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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
WASHINGTON

*Man
report*

March 2, 1943

Mr. Ralph P. Merritt
Project Director
Manzanar Relocation Center
Manzanar, California

Dear Mr. Merritt:

I was interested to learn, from Mr. Brown's letter of February 10, about the block reporting system which has been instituted at Manzanar and the results that have been attained to date. I believe you have an idea here which will be worth passing on to other centers.

Sincerely yours,

John C. Baker
Chief, Office of Reports

CC: Mr. Cozzens ✓

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*Reports
Block Managers*

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

In reply, please refer to:

Manzanar, California

Project Reports
Officer

March 19, 1943

Mr. Robert B. Cozzens
Field Assistant Director
War Relocation Authority
Whitcomb Hotel
San Francisco, California

Dear Mr. Cozzens:

Please find enclosed the analysis of the block managers' services and activities for the month of February as written by Ray Hayashida, documentary reporter; together with four supplementary illustrations.

Sincerely,

R. P. Merritt
for Ralph P. Merritt
Project Director

Enclosures



RSC



Mr. Tolson

Director, War Relocation Authority

San Francisco

Subject: [Illegible]

[Illegible text]

[Illegible text]

[Illegible text]

May 18, 1943

[Illegible text]

[Illegible text]

Man. reports

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

WASHINGTON

April 5, 1943

Mr. Ralph P. Merritt
Project Director
Manzanar Relocation Center
Manzanar, California

Attention: Mr. Robert L. Brown

Dear Mr. Merritt:

Thank you for your letter of correction of the quoted statement of Mr. Merritt as it originally appeared in the minutes of the Block Managers meeting. We very much appreciate this in order that the document file will be kept accurate.

This will also acknowledge receipt of the copies of the new school paper and the Manzanar "Whirlwind".

Sincerely yours

M. M. Tozier
Acting Chief
Office of Reports

cc: Mr. R. B. Cozzens, San Francisco ✓



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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
WASHINGTON

August 11, 1943

AIR MAIL

Mr. Ralph P. Merritt
Project Director
Manzanar Relocation Center
Manzanar, California

Dear Mr. Merritt:

In accordance with the suggestion in Mr. Brown's letter of August 4, I have just reviewed the minutes on the Block Managers' Meeting of July 20 and found them quite enlightening.

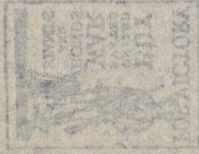
I wonder if you would be good enough to forward a copy of these minutes to the relocation team which is now operating at Tule Lake. The minutes can be sent to the Tule Lake project, attention Mr. Harold James.

Sincerely yours,

M. M. Tozier
Acting Chief
Office of Reports

cc: Mr. Cozzens





CC: Mr. CORNELL

WAR RELLOCATION AUTHORITY
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

WASHINGTON

October 20, 1943

Mr. R. P. Merritt
Project Director
Manzanar Relocation Center
Manzanar, California

Dear Mr. Merritt:

This will acknowledge receipt of the minutes of the block managers' meeting held on October first and the summary of that meeting, prepared by the documents section.

It has come ^{to} our attention that no weekly report of the narrative kind has been received from Manzanar for some time. Possibly you were under the impression that this was to be eliminated when we changed the administrative report forms. I want to advise you that we do want these weekly narrative reports and as soon as a regular Reports Officer is on the job at Manzanar, will you please make it one of his duties to prepare same, using material you suggest.

Sincerely yours,

John C. Baker
Chief, Office of Reports

CC: ✓ Mr. R. B. Cozzens



WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

WASHINGTON



minutes of block manager meeting

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

In reply, please refer to:

Manzanar, California

Project Reports
Officer

February 9, 1944

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Mr. Robert B. Cozzens
Field Assistant Director
War Relocation Authority
Whitcomb Hotel
San Francisco, California

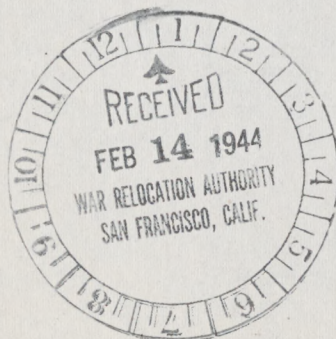
Dear Mr. Cozzens:

The problem of evacuee economy has been a standing issue. Block managers contend that the people are having to dip into their savings. Evacuees feel that they have exhausted methods for pressing on WRA their plea for more adequate subsistence pay. They still nurse the feeling that it is unreasonable for WRA to expect evacuees to get along on a pay rate established two years ago when costs for necessities were lower than they are today.

