

1138

COMMITTEE RECORDS

LOS ANGELES STATEMENTS OF PURPOSE

n.d.

C-A

171

COMMITTEE ON AMERICAN PRINCIPLES AND FAIR PLAY

Report of Harry Kingman regarding discussions with Los Angeles citizens looking towards formation of a Southern California committee.

1. Interview with Bill Henry, leading columnist of the Los Angeles Times. He has a fine attitude towards the evacuees. Gave me a column he had written on the subject. Made suggestions about committee personnel. Said that it was his practice to refuse membership on all committees; but added that he was so interested that, if it eventually appeared really essential, he might become a member. (Others with whom I talked subsequently felt that no better name could be secured)

2. W.S. Rosecrans, former president of the L.A. Chamber of Commerce, who had some part in the handling of evacuees real estate, launched into a long dissertation as soon as I opened the subject of a So. California committee. He said that the solution is to run every person of Japanese ancestry out of the U.S. Most of them or their forebears got into this country illegally. Talked about "picture brides". Emphasized that all Japanese are "unassimilable". Had difficulty pronouncing the word but was primed on the type of argument that McClatchy and the Joint Immigration Committee has sponsored. The Japanese are the most dangerous of all the unassimilable groups. Claimed that many of them had admitted to him that their chief loyalty was to Japan. There are probably some who are loyal to this nation but this should not deter us from handling the problem in a fundamental way. Moved to the Negroes as our chief non-assimilable group. Felt that the Jews were also largely unassimilable and that they constituted a major problem for us. Thought that the Fair Play Committee would probably be exploited in behalf of the Japanese and in opposition to American interests. Most of the committee members might be well meaning but they would be too busy to see that pro-Japanese executives didn't misguide its activities. As I did not see any point in arguing with him he became quite friendly and finally agreed that the problem was a complicated one and that he wasn't sure just what the best solution might be.

3. Mr. Lynn Mowatt, director of the L.A. Community Chest, was sympathetic to the idea of a Southern California Fair Play Committee. He suggested such people as Arline Johnson of the U.S.C. Sociology Dept., Mrs. Sumner Spalding (wife of the architect), President Remsen Bird of Occidental, Supervisor John Anson Ford, Attorney Olin Wellborn, III, president of the Council of Social Agencies, James R. Page, president of the Community Chest, Manchester Boddy, editor of the Los Angeles News. He didn't know just what the attitude of any leading business or professional men were towards the Japanese and felt that the lack of a Fair Play Committee in Southern California had mitigated against the development of as liberal an attitude among community leaders as seemed to exist in the San Francisco Bay area.

4. Mr. Lee Wilson, associate director of the area Y.M.C.A. council, is keenly interested in our project. He and Lawrence Norrie, his associate, may be the best potential spark-plugs for the Southern California committee. Norrie worked in the Hawaiian Islands for years and is very well informed and genuinely concerned over the plight of the evacuees. Wilson suggested such names as J. Perry Rice, Rev. Fred Trotter, Taylor Reedy and Tom Rowe of the "Y", David Henley of the Friends Service Committee and others that we already have in mind.

5. Mr. James R. Page, president of the Chest, became very glum when I broached the Japanese question, and insisted that they should all be shipped out of the country. He used much the same line of argument that Mr. Rosecrans had utilized. With the insoluble Negro problem on our hands we should not add a rapidly-multiplying Japanese minority problem. We should kick them all out during the war as public opinion is more favorable to drastic steps now than it will be later. I was tempted as I had been previously in the interview with Mr. Rosecrans to politely inquire how his racial philosophy differed from Hitler's but I restrained myself and parted on friendly terms.

6. After several futile visits to his office I finally had an hour's interview with Supervisor John Anson Ford. He was fully in sympathy with the proposal to organize a Southern California committee. He said that he would not consider it politically expedient for his name to be on the original list but that he would come on later if he were wanted. He told of a couple of incidents having to do with George Gleason's attempts to enlist sympathy of some leading citizens. At a meeting of United Nations consular representatives, for example, Gleason had distributed copies of your talk at Riverside. Radio commentator John B. Hughes and others had taken violent exception. Mr. Ford recommended strongly Mr. J. Frank Burk, a liberal owner of a radio station. (I did not have time before my train left to call on Mr. Burk). He also spoke well of Professor Walter Muelder of U.S.C. (Muelder I know to be a good man and might be one of those who should take responsibility in the organizational work in Los Angeles). Mr. Ford also mentioned James Wallace, an insurance man whom I know, Fifield of the First Congregational Church, and Mr. Whittle, president of the L.A. YMCA.

7. Mr. Charles E. Millikan, a prominent attorney, whom I had thought would be sympathetic to the evacuees proved to be rather unfriendly towards them so I did not suggest the idea of his considering membership.

