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ANNOUNCEMENT

REGARDING ELECTION AND CLOSING THE MEETING

Two recent meetings of the Cooperative Congress, March 13th and 30th respectively, were held in an atmosphere of unusual tension. Especially at the March 30 meeting, Mr. Kanzaki, the Chairman, had, of necessity, to close the meeting saying "As there is no further possibility of expediting proceedings. I declare the meeting is closed."

As there seems to be some misunderstanding and worry about the situation among the residents, let us explain the affair as it developed for your better understanding and impartial judgement.

The February 20th Congressional meeting, held for the election of a New Board of Directors consisting of 15 members was the starting point of the matter.

- 1) In conformity with the Co-op's By-Laws a nomination committee of 7 members (2 from the Directors, 5 from the Congressmen) had been appointed (at the previous meeting of February 13) which in turn nominated 15 candidates for new directors.
- 2) In further conformity with the By-Laws 15 additional candidates were nominated from the floor at the February 20th Election meeting, making the total number of candidate 30.
- 3) Names of those 30 candidates were put up on the wall, then casting of ballots started.
- 4) Upon finishing the counting of the votes, the result was published and names of 15 persons who won sufficient votes to be elected, as well as the names and votes won by other candidates, were known. Right after this two men who were among those 15 names told the Chairman of their refusal to accept the office of Directorship.
- 5) Whereupon the Chair consulted the floor saying "Two gentlemen have declined to accept the Office of Directorship. How shall we elect two more? By casting ballot again, or by elevating the two next largest votes winners?" A voice from the floor, "who are those two next largest vote winners?"

The Chair said "Mr. Kawaguchi and Mr. Nagazawa, both of these gentlemen have 25 votes each, so they are short by $\frac{1}{2}$ a vote to be duly elected, therefore if agreed by 26 "ayes" they can be duly elected."

Many voices from the floor saying: "Elevate two next largest votes winners! 'Raise them!' 'Raise them!'"

- 6) Whereupon, the Chair consulted the floor and said, "Then, those who are in favor of elevating these two gentlemen to Directorship, please raise your hands." YES - - - 28

The Chair asked the floor again "Then, those who are against please raise your hands." OPPOSED - - - 3

- 7) Then the Chair announced and said: "Both Mr. Kawaguchi and Mr. Nagazawa have been duly elected as the directors by majority votes of 28 each. Now the list of 15 is complete, (announcing names of 15 newly elected directors). The control of our Cooperative Enterprises is now vested upon you. Let me congratulate you and wish you a successful administration for the coming one year."

The meeting was closed shortly (11:30 p.m.)

The above is a true statement of how the election was performed. Everything seemed o.k. for three weeks.

However, at the next Congressional meeting of March 13th (3 weeks later) an Urgency Motion, was suddenly presented by Mr. Shizuo Sasaki, claiming that the election of Mr. Kawaguchi and Mr. Nagazawa at the last meeting was in violation of our By-Laws, therefore of "no effect."

Mr. Sasaki, Mr. Nakabayashi, and some others stood one after another and stressed "Violation of election rules" with forceful flow of language.

This led up to a serious issue. As the matter did come all of a sudden, we directors on the floor were very much embarrassed. The matter being of legal nature and requiring careful investigation, it was hard for us to answer authoritatively on the spot; therefore, Mr. Kanzaki, the Chairman, said: "This matter involves rather complicated legal problems, so it ought to be carefully investigated first by the Legal Committee."

But the atmosphere of the floor was not favorable for receiving such a reasonable proposition, they have voted and "passed" Mr. Sasaki's proposal by 24 votes, or 50% of its Congressmen present.

Soon after the meeting the Legal Committee of the Board of Directors carefully investigated the matter and closely checked up the "By-Laws". The result of our investigation was same as that of the investigation made by the Assembly Meeting of Block #36. And we called the special Congressional Meeting on March 30th, in order to report the result of our investigation on the above question, as one of the meeting's agenda.

For your reference we are copying here the opinion of Block #36 Assembly meeting, which in its substance was same as ours.

March 19, 1945

Mr. K. Kanzaki
Acting Chairman; Board of Directors
Acting Chairman, Cooperative Congress
Topaz Consumer Cooperative Enterprises, Inc.

"The Block #36 Assembly meeting's opinion on the resolution of the Co-op's Congressional meeting of March 13, 1945, which states Mr. Matsuji Nagazawa is disqualified as a director of the Cooperative Enterprises.

