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HISTORICAL REPORT ON DISTRICT OFFICE ACTIVITIES FOR IOWA

Description of the District:

Iowa is bounded on the west by the Missouri and Big Sioux rivers with the confluence of these rivers at Sioux City, Iowa, on the east by the Mississippi River, and on the north by the State of Minnesota, on the south by the State of Missouri. Among the principal cities of the State are: Des Moines, Capitol of the State, Sioux City, Waterloo, Cedar Rapids, Dubuque, Davenport, Council Bluffs, Ottumwa, Mason City, Clinton and Burlington. The Iowa District consisted of all counties in the State with the exception of Scott County which was part of the Greater Illinois District until August, 1944, when it was placed under the jurisdiction of the Iowa office.

The city of Des Moines has been the focal point for resettlement in Iowa. This can be attributed to the stand taken by Drake University in the fall of 1942 when that school agreed to accept about thirty Nisei students. Heretofore, Nisei students on this campus numbered less than four at any one time.

Stemming from this liberal policy was the strong leadership exercised by several community leaders. The Des Moines Register and Tribune, the largest newspaper in Iowa, helped materially in lessening resentment against Japanese Americans. At all times this newspaper has struck out against racial discrimination.

The churches of the city, the Y.W.C.A., the American Friends Service Committee and the Des Moines Relocation Committee were all strong factors in easing the way for the resettlers.

Although other cities of major size, such as Waterloo, Davenport, Sioux City, Cedar Rapids have provided opportunities for relocatees, the fact that

the number of persons desiring to avail themselves of these same opportunities was comparatively small, resulted in little migration to these communities. The western half of Iowa saw very little relocation. This part of the State, being a predominantly rural area and with a small number of metropolitan centers, offered few opportunities to relocatees because of different farming techniques. However, the eastern portion of the State, with its larger cities, had more to offer in the way of broader employment opportunities and as a result relocatees felt more inclined to settle there although on a small scale. In addition, the rural population has been seemingly more reluctant to accept Japanese Americans than people living in the urban areas.

Further substantiation of the fact that rural localities were not receptive to relocation is borne out in figures pertaining to actual resettlement. It is estimated that from 2% to 5% constituted the number of persons relocating in rural localities and 95% to 98% of the total number of relocatees who chose to live in urban communities.

Community Participation:

Inasmuch as relocation of persons was predominant in the following cities: Des Moines, Cedar Rapids, Dubuque, Waterloo and Davenport, relocation committees were set up to assist these persons. Preceding the opening of the W.R.A. office in Des Moines in June, 1943, the American Friends Service Committee with John Copithorne, field representative in charge, was active in the relocation program. Employment offers were accepted from prospective employers and in turn this data was verified and submitted to the W.R.A. office at Kansas City, Missouri. Also active in the placements of Japanese Americans was the employment office of the Y.W.C.A. This agency was interested primarily in domestic and clerical placements. Both organizations acted more or less as agents of W.R.A.

In reviewing the history of the relocation committee in Des Moines which has been a bulwark of strength since its inception in effecting a successful program of relocation, it is interesting to note that late in the fall of 1942 the Y.W.C.A. in Des Moines directed a letter to the W.R.A. in Washington, D. C., expressing their interest in assisting with resettlement work. In February, 1943, Mr. Donald Sabin of the Washington, D. C., staff came to Des Moines and met with interested individuals at the Y.W.C.A. Apparently, at this same time, the American Friends Service Committee was interested in converting the Scattergood Hostel at West Branch, Iowa, into a temporary refuge for Japanese Americans seeking employment in this area. At the initial meeting with Mr. Sabin he explained what the W.R.A. was attempting to do and how local committees might cooperate with this program. A formal committee was not organized at this time but the Y.W.C.A. took individual interest in certain evacuees living in the relocation centers, and who were sending inquiries to various cities including Des Moines. The Y.W.C.A. was also interested in a number of students attending Drake University and the Still College of Osteopathy.

In June, 1943, immediate action became necessary on the part of local interested individuals when it was learned that approximately fifty boys and girls from the relocation centers were enroute to Des Moines to attend N.Y.A. camps at Milford and Albia, Iowa, for three months' training and, while enroute, federal funds for the N.Y.A. program were discontinued. Mr. Vernon Kennedy, W.R.A. area director from Kansas City, immediately came to Des Moines and met with a group of local citizens at the Y.W.C.A. to discuss plans to meet this emergency. This group moved fast and agreed to do all in their power to provide temporary housing and offers of employment were secured from employers. This situation was publicized widely by the Des Moines Register and

Tribune. In the end, out of the fifty individuals expected only eight arrived, and the others changed their plans and went to eastern cities where they had relatives and friends. Truly this situation, responded to so energetically and promptly by a group of representative citizens of Des Moines, provided an object lesson to the rest of the country. During the balance of 1943 several general meetings were called, with attendance varying from twenty-five to fifty individuals. Efforts were made to invite at least one member from every civic organization or service club in the community.

