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Mr Bennett

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
CANAL COMMUNITY

5-13

DATE: Saturday, April 3, 1943
TIME: 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room, Canal Administration Building

The initial meeting of the Canal Executive Committee was called to order by L. H. Bennett, Project Director. The following were present:

M. J. Gaba	George Nagamatsu
Frank C. Sasaki	Kelly Matsumura
Tsutomu Iida	George Yokoyama
George J. Kawahara	Mats Ando
Fujimi Yanagihara	

Absent members: Teizo Yahanda Masao Omoto

Mr. Bennett stated that the reason for this meeting was to get the Canal Executive Committee started as the Butte Committee has already met and started on their program. At the Butte meeting Mr. Doucha, Mr. Keadle, and various other members of the staff were present. Mr. Bennett stated that it is the hope of the staff that this Executive Committee will really accomplish something. The first nine months of the project represented the period where the evacuees took their problems to the administration and had them straightened out. The amount of money available during this time was pretty great. However, the Bureau of Budgets has frozen the number of staff employees available for the project, and the staff travel money has been taken away. Everything has been restricted except that which contributes to the improvement of the community as a whole and to the provision of food. The Bureau of Budgets has approved every request thru the War Production Board for materials and supplies to finish up such work as originally planned, such as schools and staff housing, and further to provide money to put in the irrigation system and to increase our herds of cattle, hogs, chickens, etc. Mr. Bennett assured that these two camps will run well both from the standpoint of fairly comfortable living and assurance of food. The main job of the Committee will be to sell the idea of finishing up construction work necessary and to conserve everything we now have.

FOOD:

The most important thing today is to get the community awakened to the necessity for eliminating all food waste. Under the rationing program as revised, an equal number per person is set up as on the outside. Each person gets 16 points per week for meat and 16 points per week for canned goods. Due to shortage of certain meat, the Quartermaster may not be able to supply

the project with what is ordered, but we will get our share of whatever there is on the market. Altho we cannot be assured of the quality of meat sent, we can be certain that we will get the quantity that is allotted. This same policy will apply to other rationed articles, but we don't know or cannot control how much each one gets. This is a community job. Waste in kitchens and on the plates should be worked on first together with the mess staff to see that everybody gets the most out of the food available. By June, our cattle will be used. The project has been authorized to buy 600 feeder pigs, but there is no fence available in Arizona. There is a dairy authorization to buy more cows. Chickens are to be bought when chicken coops are ready. The staff met on a plan to dehydrate much of the vegetables and to can them. Mr. Doucha is planning to convert one of the warehouses into a dehydrating plant. In this way, there is an adequate food supply for the project, but community help will be needed.

Part of the Committee's job will be to study and keep abreast of what the administration is doing and to work with them to perfect all of these things that has a bearing on food. The way appropriations and approvals are coming thru indicates that Gila River will be kept right up and probably fully staffed and filled with people.

IRRIGATION:

One of the important problems today is the canal system. Approval has been received to go ahead, and Butte has already started with three blocks. Public Works will supply the materials and machines, but the people will have to supply the labor. The two reasons for this job is 1) necessity to keep dust down and save well water, and 2) victory gardens raised by residents which will be advantageous and save some lesser crops out on the farm.

WORK:

Construction program has to go on as rapidly as possible for this reason: While money is allotted and the approvals have been sent to purchase materials, we don't know how long it will be before they are taken away. As the WRA is an unpopular agency, we have to take what we have and make the most out of it. Work has to be developed to a greater degree. Adjustments will have to be made in various divisions on the number of evacuees employed. With relocation and segregation coming on, vacant jobs will be the result, and people will have to be available for these jobs. Mr. Bennett requested that the Committee study the labor report and decide how certain divisions can be cut down and the people diverted to other activities. It was Mr. Bennett's feeling that the Committee should be set up with a good deal of authority, and that when they wanted to confer with any member of the staff, that member will make arrangements to meet with them. The Committee will carry a good deal of responsibility for the operation of the camp.

