

A 11.01

67/14  
C

Archives of the  
National Archives  
and Records Administration  
College Park, Maryland  
20740-6001  
(301) 837-1000



A 11.01

11:RO:XII

To: Paul V. McNutt, Director,  
Office of Defense Health and Welfare Services  
Attention: Mr. Alvin Roseman,  
Chief, Program Operation Branch

February 18, 1942

From: Richard M. Neustadt,  
Regional Director,  
San Francisco

Subject: Report on Alien Enemy Evacuation

This is being written not only as a report to you, but so that it may be submitted to the Tolan Committee tomorrow in accordance with the request of its representative yesterday. It is planned as a summary statement, to which the more detailed reports, forms, and procedures which have been and will be submitted separately may be regarded as appendices.

#### History of Developments

Our first information with relation to our service in connection with the removal of enemy aliens from prohibited areas was contained in the telegram from Geoffrey May on January 28. On February 1 Mr. Thompson of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, called me to advise that he was in Berkeley and was going to have a meeting of the War Agricultural Board there at 3:30. At this meeting he advised the group that he was most concerned about the maintenance of the production of vegetables and other agricultural products that might be seriously interfered with by the removal of the Japanese, particularly, from both the farms that they themselves managed, and from those American owned farms which normally employ Japanese workers. He outlined in general terms a proposal that Japanese alien enemies be colonized in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valley areas, as well as in their present truck garden lands in Southern California, which proposal he hoped to have approved by the Governor, the Department of Justice, and the Western Command. I raised the obvious questions of housing arrangements, of wage rates and of seasonality, and other similar matters on which he had not yet had opportunity to think through. I further advised him that it was my understanding that certain definite responsibilities had been assigned to me that required the closest possible coordination of our efforts, and that as rapidly as possible he should translate his proposal into definite job orders to be placed with the agricultural division of the United States Employment Service.



Mr. Paul V. McNutt - 2/18/42  
Mr. Alvin Roseman

Later in the afternoon we were joined by Mr. Tom Clark of the U.S. Department of Justice, and Miss Helen Jeter, who gave me the copy of the letter of the Attorney General to the Administrator of January 31. This, plus Mr. Clark's statement, clarified the atmosphere considerably, and we left with the understanding that Mr. Thompson would put his plan into more concrete terms and submit it for both our approval and our placement efforts. ✓

Mr. Clark advised that arrangements had been made for him to meet with General DeWitt and the Governor in Sacramento the next morning. Mr. Thompson was also present. From Mr. Clark I learned that the Governor was keenly interested in the problem of recolonization, but that General DeWitt had withheld approval pending submission to him of the areas in which such colonies were contemplated. The whole question of policy of removal was discussed, and the dilemma of wanting the alien enemies (in California language meaning only the Japanese) removed a long distance from the Coast, but at the same time desiring their labor in agriculture, particularly, was evidenced. 2

On Monday also the question of our own organization and procedure was discussed with Miss Bary, Executive Assistant, Mr. Bryant, Regional Representative of the Bureau of Employment Security and the U.S. Employment Service, Mrs. Aaron, Regional Public Assistance Representative, Mr. Miller, Regional Attorney, Mr. Davies, Assistant to the Regional Director, and Mr. Carrico of the Research Division of ODEWS. It was agreed by all of us that our efforts should be centered in the 28 employment offices adjacent to the already declared prohibited areas, and that we should establish a special unit therein composed of a placement officer, a trained social worker, and one other person to give out general information. We arranged with Mr. Clark to have him include in the notices he planned to send every enemy alien who had registered from residences within the prohibited area a special notice headed "Information for Aliens Moving From Prohibited Areas," on the reverse side of which were listed the addresses of the public employment offices in the State. These were printed and ready for distribution that night. Had it been possible to distribute them in the manner planned, we should have felt assured that everyone who was caught in the order of removal would not only have known the facilities that were placed at his disposal, but also the services that were there available. Unfortunately it proved impossible for the Department of Justice to issue such individual notices to



Mr. Paul V. McNutt - 2/18/42  
Mr. Alvin Roseman

alien enemies residing in the prohibited areas, because of the fact that the Post Office Department could not segregate registrations by street addresses, or even by communities. In fact, it has been impossible for Mr. Clark or the U.S. Attorney's Office or the F.B.I. to make any effective use of the lists of names and addresses of those who registered, much less provide us with any copy thereof.

The Department of Justice therefore arranged later in the week to have these areas posted as prohibited areas, and was prevailed upon to include on the printed sign "Go to the Nearest Public Employment Office for Advice and Assistance."

The rest of the week was taken up with conferences with the representatives of the USES, and with Mr. Young and Miss Chickering of the State Board and State Department of Social Welfare, so that a staff could be available immediately in these offices once we got word that the money was forthcoming.

It became immediately clear that it would be necessary for us to establish a staff of social workers entirely on a Federal basis because of the limitations of California law. Also it became clear that in this State it was imperative to administer the entire law as a Federal operation, because of the hysteria of the press, the State and local officials and pressure groups that were demanding the removal of all Japanese aliens and citizens, and because of the fear and uncertainties in the minds of such aliens that this hysteria created. Many other conferences were held with Councils of Social Agencies, representatives of other Federal departments, racial societies and special private groups, such as the Friends Service Committee, National Refugee Committee, etc. who were immediately concerned. Their cooperation was enlisted both in the way of offering us volunteer assistance, and also for the even more pressing tasks of helping us find housing, and helping allay hysteria.

#### Organization

Under the instructions received from Miss Jeter on Sunday, February 1, and from the Administrator in his letter of the 4th, it became clear we would have to establish an



Mr. Paul V. McNutt - 2/18/42  
Mr. Alvin Roseman

immediate organization plan differing only in name and allocation of responsibility, but utilizing the same personnel as that of the Social Security Board and the Office of Defense Health and Welfare Services. On Monday, the 2nd, we therefore had a staff meeting, and set up a plan establishing under my direction and supervision the following divisions for straight-line operation:

"1. Executive Assistant, with full responsibility in my absence--Miss Helen Bary.

"2. Division of Business Management, Personnel and Fiscal Relations. All questions relating to new staff, space, certification of grants and other fiscal relations with the Treasury Department should be cleared with Miss Bary. ✓

"3. Division of Social Assistance. To be headed by Mrs. Azile Aaron, who will be in charge of the staff of social workers who are to help the enemy aliens and their dependents in their plans for resettlement, and will provide such help as is needed to make these plans effective.

"4. Division of Employment. To be headed by Mr. James G. Bryant, who will be in charge of all the functioning of the USES and the proper liaisoning of the local office managers with the local representatives of the Division of Social Assistance.

