

COOP WARD II MEETING

September 2, 1942

Mr. Ikeda called the meeting of block representatives together at 8 p.m. in 2807-D. It was found that representatives from Block 28 and 29 were not present. Substitutes from those blocks were sent for.

After some conversation on other subjects, the meeting was resumed at 8.40. The purpose of the meeting was explained as: Discussing the cooperative plan; Calling a block meeting to elect 2 representatives from each block, thus dissolving the Advisory Council and Coop leaders/ group.

Mr. Ikeda then read the cooperative plan. On certain points there were some discussion, and these shall be indicated.

There was a question on non-Board member. According to Mr. Ikeda (who asked Miss Sakamoto), it means non-representatives.

Auditor

~~xxx/xxx/xxx~~--Must he be a non-member?

Membership fee--Little discussion the first time it was brought up. The feeling that all of this should be discussed by the new representatives was strong throughout the meeting.

Distribution of profit--Someone suggested that it should be distributed to all those in the community. One fellow was against giving money to the recreation and welfare departments, because such burdens should be shouldered by the WRA. But in general the desire was to use the profit for the benefit of the community as a whole. Also, profits should be kept down to a minimum.

Distribution of stock after the war--There will be ample time for that after the war ends.

Distribution of former profits--Someone thought that it was unfair to give it to coop members alone.

Membership fee--in general as low as possible. One dollar seemed to gain the approval of most of the persons present. Paying up about 50 cents was thought to be about the right amount.

Do all non-members but purchasers eventually become members? The consensus of opinion was that they would.

Staggered shift--should be made more definite who are going to be staggered.

Coop Ward II Meeting--2

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The functions and qualifications of Board of Directors was read by J.S.

Advisory committee--Some thought that it was unnecessary. Questions arose as to what would happen to Mr. Smith and what his powers would be. Also, it was questioned whether the coop would be entirely independent of the WRA, and what voice, if any, it would have in the running of the coop. There was a feeling that a staff representative on the Board of Directors (the 15th person) was sufficient. The purpose of such an advisory committee did not impress those present as highly important.

Rent--Why should the coop pay rent? Can profit be made on a ten per cent mark up basis? There was a feeling that profits would be small, if any at all.

Representatives--2 representatives from each block should be elected by Saturday.

The meeting broke up at 10.30 pm.

August 17, 1942

WARD COOP MEETING

Ward 11 and 111 meet together.

Mr. Ideda opened the meeting at 8:45. Negotiation with Mr. Smith carried to the point where they are willing to turn over the store if an organization can be constructed by the Japanese.

Introduced Mr. Hitomi who made a report of the meetings of the Advisory Council.

Mrs. Takeda was asked what legal steps must be taken. He said that the Advisory Council had no right to set up a cooperative.

Discussion: Will the farm be included. It becomes too great a matter to handle. Ans: No, it will not be included in the community enterprises.

Complaint from a colonist. I can't afford to buy candies etc. sold at the canteen for my children. I don't like their being sold. Part of the profit can be used to relieve some of the distress of the people.

How about membership? Leader advises higher rate --- about \$5.00.

How about those who can't pay?

He doesn't have to pay right away.

We have to find out under what system we are going to take over the coop, before we can take the matter to the people?

Yes, education is necessary. But it'll take too long. But we pushed the matter forward.

Unlimited membership will make the thing a profit scheme (Masaki).

Of course, only one share per person.

But can't only those who are interested get together build the coop up? We don't have to get everyone's approval, do we?

But it's better to get everyone's approval.

Mr. Sakamoto---How about making a definite plan among the Advisory Council and then present it to the people.

Hitomi--- If we can get the approval of the people before we start on a plan. It's going to be like a shohi gumiai. With low profits, and dividends according to the purchase.

Masaki--- don't pay dividends to people not in the coop? The scrip system. Aren't the people who buy scrips able to get dividends.

Hitomi--- To tell you the truth, we have a promisional by-law here. I'll read it.

I can't understand this very well myself, ...

Masaki repeats --- Why should we pay the wages of the govt.

Taukamoto--- Why not the Council handle the coop was brought up. Taketa said that it was better not to have an organized coop. Why spread the power of the people? I myself don't care ... Mr. Elbertson is against it. It means that his work is goin to fall through. The representatives say that if they don't have full power they won't be able to assert fully.

If board is sold, then the govt might not give the lumber. The council passed a rule not to sell lumber. It's power was questioned.

There should be no profit. The council would return it to each family. Or according to script book.

Then Isseis will have no power.

Tsukamoto--- but representatives don't mean that. *to deprive Isseis of power.*

Sakamoto--- Isn't it too much responsibility for Isseis.

The advisory board was willing to let the Council run it. But Mr. Smith protested. You should take part in the economic sphere. So we decided to take it up in order to take over the store. Councilmen seem to want some voice.

Then we thought we should go ahead. If the Council can handle it well, why not? It doesn't matter either way.

If they aren't going to give the Isseid any power, then shouldn't we think about it? (He's confused)

The council wants the final say (Tsukamoto).

Of course, the Council will have the final say. Nobody is going to break the law.

The real problem is whether we should take the store over as a group or let the Council take over.

Shouldn't we know a little more about coops? (J.S.)

Yes. ---

Sumio--- Why don't you go ahead and explain it.

Sumio explains
Divided according to the amount bought. Only one vote. No credit. Only fair rate of interest. No proxy note.

WRA has no power to operate a store. We should take it over as soon as possible.

How about the

Can it be avoided by coop setup?

Council should take care of political matter, and economic matters should be taken care of by people who knows.

The canteen was stopped from selling lumber. Mr. Ried of the workshop is selling lumber at 8¢/ft. which was being sold by the ~~canteen~~ canteen at 4¢/fts

Why not chase out such Hakuajins?

Reed wanted wood for his students and asked the canteen to buy some lumber. He went to ask the Modoc school, but couldn't get any. He went out and bought some himself.

The problem is whether we want a store or not. Of course, we want it.

There are people who object to selling candies. But don't growing children need some extra food in the way of candies. How about the parents quitting smoking.

5 in my family and I work alone. Other families more people work can go to the canteen. My family can't do that. We should get scrip as they did at Pinedale, I asked my Councilman. If we get that, then selling icecream is all right.

Things that should go to the mess hall is being sold in the canteen.

Sumio--- I'm trying to track down the rumor. He says we don't need a canteen. We'll be broke. We should take a vote once. Do we want a store.

Hitomi--- If we have control, we can do what we like.

J.S.--- There are two points to take a vote on:

1. Do we want to have a store?
2. Do the people want to take it over or do they want to let the Council handle it.