~ hospital to bill them direct. If you think the evacuee is liable for his own bill and is unable to pay part or all of it, send us a complete report on the case with your recommendation and a copy of the bill.

C O P Y

Washington, D. C.

February 13, 1943

Mr. Guy Robertson  
Project Director  
Heart Mountain Relocation Center  
Heart Mountain, Wyoming

Dear Mr. Robertson:

This is in reply to Mr. Todd's letter of January 8 regarding the possibility of evacuees' entering into agricultural work on a crop-share basis. The policy of the Authority regarding such lease arrangements was, I believe, fairly well covered in staff discussions during Mr. Joe Carroll's visit to this office. In the first place, as indicated in your letter, we will want to investigate very carefully the community reaction that can be expected following the leasing of land in any particular community.

The responsibility for determining the probable community reactions has been assigned to this division, and we will expect our relocation officers when they are assigned to a territory, to keep us fully informed as to the prevailing community sentiment. In most cases we are suggesting that workers become established in communities before they attempt to lease on long terms or buy property. However, there are certain communities where we believe a judicious amount of share-crop leasing can be done without serious repercussions.

It is quite proper for you to issue short term leave to evacuees for the purpose of looking over prospects. It is questionable, however, if any evacuees should sign leases prior to receiving leave clearance unless there is a special escape clause in the contract in the event that indefinite leave should be denied.

Very truly yours,

Donald R. Sabin  
Assistant Chief, Employment  
Division

PGRobertson:dl  
CC: Mr. J.H. Smart

~~TOP SECRET~~  
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
Washington

Memorandum

March 30, 1943

To: Relocation Supervisors

From: Thomas W. Holland, Chief, Employment Division

Subject: Public assistance for evacuees who are outside relocation centers.

(1) It should be definitely understood that the War Relocation Authority will not be responsible for the cost of medical or other assistance rendered to evacuees outside the relocation centers. Up to now there has been some confusion on this point.

(2) This explicit disclaimer by WRA of responsibility for payment for emergency assistance does not mean, however, that the evacuees will have no recourse to any public assistance after leaving the centers when they have need for it. In fact, the situation from now on in this respect should be much better than before. Prior to this time there has been considerable uncertainty in everybody's mind as to the person or agency which would pay for emergency assistance rendered the evacuees. This has now been straightened out through the agreement of the Social Security Board to pay for services rendered evacuees who are out of the projects and in need of assistance, provided such services are rendered by the appropriate local bureaus of public assistance.

(3) The Social Security Board has informed us that the basis and terms of its participation has been set forth in a memorandum of the Board dated April 30, 1942, prepared by the Bureau of Public Assistance and entitled, "Summary of Program for Providing Necessary Assistance to Enemy Aliens and Other Persons Affected by Restrictive Action of the Federal Government."

(4) The portions of that memorandum which are applicable to the problem of furnishing assistance to evacuees out of the centers on leave are as follows:

"The regional public assistance representative of the Social Security Board, under the direction of the regional director, has been authorized to proceed immediately to inform all of the States in his region of the provisions of this program and to arrange with

the appropriate State department to provide the necessary assistance and services under the conditions defined in the scope of this program. The regional public assistance representative of the Social Security Board is authorized to assure the State agencies of reimbursement for expenditures made under the program.\*\*\*\*\*

"Federal reimbursements under this program may be made for:

1. Assistance and services to persons who meet the conditions described in this memorandum and who are in need:
  - a. Maintenance as necessary at standards of assistance, not above those prevailing in the community, including foster home care or institutional placement of children, and necessary medical care. The standards of assistance applied in the approved State plan for aid to dependent children or those in operation in the general relief program of the State or local community will be most nearly applicable to this program.
  - b. Transportation for persons and household effects including incidental expenses enroute at minimum rates when it is demonstrated that the individual or family can move to a place where they can be self-supporting or can be maintained with smaller expenditure of Federal funds, such plan to receive prior approval from the State agency. In exceptional instances, as in the case of children, where the most appropriate care can only be secured in another locality, transportation may also be authorized. All travel, of course, will be governed by rules of the Department of Justice.
2. Such other costs of operation as the agency may incur in carrying out the purposes of this program.\*\*\*\*\*

"Reimbursement for expenditures incurred by State and local public welfare agencies in providing assistance under this program will be made in the following manner: Claims for reimbursement of expenditures incurred shall be submitted monthly by the State agency to the regional office and by the regional office to the Washington Office of the Social Security Board. Upon approval of the claim for reimbursement by the Board, payment will be made to the State agency by the United States Treasury. State agency expenditures for which Federal reimbursement is claimed will be subject to audit by the Bureau of Accounts and Audits of the Social Security Board."

(5) Evacuees who are out on leave from the relocation centers come within the scope of the Board's memorandum. The reference to travel in paragraph 1-b above refers to the travel of aliens;

travel of evacuees who are American citizens has not been specially restricted except with respect to the evacuated area on the West Coast.

(6) Relocation Supervisors should make contacts as soon as possible with the appropriate officials of the Social Security Board in their areas in order to advise with them as to the most expeditious manner of putting the program into effect for the evacuees. All Relocation Officers should become thoroughly acquainted with the appropriate State and local public assistance agencies in order to be able to advise evacuees as to the agency to which an application for assistance should be made. Relocation Officers should assist evacuees in making needed contacts with the public assistance agencies and upon request should advise with the agencies about the handling and disposition of individual cases.

(7) Every evacuee before leaving a project on seasonal or indefinite leave will be furnished with the following notice:

"Assistance and Other Welfare Services. The WRA will not be responsible for medical or other assistance to evacuees outside of relocation centers. If you become financially unable to meet your needs, you may make application for assistance at the local public welfare agency in the community in which you are working. If there is more than one local welfare agency in the community, the Relocation Officer will advise you as to which agency will take your application. Arrangements have been made by the Social Security Board with public welfare agencies to provide such emergency assistance to evacuees who may be financially unable to provide for their own needs."

(8) I have no doubt that many problems will arise in connection with this public assistance program for evacuees which have not been answered here. When problems arise see if you can straighten them out with the local and State agencies and the officials of the Social Security Board in the field. When you need our advice here write in or wire.

(9) Attached you will find a copy of a letter from the Director of WRA to the Chairman of the Social Security Board concerning the service to evacuees under this program.

*Thom Holland*

Attachment

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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
Washington

March 24, 1943

Mr. Arthur J. Altmeyer  
Chairman, Social Security Board  
1825 H Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Altmeyer:

Members of the War Relocation Authority staff have conferred with officials of the Bureau of Public Assistance regarding the possibility of furnishing assistance, under the program for providing temporary assistance to enemy aliens and other persons affected by governmental action, to former residents of relocation centers who have been relocated in a community and who need assistance.