"5. Division of Public Relations. To be headed by Mr. Pearce Davies, who will work closely with Informational Service men of the Department of Justice, the Social Security Board and OEM, as well as with outside groups and organizations.

"6. Division of Legal Assistance. To be headed by Mr. Arthur C. Miller, who, in addition to the obvious function of legal advice to the entire staff on legal problems, will be the sole official contact with the legal staff of the Department of Justice. Through him all inquiries on borderline cases and special problems shall be referred.

"The formation of the program per se and the procedures thereunder shall be approved by me or Miss Bary before being put into operation. Insofar as possible such approval will be given after full opportunity for discussion among all division representatives in staff meeting. While the delegation



Mr. Paul V. McNutt - 2/18/42  
Mr. Alvin Roseman

of authority to the heads of the respective divisions will be maintained in a clear cut manner, it is made necessary by the nature of the problem itself that the program be kept completely unified and under the single control of the Regional Director. The Regional Director likewise will be solely responsible for contacts with Mr. Clark, the Coordinator of the Department of Justice, and with a board he is setting up consisting of the special representative of the Department of Agriculture, his own legal staff, and the Regional Director, which is to have sole contact with the Governors of the States, and with the Western Command (which includes all military, naval and air forces)."

When later the Administrator turned over the operating responsibility to the Social Security Board, we continued working in the same relationship, but returning to our reference as representing the Bureaus of the Board and the Offices of ODHWS. No real difficulties have been encountered, and there has been a fine spirit of team play, irrespective of titles. Under the pressure of events it has not been proved practical to consider developments of procedures at staff meetings, nor even to have them reviewed in detail by the Executive Assistant or the Regional Director. In fact, the Bureau of Public Assistance has worked out the manual insofar as it affected the social work phases of the task pretty much on its own, though the major outline of it had been cleared with me. They have done an excellent job, not only in the preparation of this manual, but in the organization and supervision of the field staff, which was borrowed mainly from the State and County Welfare Departments.

#### Operations

The announcement of the availability of funds arrived on Saturday, February 6. As of Monday, the 8th, the service centers were fully established in the 28 local offices of the USES with everyone advised as to the procedures set up in the manuals that were immediately available to them. In spite of the fact that an immediate strain was placed on the physical facilities of both the offices and the regular staff of the USES, the spirit of cooperation was fine throughout, and from the very beginning the special staff and the regular staff worked together in perfect harmony. We have an accurate record of 4,106 people who have come into these offices during the week of February 8-14, of which 31 individuals representing families asked for assistance. The latest information as of tonight is that financial assistance was sought by 135 cases, involving 440 persons. These are broken down in the following preliminary and not mutually exclusive figures:



Mr. Paul V. McNutt - 2/18/42  
Mr. Alvin Roseman

Maintenance assistance immediately needed. . . . .	40 cases
Assistance for moving expenses. . . . .	70 cases
Medical care needs. . . . .	14 cases
Transportation expenses . . . . .	5 cases
Low resources indicating need of assistance in the immediate future. . . . .	56 cases
Special needs because of difficulty in finding housing. . . . .	42 cases

This rapid acceleration of assistance problems in the last 2 days warrants our belief that the assistance load will mount rapidly up to the deadline of February 24.

Housing: The housing shortage is almost omnipresent in California. Removal of an estimated nine or ten thousand families from the coastal strip makes the finding of other homes very difficult, particularly when practically all low-cost housing sections are included in the prohibited areas. This is notably true in the Monterey-Santa Cruz section, and the entire East Bay from Pittsburg down through Alameda. We have enlisted the services of many of the outside social and racial agencies to aid in the search for homes, but are badly handicapped by the psychological attitude of landlords, as well as by the actual shortage of residences. We have therefore come to accept the necessity of somehow establishing temporary shelters, so that those who may be unable to find new homes by the 23d may at least be housed pending their successful relocation in more normal residence near their new work, or in new communities. Thus far no public facilities have been found in any areas that the Army would approve, or in areas that they might approve in any condition that might be of effective use. We are therefore canvassing other resources, such as tourist camps, motels, etc., and facing great discouragement in the search. In a few instances the employment office itself is located inside of the prohibited area, and we are arranging transfer of our service center to some other location, as in the case of Eureka, to the OASI office.



Mr. Paul V. McNutt - 2/18/42  
Mr. Alvin Roseman

Protection of Property: Another major difficulty that adds to the plight of those caught in the removal order is the absence of any arrangements for the custodianship of property. This applies not only to those working on farms, but also to a goodly number of very pathetic cases of small merchants, etc. who have invested practically all their money in their stores and stocks, and are in some cases further handicapped by debts. The fact that no alien custodian has been appointed makes it impossible for them to do much else than either turn over their business to their creditors at great loss, or abandon it entirely. Here again, the commercial buzzards are taking advantage of this hardship, making offers way below even inventory cost, and very much below real value.

Designation of A and B Areas: One of the greatest sources of difficulty has been the clumsy way in which the boundaries of the areas have been defined. It should be noted that these designations were announced from the office of the Attorney General in Washington by the press, and no more official announcements were made either to Mr. Clark or to this office for at least several days thereafter. In several instances, notably Santa Cruz and Monterey, the boundaries have been changed since the original announcement. In other instances, the description of the boundaries has been so vague that it has been necessary to clarify them with the Western Command. This confusion has led to a great deal of uncertainty in the minds of alien enemies affected by such actual or potential change, and has also served further to inflame the local groups in their demands that more drastic action be taken. Even now there are some of these areas where not even we are certain of the intention of the Army and the Department of Justice because of the fact that the description as published is subject to more than one interpretation.

Permit to Travel: The original regulation of the Department of Justice called for submission to the U.S. Attorney's office of a permit to travel 5 days in advance of any actual move. The impracticality of this became clear, not only because of the short notice before the order for removal became effective, but also because of the fact that the U.S. Attorney's office is not administratively geared to the task. The Coordinator for the Department of Justice clearly recognized this, as did the offices of the U.S. Attorneys in San Francisco and Los Angeles. In consequence, authority was given me by Mr. Frank Hennessy, U.S. Attorney for



Mr. Paul V. McNutt - 2/18/42  
Mr. Alvin Roseman

the Northern District, on February 12, and by Mr. William Fleet Palmer, U.S. Attorney for the Southern District, on February 14, to issue permits to travel to such non-prohibited areas which I might designate for the purpose of effecting a permanent change of address. Complete instructions with respect to the issuance of such permits were placed in the hands of the managers of the USES and became effective on February 14. Our understanding with the Department of Justice and our instructions to the USES were to the effect that the enemy alien to whom such permit was issued was required to report to the U.S. Attorney's office, the F.B.I., and the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization in Washington, his new address immediately upon its establishment by him. In accepting this responsibility for Messrs. Hennessy and Palmer, I advised them that we would in no way regard ourselves responsible for the conduct of these enemy aliens in transit or upon arrival, but that we were merely issuing such permits at their request as part of the general request of the Attorney General that we "undertake on behalf of the Department of Justice the task of facilitating the transfer . . . ." The names of those authorized to sign such permits are recorded with the offices of the U.S. Attorneys.