During the winter of 1943-44, it became apparent that the number of relocatees coming to Iowa would increase and that a more definite plan should be made in the local community towards preparing for and accepting these individuals. It also became obvious that W.R.A. was simply a temporary agency and that to have a successful program a permanent interest in each community would have to be developed. It was decided that sub-committees should be established to specialize in certain phases of the program. In February, 1944, this interested group of citizens who had borne the brunt of early problems of relocation was called together to propose the reorganization of the committee as such and outline definite duties of the committee and sub-committees. On March 28, 1944, the reorganization proposals were submitted to the Advisory Committee, representing the large group of interested citizens, and these proposals were unanimously accepted. Individuals elected to office at this time were: Robert W. Root, chairman and editorial writer on the Register and Tribune staff; Mrs. Cornell Hewson, vice-chairman, prominent in civic affairs; Miss Goldye Allen, chairman of the housing committee and Y.W.C.A. official; Ross Wilbur, chairman of the community planning committee and Hostel director; Dr. Thomas Dunn, chairman of the public relations committee and professor of English at Drake University; and Rev. James Furbay, Hostel representative and

Friends minister. This group then served as the executive committee and was actually the working committee cooperating with W.R.A. The heads of the sub-committees in turn would select individuals working directly in the field in which they were interested and who, more or less, would help them develop plans to carry on their work.

Definite duties of sub-committees are outlined below:

Housing--Make available any type of housing unit suitable to the particular person being relocated.

Employment--Maintain contact with established employers. Interpret program to new employers and arrange for interviews with evacuees coming into area. Keep labor unions advised as to objective of relocation program and encourage their cooperation. Arrange opportunities so as to attract a good cross-section of Japanese Americans rather than having an unbalanced population from an occupational standpoint.

Community Planning--Introduce new evacuee to community, aid in adjusting individual to level to which he was accustomed. Open facilities to evacuees, such as churches, Y's, recreational facilities, schools, clubs. Refer evacuees to local social agencies equipped to handle specialized problems including public assistance.

Public Relations--Interpret program in general way to the public. Form and instruct Evacuee and Caucasian Speakers Bureau to be available to any club or organization. Prepare script for radio programs when requested. Feature stories for newspaper (human interest).

Hostel Committee--Act as liaison officer between Hostel and city-wide committee. A sub-committee of the Hostel known as the Nisei

Hospitality Committee has been active since December, 1943, in planning social functions with some Caucasian participation. Since its formation, the Executive Committee in Des Moines has met regularly once a month and the sub-committees met separately at the call of the various chairmen.

In the summer of 1944 the Des Moines Ministerial Association issued a public statement welcoming the evacuees into the churches of the city. Individually, the churches have done a lot more than this. They have taken personal interest in various families and individuals and aided them with their problems and assisted in any way that they could. The W.R.A. office and the Des Moines Relocation Committee have leaned heavily upon the churches in solving housing problems. Many of the churches have contributed many other types of services as well as money and considerable time in looking for available space.

Not until May, 1945, did the Des Moines Relocation Committee include in its membership an evacuee although the Committee worked quite closely with the Nisei Hospitality Committee. The new member was Bill Hosokawa, a prominent Nisei and newspaper writer in the Orient prior to the War. This Nisei was employed as a copy reader with the Des Moines Register. It was at this time that the Chairman of the Committee resigned due to his acceptance of a position in a foreign country. His place was assumed by Cornell Hewson who has been a driving force in activities of the Committee. He has given a great deal of time and effort to bring about better understanding of the evacuees and their problems and has offered the hospitality of his home on numerous occasions to resettlers. Recently he opened his home to the Nisei high school group where these students congregate once each month for social and recreational activities.

Above all objectives the Des Moines Relocation Committee focused its major attention upon the permanent relocation of the evacuees within the community. Moreover, this Committee has been steadfast in its belief that no problems confronting Japanese Americans were insoluble.

Representative citizens comprise the committees in Cedar Rapids, with the committee being formed in the fall, 1943; Dubuque, in the spring, 1944; and Waterloo, in the spring, 1944; all through efforts of the W.R.A. office. As indicated above, the small number of resettlers locating in these cities has kept problems down to a minimum. However, the committees have always stood in readiness to assist with any problem that might arise. In Cedar Rapids the chairman of the Committee, John Ely, attorney and sparkplug of the Committee, has called the Committee together on several occasions to personally welcome new evacuees to that city. Other interested members are the Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A. Secretaries; Fred Kluss, high school principal; Dr. K. B. Meister; James Millian; David I. Berger and Rev. H. K. Galloway.

In the other three cities mentioned above the work of the committees has been almost nil but, as individuals, every effort is made to promote better understanding of Japanese Americans. This applies to other towns where committees were not formed in which leading citizens were available for counseling and readily offered their services in any way they could assist.

Public Acceptance:

The decision of Drake University to permit thirty Nisei students to enroll in the fall of 1942 proved to be the opening wedge for relocation in Iowa. This policy of the University was formulated and carried out in face of strong antagonism on the part of the general public. Evidence of this antagonism was displayed in the attitude of the State Legislature of Iowa

in their adoption of a resolution on February 25, 1943, advocating (to quote in part) "that steps be taken, through executive intervention or order, or by means of legislation if necessary, to prevent allowing Japanese American youths the privilege of leaving concentration centers and securing an education in American colleges and universities, while the same privilege is denied to loyal American young men called to military service; that if any Japanese American youths have already been given the privilege of attending colleges and universities, they be returned to their relocation camps, and be it further resolved, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the President of the United States, also to the two Iowa Senators, and to the eight members of the House of Representatives, and that they thus be petitioned to use their best offices that the injustices mentioned may be avoided."

To counteract this resolution the Des Moines Register and Tribune published editorials disapproving strongly of the stand taken by the Iowa State Legislators.