"The Cooperative Congressmen from this Block reported to us that at the Congressional meeting of March 13th a resolution was passed to the effect that the method by which the Congress had elected Mr. Matsuji Nagazawa a director at its election meeting of Feb. 20, 1945, was in violation of Co-op's By-Laws, therefore of no effect. Our Assembly referred to the Co-op's By-Laws, (Feb. 1944 print as amended) and investigated this matter and have come to the following opinion:

According to the Co-op's By-Laws, the Section 2, Article V:

"Voting shall be by secret ballot and majority vote shall prevail, unless agreed otherwise."

Thus it clearly provides the possibility of using another method when agreed upon. Mr. Nagazawa was elected a director by the Congress, by a majority vote of 28, by raising hands, (instead of casting secret ballot) by an agreement and consent of the floor. Therefore, we believe there could be no violation of the By-Laws.

Furthermore, at that meeting, 2 of the first 15 majority votes winners refused to accept the directorship on the right spot before taking the office. In such an occasion, those two men who declined to accept result of election were never directors, by declining it. It was perfectly in conformity with the general election procedure that two next largest votes winners were elected directors by a method duly agreed upon by majority, to complete the list of 15 directors, therefore there was no violation of the By-Laws.

Some Congressmen said that there was no words in the By-Laws which provide elevating the next largest votes winner.

But, on the other hand, there is no words in the By-Laws which prohibit elevating the next largest vote winner. Therefore there can be no room for such an argument.

Therefore, this Assembly conclude that there is no question as to the quality of Mr. Nagazawa, as a director.

The reason for this Block Assembly wish to present this opinion before the Congress for reconsideration is not because Mr. Takahashi is a Congressman from this Block and we wish to protect his position but because we wish to protect the spirit of our By-Laws upon the basis of which the operation of our Cooperative Enterprises rests, and to avoid misinterpretation of the By-Laws which may lead up to an obstacle for the smooth running of the Co-op's operation.

Akizane Sugawara, (signed)
Chairman, Block #36 Cooperative
Assembly

The above opinion from the Block #36 Assembly was read before the Congressional Meeting of March 30, 1945 and recorded as part of the minutes, to which nobody made objection from the floor.

Those who stressed "violation of election laws" at the March 13th and March 30th meetings were quoting the following provision of the By-Laws:

"ARTICLE V. Section 14-Term of Office

The Officers shall hold their office for a period of one year. Should there be a vacancy in an office of directors or any officer such vacancy shall be filled by a special election conducted in accordance with the procedure of the regular election."

But, the opinion of our Legal Committee as expressed in answer by Mr. Takahashi on the floor can be summed up as follows:

"The purpose of the provision of Article V. Section 14 is, as clearly indicated by its heading "Term of Office," for clarifying the duration of the office of directors and officers, and also how to elect a new director to fill the vacancy which might come into being in the course of designated term; therefore, that provision must not be applied in the case of the general election of the Board of Directors for the sole purpose of which the February 20th Congressional meeting was held; especially, in view of the fact that those two men declined to accept the office of directors right after the return of the votes was known. They never took the office of directors; therefore, no vacancy yet took place. Therefore, it was unquestionably a legal procedure that next two largest vote winners, Mr. Kawaguchi and Mr. Nagazawa were elected directors to complete the list of 15 directors in perfect accord with the By-Laws, by the consent and agreement of majority of the Congressmen present, with the vote of 28 "ayes" casted in their favor."

Some hot discussion followed and the atmosphere of the floor got worse. "Decide by vote" - voiced from the floor; some one seconded. But, Mr. Kanzaki, the Chairman, tried to appeal to reason by saying, - "This is the legal question so it should not be decided by vote," but someone forcefully voiced from the floor "a motion was made and seconded, take vote". The floor became noisy.

Mr. Takahashi said:--

"If this were a question of business policy it is perfectly all right to decide by vote, but a legal question cannot be decided by vote. I cannot understand why some are trying to settle this matter by vote tonight, how can it be possible that you and I, who are not lawyers, can give a judicial answer to a legal question like this; let us cool down and listen to the opinion of some able lawyer, or else if there is anyone among you who is really an able lawyer and can say with confidence that the election of two gentlemen was illegal from the standpoint of a lawyer, then let us listen to such a person."

Nobody could answer to this and for a while silence ruled the floor.

Then Mr. Nozaka said:

"Since this is a legal matter we can never come to any conclusion by repeating discussions among ourselves who are not lawyers."

And suppose we took vote tonight and decided that election of men were "illegal", then afterward it became clear that it was "legal" then tonight's vote will become void; therefore, as the most practical way of settling it let us have the opinion of Mr. Buchanan, our project attorney, and let us agree that his opinion shall be the final answer to this problem."