For the time being, the Committee will be on their respective division payroll, but it is his intent to set the Committee on full time jobs. This is a most important move in boiling down evacuee administration to a small group for the staff to work with. They will report thru the Community Council and be a part of the Council activities. How successful the results will be is up to the Committee. Mr. Bennett hoped that the Committee will not have to deal with the relocation problem as yet until these other things have been worked on, as the new relocation program needs to be clarified. Some of the questions asked with regard to this program are: 1) Where does the money come from? 2) What constitutes sufficient reason for advancing money? 3) Investigation and job allocation will take time. There is no clarification of procedure and this will have to be worked on considerably, but relocation will probably be one of the jobs of the Committee. However, food, irrigation, and work programs are paramount right now.

One of the questions asked was how slaughtering of cattle will be done. Mr. Bennett stated that slaughtering will be done at a slaughter house, but two larger refrigeration warehouses have been requisitioned for storage of meat. The meat will be inspected by a packing company at Casa Grande. The evacuees' part will be the handling of these warehouses.

Mr. Bennett also stated that arrangements are being made for the purchase of an orange crop and a potato crop.

With regard to the dairy program, it was asked whether butter and cheese were to be made. Mr. Bennett stated that it depends on how rapidly the dairy can be built and how fast the program can go. The dairy buildings are the main problem. There is no limitation on how far we can go along on the program that deals with food.

With regard to the distribution of manpower, the Committee decided to study it and get together with the Butte Committee, to work on it. A suggestion was given to have the division heads make reductions within their own divisions. However, difficulties arise when the administration is confronted with this problem. The people will have to do more work, and the Committee should go to the people and point this problem out to them. Community sentiment is important in any move, and if the community realizes the problem, the result will be much better and quicker.

The Committee should decide what is its first move. Official appointments will be written by Mr. Bennett to the Committee. This job will take precedence over what they are doing now, and later will be set up as a full time job. In the meantime, the permanent Community Council should be elected, and the Judicial Commission will be set up.

It was asked whether segregation of the residents is definite, and Mr. Bennett stated that it was and that Gila River would probably be for the loyal people. The future of the WRA will greatly depend on what happens in the next year or so. Probably some of the projects will be closed due to relocation and segregation. Relocation has to go faster, but WRA is confronted with the tremendous problem of housing. It is the hope of the WRA to employ Japanese-Americans in industries that are not so highly unionized as unions present some difficult problems. Relocation is the most important problem the WRA is confronted with at the present time.

The Committee decided that Mats Ando is to make arrangements with the Butte Committee to meet at an early date to study the problems presented to the Canal Committee by Mr. Bennett.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Misao Kawakami
Acting Secretary

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MEETING OF THE JOINT EXECUTIVE BOARDS
OF BUTTE AND CANAL

JH

Date: May 12, 1944
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Place: Mr. Wolter's office

Present: Canal Community Council
Mats Ando
Ben Fukuzawa
George Horiuchi
Canal Block Managers
Mr. Yahanda
Mr. Kono
Butte Community Council
George Nishimura
Fred Morimoto
Masato Kato
Tom Ikemoto
Kaname Takahashi
Butte Block Managers
Keizo Ishizu
Mr. Asami
Others:
Mr. Nichol
Mr. Brown

The principal topic of discussion was juvenile delinquency. Mr. Fukuzawa brought up the point mentioned at previous meetings that satisfactory activities were the only final solution to the old problem. Mr. Ishizu said that in pre-evacuation days, the Japanese language school had accounted for the spare time of a good many and possibly had contributed to the low juvenile delinquency rate of Japanese Americans. A possibility of a curfew law was discussed. It would apply only to younger children. The penalty for infraction should seriously be considered and procedures to be adopted in case of infraction is very important toward enforcement. It was proposed to appoint a juvenile board composed of appointed personnel. This was queried but the general opinion was that the psychological effect upon young offenders would be good. This Board would have the option of dealing with the cases themselves or referring to the Judicial Commission.