Any discussion of public acceptance must necessarily include some mention of the lack of knowledge of Japanese Americans and personal contacts with them on the part of the majority of people in Iowa. At the time of evacuation there were known to be about six families of Japanese ancestry in the State of Iowa. So, obviously, the uninformed population of Iowa, as a whole, was not too receptive to the idea of Japanese Americans coming into the State when the number that might choose to resettle here was not known. But with the passing of time, and as the efforts of all persons and agencies in promoting more enlightenment began to take effect, the cold shoulder attitude was mitigated and consequently made for better reception of evacuees. The splendid record of the Nisei soldiers was no mean factor in effecting

changes of attitude. Also, the exemplary conduct of the evacuees helped as much as anything else to gain public acceptance.

The number of unfavorable incidents throughout the State was surprisingly low. The first incident occurred in the summer of 1943 in a small town in northwest Iowa. Four young boys had been employed to help harvest a crop of potatoes and a group of individuals, closely identified with a local pool hall, objected to their presence in the community. These individuals threatened to burn the employer's farm and in other ways made it disagreeable for the employer's family. After several meetings in this community, the four evacuees decided that they would like to accept employment in a cannery located elsewhere in the State. Arrangements were then made for this transfer.

An unfavorable situation arose in the summer of 1944 when a resident at the local hostel attempted to purchase a home in one of the more exclusive residential sections of the city. The contract was drawn up, downpayment made, when some of the people in this vicinity began to register opposition. The Relocation Committee in Des Moines immediately made arrangements to call personally on the people objecting to this sale. Considerable work was done by the Committee towards interpreting the program, winning over at least half of the people who were originally objecting to this sale. The Committee recommended that the evacuee move into the home since there was every indication that he would be accepted after settling in his new home. The evacuee decided that he did not wish to raise his children in this type of environment since he was fearful that his children might feel some discrimination even though he felt sure that both he and his wife would encounter no difficulties. In the end he looked elsewhere for a property and purchased a home in another section of town.

On two occasions during the summer of 1944 there were objections by the unions in Des Moines to the employment of Japanese Americans. In one case a Nisei had been employed in a local garage for a year as a mechanic, but the crew threatened to strike when a second Nisei started to work. After some negotiations with the union, the employer decided that he could not risk the employment of a second Nisei since it might result in the loss of three or four workers. As a result, the Nisei was placed with another garage at the same wage. Another case saw the machinist's union opposing the employment of a Nisei in a small plant with about twenty-five employees. The union struck for two days so the Nisei resigned his position and accepted employment elsewhere. During the difficulty, the employer did not ask the Nisei to quit but stated that he would keep the job open for one person as long as the Nisei wished to continue his work. With the Nisei leaving voluntarily, the issue was dropped.

In the fall of 1942 an unfortunate incident in Shenandoah, Iowa, arose over the behavior of one evacuee. At that time there were three or four chick sexors located in the community. One of the evacuees owned an automobile and was picked up a number of times for speeding and reckless driving. After his driver's permit was taken away from him he employed young boys around town to drive his car and was constantly on the streets. A group of not too representative citizens demanded of the hatcheries that they release these individuals, basing their demands not upon the conduct of the individual but merely that we were at war with Japan. Simultaneously, the American Legion Post published a resolution backing the evacuees and expressed themselves as opposed to racial prejudice. It was found advisable, though, that these evacuees be released and since that time none have been employed in this community. The Relocation Officer tried to influence the community leaders

to consider employment of chick sexors again but after a thorough investigation of the possibilities it was determined that community sentiment precluded such consideration.

Ironically, at a county-wide American Legion meeting in Shenandoah in March, 1944, which was attended by the Relocation Officer, the State Commander of the Legion, in addressing the group, advocated the deportation of all persons of Japanese ancestry to Japan. Although less than two years before the Legion in Shenandoah had passed a resolution upholding the employment of Japanese American chick sexors it became apparent that not all Legion members were in favor of the resolution and it was passed at the insistence of the local commander, Mr. Reed, the former editor of the Shenandoah paper.

Employment:

From the time the W.R.A. office was opened in Des Moines in June, 1943, until September, 1943, approximately 160 evacuees had been placed in Iowa. Approximately 30% were engaged in agriculture (seasonal), 15% in domestic, and the balance in different types of industrial work. On the whole, most placements had been in mediocre jobs, the average job paying \$20 per week.

One of the problems of the W.R.A. office in the early stages of relocation in Des Moines was that of obtaining higher type job offers. Employers were reluctant to agree to pay too high a wage until the evacuees demonstrated their capabilities. In this respect the evacuee was concerned in that he doubted whether his ability would be recognized and that advancements would be rapid. Such conflicts in the minds of both employer and the potential employee were quite understandable at this juncture of relocation due to the necessity at that time of attempting to bring about an agreement between the two by correspondence. The plan of having the evacuee come to

the district to meet the employer personally was much more feasible and, of course proved successful in most cases.

Many employers, not having much knowledge about the skills of Japanese Americans, thought only in terms of their abilities being limited to steep labor. With the passing of time and as more evacuees settled in Iowa this myth in the minds of employers and other people was dispelled. The diversified skills possessed by these resettlers is evidenced in the wide range of occupations entered into by them.

