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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
1331 --- 3rd Ave.
Seattle, Washington

Jan. 15, 1945

TO: Mr. D. S. Myer, Director

ATTENTION: Mr. E. H. Spicer, Community Analyst Section

FROM: Elmer R. Smith, Community Analyst

SUBJECT: Summary of Public Relations Work Group at Conference on
Interracial Coordination, San Francisco, Calif. January
10, 1945.

The general conference was summarized for the War Relocation Authority and your office by Miss Katherine Luomala, as was also the Work Group on Employment. This report, therefore, will concentrate only upon the Public Relations Work Group.

The Chairman of the Public Relations Work Group was Mr. George Rundquist, and the Secretary was Miss Ann Madsen, a member of the Mayor's Committee on Civic Unity of Seattle, Washington.

Mr. Rundquist opened the meeting by stating that this particular group had the responsibility of working on recommendations for a particular organization that would "get things done" for interracial understanding and cooperation. "It is high time", he said, "that we pool our experiences and ideas for meeting practical and important problems basic to our democratic way of life." He further stated that, "We must limit our discussion as necessary to persons of Oriental ancestry. Many others are working on the Negro, but we must recognize that the problem is not one of Orientals alone." Mr. Rundquist stressed the fact that "the layman needs

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education for meeting Orientals. This is especially so if we are to expect the Oriental (especially persons of Japanese ancestry) to become integrated into the community life on a non-segregated basis. This educational need has been evident in the mid-west and east, and it is also an evident need on the West Coast." Rundquist further mentioned certain groups that might be used along the West Coast as has been done in the mid-west and east, namely; Community Chests, private and public agencies, churches, civic service clubs, newspapers, etc.

The foregoing statements tended to set the temper for the rest of the discussion, and the points brought out may be summarized as follows:

1). Civic Service Clubs are excellent ready made groups for the carrying on of an educational program. It was stated by one of the members that within the very near future the national Rotary Club will make a positive statement on the importance of "minorities" on a national and international scale. This announcement could be used -- and like ones presented by other groups -- as a basis for having local chapters sponsor discussions.

2). The problem of publicity of minority groups must be made on both a group and individual approach. The group approach does not have the human interest angle that a specific act or personality of a given individual has. This is especially true where newspapers are concerned.

3). Radio programs -- at least in the San Francisco Bay area -- have been useful. The problem of course is getting money and sponsors for it on any large scale.

4). More positive approaches should be made to the



advertising of minority groups and their experiences and contributions to American society and culture.

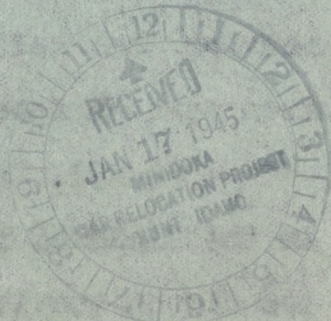
5). The use of labor unions should be more common than before. It seemed to be the general opinion that the various interracial groups had not cooperated as much as they might have done with the various labor union interracial committees in getting representatives on their committees and the giving of programs to both labor and non-labor groups.

6). There is a definite need for the various interracial committees to have more specific relations with the "minority" groups involved. An educational program, upon a cooperative basis, is needed just as much within the "minority" groups concerned as with the "majority" group. This would make for better understanding both ways.

7). Many persons from the smaller cities and rural areas voiced a great need for the distribution from some common point the press releases, radio programs, and items of general and specific interest for interracial relations to their groups.

8). A speakers program was discussed, in which specialists along various lines of race relations would be represented (labor, church, employer, teachers, economists, sociologists, anthropologists, laymen, etc.). This sort of thing, it was recognized, would require, possibly, a paid public relations man for the Pacific Coast area along with a volunteer committee from various interracial committees.

9). Finally, it was agreed that the progressive people in the field of interracial relations had been using the "hush-hush" techniques too long. It was now time for them to come out and make some definite stands and let those positions be definitely



known.

The Work Group on Public Relations made the following main recommendations to the general assembly:

- 1). There should be organized in each community a group for the purpose of checking individual cases of discrimination and carrying out an educational and public relations program.
- 2). The interracial committees in respective localities should develop working contacts with newspapers, radios, schools, and civic groups of all types. These committees should sponsor exhibits, speakers' bureaus, public forums, and organize small study groups.
- 3). There should be a national, and especially, a coastwide center for the distribution and organizing of information, speakers, programs, etc.
- 4). The committees in their respective communities should make studies of their respective localities. These studies would be carried on for the purpose of knowing what attitudes are concerning respective racial groups, and what one may expect of certain groups and persons in attempting to work out a constructive program of interracial relations.

