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M I N U T E S
SPECIAL NATIONAL ~~BOARD~~ ^{COUNCIL} MEETING
JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

FIRST SESSION

SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 1942

Meeting was called to order by National President Saburo Kido at 2:10 P.M.

National Vice-President Ken Matsumoto led in a pledge of allegiance.

Roll call was taken by National Executive Secretary James Sugioka with all chapters present with the exception of:

Santa Barbara Chapter
Ventura County Chapter

NEW CHAPTERS:

Report from National Secretary recommending that the following 16 chapters be admitted into the National Council and one other chapter be re-instated:

Berkeley	Fort Lupton
Delano	Mountain View
Big Horn Mountains	Pasadena
Lompoc	San Jose
North Platte	Stanislaus-Merced
San Fernando	Ventura County
Santa Barbara	Gilroy
Venice	Arizona (Arizona re-instated)
West Los Angeles	

Motion made by Mr. Mike Masaoka that the above chapters be approved and recognized; seconded by Mr. Henry Fukuhara, Bay District, and passed unanimously.

GREETINGS:

Words of welcome and greeting were given by San Francisco Chapter President, Dave Tatsuno.

INTRODUCTION OF NATIONAL OFFICERS:

National officers were introduced by National President Saburo Kido as follows:

National Vice President Ken Matsumoto
National Executive Secretary James Sugioka
National Secretary and Field Executive Mike Masaoka
National Treasurer Hito Okada
Past National President James Sakamoto
Inter-mountain District Council Chairman Shigeki Ushio
Past National President Dr. T. T. Yatabe
Northern District Council Chairman Tom Shimasaki
Southern California District Council Chairman Fred Tayama
Past National President Walter Tsukamoto
Northwest District Council Lefty Sasaki

President Kido announced that the minutes of the last National Council, held in Portland, will be distributed to delegates for their perusal and action will be taken at the next session.

REPORT ON NATIONAL TREASURY:

Report on condition of the Treasury was given by Mr. Hito Okada as follows:

TREASURER'S REPORT JAN. 1, 1941 TO DEC. 31, 1941

INCOME:

National Chapter Dues	49 chapters	\$490.00	
National Membership Cards		575.05	
District Conventions	NCDC	\$75.50	
	SCDC	91.50	
	NWDC	150.00	
	IDC	<u>110.00</u>	
1941 Budget Deficit Account		427.00	
Miscellaneous Incomes		173.18	
Pending Account		25.00	
		<u>3.95</u>	
Total Incomes		\$1,694.18	\$1,694.18

EXPENDITURE:

<u>Office of the President</u>			
Secretarial Expenses	\$345.00		
Office Supplies	39.12		
Tel. and Tel.	4.67		
Postage	83.57		
Rent	80.00		
Miscellaneous	13.50		
Legislative Committee	10.00		
Publicity	82.00		
Traveling Expenses	<u>45.40</u>		
	\$703.26		
Unitemized Expenditures	<u>423.29</u>		
		\$1,126.55	
<u>Office of the Vice-President</u>			
Miscellaneous Travel. Exp.	18.83		
Arizona Trip	24.48		
Arizona Cabinet Dinner	<u>25.00</u>		
		68.31	
<u>Office of the Executive Secretary</u>			
Travelling Expenses	31.53		
Telegrams	3.61		
Postage	<u>.60</u>		
		35.74	
<u>Office of the Treasurer</u>			
Surety Bond	12.50		
Postage	52.31		
Express Charges	3.01		
Office Supplies	12.60		
Miscellaneous	6.50		
Office & Secretary	120.00		
Stationery	20.76		
Telegrams & Telephone	<u>2.21</u>		
		229.89	

Miscellaneous Expenditures	
Membership Cards Printing	\$43.26
Receipt Books	72.90
Charter Expenses	14.91
Endowment Fund Surety & Publicity	22.50
Pacific Citizen Membership list	36.00
	<u>\$189.57</u>

National Board Expenses	
August 1941 Meeting	288.59

Total Expenditures	\$1,938.65
Total Income	1,694.18
Net Loss for period	<u>\$244.47</u>

Balance as of Dec. 31st 1940	\$1,299.37
Unitemized Expenditure	14.80
	<u>\$1,314.17</u>
Deficit	<u>244.47</u>
BALANCE	<u>\$1,069.70</u>

Respectfully submitted,

HITO OKADA (SIGNED)
Hito Okada, Treas.
March 6th 1942

Membership Cards for 1941

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DISTRICT

Alameda	70	Sacramento	218
Fresno	107	Salinas	144
Contra Costa	58	San Benito	54
Delta	44	San Francisco	119
Eden Township	92	San Mateo	146
Florin	43	Sonoma	57
Kings County	none	Stockton	109
Lodi	3	Tulare	192
Monterey	50	United Citizens	236
Oakland	123	Washington Town	126
Parlier	44	Watsonville	142
Placer	189	Yo-Solano	28
Reedley	21	Y. S. B. C.	142

Membership Cards for 1941

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA DISTRICT

Arizona	None	Orange County	47
Bay District	68	San Diego	152
Brawley	54	San Gabriel	74
El Centro	41	San Luis Obispo	65
Gardena	229	San Pedro	31
Long Beach	104	Santa Maria	159
Los Angeles	664		

NORTHWEST DISTRICT

Mid-Columbia	33	Tacoma	70
Portland	247	Valley Civic	238
Puyallup	178	Yakima	143
Seattle	343		

INTERMOUNTAIN DISTRICT

Idaho Falls	42	Pocatello	38
Ogden	58	Salt Lake	102
Yellowstone	30		

Total Cards	5,767	@10¢	\$576.70
			1.65
			Less 33 cards at 5¢
			<u>\$575.05</u>

Mr. Mike Masaoka moved that the report be accepted. Motion was seconded and passed.

REPORT ON PACIFIC CITIZEN:

Mr. Vernon Ichisaka, Managing Editor of the Pacific Citizen, stated that a complete report will be made later. President Saburo Kido announced that there was \$844.00 worth of unused paper which could be converted into cash.

Mr. Mike Masaoka moved that the report on the Pacific Citizen be accepted. Motion was seconded by Mr. George Nakamura and passed.

SECRETARY'S ASSESSMENT:

Report of Secretary's assessment and contributions, from various sources was made by President Kido. Mr. Mike Masaoka moved that the report be accepted. Motion was seconded and passed.

MOTION OF THANKS:

Hito Okada made a motion expressing the council's thanks to the San Francisco Chapter for the splendid cooperation in the emergency; seconded by Ken Matsumoto and unanimously accepted.

NATIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Ken Matsumoto reported as follows:

REPORT ON THE
ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT
1941-1942

"While no specific assignments were given to the Vice President, it was his privilege and pleasure to appear before many groups as a representative of the

National Board of the JACL, as well as to participate in numerous Chapter Installation affairs and meetings of the Southern District Council. In the main, his task was that of Good-Will and Public Relations.

"Specifically though, an intimate friendship was made with the Assistant Naval Intelligence Officer of the 11th Naval District. This contact which was realized in January, 1941 has proven to be one of our most valuable assets and it can be stated, without fear of contradiction, that through this gentleman, the good name of the JACL has reached out far and wide.

"As a National representative in that section of the country specifically Los Angeles where the largest Japanese population exists and where the need for unification of thought and action relative to our common problems, is so essential, it must be stated for the sake of the records, that an attitude of complacency and total indifference of the nisei, as exemplified in their acceptance of things spectacular and superfluous, have created conflicting interests and divided leadership. In such an atmosphere, Have many JACL influence was not too strongly felt.

"Although, the work of the National movement of the JACL itself has never been too well appreciated until this great crisis arose, it can be said with great pride that the splendid work of the National Headquarters under the able guidance of President Saburo Kido and National Secretary Mike Masaoka has proven beyond doubt the need for centralized activity.

"With all due respects to the members of the National Board and Council for their confidence in the re-election of the Vice President in 1940, it is with much reluctance that he admits his failure to have been an integral part of a strong and inspiring group of National Officers."

JANUARY

Inducted newly elected officers of about 6 Chapters.

Made acquaintance of Lt. Commander K. D. Ringle, Assistant Naval Intelligence Officer, 11th Naval District.

FEBRUARY

ARIZONA JACL

Received official authorization from National President, Saburo Kido, to mediate a dispute of long standing between two factions, both embracing the name of the JACL. After 5 days of mediation, a complete settlement was realized. The basis for these differences which existed were due to intense Religious and Political beliefs as well as the customary Japanese way of back-biting and petty bickering.

Upon returning to Los Angeles, we were notified that dissatisfaction broke loose in certain quarters, which renewed the feud and nullified all previous efforts.

As a result of the war, a unified JACL has now been established. Headed by a third party, Bill Kajikawa and representatives -- they are here today.

MARCH

Working in cooperation with Lt. Commander Ringle, as Chairman of Arrangements, a special invitational dinner was given by the Intelligence Department of the 11th Naval District for all JACL Chapters in the Southern District. Acting as hosts were:

Lt. Commander K. D. Ringle
Capt. Canaga, Head Naval Intelligence
Capt. Richard B. Coffman, Asst. Commandant
11th Naval District
Major Reardon, Fort McArthur
Sheriff Eugene Biscailuz, Sheriff of L.A. County

Guests other than members of Southern District (12 Chapters) were 3 prospective Chapters, Santa Barbara, Ventura and Pasadena. Also represented were Junior Produce Club and Retail Workers Union.

