

K4.18

67/14

- C

Copy

October 3, 1943

Mr. Hugo W. Wolter
Director, Community Management
Gila River Project
Rivers, Arizona

Dear Mr. Wolter:

Now the segregation is almost over as far as this project is concerned, and approaching of new era in this community, I, as one of the residents vitally interested in the welfare of the community, wish to present following problems together with my frank opinions. It is my sincere hope that your kind considerations be given to them.

1. GENERAL WARNING TO EVACUEE RESIDENTS. Although self-expressed disloyal evacuees of this project, numbering more than 1800 had been removed to Tule Lake, there are still some if not several who are actually inclined toward disloyal to this country and who may act accordingly as a result of which general welfare of the community may be hampered. Those who remain here may think that since this is to be the community of loyal evacuees, the treatment of residents by W. R. A. may relax, and still some may think that even though they are disloyally inclined they will not be subjected to a drastic action just because the community itself is loyal community, and they can get by. Such conception on the part of any evacuee is a great mistake and any act or expression which can be considered disloyal attitude must not be tolerated. Therefore, I believe, it will be wise for the administration to make, at once, the announcement in the form of warning that since this community is made up of loyal evacuees each evacuee should act accordingly, and if any individual so act as disloyal, then, the drastic action will be taken with that individual or with group of individuals. Such warning should be issued in both Japanese and English.

2. NEWLY ELECTED COMMUNITY COUNCIL. The uplift of our community should be much expected from the newly elected community council and, according to my belief, such can be accomplished only through the better understanding and cooperation between the council and people; and between the council and administration. I would like to offer following suggestions to remedy this situation which in the past seemed to be prevalent.

1. Constant publication of existing problems and need for solution thereof.
2. Publication of Council's activities and resolutions.
3. When vital issue comes up and vote of block residents are required, the council should formulate certain policy, and then send their delegates to blocks, and

guide the voters accordingly rather than leaving the matter to individual council man. Often, the council man becomes subject of few who take opposite stand and lose the courage to fight for the principle.

4. There are many who think that any one who expresses his opinion freely will become subject to arrest by F. B. I. In view of this general conception, some of our capable leaders are reluctant to take part in community life. The loss which the community suffer is great. Therefore, such fear on the part of certain community leaders should be removed. It should be made clear that any one who expresses his opinion for the good of community is not agitator and he will not be molested by any federal agency. At the same time, the act of so-called informers who supply informations on other people because of the personal feeling attached should not be seriously accepted because such will tend to injure the morale of the people. On the other hand, such informations which are true, free from personal feeling, supplied in good faith for the peace and welfare of the community, should be accepted.
5. It is clear that Community Council alone cannot run the community, it must have committee and commissions to aid them. Appointment of these should be made promptly for delay in such will tend to lose the interest of people in community government.
6. The Community Council and council men must be true to its name and his service should be first for whole community rather than for the block which he represents. One of the reasons for the temporary council in losing their prestige during their term of office just ended was lack of definite policy of the council and constant pressure on him by a certain group of block residents. I have witnessed time and again that the councilman was subjected to petty politics of the block residents, and he did not have any power over that group. Councilman should be free from the influence of certain group of block people, on the other hand, he must first place the welfare of the community.
7. Close cooperation and coordination between the council and block managers as group is very much needed. At present, in Butte, the block managers are doing wonderful work in upholding the moral of the community. The responsibility of such should be well and equally shared by two groups. Occasional meeting of these two bodies on community problem, I believe, is most desired.

