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By: Mr. Dillon S. Myer  
Director, War Relocation Authority

To: Meeting of Temporary Community Council  
and Block Managers of Poston I, II, and III.

Date: November 17, 1942

"The last time I was here it was one hundred and twenty degrees in the shade. As I sit and shiver in this room now, I realize that it has been quite a while since I have been here.

The chairman has mentioned 'the sea of frustration'. I hope there has not been too much of it, for, before I am through, I may add to it, though I hope not too much. The world today is moving along at a fast tempo. In some respects, we are moving at the rate of one normal year in one month. I became the Director of the W.R.A. a little after the middle of June. Now, I can hardly remember what I was doing before I accepted this position.

In making policies, the W.R.A. has made some mistakes. When we learn that they are mistakes, we try to correct them. We are going to try to complete building this community. We will try to take care of the essential physical aspects of 110,000 people such as housing, transportation, supplies, fire department, police department, government, etcl. We will try to provide all the things we find in a normal city, and in addition we must consider many other problems that do not exist in a normal city. This latter fact has complicated matters a great deal. It was essential that we think through policy questions in order that we understand each other for the guidance of the program. But this program did not make good until the middle of August 1. In this respect, we were unfair to you. Concerning schools, when the construction of school buildings was first planned, W.R.A. suggested to the Army engineers not to plan to build the schools because something must be left for the evacuees to do. We thought we would give you an opportunity to develop your own schools. We realize now that this was a mistake. We did not anticipate the delay in materials. The buildings should have been ready last September or August. We will try to rectify this mistake, but it will take time..

The W.R.A. has had to make certain decisions. ~~There are~~ None of us ~~that~~ are gods in that we are wise. We have had to learn by making mistakes. The following are recently made important principles: 1. We are complicating things too much, and we must simplify. 2. The major objective of



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the W.R.A. is to immediately move into permanent relocation as fast as we can. Once we have adopted this kind of objective, it means that a number of things previously thought of may need to be readjusted. How far this relocation program can be carried out will depend on two things:

1. How much community acceptance we can get, 2. How much understanding we can get regarding who you people are. People are usually afraid of those people and things they do not know. They are afraid of the unknown. Most of you people have lived in three or four states, and the rest of the people in the United States do not know you, or about you. A great deal of things they have heard about have been in the form of fables.

I feel that "outside work" concerning your permanent relocation can be done through those who understand your problems such as social agencies, churches, and a lot of other people who are ready to help. Manpower situation also is such today that the Manpower Board has approved our policy. We also have the approval of the Attorney General, Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, and those responsible for internal security. We must make a move during a period and while the war is on for relocation, otherwise we will have a terrific problem after the war is over. The job in the centers of preparing for relocation will be just as hard. All this means more changes. I am assuming that most of you people have not asked for repatriation, and are going to continue to live in the United States. The W.R.A. is interested in helping you become adjusted in the United States. If a good number of you are willing to be relocated, I believe that we can get the job done.

I do not want to talk about the evacuation, because I want to forget about it. I believe you feel the same. But I do want to mention this much. The evacuation took place because too many of you lived around Los Angeles, San Francisco, and other seaport towns on the Pacific Coast. You were not well enough distributed.

You have among your group three generations. It is perfectly natural that some of your older people have old tiebacks. The younger people, the Nisei, will also have some tiebacks. This is true of any group. We must look the matter square in the face and realize the truth. Chances are that if this war had occurred fifteen years later, we would not have had this problem. I have studied this thing. I have lain awake nights thinking about the problem. If we fail in getting you people to accept what we think is a sound policy, if one-fourth of the residents in all the centers cannot be relocated, we will have failed in our program.



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There are now three types of leaves:

- a. Temporary leave: For taking care of short trips necessitated by illness within the family, funerals, etc.
- b. General Group Leave: For example, sugar beet work, cotton picking, etc.
- c. Indefinite Leave: This group includes leaves where the length of stay is not definitely set.

The third type of leave is the one in which I am most interested. A great deal of thought was put into it before I signed this one. There are four conditions that must be met by applicants for outside employment:

- a. Anyone may make application for a leave who has a place to go and provisions to take care of themselves
- b. The W.R.A. must be assured that such will be accepted in the community
- c. An applicant's record must be such that it will be approved by the FBI and W.R.A.
- d. The W.R.A. must be kept informed at all times where the people are going, and where they are living, so that the W.R.A. may make sure that the community sentiment is well.

We have been promised by Mr. Hoover of the F.B.I. that he and his men will render seven-day service in checking up the records of the applicants.

Let me repeat, our basic policy now is to help you people go out. I hope you will disperse yourselves in not too large groups. I hope there will be no more "Little Tokyos". You should go to the same churches as the other people of the community. It will not be easy, but neither are a lot of other things easy. If you are looking for easy things to do, sit here until the war is over, and then we will push you out.

Within the Project, we will try to get a lot of things done that need to be done, such as schools, administration quarters, adequate internal security, etc. But we will not try to make you rich within the centers. After the present W.R.A. basic commitments have been kept, no further improvements will be made. There will be no such thing as a prevailing wage scale. People will be paid according to the W.R.A. wage scale. There will be too many complications, and too many adjustments will have to be made if different projects within the center. We will try to find everybody work enough to do. We will try to make a study of how many people particular tasks require. We have run into the problem of having too many people working in one project. This results in bad working habits. It is bad for you, and bad for us. If there is not enough work, we will try to find more.



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The W.R.A. policy has not been revised in detail but this will be done as soon as we can. We have decided that private firms located at the center are running us into all kinds of trouble. We will not approve any more firms. If we do have outside business come in here, the work will be done at the same wage scale as the W.R.A. You have some camouflage net plants here. We have made certain commitments regarding these plants that we intend to keep. I am sorry I have made those. It will be hard to keep.

There has been some misunderstanding about the trust fund idea. We have studied it, and decided that it is just too complicated to make it work.

I think the policy that will make this policy click will be the reestablishment of opportunity for Nisei to enter the Army. It is not yet a settled fact, but I have done a great deal of work regarding this. I have a great deal of sympathy for those who are citizens of the United States, and who have a right to fight for their country. It is not definite, but I hope the announcement will come soon. I do not know how many of you will want to go in the Army, but I hope there will be many who will want to go because I believe it is important."

At this point, Mr. E. R. Fryer, Regional Director of the W.R.A., San Francisco, and Mr. Barrows, Executive Fiscal Officer were introduced to the group.

#### QUESTIONS ANSWERED BY MR. MYER:

1. To what extent is the new resettlement program going to affect this colonial enterprise?

Ans.: I did not know that this was a colonial enterprise. It is best to forget it now. This is an Indian Reservation and is not a permanent place for anybody to live.

2. Please outline the W.R.A. policy concerning fencing.

Ans.: The W.R.A. policy regarding fencing is simple. We will have a fence to keep livestock in or out. This does not include human lives. The Army determines what is needed in this respect. I think a mistake has been made in where the fence is to be placed. We are trying to get a rectification. If we cannot, we ask that you accept it. I do not know the reason for having the fence, because it is not a W.R.A. fence. There are folks who feel that they must be protected from you, and we must expect that. It is the unknown thing that I have already talked about. I hope that we will not make a major issue of the fence. I repeat that it is not a W.R.A. policy. Everybody does not think the same way we do.



3. Does the resettlement program include California?

Ans.: The resettlement program does not include any of the evacuated areas. People may move into any area that is not a military area. I hope too many of you will not go back to California at any time, because I want to prevent a difficult racial problem.

4. What is the W.R.A. wage policy?

Ans.: \$12, \$16, and \$19 will continue to July 1st of next year. I will make no commitments about the following fiscal period.

5. How much is going to be charged against each person when we leave this center?

Ans.: There will be no charge made for basic subsistence if people are working under the W.R.A. wage scale.

6. What will be done about back pay?

Ans.: We will try our best to get caught up on payments and work on schedule.

7. Can arrangements be made so that Community Enterprises will not have to pay cash advance and clothing allowance to employees?

Answered by Mr. Barrows: Pay an clothing allowance for Community Enterprises employees is a matter for local solution. Do not think that any answer having to do with the particular question will sound good. I hope that when the cash advance due the community has been paid up, the Community Enterprises will pay its own cash advance and clothing allowance. The Community Enterprises as a private enterprise can do more for the community and quickly than the Government can. Our lawyers feel that if the Government pays the cash advance and clothing allowance for Community Enterprises, questions will be raised as to whether the enterprises are really private businesses. If Community Enterprises are in a difficult position financially, arrangements for Government loans over a particular period can be arranged.

The situation here in regard to Community Enterprises is not typical. The enterprises here are set up under a trust arrangement with Government connection. I would like to see them operate as private agencies.



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8. Would you advise changing Community Enterprise into a cooperative in view of the change in the W.R.A. policy?

Ans.: (Mr. Myer) I do not think I should answer this question because I am not well enough informed on the subject.

(Mr. Barrows): The following is purely a personal opinion. I think that if there is a movement of people on the outside, naturally, the volume of business will go down, and this will have to be taken into account. People might like the plan of receiving dividends regularly than to leave their share of the profits behind.

9. Does the W.R.A. intend to ask Congress to appropriate funds for recreational activity in the various relocation centers?

Ans.: As hard as it may sound, I think we would have a reaction against the rest of the budget if we were to ask for such an appropriation. I agree with you that recreational activities are very necessary, but with a war on, and thinking in the Congress the way it is, I believe it would react against money we would get for our budget. There might be possibilities for outside groups to help the people here. We might try to get funds for activities which might indirectly have a bearing on recreation.

10. Will clothing issued prior to October 1, 1942, be deducted from the clothing allowance?

Ans.: No, it will not be deducted.

11. Can people be relocated and work in war industries and defense projects?

Ans.: I cannot promise this. I think there will be a few positions of this nature which will be open to you. Any program of this type will have to be developed step by step. There has been quite a question regarding any kind of alien working in any kind of war industry.

12. Will there be other jobs available besides housework?

Ans.: By all means, there will be other jobs available. W.R.A. Form 26 contains your qualifications. We hope to relocate you in the field in which you are interested. There are opportunities for office workers. There is also a demand for mechanics, and professional workers.



A very small proportion of the Japanese population is in manufacturing. There are openings in many manufacturing plants for workers.

If you cannot get other work, go into housework for the time being.

13. Every resident of a relocation center receives medical care, food, housing, and children are given education. Why is not clothing allowance included?

Ans.: It was arranged this way to leave some incentive for work.

14. The general policy of the W.R.A. is to relocate on the outside. There will be people who because of various reasons will not be able to relocate. Will they be looked upon as slackers, or disloyal?

Ans.: The W.R.A. will continue to get the best understanding possible on the part of the public as to why people remain in the centers.

A very interesting situation arose during the current sugar beet topping season. The general public thought that there were 110,000 people capable of topping sugar beets in the relocation centers. They did not take into the fact that some of the population are children, others aged people, invalids, etc.

There are more rumors that float in war time than at any other time. We will try to discourage rumors. The W.R.A. cannot do it alone. Those of you who stay in the centers will help to run the best kind of community government in order to help maintain relations on the outside.

Those who go outside will have a tremendous job, not only for yourself, but for the democracy and the group you represent. We have a joint problem. We must develop a broader program of statesmanship.

The largest group of citizens of your ancestry range from 10 to 25 years of age. There are not many in the middle age group. Some of you people will have to grow up fast. You will have to accept heavy responsibilities. Responsibilities usually make or break a person. There is a heavy load lying on your shoulders. You need the counsel of your elder statesmen. Do not permit conflicts to develop. Take group responsibility as well as individual responsibilities.

15. How soon will permits to leave for outside employment be



granted?

has been

Ans.: The relocation program is still in a very nebulous stage until now. It has just begun to clarify. There should not be too much trouble in getting your clarification. One of the big bottlenecks has been the F.B.I. Their office has been crowded with requests for clarification, and it has been impossible to get the job done quickly. Mr. Hoover has promised me that he will try to get seven day service for us. We will try to get out side of the system worked out so that the work can be expedited. Speed is essential to make this work.

16. Will Federal Civil Service employees have their status clarified?

Ans.: I hope, and I believe that we can get the situation clarified soon. Opportunities to work in Government agencies will vary with the agency.

17. Who may apply for permanent relocation?

Ans.: Issei, Nisei, and Kibei may apply for relocation. We will take each case and consider it on its own merits. People who have been released from internment camps may also apply. There may be more complications in these latter cases, but they may apply.

18. What should one do about his property in California?

Ans.: It is difficult to give advice regarding this. The W.R.A. has set up a division to help you protect your property. What happens after this war depends more on how we conduct ourselves than on any other factor.

19. How do the housing facilities here compare with those in other centers? What can be done to have stoves brought here quickly?

Ans.: We are doing everything we can to have stoves and other necessities sent here as soon as possible. It is just one of those things that happen during the war. We are just as anxious to get them as you are. We would buy new ones (stoves) if we could, but in wartime priority is needed. Everything sized up, the conditions in all the centers are about the same.

20. Will the doctors be required to remain within the center for the duration?

Ans.: This is a very serious question. I have thought about it a great deal. Doctors are one of the shortest commodities today. I hope you will have faith. We hope to be able to do something that is just and sound.



Date: November 17, 1942

Time: 9:30 A.M.

Place: Poston 1, Poston, Arizona

Mr. John Mayeno, Chairman of the Temporary Community Council Poston 2 introduced Director Dillion Myers of the War Relocation Authority.

Mr. D. Myers: "Folks, it is nice to see you. I was just commenting to the chairman that the last time I was here, it was 125 degrees in the shade and this morning as I am shivering, it is quite a change. I hope you are not too uncomfortable. The chairman has mentioned the sea of frustration and I hope there is not too much of it, but before I get through with it, I may add to it, I hope not too much. After all some of the folks, the administration group, I talked to last night agrees that events move along as suddenly and yet do not know of time in a time a month from now. We are going at the rate of let us say we live a year in a time of a month, since everything moves so quickly and fast."

"I began to direct the WRA about a month ago, and we have been so absorbed in the problems of you people and interested in it. As fast as we found out that we are making mistakes, we tried to correct them. We have been put up against the problem of trying to build and man 10 cities involving about 100,000 people, of which this is the largest of the group and trying to take care of the essential physical aspects about which you people know--that of education, transportation, employment, schools and buildings."

"The school is one of our mistakes. Besides those things mentioned, we have fire departments, government, police or wardens, all these things that we find in the normal city plus the fact that we don't have to meet in the normal cities the complications in this particular city. The several months were spent trying to take up matter, materials and taking care of various physical aspects. At the same time we are trying to think through a policy considerations that are so essential in order that we understand each other and guide this project."

"We did not begin until after the middle of August, it was not quite fair, we grant you, especially at centers that had to muddle along without proper guidance. We made some mistakes and some of which we are going to try to correct."

"I shall speak on the school for just a moment. When the first construction of WRA with the army engineers in planning the school question, we thought that we are going to need work for a large number of people because we thought you will not be here until the middle of August, and have proper time to open schools, administration offices, and others. One of the mistakes was that the army put us in much faster. We ran into all kinds of problems of getting materials, but we are going to be 5 or 6 months late in building the school. We are still trying to make a go of it in spite of all these things."



OK  
 "The WRA has had to make certain decisions after consulting with many of the evacuees, after studying the problems and experience in handling a center such as yours. We have had to move along and blunder along until we clarified our thinking policy within the last 3 or 4 weeks. We have arrived at certain principles that are important. We are complicating things too much in the federal organizations and we have begun to simplify it.

OK  
 "The major objective of the WRA is to immediately look into a relocation program and assist just as soon as possible to relocate people on the outside. Once we have adopted that kind of objective, it means the things we were thinking about back in the former time has to be readjusted. How much relocation is going to depend on two things: (1) How much community acceptance we can get in the United States and in hundreds of communities in this country, (2) How much understanding we can get as to who you people are. The people on the outside are afraid of people and things they don't know about. Most of you folks have lived in 3 or 4 states and the rest of the country do not know about you. A good deal of the hearsay heard about you has been in the form of fabulous rumors or things drifting to them throughout the country. I have come to the conclusion that this can be done away with with the help of various interested agencies who are believers in democracy, social agencies, the churches and a lot of other people who are ready to help do that job.

OK  
 "Furthermore on the outside community acceptance for man power is such today that the Attorney General, J. Edgar Hoover, and those which are essential to public relations in that responsibility feel we have got to make the most during that period while the war is on. We want to see a large move in the direction of relocation and if we do not do it now, the rest of you are going to be in a terrific problem. It is a big job to get community acceptance and understanding.