Parents are involved in all juvenile delinquency cases and it was proposed that parents be summoned to appear at all court hearings on juvenile delinquency whether before the Board or the Judicial Commission.

It was proposed that there be a lower age limit for attendance at dances. The question of school policy came up. It had been reported by some children that they were forced to attend dancing groups in the high schools on penalty of losing credits. Dr. Young who was requested to attend said that there was no such thing as compulsory dancing and that it was one of several optional activities.

The point came up that some juveniles from Canal came over to Butte to cause trouble. It was suggested that the C. A. S. in Butte cooperate with Internal Security officers of Canal to deal with this problem.

The relative infrequency of Juvenile delinquency in Canal was mentioned. This thought was more apparent than real. Juvenile delinquency occurs in Canal but it is not reported as often.

The question of family meals was again discussed. Since last discussed by this group the matter had been brought to the attention of Canal Community Council and the Block Managers of Canal and Butte. It will be brought to the attention of the Butte Community Council at its next meeting. It happened also that on Tuesday, May 9, a meeting of the P. T. A. of the Elementary school of Canal was being held. A brief invitation to discuss the matter was given to those assembled. Wherever the matter was discussed it got a favorable reception. It was decided to initiate discussion immediately with Mess Operations.

CONFERENCE WITH MESS OPERATIONS

May 12, 1944

Mr. Nishimura and Mr. Brown conferred briefly with Mr. Keadle, Mr. Furuno, and one other mess steward in Mr. Keadle's office. Mr. Keadle was favorably disposed to the plan and said he had tried to put it in operation at previous occasions.

The third member of Mess Operations who is the mess supervisor of Block 65 was not only favorable but was willing to try it in his own block to see how it would work.

A meeting of the mess supervisors is to be held on Monday, May 15, in which this matter will be discussed.

NOTES

The Executive Board of Butte wrote a draft of a juvenile code. This was shown to Mr. Tuttle and Mr. Nichol who approved, Mr. Tuttle suggesting an addition. This addition was accepted by the Board. The code was then taken to Mr. Terry who said he needed time to re-phrase it.

At the meeting of the Butte Community Council on Monday, it was reported that this code will be ready for consideration at the next meeting.

COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Staff Meeting

Minutes

Place: Mr. Wolter's office
Time: May 5, 1944 - 8:15 a.m.

Because of the return of Mr. Tuttle from Washington, a meeting was called to hear Mr. Tuttle's report on the conference of Social Welfare Counselors. Mr. Tuttle reported in some detail the results of the conference. He read a memorandum on the welfare plans for Child Care, and it was requested that copies of this particular part of the report be made available to other members of the Division.

This lead to a brief discussion of juvenile delinquency. It was again emphasized that juvenile delinquency was a continuing problem and would never be absent until the causes could be dealt with. Mr. Marshall who attended as a representative of Education in the absence of Mr. Sawyer and Dr. Young said he had already written memoranda to 20 people of the appointed staff asking if they would cooperate in organizing activities. It was agreed that this plan should be extended preferably under C. A. S. leadership. While it was felt that it was the greatest advantage to have evacuee leadership, it was pointed out that the more able of the evacuees are apt to relocate after being in these positions for a short time and that while the services should be utilized to the utmost, the appointed staff was a trifle more permanent and should also offer its voluntary services. A psychiatry social worker married to a wife who is a qualified social case worker will be available for work on this project if he can be assured of adequate housing. It was agreed to discuss the matter with Mr. Black to see if, in view of the difficulty in obtaining such services, he could guarantee such housing.

The objections of Block 74 to the wayside inn were discussed briefly. Dr. Pedicord said that as far^{as} he was concerned, the case was decided by others who felt that the misinformation which^{at} the back of the resistance of residents of Block 74 should be dissipated by accurate statements.