It was a most significant occasion and the attendance was 100%. It was the only meeting which can claim such a distinction.

Purpose of this dinner meeting was many fold. For one, this was an opportunity for the Nisei leadership to clarify his position and remove any doubts of his status. This was an opportunity to establish contact with the vital branches of the United States Army and Navy, as well as the local Law Enforcement Body. It was a chance to ascertain the attitudes and thoughts of the Nisei leadership during these strained days. Finally, it served to inspire the young Nisei to take a more positive stand regarding his loyalty and allegiance. Needless to say, the meeting was most significant and momentous.

Upon our request, Lt. Commander Ringle, opened up channels for similar meetings in San Francisco and Seattle, the 12th and 13th Naval Districts, but due to lack of follow ups, these meetings never materialized.

MAY

Spoke before mixed audience at the San Gabriel Valley JACL Americanization Rally at El Monte. Present were many American Legionnaires and Valley Officials.

JUNE

Appeared on Open Forum Radio program, sponsored by the Southwest UMCA. Station KMTR, Hollywood. Presented position of the Nisei in this great crisis.

AUGUST

Made business trip to Chicago. Enroute paid Good-Will visits with leaders of Intermountain District Council at Salt Lake.

At Camp Grant, Rockford, Illinois -- met many Nisei soldiers.

While in Chicago, mingled with leaders and members of the Chicago Young Peoples Organization and Mr. Sansho Yamagata, donor of the "Nisei of the Year" awards.

Also met Congressman Duncan of Missouri--Friend of Martin Dies. Discussed Japanese question briefly.

On return, visited and met many JACL leaders in Denver, Colorado and vicinity. This area has organized groups that are prospective National members.

DECEMBER

Participated in formation of the Anti-Axis Committee of the Southern District Council JACL.

Almost from the outset, the position of the VicePresident, as a member of the Committee, was a most precarious and unpopular one.

The strength of his arguments lay in the plea for Unity of Thought and Action for the Common Good. The almost immediate downfall of the Anti-Axis Committee may be pointed to the inability of the local leadership gathered for the purpose to appreciate the significance of far reaching objectives particularly in these times.

Another matter of grave urgency was the need for clarification of the Kibei status which was necessarily pushed aggressively due to indifferent attitude of the committee. Needless to say, the problem required complete cooperation in order to produce results.

Aside from similar unpleasant incidences, our entire efforts were devoted to intelligence work and some public relations.

1942

FEBRUARY

Was invited to appear before Culbert C. Olson, Governor of California with other chosen Nisei to "discuss" the Japanese situation.

Made a four day trip through Orange County, San Diego, Imperial Valley and Riverside in the company of Lt. Commander Ringle and Lt. Commander Whorle to study the Japanese problem relative to the forthcoming evacuation. Studies were made on the attitudes and reactions of both Japanese aliens and citizens as well as Officials of each respective area. It was keenly felt and expressed that the rising tide of resentment on the part of the White Americans, would soon get beyond control and that for the sake of protection of innocent lives, total evacuation was the only recommendation which could be given.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Mr. James Sugioka made a report as follows:

"During the past two years I have attended the National JACL Convention at Portland, Northern California District Convention in Monterey, Southern California District Council Meeting in San Luis Obispo, Northwest District Convention at Seattle, and most of the Northern California District Council Meetings and met with Governor Olsen of California.

"At these various gatherings, I have made reports and discussed various problems confronting the Americans of Japanese ancestry.

"As to future recommendations, I believe, as I have always believed since my first joining the organization years ago, that the likeness and not differences of racial groups should be stressed more; that the name, Japanese in the Japanese American Citizens League is a misnomer for an organization 100 per cent American as ours; and that changes be made so that other American racial groups that qualify be allowed to become members of the organization; and in conclusion that every effort be made to keep this organization functioning even better than it has in the past."

NATIONAL TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mr. Hito Okada reported as follows:

"The treasurers job is to collect money and see that it is spent in the best manner possible. National Headquarters felt that I should do addition work for a consideration, which I am receiving.

"The first convention that I attended was the Northwest District Convention in September on Labor Day. James Sugioka was also in attendance. Typical Northwest weather raining all the time. Discussion groups were very well attended and panel discussions held in the auditorium were very interesting.

"Invitations to the Southern and Northern California District Conventions were received. However, I had said that I would like to attend the Intermountain Convention, and had promised to be there.

"The Intermountain Convention was held approximately a week and a half before war was declared. Groups in Idaho and Utah and that district are very young but active. Their enthusiasm dispelled any fears that they were too young to hold a convention. They were go-getting young fellows doing something for that convention. Fred Tayama of the Southern District Council arrived by plane to attend the discussion. Governor Chase Clark was also present to give greetings to the delegates. Newspapers carried commercial ads with greetings to the delegates to that convention. Public address system cars participated in a Christmas parade and advocated attendance at this patriotic gathering.

"Newton Uyesugi, Mamaro Wakasugi, and myself appeared before the Tolson Congressional Committee meeting in Portland. Any statement which I made was made in all faith, honesty and truthfully.

"As you realize this much now, this National JACL work is a tremendous job, that its financial end requires large amount of work. My suggestion is as follows:

1. Nominal control by voucher system, with two copies, one to treasurer and one for Headquarters.
2. Chapter dues be increased.
3. New chapters be charged initiation fees to be divided with the District Council."

REPORT OF NORTHERN DISTRICT COUNCIL CHAIRMAN:

Mr. Tom Shimasaki reported:

"REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DISTRICT COUNCIL"
1940-1942

"HISTORICAL SURVEY: (project initiated March 16, 1940)

"Of special interest to every nisei and issei is the Historical Survey that the Northern California District Council of the JACL will conduct this year.

"Every community that has a Japanese settlement should be able to uncover some interesting facts concerning the early Japanese pioneers--pioneers who despite numerous handicaps adjusted themselves to become a part of this great country. To recall a few of the historical pasts will be a small tribute to those isseis, many of whom are living today.

"Your District Council realizes the value of such a survey and with the aid of every chapter in Northern California, hopes to compile a thorough report. Not only will this survey cover the past historical data, but also facts concerning the present status of the Japanese."-----General Chairman on Historical Survey, Frank Nakamura is requesting the following information:

1. Historical facts concerning the first Japanese settlers in the various Northern California communities.
 - a. When the Japanese first arrived in the community.
 - b. Occupations of the first settlers.
 - c. First Japanese organizations.
 - d. Approximate number of Japanese at that time.
 - e. Racial prejudices, if any. Cite examples of persecutions and discriminations.
2. Facts concerning the present status of the Japanese.
 - a. Approximate Japanese population-number of issei and nisei.
 - b. Occupations of the present residents.
 - c. Japanese organizations existing at the present time.
 - d. Racial prejudices if any. Cite examples.
 - e. Contributions made by the Japanese to the community welfare, social, economic, and otherwise, developing or introducing new industry.
 - f. The relationship between the American and Japanese residents; prospects and projects for creating better understanding, such as participation in civic celebrations, donations of charities, and so forth.
3. Please collect old photos of interest whenever available.

"NISEI VOCATIONAL SURVEY-----Chairman Hugh Kiino

Following information from all chapters to be compiled in book form:

1. What is the main industry in your community?
2. What different types of work are available for Nisei in the community?

3. About how many Niseis are employed in each different field of work?
4. What new fields have the Nisei developed for themselves in the community?
5. What are the fields developed by the Issei which have given employment to the Nisei?
6. Is there a labor union in the community?
7. Can the Nisei join the labor union?
8. Are there any Nisei employed by the American firms in your locality?
9. What are the future prospects in various fields?

Total number of Japanese farmers in the district _____

Total number of independent Nisei farmers _____

Total Japanese farm acreage _____

a) Owned _____ b) Leased _____ c) Miscellaneous _____

Five most important crops grown by the Japanese farmers:

1. _____ acres _____
2. _____ acres _____
3. _____ acres _____
4. _____ acres _____
5. _____ acres _____

Number of Japanese farmers in dairy or livestock industry _____

Number of Japanese farmers having poultry as a sideline _____

Names of Japanese farm organizations in the district. _____

Check those that are cooperatives

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____

"MEMBERSHIP CONTEST -----Chairman Johnson Kebo

Contest based on percentage increase over the 1939 membership awarded:

Reedley	1st with	75	members	(new)	\$15.00	prize
Alameda	2nd with	23	members	(new)	7.50	prize
Oakland	3rd with	36	members	(new)	2.50	prize

"PACIFIC CITIZEN

Pledge of full support by all Northern California chapters was assured Editor, Evelyn Kirimura and Business Manager, Vernon Ichisaka with emphasis to the Christmas Edition 1940.

"NATIONAL CONVENTION

The N.C.D.C. bid for the national convention was awarded the Oakland chapter who presented welcoming letters from the Mayor and the Chamber of Commerce.

The N.C.D.C. voted to assist the Oakland chapter to the extent of \$1000 to be raised through the proportional assessment plan.

"WELFARE FUND

Legislative Fund Committee Chairman, Dr. Harry Kita announced that \$1500 will be reserved to aid and advance the interests of the Nisei. With this thought the fund will be known in the future as the Welfare Fund. Of this fund \$500 will be appropriated for publicity work under the direction of Togo Tanaka.

"DEFENSE BONDS

Chapters voted to buy defense bonds of whatever sum the chapters feel appropriate with their sinking funds.

"DISTRICT CONVENTION

Hotel San Carlos, Monterey, California, July 31, August 1, 2, and 3, 1941.

