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COLORADO RIVER WAR RELOCATION PROJECT
Poston, Arizona

August 14, 1943
10:00 a.m.

Brief Notes - Meeting of the Advisory Committee
Segregation Program

The meeting was conducted by Mr. Moris Burge, Assistant Project Director.

The purpose of this meeting is that I want to discuss with you how we can best operate and I will give you some ideas I have and then we might discuss those and any other suggestions you might have. As you know, we are most anxious to have everyone on the project and everyone on the staff understand fully this segregation program, and can improve the handling of it. I suggest that as we go along we can have a representative from each block to give suggestions to this body and we can best work through you with the residents.

My own feeling is that probably we can arrange weekly meetings, or even more frequently. I could then give you the latest developments in the program and whatever steps we are taking, and in the same time you can bring to us the question which are being raised and any other suggestions that you might have, in the handling of the segregation program. I would like that it be left much up to you and I will be guided by you on it. I would not have to conduct these meetings, and the three groups of each unit can get together and hold these meetings.

We are well in the first part of the segregation program. The first thing we have to know is who is exactly going from Poston to Tule Lake and we are now in the process of finding that out. We have repatriation and expatriation lists almost complete. One question which has come up recently concerns those who have applied for repatriation through the Spanish Consul. A number of people in Poston 3 have receipts showing the receipt of those applications. We have instructions from Washington that they should now fill out Form 230 in the welfare office and we have wired to find out whether those people can go to Tule Lake in the first going. The welfare division is now in the process of transferring people who has answered "no." "No" is what they mean and still consider that they be loyal to Japan. As we go along, there will be expected a few special cases, and we do have a few cases where the person answered "no" and asked for special consideration for another hearing. We will handle one or two of those cases where satisfied or justified.

As soon as the lists are complete we will then have the number of people in each block going to Tule Lake that will involve the block manager's system. It will mean the determining of the medical examination and at that point this group will have to be quite

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active.

In general would you say that the people are beginning to understand the segregation program? How is the situation in two? (Unit 2 representative) I think that they understand it quite fully.

If the group in one would like to have a committee in each block, that will be up to you. I think the important thing is to get an organization which will keep from losing a lot of time, and keep me informed on how the things are going.

We will follow the instruction from the Washington office on the handling of segregation program. This body's functions will be as far as the consultant is concerned to where we have particular problems.

From time to time there will be requests made from the executive board; such as requests for Mr. Head to accept application for repatriation after July 1st. Well, it was impossible for us to do that except where a person making that application had applied before that date. I would like to have this group understand we can do that. It does not mean that those after July 1 will not go to Tule Lake eventually. They will not get to go in the first group.

Tule Lake has to be prepared to receive people and send people out. It is a very complicated moment until people from that center are sent out.

(From the floor) It may be too early, but can you give the approximate number of people going from Unit 1, 2 and 3?

It is impossible for me to do so now, but I will have it in the next meeting. However, I can say at this time that there will be from 1,000 to 1,500 and of that the smallest number is Unit 3. Repatriation numbers are from 500 to 600 and the others are the number of people who gave "no" to the loyalty question.

(From the floor) I understand that the loyal people of Tule Lake refuse to leave.

Masuda: The people of Tule Lake have been hoping that at the Denver Conference they would change the Segregation Center from Tule Lake to another center. The questions such as "if we do not move out of here what are you going to do?" were going around in Tule Lake. Mr. Ferguson, one of the attorneys from Washington, D.C. went to Denver from his visit to Tule Lake and he informed the people of Tule Lake have been interested in other centers and are inquiring about the centers which they might choose to go.

Has the people gotten over the idea that Poston is going to be closed after these people leave to Tule Lake? For a while it seemed to me the main rumor which had to be stopped. It is necessary to be stopped, because it is a rumor. How is it in two?

(From a representative from Unit 2) It is understood there now.

Masuda: The fear is still here among some people, but it is expressed hopefully that it has died down.

It is natural and we will do everything we can go give people the assurance that that fear is unfounded. The WRA is so strongly and firmly established that if the person does not want to leave the relocation center there will be relocation centers for them to live in.

Markley: Some people did want to go out of relocation centers; having fear that selective service will be reapplied later, then they would not be able to take care of their families. Mr. Myers stated definitely that when the man goes into service, the family could always return to the relocation center.

(From the floor) Can you tell us Mr. Burge, why the residents of Tule Lake are now allotted to other centers and why Poston and Gila can not get a share of those residents?

There are two important reasons. One is that with this policy for relocation, the WRA wishes to send people from Tule Lake to area where jobs are available, and the second reason is that of the difficulty of movement from the center in the western defense command.

(From the floor) Would it be possible to invite relatives from Tule Lake or not?

Because of this handling of the transportation and movement, it won't be possible for them to come here direct. It would be very much the same as the people coming here from Santa Anita; to go to some center and then transfer to here will be possible. The whole schedule of trains from Tule Lake are being considered and anything of that kind will complicate it immensely. They will send people of Tule Lake as far as they want to go.