3. RELOCATION PROGRAM. It is gratifying to know that this center stands high in the number of indefinite leaves compared with other centers and, I believe, this is due largely to combined efforts of the administration and the evacuees in carrying on the movement. Although we have more than 50 people relocating weekly most of them are single men or women who are

easy to leave and who are ambitious in their future life. It must be expected that time will come when younger people relocated and older people with families must also take the advantages of this great movement. Then the process of the relocation will no doubt become most complicated one. For example, leave clearance and family adjustment are some of the problems which we must face. In connection with relocation, I am greatly concerned with recent instruction of W. R. A. which affect most of the so-called Kibeis. Kibeis, of course, generally considered to be Japanese rather than Americans by the fact that they have been educated in Japan and because of this fact such regulation must have been established. But according to the observation of this writer, there are several Kibeis who returned to America, the land of their birth, to make their permanent homes, some with their parents in this country. I believe most of those who answered affirmatively must have so answered with firm conviction to make America their permanent homes. There are many Kibeis who possess fine quality of good Americans and they are well Americanized, and they are willing to serve for the United States. The recent regulation of W. R. A. affecting Kibeis must have been great disappointment to this type of Kibeis, and I sincerely hope that through individual hearing and by checking up of their characters those who qualified to be future loyal Americans should be given the same opportunity given to Niseis and Isseis. If W. R. A. continues to treat these Kibeis with prejudice because of their past circumstance, then, there will be reactionary attitude on the part of good Kibeis. It is very important problem which government of this country should give full consideration.

One of the most gratifying event of recent history of W. R. A. is smooth running of this segregation program. Much credit is due to you and your subordinates as well as to the evacuees themselves. I have not heard much complaints from evacuees on segregation process. It was very well handled and every human consideration was given to the segregants and because of this fact there was no dissatisfaction and complaints. We must also remember that most of the segregants did not have any antagonistic feeling toward this country, if there were, then, it must have been toward evacuation and not to this country itself. Many of those who applied repatriation were those who had unavoidable family circumstance in connection with their families in Japan. Those who answered negatively did not do so because of their greater loyalty to Japan and none to America, but I am inclined to believe, that many of them were led to do so because they did not have courage to sacrifice themselves by serving the armed force of the United States. Will they sacrifice themselves by serving in the armed force of Japanese Emperor. The answer, I believe is also NO. Because of their peculiar nature under which they were placed in the past they have lost the sense of responsibility to the nation which they belong. It may sound dogmatic but it is my frank opinion.

3. THE IMPORTANCE OF GILA NEWS COURIER. One of my keen desires in order to build strong community here is to direct the minds of evacuees toward their future life's plan. This can be accomplished only by better adjustment of our people to present life and improvement thereof. In March of this year, when our Issei Block Activity Group was organized it was intended to direct toward this objective. I am hoping that we can revive this kind of activity again in our community soon. At the same time, the Japanese section of Gila News Courier can play important part in this movement. The only reading matters which is available to the evacuees in the center is this center published paper. I hope that the Japanese section of it can be enlarged so that through the editorials of the paper the guiding principle of the community can be formulated and consequently the minds of the people will be directed toward greater future of their life.
4. CLOSER RELATION OF EVACUEES AND APPOINTED STAFF. Recently, I heard most pleasing stories relating to evacuees in the center and appointed staff. One was connected with Mr. Wade Head, the Project Director of Colorado River Relocation Project and Japanese evacuees. About three months ago, Mr. Head tendered resignation as Project Director, and when his resignation became known to the evacuees, the mass meetings were held in three camps and evacuees un-animously voted to petition for reconsideration of his resignation. He won the complete respect of the evacuees. He was often referred and termed as "OUR FATHERLY DIRECTOR". Another story was connected with Mr. Merritt, the Project Director of Manzanar Center. According to the story I heard, during Manzanar strike of last year, group of Kibeis have been removed from the center to nearby cotton field as disciplinary act and they were put into hard cotton field work. Contrary to the expectation of the administration group of Kibeis behaved well and worked hard in cotton fields. When they were asked how admirably they work, they replied and said that they wanted to work hard and be fine young men because they respect and they love their Project Director, Mr. Merritt. Its all in return for Mr. Merritt's personality. In both cases, the human touches are clearly indicated. I do not know whether it is proper to mention here or not, but I have same respect to you as evacuees in Poston have toward Mr. Head and Kibeis in Manzanar have toward Mr. Merritt. I would like to see more closer tie between appointed staff and evacuees in the center. "I am the government official and you are the evacuated Jap" attitude on the part of certain Caucasian staff should be removed, and "I am the victim of forced evacuation and you are the representative of government which crucified us" attitude also should be taken away from evacuees.