Under existing regulations governing the relocation of evacuees, the Authority does not anticipate a great volume of cases which will need either assistance or service from some outside source. However, emergencies do arise and adjustment in a new community may fail unless emergency situations can be met. The budget of the Authority does not include funds for such assistance, nor will such funds be included in next year's budget.

At a conference held March 17, 1943, between members of my staff and officials of the Bureau of Public Assistance, the following plan was developed for providing public assistance:

- (a) The Authority will inform each evacuee leaving the center for outside employment that, should he need assistance or service in an emergency, it is available through the local public welfare agency.
- (b) Referrals to the public welfare agency may be made either by direct application of an evacuee, by a member of the War Relocation Authority staff, or through any other source.
- (c) Assistance or service will be given in accordance with state standards and with the agreement between the Social Security Board and the state agency.
- (d) After financial assistance has been furnished for a period of three months, the situation will be reviewed jointly by the Public Assistance representative of the Social Security Board and the Relocation Officer of the Authority. In those situations in which it is jointly agreed that a person is not able to adjust in the community, he may be returned to the relocation center.

This is in further clarification of the proposal contained in my letter of January 8 to Miss Jane Hocy, based upon earlier proposals presented by Miss Hocy as of November 28, 1942.

Very truly yours,

*D. S. Meyer*  
Director

Memorandum

April 12, 1943

To: Donald Sabin  
Robert Frase ✓  
Paul Robertson ✓

From: Thomas W. Holland, Chief, Employment Division

Subject: First draft of an idea which would change the direction of our leave work considerably.

1. The Joint Board is going to recommend to WRA the unconditional release of a considerable number of men and women evacuee citizens. I do not see how any individual in this country can carry with him a better endorsement than this recommendation. Our present plans for handling evacuees who have secured indefinite leave are based on the leave procedure which has contemplated indefinite leave through our own WRA procedure and nothing more. It is evident that we now have something of considerable greater strength to rely on. Should we not, therefore, ask ourselves if other features of the leave process should not be altered or adjusted in the light of the new type of clearance? If these people are cleared by the Joint Board, with all the prestige that goes with it, what is the need now for acquiring a change of address notification from them when they leave the projects? If these people who are recommended by the Joint Board are without taint of disloyalty and present no danger to the welfare of the country, should they not go where they want to go without prior approval from us? Once this recommendation is made and we have released the person from the project why can't he go directly to any spot he wants to? At the present time he can't go westward into the restricted area but if the Director's Plan "C" is put into operation these people should certainly be allowed to go in this direction as well as any other.

A special class of this group recommended by the Joint Board will have a special kind of eligibility. This eligibility is for work in vital war plants. The people in this special class represent those who the P.M.G. regards as particularly safe.

After the Joint Board gets up momentum and we are able to appraise the caliber of the work done, should it prove to be satisfactory, we will probably wish to submit the applications of the aliens to the Board. I hope that this can be done because unless we can do it there will be two basic procedures - one coming out

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of the Board and one for the aliens coming out of WRA. If the aliens should be cleared by the Board I wonder why we would ask them to report into us change of address? Also, they should be allowed to go where they want to once they have been cleared by the Board and without prior checking by us of the community sentiment or the job that they are going out on.

The above gives us the people who have been determined to be safe. There is another class which I refer to in paragraph 2.

2. Where the Joint Board does not recommend the evacuees for unconditional release such as the cases of repatriates, expatriates, bad intelligence record, no answer to question 28, and for other reasons, I think that WRA should establish immediately adequate procedure to investigate and to hear these cases at the projects and in Washington. I will not go into the details of any such procedure because we can develop that later. After this investigation hearing has taken place and a decision has been made the evacuee would either be denied the right to leave the project, he might be given his indefinite leave by WRA, or we might even re-submit the case to the Joint Board for a reconsideration. I do not know what the final outcome of such a procedure as recommended would be or how it would work but I do know that any such process is bound to take a considerable amount of time.

In the meantime, while WRA is considering a case is it not possible for us to allow these people to go outside the project for useful work? I would suggest if we decide to do this that we limit the privilege quite closely. The leave would be on a seasonal basis, the area to which the person could go would be a small area and definitely a limited one as far as his travel is concerned. Certain areas not too far from the project could be designated for this purpose. It might well be that the only type of work the person could go out on under these circumstances would be farm work. The individual would be asked to report each week to the relocation officer in the area. We might even ask the employer to notify the relocation officer if the individual changed his employment. We might also advise the FBI as to the location of the people let out under these limitations.

3. What I am suggesting that we think about in the above paragraphs is that the time may have arrived for WRA, the intelligence agencies of the government, and the whole country to treat the cleared evacuees just like any other people in the country. It seems to me to be something of a waste of our energy to be worrying about location and the activities of people who have been adjudged to be loyal Americans. Our task is so tremendous in scope with a small staff of relocation officers that anything designed to remove an unnecessary duty or burden will enable us to

concentrate our efforts in the direction where they are really needed. If the relocation officers didn't have to check on community sentiment or on the jobs before the evacuees took them they would have much more time to spend on assistance to evacuees who really need it and taking care of flare-ups in communities after they have occurred. Some of my experience lately has led me to believe that we are probably delaying relocation by our over-caution on community sentiment and job checking.

Under our seasonal procedures we are now trying vainly and fruitlessly to control the movement of evacuees who go out on this type of leave. I don't think that we will ever succeed in controlling this. However, if we were to allow out the people mentioned under paragraph 2 above our relocation officers could really do an adequate supervisory job.

*JWA*

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Dillon S. Myer, Director

4/6/43

Thomas W. Holland, Chief, Employment Division

(1) I think that it would be better if WRA kept full control over the processing of the leave applications. (a) This work is basically our responsibility and I have a reluctance about being responsible for doing a job where the other fellow controls the quality and quantity of the output. (b) The WRA leave section is now set up for quantity production. (However, we still lack some effective means of taking final action on denial cases.) (c) WRA staff has developed out of a year's experience competence in handling the leave problems.

For these reasons, I have not been in favor of turning the job over to anyone else, especially to the intelligence agencies, (although I concede that favorable decision on a leave application would carry considerably more weight than we could ever muster.)

(2) In the discussions of the past few days I have urged that the action of the Joint Board be limited to advice on specific applications of evacuees: (a) to take jobs in vital war production, (b) to take jobs in Eastern Defense Command, and (c) assistance, if WRA asked for it, in making a decision on some of the harder cases.