This motion was seconded but some one said, "That is no use, take vote at once. Chairman! why do you hesitate?"

Mr. Kanzaki, the Chairman, was put in an embarrassing position. Someone even went so far as to say: "Change the Chairman." Here Mr. Kanzaki made up his mind and closed the meeting, saying:

"As there is no further possibility of exediting proceedings, I declare the meeting is closed."

At this special meeting of the Co-op's Congress the matter of Mr. Kawaguchi and Mr. Nagazawa's election and Mr. Yamate's case were simply to be reported as the result of investigation by the Legal Committee of the Board of Directors, and not intended for discussion; this was quite clear by the Agenda, printed on the notice to the Congressmen:

NOTICE OF 40TH COOPERATIVE CONGRESSIONAL
MEETING

March 26, 1945

TO: _____ BLOCK _____

There will be held a a Special Congressional Meeting to which your presence is kindly requested.

Friday Evening, March 30th 7:00 P.M.
Dining Hall 26

Agenda:

1. Stopping of issuance of rebate checks after March 31, 1945
 - A. Block reports
2. Report by Chairman and Legal Committee on:
 - A. Election of two directors, Messrs. Kawaguchi and Nagasawa is LEGAL.
 - B. Vote against Mr. Yamate, Executive Secretary at 39th Congress is ILLEGAL, thereful NUL and VOID.
 - C. Mr. Yamate will answer against false and groundless accusations made against him, in his absence.

TOPAZ CONSUMER COOPERATIVE ENTERPRISES
INC.

It was the intention of the Board of Directors to report the result of investigation first and after giving a sufficient time to consider then discuss any question that might arise.

It was indeed a regretful thing that before the report finished such a serious situation developed.

It was our intention to settle this matter reasonably and peacefully. The Chairman was compelled to close the meeting on account of the unusual atmosphere of the floor; not by any means in the sense of coercion as criticized by some, we really regret for what happened.

This member owned Co-op is a sole business medium in this Center. Its smooth and peaceful running must not be disturbed by misunderstanding or by politics.

We really wish to tell all of our members that we are trying to the best of our ability to run this Co-op on the noble principle of true democracy. It is of the people, by the people, and FOR THE PEOPLE, we wish you not to be mislead by a false rumor. If you have any question, if you have anything that you wish to know about the Co-op, of its management, of its financial condition, of its daily

business, etc, or if you have any advise to give us, please do not hesitate to come to our Office. We are pleased to give you any kind of information or explanation or listen to your advise. Please rest assured that the financial condition of this is SOUND and SAFE. We have nothing to hide.

This is our direct appeal to you all of our members for your fair and impartial judgement of the current situation.

We sincerely ask you for your whole-hearted cooperation for the realization of "ONE FOR ALL. ALL FOR ONE."

The Board of Directors.
Topaz Consumer Cooperative
Enterprises, Inc.

*Mr Sanford's
copy*

REPORT OF FACTS ABOUT " VOTE OF NO CONFIDENCE "
BY 39TH COOPERATIVE CONGRESS HELD ON MARCH 13, 1945
ON SASATO YAMATE, RETIRED PRESIDENT, AND CHAIRMAN OF
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, TOPAZ CONSUMERS COOPERATIVE
ENTERPRISES, INC., AND PRESENT EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

March 23, 1945

TO: Hon. Rather Hoffman,
Project Director,
W.R.A.,
Topaz, Utah.

Sir:

I take liberty of making own report in my behalf on "the Resolution of Vote of NO-Confidence " passed by 39th Cooperative Congress held on March 13, 1945, at Dining Hall 26, with the vote of 34-14. Total attendance 48 Congressmen.

The accusation against me was as follow;