Now the evacuee leaders are turning to the alternative of encouraging the residents to cut down their expenditures. Town Hall prepared a set of figures intended to prove their point that the people are spending approximately \$38,000 per month in addition to their subsistence allowance. How much of this sum is being spent for luxuries and how much for necessities cannot easily be determined.



P.W



WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

In reply, please refer to:

Mr. D. S. Myer 2/9/44

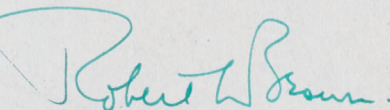
- 2 -

Enclosed please find copies of the minutes of the Block
Managers committee on limiting expenditures for social affairs,
together with ^{minutes of} a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Co-op and
the expenditure sheet prepared by Town Hall.

Sincerely,

Ralph P. Merritt
Project Director

By



Robert L. Brown
Assistant Project Director

Enclosures: 3



Town Hall

MANZANAR WAR RELOCATION CENTER
Manzanar, California

March 29, 1944

Mr. Keiko Kitahara
Block Manager
Block 16, Manzanar

Dear Mr. Kitahara:

As I advised you yesterday, I found it necessary to cancel the previous plan for considering any other blocks than block 16 for elementary school purposes and it was necessary to designate block 16 as the block to be used for the Manzanar elementary schools with the beginning of the new school term.

Will you please express to the people of your block my understanding of their reluctance to move from the block and the regret which I feel at being compelled to make this ruling, however, there is no practical alternative and in the interests of all of the people of Manzanar, and particularly in the interests of better education for all of the grammar school children, we are asking the people who remain in block 16 to completely vacate the block not later than April 12th.

The Assistant Block Manager will continue in service with you in behalf of the block until April 15th in order to assist the people in their moving. Housing will immediately advise you of all the available empty apartments in the Center. No other people in the Center, with the exception of a very few emergency cases that might be approved either by Mrs. Adams or myself, will be allowed to move until all the people in block 16 have determined what apartments they want to take. As soon as the people in block 16 have determined where they want to move the apartment which they select will be marked for them and no one else will be allowed to take it. I want to ask that selection of the new apartments be completed by Saturday, April 8th in order that the apartments that will then remain after block 16 is fully taken care of may be opened to other families in Manzanar who are awaiting an opportunity to move. All moving from block 16 to new apartments must be completed not later than noon Wednesday, April 12th.

^{would}
I appreciate very much if you would make this plan clear to all the people in block 16 and I am sure that they will co-operate in good spirit in the program of improving the school facilities for the children of Manzanar.

You have well and faithfully represented the people of your block and have done everything that could be done to present the cases of those people who did not desire to move and it is with great regret that I have been obliged to overrule their request. May I personally thank you for your fine service in the Block Managers' Assembly and your constructive work in behalf of the maintenance of the peace of Manzanar.

Very sincerely yours,

RALPH P. MERRITT
Project Director

rpm/bn

February 28, 1945

TO: Mr. Dillon S. Myer
FROM: Manzanar Block Managers Assembly
SUBJECT: Questions regarding the Final Relocation and Closing of the Centers

Following are some questions being asked by the members of the Block Managers Assembly relative to the final relocation and closing of the centers. It would be greatly appreciated if you could answer them for us so that we may be guided in our future policies.