(3) The Director has decided that all the applications of men and women citizens will be processed through the Joint Board-Provost Marshal procedure. That settles the matter and I no longer urge (2) above. But apparently there is misunderstanding on the part of the military as to the extent to which WRA wishes them to go in the processing. They are proceeding on the assumption that they are to process all the applications with the objective of (a) advising WRA on the release of the applicant from the center, (b) deciding on the eligibility of the applicant for employment in vital war industry.

In recent discussions with the military it is apparent that they think WRA has asked them to do this job.

(4) I think that the die is cast, be it for better or worse. (a) The military have gone ahead with the setting up of machinery to process all the applications. It will be

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wasteful of manpower for both WRA and the Provost Marshal General to go ahead on the processing of the same applications. (b) It looks to me as if the military authorities want to do the job they are undertaking despite protestations to the contrary. Certainly a good deal of store has been put on the Board and its functions by those in the office of the Assistant Secretary of War. If the good will of the Assistant Secretary's office and the other military authorities is of importance to WRA, and I believe that it is, the letter to Mr. McCloy will not serve this end. This letter changes the understanding that the military has of its function and asks them to do a job that they will probably question the desirability of their doing. It is my guess that a change at this stage of the game will make the military authorities go very sour on the WRA.

(5) I suggest that we accept the present situation and concentrate our effort on the method of handling by the Board of the cases not recommended for release. I welcome the favorable action of the Board on an applicant as this gives the applicant a standing that we are not able to impart. The danger is with the rejects. We do not want the military authorities to put the mark of disloyalty on an evacuee. There is a danger that a large number of evacuees may be thought to be disloyal judged by criteria of the PMG or by the military judgment where a civilian or a judicial judgment would result in a contrary opinion. I think that the Board could be requested at this point, without asking for a complete revision of the procedure it is going ahead on, to make positive recommendations only when the evidence is strong and sufficient enough to support an unconditional release or, if especially strong, to establish eligibility for war plant employment. Should the evidence be inadequate or adverse the PMG and the Board should be asked to refrain from recommending to WRA any course of action. The effect of such an approach would be that WRA would not have passed along to it a collection of reject cases with the adverse stamp of the Board on them but simply a collection of cases which the Board could not approve on the basis of the evidence available. It would not be expected that WRA would go ahead and issue leave clearance to these applicants without further action but, on the other hand, these negative referrals from the Board would not be forever stamped as disloyal by the PMG and the Board.

(6) The suggestion above presupposes that WRA will be geared into the process to take final action on the applicants who are not recommended for unconditional release. As a matter of fact, WRA will sooner or later have to establish some mechanism for passing on the prima facie reject cases. Cannot the "no" answers, the adverse FBI report cases already on hand, the bad customers now at Moab, and the non recommended cases that might come from the Board all be handled the same way?

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I suggest that WRA set up at once a strong civilian board composed of people from outside WRA. This Board would decide whether or not the prima facie reject cases would be let out or kept in. This Board might be appointed by the Director of WRA, the Attorney General, or the President. Concurrence of the War Department in the appointment of this Board should be secured, and I believe that it could be. (It is becoming apparent to the Joint Board that WRA still has a responsibility and a difficult task on its hands in the event that Board reports adversely on an applicant.)

WRA would provide the suggested Board with the service and personnel necessary to get through with the job by September first. An examiner, or more than one, could be appointed for each project. The examiner would cause necessary investigations to be made and he would take statements from applicants and hold hearings. The examiner's report would be transmitted to the Board which could dispose of the case on the basis of the report. The Board might choose to hold hearings itself in those cases where the examiner's recommendation was adverse.

cc: Philip M. Glick

TWHolland/mbg

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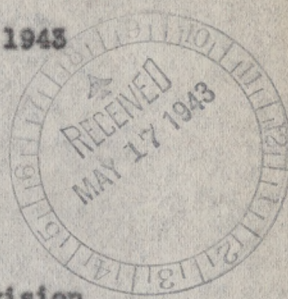
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# WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

WASHINGTON  
Memorandum

May 13, 1943



To: Harold S. Choate  
Edward H. Loker  
H. Rex Lee  
Elmer L. Shirrell  
Harold S. Pistere

From: Robert W. Frase, Assistant Chief, Employment Division

Subject: Distribution scheme for Administrative Instructions,  
Solicitor's Opinions, Weekly Press Report, Digest  
of Information

I have asked our Office Manager to send a complete set of Administrative Instructions to the Relocation Officers in your territory listed below. I have also asked that these men receive the new Administrative Instructions, Solicitor's Opinions, Weekly Press Report, Digest of Information, and any miscellaneous material which is distributed from time to time.

As we are notified of the office address of other Relocation Officers we will have their names placed on this mailing list.

Since this material is going to some of your Relocation Officers direct, we have reduced your supply of the above items to eight copies.

cc: Elmer B. Isaksen  
E. E. Ketchpaw  
Edmund T. Cleary  
Victor P. Tabaka  
John H. Putz  
Clement L. White  
Perry B. Hall



June 14, 1943

Mr. Harold S. Choate  
Relocation Supervisor  
War Relocation Authority  
Midland Savings Building  
Denver 2, Colorado

*Leave clear*

Dear Mr. Choate:

I was glad to get the copy of your Information Bulletin No. 13 and I suggest that you send copies of this Bulletin to the other Relocation Supervisors. On the whole, I think that you have presented the subject-matter of various problems we discussed in a clear and correct fashion.

In paragraph 1 under "Public Relations" I note that you suggest that your field men see to it that law officers and others do not discriminate against evacuees. In suggestions of this sort be sure that you don't build up in the minds of your relocation officers an exaggerated protective or pampering attitude toward the evacuees. I think that many of the appointed personnel in WRA have a tendency to take on the evacuees as their clients, so to speak, and I believe that we do more harm in our public relations by an exaggerated protective attitude than we would by a more low-pressure reaction to the problem. I am not suggesting, of course, that we do not be very alert to any discrimination that may crop up against them nor am I suggesting that we should be remiss in our efforts to correct discrimination.

In section 4 you say that Washington is considering cutting down or eliminating many of the privileges that make center life pleasant. What we are doing at the present time is to study the whole project employment situation with the idea of making fewer jobs. I do not know whether life in the centers, as a result, will be more or less pleasant but we are all convinced that strong steps must be taken to make employment on the project more like holding a job outside. We are eliminating the unemployment compensation benefits except for those who are ill and I would anticipate that if the number of jobs at the project have been cut down quite drastically there will be some stimulation to people to go outside because they won't be able to find an easy job on the inside, and perhaps no job at all will be available for many of them on the inside.

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With regard to section 5, there was quite a bit of discussion at the Project Directors' meeting on what to do about evacuees who come back from indefinite leave. At Minidoka they apparently have a system of allowing them to come back into the project but only on a visiting basis, pending the determination of whether or not they will be reinducted. I think this is a good idea and should be adopted by all the projects. Moreover, they shouldn't be reinducted until the relocation officer has recommended that this be done. Within the next few days I hope to get out some statement on this from the Director to the projects.