Block 9- The Block meeting of block 9, held on March 6, 1945 has unanimously passed resolution, in Chairman's own words in writing " We have no confidence in Mr. Yamate." Mr. Ishio Takahama 9-6-A was the Chairman of the Block Meeting. According to Mr. Takahama, the Chairman, under his signature, there was nothing said about or resolved against my character or personality. What was discussed and resulted in vote of no confidence was " SYRUP " which, according to our record show shortage of 429 gallons at warehouse. Out of this 408 gallons short at Delta Warehouse, and 21 gallons short at warehouse in Topaz, which resulted in loss of \$629.66 This was charged off from our inventory on September 31, 1944. ITEM of chief concern is shortage of 408 gallons amounting \$579.36 at Delta Warehouse (W.R.A. Warehouse, the way I understand.) I had explained this at 37th Cooverative Congress, but there is no more explanation to offer on my part other than what report received from Chief Accountant. This shortage was thoroughly discussed at Operation Board meeting and examined by the Auditor, and reported to the Board of Directors and passed by the Board as loss from leakage and breakage of the barrels, which resulted in loss of syrup. Merchandise Control Department had it on the stock card, but the physical inventory" did not have it" when called for. The original purchase of the syrup was made by the Board of Directors, in the spring of 1943, purchased from Sero Syrup Company on June 10, 1943 and consisted of 1732 gallons at \$1.42 for a total amount of \$2459.04 This was purchased through New York Buying of Center Business Enterprises, to which we did not belong as a member at that time. Upon arrival, the entire shipment was stored at W.R.A. Warehouse in Delta. Loss accoured there while some loss accured on the way to Delta, through leakage. That is the way I received report first, on arrival of the shipment. Mr. Uchida, now in Philadelphia, was then, Chairman of the Board, myself Vice Chairman of the Board. Person in charge of the merchandise were Mr. Sam Furuichi Chairman of Merchandise Committee, Messrs. Fukushima and Ono manager and assistant manager of Canteen No. 1. From my knowledge, syrup was handled by Mr. Furuichi, Mr. Fukushima and Mr. Ono. Toby Ogawa was then general manager.

Toby Ogawa has relocated by Sam Furuichi (at Agriculture Cost Accounting Dept, Now) Fukushima and Ono are still at Canteen No. 1 management. I have following written report from Mr. Hoshide, Chief Accountant;

" The original shipment came in old wooden barrels of various capacities and consisted of about 50 barrels. Upon arrival several of the barrels were in leaking condition and quite a number were found only partially filled. Our records do not reveal if any claim for shortage was filed at that time, and it is my guess that if any was, it was not allowed and consequently the shortage did not appear until all the syrup was moved from the warehouse.

" On account of the poor condition of the barrels, and also to the very dry climate of this area, the barrels continually leaked and some even broke. This fact also contributed to the shortage. "

All merchandises are supposed to be under direct control of Chairman of the Merchandising Committee through general manager and through Merchandise Control Department. Persons who handled syrup on arrival were Messrs. Sam Furuichi, Fukushima and Ono. President and Vice President don't know anything until reports come to them. Only, occasionally, we hear report from Chairman of Merchandise Committee at the Board of Directors meeting. However, I believe, the report in statement, from Chief Accountant is nearest possible report which available to me. Block 9 residents were not satisfied with report I made at Congress, I suppose. However, here is wrong they have committed:- that the block meeting is not the right place to approve or disapprove the officer of the cooperative, for the block meeting consists of people of member of coop. as well as non-members. To the Co-Op, only the members have right to cast vote - the block meeting is not the place for discussion of coop. in important matters concerning management etc. It should be membership meeting of the block. Just being a block resident don't mean that he has right of vote of confidence or no confidence, in that matter ONLY MEMBERS ALONE HAVE RIGHT. Even block meeting of membership resolved, it must go through Block Assembly where Co-Op block organization exists. It must be signed by Chairman of the Assembly or Secretary. But Block Assembly Chairman know nothing about it, not even such Vote of No Confidence was voted upon me. On the supposed resolution of the Block, it was not signed by Chairman of the Block Meeting. Not signed by Secretary. No date was written on it. No address. It was just a piece of paper with supposed to be resolutions. This piece of document was known to be written by Setuji Tanaka 9-S-F. He is a Congressman from Block 9. He has written the way he want and not the way the resolution was passed. Mr. Takahama, Chairman of Block Meeting has it in English exactly as follow;

" We have no confidence in Mr. Yamate "

Mr. Takahama explained, the reason NO Confidence is because of LOSS of syrup, and residents were not satisfied. Well, what residents of Block 9 got to do with the Co-Op ? If they are members of the Co-Op - "Yes. " If they are not members of the Co-Op " No. " If Block Assembly took action against me, "yes" they have right to say what they think, provided it is not destructive and provided it is "true. " But unfounded accusations against officers of the Co-Op should not be excused. I firmly believe, the falsified author of the resolution Setuji Tanaka should be brought under the laws, and be taken care of to the fullest extent of the laws.