"SELECTED ENTERTAINMENT

District Council voted to appropriate \$100 toward this project and also to create a committee to study plans for the raising of further funds.

"We Also Serve" pins, the plan of the Southern California District Council was adopted as the means of raising further funds.

"ENDOWMENT FUND

District Council Committee to coordinate our efforts with that of National Chairman, Thomas Yego has been formed.

"REGIONAL PLAN OF COORDINATION.

- a. To relieve some of the work of the National Headquarters
- b. To expedite matters in Northern California.
- c. To help one another.

ACoordinating Committee in Northern California formed into four groups:
Central, Coastal, Bay Region, and Sacramento Valley.

"DISTRICT COUNCIL FULL-TIME SECRETARY

The office will be financed from the proceeds of the sales of "We Also Serve" pins and the National Convention Assessment.

Expositions of Regional Coordinating Committees attached.

"FUTURE POLICIES (recommendations)

- a. National office should be moved to a more convenient locations and continue operation."

REPORT OF SURVEY COMMITTEE:

Chairman Fred Tayama reported as follows:

The survey is important because though simple it should contain all necessary facts such as:

1. Name and address
2. How many in family -- adult and children
3. Age and sex
4. Occupation
5. If farmer, what type and acreage control
6. Present financial resources

Members of the Committee appointed are as follows:

1. Dr. Kikuo Taira
2. Dr. Jun Kurumada
3. Mr. Shigemi Aratani
4. Mr. Kiyoshi Okura
5. Mr. Mamaro Wakasugi
6. Mr. Henry Tani

REPORT OF NORTHWEST DISTRICT:

Mr. James Sakamoto made this report as follows:

"Mr. President, I just want to say this as a matter of record. We had to give you a report of the JACL out in the Northwest District Council. I would like to give it to you in detail, but also as a matter of record will say that whatever was passed at the National Convention at Portland, Oregon, in 1940 has been followed through except for financial obligations. We speak now more about the war and we must realize that we are at war. It's dawning upon us with evacuation coming on. Since December 7th, the Northwest chapters have taken the leadership -- Portland, Tacoma, Seattle, Yakima Valley, Wapato, Hood River, and White River Valley. Seattle organized an Emergency Defense League Council of the Japanese American Citizens League of Seattle and Pierce County Emergency Council combining the efforts of Yakima Valley chapters. Portland is also doing very fine work. We are raising funds to take care of those people who need relief and to carry out the administrative work. The JACL rented an office. When the TFR-300 forms came from the Federal Reserve branches they were handled through the JACL office. Morning till late at night workers assisted the people to answer questions that had to be answered.

"Yakima Valley now is not a prohibited area entirely and not concerned with evacuation problems, but the banks are not loaning money. People need money to farm, but cannot get credit of \$30,000 or \$40,000 which they used to borrow. Almost three-quarter millions of dollars is what the Japanese farmers used to bring to Yakima Valley. Half of the farmers of Yakima Valley cannot farm and half that can farm are worrying about the half who cannot. They are helping each other out in spirit. The White River Valley chapter is cooperating with the Seattle chapter. Tacoma and Puyallup through the Emergency Council are cooperating. Portland is also cooperating with the Seattle chapter. We have found that working through Seattle

chapter has been much easier. Relief problems are coming up. Number of families who need assistance as far as caring is concerned the Emergency Council is caring for at least fifteen families, sending them a weekly portion of provisions and have continued that ever since the first week in January. Money is beginning to come in to assist the relief effort, but due to evacuation it is not going to come in. Respective communities with evacuating orders coming, money is not going to roll into the chapter so easily. Because we must exist, we need money.

"Now, I have certain questions brought up to me through the Federal officers. I also appeared at the Tolan Committee. Concerning Hito Okada at the Tolan Committee hearing, at Portland he has not said nothing that would reflect upon anyone. He was justified. We ourselves here could never go on record and say we know that the Japanese are 100% loyal. One person may turn over the apple-cart. Whatever we may say, therefore, is not going to be taken at face value. I am going to say that they are unjustified. We could not say that we know we are loyal. We hope and pray that they are loyal. Tolan Committee asked in fact, told me JACL is not quite representative of all groups. My answer was: "There is no other National Organization existing on the Pacific Coast as that is as representative of the Japanese as the JACL. I have a plan if you really mean to protect the alien Japanese as well as the American public. Place them under the protective custody. We as JACL will make them come to the JACL chapter to report. Those people not registering will be turned over to the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the local police. Furthermore, when they asked if in case there was an air raids. Police department and the F.B.I. will take care of us. If we should return, it will be so difficult to reestablish ourselves and the prejudice will be so up against reestablishment that we might as well as not try. The war may last five or six years. We should, through the JACL, find certain designated areas where these communities can be moved into as a whole which would be more cordial. If we were permitted to stay here it would be easy to show our loyalty, but we must show it the hard way, the difficult way of demonstrating that loyalty to our country but let's take it.

"American born Japanese are getting quite bitter. That is the question. Let us direct that bitterness against Japan, not against the United States Army or America. Another thing, I think they are taking a better timely step of every area, that is to say, Italians and Germans to move out first they would have more places to go. Feeling worse if they go first. Military necessity--evacuation. Viewing it from that point let's go cheerfully. I also wish to sit it would have been easy for us to demonstrate loyalty if we were permitted to remain, but we must take it the hard way.

RECESS

REPORT ON INTER-MOUNTAIN COUNCIL

Mr. Shigeki Ushio, Vice-Chairman, briefly reported that the Inter-mountain District, although a young group, is functioning very well with a 100% membership. Everything is left to the JACL and we are returning good service.

APPOINTMENT OF NATIONAL COMMITTEES

President Saburo Kido announced the appointment of these committees.

WAYS AND MEANS

Chairman, George Inagaki
Saburo Kido
James Sakamoto
Shigeki Ushio
Dr. Yoshio Nakaji
Vernon Ichisaka
Yukio Inouye
Kay Hirao
Dr. Harry Kita
Tom Shimasaki
Newton Uesugi
Hito Okada

BUDGET

Chairman, Susumu Togasaki

RESOLUTIONS

Chairman, Dr. T.T. Yatabe
Ted Nakamura
Fred Hiratsuna
James Sakamoto
Kiyoshi Higaki
Dr. Goro Muramoto

SURVEY

Chairman, Fred Tayama
Kiyoshi Okura
Henry Tani
Dr. Jun Kurumada
Mamoru Wakasugi

AGRICULTURE

Chairman, Nobumitsu Takahashi
Representatives from each rural chapter

RECESS

Meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m. by President Saburo Kido.

Roll call revealed Santa Barbara and Ventura absent. Since the minutes of the special National Board Meeting were not ready as yet they are to be distributed Monday morning.

REPORT ON CONDITIONS IN DISTANT STATES

Miss Uosaka of Arizona reported that the Governor did not want evacuees to come in as, at the present time, they have evacuees in their community. They do not seem to be wanted there at all as there is a possibility that Japanese in Arizona may be evacuated.

Mr. Yukio Inouye of Idaho stated that there are about 400 families, 200 being Japanese including Issais and Niseis, in Idaho Falls. As to the evacuation problem--beet growers, grangers, officials of business organizations came to the same conclusion, that if the evacuees are coming to Idaho, they want the government agencies to keep guard on them. Immigration has already started in Idaho Falls. The sheriff would like a voluntary count of how many are coming in, what they can do and what they are going to do. At the conclusion of the Monday meeting, detailed information will be available. Mr. Inouye expressed his heartfelt sympathy for the residents of the Coast.

Mr. Kasai added that Mr. Clark, the past Governor, who was an engineer himself, would look into possible farming lands or some undeveloped section where evacuees might settle. Central Idaho has about 10,000 acres with irrigation facilities. Upon their return, they will find out about all possible arrangements for settlement in that part of the state. If there could be some agreement between the federal and state governments about evacuees, other sections of the state might permit their entrance. In western Idaho, lands may be purchased by Japanese, but they are now owned by Americans who object to Japanese farming in this area as it is near strategic defense areas.

Questioned on the problem of an Alien Land Law, he stated that such a law did exist. The average price of land in this state ranges from \$100 to \$300 an acre. At present there are 20 to 30 acres available, which may eventually be restricted. In western Idaho all kinds of fruits and field crops may be raised, but potatoes are the main product of Idaho Falls. There is no severe discrimination as yet, but such may be expected if a large number of evacuees come in.

Dr. Jun Kurumada, delegate from Utah, briefly gave the picture in Utah. Land is cheap but it is not very resourceful. Southern Utah is all mining land. At the present time we are more or less deluged with several families from Venice and Gardena. The housing facilities in Salt Lake City are very poor. There are no apartments and no houses available. People are sleeping in cars or trailers as they come in. It is too late to start farming now because by the time the crops are ready to harvest snow will fall. It is a matter of knowing the country and knowing how to farm before settling. The Federal Government and State Welfare Commission are very much interested in the welfare of the Japanese families.

Dr. Kurumada further stated that it is not advisable to come to Utah unless you are prepared to live in tents. In case of an invasion of the Pacific coast by the enemy, the people of Utah are afraid that Salt Lake City would be one of the first strategic areas to be bombed. If the evacuees are to come to this city, they would accept them provided that the Government would give them sufficient housing, sanitation, recreation centers, etc. The Farm Labor Group met with the Welfare Committee at the Capital and decided that the state cannot use anyone outside of the state unless he is stamped and approved by the Federal Government.