OK  
 "The job in the centers is just as hard for the people in the centers, since it means adjustment. Most of you are planning to live on the outside and in the United States. The WRA is interested in helping you to get adjusted as fast as possible, to get readjusted as citizens and friendly aliens in such a way that people on the outside will understand who you are and that you are not such a bad sort of people to live along side of, and as more and more are willing to move into the approach, I believe we can help to get the job done. It does dislocate your present ~~primarily~~ but so are many people being dislocated throughout

OK  
 "I just want to say a little about evacuation. The major reason is that there were too many of you people living around the seaports on the Pacific in large groups--such as San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle and San Diego. You were not well enough distributed in proportion to have people accept you on those areas. You have among your group three generations. It is perfectly natural in the first generation who were born in Japan that you will have some tie-backs to the conditions



OK under which you grew up. The second generation will have some tie-backs influenced by ideals of their parents. Your youngsters will have less tie-backs. We have to accept those things and look them squarely in the face. It is a chance that if the war had not come for the next 15 years, we will not have had this problem. I hope I am not a hard-boiled person. I have stayed awake nights, at least two or three nights, pondering over these things and trying to think it through.

"I want to tell you honestly that if we fail to get you people to accept what I think is a sound pattern--at least one-fourth or more of this population in getting relocated outside from this center, we have failed. About 6 weeks ago, I signed the relocations for three types of leaves:

- OK
1. Temporary leave which is for a short period of time in which evacuee must return again. It is for emergencies--illnesses, funerals and certain other things of that type.
  2. General Group leave--groups of people leaving for work on the outside such as sugar beet topping for certain period of time or under certain conditions.
  3. Indefinite leave where people leaving for outside need not return to the center and these are the ones I am most interested in seeing.

There is a lot of work in signing that type of leave, and went over it with many other agencies, and I want to be sure of this type of leave. This leave provides for essentials that has to be met, and I think it is essential that it is necessary to have the protection for the opportunity to go out.

OK Anyone may make application for leave if you have a place to go and can take care of themselves--job, family, --provided that we can be assured that the community will accept them without too much trouble. That is important to you as well as it is to us, because if we have too much flare-ups, it may bring rejections on further indefinite leaves. We want to be sure that we don't want to run into trouble. We want to be sure that the record is such that we feel that it is safe for them to go out. The Federal Bureau of Investigation checks upon your past records, records on how you have conducted yourself in the centers, and checks upon people judgment of you. All these are essential to establish public relations on the outside for community acceptance. We want to be kept informed where the people are going and leaving and where they are moving to when they do move from one place to another, and assist them in making a second check that the community is acceptable and do not run into too much trouble. I feel assured that we can get these things done. I have now been assured that the F.B.I. will render a 7-day service in getting things checked.



Out

"The copies on the procedures of making applications are being made, so do not rush the office too much to get this done and don't swamp the office because these copies are on their way."

In

"I do want to say one or two more things. Let me repeat that the basic policy of the WRA is to do everything to help to get you people moved into the outside if you are fit to go. If we can find a place to go, I hope you can disperse yourself in small groups in this country. I hope there will be no more Lil Tokio and Osaka. I think that as long as you are going to live in this country you may as well go to the same schools, churches and various other places with the people of this country. It is going to be hard and not easy to do."

OK

"As far as the work in the project is concerned, in the light of this policy we are going to do our best to tighten up little leaks in the administration as possible. We are going to do our best to build schools, administration quarters, best internal security for the people in the community. We have the basis started, but it is essential both from the standpoint of the center as well as from the outside we are going to try to do everything that are essential to the main standards of life. We are not going to try to make you rich in the center. I am not going to approve of more wages in the centers. You can go outside if you wish to make more money and accumulate wealth. All of the work on the project and on the outside will be on WRA wage scale basis, because it is too complicated to try to set-up wages and subsistence deductions, so we better move toward simplification, and that is one of them. It does not mean the same about community enterprises. I am talking about farm workers, mess halls, industry, and other enterprises. We have a few commitments on industry which we are going to keep."

OK

"We are going to make a study just as quickly as we possibly can to see how many people particular tasks require and we are not going to have more people on the tasks then it is required. We have run into some problems where we have had too many people on jobs, resulting to poor working habits and we are making readjustments as soon as possible. If there are not enough jobs to go around, we will find some other jobs to do, so there are not too many people on one job."

"I thank you for this opportunity to talk to you and am glad to have met you people in Poston. Thank you."



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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

1. What is the WRA policy in regard to people residing within the center and accepting private employment and the relations to Evacuee Trust Fund?

OK

Ans.: The WRA policy has been revised and as soon as we can get the revisions made. We have decided that private employment and industry located at the center is running up to all kinds of trouble and we are not going to approve of them. If you have private employment or industries at the center, it is to be on the same scale as workers in the centers. We are trying to have enough work while you stay here and at WRA wage scales of \$12.00, \$16.00 and \$19.00 per month, and if you want to work for more money, we will try to relocate you on the outside. We have some industries we have to run in certain centers as the camouflage plants and whatever policies are worked out, I hope you people will support it and cooperate to the best of your policy. I have made certain commitments and we intend to keep and do our best to keep them. I don't make a habit of making commitments and not keeping them.

We feel that you will not be able to do many things here in the center that you have been doing. There has been some misunderstanding about the Trust Fund idea. It has not been definitely put into the picture except to be studied, and it was decided that it was just too complicated and intricate to direct it. We think we have a better solution, and if you want to make money, we'll try to help you make more money elsewhere.

I want to tell you what I think that will make your policy really click and re-established yourself again is to have the Japanese American boys join the army. I am able to tell you that I have done a great deal of work on that question for the last two months, and have a point of view that as a citizen of this country that you have the right to fight for your country. I hope there is an announcement soon that will clear up the situation and that is an important keystone in this policy. I don't know how many of the boys will want to go into the army. I hope there are a lot of you that will do so, because I think it is going to be important if you are going to live in this country after the war is over.

2. To What extent is this new resettlement policy going to affect Poston as a colonial enterprise?



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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Ans: I don't know that Poston ever was a colonial enterprise except for the duration of the war, and I do not believe that this is a continuing place for anyone of you to live. I am saying that that's the way I believe and I don't want anyone to build up their hopes of building an empire here. I think you had better change your site.

3. In regard to the matter of a fence around the camp site. What clarification can you give on this?

Ans: The WRA policy regarding a fence is very simple. The only fence is to keep livestock in or out. That does not include human life. We have said to the army, if you absolutely need a fence, build it. I would not worry too much about it, but I think there is a little mistake where it is being built and we are trying to rectify it and we think that some adjustments can be made. I hope that you will accept it and like it. We hope to get some gates made so that you can go out, over, under and through it.

D/K

I do not know the reasons for the fence. It is not definitely a WRA fence. I didn't know about it a week ago until Mr. John Collier told me about it. The army says the fence is going up to keep livestock out and I know that probably isn't the only reason. You do have a community here which is probably more easily protected from livestock by a fence and I believe there are some people who feel that they will be better protected by the fence. It is a part of the human fears of the unknown thing talked about. I hope you will not make an issue of this fence and you will accept it. It is not a WRA policy and there are sometimes mistakes that are made and that you will accept it in the best way possible.

4. Will this re-settlement plan include California?

Ans: It will have to be in areas outside of evacuated areas. The regulations provide that you may move into any area that have not been determined as military area by the army. Some of you would like to go back to California, but for the time it is impossible. I hope when the time happens that you can go back to California, that too many of you do not go back and I want to prevent if possible a tough racial problem that can develop and this kind of trouble or problem must be kept away from.



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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

5. Has the WRA any set policy in the future in regard to set wages of \$12.00, \$16.00, and \$19.00 a month?

Ans.: It will continue to be the same between now and July 1, 1943 at which time our fiscal year will end. The WRA fiscal year begins on July to July of next year. I make no commitments about next year, since I do not know anything about it. I am going to be a little tough about having to much money to spend here in the center. I would like to have you go on the outside to make a little money rather than in the center. The policy will work provided that we can get the right kind of coordination between the people and people in the administration. We will have to develop a joint public relationship and there is more understanding of policies and if we can do it, I think we can make it function.

As far as the amount of money that will be available next year will be an entirely different policy. I think that if you will think, if you figure up the food, the house is not what it should be, the clothing allowance is more than \$16.00 a month in terms of comparative figures on the outside.

I want to say again that if it look like an unfair set-up, we are going to make the best recommendations. We are going to try to find a temporary place for you to stay until most of you are relocated.

6. ~~Most of us here have spent far more money than we have earned or worked and the unbalanced budget will work a hardship on us and this point should be kept well in mind.~~

*Out*  
Ans.: ~~It will be kept in mind, but I am not making any promises to you people.~~

7. ~~In regard to the Evacuee Trust Fund, what procedure in cost accounting will be taken as to what should be charged against us per head for subsistence, clothing allowance.~~

*Out*  
Ans.: ~~There will be nothing charged against anyone in this center that is involved in subsistence--house, food, and clothing allowance. It comes out of the appropriation made by Congress and that is not expected to be repaid. The only question was that in case of community enterprise made, so that some ruling is made to take care of subsistence in the centers.~~



8

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

*only*

~~From here on as far as the work on the centers are concerned, it will be on WRA wage scale--\$12.00, \$16.00 and \$19.00 per month and no other wages, but there will be no charges made.~~

8. ~~The system now being used in Poston of bonding one payroll man has made payday backward rather than forward. What can be done about this so that we can get up to schedule?~~

~~Ans.: We will do our best to clear that up and hope that we can get on schedule and it does take time to get on schedule.~~

- 6* 9. *OK* In regard to community enterprise--expenses, cash advances and clothing allowances are to be deducted from the community enterprise. Would it be possible to have that adjusted so that community enterprise will not have to pay the cash advances or clothing allowances?

Ans.: I am going to turn this over to Mr. Barrows of the Fiscal Division to answer since he is more familiar with it.

Mr. Barrows:

I would like to say that wages and clothing allowances problem is capable of local solution. I don't think any answer having to answer with this particular problem can be done until this center is up to cash advances and clothing allowances. When the time comes, I hope that the community enterprise will be able to pay for the cash advances and clothing allowances for their employees.

For many reasons, the authority wants the community enterprise to be separate from the administration, and there are many things that can be done in many ways simpler than through the government. If the government pays cash advances and clothing allowances to people who work in community enterprises, there will be questions raised whether that would be private enterprise or not.

Appropriations will be available under which the government can make loans or grants to help them over difficult periods. We are about to announce that if the Community Enterprise cannot pay their own cash advances and clothing allowances, the Project Director or Community Council can recommend temporary adjustments.



The situation here in Boston of the Community Enterprise is not exactly typical since here it is arranged under a board of trustees set-up and I don't know what that is under legal conceptions. We would like to have community enterprise set up as private enterprise.

I will say if the policy does not set well, we will entertain any recommendations that will fit.

10. In regard to the cooperative movement, how would it affect the cooperative movement if people are to be relocated on the outside?

*Out*  
 Ans.: I don't think I can give you advice in regard to this. I am only stating my personal opinions and only to be taken as personal opinions. I think that if there is a movement of people outside of Boston, if you are to be relocated, naturally, the volume of business will go down. The people managing would have to take that into account and plan their business accordingly. I would say that a Community Enterprise on a basis of patronage dividends would be easier to manage where the profits went into the benefit of community use. If I was to leave, I would like to have some money to take out with me.

11. In the \$70,000,000.00 appropriation of WRA made by Congress, not one cent was made for recreation purposes. We feel that recreation is very essential for the welfare of the youngsters. Would the WRA consider asking Congress to make such an appropriation for recreation?

*OK*  
 Ans.: No. We have made a provision for a certain issue of minimum recreation equipment to start the thing off. I personally would like to see an appropriation made since I believe it is essential, but I feel there would be a reaction against the rest of the appropriation. With the war on, with the thinking of the people in Congress and others not understanding, I honestly believe that there will be a reaction on the amount of money we can get and are going to get.

I believe that we can get assistance from the outside from people who are interested and can send us some equipment.

I don't think it is sound to ask for a recreation appropriation. Under the wage scale, we may develop some thing which are basic to recreation program. It would be a made mistake to request for balls, bats and other equipment.

12. Will clothing already issued be deducted from our allowances?

*OK*  
 Ans.: Clothing issued prior to October 21, 1942, will not be deducted from the clothing allowances but after that will be deducted from the clothing allowances.



9. Is there any opportunities for relocation in any of the war defense industries on the outside?

Ans.: There will be possibilities that will develop, but I don't want to promise that there will be many opportunities for that thing. I think you will have to take on faith and it will have to develop step by step. There has been, for example, quite a question for aliens of any kind working in any defense industries. There has been quite a question against such a thing, so that in itself is a factor.

There are many people in this country that do not know that two-thirds of you are citizens. That is going to an individual development and we have had amazing developments during the last 3 or 4 weeks and we have been given many hopes.

I want to say that if the opportunity is opened for wider service for boys in the army, it will open up wider fields in various activities. A clarification in many people's minds that citizenship does exist, it will help us in public relations job more than anything else. There will be many opportunities in many industries if we time it and get the proper understanding.

10. If there any definite ruling made by the WAA to find other jobs than housework?

Ans.: Yes. Most of you have heard of Instruction #26 where we have tried to get facts on training and utilize that information as we can to move ahead in our program in assisting and finding employment if possible in the positions of your field of training. If you are interested, we are ready to assist in a retraining program that you are interested in so that you can get adjusted. You would be amazed that is before you the number of requisitions that we have had for people of all kinds in all kinds of fields. There is a terrific demand for office workers,--stenographers, typists and accountants--that are running short.

I don't think many of you realize, and people on the outside realize, what it means to take 4 or 5 million men into the army who are in many positions all across the country. There is a demand for all types of positions. One of the greatest demands is in defense industries. But say the largest percentage of you have been in agricultural, professions, merchandising, and other fields and very few in defense industries and manufacturing.

*Same as  
yellow sheet*

*OK*



But the opportunity if opened for a lot of fields. We are having a lot of demand for housework, and if you can't get something else otherwise, you will take it as an opportunity to get the understanding of the people. If you are interested, the folks working in the employment office can get you more ideas on it.

All the government employment service and other agencies have a contribution to make and WRA are establishing offices in various places to give some service in this field that we are not able just now to give.

*out*  
10. ~~Administrative Instruction #27 provided that subsistence should be provided to all evacuees. We feel that clothing is just as much an essential as subsistence and that all evacuees should be furnished with clothing as well.~~

Ans.: We shall take a look at that. Frankly, one of the reasons is to set up some incentive for work over and above only subsistence.

*1/2*  
11. The general policy of WRA is to help relocate people on the outside, but there are going to be some left here in Poston. Will they be assured that they will receive same consideration as now and not be regarded as slackers by the WRA and people on the outside?

*OK*  
Ans.: The WRA will continue to try to keep the public understand that people here are not slackers. I am afraid the general impression throughout the public is that there are 110,000 people who can top sugar beets and we could not make it clear to the people that there are children, older people, and sick people who could not work.

*out*  
~~There are more rumors floating around than any other time. There are rumors in Tule Lake and will probably take about two weeks work and have to be done as part of our additional work. I promise you that just as soon as we find the source of the rumor, we will do everything in our power to change it, but we can't do it all.~~

*OK*  
Those who stay in the centers are going to have to help run the best kind of community government and best kind of public relations for those in the centers and those who are going out. They have a tremendous job to show democracy, and everything that every individual does is going to be generalized by a certain group of people to apply to the entire Japanese people. We have to accept their going out, to having and developing a broader problem of understanding.



OK  
We have a little different pattern in the younger group than in the general population pattern. The largest group of citizens ranges between the ages of 20 and 25 years, and there isn't very many ranging between 30 and 35 years. Some of you are going to have to grow up very fast and it is not just looking out for yourself. They have the problem of developing understanding, leadership and responsibility. I hope the most of you will make it your job and there is a heavy load lying on your shoulders and you need the consultation of your elders' statements in the centers and on the outside to guide you. We don't dare have intensive conflicts that will ruin you. I hope you will cooperate with us and take that responsibility.

17. In as much as the WRA has committed themselves to relocate the people on the outside, how long will it take to get the people out?

Ans.: All of this program of relocation has been in a nebulous stage until now. If all those things happen and there should not be much trouble in having the thing checked through the WRA, FBI, and community where they are going and assurance of this that there will be no trouble.

OK  
The FBI has been so pressed with requisitions for clearances from the army, navy and so many other agencies that it is almost impossible to get the work done. I have the promise of J. Edgar Hoover that he will give us 7-day service and we ought to get that going through so that we can do it in 2 or 3 weeks' time. We know that is going to be essential to get this done. It takes some time to get the machinery going.