The Second accusation laid against me was made by Shizuo Sasaki, Congressman from Block 23. He accused me of taking \$100.00 extra money which the Congress had not authorized as yet, at the time when I made trip to Gila Convention. Originally the Congress authorized me with \$150.00 to make trip to Gila. But later they authorized me to make trips to other centers also to investigate Co-Op operations and also to be sure to make trip to Rohwer Cooperative, Rohwer, Arkansas, in order to find out Jerome Liquidation, for Rohwer is near to Jerome. To make such extensive trip \$150.00 is not enough. The General Manager wished me to look into buying Red Snappers and Shrimp at New Orleans, for in making trip to Rohwer from Gila, it would be only additional couple hours riding to make stop over at New Orleans, where I had formerly lived. It is known facts that my report on trip to South, aroused tremendous interests among residents of Topaz as well as some residents in other centers- Rohwer and Anasche. Some made trips to New Orleans and other parts of the South in quest of relocations. It is that "relocation interests aroused among residents that BURNED UP" Sasaki. I firmly believe Sasaki don't want residents relocate. Parties making trips to the South "burn UP" Sasaki- I think. The Board of Directors, at its 126th Board Meeting held on November 24 th, authorized me to take along additional \$100.00 with me for the trip for emergency fund, in addition to \$150.00 which Congress authorized previously. Mr. Sasaki accused me at the Congress floor, that I had put on pressure to have this checks made in mailing trip. (P to Mr. Sakai, Cashier)

In this regard, I have made lengthy report to the Congress on January 9, 1945 and especially stressed the importance of liquidation and what I have found out from Rohwer Cooperative Official, (Formerly Official of Jerome) in the person of Mr. Shintani, who was good enough to give me a detailed informations in figures, of what actually has taken place in Jerome liquidation. This trip alone was worth my trip. Experiences received at Gila and other center Cooperative are worth noting when studied from an executive's view point. Mr. Sasaki know very well, my trip covered may thousand miles. He certainly know how to agitate people to FID-POINT. Mr. Sasaki knew very well, of all trips I made, for the enterprises, and if he did not know WHY DID HE NOT COME TO ME AND ASK FOR INFORMATION, instead of knocking at wrong door for informations. He had time enough to call upon our head cashier at our office in this regard. WHY DID HE NOT SEE ME AT THE SAME TIME TO GET INFORMATIONS ? Definitely, he is looking for troubles for me and " he can have it. He asked for it. " I do not believe man of this type will do any good for the residents. His usefulness is not in him, -the way he acts. He is out to blacken my good name and record of achievements for past two years and half in this center, with Co-Op and other public life.

The third accusation was laid against me, according to the minutes of the Congress (not ready yet in English) by Sam Furuichi, who represents in Congress from Block 6. (He is accountant at Agriculture Dept. I understand.) He accused of me of not giving his overtime payment to bigger amount. He was paid \$50.00 overtime, when he was released from the service last August 13th. His release was made in the form of resignation, but in reality, he was "fired " I just saved his faith for him, by having him tender resignation. I still have letter of termination by his superior Mr. Kawaguchi, in my position. Now I believe I have to use this CLUB. I saved his faith once before but he got in bad mess- that was May 1943.- I omit that part for it has very personal -

Now he is back-Firing ^{at} savior of his faith.

He complained of not receiving more " overtime " payment when he left the Co-Op. But he received just what was coming to him. He opposed on having me as the Executive Secretary "because" he said, that I did not give him what he was expecting-which was \$100.00." I paid him what was coming to him. He feels that I was unfair to him in the matter of overtime payment.

The fourth accusation was laid against me by Koshiro Nakabayashi, 20-3-CD, representing my own block. He said that I was unfair because I did not grant his daughter Fumiko Nakabayashi " Scholarship grant." of \$100.00 I am enclosing the minutes of the CASE. You can read and can make your own conclusion. Koshiro Nakabayashi had tried to "De Fraud " Topaz Student Aid Fund with false evidences, which " blew away " at the committee hearings. He knew their claims to be UNTRUE, yet he claimed , as if though they had application in, as early as January, 1944. The Committee saw the falseness of his statement, therefore, it decided against his application for grant, ~~except~~ The committee gave special consideration for his appeal and placed his application for grant on SUBSTITUTED list. He did not like this naturally, beside he does not like me on known facts about Buddhist Church. I have solid evidence against his honesty. He knows that. Therefore, his attitude toward me at the Congress is clearly understood, besides, " I was ripped at last Congressional Election in my block. " His thinking is that " Yamate is still in the Co-Op. Get him at any cost-in any manner so that- Get Him. " This seems to be his thought. Well.