In section 6 you did not mention the aliens. They, of course, are subject to the same restrictions on travel that all enemy aliens are subject to. You should be sure that your staff understands the travel requirements for alien evacuees who may be out on leave.

I do not like section 7 very well. Just at the present time committees are being set up at each of the projects in accordance with the Administrative Instruction and those who said "no" to the loyalty question will be given a chance to explain their reasons for saying "no" and to request that a change be made to the affirmative. If, after careful consideration of these requests for change of answer, the WRA officials feel that the requests are made in good faith they will be allowed. We have not as yet processed the requests for change in answer and I do not think that it is wise for us to say at this stage in the game that many answered "no" to the loyalty question on the registration form even though they really are loyal to the United States. It is perfectly possible that we may, in the end, accept none of their requests for change of answer although, in all probability, there will be some of the changes that will be accepted but I don't think that you should have made the following statement at the present time: "A considerable proportion of those who said 'No' do have acceptable reasons and will again be given the privilege of taking outside employment." You are deciding a matter to be decided in a statement such as this.

As I said, the Bulletin is a good one and, with the exception of the points I have made above, I think that you are substantially on the beam.

Sincerely yours,

*Thomas W. Holland*

Thomas W. Holland  
Chief, Employment Division

TWHolland/mbg

P. S. I forgot to mention that your reference throughout to evacuees as "Japanese" is not especially appropriate. They are, citizens anyhow, Americans of Japanese ancestry. TH

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Manzanar, California  
June 22, 1943

PDO

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Thomas W. Holland  
Employment Division  
War Relocation Authority  
Barr Building  
17th and Eye Streets  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Tom:

It was very thoughtful of you to send me a copy of the memoranda written by you on April 30th and after the close of the Project Director's Conference.

There are two separate subjects which are discussed in these two documents; one subject is what is the policy of the WRA, and the other subject is what is the most desirable type of administrative procedure to make these policies effective? Far be it from me to put myself up as one who can advise on either of these important matters, but, if you will permit, I would like to have the opportunity of expressing my own views. I may be mistaken, but quite frankly, I gather the impression that the waves of pressure from all parts of the country and the political ~~promulgations~~ <sup>FULMINATIONS</sup> on Capitol Hill, added to the burdens of the daily grind in the most damnable climate known on this continent, wear people down to where it is hard to distinguish a few important trees from the rest of the forest. As I struggle with the chart so ably created by an administrative genius, I am also impressed with the thought that in Washington there seems to be a desire for standardization, formulization, and regimentation that entirely overlooks the fact that there is a relatively small field staff at Projects and in Relocation Offices who are dealing not with natural resources or material objects, but with men, women, and children.

You are quite right when you said that it appears that the WRA has not faced its problems head on. It has so impressed me and many others. We tend to temporize and become involved in the maze of cost accounting, warehousing, administrative instructions, and other pieces of machinery without a first regard to the human values that must be rescued for American society if our job is to be successful.

Our outstanding problem is that we are trustees for approximately 60,000 citizens whose legal rights to a free exercise to their

Mr. Thomas W. Holland

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June 22, 1943

citizenship can not be restrained or impaired except as to prohibition against entry into prohibited military zones. Save only for the fact that a certain number of them answered "No" to the so-called "loyalty question" - No. 28 - to what extent there is legal authority to restrain or restrict citizens who did answer "No" to question 28, has never been decided. Administrative Instruction No. 22, Supplement 12 approaches this question obliquely, but not directly. The whole purpose which I had in mind when I went to Washington was the hope of getting an answer on that point.

The handling of repatriates and expatriates, and those against whom there is some record with the FBI, is entirely separate and apart from the question of the rights of citizens who have either answered "Yes" to question 28 or have answered "No" to that question, and have requested that the "No" answer should be cancelled. The two groups should not be put together - one is a group who are known to be disloyal by some act or association or who have declared that they look toward Japan as their mother country or as their ultimate destination. The other is a group of citizens who were asked a question, which, in my opinion, would not stand up in any law court as a fair question unless the citizen had previously declared an acceptance of the dual citizenship idea.

This is no time to enter into a discussion of dual citizenship, but, of course, we must not be misled into the belief that it is an exclusively Japanese institution. There are more dual citizens for Hungary in the United States than there are from Japan, and the Italian law makes the issue of every Italian national still a citizen of Italy regardless where he may be born.

My point is to emphasize the fact that the WRA must, as I view it, squarely face the question of what is legally proper to do in the handling of citizenship rights of those citizens of Japanese ancestry who decide to withdraw previous "No" answers to question 28 and to establish a positive file of American loyalty. It is my understanding that Administrative Instruction 22, Supplement 12, is created to permit such persons to establish at the project level such a record.

There is no mention in Administrative Instruction 22, Supplement 12, of what position the Washington Office plans to take when it receives from the project files, which disclose in the view of the Project Staff, an unimpaired citizenship position. Those who want to confuse the issue continue to talk about loyalty. We must not fall into the trap of talking loyalty - the first response made from Manzanar to the instructions which came from Washington on February's registration was to protest that there was no definition of loyalty on the statute books. We see every day evidences of people in high places who

Mr. Thomas W. Holland

page 3

June 22, 1945

interfere with the war effort and who parade under the sanctity of the loyal banner. I believe the Attorney General should advise the WRA as to the facts involved in this basic and fundamental situation and we should follow the instructions of the Attorney General, hewing to the line, so that we do not permit the right of citizenship to those who have by word or deed impaired the right, nor, on the other hand, restrict the rights of citizens unless we have legal authority so to do.

Your first problem in Washington, as I see it, is to set-up by definite statement, concurred in by such authority as the Attorney General, a procedure which is justified by law in dealing with citizenship rights and impairments.

You were quite right, I believe, in dividing what has heretofore been known as Employment into various groups of administrative activities which should be handled by a Deputy Director and should include Leave, Relocation, Statistics, the Joint Board, and the correlated activities which touch on Repatriation, Parole, and Internment. Project employment, as such, is a matter that can be handled by someone in connection with Community Services. We are having a swell time with our employment program just now, and, I believe, it would do your heart much good to see how we are doing it. We had an outdoor meeting of the 50 foremen in our Public Works Division a few days ago in which I emphasized the imperative necessity of a full, 8-hour day work and for complete employment on the project of all employables. We are getting a full, 8-hour day work now for the first time. Tomorrow, we have a meeting with our Mess Organization. Foremen are voluntarily reporting a surplus of men wherever they occur, and we create new pools from which we can draw on for other essential work such as Agriculture. It is working swell.