1. In the past, assurance has been received that there will be no forced relocation or eviction from the centers. Is this policy being materially changed now?
2. It is our understanding that there is a state law that our children must be sent to public school until 16 years of age, if there is to be no school in the centers, then will it be possible to send our children to public schools in the nearby communities, if some of us are still here in the fall?
3. From actual experiences of evacuees visiting the West Coast in search of employment, it is becoming very clear that most of the employees are hesitant in hiring evacuees for fear of public and employee sentiment. What concrete plan has WRA to overcome this difficulty so that we may all be employed in the jobs of our skill so that we may all contribute to quicker victory?
4. Will the fact that Issei receive Welfare assistance now, have any effect on these aliens if they should happen to visit Japan after the war and want to return to America? It is our understanding that aliens who have received public assistance will be denied re-entry.
5. What plan do you have in mind to handle repatriates and expatriates?
6. On what legal ground was the registration of center residents over 17 years of age conducted?
7. What will become of the excludee and detainee and the members of their families?
8. In our survey conducted throughout the centers the present sentiment is about 70% for remaining in the center for the duration, due to their great fear of public sentiment outside. If the public sentiment is still the same at the end of this year and these 70% still feel that they want to remain here, will these people be forced out of the gate on to the highway on December 31?

Manzanar, California
February 27, 1945

Mr. D. S. Myer
Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Myer:

It is my great honor that an opportunity has been arranged, on your visit to Manzanar, to express to you my problems toward relocation which are very much similar to those of a great many residents in Manzanar.

I happen to be the only alien in my family and I am the father of four children, the oldest being nine years old. I have lived in the United States for twenty-five years without a single return to my old country, Japan. My faith has been Christianity for twenty years. My wife and I were married at a Christian church and all our children are attending the Christian Sunday School here.

When the mass evacuation took place, I came to the Center with my family in cooperation with the national policy and military necessity, despite the fact that our moving into the Center was against our will for various reasons.

In the Center as a block manager, as a member of the Board of Directors of the Cooperative Enterprise and the chairman of the same, now as a staff in the Relocation Division, and as a resident of Manzanar, I have done my best to do my share for the most smooth running of the Center. Practically every resident in Manzanar has done well to meet his requirements.

Then, last December 17, from the Army came the announcement removing restrictions against the people of Japanese blood from entering the coastal defense zones which was a long awaited Christmas present. Simultaneously, you announced your message telling us the WRA policy, including closing of schools in the centers, and above all the closing of all the centers between July 1 and December 31 of this year with ninety days' advance notice. To a great number of residents, the joy of the wonderful gift was almost erased by the big future problems and difficulties on relocation which they have to face within the limited time.

Under the present policy, Mr. Myer, it is imperative for me to find some place where I can resume education for our children for the coming semester. However, it is almost impossible, under the present circumstances, to relocate my family within the limited time with the present WRA grants, transportation with \$3.00 per day for meals and \$25.00. It is true I have been told that the Social Security Board grants may be given when such grant is absolutely necessary to me. The time elements for going

through all those "red tape" in order to obtain such a grant will be too much of an obstacle for a man like myself who needs immediate help. Besides, it is my feeling that I may have to postpone our relocation until such a time that all the necessary and satisfactory preparations are completed here in Manzanar by which I may be able to support my family without asking any assistance in a new community.

It is a great pride of the people of Japanese ancestry, particularly Isseis, that they would not ask for public assistance even if they have to eliminate a meal in a day, and this is the big reason why, I presume, there was only a few people of Japanese descent who were public dependents.

Mr. Myer, my family and I have gone through many difficulties and hardships, without any fault on my part or anyone in my family, since the war broke out. And more hardships and obstacles, especially financial, will be confronting us for the days and years to come. I am very much afraid that a great majority of the people in the centers are in the same situation. It is still fresh in our memory that you helped our people very much on the restoration of Selective Service Laws on American citizens of Japanese ancestry. And during the past three years, you have worked with us, worked for us and helped us in every way.

I can assure you almost 100% that I will cooperate with the WRA in the future as well as I have done in the past, and I am very sure that every resident will do the same.

I am sincerely and respectfully appealing to you that some adjustment be worked out so that the evacuees and war casualties will be treated, not by the present impractical and inadequate assistance or forced relocation by limiting time of the centers, but by the policy of cooperation, goodwill, kindness and friendship which are born on humanity and justice for which this great country of democracy stands.

May I ask your most kind and sincere considerations.