All members were reminded that the budget was due in the near future. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

NOTES

May 5, 1944

Concerning: Mr. Kamiyama, Block Manager of #55

Because of complaints from some of the residents of Block 55 that their manager was unsatisfactory, Mr. Kamiyama, the Block Manager, was requested to come in to discuss the problem. Mr. Kamiyama came in at 10:00 a.m. accompanied by Mr. Ishizu, Central Block Manager, and Mr. Nishioka, block councilman. Mr. Ishizu stated that Block 55 was of mixed origin. It has always had a bad reputation. The one murder case on this project occurred in Block 55 and there has been and continues to be much gambling. Mr. Kamiyama was for some years before evacuation a resident of Phoenix, Arizona. Because he was secretary to the Japanese Association, he was apprehended by the F. B. I. and held in custody for a short time. He was released to this Center in August, 1942. Mr. Kamiyama has not always gone with the crowd and has tried to cooperate with the Administration and because of the unusually large number of families in that block has inevitably created enemies.

Mr. Ishizu stated that in view of these circumstances that Mr. Kamiyama resign. Mr. Kamiyama stated that only one or two people were against him, but he agrees that he should resign.

Mr. Nishioka also stated that only a few people are against Mr. Kamiyama. The residents of Block 55 are from all over California and is a disunited block. Personally if I were a Block manager there I would try to get away from there. Block 55 is the project "Chinatown." Ten people are from Santa Anita. Mr. Nishioka had originally been offered the job of block manager for that block, but had decided against it on the above grounds. Mr. Kamiyama has been block manager since September 2, 1942.

Mr. Kamiyama was given the option of resigning or not as he thought best. If he did not resign it was up to those who objected to his incumbency of office to approach Mr. Nishioka, the block councilman, and to ask him to hold a block meeting. If he decided to resign, it would be the responsibility of Mr. Nishioka to hold a meeting to nominate an acceptable successor. Mr. Kamiyama said he would think the matter over and said that probably he would resign as of May 15.

G. Gordon Brown

Surveyor

MINUTES
JOINT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

August 18, 1944

Place: Mr. Wolter's office
Time: 10:00 a.m.

All members of the Executive Boards were present except Chairman Hamai of the Canal Board. Agenda of the meeting was conversion of the Camouflage fund to a community fund. Chairman John Fukushima gave a lengthy explanation of the present status of the camouflage net fund. He stated that Mr. Yusa, the present Butte trustee, was asked to resign because of his apparent inactivity. He asked the Canal delegation to produce a member to fulfill the position left vacant by Mr. Mats Ando. The formal resignation of Mr. Yusa as member of the camouflage net trust fund committee has been received. This leaves two vacancies on the board.

At this time, minutes of the Special Executive Board of Butte were read - agenda, to divert camouflage fund into community fund, to be guided by Butte Community Council. Dr. Takahashi reported that in regard to the dispersion of the camouflage fund in Canal, that he understood that the Canal Council decided to give each beneficiary his share according to original agreement. John Fukushima explained the consensus of opinion in regard to the distribution of waivers. He further gave in detail the creation of the community fund into a scholarship fund for a worthy student or students. The waiver was read to the group.

Mr. Fukushima pointed out that as Dr. Yusa was appointed by Mr. Bennett that they would have to wait for his return before making final decisions. Memoranda from Terry and Graham were read concerning legality of waiver. Mr. Terry was called in to explain further the legality of soliciting each beneficiary to turn in his share to the community fund. Mr. Fukushima informed the committee members that that the checks would not amount to more than \$2.00. Mr. Kato suggested joint action in connection with this fund, and pointed out that ample educational and propaganda work should be started.

Question concerning citizenship of trustee was brought up and, Mr. Terry said that he could be either a citizen of the United States or an alien - but preferably a citizen.