Also we secured from the Department of Justice the interpretation of their original order that aliens might move within the same community without need of prior permission, but with the responsibility of giving later notice, to the effect that the word "community" meant an area within 50 miles of their place of living when originally registered. This step has greatly helped the families affected by the order to move to other places for the purpose either of seeking new work or establishing permanent residence. No difficulties have developed in its operation.

#### Future Operations

The only areas thus far declared prohibited in Arizona, Oregon, and Washington will require the removal of a very few people. Additional prohibited areas have been sought by the Western Command, and we are assured that when such additional areas are prohibited, the effective date will be arranged so as to give us a decent interval in which to undertake our activities in the task assigned us.

In these States, and hopefully in all States other than California, there are not the same legal prohibitions, nor the same public clamor that made it essential for us to handle the operations on a completely Federal basis, as in the case of California.



Mr. Paul V. McNutt - 2/18/42  
Mr. Alvin Roseman

It is our plan, therefore, to utilize the State social welfare agency in the administration of this work, acting under the standards to be set by the Social Security Board. Since reimbursement of any actual expenditures can be made within 24 hours from the disbursing offices of the U. S. Treasury in points immediately adjacent to State headquarters, it would appear only necessary to advance the State a few thousand dollars to serve as a revolving fund, that the State should receive, deposit into and disburse from as a trust fund outside of its regular funds that are subject to State fiscal controls or legislative or constitutional restrictions placed on its own accounts. The question of who in the State shall serve as the disbursing agent for this State trust fund is a matter of determination state by state, since not only the laws differ, but so do the powers granted departments, and administrative participation. We are now negotiating this matter with Oregon, Washington, and through Dr. Harper, with Arizona, and are confident in our belief that no insurmountable difficulty will appear. Our arrangements will call for the distribution of this Federal assistance fund through the State agency as State trust money, on the basis of a budget guide that is in accord with the most liberal standard used by the State. Again, we hope to find elsewhere no such legal restrictions as exist in California. Speaking generally, we are thinking of the Aid to Dependent Children standard for all families, and an adaptation of the Old-Age Assistance standard for single persons, depending on their actual individual needs. If our grants are held within these bounds, we believe there will be no public objection, except possibly in California.

In California we are now exploring with the State Department of Social Welfare, Social Welfare Board, and the Attorney General's office the possibilities of utilizing the services of the State and County Welfare Departments for assistance that will be involved in continuing care of those who become stranded in their new communities, and who are not available for their customary county indigent aid because of residence, or for aid to dependent children because of the limited interpretations of "absence from home", or for old-age assistance because of citizenship requirements.


#### Public Relations

An unfortunate surge of opposition to the presence of Japanese citizens as well as alien enemies has been manufactured as well as naturally developed by those who have motives other than

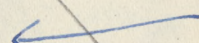
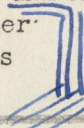
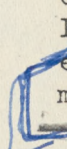


Mr. Paul V. McNutt - 2/18/42  
Mr. Alvin Roseman

the security of the country. There has been strong prejudice against the Japanese in California for many years. Among the agriculturalists there has long existed deep resentment against the commercial success of the Japanese agriculturalists, and many efforts have been made in the past to deprive them of lands which they farm successfully. This undeniably has increased agitation to turn all present Japanese land managers (they cannot by law be owners) away from their farms and give to greedy others the fine gardens and farms that have been developed by these people on land that originally the white man did not care to improve. At the same time, and without regard to the inherent contradiction, there is a demand that the Japanese be kept at work, and even some proposals that they be colonized for work near the important fruit and vegetable areas under strong guard, at some relief level of compensation. Undeniably, also, there is a strong movement on the part of some large agriculturalists to get all Japanese out of the State in order to justify their demand for the lowering of the immigration bars, so that they may import Mexican labor to work at lower rates of pay than have prevailed for the last few years. As Mr. Clark has said, the agriculturalists want to have their cake and to eat it too. The Governor has announced over the radio that his plan for the colonization of these alien enemies would be ready for submission to the Army on the 26th. As yet the details are unknown.



There has been widespread pressure for the driving out of Japanese aliens and citizens of Japanese birth from the area at least within 150 miles of the Pacific Coast, which brings us in most points to the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Indeed, as the fear of forest fires set by saboteurs spreads, the demand is now broadening the area from which all aliens and citizens alike of Japanese origin shall be driven. These demands, and the hysteria both of those who make them and those who would be victimized have caused Mr. Clark to make many public statements in the press, to the effect that consideration is being given to the establishment of additional prohibited areas, and even to the declaration of martial law. Such statements have in part allayed and even to a greater extent, perhaps, increased the hysteria. Most certainly it has made the problem of the alien enemies more difficult.



Little, if any, heed has been given to the fact that the number of alien enemies of Italian origin is greater than that of Japanese aliens, and that if we include the second generation who



Mr. Paul V. McNutt - 2/18/42  
Mr. Alvin Roseman

are American citizens, but of the origin of the countries with which we are now at war, the Italians will greatly outnumber, and the Germans will likewise outnumber those of Japanese origin.

Based on the 1940 census figures the estimates are as follows:

State	Japanese		Foreign Born	
	Alien	Citizen	German	Italian
Total, Region XII	41,114	71,709	3 97,813*	116,104*
California	33,569	60,148	71,727	100,910
Washington	5,633	8,882	15,470	8,853
Oregon	1,617	2,454	9,883	4,083
Nevada	245	225	733	2,258

\* -- From analysis of the 1930 census applied to the 1940 census it would appear that 33 1/3 percent of the Germans and 40 percent of the Italians are not naturalized, and are therefore for present purposes considered alien enemies.

The demand in California for more drastic action is really aimed at the Japanese only. 1

Because of the clamor in the public press, particularly in Southern California, and the constant dramatic statements of Mr. Clark, it has not been possible for us to get any decent play of our simple announcement of the services available in our employment offices. The plight of those who must move from the prohibited areas has been made worse, therefore, since the press stories and radio comments have caused them to feel completely uncertain as to present regulations and frightened of unknown but expected new regulations. So far as we can judge, the great majority of them understand the necessity for the establishment of the present areas and are ready to obey them without resentment at any time. The second generation is gratified by the assurance of the Department of Justice that there will be no second class citizenship established in this country, but the extreme statements made by State and local



Mr. Paul V. McNutt - 2/18/42  
Mr. Alvin Roseman

officials, and the continuing announcements of additional prohibited areas or of martial law make this larger group uncertain and unable to plan their own immediate future. Because of this uncertainty likewise, many employers, in spite of the President's proclamation and the Attorney General's radio message, have discharged their alien employees. A great many communities have let them know they would not be welcomed therein.