Following is a chart showing the occupational breakdown for Iowa for May 1, 1945:

I. Professional-			
Physicians	5	Accountants	3
Registered nurse	1	Ministers	2
Pharmacist	1	Singer	1
Instructors	2		
II. Clerical and Sales-			
Clerical	20	Sales	3
III. Services-			
Domestics	28	Hospital workers	3
Hotel workers		Cooks	12
(busboy, steward)	17	Custodian	1
IV. Industrial-			
	(Skilled)		
Mechanics	6	Linotype operator	1
Refrigerator tech.	1	Presser, dry clean.	1
Florists	3	Dental lab. tech.	5
Watchmaker	1	Seamstresses	2
Welders	13	Photographers	2
Chick sexors	20	Copy readers	2
	(Unskilled)		
Factory workers	13	Lens grinder	1
Baker's helper	1	Groundsmen	2
Laborers	2		
V. Agriculture-			
	15		
VI. Students-			
Universities and colleges		100	
College of Osteopathy		1	
Grammar and high school		39	

VI. Students-Continued	
Business colleges	5
U. S. cadet nurses	15
Beauty school	2
VII. Non-workers-	
Housewives and infants	142
Employables	5
VIII. Self-owned businesses-	3

The War Training School at one of the local technical training high schools in Des Moines afforded an opportunity for evacuees to learn the fundamentals in such courses as machine shop, welding, sheet metal, mechanical drawing, auto mechanics. As many as sixty evacuees availed themselves of this opportunity over the period of time the school was in operation and, at one time, there were twenty evacuees in training. Despite the fact that the evacuees were not guaranteed jobs upon completion of their training, they pursued this training eagerly. The Clinton Bridge and Iron Works Company at Clinton, Iowa, hired approximately fifteen welders who had undergone training in this school. This company was engaged in building certain parts for L.S.T. boats. Welders, foundrymen, draftsmen, assemblers and machinists were employed in Des Moines by the Des Moines Steel Company, Wood Bros. Thresher Company, Modern Lighting and Equipment Company, and all of these firms held war contracts. One Nisei woman received widespread publicity in her capacity as a welder due to her high proficiency. Her employer was the Modern Lighting and Equipment Company. The occupational breakdown chart indicates the types of work done by evacuees closely related to the War Effort.

With very few exceptions, employers have not hesitated to hire resettlers. Issei have experienced little difficulty in securing work and some employers who have had both Nisei and Issei in their employ were inclined to favor the latter group. Even language difficulties have proved no handicap

to the Issei in getting jobs. Significantly, no instances occurred in which resettlers were released from their employment as a result of cutbacks and cancellations of war contracts upon cessation of hostilities with Japan.

Some difficulty was experienced with the unions from time to time, particularly with the A.F. of L. Generally speaking, workers have been readily accepted in the C.I.O. unions. A local typographical union accepted a linotype operator. The local dry cleaners union in Des Moines accepted a number of workers when their own national union was objecting to the program. A considerable amount of time was spent by both the Relocation Officer and the Des Moines Relocation Committee in interpreting the program to the various union heads.

Business agents of local unions met monthly with U.S.E.S. representatives. One of these representatives from U.S.E.S. was also a member of the Des Moines Relocation Committee and has taken the opportunity to bring up the question of membership to minority groups. This, no doubt, has gradually eased the prejudice which the union had towards Japanese Americans originally.

Good cooperation was received from the U.S.E.S. but it was not until January, 1945, that functions of the W.R.A. along the lines of employment placements were more or less placed under the jurisdiction of U.S.E.S. Prior to that date the W.R.A. office accepted full responsibility for effecting placements of evacuees. This change of emphasis was necessary because of the lifting of the exclusion ban in January, 1945, and announced closing of W.R.A. Due to the close contacts had previously with that agency, the assumption of these functions was done quite smoothly. U.S.E.S. experienced no especial difficulties in working with the evacuees, and their relationship with them has been on a parity with that of other racial groups.

Relocation to Iowa farms other than for employment was practically nil. It is felt that the W.R.A. office had analyzed this phase of relocation thoroughly which disclosed that Iowa has very little marginal land and all of the land has been under constant cultivation. Since the land was in full production and because there were local people looking for farm opportunities, it was necessary for the prospective operator to be close at hand to secure land or else pay a premium for it in order to outbid other interested parties. The W.R.A. office advocated the acceptance of employment first by these prospective operators in order to become acquainted with conditions in that particular area. Being in a locality from six months to a year would place the evacuee on the same level as any other individual competing for farms.

One farming opportunity was provided by a Japanese American who was in Iowa prior to evacuation. He worked as a chicken sexor and several years later purchased forty acres of land near the outskirts of Newton, Iowa, and has built up a fair-sized poultry farm. He has sufficient land to enable him to raise most of his feed and is close enough to local markets to dispose of all of his eggs. In increasing the size of his flock, it became necessary to employ another Japanese American family on a full time basis to assist him. Another example was that of an evacuee, age 21, who came to Iowa in June, 1943. During the balance of 1943 and all of 1944, he worked for a farmer near Des Moines in operating a 300 acre farm. The owner of this farm moved to Des Moines and arranged for the evacuee to operate the entire farm on a share basis. A situation such as this is unusual in Iowa, yet it exemplifies what an evacuee might accomplish providing he indicates a willingness to stay with an employer for a period of time. This evacuee plans to return to the West

Coast in the early part of 1946 where he will remain permanently. In another case the evacuee operated a 400 acre farm near Rolfe, Iowa, in the capacity of farm hand. This placement was made by the county agent in that area. However, this evacuee returned to the evacuated area in California with his wife in the fall of 1945, and in corresponding with friends in Des Moines expressed a great dislike for Iowa farming and the adverse weather conditions.