Mr. Fukushima gave a break-down on the \$19,000 of the camouflage fund. Canal members agreed to bring this up in the next meeting. Concerning the educational campaign, Mr. Fukushima was asked to get a general statement from Mr. Graham so that he will be able to take it up with the News Courier.

Mr. Fukushima stated that he would bring this issue up at the weekly block managers' meeting - He appointed Mr. Masato Kato as chairman of committee to take immediate steps concerning this community fund.(educational and propaganda work)

Other members appointed: Koseki, Takahashi.
Suggested appointment for Canal: George Onoda

Meetin' adjourned.

JOINT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Time: September 1, 1944-10:00 a.m.

Place: Community Management office

All members present except Kato and Takahashi (Butte)

Mr. Bennett gave a summary on the matter of closing of Centers. He stated that General Bonesteel was in charge of this - and that Mr. Myer would not have too much to do about it. He pointed out the critical nature of the housing situation in California.

opening of west Coast to evacuees

Mr. Chamberlin again stressed the importance of evacuee property and the need for more workers in that section. In this regard, Mr. Bennett stated that Mr. Cozzens is expecting to send down a man to assist in this problem.

Mr. Bennett gave a brief account of his visit with the Governor of the State of Arizona. He said that Governor Osborne was concerned because a great many people who had apparently relocated had resettled in the State of Arizona. Mr. Bennett stated that Gov. Osborne thought that there were quite a few alien Japanese who had resettled in Arizona but who had not registered with United States Attorney Flynn. He pointed out the seriousness of this situation. He informed the group that the Governor's attitude was very reasonable and liberal.

Mr. Bennett stated that he had also talked to the Governor concerning YMCA, YWCA people going out to Phoenix, etc. He stated that the Governor had received no complaints to date. Mr. Bennett stated that he would use his judgment in this regard, and would try to keep the number down to a minimum.

A discussion of project manpower followed. Mr. Bennett said that there would be a meeting of the Project Manpower Commission on Thursday.

Mr. Sawyer pointed out that the Canal people should realize that there are more potential office helpers in Canal than in Butte. It was stated that the main reason for this was the transportation problem. Workers did not like to take the crowded busses to Butte if they could get work at Canal. In this connection Mr. Bennett stated that he was making arrangements for the rent of a 60 passenger bus.

The subject of closing of Canal was brought up. Mr. Bennett stated that the consolidation of blocks would be more likely than the closing of Canal camp. Other matters concerning the project's physical set-up were discussed.

Mr. Bennett stated that he had started to write a series of letters to the residents concerning the project's physical set-up. The continuance of this was to be taken up with the Councils.

Selection of a permanent Assistant Director: Mr. Bennett stated that he was pushing the appointment of Mr. Shelly to the position of Asst. Project Director in Charge of Community Management. Mr. Sawyer wishes that the replacement to be made before the opening of the new school term. The group all agreed that Mr. Shelly would do a good job.

Mr. Bennett left.

Mr. Sawyer brought up the matter of duties of block managers and councilmen. He stated that the block managers were not an elective group. (Should be selected rather than elected)

Matters pertaining to the pharmacy, transportation, etc. were brought up.

Mr. Fukuzawa pointed out that there should be joint action on matters pertaining to project wide activities. He suggested that some of these meetings should be held in Canal.

It was stated that the Councils should work closely together in publicity matters. A suggestion was made that there should be a representative from the Canal (or Butte) council at the Butte (or Canal) Council meetings.

An agreement was made to discuss matters of primary importance which came up in the respective Councils with each other before taking action or further steps. The problem of getting the minutes out to the Canal Council before its meeting on Tuesday was discussed. It was finally agreed that Mr. Fukushima's secretary was to give the Canal Council the highlights of its meeting held on Monday, and that the Canal Council would give the Butte secretary the highlights of its meeting on Wednesday. (Fumi Suda to call up Canal Council 9:30 Tuesday to give dope on Butte meeting; vice verse on Wednesday from Canal Council)

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.