The Italian aliens caught by the present prohibited areas, notably in the East Bay strip from Pittsburg to Alameda, and in the Monterey area, are in a plight which seemingly has not dawned upon the general public. Characteristically these alien Italians are old people who have lived here for many years, and who have never acquired citizenship out of both ignorance and careless indifference, rather than from any sense of disloyalty to this country or of special loyalty to Italy or its allies. They have been fishermen and vineyardists, and the order to move leaves them completely baffled, and for the moment helpless. Their removal from the Coast will in many instances make them dependent, since few of them are of the age or the type to satisfy the requirements of other vocations. Because of the difficulties of reaching them through normal publicity channels, and inasmuch as many of them do not read their own press or belong to any one central society, we employed Mr. Ottorino Ronchi, formerly professor of Italian at the University of California, and for many years editor of the coastwide paper, La Voce del Popolo, as special representative. He is out circulating freely among the Italians, particularly in the Vallejo-Pittsburg--Santa Cruz-Monterey areas, helping these people to understand the regulations, to utilize our offices, and to make their own plans with our help if necessary.

Included among the German aliens are a very large number of refugees, both Christians and Jews, who have fled from the Nazi regime, but who have not been here long enough to acquire their second papers. Again, their plight has not been recognized by the general public, who would be inclined to be completely sympathetic with them.

We have held several radio talks and issued many statements to the press, but without much successful penetration through the walls erected by public opinion, based upon natural fear of Japanese sabotage and inflamed by those who are envious of or inherently prejudiced against this race, irrespective of the war. That there may be cause for such fears no one can doubt, but it is essential to the public safety that the people in general, and the local public officials in particular, learn to leave this problem in the hands of the Federal



Mr. Paul V. McNutt - 2/18/42  
Mr. Alvin Roseman

authorities and not to attempt the solution themselves. There is real danger of localized vigilantism and of local prejudice against the reception of even a few additional innocent families unless such trust in Federal authority is greatly increased.

For this reason the hearings to be conducted in the State commencing Saturday are of the greatest importance, and the results of their meetings will hopefully bring about the desired confidence: ✓

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ANY EXTENSION OF THIS REMOVAL PROGRAM

1. Should it become the decision of the Attorney General that through martial law or otherwise, areas affecting larger numbers of alien enemies and citizens of enemy nationalities are to be declared prohibited, it is my recommendation that it be handled on a mass basis, and hopefully not by the Federal Security Agency alone. ( We can render real service only to the extent that we can perform our service on an individual basis. Any large scale movement, particularly in so short a time between the announcement and the effective dates, would require, in my judgment, the establishment of camps, from which possibly families might be relocated. For those for whom no new employment could be found, it may even be necessary to keep them in such camps until some large scale communal agricultural or industrial plan might be evolved for them as a group. ] ✓

2. The forms developed by the Department of Justice for the registration of aliens should include such simple information as would be needed for their later investigation by the social workers who would administer relief and by the employment offices who would place them in new jobs. A copy of such form should be given at the time of registration to the alien, with the instruction that he take it to the nearest center to be established in the employment office or elsewhere. This simple procedure would eliminate the necessity for duplication of the basic information needed at the time of the initial visit to our service center.

3. More time should be given in the preparation of the borders of the prohibited areas, whatever they may be, and in distribution of these announcements officially through the field representatives of whatever Federal agencies are involved in the problem. Without reflecting on the press, it is not the medium for giving out official, authoritative information that so vitally affects the lives of so many people.



Mr. Paul V. McNutt - 2/18/42  
Mr. Alvin Roseman

4. The original plan of the Department of Justice for individual notification to the aliens living in the prohibited areas should be carried out. By an enclosure information should also be furnished all affected individuals and families as to where to go for help, and what types of help are available there for them. From this point of disadvantage it would seem wise to consider the use of the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization rather than the U.S. Attorney's office, as they seem better equipped to serve as an operating agency, and as they are more obviously related to the problems involved in the attainment of citizenship.

5. More time should be taken in the formulation of the public policy, and the getting agreement thereto, by the Governors, the Attorneys General of the States involved, so that there may be uniformity of presentation to the public, and greater unity of policy.

6. The declaration of areas should take into full consideration the possibilities of the affected portions of population finding other residences as well as other work. Wherever time permits and no other resources are available, public housing on as decent a scale as possible, though obviously not of a permanent character, should be provided.

7. A carefully thought through program of information must be devised, both for the communities adjacent to or included in the prohibited areas, and for those communities which will naturally serve as the reception areas for those who are affected.

8. An alien property custodian should be appointed immediately, and if possible, even prior to the appointment of such a national official and the creation by him of his field organization, some legal way should be devised to appoint private citizens of known probity, or banks of the Federal Reserve System, to act as official custodians for the many small businessmen who must dispose of their property because it lies within the prohibited area.

9. Some way should be found legally to narrow the classification of enemy aliens so as to eliminate if possible these groups:

a. Those who are known by the State Department to have come to this country because of their citizenship rights having been canceled by our enemy countries, but who have not been here long enough to acquire their second papers.



Mr. Paul V. McNutt - 2/18/42  
Mr. Alvin Roseman

b. Those who have been here long enough (more than 10 years, or even 20 years) to establish their innocence of intent to harm this country, and who are too old and too helpless to be subject to suspicion.

c. Those who are elderly or mature individuals, such as a wife or mother in a family where all other members of the family are citizens, and where there is clear record to show that her failure to attain citizenship is caused by other reasons than disloyalty to this country or loyalty to other countries with which we are at war.

d. Those alien enemies whose sons are serving in the armed forces of this country.

Appended hereto is a copy of a report submitted to me by Mrs. Aaron, Regional Representative of the Bureau of Public Assistance. In order to provide the fullest information possible in the quickest possible time, it has seemed wise to risk duplication, and to dictate my statement without reference to this memorandum which she has just completed.

It is most distressing to report that the beginning of evidence of an unreasoning race prejudice against Japanese is developing very recently in the State of Washington, and even in the mountain States where resolutions are being passed in protest against the idea of any migration thereto from the Coast. Unless we develop far better procedures and greater public confidence in the power of the Federal Government than now exists, I have real reason to fear that the spirit of vigilantism might spread in a way completely foreign to real Americanism. This is a carefully worded attempt at understatement.

I should like to close this hastily prepared, unedited first report with a note of very genuine appreciation of the fine service and extra service given in this task by the regular professional staff, but also the clerical staff, of the entire regional office, of the workers of the USES, of the staff of social assistants, and of the volunteers serving in the 28 local offices, and also in the communities around them.