Most respectfully yours,

(Signed) Chokichi Nakano

Chokichi Nakano

30 - 8 - 1

February 27, 1945

MEMO TO: Mr. Dillon S. Myer
FROM: Block Managers Assembly
SUBJECT: Suggestions Concerning the Future WRA Policies

Whereas, at the time of the evacuation, President Roosevelt's justification for the military order was for the protection of life and property of the people of Japanese ancestry, many of us have lived in the center in full agreement with the president's justification, with the expectation of living here for the duration. Whereas, with the lifting of the restriction on the return to the West Coast, you have publicly stated that all of the Relocation Centers will be closed as of the end of this year, we in behalf of a great number of residents of the Manzanar Relocation Center, wish to state our viewpoints on this matter so that you may be guided in your future policies.

The remaining residents of the center, the greater majority of whom are guided by the thinking and decisions of the older Isseis, still harbor a great fear for life and property on the outside. This has been greater exaggerated by reports of various incidents and difficulties encountered by the relocatees who have gone back to the West Coast. We are frankly very pessimistic about the ability to readjust ourselves to a normal community in the time of war. Our timidity is not due to our liking the institutional way of living, nor to antagonism or resentment for the evacuation, nor to the loss of initiative and energy. There are other reasons far more realistical and difficult, which is tending to discourage us from relocation. We would like to take this opportunity to outline to you some of the reasons for our hesitancy. And suggest to you, the granting of additional time after December 31, 1945 in order to properly care for these groups. The groups can be roughly classified in the following.

1. There are certain groups of people who will not relocate under any circumstances for the duration.
2. Fear of physical harm and property damage by certain groups and individuals.
3. The fear of inability to make an adequate new start on the outside.
4. The aged and ill who are unable of self-support.
5. Fears by the parents for the mistreatments of their children by other children.
6. Repatriates or expatriates, who have definitely made up their minds that they will go to Japan at the first opportunity, and who are free to relocate.
7. Quite a number of evacuees will relocate provided certain of their requirements are met by the WRA. Some of them are:

- a. Realistic, practicable, and workable procedure for financial assistance to farmers, businessmen, home purchasers, and fishermen, etc.
- b. The granting of actual full "rights" of American citizenship to the Japanese American. Not just a theoretical and ideal restoration. There has been many reports of actual discrimination in employments and obtaining of certain business and occupational licenses.
- c. Providing of adequate protection and safeguards for the evacuees. Military protection, if possible.
- d. Assistance in locating housing, or in the eviction of present tenants from houses, business, or farms.
- e. Definite assurance of long time financial assistance, as long as it is actually needed.
- f. Trial and Furlough Leaves should be reinstated, cancellable at the time of the three months notice of closing of any center.
- g. Less legal and cumbersome red tape and more of leaving the decision of policies up to the project directors.

Memo to: Roy Nash, Project Director
From: Project Attorney
Subject: Permanent Form of Self-Government at Manzanar

You have asked me to investigate the present system of government at Manzanar, the proposed constitution submitted by the Block Leaders' Council and the views of members of the administrative staff and to submit certain recommendations to be used as basis for further discussion and planning by you and the members of your staff.

I. THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF SELF-GOVERNMENT AT MANZANAR.

A. Organization. At the present time, the Block Leaders' Council constitutes the main organ of local government at Manzanar. This Council consists of one representative from each Block, called a Block Leader. The Block Leaders were originally appointed by the administration from nominees submitted by the people. More recently, they have been elected, as well as nominated, by the people. The only qualification is that the Block Leader be at least 21 years of age. Each Block Leader has been given an office, a typewriter and the assistance of two aides: a night checker and an information clerk. The primary function of the night checker is to make sure that all residents of the Block are in the center each evening. The information clerk provides general informational service to the residents of the Block. In addition, both the night checker and the information clerk give general assistance to the Block Leader in the performance of his duties.

In addition to the Block Leaders' Council, there is an Executive Committee of six that is selected by the Council. The Executive Committee serves as an advisory board to the administration and represents the Block Leaders' Council during the interim period between meetings.