Mr. Ushio, chairman of the Inter-mountain District, said that livelihood depends on mountain snow, and unless you have water rights you cannot raise any-

thing. Unless the Government or friends make some arrangements for you, there is no room at present. One third of the population has already increased with the migration of friends and relatives.

Mr. James Sakamoto, Seattle delegate, stated that the Yakima Valley is a place where we could go, but it is not fair to the Japanese who are already settled there. He also thought it unwise for people to go into the states of Utah and Idaho because it is also unfair to residents. His suggestion is that we obtain Government aid.

Mr. Mike Masaoka reported on conditions in Wyoming, Nebraska, Colorado and Montana. At the Tolson hearing, fifteen telegrams were sent to governors of western states of which nine answered. Eight were in the negative and one qualified. This state was Colorado. Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska and Montana will take Japanese, but the Government must guarantee adequate protection. He recommends one of the three following methods:

1. Be put into labor concentration camps to be farmed out to large sugar beet combines as cheap laborers.
2. Be brought in for road making.
3. Be branded and stamped and put under the supervision of the Federal government.

In Montana the farming season is growing short. In Colorado the best agricultural land is already occupied except for small patches here and there which are available. Wyoming is worse than Nevada since it is mainly long and extensive prairie land. Japanese are welcome in Nebraska as they wish to build two highways. The best homestead lands are unavailable. For those people who are interested in things other than farming, prospects are very negligible. Housing conditions everywhere are very poor.

Mr. T. Slocum, delegate from San Fernando Valley, gave several suggestions regarding the evacuation problem. He stated that it is a national, federal or individual proposition. He also added that a portion of various national parks might be used since there are some fine agricultural areas in various parts of our national parks. That is a Federal proposition. Yellowstone Park has some fine arable land for our stay.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m. until 9:00 a.m. Monday.

MINUTES OF THE
EMERGENCY AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE
SPECIAL NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING
JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE
Sunday, March 8, 1942

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 P.M. by Chairman Nobumitsu Takahashi.

THE JACL FARM REPORT

A statement prepared by the JACL on the California Japanese farm situation was read by the Chairman. Briefly, it explained the probable agricultural loss that this State will suffer from the evacuation of Japanese farmers.

The Oregonian district representative presented a news clipping from the PORTLAND OREGONIAN with figures pertaining to agriculture in that district and asked to have it supplemented to the report. A farm survey report which appeared in a recent issue of the SACRAMENTO UNION was also presented to be supplemented to the JACL farm report.

The Chairman stated that an excellent statement on the Japanese farm situation in California had already been submitted to the Tolson Committee by the United States Department of Agriculture.

Dr. Ernest Takahashi requested that mimeographed copies of the JACL farm report, including the supplementary information, be distributed to all JACL chapters.

A southern California flower grower commented that the importance of the Japanese flower industry should not be omitted in the farm report, stating that approximately 60 per cent of the flowers in the Los Angeles market were grown by Japanese. He further pointed out that the retailers in Los Angeles were fighting for the Japanese because if 60 per cent of the flowers were taken off the market, almost 50 per cent of the retailers would lose their jobs.

A northern California grower reported that in the San Francisco area the Japanese flower growers outnumbered the Italians, bringing in 50 per cent of the flowers to the local flower markets.

WARNING ON LAND SCHEMES

The Chairman warned the delegates of the presence of certain unscrupulous real estate agents and land sharks in this State who were offering Japanese farmers questionable tracts of lands at attractive prices. He strongly advised that prior to any purchase of new land, a careful survey be made of such area. The Soil Conservation Service should be consulted for any physical analysis of the land. He requested that all suspicious land schemes be reported immediately to the National JACL so that they can be brought to the attention of the proper government agencies.

Most of the farmers were interested in knowing whether or not they should continue farming despite the pending evacuation. Some were concerned as to what should be done with tomato plants. It was pointed out that the Federal authorities expected the Japanese farmers to continue their normal farm operations and that if they did do this, they would be compensated for the crops produced.

On the other hand, some delegates stated that they were unable to borrow money or to obtain credit to carry on their farm operations. The Oregon representative stated that the Spokane Bank refused credit unless there was more definite assurance that the Japanese would be staying there. Suggestion was made to contact the Federal Credit agencies on this matter of government farm loan.

A San Benito County representative stated that a letter had been received from Mr. Tom Clark advising Japanese farmers to go ahead and produce. A similar letter received by the Sacramento Chapter was read before the group and pointed out the importance of obtaining all farm products that the land would

produce. According to the letter, the farmers were asked to continue farming to show loyalty to the country. It further stated that the farmers would receive maximum return if land had been diligently cared for.

It was suggested that these letters be sent to the Credit Associations so that growers who cannot finance themselves will be able to get help. It was further suggested that such letters from Mr. Clark be sent to the National JACL so that every individual will be informed.

Because of the large number of delegates from farming districts and because of the wide diversity of agricultural interests, it was suggested that a smaller committee be set up to handle the agricultural problems. It was decided that such a committee include representatives from all the important agricultural areas along the Pacific Coast.

Mr. Tom Yogo suggested that another meeting of the group would be necessary due to the fact that Mr. Clark is to appear before them and his statements may necessitate a change in policy or further work to be carried out.

The Chairman urged each farming community to prepare a list of questions that could be asked of Mr. Clark, including any statement of problems confronting the Japanese farmers. Such statement will also be submitted to the United States Department of Agriculture.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

MINUTES

SPECIAL NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

SECOND SESSION

MONDAY, MARCH 9, 1942

The Second Session of the Special National Council Meeting was called to order by National President Saburo Kido at 9:15 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken by National Executive Secretary James Sugioka which revealed that the following chapters were not represented:

Yakima Valley	Contra Costa Cy.	Brawley
Mid-Columbia	Eden Township	Los Angeles
Pocatello	Kings County	Orange County
Portland	Lodi	Arizona
Yellowstone	Stockton	San Gabriel Valley
Seattle	Tulare	San Luis Obispo
Ogden	Washington Tnshp.	San Pedro
Salt Lake City	Watsonville	Lompoc
Fort Lupton	Placer County	San Fernando
	Y.S.B.C.	Santa Barbara
	Berkeley	Ventura
	Delano	
	San Mateo Cy.	
	Gilroy	

President Kido announced at this time that in order to expedite matters no one will be permitted to enter the meeting after the Council has been called to order.

MINUTES OF SPECIAL NATIONAL BOARD MEETING

Mr. Mike Masaoka asked that we refer back to the minutes of the National Board Meeting, which was held on Sunday morning, March 7, and delete No. 19 on Page 5 and the third sentence of No. 8 on Page 3 which was included by secretarial error.

DISCUSSION OF EVACUATION

President Kido asked comments and views from the various chapters. Prior to commencing with comments, President Kido stated that it seems that the registration center will be in Owens Valley. Nobody seems to know where the families are to be located. The chair requested a report on conditions, particularly about the climate in Owens Valley.

Dr. Ernest Takahashi reported briefly that Owens Valley is unsatisfactory because of the extreme heat in the summer and extreme cold in the winter. The soil is good in parts but bad in others. The valley is very narrow. Since Los Angeles County uses the water from the valley it is almost completely drained out. The Valley is far from the centers of civilization and the problem of supplying food quickly is difficult.

Comments on Parker Dam were called for by President Kido. Since no one volunteered to report Miss Ryuko Uyesaka of Arizona was called upon to comment on the Parker Dam area. Miss Uyesaka stated that she has no knowledge of this area; however, a report on Blythe area, which is close to Parker Dam region, was that the land is similar to that of Phoenix, Arizona. It is good for certain crops due to the alkali condition in some parts. The climate is similar to that of Phoenix.

President Kido gave a brief summary of newspaper reports. If Owens Valley is fully developed it may accommodate 50,000 people. Owens Valley and the Parker Dam area are the only two places which have been considered so far. Owens Valley is definite. At the entrance the evacuees will be registered and then sent to the different points. The newspapers of March 9, 1942 more or less confirmed the fact that they are ready to begin evacuating the people from Los Angeles. The Tolon

Congressional Committee is to recommend to General DeWitt that the Los Angeles area should be evacuated first.

A representative from the Guadalupe area reported that some of their American friends had looked into the Owens Valley area. They say truck gardening and other similar pursuits may be carried on there. The weather conditions there are good except for the extreme heat in July, August and September. The soil is like that of Imperial Valley. The area is generally good except that it is at present part of the restricted zone. With regard to the above restricted area, President Kido stated that, according to Tom Clark, alien coordinator and chairman, it seems that the evacuees may stay as long as they are one mile away from the defense area.

Mr. Ken Matsumoto's viewpoint on the evacuation area is that the Louisiana territory would be a fine place if there were very many farmers who would be interested in such a locality. The soil is fertile. He stated it is his conclusion that this is really the beginning of the end for the Japanese problem. From what he gathers from people of authoritative capacity, the land is a fine farming section if the people are interested and if concessions can be made for these Japanese.

PERMANENT OR TEMPORARY EVACUATION

Mr. Kawai of Pasadena requested clarification of whether we are seeking farmland or whether we are planning a permanent settlement for the Japanese. He also requested details on the entire plan, expressing the opinion that it was a temporary plan until war was over.

President Kido says that, as far as the Government is concerned, they expect it to be a temporary affair. He explained further, that according to Mr. Clark's statement the government will protect our property, so apparently it is just a temporary evacuation until the war is over. At this point President Kido attempted to determine the attitude of the council. Should we advise the people to go with the intention of staying permanently or temporarily?