8. Stanley Johnson, who is in the sound cutting department of the Paramount Studios in Hollywood, is heartily in sympathy with the evacuees. He would like to be one of the paying general members and thought he could secure some other general members.

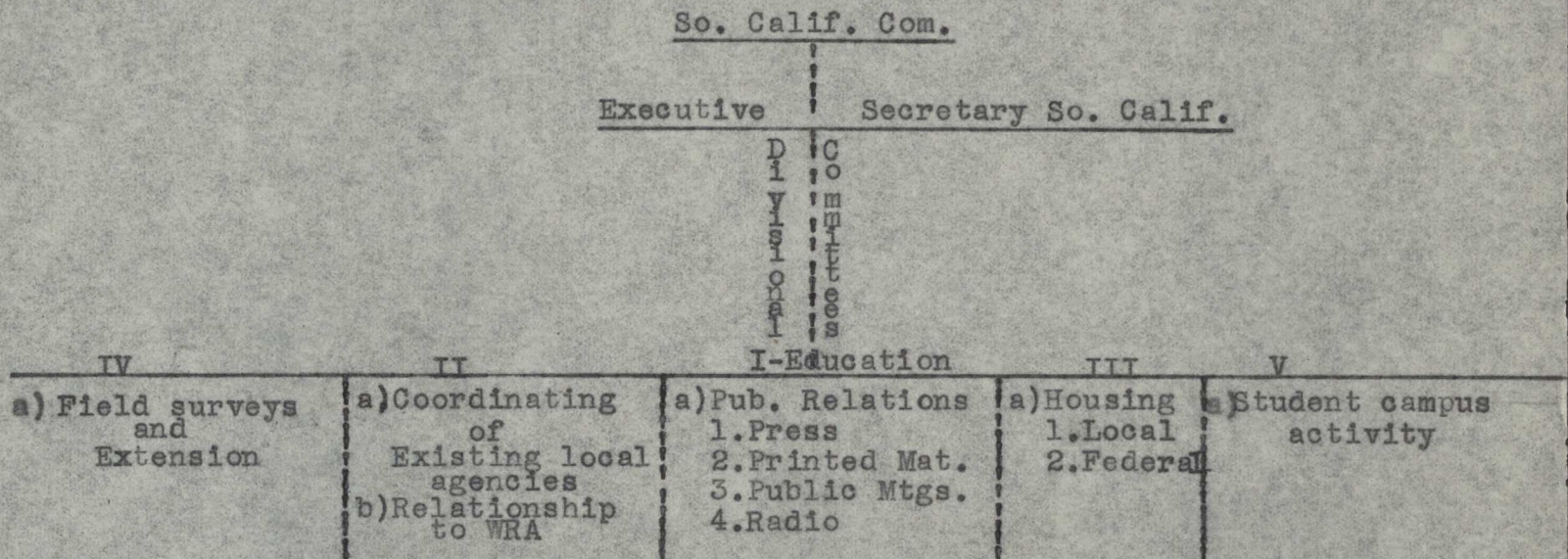
9. I made attempts to secure appointments with a number of others that I have mentioned such as Olin Wellborn, Manchester Boddy, George Gleason, etc. but was unsuccessful. The L.A. Council of Town Hall, patterned on the S.F. Commonwealth Club has a number of directors who should be approached. I might be able to follow up within a few weeks.

MR. FISHER

PLAN FOR COMMITTEE ON AMERICAN PRINCIPLES AND
FAIR PLAY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA-Gracia Booth

In accordance with the original basic policy of the Fair Play Committee, namely:

"To support and defend the Constitutional rights of law-abiding persons of Oriental descent in the United States and particularly of the Japanese-American evacuees" it would seem advisable to carry on in the Southern California area, without any basic changes in this policy, according to the following plan:



To implement the carrying out of such a program as suggested, the early appointment of sub-committees with strong chairman seems imperative.

I. First attention should be given to the formation of a strong public relations committee for the purpose of general public education and information.

Such a committee would disseminate printed matter, arrange platform meetings, be responsible for "counter-blasts" (perhaps

in private rather than public sometimes) when false or unfair statements appear in the local press and radio. It might be wise to appoint certain individuals to be responsible for checking on certain radio stations, newspapers and other publications constantly and advising the executive secretary or Mr. Crotty, chairman, as to his "findings".

This committee on public relations could also assume responsibility for dealing directly with insurance companies, wholesalers, nurserymen, etc. known to be guilty of discriminatory attitudes and practices.

Such a committee should be composed of people representing
1. Business 2. Labor 3. Journalists 4. Religion 5. Women's organized groups 6. Educators.