The Block Leaders' Council is presided over by a president, elected by the group. The president is also presiding officer and an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee. A vice-president has also been elected to serve when the president is absent or unable to serve. The Block Leaders' Council meets once each week on Friday morning at 9:00 A. M.

B. Functions. The Block Leaders' Council discusses questions of general interest to the residents and submits its views to the administration from time to time. At present, it possesses no legislative power. Through its offices at the Manzanar Town Hall, the Block Leaders' Council serves as a coordinating body for handling complaints and inquiries of the Block Leaders. An Executive Secretary, who is not a Block Leader, is employed to manage the Town Hall offices.

The Block Leaders personally perform a wide variety of functions. Personal inquiry has established that one of the main functions is that of receiving complaints, which deal with such diversified subjects as unnecessary or loud noises (including the use of musical instruments); housing accommodations, including change of location and need for additional space; mess halls, that is, both quantity and quality of food and service; house repairs, including broken windows, need for fuses and light globes, wiring repairs and roof repairs; family troubles; and WRA policies.

In addition, the Block Leaders perform positive functions such as the following: distribution of government property, such as soap, mops, buckets, blankets, screens, beds, and brooms; responsibility for the maintenance and security of government property; organization of Boy Scout, Girl Scout and other groups in the Block; calling of meetings of the Block to discuss special matters; assistance to residents in writing letters and handling their personal business; and the alteration of partitions and the supplying of similar accommodation in the barracks. ?

The only official statement of Block Leaders' functions was issued by Mr. Ned Campbell, Assistant Project Director, during the month of June. This statement, which has been relied upon by the Block Leaders as descriptive of their duties, defines their functions as follows:

- "1. Assume all responsibility for the welfare of all people in his block.
2. Keep his own records for properly accounting for Administration property.
3. Assume responsibility for distributing official information.
4. Hear all complaints and assume the responsibility of investigation. See that all cases are presented on the proper form to the Administration with your recommendation.
5. Assume responsibility for all janitor work in your block.

6. For reasons of courtesy and effective management, it is essential that all matters in connection with visits of social service workers, medical workers, police and fire department representatives, etc., should clear through the Block Leader.
 7. Assume responsibility for the cleanliness of your block mess hall.
 8. Assume responsibility for coordinating the mail for your block with the central system.
 9. Assume responsibility for distribution of all supplies going to families in your block. This will be done through your office.
 10. Each Block Leader shall designate his place of residence with a sign so that in an emergency he can be found easily.
 11. Assume responsibility for garbage collection and coordinate the work among all blocks so that one group will not have this work more than one week at a time and only at long intervals.
 12. Assume responsibility for drawing up a procedure for the replacement of Block Leaders.
 13. Assume responsibility for getting things you need for your block.
 14. Assume responsibility for securing proper help."
- II. THE CONSTITUTION PROPOSED BY THE BLOCK LEADERS.

About the first of July, the Block Leaders' Council

prepared a constitution for the Manzanar Relocation Center that was submitted to the Project Director for approval and for further reference to the San Francisco and Washington offices of the War Relocation Authority. In general, this document ratifies the present temporary form of government. It provides for the election of a Block Leader and an alternate Block Leader from each Block. Each resident who has attained the age of 21 is eligible to vote and no restrictions are to be made on the right to vote because of sex, political beliefs or religious creed. Anyone eligible to vote is eligible for election to the office of Block Leader. The Block Leaders' Council is to be the "highest body in the framework of self-government in the Manzanar Relocation Center." The Council is to meet at least once a week to "advise and assist the administration upon policies to be administered and promulgated in the center." Provision is made for the election of an Executive Board of six by the Block Leaders' Council. The duties of the Block Leaders are proscribed as follows: (1) to adjudicate controversies in the Block, if and when request for such settlement is made by either party involved or by a responsible third party; (2) to look after the welfare of the Block residents; (3) to interpret the administration's policy to the Block residents; (4) to interpret the desires and sentiments of all residents to the administration; (5) to correlate the various agencies within the Block; (6) to establish a system of representation within the Block; and, (7) to make proper reports on the affairs of the Block.