18. What about opportunities for civil service positions?

OK  
Ans.: As far as the federal civil service, we can get the situation cleared through so that there will be no questions in employment in these agencies. I cannot answer as to the employment opportunities in others is going to vary with these agencies. I have felt that if I cannot get the United States government to adopt this policy, we cannot get the private employers to do so.

19. Will any differentiations be made between "isseis", "niseis," and "kibeis"?

OK  
Ans.: There will be no differences as to the right to make applications. We will consider all the records involved, and there will be certain differences between aliens and citizens since there are laws regarding them. As far as kibeis are concerned, naturally we will be more cautious about them.



15. Can you relocate people who have been released from internment camps?

yellow sheet  
Ans.: Everyone can make applications from this center to leave. We will have to make record checks and it will be harder even if we think the records good, since the records are there and will try to treat them fairly.

21. In regard to people who still have property in California, what do you advise they should do about them?

Out.  
Ans.: Let me say that we are setting up a property division to help you protect your property in the meantime. I don't know what the State of California is going to do and what the rest of the communities and country does depends how you conduct yourself and how we conduct ourselves during the time we are in the war.

I can't answer your question, I don't know, you are going to have to make a determination in the light of what you think.

16  
22. There are rumors that other relocation centers have much better housing conditions than here. We have been promised about stoves and we have had no stoves.

6X  
Ans.: We are doing everything we can do about it. The stoves are on the train somewhere.

Out.  
In Minidoka about 3 weeks ago, we had trouble getting coal since the contractor was not to supply us could not do so as promised. We are having the same trouble trying to get things as we are in.

6X  
As far as housing is concerned, there are some places that have more wallboards, but everything sized up, you will have after all improvements have been completed just as good as any other place. Don't let them kid you about things being better than Poston.

in.  
Clothing allowances and cash advances are behind. We are depending greatly upon this small amount. You must bear in mind the fact that so many of the Japanese people have sacrificed a great deal in real property and personal properties. Money is very hard to get in such small cash advances and clothing allowances. We are forced to depend greatly upon such and wish to have you use your influence to hasten things up.

Out.  
Ans.: We will do our very best you may be assured.



17<sup>th</sup>. If the WRA policy is to try to relocate people on the outside, but there would be a certain number of people remaining in the centers. It will mean that the professional groups will be stuck here in the centers for the duration. Also on \$19.00 per month, we find it very trying and difficult to acquire books and necessary materials to keep up on the most modern methods used in our profession.

Ans.: That is a very serious question. I hope you do not take the feeling that you will be stuck here for the duration and I hope we will look for something to try to do the best for the people in the professional groups. I wish you were in the same position that anyone else is, but I feel that you should be where you can do the best for the people. I hope there is a recompense for what some of you folks have to go through.

OK I think we will give serious consideration for the various books and necessary materials. I am not going to sympathize with you because I feel that you don't want it, but that you want to get things done.

I want to tell you there are many dislocated people on the outside as well.

OK I have enjoyed this meeting and I hope there are no misunderstandings. If there is any questions you need clarified, I am sure Mr. Head and his staff will be able to help you. Thank you.



Date: November 17, 1942

Time: 9:30 A.M.

J 1.12

Place: Poston 1, Poston, Arizona

Mr. John Mayeno, Chairman of the Temporary Community Council Poston 2 introduced Director Dillion Myers of the War Relocation Authority.

Mr. D. Myers: "I began to direct the WRA about a month ago, and we have been so absorbed in the problems of you people and interested in it. As fast as we found out that we are making mistakes, we tried to correct them. We have been put up against the problem of trying to build and man 10 cities involving about 100,000 people, of which this is the largest of the group and trying to take care of the essential physical aspects about which you people know--that of education, transportation, employment, schools and buildings. The school is one of our mistakes.

"We did not begin until after the middle of August, it was not quite fair, we grant you, especially at centers that had to muddle along without proper guidance. We made some mistakes and some of which we are going to try to correct.

"I shall speak on the school for just a moment. When the first construction of WRA with the army engineers in planning the school question, we thought that we are going to need work for a large number of people because we thought you will not be here until the middle of August, and have proper time to open schools, administration offices, and others. One of the mistakes was that the army put us in much faster. We ran into all kinds of problems of getting materials, but we are going to be 5 or 6 months late in building the school. We are still trying to make a go of it in spite of all these things.

"The WRA has had to make certain decisions after consulting with many of the evacuees, after studying the problems and experience in handling a center such as yours. We have had to move along and blunder along until we clarified our thinking policy within the last 3 or 4 weeks. We have arrived at certain principles that are important. We are complicating things too much in the federal organizations and we have begun to simplify it.

"The major objective of the WRA is to immediately look into a relocation program and assist just as soon as possible to relocate people on the outside. Once we have adopted that kind of objective, it means the things we were thinking about back in the former time has to be readjusted. How much relocation is going to depend on two things: (1) How much community acceptance we can get in the United States and in hundreds of communities in this country, (2) How much understanding we can get as to who you people are. The people on the outside are afraid of people and things they don't know about. Most of you folks have lived in 3 or 4 states and the rest of the country do not know about you. A good deal



of the hearsay heard about you has been in the form of fabulous rumors or things drifting to them throughout the country. I have come to the conclusion that this can be done away with with the help of various interested agencies who are believers in democracy, social agencies, the churches and a lot of other people who are ready to help do that job.

"Furthermore on the outside community acceptance for man power is such today that the Attorney General, J. Edgar Hoover, and those which are essential to public relations in that responsibility feel we have got to make the most during that period while the war is on. We want to see a large move in the direction of relocation and if we do not do it now, the rest of you are going to be in a terrific problem. It is a big job to get community acceptance and understanding.

"The job in the centers is just as hard for the people in the centers, since it means adjustment. Most of you are planning to live on the outside and in the United States. The WRA is interested in helping you to get adjusted as fast as possible, to get readjusted as citizens and friendly aliens in such a way that people on the outside will understand who you are and that you are not such a bad sort of people to live along side of, and as more and more are willing to move into the approach, I believe we can help to get the job done. It does dislocate your present principles, but so are many people being dislocated throughout the country.

"I just want to say a little about evacuation. The major reason is that there were too many of you people living around the seaports on the Pacific in large groups--such as San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle and San Diego. You were not well enough distributed in proportion to have people accept you on those areas. You have among your group three generations. It is perfectly natural in the first generation who were born in Japan that you will have some tie-backs to the conditions under which you grew up. The second generation will have some tie-backs influenced by ideals of their parents. Your youngsters will have less tie-backs. We have to accept those things and look them squarely in the face. It is a chance that if the war had not come for the next 15 years, we will not have had this problem. I hope I am not a hard-boiled person. I have stayed awake nights, at least two or three nights, pondering over these things and trying to think it through.

"I want to tell you honestly that if we fail to get you people to accept what I think is a sound pattern--at least one-fourth or more of this population in getting relocated outside from this center, we have failed. About 6 weeks ago, I signed the relocations for three types of leaves:

1. Temporary leave which is for a short period of time in which evacuee must return again. It is for emergencies--illnesses, funerals and certain other things of that type.



2. General Group leave--groups of people leaving for work on the outside such as sugar beet topping for certain period of time or under certain conditions.
3. Indefinite leave where people leaving for outside need not return to the center and these are the ones I am most interested in seeing.

There is a lot of work in signing that type of leave, and went over it with many other agencies, and I want to be sure of this type of leave. This leave provides for essentials that has to be met, and I think it is essential that it is necessary to have the protection for the opportunity to go out.

Anyone may make application for leave if you have a place to go and can take care of themselves--job, family, --provided that we can be assured that the community will accept them without too much trouble. That is important to you as well as it is to us, because if we have too much flare-ups, it may bring rejections on further indefinite leaves. We want to be sure that we don't want to run into trouble. We want to be sure that the record is such that we feel that it is safe for them to go out. The Federal Bureau of Investigation checks upon your past records, records on how you have conducted yourself in the centers, and checks upon people's judgment of you. All these are essential to establish public relations on the outside for community acceptance. We want to be kept informed where the people are going and leaving and where they are moving to when they do move from one place to another, and assist them in making a second check that the community is acceptable and do not run into too much trouble. I feel assured that we can get these things done. I have now been assured that the F.B.I. will render a 7-day service in getting things checked.

"I do want to say one or two more things. Let me repeat that the basic policy of the WRA is to do everything to help to get you people moved into the outside if you are fit to go. If we can find a place to go, I hope you can disperse yourself in small groups in this country. I hope there will be no more Lil Tokio and Osaka. I think that as long as you are going to live in this country you may as well go to the same schools, churches and various other places with the people of this country. It is going to be hard and not easy to do.

"As far as the work in the project is concerned, in the light of this policy we are going to do our best to tighten up little leaks in the administration as possible. We are going to do our best to build schools, administration quarters, best internal security for the people in the community. We have the basis started, but it is essential both from the standpoint of the center as well as from the outside we are going to try to do



everything that are essential to the main standards of life. We are not going to try to make you rich in the center. I am not going to approve of more wages in the centers. You can go outside if you wish to make more money and accumulate wealth. All of the work on the project and on the outside will be on WRA wage scale basis, because it is too complicated to try to set-up wages and subsistence deductions, so we better move toward simplification, and that is one of them. It does not mean the same about community enterprises. I am talking about farm workers, mess halls, industry, and other enterprises. We have a few commitments on industry which we are going to keep.

"We are going to make a study just as quickly as we possibly can to see how many people particular tasks require and we are not going to have more people on the tasks than it is required. We have run into some problems where we have had too many people on jobs, resulting to poor working habits and we are making readjustments as soon as possible. If there are not enough jobs to go around, we will find some other jobs to do, so there are not too many people on one job.

"I thank you for this opportunity to talk to you and am glad to have met you people in Poston. Thank you."



## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. What is the WRA policy in regard to people residing within the center and accepting private employment and the relations to Evacuee Trust Fund?

Ans.: The WRA policy has been revised and as soon as we can get the revisions made. We have decided that private employment and industry located at the center is running up to all kinds of trouble and we are not going to approve of them. If you have private employment or industries at the center, it is to be on the same scale as workers in the centers. We are trying to have enough work while you stay here and at WRA wage scales of \$12.00, \$16.00 and \$19.00 per month, and if you want to work for more money, we will try to relocate you on the outside. We have some industries we have to run in certain centers as the camouflage plants and whatever policies are worked out, I hope you people will support it and cooperate to the best of your policy. I have made certain commitments and we intend to keep and do our best to keep them. I don't make a habit of making commitments and not keeping them.

We feel that you will not be able to do many things here in the center that you have been doing. There has been some misunderstanding about the Trust Fund idea. It has not been definitely put into the picture except to be studied, and it was decided that it was just too complicated and intricate to direct it. We think we have a better solution, and if you want to make money, we'll try to help you make more money elsewhere.

I want to tell you what I think that will make your policy really click and re-established yourself again is to have the Japanese American boys join the army. I am able to tell you that I have done a great deal of work on that question for the last two months, and have a point of view that as a citizen of this country that you have the right to fight for your country. I hope there is an announcement soon that will clear up the situation and that is an important keystone in this policy. I don't know how many of the boys will want to go into the army. I hope there are a lot of you that will do so, because I think it is going to be important if you are going to live in this country after the war is over.

2. To what extent is this new resettlement policy going to affect Poston as a colonial enterprise?



## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Ans: I don't know that Poston ever was a colonial enterprise except for the duration of the war, and I do not believe that this is a continuing place for anyone of you to live. I am saying that that's the way I believe and I don't want anyone to build up their hopes of building an empire here. I think you had better change your site.

3. In regard to the matter of a fence around the camp site. What clarification can you give on this?

Ans: The WRA policy regarding a fence is very simple. The only fence is to keep livestock in or out. That does not include human life. We have said to the army, if you absolutely need a fence, build it. I would not worry too much about it, but I think there is a little mistake where it is being built and we are trying to rectify it and we think that some adjustments can be made. I hope that you will accept it and like it. We hope to get some gates made so that you can go out, over, under and through it.

I do not know the reasons for the fence. It is not definitely a WRA fence. I didn't know about it a week ago until Mr. John Collier told me about it. The army says the fence is going up to keep livestock out and I know that probably isn't the only reason. You do have a community here which is probably more easily protected from livestock by a fence and I believe there are some people who feel that they will be better protected by the fence. It is a part of the human fears of the unknown thing talked about. I hope you will not make an issue of this fence and you will accept it. It is not a WRA policy and there are sometimes mistakes that are made and that you will accept it in the best way possible.

4. Will this re-settlement plan include California?

Ans: It will have to be in areas outside of evacuated areas. The regulations provide that you may move into any area that have not been determined as military area by the army. Some of you would like to go back to California, but for the time it is impossible. I hope when the time happens that you can go back to California, that too many of you do not go back and I want to prevent if possible a tough racial problem that can develop and this kind of trouble or problem must be kept away from.



## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

5. Has the WRA any set policy in the future in regard to set wages of \$12.00, \$16.00, and \$19.00 a month?

Ans.: It will continue to be the same between now and July 1, 1943 at which time our fiscal year will end. The WRA fiscal year begins on July to July of next year. I make no commitments about next year, since I do not know anything about it. I am going to be a little tough about having too much money to spend here in the center. The policy will work provided that we can get the right kind of coordination between the people and people in the administration. We will have to develop a joint public relationship and there is more understanding of policies and if we can do it, I think we can make it function.

As far as the amount of money that will be available next year will be an entirely different policy. I think that if you will think, if you figure up the food, the house is not what it should be, the clothing allowance is more than \$16.00 a month in terms of comparative figures on the outside.

I want to say again that if it looks like an unfair set-up, we are going to make the best recommendations. We are going to try to find a temporary place for you to stay until most of you are relocated.



## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

6. In regard to community enterprise--expenses, cash advances and clothing allowances are to be deducted from the community enterprise. Would it be possible to have that adjusted so that community enterprise will not have to pay the cash advances or clothing allowances?

Ans: I am going to turn this over to Mr. Barrows of the Fiscal Division to answer since he is more familiar with it.

Mr. Barrows:

I would like to say that wages and clothing allowances problem is capable of local solution. I don't think any answer having to answer with this particular problem can be done until this center is up to cash advances and clothing allowances. When the time comes, I hope that the community enterprise will be able to pay for the cash advances and clothing allowances for their employees.

For many reasons, the authority wants the community enterprise to be separate from the administration, and there are many things that can be done in many ways simpler than through the government. If the government pays cash advances and clothing allowances to people who work in community enterprises, there will be questions raised whether that would be private enterprise or not.

Appropriations will be available under which the government can make loans or grants to help them over difficult periods. We are about to announce that if the Community Enterprise cannot pay their own cash advances and clothing allowances, the Project Director or Community Council can recommend temporary adjustments.

The situation here in Poston of the Community Enterprise is not exactly typical since here it is arranged under board of trustees set-up and I don't know what that is under legal conceptions. We would like to have community enterprise set up as private enterprise.

7. In the \$70,000,000.00 appropriation of WRA made by Congress, not one cent was made for recreation purposes. We feel that recreation is very essential for the welfare of the youngsters. Would the WRA consider asking Congress to make such an appropriation for recreation?

Ans: No. We have made a provision for a certain issue of minimum



recreation equipment to start the thing off. I personally would like to see an appropriation made since I believe it is essential, but I feel there would be a reaction against the rest of the appropriation. With the war on, with the thinking of the people in Congress and others not understanding, I honestly believe that there will be a reaction on the amount of money we can get and are going to get.

I believe that we can get assistance from the outside from people who are interested and can send us some equipment. I don't think it is sound to ask for a recreation appropriation. Under the wage scale, we may develop some thing which are basic to recreation program. It would be a mad mistake to request for balls, bats and other equipment.

8. Will clothing already issued be deducted from our allowances?

Ans: Clothing issued prior to October 21, 1942, will not be deducted from the clothing allowances but after that will be deducted from the clothing allowances.

9. Is there any opportunities for relocation in any of the war defense industries on the outside?

Ans: There are possibilities that will develop, but I don't want to promise there will be opportunities. Quite a question has arisen of any aliens of any race working on any defense industries so that this question itself is a factor. There are many people who do not know two-thirds of you are citizens. It is a matter of educating community acceptance which must be done step by step.

10. Is there any definite ruling made by the WRA to find other jobs than housework?

Ans: Yes. Most of you have heard of Instruction #26 where we have tried to get facts on training and utilize that information as we can to move ahead in our program in assisting and finding employment if possible in the positions of your field of training. If you are interested, we are ready to assist in a retraining program that you are interested in so that you can get adjusted. You would be amazed that is before you the number of requisitions that we have had for people of all kinds in all kinds of fields. There is a terrific demand for office workers--stenographers, typists and accountants--that are running short.