Some time was spent with the officials of the Great Western Sugar Beet Company at Mason City, Iowa, in sounding out the possibilities of having resettlers lease land on a share basis in order to raise beets. Although the sugar company did not own any tracts of land themselves, there appeared to be the possibility that many farmers in northern Iowa would be willing to raise beets if there was someone else to take care of them and provide the necessary labor. This possibility failed to materialize because of lack of interest on the part of the evacuees.

The few farming opportunities that become available can be attributed to the efforts of the W.R.A. office in interesting the few county agents who were in sympathy with the relocation program to watch for such opportunities. On the whole, the tenure of farm employment of the evacuees was quite short-lived, not because their work was unsatisfactory, but lack of capital, inclement weather to which they were not accustomed, totally different farming techniques, and the remote possibility that good productive land would be obtainable.

The sound logic of the W.R.A. office in effecting permanency of employment placement is illustrated in the following case. A Nisei accountant was placed with a Des Moines coal company that owns and operates several mines adjacent to the city. Reference to this position was made by the U.S.E.S. and the applicant discussed it with the Relocation Officer before making personal

application. The applicant was hesitant to make application since the referral indicated the job was of only three weeks' duration. The Nisei was impressed with the importance of having a local reference since this would prove very helpful in applying for other positions in the city. It was pointed out to him that the employer had stipulated that the position was temporary and, also, he was not sure about the employment of a Japanese American and was only testing out the feasibility of employing this type of individual. The Nisei was also discouraged from thinking about the salary to be received and again stress was laid upon the importance of obtaining a good work reference upon the completion of this temporary employment. The situation was accepted and at the end of three weeks, the Nisei reported back that the employer had now offered him a full time position with the company. During this time there had been no discussion with the employer regarding the amount of salary, although the Nisei had talked with the Relocation Officer about it and he had been advised that \$135 to \$140 per month was an acceptable wage. When steady employment was offered, the evacuee was also requested ^{not} to state the amount of money that he wanted for his services. The Nisei simply advised the employer that he had now worked for a period of three weeks and that he felt the employer had sufficient opportunity to evaluate his work. The employer immediately responded that he would pay him \$160 per month and eventually increase him to \$175 per month which he felt was top wage for this position. Needless to say the Nisei was quite elated since he in his own mind was only going to ask for \$140 per month and it would have required him a long time to advance the salary to \$175 per month.

The policy of the W.R.A. office in Des Moines in counselling with evacuees as to starting salary was to have the evacuee make no salary stipulation

but give the employer an opportunity to appraise his work and then, after a short period of time, come to an agreement. Of course, this policy was not adopted in instances where there was a definite salary range set up for a specific position.

Business Establishments:

The curtailment of small businesses and, in many instances, complete closing down of them during the war dampened the interest of those evacuees who had sufficient capital to consider entering into such small ventures. The several relocation committees throughout the State were in a position to counsel with persons interested in establishing their own businesses but utilization of the committees in this particular respect was almost nil.

One Nisei, formerly employed by one of the leading jewelry stores in Des Moines, opened his own watch repair shop in May, 1944. He submitted an offer to the W.R.A. office for two additional helpers. He contracts for some work through other jewelry stores but depends more and more upon street trade. Without doubt this venture has been highly successful in that he employs one helper--a Nisei--and moved into larger offices which was necessitated by the increase in volume of business. Apparently this evacuee had sufficient resources to finance the establishment of his business.

An Issei of considerable affluence purchased what was formerly a large home that had been converted into an apartment building and tea room. All of the rooms and apartments were rented and meals were served to a regular group of people. This Issei, being an astute businessman, had accumulated a large supply of oriental foods which he sold to Japanese Americans in this locality. A profit was realized from the operation of this project and upon leaving Des Moines to return to Seattle, Washington, the converted property was sold without any difficulty.

Operation of a chick sexing business has proved to be most successful for an evacuee at Ames, Iowa. This evacuee operates independently employing additional help and also trains any individual who wants to learn the art of chick sexing. This business operator has purchased his home in Ames which is indicative of his success.

Two osteopaths have established offices in Webster City and Marshalltown, respectively. The evacuee setting up in Webster City pursued a course of graduate study at Still College of Osteopathy in Des Moines. Prior to evacuation he practiced in California and in his new location at Webster City, a county seat town of eight thousand, he is wholly dependent upon Caucasian clientele. The town which he selected was very short of doctors and, being an experienced osteopathic surgeon and with no other surgeons there he anticipated considerable surgical work. There are a number of factors that proved helpful to the evacuee. The W.R.A. office had made several temporary placements in the town so there were several persons friendly to the relocation program. The County Director of the welfare program is a recognized leader in the State welfare field and aided materially in interpreting our work. Newspapers have also been valuable, and all publicity was of an acceptable nature. In gaining acceptance in the community, though, it is felt that one of the biggest steps was having the Chairman of the Des Moines Relocation Committee write a letter of introduction to the City Commercial Club and local newspaper.

Community Adjustment:

The exemplary conduct of resettlers, their high degree of thrift and education and sense of order all contributed to the good adjustments made by them in various Iowa communities. Of course practically all of the resettlers found difficulty in becoming accustomed to the weather elements.

The barrier language has not restrained some Issei in their attempts to fit into the pattern of living within the community. A case in point was that of an elderly Issei man and wife who transferred their membership to one of the largest Methodist churches in the city. Although unable to speak English this aged couple was regular in attendance and participated in all of the activities of the church. Resettlers were represented in practically all of the churches and participated in church activities, such as joining choirs, Sunday Schools, and other functions.