Next accusation was from Okamoto, manager of Block 8 barber shop. He accused me of not giving them " Bonus. " We have no overtime records from them. We have been losing money every month, ever since we opened the shops. The Board of Directors, as well as Board of Operation members don't just feel right to pay them overtimes, for which they have no record of achievements. He is known to have said " Mr. Yamate is unfair to Barbers. "

Mr. Nakabayashi has proposed that Executive Secretary should be Board members or no less than Congressman. I understand this proposal is left for next congress for a report. The By-Laws provides that it is not necessary to be Congressman or the Board. District of Columbia laws does not require that Executive Secretary need be a Board member nor Congressman.

These are the accusations laid against me. It is my understanding that the floor of Congress was disorderly. Mob psychology seems to have carried the motion.

I am determined to clear-up the false accusations, if I have to resort to the hands of Utah Laws.

Respectfully submitted

Sasato Yamate
Executive Secretary, Topaz Consumers
Cooperative Enterprises, Inc.

P.S.

I wish to report that no notice was given beforehand that I will be accused on the floor of Congress. I was notified at all. No opportunity was given to me to answer charges.

Sasato Yamate

ANSWERS TO THE " VOTE OF NO CONFIDENCE " PASSED AGAINST
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, WITH LIES, SLANDERS, AND PARADOXICAL
WORDS AT 39TH COOPERATIVE CONGRESS, MARCH 13, 1945

By Sasato Yamate
Former President and Chairman of the Board
of Directors

For past two years, ever since the establishment of Topaz Co-Op, I have served as Vice Chairman of the Board and for last one year, I have served as the Chairman of the Board as well as President of the organization, and safely finished my term of office at the end of February, as you already know.

When new board of directors went in, they have elected me to the office of Executive Secretary—a trusted position as an officer of the corporation, with overwhelming majority votes. However, at the 39th Cooperative Congress, held on March 13, 1945, the Congress passed a "Vote of No Confidence" against me. It was proposed by the Congressman Setsuji Tanaka of Block 9, as an emergency measure. The reasons for the same were all lies, slanders and paradoxical wordings, without foundations, and have caused the measure to pass, which is deadly against my good name, honor and good character, aimed at defamation of my character, which I cannot overlook as a man.

That evening, I was absent from the meeting, and therefore, I was not given an opportunity to answer accusations, which I believe to be very unfair and very ungentlemanly on the part of those accusers. I believe it to be very underhanded. I found out next morning, that those accusers were, Messrs. Genichi Hoshiga, Shizuo Sasaki, Sam Furuichi, Koshiro Nakabayashi, Hatsuki Nakahara, Setsuji Tanaka and Okamoto—a barber employee of Co-Op. I shall answer to them, one by one, against their falsehood play of words.

First of all, I shall take up, so called, "Resolution of Block 9's Vote of No Confidence Against Executive Secretary." This document is a mysterious one—it has no signature of responsible Chairman of Block meeting nor it has signature of Block Meeting secretary. It has no address, no name of addressee, nor date is written on. "Who is responsible to this proposal?" This was the first question asked by Mr. Kanzaki, Chairman of Congress that evening. Mr. Tanaka said that he will be responsible for it. Thereupon, Mr. Kanzaki asked few of the Board of Directors what it should be done, for it is unusual measure demanded by Block 9, Congressman for presentation to the floor. The Board members advised Mr. Kanzaki NOT TO PRESENT THAT EVENING FOR MR. YAMATE IS NOT PRESENT. But, Mr. Shizuo Sasaki and Mr. Genichi Hoshiga demanded of Mr. Kanzaki and urged to have it presented to the floor for discussion. Mr. Kanzaki said it involves legal question, so wished to have it left "shelved" until next congress, but Mr. Hoshiga and Mr. Sasaki urged and have taken an attitude that might lead to violence, therefore, under pressure from these two gentlemen Mr. Kanzaki was obliged to yield to their demand.

At this point, I would like to call your attention, that Block Meeting is not a part of Co-Op Organization. Therefore, it has no right to act on any problems pertaining to Co-Op, unless it is presented through Block Assembly of Co-Op. Mr. Uyeda, the Chairman of Block Assembly does not know anything about such a resolution of the Block. It went over the head of Block Assembly Chairman, —by passed his authority

Most strange thing about Block 9's so called "resolution" is that it is totally different from what MR. TANAKA PRESENTED IT TO BE. THE FACT IS THAT MR. TANAKA HAS WRITTEN THE SO CALLED BLOCK 9 RESOLUTION? AND NOT THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MEETING NOR ITS SECRETARY. MR. TANAKA COMPOSED AND HAS WRITTEN THE "SO CALLED THE BLOCK 9 RESOLUTION." and presented it to the Congress, as the Block meeting's resolution.