The fear of Poston being closed are keeping them from coming here. All other centers are still open and are going on as before. The welfare department of the other nine centers are still maintaining the function of arranging for transportation of residents.

If we have covered most of the question, this group can get together and work out a method of operating, and now Mr. Masuda will

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take the chair. It doesn't have to be legal as long as it is effective.

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August 25, 1943

Brief Notes - Meeting of the Advisory Committee
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Subject of coolers owned by segregants was being discussed.

Question raised about the people under medical attention. Will they be allowed to stay until well?

Answer: People who are ill if advised by the medical director will be held here until they are able to be removed. The families of the person will also be held until the person under medical care is able to travel. This will keep all family members together.

Segregation Releases: Copies of all Segregation Releases will be distributed through the Unit Administrators Office. Back issues will also be distributed to the Unit Administrators.

Burge: The preliminary figures of segregants were sent to Washington. There have been additions and people being removed. On August 23, a list of segregants by blocks was made. The total figure is 1453 for the three units. Poston I--647; Poston II--703; Poston III--101. We were requested to send to Washington the estimated number of pullman accommodations which will be needed. The basis was made by the interviews of public welfare and the medical division. The list has been broken down to people needing upper and lower berths. This is subject to change. The list is a very tentative schedule.

There will be just three trains from the Colorado River Relocation Center. We are not certain whether we will increase the number of trains or whether the army will give us another train. But not more than 500 per train. Our present plan is as follows:

October 3--Train trip No. 7--total evacuees 467
Camp III (all)--101; Camp II--366.
(Blocks included--229, 207, 208, 220, 221, 22, 226, 227)
October 5--Train trip No. 8--total evacuees 488
Camp II (remainder)--338; Camp I--150
(Block included--from Camp I, 2, 3, 4, 13, 14, 15, 18, 17)
October 14--Train trip No. 10--total evacuees 487
People remaining in Camp I
(This is a tentative schedule)

There are three main groups, and we have tried to keep the natural groupings of people as much as possible.

The arrangements of blocks have been made so that the pullman accommodations will be equal. Also we did not want to break up the camps. Information has been sent to Washington according to that basis. This information has been released to the public. The reason for not splitting people from the blocks is that it will complicate the whole program of baggage, etc. People will move as blocks regardless of reason for going to Tule Lake (Whether Repatriation or Segregation)

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A preliminary memorandum on contrabands has been received by Air Mail from Washington. This is a rough guide of things that cannot be taken to Tule Lake--firearms, ammunition, bombs, explosives, papers and documents with invisible writings, flash lights (over 2-cell), all flash lights with colored bulbs, etc. This information will be released at a later date.

We are starting a general plan of how baggage will be handled. 150 lbs is the amount of baggage allowed on a full ticket, and 75 lbs on half ticket. If we can make provisions for excess baggage we will handle this at the same time, but this will have to be limited. All excess baggage will be sent later by freight under the government.

Question: Can a person pay for his own baggage over the limit?

Answer-Burge: This might be probable but there probably will be a limitation on this also. There is a plan presented by Mr. Head that there will be a crew sent to each block at least 24 hours ahead equipped with a scale and other necessary material. At the time the baggage is picked up checks will be made as to how many pieces there will be tagged and a record will be made at that time which will be signed by the family head. If we are able to handle any baggage over the 150 limit it may be done at that time, and they may pay for same. Form 156 will be filled out by persons wishing excess baggage sent later by freight.

Handling of freight: Crating, inspection, etc, will be handled 2 or 3 days before hand. Handbags are extra.

Question: What about the babies milk?

Answer--Burge: Babies milk will be provided and handled by the medical department.

Instructions and a list giving information of things that cannot be freighted will be released later.

Crating must be done by the crew because of inspection, weighing, etc.

Planned time of departures: (recommend against giving information wide distribution because subject to change)

Train No. 7: Leave Parker at 7 p.m. Oct. 3, arrives Tule Lake
9:45 a.m. October 5.

Train No. 8: Leave Parker same time October 5. Arrive Tule Lake
same time October 7.

Train No. 10: Leave Parker same time October 14. Arrive Tule Lake
same time October 16.

Question: Will decorative objects be considered as excess baggage?

Answer: (Burge) All articles of this sort will be shipped later. The manual states that only necessities will be considered--household goods, etc. Block managers will be instructed in regard to all this.

The housing department has been notified of changes to be made of segregants.

Question: How will the food situation be handled?

Answer--Burge: The food on the train will be taken care of by the Army. They will have kitchen cars, and volunteers will be asked from the evacuee groups for cooking, serving, etc.

Question: Can special requests for changes be made?

Answer--Burge: Cases of repatriation and expatriation should all be taken to Miss Butler. People who applied for repatriation and didn't retract before July 1 will be given a hearing at Tule Lake.