School children, both elementary and high school, became a part of the educational system with remarkable facility and without incident. In Des Moines some objection was registered by the Secretary of the School Board to waiving tuition payment for Nisei students who were unaccompanied by their parents to Des Moines. Legally, this objection was valid, but several influential citizens were approached by the Relocation Officer and they, in turn, contacted the School Board Secretary who agreed that such tuition payments could be waived providing a sponsor would be named for a student who was residing in Des Moines without his parent. This plan worked satisfactorily and individual sponsors were easy to get. Otherwise, the plan of having a legal guardian appointed for such students would have been invoked. To show how well the students attending elementary and high schools joined in various school functions it can be said that one girl was on the editorial staff of the largest high school in Des Moines; a Nisei boy was sports editor of a high school paper; several grade school girls were traffic patrol officers, while another girl headed a Campfire Girls' unit. Without doubt, complete integration of school children into school life occurred more rapidly and in the early stage of relocation in Iowa while integration of other groups into community living was of longer duration.

Ten resettlers purchased homes in Des Moines and this same situation held true in other communities except on a much smaller scale. In Des Moines, there was no attempt to colonize and, as a result, the resettler population was kept well dispersed.

In the field of recreation a group of Nisei formed a basketball team in Des Moines and plays in the Y.M.C.A. league.

The Nisei Hospitality Committee which sponsored social activities did so with the philosophy that newcomers needed to get acquainted with each other, and then undertook to try to relate those who became settled to the ongoing community activities. This committee published a local newspaper which was issued monthly. Through this medium resettlers were kept informed as to activities of each other.

With the termination of W.R.A., the Des Moines Relocation Committee definitely decided that its purpose had been served and in November, 1945, the Relocation Committee met for the last time. In its place would be the Coordinating Council, composed chiefly of resettlers, with Caucasian representation. The Committee felt that the integration of resettlers was complete enough to enable them to carry the responsibility of initiating action necessary to assist with problems that might arise in the future. This council plans to outline its purposes and functions and present them to several agencies in the community. In this way, the assistance of the Council can be utilized to the fullest by the several community agencies.

When the State Department of Social Welfare for Iowa was first approached in the matter of granting assistance to persons affected by the restrictive action of the Federal Government, the officials of the State Department were desirous that the various county welfare departments extend aid whenever needed and the counties could then be reimbursed by the Federal

Government with the State Department acting as clearing agent. Due to the reluctance of a few counties to grant such assistance from their county poor fund, particularly Polk County, the largest in Iowa, the State Department evolved a plan whereby the counties had the option of granting aid from their poor fund and receive reimbursement as described above, or the aid could be authorized by the counties and the payment for such assistance would be made by the State Department with the latter being reimbursed by the Federal Government. The State Department has at all times been highly cooperative and the county departments have given splendid service to cases coming to their attention.

Private agencies, namely, Child Guidance Clinic, Iowa Children's Home Society, Family Society were all called upon from time to time to assist with problems of resettlers and responded promptly and with deep interest.

It is interesting to note that the Hostel Sub-committee on Social Adjustment and Integration was composed of representatives from various community agencies including the Executive Director of the Family Society, Director of the Child Guidance Clinic, Assistant State Director of Public Welfare and several lay persons who were actively engaged as members of boards, or in other ways in the work of social agencies. This committee considered individual problems as they arose and suggested ways for handling problems or recommended referral of them to other agencies.

The State Department of Social Welfare for Iowa has extended aid in six cases and, with the exception of one case, the assistance granted was of short duration. One of the first cases to come to the attention of the State Welfare Department was that of a Nisei girl, age 14, whose parents had been interned at Crystal City, Texas. It was the wish of the family as well as of the daughter that she be permitted to attend school outside of the intern-

ment camp. Through the Congregational Church the evacuees learned of a family located in a rural area of Iowa who was interested in providing a home for a young Japanese American girl or boy. Since this would mean the importation of a minor into the State, the State Child Welfare Service was requested to complete an investigation of this home and to also participate in any follow-up plans for the care of this child. The home was subsequently approved and the girl enrolled in the local high school. The family with whom she lives has not made any charge for board and room, considering her more or less as a member of the family and recognizing certain duties which she performs about the home as exchange for maintenance. Through the County Welfare Department, and with the approval of the Iowa State Department of Social Welfare, a monthly amount of \$64 was extended in this case from November, 1943, to May, 1944. This grant provided for all of her clothing, any necessary medical care and also for a rather extensive dental bill. The local district child welfare worker was in continual contact with this girl and was available for counselling service to both the evacuee and the foster home parents. This placement can be regarded as being highly successful which was no doubt due to a great extent to the close cooperation of the State Child Welfare Division.

A middle-aged Issei and her son, age 14, were employed as domestics in an Iowa home. Her income was just sufficient to meet their current expenses and provide an education for the son. Although this woman was not really ill, she had an ailment which had been in need of medical attention for a long period of time. Examination at a local clinic indicated that sooner or later surgery would have to be performed. Application was made to the County Welfare Department and immediate approval was granted for hospitalization and surgery. The County Welfare Department corresponded with all of the

children in the family advising them of the necessary medical care and proposed plans for hospitalization and post-operative care. As a result of these plans, the patient's own reserve funds were used for post-operative care and the hospital and surgery bill of \$100 was divided between the welfare agency and the children, each paying approximately one-half. This person recovered from her illness completely and she is now employed full time.