Richard M. Neustadt



Att. 01

To: Paul V. McNutt, Director,  
Office of Defense Health and Welfare Services  
Attention: Mr. Alvin Roseman,  
Chief, Program Operation Branch February 18, 1942

From: Richard M. Neustadt,  
Regional Director,  
San Francisco

Subject: Report on Alien Enemy Evacuation

This is being written not only as a report to you, but so that it may be submitted to the Tolson Committee tomorrow in accordance with the request of its representative yesterday. It is planned as a summary statement, to which the more detailed reports, forms, and procedures which have been and will be submitted separately may be regarded as appendices.

#### History of Developments

Our first information with relation to our service in connection with the removal of enemy aliens from prohibited areas was contained in the telegram from Geoffrey May on January 28. On February 1 Mr. Thompson of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, called me to advise that he was in Berkeley and was going to have a meeting of the War Agricultural Board there at 3:30. At this meeting he advised the group that he was most concerned about the maintenance of the production of vegetables and other agricultural products that might be seriously interfered with by the removal of the Japanese, particularly, from both the farms that they themselves managed, and from those American owned farms which normally employ Japanese workers. He outlined in general terms a proposal that Japanese alien enemies be colonized in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valley areas, as well as in their present truck garden lands in Southern California, which proposal he hoped to have approved by the Governor, the Department of Justice, and the Western Command. I raised the obvious questions of housing arrangements, of wage rates and of seasonality, and other similar matters on which he had not yet had opportunity to think through. I further advised him that it was my understanding that certain definite responsibilities had been assigned to me that required the closest possible coordination of our efforts, and that as rapidly as possible he should translate his proposal into definite job orders to be placed with the agricultural division of the United States Employment Service.



Mr. Paul V. McNutt - 2/18/42

Mr. Alvin Roseman

Later in the afternoon we were joined by Mr. Tom Clark of the U.S. Department of Justice, and Miss Helen Jeter, who gave me the copy of the letter of the Attorney General to the Administrator of January 31. This, plus Mr. Clark's statement, clarified the atmosphere considerably, and we left with the understanding that Mr. Thompson would put his plan into more concrete terms and submit it for both our approval and our placement efforts. *Feb 1*

Mr. Clark advised that arrangements had been made for him to meet with General DeWitt and the Governor in Sacramento the next morning. Mr. Thompson was also present. From Mr. Clark I learned that the Governor was keenly interested in the problem of recolonization, but that General DeWitt had withheld approval pending submission to him of the areas in which such colonies were contemplated. The whole question of policy of removal was discussed, and the dilemma of wanting the alien enemies (in California language meaning only the Japanese) removed a long distance from the Coast, but at the same time desiring their labor in agriculture, particularly, was evidenced. *Feb 2*

On Monday also the question of our own organization and procedure was discussed with Miss Bary, Executive Assistant, Mr. Bryant, Regional Representative of the Bureau of Employment Security and the U.S. Employment Service, Mrs. Aaron, Regional Public Assistance Representative, Mr. Miller, Regional Attorney, Mr. Davies, Assistant to the Regional Director, and Mr. Carrico of the Research Division of ODHWS. It was agreed by all of us that our efforts should be centered in the 28 employment offices adjacent to the already declared prohibited areas, and that we should establish a special unit therein composed of a placement officer, a trained social worker, and one other person to give out general information. We arranged with Mr. Clark to have him include in the notices he planned to send every enemy alien who had registered from residences within the prohibited area a special notice headed "Information for Aliens Moving From Prohibited Areas," on the reverse side of which were listed the addresses of the public employment offices in the State. These were printed and ready for distribution that night. Had it been possible to distribute them in the manner planned, we should have felt assured that everyone who was caught in the order of removal would not only have known the facilities that were placed at his disposal, but also the services that were there available. Unfortunately it proved impossible for the Department of Justice to issue such individual notices to



Mr. Paul V. McNutt - 2/18/42  
Mr. Alvin Roseman

alien enemies residing in the prohibited areas because of the fact that the Post Office Department could not segregate registrations by street addresses, or even by communities. In fact, it has been impossible for Mr. Clark or the U.S. Attorney's Office or the F.B.I. to make any effective use of the lists of names and addresses of those who registered, much less provide us with any copy thereof.

The Department of Justice therefore arranged later in the week to have these areas posted as prohibited areas, and was prevailed upon to include on the printed sign "Go to the Nearest Public Employment Office for Advice and Assistance."

The rest of the week was taken up with conferences with the representatives of the USES, and with Mr. Young and Miss Chickering of the State Board and State Department of Social Welfare, so that a staff could be available immediately in these offices once we got word that the money was forthcoming.

It became immediately clear that it would be necessary for us to establish a staff of social workers entirely on a Federal basis because of the limitations of California law. Also it became clear that in this State it was imperative to administer the entire law as a Federal operation because of the hysteria of the press, the State and local officials and pressure groups that were demanding the removal of all Japanese aliens and citizens, and because of the fear and uncertainties in the minds of such aliens that this hysteria created. Many other conferences were held with Councils of Social Agencies, representatives of other Federal departments, racial societies and special private groups, such as the Friends Service Committee, National Refugee Committee, etc. who were immediately concerned. Their cooperation was enlisted both in the way of offering us volunteer assistance, and also for the even more pressing tasks of helping us find housing, and helping allay hysteria.

#### Organization

Under the instructions received from Miss Jeter on Sunday, February 1, and from the Administrator in his letter of the 4th, it became clear we would have to establish an



Mr. Paul V. McNutt - 2/18/42  
Mr. Alvin Roseman

immediate organization plan differing only in name and allocation of responsibility, but utilizing the same personnel as that of the Social Security Board and the Office of Defense Health and Welfare Services. On Monday, the 2nd, we therefore had a staff meeting, and set up a plan establishing under my direction and supervision the following divisions for straight-line operation:

"1. Executive Assistant, with full responsibility in my absence--Miss Helen Bary.

"2. Division of Business Management, Personnel and Fiscal Relations. All questions relating to new staff, space, certification of grants and other fiscal relations with the Treasury Department should be cleared with Miss Bary.

"3. Division of Social Assistance. To be headed by Mrs. Azile Aaron, who will be in charge of the staff of social workers who are to help the enemy aliens and their dependents in their plans for resettlement, and will provide such help as is needed to make these plans effective.

"4. Division of Employment. To be headed by Mr. James G. Bryant, who will be in charge of all the functioning of the USES and the proper liaisoning of the local office managers with the local representatives of the Division of Social Assistance.

"5. Division of Public Relations. To be headed by Mr. Pearce Davies, who will work closely with Informational Service men of the Department of Justice, the Social Security Board and OEM, as well as with outside groups and organizations.