After men do a full day's work, their minds begin to turn toward relocation in a more definite way than ever before. This is healthy, but then, we come against the problem of what I have already discussed. In almost every family group, we have at least one person who said "No" on question 28 who now wants to change; therefore, if relocation is to work, there must be some prompt, effective, and equitable method by which clearance can be given to those whose files are now in Washington and about which nothing can be done until they have been received and hearings held. If, after these hearings, there is another long delay before clearance can be given, relocation will die on the vine and we better save our money and effort.

There is only one other point I want to mention and that is the reference you made to yourself when you spoke of the need for

Mr. Thomas W. Holland  
page 4  
June 22, 1943

lightening the load - may I tell you how much I came to admire your fine spirit in the short time in which I had the privilege of seeing you in Washington. You have qualities that are really exceptional and of unusual value, not only in your foresight and ability to handle the complicated and most difficult problems that have been given you, but also in admitting mistakes when they have been made, and it is impossible to get along without making them. Some parts of the registration were most unfortunate and unhappy mistakes, but, the recognition of these errors and the willingness to develop methods by which the liabilities can be turned into assets, are real qualities of leadership. You can not drop out of this picture or withdraw from the responsibility of carrying through this whole part of the program which has grown up under your hand, and which you understand in all of its ramifications better than anyone else.

Thanks for letting me in on your thinking, and, from time to time, I hope, you will keep me in touch with what is developing. At this moment I am so deeply discouraged by the inability to organize an operating chart that will permit any kind of successful administration from July 1st, that I hesitate to make any statements to either the staff or to the evacuees. I have boys who were promised four months ago they would be immediately inducted into the Army; I have a chart that does not even give us escorts after July 1st to continue relocation; and I have no authority to employ a secretarial force to handle hearings or to write the necessary reports and letters after the first of July; I have no Internal Security permitted to me that will safe-guard government property. The only suggestion I can make is that if they will let me have a couple of more cost accountants, it may be possible to keep track of the losses that will occur in time and materials, but not in human values. It's not a very pretty picture unless we have some relief on our end.

With all best wishes, and most cordial regards,

Sincerely,

Ralph P. Merritt  
Project Director

RPM/bd

[June 28, 1943]

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM

*Background*

To: Relocation Supervisors

From: Robert W. Frase  
Assistant Chief  
Employment Division

Subject: Evacuee Housing

As announced at our recent meeting in Washington, discussions have been held with the National Housing Agency, looking toward their assistance in the problem of housing evacuees in your communities.

Attached is a copy of the National Housing Agency Memorandum which establishes the basis for their assistance and provides for handling individual housing problems for the citizen group.

It is recommended that further steps be taken immediately to confirm and extend working arrangements with the regional representatives of the National Housing Authority, looking toward the analysis and solution of evacuee housing needs throughout your territory. The National Housing Agency will provide you with information on communities where adequate housing is already available so that relocation activities can be increased in these areas.

Robert W. Frase

NHA MEMORANDUM 30-29

Operating Manual  
NATIONAL HOUSING AGENCY  
Office of the Administrator

Approved

Effective

/s/ John B. Blandford Jr.

Administrator

ORIGINAL FILED IN OFFICE OF DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATIVE RELATIONS DIVISION

HOMES USE - Cooperation with War Relocation Authority in providing shelter for evacuees of Japanese ancestry

(Applies to Regional Representatives and all persons concerned with Homes Use)

### SECTION 1 Purpose

.01 The purpose of this regulation is to establish a means for cooperation between the Regional Representatives of the Office of the Administration and the Relocation Supervisor of the War Relocation Authority in endeavoring to provide shelter for citizen evacuees of Japanese ancestry.

.02 Last spring and summer, persons of Japanese ancestry were evacuated from California, the western half of Washington and Oregon and the southern third of Arizona by order of the Commanding General of the Western Defense Command. Most of these persons have been living in relocation centers under supervision of the War Relocation Authority. Permission to leave this center may be granted if there is evidence that the evacuee would not be dangerous to society or the national security, has a place to go and a means of supporting himself, and would not cause a disturbance by his presence in the community. Some persons to be relocated will enter war industry and thus will form part of the in-migration to critical housing areas.

.03 The War Relocation Authority has asked for the assistance of this Agency in providing shelter for relocated persons.

### SECTION 2 General Policy

.01 Consistent with the Federal policy to relocate evacuees, and in accordance with the responsibility of the National Housing Agency for providing war housing, the assistance of the National Housing Agency will be accorded to citizen evacuees wherever possible. In distributing such housing as is available, preference will be given to war workers among this group.

### SECTION 3 Cooperation between the Regional Representative and Relocation Supervisor of the War Relocation Authority

.01 Arrangements have been made with the War Relocation Authority so that before any substantial numbers of evacuees are brought into a locality, and before further in-migration of this character occurs in a locality to which evacuees have already come, there will be a consultation between the Regional Representative and the Relocation Supervisor of the War Relocation Authority. The Relocation Supervisor of the War Relocation Authority is to be responsible for initiating this consultation. The Relocation Supervi-

sor will be prepared to provide information concerning the number of individuals and families to be brought into the locality; the projected date of in-migration; the industries recruiting the labor; and, the estimate of the number of in-migrants who come as individuals but will wish to bring in their families at a later date.

.02 The Regional Representative may be able to assist the War Relocation Authority in determining the acceptability of the evacuees for housing in the locality. He will be able to indicate what housing will be available for this group. He should be prepared to suggest the names of localities where the housing shortage is least serious and where the opportunities for housing evacuees is most promising.

.03 The Regional Representative and the Relocation Supervisor of the War Relocation Authority shall arrange to place in direct contact the Manager of the War Housing Center in those localities where a Center has been established and the local representative of the War Relocation Authority in order that the needs of the evacuees may be served on a case basis.

.04 In those localities where no War Housing Center has been established, the Regional Representative may be able to suggest local agencies which might be of assistance in housing evacuees, and to place the War Relocation Authority in contact with such agencies.

#### SECTION 4 Statement of War Relocation Authority

.01 Attached hereto is a statement prepared for the National Housing Agency by the War Relocation Authority setting forth the basic policies of the agency and presenting data with respect to the scope of the problem. There is also attached a directive to the Relocation Supervisors of the War Relocation Authority with respect to cooperation with Regional Representatives, and a list of the names of the Relocation Supervisors, addresses, and the areas over which they have jurisdiction.

# WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

WASHINGTON

June 28, 1943

## HOUSING OF PERSONS FROM WAR RELOCATION CENTERS

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### A - THE PEOPLE

The people now living in relocation centers were residents of strategic military areas on the West Coast, which were evacuated last spring and summer, by order of the Commanding General of the Western Defense Command. The evacuated area includes the entire state of California, the western half of Washington and Oregon, and the southern third of Arizona.

Of the 127,000 persons of Japanese ancestry in the United States, nearly 110,000 have lived or are living in ten relocation centers under supervision of the War Relocation Authority. Roughly two-thirds are American citizens almost all of whom are under 40 years of age, and the remainder are aliens, most of whom have been in the United States since 1924, when the Exclusion Act went into effect. The population includes about 19,000 citizen men between the ages of 18 and 37.

The average age of the citizen is about twenty years; of the aliens fifty-seven years. The citizen group has grown up in this country and has been educated in American schools. The general educational level among the citizens is as high as that of any group in the country. More than 40,000 of these people were gainfully employed in 1940. Table I attached gives occupational distribution of gainfully employed persons of Japanese ancestry in California, Washington, and Oregon at the time of the 1940 census.

The average size of the Japanese families now residing in the relocation centers is approximately 3.8 which compares with 3.15 the family of median size in the United States as reported by the census of 1940.

The age composition of this population is not similar to that of the nation as a whole. Over 95% of the persons of Japanese ancestry who are citizens are under 35 years of age and over 95% of the persons of Japanese ancestry who are aliens are 35 years of age and older. Of the center population 61% are under 30, 9% from 30-40, 22% from 40-60 and 8% over 60.

## B - RELOCATION CENTERS

A list of these relocation areas and the number of evacuees in each is attached to this statement. On each relocation area, which usually consists of several thousand acres of public land, emergency housing of a type similar to temporary army barracks has been provided.

Under the supervision of the Army Engineer Corps, barrack type buildings were put up to accommodate the evacuees. These are of frame construction, usually covered with tarpaper, and lined with wallboard. Each building is 100 feet long by 20 feet wide, and is divided into four, five or six compartments; housing assignments are figured on the basis of about 100 square feet of floor space per person.

Twelve barrack buildings are usually grouped into a "block", and each block has a bath house and latrine, a mess hall, a recreation hall, and a laundry room. The blocks are separated by "fire breaks" of 200 feet.

Standard equipment for living includes a cot, mattress, and blankets for each person and a heating stove for each compartment. Each family is permitted to use its own furniture if it so desires, but most families did not receive their furniture from storage for some time and so contrived homemade furniture out of scrap lumber.

These communities within relocation areas are known as relocation centers. Under the Administration of a small staff of the War Relocation Authority at each relocation center, the evacuated people carry on production and services necessary to the operation of these communities such as the growing, preparation and serving of food; operation of community services such as police and fire protection, hospitals, and education; the maintenance and servicing of housing accommodations; and the manufacture of some commodities for use in the relocation centers. Wages paid for evacuees employed on the project are at the rate of twelve, sixteen or nineteen dollars a month, in addition to housing, subsistence, medical care, and an allowance for clothing. These relocation centers were established when it became apparent that the voluntary and uncontrolled migration of these people from the Pacific Coast Area within a very short period of time would not be workable and would cause misunderstanding and alarm in the local communities to which they migrated.

## C - EMPLOYMENT OFF THE RELOCATION CENTERS

The War Relocation Authority has encouraged the re-employment of these evacuated people off the relocation centers.

The following is a statement as of June 15, 1943, of the distribution of persons on "Indefinite Leave" from the relocation centers by areas served by the principal relocation offices of the War Relocation Authority:

Salt Lake City Office	-	1909
Denver Office	-----	1623
Kansas City Office	----	419
Chicago Office	-----	2163
Cleveland Office	-----	711
Little Rock Office	----	153
New York Office	-----	204

In accordance with the directives in the Presidential Executive Order which created the agency, the War Relocation Authority has developed procedures which are aimed at bringing about the relocation into normal communities of the largest possible number of the evacuated people consistent with the national security.

Any resident of a relocation center may apply for permission to leave the center. Permission is granted only if the following conditions are met :

- a. There is nothing in the record of the person to indicate that he would be dangerous to society or to the national security.
- 9 b. He has a place to go and means of supporting himself.
- c. There is evidence that his presence in the community to which he proposes to go would not cause a disturbance.
- d. The evacuee agrees to keep the War Relocation Authority informed of his address at all time.

The War Relocation Authority has basic records on every evacuee 17 years of age and over who is eligible for consideration for leave. These records provide information on the evacuee's education, affiliation, foreign travel, employment, religion, and other pertinent facts, in addition to his own statement on the matter of allegiance to the United States. These records are carefully checked when the evacuee applies for a permit to leave. If there is any question about the desirability of granting the permit, the records, if any, of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and other intelligence agencies are secured before a determination is made.

The leave procedures of the War Relocation Authority were checked with the Department of Justice and with the War Department before they were instituted.

It is the policy of the agency to consider each individual case carefully, and if there is reason to believe an evacuee would endanger national safety if release, no leave is granted.

#### Dn- HOUSING OFF THE CENTERS

Until the present time the greatest need has been for rooms for single individuals since they were the largest group leaving the centers. There is now an increasing need for family housing as the parents, wives and children begin to join young wage earners. The emphasis of the program will tend toward the relocation of more family units.

More housing of both a temporary and permanent character are needed. Private organizations, mainly religious groups, have provided a number of temporary home shelters in such communities as Chicago, Cleveland and Cincinnati. Permanent housing needs to be provided for these people within a short time after their arrival.

Transportation is paid for by evacuees taking employment with the assistance of the government when there are insufficient funds to take care of the full needs. In addition, all evacuees arrive in a community with sufficient funds of their own to provide maintenance for themselves and their families for at least the first few weeks. Employment of evacuees is not a problem. They either have employment which has been arranged in advance or quickly secure employment on arrival. Difficulty in securing housing is the principal limiting factor in relocation and reemployment.