- ma,
1. Mr. Ishio Tanaka, Chairman of Block 9 Meeting has stated and signed for his statement, stating that the Block Meeting has not discussed nor passed any resolution on Mr. Yamate's character. That the meeting, however, discussed about loss of SYRUP, which Mr. Yamate reported to the Congress at the 37th Congress. The Block people believed in Mr. Tanaka's report that there is some point of suspicion against loss of syrup. That was the reason of passing Vote of No Confidence against Mr. Yamate's appointment as the Executive Secretary. (But what has SYRUP got to do with Mr. Yamate? He does not even touch it, not a drop. Mr. Yamate was President of Co-Op and Chairman of the Board. He does not know anything until report comes to his desk.) Mr. Tanaka reported that Co-Op purchased big lot of syrup but he has never seen syrup ever sold in FARS so he felt that it was funny, and could not understand that such large

quantity of syrup could ever be sold at canteen. (He confessed that he thought it was syrup that is to be used for HOT CAKES. But later on, after he made report to the Block Meeting, he found out that the syrup in question was syrup for cold drinks. But he never made correction to his statement at Block Meeting.) I have explained at the congressional meeting that the loss of 408 gallons syrup at Delta W.R. A. Warehouse caused many hundred dollars loss which affect in one way the net saving for the period covered by July, August and September last year. This loss of syrup by breakage of barrels and leakage, etc. was reported to me from Chief Accountant, as one of the reason affected our net saving of that period. Mr. Tanaka took it suspicious. Well how could it be as to my self- I never saw a single barrel even. Man in charge of and directly responsible to syrup (for that matter) at that time was Mr. Sam Furuichi. He was Chairman of Merchandising Committee at that time, and after July 1943 he was supervisor looking after things Mr. Furuichi can explain more about it than anybody else in my estimation. I just reported as I was reported on Syrup. In my estimation, so far as syrup is concerned, Toby Ogawa, Sam Furuichi and Mr. Handerich know more about loss of syrup, than anybody else.

Block 9 had never accused me of chacater. It was loss of syrup that they felt " no confidence in me. " But how can I be held responsible other than Presidents position. Merchandises are handled by men in charge of respective department. President is looking after over-all affairs of the Co-Op, and not details down on the line.

For these reasons, on the night of March 27, 1945, I had requested Mr. Tanaka's presence at the Co-Op Office in presence of legal Committee and Fact Finding Committee Messrs. Tsuzuki, Takahashi, Noda and Kawaguchi, and asked him to explain all about so called " Block 9's Block Meeting Resolution, which is a mysterious resolution"- mysterious, for it is entirely different from what Block 9 resolved, compared with Mr. Tanaka's supposed to be Block Resolution. Mr. Tanaka had admitted that it was his mistake and apologized to me in presence of above gentlemen, and had promised to make apology in Congress as well as withdrawal of the same. And that he has promised to present to me a letter of apology to show his sincerity.

The above is the facts of, so called, " Block 9 's Block Resolution," and is the complete story of the same to date.

ANSWER TO MR. SASAKI, SHIZUO'S LIES AND SLANDERS REMARKS
MADE AT 39TH COOPERATIVE CONGRESS, AGAINST ME

Mr. Shizuo Sasaki charged against me that I had taken \$250.00 to make trip to Gila Convention, and had made Mr. Sakai write that check with pressure on him. He charged that Congress only authorized \$150.00 for the trip, and that taking additional \$100.00 without consent of Congress is outrageous. It is against the provision of By-Laws, where it says that the Board of Directors shall not accept any bonus from Co-Op without consent of Congress. These are the charges he made on the floor of congress on March 13, 1945 at 39th Congress.

Mr. Sasaki is all wrong. It is true that Congress granted me \$150.00 to make trip to Gila Federation Conference. But he forgot that the Board of Directors wanted me to make trip to other centers also, especially make visit to Rohwer, Arkansas Relocation Center in order to find the details of liquidation of Jerome Cooperative for reference of our cooperative's liquidation which is inevitable. Gila convention was for the purpose of study for liquidation of cooperative and exchange views of leaders of different center cooperatives, to prepare for the liquidation. It is quite natural that the Board of Directors wanted me to make thorough study of Jerome liquidation. The Board wanted me to visit Poston, Rohwer, Arkansas, Amache, Colorado also, and on the way to Rohwer, I was requested to buy Red Snappers for New Year (Mexico Tai) and possibly some frozen shrimp if available, at New Orleans. In order to go to Rohwer, it only takes but two hours extra ride to go to New Orleans, so I made stop over there for three days to see if I could buy Red Snappers and Frozen Shrimp. For three nights I watched fish market from 12:00 mid-night to 4:30 in the cold mornings for a chance to buy Tai and Shrimp, but none was available. No use of fussing on my visit to New Orleans, I am not even got paid for this trip. Out of 25 days trip days, I was only paid for 11 days at \$6.00 per day. Co-Op has \$6.00 per day grant for Co-Op business trips as day's allowance. I only received \$66.00 No body knows these facts. They merely criticise without full knowledge of truth and question.