I don't think many of you realize, and people on the out-



side realize, what it means to take 4 or 5 million men into the army who are in many positions all across the country. There is a demand for all types of positions. One of the greatest demands is in defense industries. But say the largest percentage of you have been in agricultural, professions, merchandising, and other fields and very few in defense industries and manufacturing.

But the opportunity is opened for a lot of fields. We are having a lot of demand for housework, and if you can't get something else otherwise, you will take it as an opportunity to get the understanding of the people. If you are interested, the folks working in the employment office can get you more ideas on it.

All the government employment service and other agencies have a contribution to make and WRA are establishing offices in various places to give some service in this field that we are not able just now to give.

11. The general policy of WRA is to help relocate people on the outside, but there are going to be some left here in Boston. Will they be assured that they will receive same consideration as now and not be regarded as slackers by the WRA and people on the outside?

Ans: The WRA will continue to try to keep the public understand that people here are not slackers. I am afraid the general impression throughout the public is that there are 110,000 people who can top sugar beets and we could not make it clear to the people that there are children, older people, and sick people who could not work.

Those who stay in the centers are going to have to help run the best kind of community government and best kind of public relations for those in the centers and those who are going out. They have a tremendous job to show democracy, and everything that every individual does is going to be generalized by a certain group of people to apply to the entire Japanese people. We have to accept their going out, to having and developing a broader problem of understanding.

We have a little different pattern in the younger group than in the general population pattern. The largest group of citizens ranges between the ages of 20 and 25 years, and there isn't very many ranging between 30 and 35 years. Some of you are going to have to grow up very fast and it is not just looking out for yourself.



They have the problem of developing understanding, leadership and responsibility. I hope the most of you will make it your job and there is a heavy load lying on your shoulders and you need the consultation of your elders' statements in the centers and on the outside to guide you. We don't dare have intensive conflicts that will ruin you. I hope you will cooperate with us and take that responsibility.

12. In as much as the WRA has committed themselves to relocate the people on the outside, how long will it take to get the people out?

Ans: All of this program of relocation has been in a nebulous stage until now. If all those things happen and there should not be much trouble in having the thing checked through the WRA, FBI, and community where they are going and assurance of this that there will be no trouble.

The FBI has been so pressed with requisitions for clearances from the army, navy and so many other agencies that it is almost impossible to get the work done. I have the promise of J. Edgar Hoover that he will give us 7-day service and we ought to get that going through so that we can do it in 2 or 3 weeks' time. We know that is going to be essential to get this done. It takes some time to get the machinery going.

13. What about opportunities for civil service positions?

Ans: As far as the federal civil service, we can get the situation cleared through so that there will be no questions in employment in these agencies. I cannot answer as to the employment opportunities in other is going to vary with these agencies. I have felt that if I cannot get the United States government to adopt this policy, we cannot get the private employers to do so.

14. Will any differentiations be made between "isseis", "niseis," and "kibeis"?

Ans: There will be no differences as to the right to make applications. We will consider all the records involved, and there will be certain differences between aliens and citizens since there are laws regarding them. As far as kibeis are concerned, naturally we will be more cautious about them.



15. Can you relocate people who have been released from internment camps?

Ans: They can make applications, but a great deal will concern with records of FBI and personal records and try to treat them as fairly as possible.

16. There are rumors that other relocation centers have much better housing conditions than here. We have been promised about stoves and we have had no stoves.

Ans: We are doing everything we can do about it. The stoves are on the train somewhere.

As far as housing is concerned, there are some places that have more wallboards, but everything sized up, you will have after all improvements have been completed just as good as any other place. Don't let them kid you about things being better than Poston.

17. If the WRA policy is to try to relocate people on the outside, but there would be a certain number of people remaining in the centers. It will mean that the professional groups will be stuck here in the centers for the duration. Also on \$19.00 per month, we find it very trying and difficult to acquire books and necessary materials to keep up on the most modern methods used in our profession.

Ans: That is a very serious question. I hope you do not take the feeling that you will be stuck here for the duration and I hope we will look for something to try to do the best for the people in the professional groups. I wish you were in the same position that anyone else is, but I feel that you should be where you can do the best for the people. I hope there is a recompense for what some of you folks have to go through.

I think we will give serious consideration for the various books and necessary materials. I am not going to sympathize with you because I feel that you don't want it, but that you want to get things done.

I want to tell you there are many dislocated people on the outside as well.

I have enjoyed this meeting and I hope there are no misunderstandings. If there is any questions you need clarified, I am sure Mr. Head and his staff will be able to help you. Thank you.



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Poston 1, Hospital Ward #7  
Auditorium

Mr. Dillon Myers, Director of War Relocation Authority  
Mr. Wade Head, Project Director  
Mr. Ralph Gelvin, Associate Project Director  
Mr. Franklyn Sugiyama, Chairman Temporary Community Council  
Poston 1  
Mr. John Nakamura, Chairman Temporary Community Council  
Poston 2  
Mr. K. J. Takashima, Chairman Temporary Community Council  
Poston 3  
and representatives from Poston 1, 2, and 3 Community  
Councils.

Chairman Sugiyama introduced Mr. Dillon Myers, who in turn  
introduced Messrs. Glick and Cozzens.

Mr. Myers: I do not like to be placed on the defensive  
immediately. I didn't come here to make  
speeches. I came here to meet the new folks  
and talk about the problems of most interest  
to you. I have a list of 27 questions given to  
me, so I shall go right into them.

1. The food should be raised to the maximum of the Army  
allowance.
  - a. Is the rationing program undertaken voluntarily by  
the WRA?
  - b. Some authorities have interpreted the status of  
Japanese aliens as "prisoners of war," if so,  
would rationing be applied to them?

the  
Ans.: At present time, the people in relocation  
centers are on the same basis of rationing as  
anyone else in this country. We didn't think it  
was a good policy to be on the same basis as that  
in internment camps. The provisions and relations  
in internment camps, those meeting the same basis  
as soldiers by the policies of the Geneva Conference.  
The only ones under "b" are those in internment  
camps.



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2. We recommend a monthly appropriation of \$1500 for recreational purposes for Poston in the new budget,  
a. If that amount has not been included in the budget, as an alternative, we recommend that the surplus of the unused existing budget be expended before the expiration date to purchase \$18,000 recreational equipment and supplies.

Ans: No, I am sorry to say. I wish we were in a position to be a Santa Claus. Again I want to say that we did adopt a policy to begin by providing some of the initial equipment, that we will not be able to continue to buy additional equipment. It would not be a sound policy if we did so, and we are not in a position to expend funds as requested here. Such an appropriation would react against you and against us as well.

3. Raise cash advances to \$30, \$40, and \$50 a month.  
a. If this cannot be done clothing allowance be paid every person without limitation to the sum of \$7.50 per month.

Ans: The answer is "no" to both of these. We'll try to find places on the outside where you can get more money. I realize there are many people who are living on much different scale as used to previously, but if you will check around, some people are doing much better. We'll do everything we can to make adjustments on the outside. It is possible to have a raise, but not feasible. We went over this very carefully, but I'm sure it will be on the same basis as last year.

4. Why is it that Gila residents all have iron cots while here wooden cots are used?

Ans: You'll have to ask the Army. They supplied them, and it was just impossible to get standard equipment. We'll be glad to check and try to get them, if that is of great importance to the residents. We'll try to see whether we can get some sort of substitute at least.

5. Why is it that the clothing allowance for June 1942 cannot be paid from the surplus of the existing budget?  
a. Why is November, December, January, February, and March clothing allowances delayed?



Ans.: Clothing allowances for June 1942 cannot be paid from the surplus of the existing budget. The Federal Government is operating from June 30 of one year to July 1 of the next, and we cannot go back into the previous fiscal year's budget.

a. Mr. Head: Clothing allowances will be paid just as soon as possible. We did not have the cash to pay them, but that will be worked out.

6. We recommend a WRA sponsor student relocation program paying \$500 per year per person.

Ans.: It isn't possible, it isn't feasible. Even if we had the funds available, you can't do it. You'll find very few male students of college age unless they are in uniform, and many hesitating to go now because a large number of colleges are being taken over by the Army for training centers. We are still working on the clearing of colleges, there are some outside funds, but WRA is not able to supply funds for student relocations.

7. Rental of tools furnished by the evacuees for project work be paid at the rate of 10% of their value per month.

Ans.: That is something to be worked out between Mr. Head and Mr. Emple. The amount of rental is dependent upon the type of equipment. As far as the WRA is concerned, we want to pay a reasonable rental, but flat rate of 10% rental is questionable.

8. Camouflage workers' subsistence charge should be used for strictly improvements.

Ans.: Anything that is charged by the Government and collected goes into the Federal Treasury, and is not available for general purposes unless exceptional provisions have been made by law.

9. We recommend replacement parts of stoves and the stoves themselves be available on hand.  
a. 3 additional refrigerators for each mess hall.  
b. 4 coolers for each mess hall.



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Ans.: I do not know that 4 coolers are being supplied in other centers, and if they are, they were obtained when still available. I am not in a position to commit on that.

As far as 3 refrigerators are concerned, and if they are available and truly needed, we will consider that.

Pertaining to stoves and parts, I am perfectly agreeable where that can be provided, I am quite agreeable however this can be worked out. We will assist wherever we can. I don't want to commit on the refrigerators and coolers.

10. Why was the \$10,000 appropriation for tubercular patients on this Project refused by the WRA.
  - a. We recommend that 125 additional iron cots be purchased for hospital use.
  - b. We recommend that the WRA appropriate \$25,000 for the purpose of building and maintaining a rest home for chronic hospital cases.

Ans.: We didn't know that \$10,000 had been requested and refused. As a matter of fact, I just met with the directors of the hospital and doctors, and there is no place in the United States except possibly in some Army camps in which the hospital for a community this size is getting better medical service than is provided here in Boston. Concerning tuberculosis patients in California, the matter has been raised a good many times and because of several other reasons, we have done nothing about it. I did not know about the \$10,000, but I don't know whether Mr. Head knew anything about it. I will go into the question with Mr. Thompson and other heads on this matter.

Regarding the 125 additional cots and \$25,000 for rest home, I am not making any commitments on things of this kind. If they are important matters, Mr. Head can present it to us, and we'll consider the facts.

11. We recommend additional appropriations for educational purposes.
  - a. More books and supplies needed
  - b. Shortage of qualified teachers
  - c. Physical Education equipments and facilities needed.



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Ans.: I am not willing to make any commitments on that except that we are making reasonable provisions for school, adequate teachers if they can be obtained, supplies. We have been awful slow about getting the school buildings up. There are certain things that have not been done too well, because of priority, but we are just as interested as you are in having good schools, because it is important for this type of population. We are going to try to do everything to provide a sound basic thing.

12. We recommend that fire insurance on evacuee personal property be paid by the WRA.

Ans.: I cannot commit on this. It is another of those things that I realize the problem, but I just don't believe it's feasible to do, and I don't believe that we can do it. It would mean a terrific administrative problem to work out even if we had the money. If there are any persons who can't meet the bills, there are certain provisions for grants made.

13. The California State Legislature is attempting to confiscate evacuee property. What is the WRA policy for evacuee defense?

Ans.: We have told everybody we have talked to that we will fight discrimination to the last bit. They had a resolution requesting the Federal Government to confiscate all evacuee owned machinery in California. The resolution will not pass under those conditions. We have been absolutely opposed to any discriminatory action where they do not take any other people's equipment, but if it covers all the people in this country who will be affected by such a resolution, we will collaborate to the limit. We expect to fight for the same rights of the evacuees as anyone else has. We have done an effective job both in Congress, in the California legislature and other places.

14. What is the WRA policy in control of press propaganda injurious to evacuees.

a. Dewitt statement

b. Hindrance by press of relocation

Ans.: We cannot control the press on statements. We cannot control what General Dewitt says, and other things people say. That's one of the things we can brag about



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brag about in this country. We think we can do a lot for the education of the people, and the problems of the evacuees by trying to offset something that has been said.

With the OWI, we have had some definite collaboration in stopping certain types of activities. I do want to make it clear that we have no way to muzzle people and statements that is put into the press. We have a way of getting facts to offset these facts. Pertaining to General DeWitt's statements, the very fact that within a week after, the statement was issued that nisei soldiers could come back into the evacuated areas. The WRA's policy in relation to newspaper items is not putting out press releases. We are working and inviting writers and others into the centers to come, find, and write, and on stressing some of their standpoints we have found it pretty effective. We have made suggestions and asked these people to come in here and get facts. Through magazines and articles of special types, a great deal has been done to offset the statements made and stabilize true facts.

The facts and statement you are talking about just now makes us just as mad as it does you. We are doing something about it and reasonably effective job about it. There are a lot of people who make unreasonable statements.

We have opened offices in Denver, Salt Lake City, Chicago, Cleveland and 50 field offices throughout the country. We have already established many of those to assist and many more to try to educate the people, make press contacts and open the territory to evacuees. The WRA is helping out and will continue to help out.

15. We recommend that the WRA urge haste in unemployment compensations due evacuees.

Ans.: Mr. Glick: California did issue a ruling that evacuees living in relocation centers are not available for employment and according to that, the rule is that we are not entitled to it. WRA is taking that matter up and we will attempt to get that matter changed and reversed. In Washington and Oregon, there has been some informal discussions and decisions. In the last analysis the state courts will decide and the State Adjustor will determine the eligibility. We will appeal the case and try to get the decision reversed if same as that in California is made.



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16. Other centers have free newspaper service. Why does Poston pay?

Ans.: It is a policy worked out in the project and not a WRA policy. Perhaps the reason is that Community Enterprise has been willing to subsidize the charges and therefore is not making a charge to the residents.

17. Would it be possible for those going outside to purchase their blankets?

Ans.: I doubt whether such could be done. These blankets are supplied by the United States Army, but we'll try to help you find something in place of them if these cannot be purchased.

18. Since stress is being laid on relocation, why isn't Civil Service standards adopted to retain qualified evacuee teachers?

Ans.: It is going to be impossible to have various wage scales in relation to other workers within the centers. I have had the doctors ask the same question, and I am sure that in spite of relocation the doctors and teachers can go out and relocate on the outside just as anyone else. The reason for Civil Service is for professional people, but would not be a stopping point in regard to this matter. We are going to try to take care of the services on which we have made a commitment.

19. Why aren't the evacuees given a hand in forming the WRA policies in Washington?

Ans.: We have had a great deal of assistance from the evacuees, and received many good recommendations of people in the centers and people who have been going out. We are taking into consideration the viewpoints of the evacuees in forming our policy. We are consistently taking that into consideration.

20. Why isn't the WRA policy consistent?

- a. Relocation is stressed but yet road improvements are being made.
- b. WRA invites other agencies to hire evacuees but the WRA turns around to hire Caucasians in places that the evacuees could fill.



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Ans.: I am assuming that everyone is not going to move out of the center in the next month or so. I am frank with you that if someone should move out, someone else will move in, so we do not think this is being inconsistent. In regard to the road improvements, the United States Army Engineers agreed to do the work quite sometime ago, and therefore they are finally getting the job done. In spite of the relocation program, it will take some time before Poston is completely evacuated.

Evacuees can fill positions now held by Caucasians at \$12, \$16, and \$19 per month. I realize that there are many evacuees capable, some more capable than ones holding positions now, but I don't want to institutionalize such a movement, especially on outside wage standards. We don't want to open it up because we have to go all the way across. And another thing, if we give good salaries here, no one would want to go out of here.

21. What plans are being made to use the surplus appropriation now existing in Washington?

Ans.: Excepting where we have needs, we'll use for necessary purposes, but the rest will be reverted into the Treasury of the United States. What we are doing is to set up our plan and try to carry them out, meet all our commitments, but we had no idea that priority and getting of materials would obstruct the ability to get much of the work completed. I don't see any reason to expend the money.

The new budget calls for 48 and 49 million dollars this coming fiscal year. It provides for the same services from the standpoint of food, personnel. There are a great many expenses that will not be expended that was expended last year, such as construction. Most of the relocation centers did not receive their population until the middle of last year, I mean the fiscal period. We hope Congress will give us what we request, but we are going to try to do everything in our power to present our case on behalf of the evacuees.

22. We recommend that provisions for special diet be made.  
a. For children and invalids

Ans.: Certain provisions have been made, but everything you can work out with Mr. Head is all right with me. If it is a rule problem, it should come up with full details to be presented to us.