"6. Division of Legal Assistance. To be headed by Mr. Arthur C. Miller, who, in addition to the obvious function of legal advice to the entire staff on legal problems, will be the sole official contact with the legal staff of the Department of Justice. Through him all inquiries on borderline cases and special problems shall be referred.

"The formation of the program per se and the procedures thereunder shall be approved by me or Miss Bary before being put into operation. Insofar as possible such approval will be given after full opportunity for discussion among all division representatives in staff meeting. While the delegation



Mr. Paul V. McNutt - 2/18/42  
Mr. Alvin Roseman

of authority to the heads of the respective divisions will be maintained in a clear cut manner, it is made necessary by the nature of the problem itself that the program be kept completely unified and under the single control of the Regional Director. The Regional Director likewise will be solely responsible for contacts with Mr. Clark, the Coordinator of the Department of Justice, and with a board he is setting up consisting of the special representative of the Department of Agriculture, his own legal staff, and the Regional Director, which is to have sole contact with the Governors of the States, and with the Western Command (which includes all military, naval and air forces)."

When later the Administrator turned over the operating responsibility to the Social Security Board, we continued working in the same relationship, but returning to our reference as representing the Bureaus of the Board and the Offices of ODHWS. No real difficulties have been encountered, and there has been a fine spirit of team play, irrespective of titles. Under the pressure of events it has not been proved practical to consider developments of procedures at staff meetings, nor even to have them reviewed in detail by the Executive Assistant or the Regional Director. In fact, the Bureau of Public Assistance has worked out the manual insofar as it affected the social work phases of the task pretty much on its own, though the major outline of it had been cleared with me. They have done an excellent job, not only in the preparation of this manual, but in the organization and supervision of the field staff, which was borrowed mainly from the State and County Welfare Departments.

#### Operations

The announcement of the availability of funds arrived on Saturday, February 6. As of Monday, the 8th, the service centers were fully established in the 23 local offices of the USES with everyone advised as to the procedures set up in the manuals that were immediately available to them. In spite of the fact that an immediate strain was placed on the physical facilities of both the offices and the regular staff of the USES, the spirit of cooperation was fine throughout, and from the very beginning the special staff and the regular staff worked together in perfect harmony. We have an accurate record of 4,106 people who have come into these offices during the week of February 8-14, of which 31 individuals representing families asked for assistance. The latest information as of tonight is that financial assistance was sought by 135 cases, involving 440 persons. These are broken down in the following preliminary and not mutually exclusive figures:



Mr. Paul V. McNutt - 2/18/42  
Mr. Alvin Roseman

Maintenance assistance immediately needed. . . . .	40 cases
Assistance for moving expenses. . . . .	70 cases
Medical care needs. . . . .	14 cases
Transportation expenses . . . . .	5 cases
Low resources indicating need of assistance in the immediate future. . . .	56 cases
Special needs because of difficulty in finding housing. . . . .	42 cases

This rapid acceleration of assistance problems in the last 2 days warrants our belief that the assistance load will mount rapidly up to the deadline of February 24.

Housing: The housing shortage is almost omnipresent in California.

Removal of an estimated nine or ten thousand families from the coastal strip makes the finding of other homes very difficult, particularly when practically all low-cost housing sections are included in the prohibited areas. This is notably true in the Monterey-Santa Cruz section, and the entire East Bay from Pittsburg down through Alameda. We have enlisted the services of many of the outside social and racial agencies to aid in the search for homes, but are badly handicapped by the psychological attitude of landlords, as well as by the actual shortage of residences. We have therefore come to accept the necessity of somehow establishing temporary shelters, so that those who may be unable to find new homes by the 23d may at least be housed pending their successful relocation in more normal residence near their new work, or in new communities. Thus far no public facilities have been found in any areas that the Army would approve, or in areas that they might approve in any condition that might be of effective use. We are therefore canvassing other resources, such as tourist camps, motels, etc., and facing great discouragement in the search. In a few instances the employment office itself is located inside of the prohibited area, and we are arranging transfer of our service center to some other location, as in the case of Eureka, to the OASI office.



Mr. Paul V. McNutt - 2/18/42  
Mr. Alvin Roseman

Protection of Property: Another major difficulty that adds to the plight of those caught in the removal order is the absence of any arrangements for the custodianship of property. This applies not only to those working on farms, but also to a goodly number of very pathetic cases of small merchants, etc. who have invested practically all their money in their stores and stocks, and are in some cases further handicapped by debts. The fact that no alien custodian has been appointed makes it impossible for them to do much else than either turn over their business to their creditors at great loss, or abandon it entirely. Here again, the commercial buzzards are taking advantage of this hardship, making offers way below even inventory cost, and very much below real value.

Designation of A and B Areas: One of the greatest sources of difficulty has been the clumsy way in which the boundaries of the areas have been defined. It should be noted that these designations were announced from the office of the Attorney General in Washington by the press, and no more official announcements were made either to Mr. Clark or to this office for at least several days thereafter. In several instances, notably Santa Cruz and Monterey, the boundaries have been changed since the original announcement. In other instances, the description of the boundaries has been so vague that it has been necessary to clarify them with the Western Command. This confusion has led to a great deal of uncertainty in the minds of alien enemies affected by such actual or potential change, and has also served further to inflame the local groups in their demands that more drastic action be taken. Even now there are some of these areas where not even we are certain of the intention of the Army and the Department of Justice because of the fact that the description as published is subject to more than one interpretation.

Permit to Travel: The original regulation of the Department of Justice called for submission to the U.S. Attorney's office of a permit to travel 5 days in advance of any actual move. The impracticality of this became clear, not only because of the short notice before the order for removal became effective, but also because of the fact that the U.S. Attorney's office is not administratively geared to the task. The Coordinator for the Department of Justice clearly recognized this, as did the offices of the U.S. Attorneys in San Francisco and Los Angeles. In consequence, authority was given me by Mr. Frank Hennessy, U.S. Attorney for



Mr. Paul V. McNutt - 2/18/42  
Mr. Alvin Roseman

the Northern District, on February 12, and by Mr. William Fleet Palmer, U.S. Attorney for the Southern District, on February 14, to issue permits to travel to such non-prohibited areas which I might designate for the purpose of effecting a permanent change of address. Complete instructions with respect to the issuance of such permits were placed in the hands of the managers of the USES and became effective on February 14. Our understanding with the Department of Justice and our instructions to the USES were to the effect that the enemy alien to whom such permit was issued was required to report to the U.S. Attorney's office, the F.B.I., and the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization in Washington, his new address immediately upon its establishment by him. In accepting this responsibility for Messrs. Hennessy and Palmer, I advised them that we would in no way regard ourselves responsible for the conduct of these enemy aliens in transit or upon arrival, but that we were merely issuing such permits at their request as part of the general request of the Attorney General that we "undertake on behalf of the Department of Justice the task of facilitating the transfer . . ." The names of those authorized to sign such permits are recorded with the offices of the U.S. Attorneys.