Although the plan submitted by the Block Leaders is

called a "constitution", it must be understood that the residents have no inherent power to establish a form of government for themselves. Legally speaking, the power of government must come from the President through the Director of the War Relocation Authority to the local governing body established by the residents. Consequently, the document defining the organization and powers of local government at Manzanar will necessarily have to take the form of regulations promulgated by the Director of the War Relocation Authority rather than the form of a constitution submitted by the people. This, of course, does not mean the Director can not adopt the wishes of the residents and embody them in the necessary regulations.

III. SUGGESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF.

A. Clarification of functions. The most serious difficulty with the present plan of government, and that proposed in the Block Leaders' constitution, is the failure to distinguish clearly between legislative and executive functions to be performed by the Block Leaders. The Block Leaders are, at the present time, in the peculiar position of representing both the people of Manzanar and the administrative staff of the War Relocation Authority. During the week, the Block Leaders are called upon to hear complaints and perform many jobs requested by the administration; on Friday, they sit in Council as representatives of the people to express their views on important matters of policy. Both the Block Leaders and the people are con-

fused as to when the Leaders are acting as agents for the people and when they are functioning as agents for the War Relocation Authority.

Most of the functions now performed by the Block Leaders are executive in character. In order that these functions may be more effective and in order that conflict and friction with the various services provided by the staff may be avoided, the relationship between the Block Leaders and the WRA staff in performing their executive functions should be clarified. The governmental needs of the Manzanar community are like those presented by any city of ten thousand persons. At the present time, however, virtually all of these needs are being provided by the War Relocation Authority, rather than by a government chosen by the residents. For example, the War Relocation Authority is now offering the following services: fire protection, police protection, recreation, agriculture, housing, carpentry, mess halls, sanitation, medical care, education, social service and legal aid. Consideration should be given to the problem of whether any of these functions can and should be delegated to the Block Leaders. However, as long as the primary responsibility for these duties remains with the WRA, the Block Leaders should function in performing similar services not as independent representatives of the people but as agents of the War Relocation Authority in fulfilling local needs. Thus, as problems arise in the various Blocks with respect to fire protection, carpentry and repairs, mess halls, etc., the Block Leader should not attempt to solve these problems on his own motion but should first refer them to the proper department or office of the WRA staff. The Block Leaders

should not set up special offices for rendering social service, legal aid or fire protection. They should not organize schools independent of the local school system nor should they give direct orders to carpenters under the supervision of the chief engineer. Activities of this sort by the Block Leaders should be encouraged but they should be permitted only when they are maintained in cooperation with and under the supervision of the appropriate office in charge. If the Block Leaders' do not receive satisfactory cooperation and service from the administration with respect to these matters, they should discuss the subject in their weekly meetings and bring their comments to the attention of the Project Director.

At the present time, I do not believe that the Block Leaders consider themselves as a branch of the administrative staff in carrying out executive functions. This is indicated by the statement in the proposed constitution that one of the duties of the Block Leader shall be "to coordinate the functions of various agencies within his Block." This feeling may have been fostered by Mr. Campbell's suggestion that each Block Leader is to "assume all responsibility for the welfare of all people in his Block." I am sure there has been no intention on the part of the Block Leaders to encroach upon or interfere with the work of the administration. Undoubtedly, many of the activities that have sprung up from the people have done so because the administration has not been entirely adequate. However, if the Manzanar local government and the WRA administration are to function smoothly side by side in the future, it is of the utmost importance that all agencies be integrated in their administrative operation.

I, accordingly, recommend that the Block Leaders' executive functions be so defined that it is clearly understood that they are a part of the various services performed by the WRA staff.