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23. We recommend that the present grant for needy families be doubled.

Ans.: I can make no commitments on this to you.

24. We recommend that three washing machines be allotted for each block.

a. Children's play facilities be supplied.

Ans.: That type of things even if you have funds available it is practically impossible today to provide machines for each of the blocks.

25. After relocation has reached its peak, what is the WRA policy for those remaining in the centers?

a. Is it planned to make life so uncomfortable and disagreeable that everyone will be forced to relocate?

b. Will the centers be maintained on the present level?

Ans.: No, as far as the WRA is concerned. The policies are formulated by Congress, and I cannot tell about policies over which I may have no control. We are going to try to do everything we can to assist you to relocate on the outside, and we are not going to make it more tougher than it has been. There are many reasons why relocation should go ahead;

a. Because of children. Frankly, don't think relocation centers are good places for children to grow up in. They should go to school with other people, home life, and also opportunity to natural development rather than to continue under such artificial conditions, under such community life.

b. I will not commit that we will maintain all the centers. I don't know whether and what centers we will maintain. That has not been determined. We do hope to maintain the present standards of life. I am not sure we can do it because Congress sets up a lot of the policies.

c. I don't think this is a good place for the people to live in.

26. Hospitals and schools are considered community service organizations. Under the interpretation of community service we recommend that community enterprises be freed of rent, clothing allowance, and advance payments.



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Ans.: I cannot commit on that. We did make an adjustment on the rent and on the present sound basis, it is a sound basis. Even if we wanted to do it, the Comptroller General would not allow us to do it. The Community Enterprise is the only thing that is your private store, and I feel that clothing allowances must come out of the community stores.

27. We recommend the following equipments and supplies for the dental clinic: 8 operating Ritter (or equiv.) units  
8 operating chairs  
3 dental cabinets  
also, facilities and materials for bridge and plate work.

Ans.: I told the doctors and Mr. Head if they will give me a list of the equipment needed, I will try to get everything possible for you.

I want to refer back to one of your questions for just a moment now. Why some of the WRA policies seem inconsistent are for the following reasons:

1. If you will go back and check into our policy, you will find reasonable consistency. When I was here last fall, at that time we announced to this group the definite decision that relocation was going to begin as a major objective, and we are not going to continue a program in relocation centers of private enterprises. While that was a change in our policy to a degree, we felt that two general policies were in conflict. The matter of relocation and industrialization did not go together.
2. There have been changes because of conditions that were not in our control, recommendations of evacuees themselves, public opinions, and where we have found mistakes, we have tried to rectify them.
3. We had certain policies a year ago that we thought was fine. For example: We thought that all evacuees would be moved into centers by August, and because there would be a lot of people doing nothing, and when the time came we expended months trying to get materials, to get a priority, and therefore we could not get materials for the schools. Therefore, we had to make shifts in our policies.
4. In connections with the food program, we did not have the point ration system to contend with at the beginning. But if you will go back and check, you will find that majority of the policies have not changed to a great extent.



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5. At the meeting with the governors in Salt Lake City, they didn't think evacuation was possible very soon. Before the situation was over, public sentiment had changed, and conditions have changed. There are a dozen of reasons.

6. Communication has not been very easy. Mistakes have been made and rumors have gone around as well.

28. Since the funds of Community Enterprise are used to obtain movies for the enjoyment of the residents, is it possible to show Japanese educational films?

Ans.: I have no objection to it, and if they are good educational films, they can show it just as long as they are not propaganda films.

29. You are trying to obtain jobs on the outside for those who are interested in going out and obtaining more money. How can people go out when it took the Japanese people 50 years or more to even get started. We must consider that many people will be forced to stay and for those remaining at least a sufficient amount of money given to them. We are expending approximately twice the money earned, for necessities only--for daily living.

Ans.: I realize that there are people who cannot relocate. I would not take the attitude that it is impossible, because I think it is possible and feasible. I cannot commit to pay more wages, to provide money, and pay more clothing allowances. It isn't our intention to kick people out of the relocation centers. I am not the Government, Congress, or the Law. We can't see far ahead, but I know that which could be done and will try to do it. I think the better majority of the people can be relocated if they will try it. Many of the people do not know the country outside of Boston and California and other relocation centers. There is a demand now, and even though you can't get equipment, you still can make more money than you can here.

The sooner we can get started with rehabilitation, the better when there is a demand for manpower. It is easier to do it now before the war ends and men from the Army gets back.

30. Why can't our equipment be moved to points of inland where we intend to relocate?

Ans.: It is possible, and we will try to make provisions to have the equipment moved inland. Transportation costs will not be paid unless within the limit of poundage stated.



VISIT OF DILLON MYER TO POSTON JAN. 27, 1944

Proposed Schedule:

9:00 A.M. Meeting with Division Heads  
Project Director's Office

1:00 P.M. Meeting with evacuee representatives  
School Auditorium

Councils, Block Managers, Evacuee  
Department Heads, Unit Administrators

M.C. Tom Masuda

Program Wade Head introduced by Masuda  
"Address & introduction of Duncan Mills"

Duncan Mills  
"Address"

Dillon Myer introduced by Masuda  
"Address"

James Takashima  
"Questions"

Dillon Myer  
"Reply to Takashima"

3:30 P.M. Meeting with Appointed Personnel  
School Auditorium

Appointed Personnel Staff

M.C. Moris Burge

*Dillon Myer*  
Program ~~Wade Head~~ introduced by Moris Burge  
"Address and introduction of Duncan Mills"

Duncan Mills  
"Address"

*Wade Head*  
~~Dillon Myer~~ introduced by Moris Burge  
"Address"

Close

Dinner with Council 5:00 P.M. Mess Hall 32  
Departure Poston for Phoenix 6:00 P.M.



SPEECH, JANUARY 27, 1944

MORIS BURGE INTRODUCING DILLON MYER

On December 31st, divorce proceedings between the Indian Service and the W.R.A. were completed.

The decree has not yet been issued, but we understand that W.R.A. has been given full custody of the child.

If Mr. Dillon Myer has been something of a step-father to us in the past, he has now assumed the role of a full-fledged parent.

I speak for the staff when I say that we will do everything within our power to see that his child is well behaved and one of whom he can be proud.

It is an honor to present to you Mr. Dillon Myer - National Director of the War Relocation Authority.



COLORADO RIVER RELOCATION CENTER  
Poston, Arizona

Full Text of Dillon S. Myer's Speech to the People of Poston on March 6, 1945, at Block 4 Stage.

I am indeed delighted to have an opportunity to visit Poston again. Poston always does things in a bigger and better way than any other relocation center; and you certainly are doing it this afternoon, for this is the biggest crowd I have faced yet. First, I want to express my appreciation for this very beautiful bouquet of flowers, which I understand is Poston grown. That also is something which has never happened to me at any other center. I do appreciate it and the spirit in which they are presented..

I have an idea that you folks are going to be very much surprised to what I have to say this afternoon. I don't suppose you have read any of my speeches in any of the other newspapers; at least I don't dare take a chance and I assume that you have read something about it if you have read the papers from Manzanar, Granada, Rowher, etc. So, if you have been reading the Heart Mountain Sentinel and etc., that's your fault and not mine.

I think the last time I was here was the 27th of January, 1944. I brought a certain gentleman down to introduce him to you--Mr. Duncan Mills. I hope you haven't found him too hard to live with in the last year. I am sorry I couldn't come oftener, but we just get around to relocation centers every so often because they are a little hard to get to.

I think perhaps it may be well to review a little of the history in order to have the perspective and the background in which we may view the present policies and present situations. I think that most of you remember that three years ago, about four days ago, three years ago, on March 2, if history is properly written, that the first exclusion order was written and announced in which the first folks were asked to move back from areas along the coast to other parts of the country. In a little over a week or ten days ago, it will be three years since the War Relocation Authority officially came into existence under Executive Order No. 9102. At that time I wasn't a member of the official family of the WRA, but I was keeping in touch because I was working with Eisenhower and I knew something of what was going on. I rode to work every morning with him. Little did I dream that in the middle of June, 1942, that I would become the Director of this Authority.

I think you remember something about the chaos and confusion that existed back in 1942 as you moved out from your homes, moved into assembly centers, or moved into Eastern California, if that was the case. Later you moved from assembly centers to Poston, Gila, and other centers. Many people moved before the barracks were completed, before the dust was settled. Poston does not look today as it did when I made my first visit in July, 1942, on a nice warm day with the thermometer standing about a 120° in the shade. 1942 was devoted pretty largely to movement from here to there, getting acquainted with the new staff that the WRA was bringing into existence. It was devoted to the formation of different policies which some of you didn't like. It was November when the last of the assembly center residents moved into Jerome Relocation Center.

Some of us anticipated along about July of that year that our problem was of public relations, to get the rest of the country to understand who you people were, to become acquainted with you, and to lay the ground work for the relocation program which followed. To our great surprise, we found out there was one group we overlooked before we had really gotten started, a certain group of people who had been well organized for years, very vocal, and seemingly well financed. That little group of people that had been fighting you folks for years on and started to fight the WRA and the WRA relocation program. I couldn't understand it for a time. I didn't know my history well enough then, but, we soon began to find out that that group of people,--there weren't many of them,--yet they were represented by groups such as the Native Sons of the Golden West, and many other groups that you know about were hoping that we would maintain relocation centers in the hopes that they might stir up the people to get.



legislation passed in United States Congress to exclude everybody of Japanese ancestry from the United States. They started on a campaign which would help to stir up the emotions of the country. It took us a little time to understand it. I want to come back to that later because it's an important fact to you and me. So, 1942 ended up in probably the toughest month that I had in WRA.

You had a little celebration down here in November of 1942. I didn't quite understand it. I am sure you didn't understand it, and then they had a little celebration in Manzanar which got into the headlines and got nation-wide publicity. I know some of you folks are feeling pretty insecure now. I know how you feel because I felt insecure in December of 1942. I wondered whether or not we were going to be able to learn to live and work together. I probably spent more sleepless nights and more worry in that month of 1942 than at any other time. So, 1942 was a pretty chaotic year. I was worrying because there was some misunderstanding and some bitterness, but it was understandable. I am surprised as I look back, we got through together as easily as we did. Well, so much for 1942.

I want to look ahead. The year 1943 was an entirely a different kind of year. It was a peculiar mixture of good and bad. Early in the year of 1943, on January 4, we established our first key relocation office in Chicago. Then we had one in Salt Lake City, Denver, Cleveland, and so on across the country. Before the year was over, 17,000 people had relocated out of relocation centers.

On the 28th day of January, 1943, Secretary Stimson made an important announcement which was that he had made plans for the organization of the voluntary combat team which is now known as the 442nd Regimental Combat Team that is known throughout the United States Army, and all over the world, as a famous fighting unit. I am proud of those boys, and I am sure that you are proud of those boys, and I want to talk a little more about them later. Almost immediately after the time of the announcement by Secretary Stimson, we had that famous Registration of February and March, which was a rather emotional period, and something which wasn't too well understood. Later in the Summer and Fall, we carried out the segregation movement in which lots of people moved out of Tule and moved into Tule Lake. Along about November and December, our stock went down following the famous Tule Lake incident which was blown up in the newspapers, most of which was untrue. Nevertheless, it had enough truth to lay the basis for the group of people who had been fighting to whip up the emotions in a lot of people. So, as I see it, as we closed the year, chances are that our public relations were about at the lowest level, particularly along the Coast.

I always forget until the last when I think about the year 1943 that we were also the most investigated agency in the country in that year, you and me. The Military Affairs Committee started out in January with the investigation about the WRA program which was carried out around the introduction of the bill which provided that the WRA be turned over to the United States Army. Before Senator Chandler could make an investigation, Mr. Dies and his playboys decided they weren't doing a good enough job, so Mr. Costello and his investigators moved out to Los Angeles and conducted investigations for several weeks through the press which Poston heard a great deal about because Poston took somewhat of a beating in connection with that investigation. I said "investigation", but it wasn't an investigation. It was one of the worst smear campaigns ever conducted. Mr. Gelvin, who is here today, remembers that, I am sure, very well because he was one of the early witnesses. There were more misinformation, lies, and untruths spread across the country in two months' time than I have ever felt any group could spread in such a short period of time. The people, for a time, were completely confused. Finally, along in the early part of July, we had a chance to sit down before that committee and tell our story. At that time all that was going on I resented somewhat. As a matter of fact, I resented it very strongly because I had a feeling that perhaps here was a lot of damage which couldn't be repaired in a short period of time. I was mistaken about that. However, as I look back now, I am very happy that we had had a Chandler Investigation and Dies Investigation, so called. For this reason; the job they did was so bad, the lies and untruths by them were so easy to accept that the first thing



we knew, we had friends all over the United States who were asking for the correct facts, and when they got them, they got so mad, they rolled up their sleeves and went to work to see that the country had the facts about you people, about the WRA, and all that went behind that, that lying behind the investigations were that little group of people who had been fighting you for the last forty years, and most of it was the same old bunk, played over and over to the same old tune. Now, that was important to you, and it was important to me, because, as I said, while I found a good many people ill will, emotion, and misled will go to almost any end to stir up the emotions, there were in this country thousands of people who wanted to know the facts, and once they had the facts, they went to work to see that those facts were properly distributed and that you folks, and some of the rest of us, got a fair break.

Consequently, things began to change. Around the turn of 1944 was an entirely different year when my telephone didn't ring nearly so often at night and day. On January 20, to be exact, Secretary Stimson made another announcement. It was the follow up of the Selective Service problem which was being re-established for the people of Japanese ancestry. That was the announcement I had been fighting for a long time, and the reason I had was because I believe that all citizens should have equal rights; that it had to be, in order that we could start from there and step by step wipe out other restrictions and other discriminations which had been in effect for some time. I think we have already proven that that is happening. 1944 generally was marked by two major things; the news that kept rolling in month after month, week after week, from the 100th Infantry Battalion first, later, after June of that year, from your boys in the 442nd, and the boys from other centers the mainland, and Hawaii, who were building a record that will go down in history.

The other thing that was happening was the relocation program that was going ahead step by step. Lots of other things were also happening. There were a lot of good people in this country to see to it that the people would continue to get the facts so that by the end of the year, and of the last year, 1944, the situation had changed so drastically from that year previously that the military folks on the West Coast decided that military necessity no longer existed for maintaining exclusion orders, and I want to say to you that there has never been a time in history, in my judgment, when the people of Japanese ancestry, living in this country are as well accepted today throughout the United States, including the people of California, Oregon, and Washington, as well as the rest of the country as they have been ever before. I say that in spite of the fact that there are still a comparatively small group of people, most of whom who have an economic interest in continuing to run your farms, businesses, or to live in the houses you used to operate, are now putting on the biggest bluffing campaign that I have seen in a long time. They are now talking about boycotts, passing resolutions, they are writing letters, some of them honestly saying that now isn't the time to come back. I say, in spite of all that, that there has never been a time in my judgment when you folks and other folks in the relocation centers are as well accepted as you are today.

Now, I want to try to tell you why I think so. In the first place, the one group are the 13,000 American boys who have been inducted into the U. S. Army either through volunteering or through the Selective Service, half of whom or more than half of whom who have been on the battle lines and made a record that nobody in the world can challenge. They have made it in Italy, Saipan, France, Leyte, and all over the world and are still making it and a lot of that story hasn't yet been told.

I have picked up the L.A. Times and found a column in which a newspaper correspondent ran into a boy from Hollywood by the name of Hirai. Where? In Leyte. He wrote a story about him. There haven't been many of the stories coming out, but they are coming out now. I say it again, and I will probably say it several times, that those boys who have gone out from here and races from many lands had two battles to fight. One of them was for the country in which they had been born and reared, and willing to fight for, and the other one was for you and your future, and they have already won the battle, providing that we continue to do our job at this end as well as they are doing at their end. They have done



the major part of that job. They are going to keep on doing it, and the boys in the American Army know more about that than a lot of civilians do. A lot of people who have been misled are willing to help, who are ashamed, and who are willing now to roll up their sleeves and help.

The other reason I believe, in addition to those boys, are the 35,000 or more people who have relocated from Gila, Manzanar, Granada, etc., and who have gone out to almost every state in the Union. They have made plans for every state. They have been working in homes and warplants, hospitals, in garages, on farms, all the way up and down the land. That was important to us. It had to be. I knew it had to be, from the time of evacuation, for this reason:---

The rest of the country listened pretty much what that group of experts along the Pacific Coast had to say about you people, and unfortunately, many of them believed, it, in which they tried to tell the world that you ruined all the land on which you worked, and in another 100 year's time, there wouldn't be any other face but Japanese because you bred like rabbits. That is what they say. And so on and so on. Those stories have been rolling on ever since 1900 or 1905. I have sat beside people and they have raised questions about those things. They don't believe that. They know the stories about the 442nd Infantry. They also know from the hundreds of people who have come out from here that you people are just like anybody else, with the same kind of emotions, and the same kind of economic interests, that some of you are better than other; and none of you aren't nearly as bad as they thought you were. They have been misled. People are afraid of the people and things that they don't know. We get over worrying about the unknown. So, the United States knows the people of Japanese ancestry better than they have known them in history.