Also we secured from the Department of Justice the interpretation of their original order that aliens might move within the same community without need of prior permission, but with the responsibility of giving later notice, to the effect that the word "community" meant an area within 50 miles of their place of living when originally registered. This step has greatly helped the families affected by the order to move to other places for the purpose either of seeking new work or establishing permanent residence. No difficulties have developed in its operation.

#### Future Operations

The only areas thus far declared prohibited in Arizona, Oregon, and Washington will require the removal of a very few people. Additional prohibited areas have been sought by the Western Command, and we are assured that when such additional areas are prohibited, the effective date will be arranged so as to give us a decent interval in which to undertake our activities in the task assigned us.

In these States, and hopefully in all States other than California, there are not the same legal prohibitions, nor the same public clamor that made it essential for us to handle the operations on a completely Federal basis, as in the case of California.



Mr. Paul V. McNutt - 2/18/42  
Mr. Alvin Roseman

It is our plan, therefore, to utilize the State social welfare agency in the administration of this work, acting under the standards to be set by the Social Security Board. Since reimbursement of any actual expenditures can be made within 24 hours from the disbursing offices of the U. S. Treasury in points immediately adjacent to State headquarters, it would appear only necessary to advance the State a few thousand dollars to serve as a revolving fund, that the State should receive, deposit into and disburse from as a trust fund outside of its regular funds that are subject to State fiscal controls or legislative or constitutional restrictions placed on its own accounts. The question of who in the State shall serve as the disbursing agent for this State trust fund is a matter of determination state by state, since not only the laws differ, but so do the powers granted departments, and administrative participation. We are now negotiating this matter with Oregon, Washington, and through Dr. Harper, with Arizona, and are confident in our belief that no insurmountable difficulty will appear. Our arrangements will call for the distribution of this Federal assistance fund through the State agency as State trust money, on the basis of a budget guide that is in accord with the most liberal standard used by the State. Again, we hope to find elsewhere no such legal restrictions as exist in California. Speaking generally, we are thinking of the Aid to Dependent Children standard for all families, and an adaptation of the Old-Age Assistance standard for single persons, depending on their actual individual needs. If our grants are held within these bounds, we believe there will be no public objection, except possibly in California.

In California we are now exploring with the State Department of Social Welfare, Social Welfare Board, and the Attorney General's office the possibilities of utilizing the services of the State and County Welfare Departments for assistance that will be involved in continuing care of those who become stranded in their new communities, and who are not available for their customary county indigent aid because of residence, or for aid to dependent children because of the limited interpretations of "absence from home", or for old-age assistance because of citizenship requirements.

#### Public Relations

An unfortunate surge of opposition to the presence of Japanese citizens as well as alien enemies has been manufactured as well as naturally developed by those who have motives other than



Mr. Paul V. McNutt - 2/18/42  
Mr. Alvin Roseman

the security of the country. There has been strong prejudice against the Japanese in California for many years. Among the agriculturalists there has long existed deep resentment against the commercial success of the Japanese agriculturalists, and many efforts have been made in the past to deprive them of lands which they farm successfully. This undeniably has increased agitation to turn all present Japanese land managers (they cannot by law be owners) away from their farms and give to greedy others the fine gardens and farms that have been developed by these people on land that originally the white man did not care to improve. At the same time, and without regard to the inherent contradiction, there is a demand that the Japanese be kept at work, and even some proposals that they be colonized for work near the important fruit and vegetable areas under strong guard, at some relief level of compensation. Undeniably, also, there is a strong movement on the part of some large agriculturalists to get all Japanese out of the State in order to justify their demand for the lowering of the immigration bars, so that they may import Mexican labor to work at lower rates of pay than have prevailed for the last few years. As Mr. Clark has said, the agriculturalists want to have their cake and to eat it too. The Governor has announced over the radio that his plan for the colonization of these alien enemies would be ready for submission to the Army on the 26th. As yet the details are unknown.

There has been widespread pressure for the driving out of Japanese aliens and citizens of Japanese birth from the area at least within 150 miles of the Pacific Coast, which brings us in most points to the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Indeed, as the fear of forest fires set by saboteurs spreads, the demand is now broadening the area from which all aliens and citizens alike of Japanese origin shall be driven. These demands, and the hysteria both of those who make them and those who would be victimized have caused Mr. Clark to make many public statements in the press, to the effect that consideration is being given to the establishment of additional prohibited areas, and even to the declaration of martial law. Such statements have in part allayed and even to a greater extent, perhaps, increased the hysteria. Most certainly it has made the problem of the alien enemies more difficult.

Little, if any, heed has been given to the fact that the number of alien enemies of Italian origin is greater than that of Japanese aliens, and that if we include the second generation who



Mr. Paul V. McNutt - 2/18/42  
Mr. Alvin Roseman

are American citizens, but of the origin of the countries with which we are now at war, the Italians will outnumber, and the Germans will number approximately two-thirds those of Japanese origin.

Based on the 1940 census figures the estimates are as follows:

<u>State</u>	<u>Japanese</u>		<u>Foreign Born</u>	
	<u>Alien</u>	<u>Citizen</u>	<u>German</u>	<u>Italian</u>
Total, Region XII	41,114	71,709	97,813*	116,104*
California	33,569	60,148	71,727	100,910
Washington	5,683	8,882	15,470	8,853
Oregon	1,617	2,454	9,883	4,083
Nevada	245	225	733	2,258

\* -- From analysis of the 1930 census applied to the 1940 census it would appear that 33 1/3 percent of the Germans and 40 percent of the Italians are not naturalized, and are therefore for present purposes considered alien enemies.

The demand in California for more drastic action is really aimed at the Japanese only.

Because of the clamor in the public press, particularly in Southern California, and the constant dramatic statements of Mr. Clark, it has not been possible for us to get any decent play of our simple announcement of the services available in our employment offices. The plight of those who must move from the prohibited areas has been made worse, therefore, since the press stories and radio comments have caused them to feel completely uncertain as to present regulations and frightened of unknown but expected new regulations. So far as we can judge, the great majority of them understand the necessity for the establishment of the present areas and are ready to obey them without resentment at any time. The second generation is gratified by the assurance of the Department of Justice that there will be no second class citizenship established in this country, but the extreme statements made by State and local



Mr. Paul V. McNutt - 2/18/42  
Mr. Alvin Roseman

officials, and the continuing announcements of additional prohibited areas or of martial law make this larger group uncertain and unable to plan their own immediate future. Because of this uncertainty likewise, many employers, in spite of the President's proclamation and the Attorney General's radio message, have discharged their alien employees. A great many communities have let them know they would not be welcomed therein.