Considerable discussion was had on this problem which included such points as: In Fresno 99% of the people's attitude is to return after the war is over. The Japanese assets are too valuable to leave behind permanently after such a long period of development. Pasadena American people want the Japanese to come back. The Japanese should not be deprived of their assets under this emergency government order. San Francisco presented the point that many of the Japanese importing and exporting companies have taken long years to build their businesses up to what they are now and it is in the interest of all the people that they continue again after the war.

On the other hand, only 5% of the farmers in the Guadalupe area own their own land so it would be a hardship for the 95% who do not own land to come back and try to resume where they left off.

President Kido in conclusion stated that if we give the first generation hope of returning to California, they will be able to withstand the hardships of evacuation and resettlement; and, as for the second generation, we can look to the future with more promise.

At this point, Mr. Mike Masaoka, National Secretary and Field Executive, recommended that the Council get the fundamental facts essential in the solving of such problems.

Joe Masaoka stated that we have a two-fold problem--the advance guard action and a rear guard action. We should demand a guarantee of our Civil and Property Rights before leaving. Since we are removing ourselves through Government orders, he thought the Government should be asked to give the people the expenses of transportation to and from the resettlement area and advance funds for the resettlement.

On the other hand, opinion was expressed that every person should face the facts. We should not argue about where we are to go or what we should receive, etc.

President Kido again stated that, as a general policy, we should take the stand that this exile of ours is to be temporary, particularly since the Government's policy is to regard it as a temporary affair. The Government has stated that all of our Civil Rights will be protected. Anything tangible will be protected by Government. It was believed that an announcement may be received that they may freeze Japanese assets in order to prevent last-minute dumping.

A motion was made to refer the matter as to our attitude with regard to evacuation by the Resolution Committee; it was seconded and unanimously carried by the assembly.

Mr. Kawai brought up the fact that we should try to answer many questions that are in the minds of the people present so that when we go back to our various district, we can specifically give them an answer of what was decided at this meeting.

Mr. Kawai moved that the Chair be empowered to appoint a committee to coordinate all questions to be directed to the guest speakers. Motion was seconded by Joe Masaoka and unanimously carried.

The Committee appointed by the Chair to work on this questionnaire was as follows:

Fred Tayama	Los Angeles
George Inagaki	Venice
David Tatsuno	San Francisco
Nobu Kawai	Pasadena
Memoru Wakasugi	Portland
Ken Utsunomiya	Santa Maria
Ted Nakamura	Tacoma
Tom Yego	Placer
Jack Noda	Stanislaus-Merced
Mr. Egusa	Puyallup
Mr. Uyesugi	Portland
Fred Hirasuna	Fresno
Miss Ryuko Uyesaka	Arizona

Mr. Kido stated that all members of the board will be ex-officio members on this committee.

A fifteen minute recess was called in order that the Council may write up the questions to be handed in to the committee at 11:00 A.M.

Meeting was called to order at 11:15 A.M. by President Kido.

President Kido asked the assembly at the request of the FBI that all Chapters immediately file written reports giving actual or rumored cases of mob violence, such as lynchings, tarring and feathering, burning of Japanese school-houses, churches, business, homes, etc. Be as specific as possible. If causes of fire are unknown, give circumstantial or known evidence or facts. Also please comment as to the possibilities of a mob violence or if you know of any agitators of such violence. If none of the above are to be reported, all Chapters were to report their general conditions. All reports are to be filed in the National Secretary's office by noon.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Announcement was made that a farewell picture will be taken at the front of the building.

The questionnaire committee was requested to meet together in Room #6 immediately.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

MINUTES
SPECIAL NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING
JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

THIRD SESSION

MONDAY, MARCH 9, 1942

Meeting was called to order at 2:00 P.M. by President Saburo Kido.

Pledge of allegiance was led by Mr. Ken Matsumoto.

Roll call of 66 chapters disclosed the following absent.

Kings County
Santa Barbara

Mr. Saburo Kido, National President, said that this was one of the best representations that we have ever had since the organization began to function in 1930.

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS

No members from the floor were permitted to ask questions directly to the speakers, but they were given the opportunity to hand in questions to the committee, who in turn, if of vital importance, presented same to speakers. Mr. Kido said that ever since the outbreak of the war we have been under pressure from one source or another, but was glad that the Federal Government understands our side of the case, and today has given us this opportunity of discussing the evacuation problems with them.

Mike Masaoka, National Secretary and Field Executive, read the following telegram from Rev. K. M. Kumata, field executive of the Buddhist Church of America: "May you have successful conference. 40,000 citizens, Buddhists, pledge full support to JACL." A similar telegram from the General Council of Japanese Christian Church Federations of North America, Northwest, Northern California, and Southern California, and Young Peoples Christian Conference, was also read. He further stated before introducing Col. McGill, Provost Marshall, Western Defense Command, General DeWitt's Staff, that the JACL is the only National organization of American citizens of Japanese ancestry, and expressed to the delegates of the pledge of sincerity and loyalty to this country in the United States.

Colonel W. F. McGill expressed that they have some problems which are mutual, particularly his responsibility of carrying out evacuation problems on certain designated areas from the Pacific Coast. If they can meet on common grounds, there will be less difficulty. He explained that there might be some distortions of General DeWitt's order by the people of outlying districts. However, General DeWitt insisted that the evacuation problem would be handled in the most humane way possible, and the property would also be protected in a similar way. There will be no evacuation order by the military authority until the machinery is set up to care for properties. He also added that we can expect the rights respected of all citizens in that regard, and Federal Government aid will be given if necessary. General DeWitt has issued several press releases to continue farming as well as maintenance in care of your property. They will not be asked to move until they are given opportunity to dispose of their agricultural equipment.

Mr. Thomas C. Clark, Alien Coordinator and Chairman, Civilian Committee on Evacuation, Western Defense Command was introduced but had nothing to say, except that he would attempt to answer any questions.

Mr. Herbert D. Armstrong representing the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco confirmed Colonel McGill's statements. He stated that the Federal Reserve Bank has been delegated the obligation of assisting all evacuees in handling their property problems. The situation is not just in San Francisco but also covers facilities in Seattle, Portland and Los Angeles. However, to what extent the program of accommodating the evacuees in those cities has been worked out is not known at the present time, but he stated he would do the best to help the council in that line.

Mr. Nobu T. Kawai, delegate from Pasadena, Calif., acting as interlocutor requested as many solutions as possible to questions asked to take back to the

respective communities. Questions posed by the council and replies given by the special guests listed above were as follows:

- Q. Would it be possible for the Federal Government to buy or lease some areas in certain outlying districts for the evacuees?
- A. We have 2 projects like that now in Owen's Valley, about 8000 acres tentatively near Colorado River. Near Blythe, 100,000 acres that we intend to make available for farming during the duration of the war.
- Q. Will the evacuees be given special return permits to look after their personal property?
- A. That is entirely up to the military.
- Q. After the evacuees are investigated, will they be allowed to come back and engage in or be employed in any business enterprise?
- A. That matter has to be worked out by the Federal Reserve Bank, but that will be a problem that they will be trying to work out to the interest of everyone.
- Q. What will be the maximum amount of personal and business equipment which the Federal Government will transport for us?
- A. I do not think I am in a position to answer that. It has not been worked out.
- Q. Will the Federal Government declare a moratorium on personal and real property?
- A. That is a matter for the Federal Reserve Bank to work out. I don't think they are in a position to answer that yet. There is a possibility of a moratorium. Just got here yesterday. It takes time to work this thing out, although we are working day and night. The Government is really interested in this matter. The Federal Reserve Bank will do everything within its power to protect you in your property rights. I think you are very fortunate in having the strong arm of the Government to give service to you free of charge to you in this emergency. I might say just one additional thing. The Federal Reserve Bank, acting as agent of the U. S. Treasury, will endeavor in every way to solve the various problems as they arise. Undoubtedly, the way to proceed and the best way to get results and to accomplish this move expeditiously and to the best interest of all concerned is some voluntary plan of cooperation in which the lines are drawn. I believe it can be satisfactorily worked out. As additional problems arise, we'll solve them too.
- Q. Will farmers be reimbursed for their crops?
- A. I do not know what will be done, but, certainly some steps will have to be taken to protect the crops. That is something that will have to be done as part of the general programming. The idea is to try to put a stop to this forced sale and sacrifice of property, but don't think for a minute the Government will step in and buy your crops, however, you keep your crops in good shape.
- Q. Another question on the same line. We have a lot of farmers depending on seeding and fertilization of crops. Several of these farmers are willing to put seeds in provided that they can get some kind of financial aid, and these people would like to know if the Government will help them through loans and through financial aid. If they do not put in the crop because of lack of finance, they will be looked upon as saboteurs.
- A. I know of no Government agency that has been set up especially for that purpose. Ordinarily certain types of credits are available from the Federal Land Bank. What their policy is as to this particular problem, I cannot tell you. Might go on a little further to say that the Dept. of Agriculture will be available for providing such assistance if it cannot handle the general problems involved. That would seem to be one of your problems.
- Q. Can businessmen be expected to carry on their respective business in camp?