II. a) The committee for coordinating and stimulating existing local agencies might be made up from among the chairmen of major agencies dealing with race relations, with special emphasis for the moment on the Japanese-American problem.

Such a committee should meet more or less regularly, perhaps once each month to compare notes and to allocate definite responsibilities for dealing with definite emergencies as they may arise, etc.

The major portion of necessary and helpful personal services to the resettler should be "parcelled out" among these various agencies themselves, increasing efficiency by avoiding too much over-lapping.

Some of these groups, already quite active are: 1. American Friend's Service Committee 2. Friends of the American Way 3. Church Federation 4. Protestant Commission 5. Jewish 6. Catholic 7. National Congregational Committee for Christian Democracy 8. Council for Civic Unity 9. Church and Community cooperations.

- b) The War Relocation Authority can render great assistance to the Fair Play Committee in the matter of accurate information regarding "hot spots", etc. and the Fair Play Committee, by its field work of stimulating the organization of strong civic community groups to counteract unfriendliness can assist the relocation program mightily.

The Chairman and Secretary should keep in close touch with WRA for this reason.

- III.(1) A study should be made of the policies of local realty firms and boards to ascertain whether they are following a "policy of scarcity" for the purpose of keeping out the resettler.

The appointment of sub-committees in existing church and civic groups on emergency housing (especially for Japanese) should be encouraged to meet the local urgent need now, and bring needed pressure to bear upon local housing authorities.

- (2) The federal housing authorities need pressure brought to bear upon them through citizens of prestige.

- IV. The committee on surveys and field extension should:
1. Discover "hot spots"--finding what existing agencies are will into or or already working for the Japanese.
 2. Estimate potentialities of such existing groups and so estimate need of further organization.
 3. Encourage working groups to expand and carry on.
 4. Find "pivotal" citizens willing to carry on--needing only guidance.
 5. Use Los Angeles Council for Civic Unity as an agent in forming similar councils in "hot spot" areas.

- V. The student campus activity committee should encourage student friendliness and interest by supplying up-to-the-minute literature and speakers; and, be ready with concrete suggestions when they ask: "What can we do?"

Mrs. Thayer

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
COMMUNITY COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN OR KEY PEOPLE

Prepared by

Gracia D. Booth, Exec. Sec.

Committee on American Principles and Fair Play
1052 W. Sixth St., Los Angeles 14, California

San Diego

Citizens Committee
Rev. Ray Kinney
1910 Kearney St.

San Pedro

Citizens Committee
Mrs. Lester Kaems
841 Twenty-first St.

Lancaster

Fair Play Committee
Mr. Roy Mumaw
1205 State St.

Long Beach

Citizens Committee
Mrs. Violet Sell
1709 Cedar Avenue

Covina

Citizens Committee
Rev. Paul C. McFarlin
Second and Italia Sts.

San Fernando

Coordinating Council
Rev. E. Alexander Gray
323 Hagar Street

Palos Verdes

Fair Play Committee
Mr. Clarence Lee
Palos Verdes Estates

Van Nuys

Valley Council for Civic Unity
Mrs. Hollister Noble
15041 Bel Gado
Sherman Oaks

Los Angeles

Coordinating Committee for
Resettlement
Mr. Joe Moody
1342 W. Slausson Ave. (44)

Los Angeles (con't)

L.A. County Committee for
Interracial Progress
Dr. George Gleason
139 North Broadway St. (12)

Congregational Committee on
Christian Democracy
Clarence Gillett, Rm. 726
1052 W. Sixth St., (14)

Santa Monica

Interracial Progress
Committee
Mrs. Hubert Wilkin
230 Twenty-first Street

Sierra Madre

Citizen's Committee
Mr. Remington Stone
321 East Grandview

Fullerton

Rev. Graham Hunter
203 W. Amerigo Street

Santa Ana

Civic Unity Committee
Rev. John Ashley
Sixth and Spurgeon Sts.

Redlands

Race Relations Committee
Mrs. James Tuck
132 Terracina Blvd.

Riverside

Mrs. Milton Hutchinson
475 Luther Street

Rialto

Mrs. Afton Nance
329 $\frac{1}{2}$ No. Magnolia St.

Gardena

Rev. Martin Eidsath
1720 West Gardena Blvd.

So. Calif. Community Committee Chairmen or Key People

--2

Claremont

Mrs. May Kimball
1041 North College Ave.

Whittier

Mr. Ralph Robbins
President University Club
705 E. Earlam Drive

Montebello

Rev. Harold E. Baker
115 North Twelfth Street

Norwalk

Dan Donovan
Editor "Norwalk Call"

Santa Barbara

Fair Play Committee
Dr. John DeForest Pettus
80 Eucalyptus Lane

San Luis Obispo

Rev. Edwin Krapf
884 Pacific Street

Ventura

Mr. Dean E. Triggs
Box 851

Santa Maria

Rev. Allen Heist
Broadway and Cook Sts.