There is one other point why I believe that there is better acceptance now. Following the lifting of the evacuation orders, Governor Warren issued a statement. Had I been able to write it myself, I couldn't have made it any better. I have never always agreed with Governor Warren, but he has been a man who has done everything in his power to help protect you and your interests. Since December 17, he sent out a wire to every mayor and sheriff and every Legion Post, asking their cooperation in maintaining law and order. Some counties have added deputies to their staffs to patrol areas to eliminate the happenings that had occurred here and there to say that somebody did something about it. I want to pay tribute to him for that. He isn't the only one.

When I was in Los Angeles on January 13, I found that the Police force were already busy doing a very constructive job. They were visiting schools and asking that school people assist them so that the youngsters understood that the exclusion orders were lifted, and asked them their cooperation. They asked the school folks to help arrange for the meeting and they invited some of our WRA officials to make a talk, and the man in uniform has sponsored the meetings and did the introducing. Frankly, a year ago, I didn't think that could happen. They had additional deputy sheriffs where they could afford it. I don't think those things ever happened in history. Maybe you know about it but I don't. That causes a better campaign in spite of the economic interests that still exist, so that are some of the reasons why I say things are better today. We are in a better situation than we have ever been.

Now I want to tell you very briefly why the WRA has announced some of the policy so there will be no misunderstanding about it. I want to say first that I realize that a good many people in Poston have been very happy here. That is only natural. Some of you have friends here that you haven't had before. People are afraid that if they do go out they will run into hostilities. The adjustment isn't going to be easy. It won't ever be easy. It won't be any easier that it will be in the next ten months. I never moved in my life that I didn't hate to move; and I never liked to leave my community and my friends. Many of you made your home here for a time. There are many of you older folks, in particular, who have it easier here when you did where you lived. I recognize all that. It is our job to work with you to try to assist you in getting adjusted now in normal communities, and we are going to do everything in our power to assist you.



I have had the question asked a good many times why we are closing the center by next January 2nd. By the way, we are going to close the center by January 2, if anybody hasn't told you. These are the reasons:

1. There are still in relocation centers somewhere between 18 and 20,000 youngsters who were born in this country, who are going to continue to live in this country, who are going to the relocation schools. We have been reasonably proud of the schools in relocation centers, and we think under the conditions, we have done a good job. I admire you and the WRA folks because it takes everybody to make up a good school. However, these youngsters are not going to school, I hope, with the idea of learning how to live in relocation centers all their lives. They are going to school in preparation for life ahead of them and they have a whole life ahead. The school process of learning from books, from laboratory, is only a part of the educational program for life in relocation centers. I haven't heard much of that recently, but I heard a great deal of that in 1942 and 1943, and rightly so. We have been eating in messhalls where we didn't have the family tables. We did not have that opportunity for youngsters to enter into the daily life in assisting in preparation of meals, to do little chores that we normally do in the home, on the farm, or in business. Now, these youngsters have been going to school for three full years and for their sake, for your sake, for everybody's sake, it is important to them that they get back in normal communities and normal homes as quickly as possible. They are going to adjust pretty easily but it is going to be harder the longer they stay here. I emphasize them particularly, and I want to repeat that because they have a longer life to live than any of the rest of us. They deserve the opportunity to live under normal conditions as quickly as possible. I didn't think these reasons up yesterday, or December 17; I thought these reasons up way back there in February or early March of 1943, two years or more ago, about the time you were signing the registration blanks, about the time I really began to learn what an abnormal life in relocation centers could do to people and all the inconveniences and all the problems, and I put it down in a letter that is on record. It is still a confidential letter, but sometime you will see it, I hope, along with other records----but let me say that 18 to 20,000 youngsters in relocation centers come first with me and I think they do with you. I think they deserve a chance to go back and begin living a normal life as quickly as possible.

Secondly, we have a demand today for manpower that is such that anybody that is able to work at all, either with their heads or hands, or both, can make a living and a good one. Wages and salaries are high. People are able to reestablish themselves in farming or in business and can make good money under conditions we have existing now. I think it is important that people who have an opportunity to move back into a normal situation, while they can make that adjustment, can make a good living and not have to compete with the reconversion program which will start immediately after the Armistice is signed. No, it is possible that we won't have too much unemployment for some time to come but I don't see how we can help but have some maladjustment during that period immediately after the war. I think the people deserve the opportunity to get re-established while they can.

Number three is one that I learned only last year. I have studied it in detail. There is one group of agency that is not as busy during wartime as in normal time. That is the welfare group with whom we are planning to work. The reason is that they are not as busy because everybody else is busy making money. They have more time to help us now than they will ever have again. They are interested in maintaining their staff because they are going to have a bigger load later. We have found out in relocation program in Chicago, New York, Cleveland, and other places that they are willing to help us on difficult problems---problems that we couldn't do otherwise. Unfortunately, there will be some people, I presume, in Poston and other centers who will need assistance---who are poor, who are old, who are ill, or for other unfortunate reasons are going to need help. We think it is important that plans be provided for giving that help and also think it is important that some of these agencies learn, while we still have the opportunity, to help those people particularly in need of assistance so that they can be sympathetic and have somebody they can go to after the WRA goes out of existence. Now, all the procedure that we have sum-



med up may not work out 100 per cent; but, we will work out adjustments. And, if it doesn't, we will have to set a program similar to that of the welfare agency, not just because we want to dodge a difficult task, but because we felt that many people of good will have had services to offer us and to be helpful to us so we could get the job done and better services will be rendered, not now but later on. We found that out. That is reason three.

Number four is that very practical reason which we all have to face. We secure our money from the United States Congress. Congress has asked me on every occasion when I have appeared before them to ask for money, how long it would be necessary for relocation centers to continue. My answers have been invariably the same. It will be necessary just so long as the mass of the folks cannot return to the coast. But after the order is lifted, the centers can be closed within a reasonable time and there might be some question again as to what is a reasonable time, but I believe a year was reasonable; I still believe so. Evidently, some people feel that that is too long because Congressman Devorshek introduced a bill to close the centers by July 1, 1945. Now, I don't think the bill will pass; as a matter of fact, it will not pass because of the program outline which we have made available to Congress and to the country with good reasons behind it. I think there is a possibility that this bill might have passed had we not made an announcement and presented good reasons.

The fifth reason is my last one, but one which I think is almost as important as number one. I left it to the last because I want to give it emphasis. You remember I stated in the early part of my speech that that group of people who had been your enemies have been fighting us tooth and toe nail especially during 1942 and 1943, and occasionally, you see a good scrapper sticking his neck out. I noticed in the L. A. Examiner of March 6 that Leland Ford is again calling me names. I feel complimented. Leland Ford was beaten for Congress. My judgment was that part of the people out in his district couldn't put up with the type of thing he had to say about you people and a lot of others. But he is typical of a certain small group of people that I talked about who would like to keep the relocation centers. Now if that little group of people could do it they would like to get legislation passed to have you moved out of the country. Just so long as we keep relocation centers, they will remain as targets for that group to shoot at. Now, I tell you very frankly that I think the backbone of this opposition is cracking. In the next few months, it can be completely broken. If you and I could do our part with the help of those good people that I have told you about. So my fifth reason is that I don't think that you and I could afford to play squarely into the hands of our enemies. Those are honest reasons.

I hope you believe them and I think you do believe them, and whether you agree with me or not on all the policies and procedures that WRA established, I think you know that some of these things, at least, that I have said this afternoon are true. I am not going to keep you much longer but there are a few things I would like to say.

The people of Japanese ancestry of this country have been considered by those people who know them, including those of us in WRA who have learned to know you, as being a people with pride, who have self-reliance, who have been thrifty, who have quietly gone about your business and gotten your job done in spite of things that may have been said by other groups of people and while you all haven't been saints, you have had a history of the type that I have just mentioned and I want to compliment you for it. But, at the same time, I want to say to you that I don't think that all that pride and self-reliance has been lost and I am sure it has not. We want to do our best to assist you in re-establishing yourselves on a high plane. I think you know that the WRA have been carrying their program out on the basis of certain principles that we laid way back there in the beginning. If you don't find them any place else, you will find them in the record of the Dies Committee presented in July, 1943, if not earlier. I will tell you a few of them, not many.



One of the reasons was that we have assumed that at least the majority of the folks of Japanese ancestry want to continue to live in this country and we have started from there and if that was the case, we have had to fight our battles on those grounds. We believe that, and we still do. That being the case, it was fighting for the principles for which this Constitution stands, that every citizen should have the rights of every other citizen, even if they didn't have at that time; and that every law-abiding alien should have the same rights as other aliens. We have believed that loyalty grows in an atmosphere of friendliness and understanding, not where there are discriminations and restrictions. We have tried to practice that as honestly as we could. We are still fighting along that line, and we expect to continue.

I want to summarize by saying that there are hundreds of people scattered throughout the country who are helping us and friends of yours along the West Coast, as well as the rest of the country who now understand that a lot of the poison that they have been fed for years and years was pure bunk; and some of them are feeling a little ashamed about it. They haven't gotten together, yet, but they are getting together. Of course, the reason is that you understand that because those boys of yours and others have given more dramatic evidence and tangible evidence that kids who have grown up in this United States are willing to fight for it and are showing it. The people are proud of it; so those are the facts and basic reasons that underlie the policies. The policy is definitely established, and there is no turning back. We must go ahead. It is going to be difficult for some of us. It is always difficult to take the first step.

You have been in Poston for  $2\frac{1}{2}$  or  $2\frac{3}{4}$  years. You have been somewhat isolated from what is going on in the country. And, some of you are afraid, and you will never get over being afraid staying in Poston. It doesn't matter whether you go out three years from now. You still will be afraid because you won't know until you try it. The way you get over being afraid is by beginning to make plans for your first step. It is just like learning to walk after being ill for some time. The first day, it is a little hard, but the next day, it is a little easier, and by the end of the week, you will find that you will be able to walk as before. That is what is beginning to happen now. We haven't made any plans to work any hardship on you people. We are not mad at you folks and I think you know that. We are mad at some of your enemies, and we have been for sometime. But your job and my job are the same, and that is to carry out a relocation program during the next few months to be established as quickly as possible in normal communities.

We think we have set up a procedure that will work, and if we find that we need to put a little oil on the squeaks, we will. We want to help you. We will help you. Now, I'm going to stop by saying that I probably won't get back to Poston real soon. I don't know how soon, but I hope to get here reasonably soon; if I don't get here before you are gone, I'll see you in Los Angeles, or Brawley. Yes, I said Brawley; it isn't very far from here or Fresno, Parlier, or Cleveland, Washington, Oregon, Kansas City, Des Moines, or New Orleans, or some other place and if you happen to see me first and if I don't see you, I want you to come to me and say hello, and say the last time I saw you was in Poston. I want to assure you that before I sit down that we haven't taken off our fighting clothes and we aren't going to take it off and we are going to keep them on to finish, and I hope if you had that you would put them back on again. And, we will get this job done together and we will be happier. Thank you very much.

I am happy to be back again in the Arizona sunshine and such a friendly atmosphere.



ANSWERS GIVEN TO QUESTIONS OF EVACUEES  
BY DIRECTOR DILLON S. MYER

GRAMMAR SCHOOL AUDITORIUM  
POSTON, ARIZONA  
MARCH 7, 1945

1. Question: What is the basis of the relocation allocation of \$25 per person, train fare, \$3 per day subsistence and freight bill. We wish to obtain the reasons why the Government believes this limited amount of assistance is sufficient for relocation and on what basis they were formulated upon.

Answer: Without preliminaries, I will go directly into the individual questions. When I was at Rohwer, the Chairman of the Council tried to make me believe that the first team had left, that only the second string remained. I don't agree that all of the first team has gone out because I had found that out long ago. Because of my interest in baseball, I have followed the game pretty well, and some of the older pitchers, when they find that they can't pitch as hard, just use their heads a little bit more. They sometimes made a lot better pitchers than the young ones in the first team. I don't think the first team is gone. I don't agree with you when you tell me that everybody is gone, and I think that you will agree with that.

We have recognized from the start that there were many old people and many poor people, perhaps, and many people who were ill, more of them, perhaps, than there were when you came here. I think the worst possible thing you can do, and I think you will agree with me, is to encourage people to go on welfare grants if they don't need to do so.

One of the reasons why we decided we should close centers, as I told you yesterday, is because we thought we had a program worked out whereby we could, with your cooperation and with your help, aid people who need help in order to get adjusted with a minimum of financial assistance; and with helping, perhaps, to find places to live, and if we could get an interest and understanding in trying to get that job done. I think that you understand now that I feel very deeply that for the good of the group as a whole, we cannot continue Governmental Centers for people of Japanese Ancestry because I think it will react against all of the people of Japanese Ancestry in a way that you don't want and I don't want. I recognize there will be some problems ahead.

Now for the \$25 question. We, a long time ago as you know, established a policy of providing in addition to railroad fare, three dollars per day for traveling facilities, provisions to provide \$25.00 for each member of the family to assist them in getting started in a new community. Now, the reason we did that was this. We feel that it would add to the security of making the first step. We knew then, and we know now, that anybody who is willing to relocate could make a living for themselves and for their families with a reasonable help if they were willing to work. Thousands of people have already proven that, young and old, and we did not feel that we were justified in going beyond that in providing them transportation, the opportunity to get to their places, and enough funds to have a starting point until they, perhaps, began to draw their first pay checks. This is the reason that lies beyond that analysis.

Early in the game, we changed it over because we were handicapping large families. We have put it on a basis for so much for each member of the family. That is the reason for that policy. We think it has been sound and is functioning well, and we think it will still function. Anyone who has needs beyond that would follow the policy of going to the Welfare Division, bringing his needs, sitting a recommendation into the mail so that he can secure additional assistance if it is really needed rather than by general arrangements. I might say one more thing. If it were possible for me to promise you that I can write out \$1000 checks, \$2000 checks and all you had to do was to pick them up; if I had lots of money, I would consider doing that. But, I don't have lots of money, either individually or through Government appropriations.

I think that you want is an opportunity, a reasonable opportunity to begin self-sufficiency and self-reliance again, and I think that is true with many folks; and I recognize that there are some older people here who probably are enjoying Poston more than they ever did before in their lives. They are getting to the age where they don't want to work so hard in the future. I don't blame them for that. But I still want to point out that majority of the folks are able to do



some work for earning reasonably good income, especially in these times; and as long as that is true, I am justified in promoting a program which would not make them wards of the Government for the rest of their lives. I don't think that is good for anyone.

I would not have announced the closing of centers next January if I did not believe that we had a program which would assist the people to become adjusted to the outside community without any great hardships. I would like to point out to you that the 100,000 people who are in relocation centers are a very small group of dislocated people comparatively. Indications are that there are about 14,000,000 people outside of their countries who have been dislocated as a result of this war up to date. Now that includes refugees who have been driven out of Germany or other countries---out of Greece, Italy, Yugoslavia, all of the European countries; out from the Islands of the Pacific which includes War Prisoners, whom we have taken and others have taken, and living camps, most of them not half as good as this. It also includes people who have been bombed out. I listened to the radio last night for a few minutes at Mr. Mills and heard the reporter say that 90% of the City of Cologne of Germany had been destroyed. While I am not trying to point out that the job you and we have to do looks like a difficult task to you, but it is really a small job in comparison with the total problem. All of us here in the United States, where we haven't had to run for bomb shelters, have been better off than most of the other people have been. We are very fortunate in that respect.

There was a time way back about November 19, 1942, when people didn't think they wanted to stay in relocation centers as most of the people do now. People are finding it a reasonably comfortable place to live and I say that honestly, and I am pleased to know there is a friendly atmosphere and all that. I am not breaking up the centers because I want to break up that friendly relationship, but for the reasons I gave you yesterday.

There are old couples and bachelors, perhaps, who are unable to work, at least full time or some, none at all. I think you should keep in mind that that would have happened whether we had evacuated or not because that does happen when we get old. I am going to get there some day and we all will. While the evacuee community had pretty well taken care of their home and jobs which had to do with problems of assistance and relief, in times previous to evacuation, it would have become more and more difficult as time went on because of the very fact that many people were getting old at the same time. It is not a problem due entirely to evacuation and I think it is easy to understand that.