- A. We are going to try and work it up. We are to try to establish a count on your nationals and if that is done, perhaps there may be some way by which they could be transferred. I don't know if the Government would pay for that. The Government is trying to make a complete community for you, your own doctor, own merchants. You would be running the community there under the protection of military authority.
- Q. Should farm equipment be sold at fair prices now?
- A. If they can get a fair price.
- Q. It has been said that many of these people may be transferred to agricultural lands and put to work on agricultural farms. Will the Government make some provisions?
- A. We haven't decided on that yet.
- Q. Is there any assurances that Japanese in camps will not be drafted for labor at draftee wages?
- A. The present intention is not to disrupt the labor wages.
- Q. Will Federal aid and protection be given to those voluntary evacuees?
- A. Of course, we will give you protection and aid as you need. The Government will see to it that evacuees will reach their destinations without harm. If a committee of two or three people can come in and talk with us to plan, of course, we will give you protection to get there safely. This will not be a bad experience.
- Q. Those who are required to remain behind and send their families ahead, such as JACL officers, will they be allowed to join their families?
- A. Yes, certainly. Whoever told you that we are going to separate the families. We do not intend to do that at all. This is a mutual undertaking. It may be necessary to take all of us out of this area. Frankly, I think, you have an opportunity to show the people in this country your loyalty and you can do it, and we are going to do everything in our power to help you do it, and I mean just that! In other words, no one is going to harm you. Whoever harms you will be prosecuted under the laws of the Government.
- Q. Are the funds of evacuees available to them in their restricted and resettlement area, or will they be frozen?
- A. I know of no plan at this time regarding the freezing of funds of evacuees as a class. Of course, there are Foreign Funds Control Regulations in operation now. That has been in effect for some time past and with which you are undoubtedly familiar. But to lay down the rule, I know of nothing along those lines. The resident aliens funds might be frozen for some time.
- Q. Will some form of legal guardianship be placed for minor orphans?
- A. I haven't attended any meeting where that has been discussed. I think it would be well if 3 or 4 people can make some constructive suggestions along that line. We haven't thought about it as being necessary. This is a two-way deal.
- Q. Can we select or suggest our own Caucasian conservator?
- A. I believe there will be general opportunity for you to select your own representative to handle property for you.
- Q. Will automobiles and other property on which there are still payments due be permitted to be taken out of State?
- A. I do not know what arrangements are now being made as to the amount of property that can be taken out of the area. We are more concerned with property remaining here.
- Q. Can we get better travel permit facilities?

- A. We have been trying to work that out. The Social Security Office will issue emergency permits. It may be that we can work out some more flexible and suitable means. If you have any suggestions, let us know.
- Q. Will federal aid be in the form of loans or outright relief?
- A. This new problem will be a matter for the Social Security Office to work out. In the past, only 140 people out of 8000 asked for assistance. I think that is quite a fine record for you. I think that shows your people are a type that want to carry on for themselves.
- Q. Are these people evacuating on Government order or by choice?
- A. Under orders of the military authorities.
- Q. If the people use their present assets for evacuation purposes, they will have no funds with which to reestablish themselves. Therefore, will the Government foot the expenses of evacuation?
- A. I think you are asking for too much, and that is not good for you.
- Q. Is there any possibility that a sudden change will occur and that we will be told to evacuate in a few days as in Terminal Island?
- A. I answered that question in many previous remarks. There will be no sudden evacuation.
- Q. In order to carry on their enterprises it is necessary for many people to reside near railroad lines. If they are not permitted to settle near the rail lines, how can they transport their products to the sheds?
- A. As far as sheds are concerned, if you are just talking about business matters and if it is not next door to landing fields or bombing planes, it is permissible.
- Q. This is a personal question. I wonder what was the sequence? Did the Japanese farmers settle near defense industries, or did the defense industries settle near these farmers? I believe that defense industries established themselves many years after these people had been settled?
- A. I do not know.
- Q. Will your office attempt to arrange professional license reciprocity so that practicing surgeons can go right to work in the resettlement areas?
- A. We certainly hope so. The Government will do everything it can so that doctors can practice.
- Q. Licenses of alien doctors in California have been revoked. Will this happen to professional men when we move out of the state?
- A. I think you ought to bring that up in your committee.
- Q. Will there be any public utilities in the resettlement areas?
- A. We are planning for them.
- Q. Is the approximate date of the first evacuation available?
- A. No. We hope to be able to effect a general evacuation in about a sixty day period.
- Q. Is there any plan for evacuation according to community, or profession, or is there any other plan worked out by your office?
- A. I thought you would get some committee to try to get some plans for the evacuation.

These were all the questions to be asked.

Mike Masaoka, National Secretary and Field Executive, asked if

there was any possibility of meeting tomorrow morning with the evacuation officials to discuss and try to settle problems relative to evacuation so that the delegates may be able to take answers home to their respective states.

RECESS, 3:15 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m.

Mr. Mike Masaoka requested all those who did not have the proper credentials to leave the room.

Colonel McGill and Mr. Clark will meet with a select committee to discuss specific plans at 10 a.m. Tuesday morning. The committee was requested to be as small as possible. Mr. Kido will organize the committee to work out those problems. He also asked all professional men and all farmers to get together and make their own complete reports and present them to the committee. Mr. James Nishimura of Berkeley requested that the business group be represented on the committee.

Mr. Mike Masaoka suggested that the group be divided into three parts--social, agricultural and resettlement problems.

Mr. Masao Satow of Los Angeles suggested that the committee members be appointed according to their individual ability.

Mr. Satow moved that we divide the Council into occupational and professional groups, and as the chairman see fit various problems of each group will be brought up and will be submitted to the committee meeting with the Federal officials. Those serving in this committee should be appointed by the chairman on the basis of ability to represent the groups.

Mr. Kelly Yamada of Oakland seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

Mr. Tokutaro Slocum suggested that a public relations and information committee be formed so that the American public may be better informed of our activities. He also stated that, in view of the fact that we are at war some of the questions asked were impertinent. He suggested that we delete some of the smaller requests and questions and bear in mind that speed and efficiency are paramount and comfort is secondary.

The following ~~six~~² were chosen to serve on the Committee to confer with the Federal officials:

Dr. T.T. Yatabe of Fresno
Mr. Fred Tayama of Los Angeles
Mr. Manoru Wakasugi of Portland
Mr. George Inagaki, Executive Secretary of S.C.D.C.
Mr. Susumu Togasaki of San Francisco and Alameda
Mr. Tom Yogo of Placer
Mr. Masao Satow, Los Angeles

Mr. Inagaki and Mr. Togasaki resigned because of pressure of other responsibilities. Mr. James Sakamoto and Mr. Mike Masaoka were chosen to take their places.

It was requested that groups that are primarily interested in resettlement, transportation and various other problems concerned meet with Mr. Satow and Mr. Sakamoto in Room 6 this evening.

The Agricultural group will meet in the auditorium with Mr. Yogo and Mr. Wakasugi in charge. Dr. Yatabe will meet with the professional men in Mr. Henry Tani's office and Mr. Fred Tayama will head the business men's group in the Board room.

The Ways and Means and Budget Committee, headed by Mr. George Inagaki, will meet in room 9 at 7 p.m.

Henry Tani announced that the Council pictures will be ready tomorrow. The price will be fifty cents.

The Resolution Committee, headed by Dr. Yatabe, will meet in Room 6 at 7 p.m.

Mr. Tom Yego asked all farmers to meet in the auditorium again tonight.

Mr. Mike Masaoka reminded the delegates that we must not think of ourselves alone. We must think of the greatest good for the greatest number. With that thought in mind, let us go to work.

MINUTES
AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE
SPECIAL NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING
JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

Monday, March 9, 1942

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom Yego at 4:00 P.M.

The chair called for ideas with regard to evacuation from the various sections represented. The ensuing discussion brought forth the following ideas:

1. Eventually we must all move and if we need government aid, our needs might be considered. It is best to go out now and find our own destination, inasmuch as, the military authorities are so indefinite.

2. San Diego opinion revealed that all farmers in that district were anxious to evacuate and desire information on facilities available for resettlement.

3. From the military stand point it was felt that San Diego would be one of the first districts to be evacuated and suggestion was made that a delegate from that district contact the proper authorities to work out the problem of evacuation. This might set a good precedent for other districts. On the other hand, opinion was expressed that the San Diego group should await the next proclamation.

4. Ideas were expressed pro and con with respect to conducting a survey to find out which farming groups can and cannot afford voluntary evacuation. However, the chair pointed out that Mr. Tayama's Survey Committee will compile such information as authorized by the National Council, therefore, a special agricultural survey is unnecessary.

5. Fresno suggested that zone 1A and zone 1B should be considered separately inasmuch as evacuation from the latter area is not so imminent.

6. Mr. Nobumitsu Takahashi submitted to the Soil Conservation Service, a list of 14 additional areas for resettlement of Japanese farmers in other Western States. Such areas are as follows: (public domains)

Lovelock area, Nevada
Cedar City-Iron Co., Utah-6000 ac
Pahrump Valley, Nevada - several thousand acres
Benton Area- Mono County, California
San Juan River Basin - San Juan County, New Mexico
Gallup - New Mexico
Tule Lake - Siskiyou County, California
Cedarville - Modoc County, California - 15,000 acres
Middle Rio Grande Irrigated Area - New Mexico
Scott Bluff - Nebraska

7. There are 140 thousand acres of farming land at Blythe, Arizona. A Santa Maria representative informed the committee that there is a small ice plant and all facilities are available if you can stand the heat. This acreage is in the restricted area and the weather is very similar to that of Imperial Valley. It was added that the winters are not cold and the summers are too hot, but melons are not a good produce for this region.

8. It was pointed out that in the event of evacuation farmers should be put in different groups because not all farmers can grow everything.