Although the Block Leaders may have unknowingly assumed more executive authority than has been delegated to them, they have not been given an opportunity to exercise any legislative authority. It is my opinion that a definite delegation of legislative authority subject to a suitable veto power by the Project Director should be made to the Block Leaders' Council by the Director of the War Relocation Authority. I suggest, for consideration, the following paragraph which constitutes a delegation of such legislative power:

Good "There is hereby delegated to the Block Leaders' Council of the Manzanar War Relocation Center the function and responsibility of assisting in the maintenance of law and order within the Center, and to that end the Council shall have general rule-making power for the government of the Relocation Center, within such framework of government for the Center as shall be established by the laws of the United States and the regulations of the War Relocation Authority. The Council shall adopt such ordinances as may be necessary to provide for peace and tranquility within the Center; to encourage orderliness, cleanliness, recreation, health, education; and the welfare of the community; to define offenses against the peace and order of the Community, and provide for their punishment; and to promote loyalty to the United States of America. The Council shall have authority to levy assessments upon residents of the Center, but only for the purpose of raising revenue for the support of education, recreation, health,

and such other community services, facilities, and activities as will directly promote the general welfare of the community.

Revenue derived from such assessments shall be expendable only on the basis of appropriations made by the Council and on warrants against such appropriations issued by the Chairman of the Council."

In exercising its legislative power, the Block Leaders' Council, within suitable bounds, should be wholly independent of the War Relocation Authority. The Council should objectively discuss and criticize the policies and actions of the War Relocation Authority and should be permitted to make suitable recommendations to the Project Director. The Council should truly be an official mouthpiece of the people of Manzanar, dedicated to the purpose of achieving a sound administration of the center and a furtherance of the welfare of the residents.

B. Separation of Executive and Legislative functions.

I have attempted to clarify the distinction between legislative and executive functions to be performed by the Block Leaders. At the present time, both functions are vested in one individual. There is, of course, no objection to this procedure; however, consideration might be given to the possibility of selecting two officials from each Block; one to be the legislative representative of the people and the other to be their executive representative working as an arm of the WRA administration. The legislative representative might be called a "Block Representative" and the executive official might be called a "Block Manager". One advantage in having two officials in each Block is that of clarifying these functions in the eyes of the people. The

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residents would then have no reason to charge that their legislative representatives are "stooges" for the administration. On the other hand, it has been suggested that the present system has become well-established and there might be some jurisdictional difficulties in having two officials, chosen by the people, operating in the same Block. I recommend that serious consideration be given to the question of whether the executive and legislative function should be entrusted to one official or vested in two.

C. Eligibility to Office. The War Relocation

Authority has issued a policy statement that only niseis shall be eligible to hold elective office at the relocation centers. This policy has, for the time being, been suspended with respect to Manzanar. I believe, after conference with several of the residents and members of the staff, that serious reconsideration should be given to this problem at the Project level. It seems clear that, if the Isseis are permitted to hold office, they will dominate the local government. This has the advantage of placing many competent, experienced persons in authority. It also tends to assure a conservative and conciliatory administration of the Block Leaders' Council. At the same time, the admission of the isseis to public office tends to lessen the morale of the niseis in the center who feel that they have lost virtually all of their citizenship rights except the right to vote and hold office. If this last distinction is denied the niseis, it is said that they will feel that their citizenship means nothing to them and that they are no better off than aliens. It is also said that, if a Block Leaders' Council were composed entirely of niseis, it would be a more progressive and critical body. The administration might well

prefer to have a more aggressive and critical Council, if its motives were constructive, than to have one composed of more docile and conciliatory members. At the same time, the younger generation would be receiving valuable experience in assuming the responsibility of citizenship and government. This would be valuable to them after the emergency is over and it is the younger group which will be called upon to bear the brunt of the burden of the postwar readjustment. The average age of the issei is approximately 58 and it is said that this older generation will not have to bear the burden of the postwar readjustment and that they do not need the experience and training to be offered by leadership in local government.

I have attempted to outline the various arguments I have heard on this subject. I think the question should be carefully considered by the staff and a definite recommendation be made with respect to the problem. If the isseis are barred from holding office, I recommend that an advisory council of six isseis be appointed by the Project Director for assistance to him and to the Block Leaders' Council.

D. Eligibility to Vote.

The proposed constitution places the voting age at 21 years and provides that there shall be no discrimination because of sex, religious creed or political beliefs. Those who wish to educate the younger generation in government and to aid their morale, in fighting against the disillusionment they sometimes feel, suggest that the voting age be reduced to 18 or even 16 years. I recommend that further consideration be given to this problem.