Mr. Hugo W. Wolter-10/3/43

At any rate, more closer relation based on human equality among evacuees and appointed staffs is most important need of our community.

There are few other problems which I would like to touch upon but being close to supper time, I shall discuss at next time. I do not know whether my English is understandable or not, I have written these during my Sunday afternoon leisure time. If they can serve as reference I am very much pleased.

Yours very sincerely,

(Signed) Shotaro Hikida
Shotaro Hikida

To Mr. Cole, Curriculum Supervisor
Recreation Hall r3
Cavalotti

COMMUNITY SERVICES MEETING

DATE: Dec. 29, 1942 from 2:20 to 4:25 p.m.

PLACE: Stafford Elementary School Office

THOSE PRESENT: Mr. Townsend, Chairman Mr. Jensen
Miss Bennett Mr. McLaughlin
Miss Haug Mr. Hagiwara
Mr. Fogarty Mrs. Evans
Mr. Cole Dr. Neher
Mr. Sandoz Mr. Light

Miss Bennett:

1. According to Mr. Townsend, a telephone will be installed in each elementary school office sometime this week.
2. About 280 children of the Stafford Elementary School were examined Monday afternoon at the Dental Clinic conducted in 32-12-B.
3. It was decided that the Dental Clinic be conducted in each nursery school building itself for the nursery children.

Mr. Townsend:

1. Sam Brown belts for the Patrol Squad, which are much more distinctive than arm bands, will be made by the tailor out of white material if measurements of 10 or 12 boys are received. Miss Bennett was requested to go right ahead and work with the tailor.
2. Since there was no real demand for a change in date, the Community Services meeting will be held on Tuesday afternoon as usual.
3. Mr. Hagiwara was requested to get his handyman to build a small platform about 5' long and 2' wide from the bottom step of the west side of Recreation Hall 10 to the door in order to cover the ditch there.
4. A 2-day conference of all under the Community Services Division and all others who are interested in the whole question of adult education is being planned. It is one way of clarifying our thinking, surveying our needs, and finding out how to go about it. Mr. Fogarty was requested to give this a thought and let Mr. Townsend know.
5. Mr. Hagiwara was asked to get the size, price, and catalog number of hasps he needs from the catalog in Mr. Mann's office, so that a requisition can be put through at once.
6. Just as soon as dining hall tables can be released, let us know because the opening of the dining halls are held up because of that.
7. 75 new office chairs are coming in. Mr. Hagiwara is ready to deliver this week to the elementary schools 300 chairs 18", 12" or 15", and 10". Another shipment of chairs came in Saturday which will complete the rest of the chairs, and the next shipment will most likely be desks.
8. There will be a general staff meeting Friday at 10:00 a.m. The exact place will be announced later and word sent out.
9. All cars must be parked at least 20' away from the building. This will be strictly enforced.

Mr. McLaughlin:

1. Health education is getting started.
2. The ice rink is coming along fine with the high-school boys working hard on it every day.

Mr. Cole:

1. Definite booking has been made on some films to be used for educational purposes in the classroom and to be shown to only a small group at a time. Plans are to make this a part of the teaching program with previews to be arranged by the teachers before the film is shown to the group. The committee is also working on other contacts and has made requisitions for some films from Boise.
2. Mr. Sprinkle is to be asked for help in ironing out problems connected with the rental of the films.
3. Dr. Neher stated that he would be glad to lend his 8 millimeter projector for social affairs, as there is a wide variety of nice films available in the 8 millimeter. He was requested by Mr. Townsend to send for pamphlets advertised in the Life Magazine giving this list of available films.

Miss Haug:

1. The Dental Clinic will be held Wednesday morning instead of afternoon in order that the dentists may rotate among themselves.