9. It was emphasized that before we can consider a plan we must know where we are going, what type of equipment, if any, we will be able to move, what type of crops can be cultivated and what the government is planning to do with regard to food supply.

10. Venice District representative stated that many people in that district wish to evacuate and will do so voluntarily if the government will provide protection. The Chair, however, reminded the group that we must be prepared in case we are ordered to evacuate on 48-hour notice.

11. A cooperative was also suggested.

12. The Puyallup representative stated that a number of the farmers in his district are continuing their work and hope to be able to harvest. However, with some assurance of being able to harvest crops, many others will go ahead.

13. A delegate from Turlock felt that many people have the wrong impression when they expect to be able to farm on a large scale upon resettlement.

14. It was stressed that we must continue planting sincerely not only from a business standpoint, but as a matter of patriotism.

Chair appointed the following representatives from each of the important agricultural districts to attend a later meeting:

Ken Utsunomiya . . .	. Santa Maria
Shig Imamura . . .	. Brawley
Moto Askawa . . .	. San Diego
Fred Hirasuna . . .	. Fresno
Vernon Ichisaka . . .	. Washington Township
Mamuro Wakasugi . . .	. Northwest
Ernest Takahashi . . .	. Fresno
Geo. Ikuta . . .	. Reedley
Geo. Yoshinobu . . .	. Los Angeles
Harry Ida . . .	. Asparagus interest
Ryuko Iyesaka . . .	. Arizona
Mas Sato . . .	. Los Angeles

Meeting was adjourned by Chairman Tom Yego at 6:45 P.M.

MINUTES

SPECIAL NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

FOURTH SESSION

TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 1942

The Fourth Session of the Special National Council Meeting was called to order by National Vice-President Ken Matsumoto at 9:45 a.m.

Mr. Inouye of Idaho Falls led the Pledge of Allegiance and Mr. Frank Ono of Long Beach led one verse of the National Anthem.

Roll Call was taken by James Sugioka, Executive Secretary, which showed the following Chapters to be absent:

Delta	Lompoc
Kings County	Santa Barbara
Yakima Valley	Ventura
Berkeley	

A report by our National Treasurer, Hito Okada, was made. He requested that all delinquent chapters pay their dues as soon as possible.

SPEAKER

Chairman Ken Matsumoto introduced Mr. Tokutaro Slocum, speaker for the morning. A few of the highlights of his message were:

"We're dealing with a problem that cannot be solved at a glance, and that we are facing this problem today because of the short-sightedness of the Japanese leaders in America up to the present time. They only thought in terms of Japanese and were not grateful to the land which gave them protection, education and freedom.

"In order that we do not repeat the mistake that our fathers made we must break our ties although home times are hard to break. It is in this time of crisis that we take advantage of the opportunity to test our own metal.

"How we meet this problem will determine the future destiny of Japanese Americans in America as Americans. We must not expect comfort or luxury in time of war.

"Cooperation with the Federal Government is essential."

Reports of the three committees were called for.

REPORT OF WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

Chairman George Inagaki gave his report. The Committee recommends the following:

1. The JACL should be continued as an organization.
Dr. Hiura of Sebastopol moved that the Council accept the recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nishimoto of San Benito and unanimously passed.
2. The temporary headquarters of the JACL should be established in Salt Lake City.
Mr. Dave Tatsuno of San Francisco made a motion of acceptance, which was seconded by Mr. Ken Utsunomiya of Santa Maria and accepted unanimously.
3. The JACL should carry on three-fold activity: Home front, Governmental front, Public Relations front.
Mr. Henry Fukuhara made a motion of acceptance, seconded by Mr. Ogura of Pasadena and passed unanimously.

4. The present board should be re-elected.
A motion of acceptance was made by Mr. Ken Utsunomiya of Santa Maria, seconded by Mr. Henry Fukuhara and passed unanimously.
5. The National Board should be given extraordinary powers for the duration of the war.
Motion of acceptance was made by Henry Fukuhara, seconded by Mr. Miyako of Santa Maria and passed unanimously.
6. The National Board should appoint a National Emergency Board to work out a program for the Headquarters.
Mr. Henry Tanda moved that the recommendation be accepted, Mr. Kaz Oka seconded and the Council passed it unanimously.
7. Mr. Mike Masaoka should be retained in his present capacity as National Secretary and Field Executive.
Motion of acceptance made by Mr. Henry Omoto of San Benito, seconded by Mr. Nakamura of San Luis Obispo and passed unanimously.
8. Mr. Saburo Kido should be appointed Chairman of the National Emergency Board.
Motion of acceptance made by Mr. Joe Masaoka, seconded by Mr. Henry Fukuhara and carried unanimously.

RECESS

A five minute recess was called.

After the recess the meeting was called to order at 11:45 a .m. with the National Treasurer Hito Okada in the chair.

James Sugioka took the roll and found the same seven chapters absent.

FINANCE REPORT

Mr. Susumu Togasaki was introduced as the Finance Chairman and he explained each item of the proposed budget and income as included in the report of Monday, March 9, 1942, of the Ways and Means and Budget Committee which had been distributed to the assembly earlier in the morning. A discussion followed.

Mr. Nobu T. Kawai of Pasadena moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

After last minute announcements about the Council picture and a request that the delegates return for the afternoon session at 1:45 p.m., the meeting was declared adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

MINUTES

JOINT MEETING OF THE JACL ADVISORY AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES, International Institute, August 15, 2:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Miss Annie Clo Watson
Dr. John C. Leffler
Ernest Besig (American Civil Liberties Union)
Mari Okazaki (International Institute)
Roy Takagi
Joe Masaoka
Dave Tatsuno

ABSENT: DUE TO REPORTED TRANSPORTATION DISRUPTIONS

Mrs. Ruth Kingman
Laurence Hewes
Galen Fisher
Mrs. Jane Davis
Darts McEntire
were unable to be present.

Allen Blaisdell, Mrs. Josephine Duveneck, and Joseph James were out of town.

Ed Banfield, due to a prior engagement, was unable to be present.

WRA RELOCATION METHODS CRITICIZED

Regional Representative Joe Grant Masaoka explained that he had called the meeting and had not cancelled it despite its being V-J Day because of the urgency of examining the WRA methods of forcing closure of relocation centers.

Masaoka reported that information had been transmitted to him regarding the coercive policy employed toward center residents. He related how residents who had not made relocation plans were notified by the Project Director to discuss their problems at an appointed time. The center resident is escorted by Internal Security and MP's at the appointed hour to the Project Director or Relocation Officer, who then inquires whether relocation plans had been made.

In the event of a negative answer, the resident is told that a train will be departing on a designated date to his point of origin. Should the evacuee inquire about housing or means of support, he is assured the WRA field offices will adequately take care of the matter. (WRA field offices can only hope but cannot provide living quarters in communities already facing acute housing shortage.)

If the evacuee ventures the opinion that he does not care to leave at the scheduled time, he is warned that no other government assistance will be forthcoming. Furthermore, on the date set for the center closure, all electricity and water will be turned off, food supplies will cease, and maintenance of the center shall end. The

evacuee has no other recourse than to comply with the center administration decision to force eviction.

Because Canal Camp of Gila River Relocation Center and Camps 2 and 3 of the Poston Relocation Center are scheduled to close as of October 1, their announced terminations are watched as test cases. Apparently, WRA hopes that the complete liquidation of these camps will demonstrate to other centers the futility of hoping for alternatives. The WRA is determined to employ total and even unnecessarily harsh means to effect this demonstration.

WRA field offices admit that housing is a difficult, if not impossible, situation and that they are not prepared to handle the mass return of evacuees to their districts, in spite of official assurances published within the centers.

Masaoka read an announcement posted in the Poston Relocation Center under date of August 7:

"The assistant advisors will not include on these special trains any families who are dependent, for whom satisfactory arrangements have not been made; neither will families who have an excludee or detainee member be included.

"In the event that a family does not respond to the project director's memo within three days it must be assumed that the family will return to their place of legal residence. The assistant advisor will proceed as follows:

- "a) Contact the appropriate property office to arrange for the delivery of ten boxes to the family.
- "b) Notify the Internal Security section who will escort the family head to the relocation office, where the assistant advisor will explain to him that if he does not apply for assistance the family will be considered eligible for only a transportation grant to their place of legal residence. Persons designated for departure on Sept. 5, shall be given until August 18 to choose their destination.

"Persons designated for departure on Sept. 12, shall be given until August 25 to choose their destination.

"Persons designated for departure on Sept. 19, shall be given until Sept. 1, to choose their destination.

"Persons designated for departure on Sept. 24 shall be given until Sept. 11 to choose their destination.

Mr. Carter
Relocation Officer"

After the reading Masaoka pointed out the actual methods employed to back up this announcement is arbitrarily compulsory although its language is not too indicative of the stern measures adopted by the

center administration. Conditions bordering on near hysteria have been described as obtaining within the centers.

According to Massoka, a Nisei soldier serving in the Philippine Islands has sought discharge and has come back to the states. He has aged and ailing parents who do not know where to go nor who can support them, and his insistent request for discharge was made to come home and provide for them. This Nisei sergeant says there are thousands of other Nisei soldiers in the Pacific who feel as he does but cannot obtain release. He indicated, too, their continued services in the army of occupation are required more than even before.

Massoka also related how he had been called into conference several weeks ago by Jules Sietz, Washington WRA official, who had been sent out to stimulate relocation efforts on the part of field offices. Sietz had assured the conference, composed of Fred Ross, WRA District Officer; Robert Gibson, Council for Civic Unity; Joseph James, American Council on Race Relations, and NAACP; and myself, that housing is being made available and that relocation was proceeding.