A seventeen-year old Nisei boy had come to Iowa early in the spring of 1944. He was interested in farm work and was placed on a typical Iowa farm. He continued with this employment for five months and then was stricken with poliomyelitis. He was first hospitalized outside of Des Moines and was later transferred to the contagious ward in a larger hospital in Des Moines. This boy was fortunate in that his illness was not as severe as in some cases and, from all indications, he will not suffer any permanent disability. After ten days in the hospital, the attending physician recommended that he be transferred to the home of a private agency and arrangements would be made to continue the Kenny Treatment in this home. The boy remained there for three months and a Kenny-trained nurse with the Visiting Nurses Association called daily to see that expert care was being administered. As the boy showed improvement this nurse trained other individuals to carry on this treatment but she continued to make routine calls twice a week. While in the hospital this office was advised that the boy had accumulated some savings from his five months' employment but it would not be sufficient to meet all of his bills and also pay for his convalescent care. He had specified that he did not care to return to the center for any rest period. His application was referred to the County Welfare Agency and they gave immediate approval and set about making a definite plan for payment of bills and for future care. They consulted the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis and finally

evolved plans for that agency to pay for hospitalization and medical bills. The Kenny nurse, being a member of another private agency, contributed her services, and the Public Welfare Agency agreed to meet the maintenance costs while the boy was not employable. The boy had every assurance that the plans set up for him would continue until he was physically able to work again. In working out these plans the amount of cash reserve which the applicant had on hand was taken into consideration and he retained a portion of it to meet certain emergency expenses while the balance of it he used to pay for maintenance costs in the home where he lived and before such time the Public Welfare Agency assumed this expense.

The Family Society in Des Moines has offered its counsel on various occasions to resettlers and the Director indicated her interest in the problems of the resettlers by attending the meetings of the Case Study Committee. The Child Guidance Clinic was asked to assist in the case of a young Nisei who was involved in a theft. This case was discussed in full by the Case Study Committee and in the end a satisfactory solution was made. No publicity resulted relative to this incident. The Iowa Children's Home Society in Des Moines was instrumental in the placement of a three-year old Nisei girl in a Caucasian home. This girl was the daughter of an unmarried mother who found considerable difficulty in adjusting to relocation. Apparently the placement of the child, as described above, will see a satisfactory solution in this case. The mother of this child sought the services of the private agency voluntarily.

Housing:

In Des Moines the efforts of the resettlers to secure adequate housing were enhanced in that the Hostel provided a haven until suitable housing could

be obtained. The Hostel, which was a eleven-room residence, opened its doors in September, 1943, and operated continuously until November, 1945. The Hostel served as a temporary residence for 750 resettlers coming into Iowa during that period.

The Y.M.C.A., in the latter part of 1944 along with the Housing Subcommittee of the Des Moines Relocation Committee, requested the aid of the local Inter-denominational Missionary Society, which included all churches, to assist them in making known all available housing. They requested that this society appoint one representative from every church whom the Housing Chairman could call upon in locating available units or to check houses in that particular community which were available for rent.

Not until January, 1945, did the housing situation become a problem. According to the Real Estate Board in Des Moines and the Chamber of Commerce, housing in the city was now more difficult to obtain than at any time within the last two years. However, resettlers encountered little difficulty in finding suitable housing.

The Des Moines Relocation Committee, concerned over the increase in housing problems, asked that the area W.R.A. office give consideration to hiring a full time person to work exclusively on housing. Students of theology at Drake University were suggested as logical employees for this work during the summer months. This request was deemed unessential by W.R.A.

One employer in Des Moines purchased a home for the express purpose of renting it to a Nisei whom he employed. In another case an employer at Sioux City loaned three hundred dollars downpayment to enable his Issei employee to buy a small home. Also in Sioux City a hospital superintendent agreed to buy a four or five thousand dollar house paying one thousand dollars down. The hospital would have the employee take care of the monthly

payments in lieu of rent which would be lower than the regular rental payment. If the employee proved satisfactory and remained in the employ of the hospital for a period of four years, the downpayment would revert back to the employee as a bonus or reward for his length of employment. Neither the employer nor W.R.A. was able to interest any resettler in this fine proposition.

Two Des Moines realtors agreed to serve as property appraisers in determining approximate values of homes for resettlers considering buying. All properties rented and bought by resettlers were adequate in every way. Resettlers resided in neighborhoods average or above. In no instance did a resettler choose to live in what might be termed as a "slum" area.

In the spring of 1945 it was felt advisable for the W.R.A. office to compile a central housing file and in order to publicize this the office sent out letters to 115 family heads and single independent individuals in the city. Past experience had proved that many times housing was secured through information supplied by some resettler. It was the purpose of this letter to request cooperation of the evacuees to pass along any information they possessed to the W.R.A. office. To further implement this action the various realtors and real estate agents in Des Moines were contacted by letter asking that they list their available housing units with this office. Both the milk and ice dealers were similarly contacted. None of these plans proved very successful, but a few realtors did contact the W.R.A. office regarding their listings.

From September, 1945, on the housing situation grew steadily worse. Fortunately, however, all resettlers in need of housing found suitable units. In a few cases resettlers were forced to double up with relatives. In November, no housing was available unless one was interested in buying a home. The return

of so many discharged servicemen to civilian life has resulted in a worsening of the problem.

Other Problems and Activities:

The Public Relations Committee of the Des Moines Relocation Committee had as its primary function the education of the community relative to the reason for evacuation and the current developments of the relocation program. The chairman of the Public Relations Committee sought at all times to relate the problem of the Japanese Americans to the general problem of the minority groups. The student panel group, formed by the chairman at Drake University, took into consideration the problems of all minority groups. Representatives on these panels each year were composed of Nisei, Jewish, Negro and Caucasian students. This panel appeared before many groups in various parts of the State.