Dr. Neher:

1. If there are any questions regarding this Dental Clinic, Miss Bennett is to feel free to contact Dr. Uchida, Phone 2-2.
2. In the note to parents tell them to contact the Dental Department and get an appointment as soon as possible in order to get the dental care needed. On the whole, children from 5 to 8 years of age should come ahead of the children from 8 to 12 years of age on the basis of their permanent mouth decay.
3. There is a supply of eye test charts, at least one for each of the 3 schools, available now at the hospital.
4. 2 new nurses are coming--Miss Weber on Saturday and Miss Cona, assigned to do public health work here, who is supposedly to arrive here at noon today from New York.

Mr. Sandoz:

1. In regard to his inquiry concerning the possibility of bridge work and dentures done free of charge for those who cannot afford it, Dr. Neher stated that anything that is necessary for the physical health of the individual can be done free of charge through his department.
2. Clothing for the Safety Patrol Squad should be taken care of before Friday of this week.
3. Clothing grants can be paid by checks if Mr. Sprinkle will send them in to Portland. The question is how long this will take. The clothing bill is from \$2,000 to \$3,000 for the first 21 blocks in the Project, and this takes up to Nov. 1st only. After the Colonists receive the money, the next problem will be how to get the needed clothes.
4. In reference to the problems connected with the impounding of visitors' cards at the gate, Mr. Townsend asked Mr. Sandoz to bring this matter up at the next staff meeting.

Mr. Hagiwara:

1. As a key for each building used for public purposes will be had in the Internal Security Office in Block 23, you can check yours out whenever you are locked out.

Mr. Fogarty:

1. In answer to his inquiry regarding the possibility of high school and elementary teachers putting in the 48 hours by serving at night in night school classes, Mr. Townsend stated that he brought up this question to Mr. Stafford, who asked him to hold it until the next general meeting. In connection with this matter the following points were brought up:

- a. Caucasian teachers are not supposed to be paid for doing night school work.
- b. We are in a war situation and the President has decreed that we work 6 days a week putting in 48 hours a week. If teachers are brought up as a class in an effort to be made an exception to this, it will do more harm than good.
- c. After much discussion it was agreed that this matter be held up a little while longer.

2. Plans are being made to start a class on gardening around the homes. Mr. Townsend suggested that Mr. Fogarty see Mr. Elliott and Mr. Sebbelov before he starts anything.

Mr. Light:

1. 2 new high-school teachers are arriving this week.

Mr. Cole
Curriculum Adviser

MINIDOKA PROJECT SCHOOLS
Hunt, Idaho
Jan. 4, 1943

Office of the Principal

Bulletin # 12

The Patrol Squad has now been organized for each building and schedules will be typed and posted as soon as possible. Children on Patrol duty are not to be counted tardy. Kindergarten, first grade, and second grade teachers are urged to take a minimum of patrolmen's time. They should be encouraged to get back to the classroom as soon as possible, after discharging their duty. Rain capes are being made for these children by the Community Sewing Project. Sam Brown belts are to be made also. We hope every teacher will not only give this squad 100% cooperation but will request that her children do likewise.

The Dental Clinic will be held in the health room in Huntville School Monday at 1:30 p.m. and Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. Teachers are requested to have the blanks filled in and send each child's with him when he comes to the clinic.

We have been informed that Snellen Eye-charts have been secured at the hospital. We will ask the new Public Health Nurse, Miss Cona, who arrived Wednesday of last week to demonstrate the use of these and will begin to examine eyes in each classroom as soon as possible.

The Elementary Schools are charged with the following athletic equipment from the WRA Supplies:

5	volley balls
2	leather volley balls
5	soccer balls

We have been requested to turn all these in to the office in the Stafford School by the 4th of January. Will you please see that we have yours by January 3rd?

The Macmillan display of sample textbooks is to be returned in the near future. Will you please return all such books to this office immediately?

Material has now arrived for the administration of the Binet Intelligence test. It is our plan to give every child in the first grade an intelligence test as soon as possible and then any other children for which you desire one for any reason. Cases which seem to be most critical or for which you especially wish the I. Q. will be scheduled at the earliest possible moment.

This office extends to you heartiest New Year's greetings and best wishes for the coming year.