We set up the \$25 program for each member of the family to take care of those people without enough pocket money, insurance, railroad fare---something to start on for those people who are going to need more assistance before they draw their first pay check. Those people who are going to need more assistance than that, we are going to have to work out on the basis of each individual, or each individual family and determine just exactly what the needs are in order that we can justify the expenditures of that Federal, State and local funds on that program so that we can be reasonably sure that once it is granted, they will be accepted and supported and there will be no question about it. Frankly, I do not believe that everybody wants to get flat-hand use. In other words, I don't think you do. The reason is because you made some commitments that I wanted to talk about. I just wanted you to understand a little more of the details that lie behind it. I hope I didn't answer all your questions. Let's have the next one.

2. Question: Will you be able to tell us the total amount of appropriation from the government relocation fund to relocatees up to date?

Answer: I am sorry I cannot give you the facts right now because we don't have a budget passed on it. If I give you the amount, it will run into rumors and misinformation, but we have already presented our budget which will start July 1st and carry up to January 2nd of next year. It has been presented to Congress and it will be known between April 15 or May 15---about that time. I'm not at liberty to make it public until we know the action of Congress and until we know the figures because Congress might not give the exact amount I asked for, so I cannot release anything to you this morning. Even Mr. Mill doesn't know what we asked for. Frankly, I'm sorry I cannot give you the figures today but I'll say this much we have tried to make adequate provisions for the program. We have laid out, including we think, a reasonable provision for the assistance to those people who need



individual assistance beyond the train fare and the \$25 per person but we did not figure on the basis of everybody at Poston and other centers would need that. Just as soon as the figures are made public, we will be glad to supply them to Mr. Mills and he will supply them to you.

3. Question: We are told that the center will be definitely closed before or on the 2nd of January, 1946. If so, what provisions are there for those evacuees still remaining in the center at the time of closing?
- a. By which agency, or by whom, will these evacuees be in care of?
  - b. How and where will they be maintained?
  - c. Who will be responsible for these evacuees after the closing of centers?

Answer: I am very much surprised to get that question. First, let me say there isn't going to be any evacuee who will be here later than January 2nd. The reason isn't because it's important to me but to you people as well that you get relocated. It is important that we get this job done. In the meantime, it is going to require your help as well as mine, and I think we can work it out together and no alternative plans are made. That is honest. We have no alternative plans.

Just one more word about that budget. We have asked for funds for the continuation of Centers only until January, 1946, because we believe that we can get the job done in the meantime with your help; and we believe can help you get the job done in the meantime.

One other thing I want to say so I am going into some detail. WRA does not expect to be running all or any center of any kind from January 2nd, next. There will be, probably, some persons who are not free to go, as for instance, the Tule Lake people. We have an agreement with the Department of Justice that when the times comes, they will take over the centers and the people who will not be free to go. But that doesn't mean that the Department of Justice is going to take over the responsibility for members who are free to go and fail to absolutely. It simply means that they will continue the responsibility of those who are not free to go back to their homes. So the WRA does not intend to run relocation or segregation centers. May I come back and say again that we, you and I, can get this problem worked out together as normally as possible on a sound basis between now and next January 2nd. We think we have no alternative plans and we have no alternative plans because we don't think we will need it.

4. Question: At the time of the closing of the WRA centers, will the Government forcibly remove the evacuees who have not voluntarily relocated; for instance, those who are unable to secure living quarters on the outside, including those with a large number of small children. Even in normal times, it is extremely difficult for a person with a large family to rent a furnished house at a reasonable rental. The experience of many of the evacuees shows that suitable housing is not available on the outside. Even those who own homes now find it practically impossible to repossess their houses because of previous commitments, and also because of OPA regulations concerning war workers or those who are engaged in high priority defense work. There is also a feeling that to force a tenant out would, in any case, cause bad feelings and might produce unhappy consequences.

Answer: I'm going to start backward on that because I remember the last one. There have already been people, war workers, who have vacated so that the owners may return---so there is no question about that. The San Francisco Examiner, the Los Angeles Times, the Call Bulletin and Herald Express, you recognize those names, all of which belong to Mr. Hearst, will try to make you believe, if they could, that it's going to be impossible to get the folks in your houses to move. That isn't true. They started to blow up in a campaign on every case that came up, whether the family who lived in a house wanted it or not. I have an idea that you heard about the Hernandez Family, the story which appeared early in the game as to how that family with three youngsters .....and it just so happened that they had two brothers in the Army--and that family that moved out had no kick at all. It was the newspapers that tried to blow the thing up---so let me say, first, I think there is going to be very little difficulty regarding war workers moving out of houses, except in newspapers, unless the lease is such that they are supposed to move out on reasonable notice. So don't worry



about that. If the people run into difficulty, we can help you. That is number one. Let me say that is part of the bluffing campaign that is going on. The campaign is trying to scare you folks. The same old gang who has been scrapping you for years are still trying to blow up into a big hoax.

Alright, number two. Houses are difficult to get but it can be secured for those people who don't own their houses and who don't have houses to go and make temporary quarters and start hunting for it like anyone else and in due time, it can be found, whether they have children in the family or not. Although where there are children, it is more difficult, I will admit.

The question is if we are going to help, and we are going to help trying to get other help and have a lot of people who can help. Many people among the church group are devoting much of their time to it now, but you will have to do the leg work yourself. There is another possibility which we have and that is the FHA and other agencies and upon presenting good reasons for building your home, they would help with loans and priorities. I haven't heard, myself, of anyone bringing in application but I am sure there will be. I think, furthermore, that there are already steps underway to have arrangements made as soon as possible so that contractors can build additional houses. So there will be some places for those people to move into and for others who are coming back, and the problem is being considered in the whole, including your problem as well as everybody else's.

I might say again that while it is tough, houses can be found. There are a good many people who don't want to come back and who try to make you believe that it is too tough, but that isn't true.

Two years ago, just about now, I had one of the first meetings with the new staff set up in Chicago to assist the relocation program. That was on the 4th of January and a number of people wanted to talk to me about some of the problems and the main problem was housing. They were successful and we are going to make it. You know how many are living in Chicago today who were living in relocation centers? Somewhere between eight and ten thousand, and they all have their homes and they got it by coming in as tenants, or to hostels, or finding houses themselves with the help of other agencies, or by coming in or living in somebody else's home temporarily and help with their work because they love to have some help since there are a lot of homes today who are willing to provide space until you can find houses because they need help. There are a lot of things that can be done today. I will admit that housing is one of the most difficult, no question about that, but it isn't too difficult and the only way to get the matter solved, now or later, is to go out and find your own solution and get the help of lot of people. Just remember that in cities, thousands and thousands of people are moving every day of the week and if they move out, people move in and you have to be on the ground to get it.

Now for the \$64 question. Is the WRA forcing anybody to go out of relocation centers? The answer is that we don't believe in forcing people----I think you know that. We have never tried to deal in that commodity. We believe in trying to work our program out on a cooperative basis where we can work together in your interests and in our interests. If we can do that, and which we can, I don't think I need to answer that question because I don't think it is going to be necessary to push anybody around and force anybody. I think we can do it in the time limited we have set with the help we have if you are willing to help us do it and I am sure you will.

5. The evacuees were often told they could remain in centers for the duration of war, and on that basis, many people leased their houses or property for the duration. What are the proper steps to be taken in such cases?

Answer: First, let me say that, I think duration meant duration of the Exclusion Orders and not the war. Secondly, let me say that a number of people leased their houses before any statements were made about the duration, and they did it on their own idea that it should be done, but we won't argue about that. I think there is a possibility that even



though the leases were made for the duration that in a good many cases some reasonable compromise can be worked out if it is gone about in the proper manner. Now, that the Exclusion Orders has been lifted, we can find ways and means to assist those people by moving them somewhere else. We will be glad to help. We will be glad to do everything we can to help folks who are really serious about it in trying to work out a program with the tenants and help make adjustments. I won't promise you that we will have complete success, but I will promise that we will work with you and try to give advice and consultation, or we can find some alternative for other folks to make it work out.

Some may be interested to know how one of the residents in Manzanar worked that problem out. I don't remember his name, but he had a nursery and was renting his house. The people living there were having a difficult time finding another house, so he made arrangements with his tenant to loan them money to buy another house. They bought another house and moved out, and they are moving in their own home. I think that is a good solution. While you may not be in a position to do that, I think it was worked out on a good-will basis. It just so happened that he had money to loan. There are lots of ways to work the deal out. Things are being done to work these things out and I think the first step is to want to do something about it. Then there are folks who will be glad to consult with you and we will do what we can, but we can't always guarantee success.

6. Question: In your address to the residents on your second or third visit to Poston, you mentioned that (the exact words cannot be quoted) "this is your home for the duration of the war. It is up to you to make this place a pleasant place to live." After the horrible experience of evacuation---hurried packing, throwing away our belongings, moving to assembly centers and later transferring to the middle of an Arizona desert---these words were a great comfort to us. We also signed a document with the Government at the time of our intake and which we understood to be for the duration. On the basis, many of the evacuees, particularly the older folks, regard the center as their home until the termination of the world conflict.

Answer: I am glad you can't quote me correctly on that, but I am sure I said for the duration of the Exclusion Order. Frankly, I don't know what I said-----I might have said that. I have been very careful to try to avoid any commitments I could not fulfill. There was a pamphlet being used way back in the Assembly Center days before I came when they used the word "duration" three or four times. I am sure I had in mind duration of the exclusion orders. Since that time, there may have been some slip of the tongue, but it has never been in my thinking because I have felt very strongly for a long, long time, as a matter of fact, over two years, that we needed to get the job done before the war was over. I think you heard the reasons yesterday, and I just want to say that I don't think you want to have any fights with me or me fight with you in trying trying to work out a program in detail, making adjustments here and there to get the job done rather than by arguing with me or by me arguing with you what the job is.

I am convinced that you are convinced that what we are trying to do here is right. I am not convinced that everybody wants to move. I am sure everybody doesn't, but I will say that I think before many weeks and months have passed, more people will. Poston will not be the same old place and one of these days as people begin to move, after school closes and farms close down, and etc.----the situation will change very fast.

There are a good many people who naturally will indulge in wishful thinking in their dreams. There are some folks, and there may be some here, who honestly believe that as soon as the Armistice is signed and the war is over the world will be a beautiful place in which to live and there will be no discrimination, no restrictions, no economic battles of the type going on now and no arguments about leases, etc. Now, let's not kid ourselves one bit. Let's not indulge in wishful thinking more than we have to. We all do. The problem of adjustment is going to become harder and harder every month the people stay here. It is going to have to be done sometime. The time to do it is when we can do it---while everybody is able to work and get the job. If he wants a job he can make good money. The time to do it is now and I am sorry if it's true that anybody has made plans on the basis of the duration of the war



on the basis that I have said it. I hope that isn't true because I have tried to avoid that and I say that honestly because, as I said it long time ago, I felt that we should change your situation, that people should be allowed to move back to normal economy as soon as possible and I still believe that; so let me say that if I did, through a slip of the tongue, make any statements which would seem to imply that, I am sorry, but, even if I had, let me say that I don't think anybody or many people will argue about that today. I think you understand that. It is in your interests as well as in the interests of this country, and particularly, in my interests personally---it surprises folks when I point out that we have to relocate too. I am not very much concerned whether I will have something to do from here. I do have a farm and I can go back there. Mr. Mills will have to relocate like many other people.

I think you will understand when I tell you that if we want to be selfish, we can string this job out just as long as we could, but we are not interested in being selfish. We are taking some pride on that basis of principle we have been fighting for straight through. We can get this job done together and get reestablished. I honestly think there will be a very chaotic situation we will all have to face if we still have relocation centers at the time Armistice is signed and reconversion starts---boys coming back from the Army in the hundreds---and we are pretty well tied down in normal conditions and moving along in good pace. So I don't want to argue about it. I think you do want the facts on which these things were based. I think you want assurances regarding certain details about that position, the things necessary to get the job, and I am trying to get it to you in so far as you may know the answer. But, if you don't know the answer, something should be done about it.

7. Question: Because of the uncertainty of the future and lack of information at the time of evacuation, majority of the people disposed of their belongings for a mere sum or gave them away to their friends. Now, if we are to relocate, equipments and furnitures such as stove, refrigerators, beds, mattresses and living and dining rooms outfits will be needed to begin a new life. The minimum cost of such household necessities is approximately \$1500. Can we be assured that the Government will provide us with these household goods or cash equivalent to them?

Answer: Well, I cannot promise everybody \$1500 dollards for I don't think everybody will need it. I think there will be a few people who are unfortunate because of fire or other misfortunes who will need assistance so they can be included as part of the individual plan. My answer would be that there is a possibility of securing some help who really need to get reestablished again in providing the minimum of things they will need to work with, but that will be a limited number of people. There are some still asking for refrigerators, stoves, pots, etc., but I noticed there were many still stored in the warehouses when I traveled along the coast.

Now, on priorities. We have had, so far, very excellent cooperation from the OPA in providing priority for those things that were really needed. There are some things which are very scarce. Even though you have priority, they are hard to get. I could not get my radio fixed because of scarcity of tubes. I think we are going to have very good cooperation from the OPA and WPB. If there are good reasons for them, they will treat you just like anyone else. Farm machineries not longer require priority except in crawler type equipment, such as tractors, the type of equipment used for half tanks. The Army has them and they are almost impossible to get them. Other equipments can be purchased without priority if you can find them. Things are scarce but not as scarce as they were some time ago. While it is difficult, most of the folks may be able to find the necessary equipment, and if necessary, we will help the people look for them. We won't buy it for them because that won't buy it for them because that won't make anyone happy.

8. Question: It was announced that there will be no schools maintained by the WRA because the budget does not provide any fund for school purposes for the next fiscal year. At the Colorado River Relocation Center, the schools were first maintained by the Indian Service because most of the evacuees were not permanent residents of Arizona, because of which, the State of Arizona could not provide schooling for the children



of such temporary residents. We believe this is the same reason which caused the WRA to take over the school system from the Indian Service. We firmly believe that wherever there are school children, there should be schools.

Answer: I think I can say as sure as I can say anything that there will be no school in Poston after this school year. We made that announcement at the time we made the other announcement because we wanted to give everyone plenty of notice to make arrangements to get their youngsters in schools somewhere else. I am quite sure that the State of Arizona are not making plans to operate schools at Poston or in Gila, nor are we planning to operate beyond the school year.

The Indian Service was operating the whole center under the same general policy for fifteen months directed under the WRA. I don't think there should be any misunderstanding about it and wishful thinking about it. We are not planning to have schools and I am sure that the State of Arizona is not planning to have school beyond this school year. We are doing everything we can to assist those people who have been able to work out their relocation plans so they can get them into normal schools and normal communities by the time school starts if they wish to do so. If they don't, the youngsters will have no schools to go to.

9. Question: Is it true that when one Government agency takes over certain assignment duty from another agency, it is the practice of the Government to change policies concerning the subject matter of the transfer. If so, this is casting the dark shadow of doubt that the evacuees are unable to depend upon the announced Government policies regarding their future. From the psychological standpoint the Government must possess the true spirit of righteousness as did our forefathers who founded this nation. This constant changing of policies cause disturbing rumors, giving rights to feelings of insecurity among the evacuees.

Answer: I'm not quite sure I understand that question. You can always change contracts if you have mutual agreement even if they are written on a definite basis. The WRA had a contract to operate the Poston Relocation Center from the time it was opened up until January, 1944. That contract had a clause which stated that upon 60 days notice, either 30 or 60 days, I cannot remember, either one of the agencies involved could give notice to the other and the contract would be revoked. We could give notice or the Indian Service could give notices to us and we could take over. That is what happened in our case between the Indian Agency and ourselves. There was no violation of the contract. Now, there has been changes in procedures, but I don't think there has ever been any changes in the basic policy of the WRA. I think there has been some misunderstanding in Poston because of the confusion regarding some of the basic policies here in the beginning but I don't want to go back to the arguments.

I want to say there was a time following the evacuation orders, particularly, following a particular Governor's speech at Salt Lake in April, 1942, when Mr. Eisenhower and a lot of people felt that it is going to take quite a little time before we can work out a relocation program and because of that feeling, consideration was being given and plans were underway for carrying on a much larger amount of industrial and agricultural operations and other enterprises and finally carried out. But that was the only reason that there would be a relocation program. Once it is established, we can secure the acceptance throughout the country for those people who wish to relocate on the outside.