TABLE I

Employed Workers of Japanese Ancestry 14 years  
Old and Over, By Major Occupation Group, In-  
dustry Group, and Sex, for California, Oregon  
and Washington; 1940

Major Occupation Group	Total	Male	Female
Employed (except on public emer- gency work)	48,691	35,940	12,751
Professional workers . . . . .	1,157	756	401
Semiprofessional workers . . . . .	230	187	43
Farmers and farm managers . . . . .	7,001	6,594	407
Proprietors, managers, and officials, except farm. . . . .	5,491	4,668	823
Clerical, sales, and kindred workers .	924	844	80
Operative and kindred workers. . . . .	3,517	2,280	1,237
Domestic service workers . . . . .	3,541	1,257	2,284
Service workers, except domestic . . .	3,393	1,954	1,439
Farm laborers (wage workers) and farm foremen . . . . .	8,307	7,361	946
Farm laborers, unpaid family workers .	4,832	2,117	2,715
Laborers, except farm. . . . .	4,383	4,235	148
Occupation not reported. . . . .	403	258	145

#### Relocation Centers of the War Relocation Authority

Center	Mail Address	Approximate number of Eva- cuees inc. Women and Children
Colorado River	Poston, Arizona	18,000
Manzanar	Manzanar, California	10,000
Gila River	Rivers, Arizona	13,000
Tule Lake	Newell, California	15,000
Central Utah	Topaz, Utah	8,000
Minidoka	Hunt, Idaho	9,000
Heart Mountain	Heart Mountain, Wyoming	10,000
Granada	Amache, Colorado	7,000
Rohwer	McGehee, Arkansas	9,000
Jerome	Denson Branch Dermott, Arkansas	9,000

RELOCATION SUPERVISORS  
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

<u>Office</u>	<u>Area Covered</u>
H. Rex Lee Relocation Supervisor 234 Atlas Building Salt Lake City, Utah	Idaho, Nevada, Utah, all of Washington, Oregon and Arizona outside of evacuated area, Montana west of and including Judith Basin, Valley, Garfield, Petroleum, Fergus, Park and Meagher Counties and the following five counties of Wyoming: Teton, Lincoln, Uinta, Sublette, and Sweetwater.
Harold S. Choate Relocation Supervisor Midland Savings Bldg. Denver, Colorado	Colorado, New Mexico, those areas of Wyoming and Montana not covered by the Salt Lake City office, North Dakota west of and including Bottineau, McHenry, McLean, Oliver, Morton, and Sioux Counties; South Dakota west of and including Corson, Dewey, Armstrong, Stanley, Lyman, and Gregory Counties; Nebraska including and west of Keyapaha, Rock, Loup, Custer, Buffalo, Kearney, and Franklin Counties; and Texas west of and including Winkler, Ward, Pecos, and Terrell Counties.
Vernon Kennedy Relocation Supervisor 1509 Fidelity Bldg. Kansas City, Missouri	Kansas, Missouri, those areas of South Dakota and Nebraska not covered by the Denver office, and all of Iowa except Scott County.
Elmer L. Shirrell Relocation Supervisor 226 West Jackson Blvd. Chicago, Illinois	Minnesota, Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, that area of North Dakota not covered by the Denver office, Michigan west of Lake Michigan and Scott County, Iowa.
Harold S. Fistere Relocation Supervisor 944 Union Commerce Bldg. Cleveland, Ohio	Ohio, West Virginia, Kentucky, Michigan east of Lake Michigan, New York Counties of Niagara, Orleans, Genesee, Erie, Wyoming, Chautauqua, and Cattaraugus, and Pennsylvania west of and including Warren, Forest, Jefferson, Indiana, Westmoreland, and Fayette Counties.
E. B. Whitaker Relocation Supervisor Pyramid Building Little Rock, Arkansas	Oklahoma, Arkansas, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Tennessee, Texas except El Paso, Hudspeth, Culberson, Jeff Davis, Presidio, Reeves, Brewster, Pecos, Terrell, Winkler, Ward, and Loving Counties.

Robert M. Cullum  
Relocation Supervisor  
Room 1410  
50 Broadway  
New York, New York

Georgia, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland,  
District of Columbia, Virginia, North  
Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, and  
those areas of New York and Pennsylvania  
not covered by the Cleveland Office.

Roger W. Clapp  
Relocation Supervisor  
1700 Federal Post Office Building  
Boston, Massachusetts

Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont,  
Massachusetts, Rhode Island,  
and Connecticut.

*Mrs. Lyman*

Thomas W. Holland, Chief, Employment Division

July 16, 1943

Dillon S. Myer, Director

I have given some thought to your recent report to me that it has grown difficult at the present time to handle job offers for evacuees coming from employers engaged in war plant production. While the Relocation Supervisors were here a few days ago this matter was discussed thoroughly and I was interested in securing their views on the matter during the time I spent at the conference.

As you know, the eligibility of an evacuee for employment in a plant important to the war effort is a question for the Provost Marshal General's office to decide. The practice has been adopted of submitting the files of evacuees who may be eligible for war plant work to the Western Defense Command for a record check and field investigation before a report is made on the evacuee to the Joint Board. This system means that considerable time must necessarily elapse before final action can be taken on the eligibility of an evacuee for employment in a plant important to the war effort. However, there is nothing that we can do to expedite this processing since the scope of an investigation of this kind is thoroughly a matter for the Provost Marshal General's Office to decide.

It now looks as if a substantial panel of pre-cleared evacuees would not be available until September or later. When this panel begins to take shape, placements in plants important to the war effort will be made from it. We can look forward, therefore, to a time when there will be at hand an approved list of people who will be eligible to take jobs in plants important to the war effort. Until this panel begins to develop I do not see much chance for extensive employment of evacuees in war plants. It may well be that the Relocation Officers will want to give more time to other types of enterprise not so greatly involved in war production and renew their efforts on placements in war plants at such time as the list of pre-cleared evacuees eligible for jobs in plants important to the war effort becomes available.

The fact that it is rather slow going at the moment does not mean that it is impossible to handle any application whatever for employment in plants important to the war effort at the present time. The procedure to be followed on an individual case where the evacuee has not yet been pre-cleared requires that the application of the evacuee be forwarded to the Provost Marshal General's office for processing. Inasmuch as a case of this sort, like all others where the possibility of war plant work is involved, will be sent to the West Coast for investigation it should be recognized by all interested parties that there is bound to be a period

of several weeks before a final answer can be given on the eligibility of the evacuee for this type of work. Despite the delay, I suggest that you send along applications of this sort that come into your office because an evacuee interested in a job in a plant important to the war effort must necessarily have the special clearance.

The Relocation Officers will frequently be faced with the question as to whether the plant in which the job is offered is a plant important to the war effort or not. We have been unable to secure any very clear definition of the plant important to the war effort field of enterprise from the authorities here. The question has been asked by the Relocation Officers as to what should they do when they are in doubt on the classification of a plant as a plant which is important to the war effort. There are numerous job offers which are coming in from plants which do not appear to be plants important to the war effort but which possibly could be this type of plant. The evacuees available to fill such jobs are not as yet pre-cleared by the Joint Board for work in plants important to the war effort. In the absence of a definition of a plant important to the war effort this may present a difficult problem since there seems to be considerable difference of opinion among the experts as to just what a plant important to the war effort is. I suggest, in case of a doubtful situation of this sort, that the Relocation Officer secure a written statement from the prospective employer that this employer has checked with the appropriate security officers and that the plant is not classified by such officers as being in the plant important to the war effort category. If the plant is not one important to the war effort then the Relocation Officer can go ahead and assist evacuees to get jobs there without the necessity of their having been pre-cleared for work in plants important to the war effort in advance.