Two representatives from "minority" groups were present and voiced their opinions. These opinions are definitely of considerable importance, especially as they had to deal with the return of persons of Japanese ancestry to the Pacific Coast.

Mr. Antonio A. Gonzales, a Filipino leader from

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Stockton, California was the first to speak. A summary of his statements follow:

"What influences the Japanese in America also influences the Filipino. We are both highly discriminated against, and a pattern set for one type of discrimination can be applied to others. We grant that outside of the Chinese our people have suffered most at the hands of the Japanese. However, we are not fighting nor hating the Japanese people -- we are fighting and hating a system. It should be recognized that we have profited in many respects by the movement of the Japanese, and many of my people are being manipulated by certain groups to fight the return of the Japanese. In the Imperial Valley, we have the problem of the Filipinos giving up their holdings taken over from the Japanese. What can be done in these cases? The Caucasians have enlisted the Filipinos to go on record against the return of the Japanese. I ask that you people here aid some of us in educating our people.") It should be noted that Mr. Gonzales stated he did not have the vote of his group to speak for them, but was speaking only as an individual).

Mr. Lee, a representative of the Pacific Coast young Chinese group, stated that "as a whole, the Chinese do not hold hatred toward the Japanese Americans; but we have profited most by their evacuation. In the 'Chinatown' area where many Japanese had bazars, the Chinese have taken over this business, and the Japanese would have a hard time reestablishing themselves. On the whole the young people are OK. They have already gone on record

as welcoming the return of their Japanese American friends. The older ones are not willing to voice their opinions, and when they do they are negative in various degrees. Our problem is to get an educational program to the older Chinese. We would like to call on this group for aid."

SIGNED:

Elmer R. Smith
Community Analyst



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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
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Seattle, Washington

Jan. 16, 1945

TO: Mr. D. S. Myer, Director
ATTENTION: Mr. E. H. Spicer, Community Analysis Section
FROM: Elmer R. Smith, Community Analyst
SUBJECT: Some Reactions of Evacuees Returned to the Coast.

During my stay in San Francisco, I was able to contact three evacuees who had returned to the Coast. The main points made by them were:

1). It is doubtful if farmers will be able to get laborers for their farms. This is due to two reasons: (a) general lack of available labor, (b) prejudice on the part of laborers to work for persons of Japanese ancestry. This last point was brought out in one instance by the statement made by some farm laborers now working on a Japanese owned farm but operated by a Caucasian, that they (laborers) would leave if a "Jap" took over. This person (evacuee) thought it best he return to the Center and not "take over" his farm land at this time. He did not feel he could take over the responsibility of bringing in other evacuees to work on the farm in the place of other forms of labor.

2). One of the evacuees had been trying to get a laborer's job in the vicinity of Los Angeles, but was not successful. The USRS had not been able to assist him because of statements made by possible employers to the point

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that they would not take Japanese. This young man was ready to go back to the Center (Manzanar) and prepare to go east, leaving his family in the Center until he was settled.

3). It was the general agreement of these three evacuees that family units should not return to given areas at this time. It was felt that the men and older boys might return and make a gradual adjustment and place for themselves in the communities, and then send for their families. These young men recognized that this would be harder for the Issei than for the Nisei, especially since many of the Nisei were away from home and in the army, and thus could not act as a "front" for the Issei and the rest of the family. One of the evacuees interviewed had already sent his family back to the Center because of the housing problem and negative feelings shown toward his wife and children.

4). Housing conditions are poor. All of the evacuees talked to were of the opinion that any family planning to return to the Coast should be sure of a place to stay, or they should stay out.

An evacuee from Minidoka was met in Seattle upon his arrival, and we began to talk of attitudes shown in the Center since I had left. He suggested one interesting point in terms of residence thinking within the Center. This particular point was: If the West Coast is bombed, or it is

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decided for some reason or another that a " military problem" exists on the Coast, will the evacuees who have returned have to be moved out again? Could the WRA or/ and the Army give some sort of assurance to the residents in the Centers that another evacuation will not take place from the Coastal regions ?

SIGNED:

Elmer R. Smith
Community Analyst

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