I came into the picture as director of the WRA on January 17, 1942, before most of those plans were settled and finally established, and it took me a little time to understand what the problems were and size up the situation. Within three or four months following, I made an intensive study of the problems and among other facts which appeared in the survey was the fact that people throughout the country did want evacuees if they wanted to relocate. Seventeen hundred people in May, 1942, worked on farms in Utah, Idaho and other Mid-Mountain States. So you may remember when I was here in the middle of November, 1942, I announced the final steps in the revision of the procedures by setting up large industrial operations because we felt that the relocation program machinery was the thing set up to do and it became evident that we could do a good job without moving in the other direction.



Now, there has been some changes in procedures from time to time. There has been changes in certain of the regulations. When we found we were mistaken, we tried to rectify. We also found that after the situation changed, we needed no procedure changes as we needed then. The situation in December 17 was of the same situation as before. I think you will agree with me that it is very fortunate that we had some flexibility in working out the complex problems. You have been also made at me because we delayed the changes you people promoted, if recommendations were not approved. You have the right to be mad. On the other hand, I have been pursued by Community Councilmen and Block Managers to change the procedures, and when they were, they turned around and got made. I can smile at that. I accept it as one of those things. I think that you realize that if I go back over the old things, that if there had been some changes in procedures, the broad outlines have been about the same from the beginning; the objectives have been the same. The changes we have made have been changes in trying to help better your situation or to work out better procedure in getting our job done. They have been changes in procedures, rather than in policy.

10. Question: In case of relocation, there are two problems which must be settled.
- a. Those who have relocated from here always leave a complaint that there is too much red tape in the handling of freight.
  - b. Collecting the baggage is irregular, slow and careless. Once the evacuee has relocated, it is a very slow process in obtaining the freight.
  - c. After the freight is placed in the yard, it remains there for a long time because of lack of freight bill. Often it is weeks, even months, before the freight of the evacuee who has relocated from here is even collected. For those who have minor children, some of these goods are absolutely necessary to obtain them and yet they are left remaining untouched. These incidents discourage those who wish to relocate.

Evacuees who wish to relocate must go from one office to another in order to complete their applications. Since the unit relocation office was moved to the Administration area, some footsteps have been saved; however, they still have to travel from office to office. Those who are unable to speak the English language or those who are unfamiliar with the area need a guide to show them around. The policy of the WRA seems to stir up the evacuees' spirit; however, the procedure set up by the relocation is rather complicated, and tends to dampen such spirit.

Answer: In the matter of freight, I don't know all the details of red tape---all I can suggest for the limitation of red tape would be to see Mr. Mills and iron it out as best as you can. Because it does take time to load, and it is somewhat of a problem I realize, I believe we have plans worked out for those people who want their freight moved, and if they will give reasonable notice, I think we can meet most of the needs. We can't tell how long it will take after we get it on the railroad. All I can suggest is to refer the details to Mr. Mills and his freight handlers and see if they can find ways of ironing out the difficulties. I cannot say freight will always be there because it is slow. On the other hand, if people knew when they were going, say about the first of April, they can get it on the way ahead of time if they knew where they were going.

I realize that, but I assume that the offices have been moved in order to bring them closer to each other because it will be easy for the people. We are trying to make it more convenient. I am sure Mr. Mills will take you around to get you started in the right direction. In the meantime, provisions are being made to have interpreters for those people who cannot talk English well. It may be confusing for few days but it will iron out; if not, see Mr. Mills.

11. Question: A great many of the evacuees did not understand or are unfamiliar with the policy of relocation. The Family Welfare section of the the center endeavors to explain these matters to them. Those who



wish to relocate are each given information through the Family Welfare. They then confer with the community leaders for advice and suggestions. Quite often, the community leaders are themselves unfamiliar with the policies so they are unable to give any intelligent advice to the satisfaction of the community. The history of the relocation center will show that these community leaders, such as Block Managers and Councilmen, attend meetings and consult with the residents in order to make them understand government policies and endeavor to maintain better relation between the government agency and the residents. In order to obtain the best results, we believe this government agency should open its policies to the leaders and thus reach the community.

In the early days, loyalty questionnaires were given to the Nisei. We now find many unfortunate person who misunderstood the question or the purpose of the government at that time. This was the time the government and the residents, and we have come to be regarded as agitators and not as "go-betweens" by government officials. When the family welfare section was conducting its interviews in utmost earnest, the residents regarded it as a joke for the same reason. We regard the unhappy events of 1942 as have been caused by the same reason.

Answer: I recognize that problem in all of the centers. I am trying to get understanding as to what the policies are and the reasons that lie behind the policies. I also will admit to you that we haven't always been as successful as we should be in securing the understanding before we can go ahead with the program, such as the registration of 1943. We tried to learn from that experience so that is one of the most important reasons why I am here on this trip visiting all the centers ----Rowher, Heart Mountain, Granada, etc. Poston is that last one. I spent at least two days in every center because I felt it was important that there be no misunderstanding, first as to what the policies were and secondly, as to why we made these policies, so I am here to try to help you understand.

There are certain procedures which need explanations and I presume it was through that many folks did not understand. We are willing to start all over now that we can get the understanding of those who are interested in getting facts to help them----to help them find out how many people would need assistance and plan for them and try to work out ideas as regarding their needs for the budget, needs of additional personnel in working their problems. I realize it is difficult, and because it is difficult, we want your help, the help of the Community Councilmen, the Block Managers and other community leaders in getting their understanding. If you don't yourselves, even after I am gone, understand the reasons or all of the policies or what procedures are, please come and see Mr. Mills and others and see if they can't help your work it out and I am sure if need be, and if you want to do so in order to get the people in the blocks to understand, we are willing to arrange meetings to answer questions and get better understanding of procedures and to get information to the people.

These will have to be worked out with you people. They are more helpful to you as I pointed out to you---procedures that should be followed in getting the fact to the people. Our greatest interest right now is doing everything we can so that everybody in the center does understand, and if they don't understand, we are willing to help you get to them because there are some people who don't want to understand. They don't want to listen. That is always true in large groups of people so I'll talk to those people who want to listen. Step by step, everybody will listen to the story. It will have to be told over and over until everybody does understand. If I spoke Japanese, I could help more; if I could, I would help get the facts straight. It is you, who can speak both Japanese and English, who is going to help and I am sure you will do that.

12. Question: Part (3) of Administration restriction 150.1 states: "A number of persons unable at the time of evacuation to move to centers because of tuberculosis or other illness (deferred evacuees) still remain in institutions in the evacuated states, their expenses paid by the War Relocation Authority. Responsibility for maintenance of these persons will be transferred to appropriate state or private agencies as rapidly as possible."



Incoming Teletype #103 states in part: "Only patients who have been recommended for treatment by center are eligible to return since they have continuously been a WRA responsibility."

At the time of evacuation, we were assured that all patients confined in local hospitals would be reunited with families in centers when discharged. We request that patients who are still remaining in institutions in evacuated areas be permitted to join their families in relocation centers prior to the relocation of these families. This is desirable from the humanitarian standpoint. Relocation centers have become homes for these people and "there is no place like home." Those people who have been in hospitals and now ready to leave and never lived in relocation centers, I hope they won't establish their homes here and think there is no place like home. We seriously think that it is going to be better for everybody concerned since centers will be closed by the second of January, 1945; that those people discharged from hospitals make plans to get relocation on the outside rather than live here. We are going to help work out problems if they will come to the welfare and relocation offices and if they need help, we will help them. We don't think it is sound, either for them or for us, to move a lot of people here who will have to move again in a few weeks.

Visits may be made as other people but they cannot be inducted as we do not plan to induct anyone who did not live in centers before. I am sorry that I cannot say yes to that question, and I think it is in the interests of you and your family that we work it out the other way. We are not trying to create hardships. We think we have provisions if they still are not able to work where we can give assistance. It may take a little time to work it out. I am sorry to say that I can't grant that request because I don't believe it is good for them and I think it is good for the people in Poston and all of the relocation centers to do it that way.

Question was asked if they could be admitted on an individual basis. For visits, yes, but not for induction. We are not going to induct anyone unless there were previous commitments or boys from the Army with physical defects. But we would much rather work with them on plans for relocation on the outside rather than go in the other direction.

13. Question: Is there any policy on the subject, "No more Little Tokyo" at present?

Answer: Maybe, we better put it this way. We have more and better "Little Tokyos", No more "Big Tokyos" in the cities. Now, we have 15, or 20, or 30 "little Tokyos". I have felt from the beginning of the relocation program that it was going to be a good thing for you and everybody with an evauees' face if the country learned to know you better. I think you understand they do know you better and this has been successful and helpful. So as a result of that policy, there are eight to ten thousand people living in Chicago and nearly twice as many people have been scattered all over the cities---Denver, Salt Lake, Cleveland, St. Louis, etc.---nearly twice as much before evacuation.

Now, I'm <sup>not</sup> going to argue about where the people should live. They can go wherever they want and we will help them. My suggestion is that for those people who don't have homes or business, who don't have a good reason to go back to the coast, should consider thinking of going to the East rather than the West, but I haven't any policy about "Little Tokyos" or "Big Tokyos" so they are free to go wherever they wish to go. The program of relocation has been sound and good for everybody concerned and while it has been difficult for older folks, it has been a good thing for the Niseis and Sanseis because they learned the rest of the United States and the United States have learned to know you.

14. Question: What arrangements are being made to permit depositors from withdrawing funds from the Yokohama Specie Bank?



Answer: I am sorry that I don't know how to get the money out of the Yokoyama Specie Bank as it is in Yokohama. I think you know the answer to that question as much as I do. The question has come up several times on this trip about blocked accounts, people who don't have the free use of their funds and I think we can do something about that if individuals are interested and are free to go anywhere. I have already talked with the representatives of the Alien Property Custodian Office and they assure me they will give consideration to every case. We have a new policy since December 17 so if you have a blocked account and free to go I shall present them, but I cannot get your money out of the Yokohama Specie Bank. If you have a specific problem and present them to us, we will help you. Present your problems to Mr. Carter of the Relocation Office.

15. Question: Religious freedom is one of the fundamental rights accorded by the Constitution of the United States to all people, regardless of race, creed or color. Although Christian ministers have been permitted to return to the Coast, nearly all Buddhist priests have been excluded from the evacuated areas. Since the majority of the center residents are Buddhists all religious activities would be curtailed upon their return to their former homes. We request that equal treatment be accorded to the Buddhist and Christian ministers and that they (Buddhist priests) be granted entrance into the Pacific Coast in order that freedom of worship may be enjoyed by all.

Answer: I hope so. I don't want to give you any commitments that I can't fulfill. I think you know that we are no longer responsible for determining who can come and go. The Army has a program in which they issue Exclusion Orders to individual people here and there throughout the center. I think you understand what the problem is and I hope we can do something about it. At least we are trying to get some of the folks to understand that we have learned to understand in the last three years which they don't yet understand. It may take a little time and I can't give you definite assurances but I have hopes and we will do our best to secure some understanding which we think we already have.

Just one other thing I want to say. I think this doctor (referring to Chairman) can tell you that whenever you have a long chronic illness, three years long, it isn't cured with one prescription----- it takes two or three. I am sure he will be here to give you prescription or have you come to Director Mills and they will try to give you a prescription if it is needed. I hope you understand that we are sympathetic with the problems that you are now facing and lots of people who now feel insecure, or who are ill, we want to do everything we can to ease the way as best as we can back into a normal situation. I hope you understand that we are not doing this thing because we are mad at you and the old people who love to stay here. We are doing this thing for the reasons I told you yesterday which are sound and I am sure that I can count on you to help us get the facts to the folks and get this thing rolling, it will roll much faster, and when we look back in three years, we'll say, "isn't it funny that we had arguments three years ago." So, if I don't see you in Poston, I will see you in Brawley. I certainly appreciate being with you and I appreciate the friendly atmosphere and wonderful relationships we have had.

16. Has the WRA ever contemplated the establishment of special financial facility and aid for the relocatees? If not, please give consideration.

Answer: Yes, we have contemplated in giving some consideration to that problem of financial aid for relocatees. We have avoided making any commitments because we are not sure it is the right thing to do. I have a good many questions about credit and loans and I want to talk just a little bit about it.

In the first place, I found that, at least a month or two ago, people were dreaming about buying lands and about land loans. Let me say first that I know from experience this is a pretty poor time to buy land even if you had the money because there isn't any value in land and it is a bad time to become in debt. The reason is I bought some land in 1917 and



I am still paying for it and hope that some of these days I could pay for it. I was young then and had not gone through any depression before. I think there isn't going to be much need for land loans; neither do I think there is going to be much need for large scale purchase of business property because they are so inflated. There is going to be need, perhaps, for loans and financing of homes which have already been mentioned some cases, and there is going to be need for financing of short-time loans in order that folks may reestablish themselves in agriculture or business. The banks, insurance companies and other loaning agencies are anxious to loan.

So far, I haven't seen anyone in getting loans of that type, but I have heard a number of cases where they have gotten loans. There was a case where one of the evacuees in the poultry business decided to get a loan from the Produce Credit Bank. He went to see the committee of the board but he was refused. But the point is that he went right across the street to a bank and he got the loan within five or ten days because the bank had money to loan and the business was sound and no trouble at all. I have talked with many bankers up and down the coast and they told me they would like to get some of their business back. I don't think short term loans are a serious problem if it is on a sound basis. I do realize that it is a psychological problem here because of the feeling they can't get loans. For that reason, it will be possible and it will be feasible for us to set up a reasonable amount of money for those people who aren't able to get loans and who aren't able to get them otherwise. I don't want to make any promises but I want to tell you that we will explore the thing further to see whether it is feasible and possible. We haven't gotten it as yet and I don't want to make any promises to you, but we are exploring the thing further to see if it is possible and feasible to set up a loan system. I don't want you to wait, however, until we get out plans worked out. We are serious enough about it and we will try to do the job.

We have found that most of the Governmental agencies are loaning very little money to anybody because they were set up generally to help provide loans and because of the fact that banks do have so much more to loan. The amount of money the Government is loaning today is shrinking very fast except in those cases where they are loaning to help in the construction of war plants and other type of things directly interested in war efforts. So, we have considered and we still are giving consideration. Perhaps we can work something out. I don't think there is going to be need for our aid because somebody else will do the job.

Some of the people are thinking of going into business who have never been in business before. That is nature. Many of these people are not going to get loans if they haven't had the experience unless they are young folks, but I think if you had any reasonable credit before and have a sound business proposition, there isn't going to be too much difficulty. In this connection, those who need help other than loans, the type I talked about when we talked about the \$25, the WRA is going to help finance the program rest of the year and throughout the next year. We are asking authorization for provisions of transfer of some of the funds to the Social Security Board for the financing of those welfare cases where they do need assistance. Most of that we could do directly through grants and the only reason we are not doing it directly is because we can work it out the other way.

There are two or three reasons we can work it out the other way. The first one is, and I have already mentioned the first, is that we can get assistance from the welfare agencies that we ourselves can't possibly provide. It brings more people into the program---those who have interest in the individuals involved; people who will be there after we are gone and who can give help. We feel that everybody we bring into the program is going to help along that line so instead of trying to do the job directly as other people are, we are asking their budget to help finance them for the next year and a half. If there is any further need beyond that time, the Social Security Board will make their estimates and present their request to Congress to carry on the fund. That is the general plan.



I can't predict for you what Congress is going to do because of the reasons I have given you, and there are a lot of reasons. There are other funds to help supplement the funds of institutional cases, orphans ---funds regarding chronic people who have chronic illness and all of those need to be tied together. So the answer is yes.

We have contemplated making provisions for funds in our budget for this year and the next year and to give you a little more history of what we have done so far. Last year at the time Social Security Board presented the budget, they asked for authorization to provide this assistance directly from Congress. That language was based on direct appropriation of the \$50,000 to assist those cases in which the Justice Department might be interested because of evacuation, internment, or some other reason. In addition, Congress gave authority to transfer additional \$50,000 to assist cases where they might have illness or who would need help for those reasons. We have contacted with the Social Security Board for nearly two years for their help and we know something about their service. Now we should have because we foresaw the time when we were going to need that basis. Were we are going to get that basis is to get the process on that \$50,000 to a higher level so that we will have the authority to ask for additional funds when they are needed. If we don't get it, we will set up details in our 1946 budget. We haven't made definite plans. We are asking for funds rather than the Social Security Board and maybe we will have to handle it, but we prefer to do it the other way. We think it is important to train a lot of people who will understand the problems and be sympathetic. We found out a long time ago that the only way to get people to understand is to have them work with you. You are a political people. You have the time now and you can understand and better train them. We can give assistance. If we can't make it function, we will shift the machineries so that it will function some way or the other.