To determine the reaction of the community regarding the employment of Japanese Americans at the brick and tile plant at Sheffield, Iowa, the local newspaper ran a news story on resettlers and although the response was not too heavy what comments were made were favorable to the employment of resettlers.

On various occasions the Public Relations Committee of the Des Moines Relocation Committee sent out letters to several organizations soliciting their interest in having presented a program centered around relocation. The scope of the program which the Publicity Committee had drawn up was well organized. From a Speakers' Bureau consisting of Professor Thomas Dunn, Drake University; Alfred C. Nielsen, dean of Grandview College in Des Moines; Robert W. Root, editorial writer on the Des Moines Register; Ross T. Wilbur, director of the Hostel; and the Relocation Officer, there was a representative

community group ready to tell the story of America's treatment of its Japanese American minority in war time. In addition, there were several Christian ministers of Japanese ancestry but of American birth and education who conducted religious services and spoke on the general subject of relocation. Then there were a number of Japanese Americans from all walks of life who could give facts about their own experiences pertaining to evacuation and relocation. Any civic group desiring to see the actual evacuation could do so by requesting the showing of the film "A Challenge to Democracy". Other films were available, such as "Go for Broke" which depicted Nisei soldiers in training in the U. S. Many groups saw these films as well as others, which proved highly effective in promoting better enlightenment among the peoples of Iowa.

Although difficult to assay the actual enlightenment which was realized as a result of an educational booth at the Dairy Cattle Congress in Waterloo in September, 1945, it can be said that several hundred persons evinced an interest in the problems of the resettlers, and several hundred pieces of literature were distributed to interested persons. The booth contained about thirty photos of resettlers in Iowa and from other parts of the United States. They were depicted at work, in the Armed Forces, and at play. The motif of the booth had to do with the fact that "Americanism is hot, and never was, a matter of race or ancestry."

There were few opportunities that were not utilized to the fullest in disseminating information which would help to bring about a better understanding on the part of the general public. The radio, the classroom, churches, civic groups, luncheon clubs and libraries, and showing of films were all means by which knowledge of the relocation program was imparted.

Administration:

The W.R.A. district office in Des Moines was opened in June, 1943, and at that time the staff of the office consisted of the Relocation Officer, temporary Jr. Clerk-Stenographer whose employment terminated July 11, 1943, and Associate Relocation Officer. Later a young Nisei girl was employed as Junior Clerk-Stenographer on July 9, 1943, and on August 9, 1943, an Assistant Clerk-Stenographer was hired. This completed the staff which remained intact until February 15, 1945, when the Associate Officer was released due to reduction in administrative personnel.

On May 15, 1945, the Relocation Officer resigned to accept employment with a private insurance company in Hawaii and his successor was appointed June 16, 1945. No changes occurred thereafter until December 5, 1945, when the Assistant Clerk-Stenographer, who had been upgraded on February 16, 1944, and given a change in classification to Relocation Interviewer on March 1, 1945, resigned to accept a position with another federal agency. It is anticipated that the W.R.A. office in Des Moines will continue its activities until February 1, 1946, when the office will close.

The duties of the Clerk-Stenographer consisted of taking dictation from both the Relocation Officer and Associate, keeping the employment offer file up to date and setting up county file. This person handled routine correspondence, kept records, maintained files. When familiar with employment opportunities in the State of Iowa, they were then discussed with incoming evacuees. Later, employment referrals were made and some contact was had with prospective employers. Other duties included assisting with problems of housing and in compilation of reports.

The Relocation Officer directed the activities of the relocation program throughout Iowa, organized local committees to assist in evacuee placement and

and adjustment to community life. Determined community sentiment, maintained contact with state and local officials, F.B.I. representatives, law enforcement officers and similar persons to determine policies and secure assistance in executing the program. Interprets program to community through prepared talks, showing of films and enlisting the aid of evacuees in such interpretation. Evolved cooperative arrangements with various public and private groups, such as U.S.E.S., social and religious organizations, farm organizations, counseled with resettlers as to acceptability of wages and hours of work. Attempts to adjust problems satisfactorily wherever such problems arise. Keeps the office staff informed as to policy changes and the establishment of new administrative procedures.

The Associate Relocation Officer had the responsibility of assisting in the organization of committees in certain large metropolitan areas and, through observation, to recommend to his immediate supervisor what action was necessary in facilitating employment and adjustment of resettlers. Secured employment offers from various public and private concerns and helped in filling these orders. Aided in the solution of problems confronting evacuees by interviewing employer, employee and other persons involved. Worked under the direct supervision of the Relocation Officer in carrying out his duties; assisted the Officer in interpreting the program by appearing before various groups. Change of job classification occurred in September, 1943, in the case of the Nisei employee from Junior Clerk-Stenographer to Assistant Clerk-Stenographer. In the latter capacity were included the following duties:

1. Types or dictates letters, memoranda, telegrams, reports and similar material of a non-technical nature relating to activities of W.R.A. employment office to centers or interested persons;

2. Sorts incoming mail and withdraws material from office files. Assists in maintaining office files and classified card record of employment offers.
3. Secures information from evacuee for referral to Relocation Officer and Associate.
4. Maintains current files on available employment opportunities and on evacuees who have indicated a desire to relocate.
5. Assembles materials and prepares reports on work opportunities, housing conditions, under direction of Relocation Officer for submission to centers.