The Italian aliens caught by the present prohibited areas, notably in the East Bay strip from Pittsburg to Alameda, and in the Monterey area, are in a plight which seemingly has not dawned upon the general public. Characteristically these alien Italians are old people who have lived here for many years, and who have never acquired citizenship out of both ignorance and careless indifference, rather than from any sense of disloyalty to this country or of special loyalty to Italy or its allies. They have been fishermen and vineyardists, and the order to move leaves them completely baffled, and for the moment helpless. Their removal from the Coast will in many instances make them dependent, since few of them are of the age or the type to satisfy the requirements of other vocations. Because of the difficulties of reaching them through normal publicity channels, and inasmuch as many of them do not read their own press or belong to any one central society, we employed Mr. Ottorino Ronchi, formerly professor of Italian at the University of California, and for many years editor of the coastwide paper, La Voce del Popolo, as special representative. He is out circulating freely among the Italians, particularly in the Vallejo-Pittsburg--Santa Cruz-Monterey areas, helping these people to understand the regulations, to utilize our offices, and to make their own plans with our help if necessary.

Included among the German aliens are a very large number of refugees, both Christians and Jews, who have fled from the Nazi regime, but who have not been here long enough to acquire their second papers. Again, their plight has not been recognized by the general public, who would be inclined to be completely sympathetic with them.

We have held several radio talks and issued many statements to the press, but without much successful penetration through the walls erected by public opinion, based upon natural fear of Japanese sabotage and inflamed by those who are envious of or inherently prejudiced against this race, irrespective of the war. That there may be cause for such fears no one can doubt, but it is essential to the public safety that the people in general, and the local public officials in particular, learn to leave this problem in the hands of the Federal



Mr. Paul V. McNutt - 2/18/42  
Mr. Alvin Roseman

authorities and not to attempt the solution themselves. There is real danger of localized vigilantism and of local prejudice against the reception of even a few additional innocent families unless such trust in Federal authority is greatly increased.

For this reason the hearings to be conducted in the State commencing Saturday are of the greatest importance, and the results of their meetings will hopefully bring about the desired confidence.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ANY EXTENSION OF THIS REMOVAL PROGRAM

1. Should it become the decision of the Attorney General that through martial law or otherwise, areas affecting larger numbers of alien enemies and citizens of enemy nationalities are to be declared prohibited, it is my recommendation that it be handled on a mass basis, and hopefully not by the Federal Security Agency alone. We can render real service only to the extent that we can perform our service on an individual basis. Any large scale movement, particularly in so short a time between the announcement and the effective dates, would require, in my judgment, the establishment of camps, from which possibly families might be relocated. For those for whom no new employment could be found, it may even be necessary to keep them in such camps until some large scale communal agricultural or industrial plan might be evolved for them as a group.

2. The forms developed by the Department of Justice for the registration of aliens should include such simple information as would be needed for their later investigation by the social workers who would administer relief and by the employment offices who would place them in new jobs. A copy of such form should be given at the time of registration to the alien, with the instruction that he take it to the nearest center to be established in the employment office or elsewhere. This simple procedure would eliminate the necessity for duplication of the basic information needed at the time of the initial visit to our service center.

3. More time should be given in the preparation of the borders of the prohibited areas, whatever they may be, and in distribution of these announcements officially through the field representatives of whatever Federal agencies are involved in the problem. Without reflecting on the press, it is not the medium for giving out official, authoritative information that so vitally affects the lives of so many people.



Mr. Paul V. McNutt - 2/18/42  
Mr. Alvin Roseman

4. The original plan of the Department of Justice for individual notification to the aliens living in the prohibited areas should be carried out. By an enclosure information should also be furnished all affected individuals and families as to where to go for help, and what types of help are available there for them. From this point of disadvantage it would seem wise to consider the use of the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization rather than the U.S. Attorney's office, as they seem better equipped to serve as an operating agency, and as they are more obviously related to the problems involved in the attainment of citizenship.

5. More time should be taken in the formulation of the public policy, and the getting agreement thereto, by the Governors, the Attorneys General of the States involved, so that there may be uniformity of presentation to the public, and greater unity of policy.

6. The declaration of areas should take into full consideration the possibilities of the affected portions of population finding other residences as well as other work. Wherever time permits and no other resources are available, public housing on as decent a scale as possible, though obviously not of a permanent character, should be provided.

7. A carefully thought through program of information must be devised, both for the communities adjacent to or included in the prohibited areas, and for those communities which will naturally serve as the reception areas for those who are affected.

8. An alien property custodian should be appointed immediately, and if possible, even prior to the appointment of such a national official and the creation by him of his field organization, some legal way should be devised to appoint private citizens of known probity, or banks of the Federal Reserve System, to act as official custodians for the many small businessmen who must dispose of their property because it lies within the prohibited area.

9. Some way should be found legally to narrow the classification of enemy aliens so as to eliminate if possible these groups:

a. Those who are known by the State Department to have come to this country because of their citizenship rights having been canceled by our enemy countries, but who have not been here long enough to acquire their second papers.



Mr. Paul V. McNutt - 2/18/42  
Mr. Alvin Roseman

b. Those who have been here long enough (more than 10 years, or even 20 years) to establish their innocence of intent to harm this country, and who are too old and too helpless to be subject to suspicion.

c. Those who are elderly or mature individuals, such as a wife or mother in a family where all other members of the family are citizens, and where there is clear record to show that her failure to attain citizenship is caused by other reasons than disloyalty to this country or loyalty to other countries with which we are at war.

d. Those alien enemies whose sons are serving in the armed forces of this country.

Appended hereto is a copy of a report submitted to me by Mrs. Aaron, Regional Representative of the Bureau of Public Assistance. In order to provide the fullest information possible in the quickest possible time, it has seemed wise to risk duplication, and to dictate my statement without reference to this memorandum which she has just completed.

It is most distressing to report that the beginning of evidence of an unreasoning race prejudice against Japanese is developing very recently in the State of Washington, and even in the mountain States where resolutions are being passed in protest against the idea of any migration thereto from the Coast. Unless we develop far better procedures and greater public confidence in the power of the Federal Government than now exists, I have real reason to fear that the spirit of vigilantism might spread in a way completely foreign to real Americanism. This is a carefully worded attempt at understatement.

I should like to close this hastily prepared, unedited first report with a note of very genuine appreciation of the fine service and extra service given in this task by the regular professional staff, but also the clerical staff, of the entire regional office, of the workers of the USES, of the staff of social assistants, and of the volunteers serving in the 28 local offices, and also in the communities around them.

Richard M. Neustadt