Bakersfield

Fair Play Committee
Mr. Ray W. Henderson
Morgan Building

El Centro

Major Hartney
War Relocation Authority
110 North Sixth Street

Pasadena

Fair Play Committee
Mrs. Maynard Force Thayer
466 East California Street

Friends of the American Way
William C. Carr
1360 W. Colorado

South Pasadena

Committee for Civic Unity
Mrs. Harry Henderson
1703 Oak Street

Eagle Rock

Friends of the American Way
Mrs. Paul E. Webb
2563 Hill Drive
Los Angeles 41, California

This went to all Buddhist, Protestant
+ Catholic Church heads, Y.W. & Welfare
+ Reloc. heads + Project directors.

Mr. Crotty

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
COMMITTEE ON AMERICAN PRINCIPLES
AND FAIR PLAY

875 South Manhattan Place - Los Angeles 5, California

August 22, 1945

Dear Friends:

As you face the closing of the Relocation Centers and the gigantic task of resettling those families and individuals still remaining in the camps, it should be encouraging to know that you have many friends on the outside who are doing everything in their power to aid you.

Enclosed is a list of committees in Southern California communities, with the name and address of each. While most of these committees were organized primarily to assist in the return of their evacuee friends and neighbors, in many cases they are also deeply concerned over the need for fair play for all minority groups in their community.

Do write to the chairman for any information or assistance in regard to the possible return of any of your people to that particular neighborhood. You can be assured of prompt and sympathetic cooperation.

Will you also feel free to write directly to our office in regard to any questions or possible problems in the solution of which the Fair Play Committee might be of assistance?

With sincere good wishes,

GDB:aw

Mrs. Gracia D. Booth, Executive
Secretary for Southern California

MEMO ON FINANCIAL SET-UP IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Quota for Los Angeles Committee (annual) \$500.00
 Quota for Pasadena Committee (annual) 200.00

An agreement was also made that any funds paid into the treasury from Los Angeles in excess of the \$500.00, should be available for use by the Los Angeles committee, until 200 memberships were paid, at rate of \$2.00 per membership. Anything in excess of this amount (\$400.00) was to revert to the Central office.

Receipts to date, June 15, 1945:

Pasadena Committee --Feb. 1944-Feb. 1945 (quota in full)	\$200.00
Pasadena Committee --Feb. 1945-Feb. 1946	200.00
Los Angeles Committee-July 1944-July 1945	500.00
Los Angeles membership (equivalent of 200 @ \$2.00)	400.00
Additional (over and above 200 memberships)	42.00
	<hr/>
Pasadena Total	\$400.00
Los Angeles "	942.00
	<hr/>

Both Los Angeles and Pasadena have met the suggested basic quota.

The expenditures in the Southern California area from the Central Office in San Francisco have been approximately (as averaged per month) as follows:

Salary of Assistant Executive Secretary	
April 1944, to March, 1945	---- \$1, 100.00
Office rental & part-time office-	
(Sept. 1944-June 1945) Secretary	---- 450.00
Incidental Office expenses & travel,	
April 1944 to March 1945.	---- 275.00
Salary of Assistant Executive Secretary ---	
April and May, 1945	300.00
Incidental and travel	--- 72.00
Office and part-time office secretary	---- 100.00
	<hr/>
Total	\$ 2,297.00

Observations and Suggestions

1. The greater part of the financial support of the Pacific Coast Committee on American Principles and Fair Play terminates on September, 1, 1945, and it is probable that the work of the Committee will have to be sharply curtailed after that date.

2. It is entirely probable that our various committees will feel that some sort of integrated program must continue through this calendar year, at least, and should be sufficiently well financed so that it can be effective.
3. If the services of a full time Executive Secretary are desired in Southern California after September 1, a large part of the salary will have to be raised in that area. (There has been no decision, as yet, as to whether the Executive Secretary will be retained in the Central Office, or, if so, on what basis--full time or part time).
4. A meeting of the Advisory Board of the Pacific Coast Committee on American Principles and Fair Play is being called for June 21, when a discussion will be held on the future of the Committee as it is now organized. (Minutes of the meeting will be sent to the various Committees, immediately.)
5. Following the Advisory Board meeting, and the sending out of the Minutes, the several Committees will be asked to prepare a memo for this office, with comments on local attitudes in relation to continuation, and/or modification or termination of the Committee's work.
6. We will greatly appreciate suggestions from Southern California as to what is felt to be the function in the coming months of the Fair Play Committee, and their idea as to how the work can be financed when the greater part of our Central Office income is no longer available.