However, upon being questioned rather sharply about the availability of housing, Sietz admitted their WRA policy, current in the thinking of WRA administration officials, was that they hoped to create by the forced influx of returnees to each area such a situation of "imminent crisis" that municipal authorities and the Army and Navy will be compelled to make available some type of housing.

D i s c u s s i o n :

JACL Regional Representative related how many hardships and inhumanities are being faced by center residents when thus compelled to leave. He pointed out how National President Saburo Kido had sought support in January for deferred closure of some of the centers to be used as a Maintenance Camp for unemployable and unrelatable families and individuals. Consensus at that time was that centers should be abolished.

Massoka now reports that general criticism to the WRA policies in closing centers without providing for shelter and adequate assistance to returnees after their departure from the centers. A number of organizations are now active in seeking to mobilize nation-wide public sentiment in protest. They hope that with this national support, enough pressure can be brought upon the Secretary of Interior and the President to intercede for a more moderate and considerate center-liquidation policy.

Those present at this meeting pointed out how JACL, by adopting a policy of cooperation with WRA, felt that the utmost benefits could be secured for the greatest number of evacuees. Because of this cooperative attitude, the JACL has been highly condemned in many quarters and particularly among evacuees. The expressions made were unanimous that JACL, in the name of evacuee human beings and absentee

Nisei soldiers and to assert its place of leadership for those of Japanese descent, take strong public issue with the WRA that center closure alternatives should be adopted, until housing and other dependency assistance is definitely forthcoming to those requiring it.

The Regional Representative was authorized to phone by long distance this attitude of the "best friends of JACL" to its National President in Salt Lake City. The National Organization, with the concurrence of its National Committee, shall make public announcement of its attitude to strongly advise center residents to resist compulsory methods of being relocated until adequate assurances of housing and assistance are definitely promised. Masaoka was also instructed, by the body, to draw up a resolution expressive of the sentiment of those present, which can be later circulated for the endorsement and concurrence of other organizations, and then transmitted as deemed necessary for enabling action.

It was felt that in view of this urgent situation, JACL should take a strong, forthright position and advise the centers of its attitude. The WRA should be taken to task and its methods made a public issue.

JACL TO MAKE PRESENTATION AT COMMITTEE HEARINGS

To be conducted under the chairmanship of Representative Dickstein, New York, the Committee on Immigration and Naturalization will hold hearings in San Francisco on August 27, 28, 29, and 30. The agenda is slated to be, in addition to top immigration matters, "stateless people," alien enemies, deportation of aliens interned in detention centers, and the enforcement of deportation orders. The National Association of International Institutes, according to Annie Glo Watson, has adopted an immigration policy expressed at the committee hearings in New York. Their own local International Institute is preparing presentations on a number of hardship cases, as well as the formulation of an over-all immigration policy, which will generally seek modification of the present national and racial quotas.

Ernest Besig of ACLU observed their organization is concerned in the coercive methods employed by WRA in compelling evacuees to leave the centers but declared there is no law to prevent the use of such methods. He said the ACLU is also preparing legal cases to test the validity of citizenship renunciation by the unavoidable duress and atmosphere in Tulelake under which many Nisei expatriated. It was his opinion that children of 15 and 16 thus sign away their birthright without the capacity to clearly weigh the consequences of their action.

It was felt that the matter of dual citizenship would arise. All present agreed that an attorney such as Maurice Harrison, or perhaps Judge Denman, would be ideal to make such a presentation. Masaoka expressed the opinion that in any discussion of "stateless people," reportedly numbering some 5,000 expatriated Nisei in Tulelake, the publicity would be unfavorable and reflect upon all Americans of Japanese descent.

To counteract this unfavorable publicity, it was generally agreed that a petition be presented on behalf of "aliens ineligible to citizenship," such as Issei working on strategic projects and as language instructors for the United States Government. Also, a petition to enable naturalization for immediate relatives of those in the armed forces and the merchant marines be recommended.

The sentiment was expressed that a competent, expert attorney, such as Saburo Kido, should prepare the various legal presentations but should have other prominent and influential Caucasian friends make the actual pleadings.

Masaoka was instructed to contact Mr. Wickson of the local office, U. S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, to ascertain the agenda and secure permission for the JACL to make its presentations.

Masaoka was instructed to convey these ideas in his long-distance phone call to the National President.

ADJUSTMENT OF EXPENDITURES TO BUDGET

Masaoka explained that, upon recommendation of the Advisory Committee, the original Regional Representative salary, budgeted at \$175, was increased to \$200.

Because of the necessity to attend frequent meetings and make interviews, the Regional Representative pointed out that a smooth flow of work was not always moving to the secretary because of frequent appointments and interruptions. The possibility for securing dictating equipment was brought out. Since the rent, budgeted at \$60 per month has been obtained at \$35, it was the feeling that the \$25 saved could be devoted, if deemed necessary, by the Regional Representative, to the purchase of a recording machine.

The Regional Representative mentioned that as it becomes necessary to secure wide-spread support for the organization in both membership and finances, a thorough canvass of Japanese American returnees might become advantageous in the fall and winter. To do this effectively, he made the observation that an automobile would be helpful. In response to this suggestion, it was the feeling that should such vehicle be deemed helpful, part of the travel expense, budgeted at \$800, might be devoted to such purchase.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Grant Masaoka
REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

JGM:am

NOTE PARTICULARLY:

The resolution is herewith attached. The wording, perhaps, may be improved.

Attached also are copies of letters from authoritative sources on the housing situation. Phone inquiries today revealed that very little changes expected in the housing situation, even with the cessation of hostilities. On the NAM letter the last sentence of the second paragraph makes note of the phrase "eligible to occupy war housing that has been made available under the provisions of the Lanham Act." Unfortunately, while eligible, there is no war housing available. Furthermore, with the ceasing of hostilities, though there is an expectation that cut backs in war industries may release employees who might return to their former homes outside the West Coast, 65 percent of Caucasian war workers polled have indicated they will remain. Eighty-five percent of non-white war workers polled have indicated they will stay here.

The wives of servicemen now residing in San Francisco and other coast ports will probably return to their former homes under the impression that they can wait for their husbands at home since dischargees will not remain longer than a couple of days or so in these coast ports. This lessening of housing demand, however, will be balanced by the three quarter of a million soldiers who will be returning to this area and to their families who may then require housing.

It is a sad commentary that as housing might conceivably become easier to secure, jobs will become correspondingly harder to obtain.

COPY

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
525 Market Street, San Francisco 8, California

August 7, 1945

Dr. Matt N. Crawford
Acting Executive Secretary
Council for Civic Unity
101 Post Street
San Francisco 8, California

Dear Mr. Crawford:

We are pleased to respond to your request for "a statement of the housing situation now existing and in the immediate future," requested by your Japanese Resettlement Committee of the Council.

This Authority is currently managing 12,079 units of housing, either constructed or under construction. 9,565 of these units, which include dormitories, trailers and portable dwellings, were built exclusively for occupancy by in-migrant employees of the United States Naval Drydocks at Hunters Point. 150 units have been allocated to the respective Army and Navy housing offices. The balance of 2,364 units, which include 273 trailers, are occupied by war workers qualified in accordance with NHA directives through the War Housing Center to this Authority.

There are no vacancies in any project today.

Two small projects, not included above, are being constructed directly by the Federal Government for occupancy by naval personnel and will be managed by this Authority when completed.

The efforts of this Authority to secure additional war housing have not been successful and our current information from the NHA indicates that Agency is not presently contemplating allocating funds for or programming any additional war housing in San Francisco.

Six permanent projects, totaling 1,114 units, will be constructed by this Authority as soon after the war as conditions will permit. In addition the Authority has applied to the Federal Government for the construction of an additional 5,000 permanent low rent housing units in the postwar period. Completion of this program is dependent upon the passage of the Wagner-Ellender Housing Act which has been recently introduced into Congress.

Very truly yours,

/s/ JOHN W. BEARD
Executive Director

JWB-a

COPY

NATIONAL HOUSING AGENCY
Office of the Administrator

Region VI
Balboa Bldg., 593 Market St.
San Francisco 5, California

August 9, 1945

Mr. Matt W. Crawford
Acting Executive Secretary
Council for Civic Unity
101 Post Street
San Francisco 8, California

Dear Mr. Crawford:

This will acknowledge receipt of your communication of August 6, 1945, wherein you request information as to what steps are being taken to make available housing for persons of Japanese ancestry who are returning to this area from the Several War Relocation Centers.

Recently, several conferences have been held between the War Relocation Authority, Federal Public Housing Authority and the National Housing Agency with respect to this problem and some definite steps are being taken by the War Relocation Authority to secure housing for the returning Japanese. In this regard, however, we would suggest that you communicate with that organization for definite information. As you know, many of the returning families will be eligible to occupy war housing that has been made available under the provisions of the Lanham Act.

Furthermore, we are informed that there is still an outstanding quota of priorities in the San Francisco West Bay locality that are available to these Japanese families if they desire to build housing for themselves. We are hopeful that when this quota is exhausted we may be in a position to make available additional priorities for home construction for these families.

We have been keenly aware of the problems confronting the families of Japanese ancestry who are returning to this area and have been lending every assistance possible in devising ways and means of solving some of them.

You can be assured that we will continue our efforts in this regard.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ C. J. HORAN for

PRESTON L. WRIGHT
Regional Representative