Please advise the relocation staff of the present situation with regard to the employment of the evacuees in plants important to the war effort and ask them to follow the procedure that I have outlined above.

*R. S. Myer*  
Director

COPY

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Washington

*Empl*

July 27, 1943

*Re: Aug 7*

Mr. Vernon Kennedy  
Relocation Supervisor  
1509 Fidelity Building  
Kansas City, Missouri

Dear Mr. Kennedy:

The Building Materials Division, Clay Products Section, of the War Production Board has been in communication the last few months with individual employers and with members of their War Council in regard to their considering employment of persons of Japanese descent.

There has been a manpower shortage in this field for some time. Their Washington office sent out a statement covering our program to members of their War Council, ten regional representatives of the Structural Clay Products Institute and individual employers. Attached is a copy of this circular and the persons who are in your area.

This is for your information and whatever action you deem advisable.

Sincerely yours,

s/ Frase

Robert W. Frase  
Assistant Chief  
Employment Division

Enclosures

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## JAPANESE LABOR

Located in ten war-time communities and supervised by the Government through the War Relocation Authority, are approximately 80,000 people, seventy per cent of whom are citizens of the United States. All of them are of Japanese descent, and were evacuated from strategic military areas in the spring and summer of 1942.

To the clay products manufacturer suffering from lack of manpower, these people offer a potential labor market; however, even before he approaches the Regional Director as to the availability of this type of labor, he should be fully cognizant of the following:

1. These people are free to travel anywhere within the United States once they have left the environs of their camp. This is true, with the exception that they are not permitted to return to the West Coast.
2. As they are citizens of the United States, they are free to choose their own type of work and to negotiate contracts covering wages for their services.
3. Arrangements can be made with the Regional or District Directors to have an agent sent to the plant, so that all available information can be gathered. Or, if preferred, applicant may apply for permission to visit these communities and make personal contact with these people.
4. It is advisable that present employees, the community and the unions, if there is one at the plant, be canvassed as to their sentiment in reference to the possible employment of these people and their living within the plant area. The War Relocation Authority will, under all circumstances, make survey; however, in order to facilitate matters, it may be advisable to do this research yourself and give your findings to the agent who will be sent to your plant.
5. Proper housing facilities, when available, should be particularly stressed, as both the War Relocation Board and these people will be interested in this information.
6. Permanence of job information is important.

An offer of employment should be prepared and presented to the nearest relocation office of the War Relocation Authority or, if none is convenient, application should be made to the local United States Employment Office. It is suggested that the following Form be used:

### INFORMATION TO BE GIVEN IN EACH OFFER

1. Employer's name and address

2. Type of work desired
- (a) Experience desired
  - (b) Skills, knowledge or ability required
  - (c) Sex, age, physical requirements
3. Working conditions
- (a) Hours and pay
  - (b) Permanency
  - (c) Union or non-union
4. Living Accommodations
- (a) Housing (if included, describe it)
  - (b) Board (if included, explain arrangements)
  - (c) Trading center (distance and transportation)
  - (d) Health and educational facilities
5. Other special features pertaining to offer

It is well to remember that these people are very much in demand. Farmers who used their services last year speak very highly of their ability and industry. The Army is using them for very necessary work in Army camps, and other industries are seeking their help. You will have to compete for this labor market under the same difficulties as any other.

#### KANSAS CITY AREA

Mr. M. H. Allen  
Structural Clay Products Institute  
120<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> Welch Avenue  
Ames, Iowa

Mr. R. L. Grogan  
United Brick & Tile Company  
Fidelity Bank Building  
Kansas City, Missouri

Mr. E. H. Moehlenkamp  
Alton Brick Company  
3832 W. Pine Boulevard  
St. Louis, Missouri

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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Washington

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August 28, 1943

Mr. Elmer L. Shirrell  
Relocation Supervisor  
226 West Jackson Blvd.  
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Mr. Shirrell:

This is with reference to your letter of August 23 about Civil Service Circular Letter No. 4056 concerning the employment of American citizens of Japanese ancestry for War Department appointments.

Employment of American citizens of Japanese ancestry by the War Department is excepted from the provision for investigation by the Civil Service Commission because the War Department conducts its own investigation. Therefore, if any branch of the War Department wishes to employ American citizens of Japanese ancestry who is otherwise eligible for Civil Service appointment, it is only necessary for the appropriate officer to request permission from the Provost Marshal to appoint the individual, in accordance with the War Department directive of May 3, 1943. In the last few weeks a number of these cases have come up before the Joint Board and approval has been given for the employment of certain American citizens of Japanese ancestry at Fort Custer, Michigan and in the War Department in Washington, D. C.

Action of the Provost Marshal General's office on these requests for the appointment of individuals in the War Department varies with the individual case; if the job is not of a confidential nature and the Joint Board has already recommended indefinite leave, approval may be given without a field investigation. A few weeks ago eight evacuees from Granada and Colorado River were approved for employment in the officer's mess at an Army post in Colorado without the investigation because of the nature of the job and the fact that the Joint Board had already recommended indefinite leave for these eight individuals. In other cases, where proposed employment might involve access to more confidential material, the Provost Marshal General's office will probably order a field investigation before action is taken.

All U. S. citizens in the relocation centers who registered during the general leave registration last February and March are being considered by the Joint Board. This applies to men as well as women, but not as many female cases have been processed as yet because married women have not been considered until after their husbands had been acted upon.

I do not believe there should be any great delay in the employment of evacuees by the War Department in the Chicago area if care is exercised to propose only those individuals who have already been recommended for indefinite leave by the Joint Board. Projects have lists of about 14,000 such individuals on Forms 258a at the present time. In cases of individuals who have war plant clearance and who have been assigned to you for placement in accordance with Mr. Holland's memorandum of August 3, 1943, approval could be secured by the appropriate War Department officer from the Provost Marshal General's office within a matter of two or three days or a week at the most.

Sincerely,

/s/ Frase

Robert W. Frase  
Acting Chief  
Employment Division

cc All Relocation Supervisors

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
WASHINGTON

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Elmer L. Shirrell

TO ALL RELOCATION SUPERVISORS

DATE: 8-30-43

Now that the educational program on relocation at Tule Lake is about completed and most of the evacuees who are going to move to relocation points without going to another center have already so indicated, it will no longer be necessary for you to give priority to job offers to that center and all other centers can again be considered on an equal basis without reference to priority in this regard.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Donald R. Sabin

Donald R. Sabin  
Assistant Chief  
Employment Division