Mr. Sasaki charged that I had put pressure on Mr. Sakai to write check for \$250. That is deliberate lie an outrageous slander. Mr. Sakai had testified in writing, dated March 16 and 23 rd. that what Mr. Sasaki had said is absolute lie without foundation. That he has never said anything of such to Mr. Sasaki. Mr. Sakai's statement is witnessed by two persons in Accounting Department. I had taken \$100.00 beside \$150.00 with me on that trip, because on November 24, 1945, the Board of Directors, at 126th Session, authorized me with unanimous vote that I may take with me this \$100.00 in order to make trips to other center and make an extensive study of the coops of other centers. I submitted trip itinerary to which the Board gave approval. The reason I had no sanction of the Congress for \$100.00 was because I could not wait until the next Congress met, for I had to leave by end of November to be at (Poston, and) Gila Convention on due day-December 4-7th inclusive. I did not wish to have congress take trouble of convening for just to approve additional \$100.00 That would be too much trouble for Congressmen. That is the reason, I did not ask Congress to meet to have just \$100. to be approved.

My trip was over 3800 miles. It took 25 days. How could one make trip with \$150.00? One should be reasonable in criticising. Mr. Sasaki should have asked me if he doubted anything on my trip. He came to office to find out from Mr. Sakai about trip expense, the way I understand. Then why did not he come to me and ask about trip expenses from me. I could have given him full details. Did he come to me to ask? NO. HE DID NOT. What was his motive in not asking me? What did he design? These are pertinent questions. You can answer these pertinent questions. It appears to me that definitely he was looking for a trouble for me. What for?

At 35th Cooperative Congress, held on January 9, 1945, which was the first congress after my return from the trip, I made full report of my trips in detail, and I have given in figures HOW JEROME LIQUIDATION HAD TAKEN PLACE SUCCESSFULLY. ~~At~~ This report alone is worth trip I made. It was nearly a very beneficial trip to Rohwer, Arkansas. This trip alone is worth my cost of entire trip. Not only I made the trip, ~~report~~, but BEFORE I MADE REPORT, I APOLOGIZED BEFORE THE CONGRESS THAT I HAD TAKEN ADDITIONAL \$100. WITH THE CONSENT OF THE BOARD ONLY. For that reason, I ASKED THE CONGRESS KINDLY UNDERSTAND WHY I HAD TO TAKE ADDITIONAL \$100. WITH THE BOARD'S PERMISSION ONLY. I ASKED CONGRESSMEN, KINDLY TO EXCUSE ME FOR THAT. The Congress was good enough to understand my explanations and with UNANIMOUS VOTE (46 Congressmen present) they approved my trip expenses, which was \$93.71 more than original estimation of the trip which was \$150.00 The additional cost was due additional trips to different centers and business trips. My trips beside Gila Center were, Poston, Rohwer, Arkansas Via New Orleans, St Louis (for business trip) And Amache Colorado Relocation Center Co-Op. The difference between \$100.00 and \$93.71 which amounts \$6.29 was returned to Mr. Sakai on December 28, 1944. He has ~~entry~~ of this sum in page 33 of Cash Book, as the evidence of receipt from me.

I have never spent single penny without due authorization. Mr. Sasaki spoke as if though I received bonus from coop. That is not true. I have not received single penny of bonus from coop. None of the Board members received bonus-not a penny. It is hard to find out WHY MR. SASAKI lied and lied in order to harm my character and honor. Of cause, I could guess that there are some person behind him, who caused him to say and act that way. Who is that "Pentigger" behind the wood pile? That is up to the readers to guess.

I have all evidences that my deeds, as an officer of the corporation are clear and honorable. If you wish to see them, I shall be very glad to show them.

If have all evidences to support my statement here. If you wish to see the book of Co-Op and records, any member is welcome to examine at any time. We welcome such an inquiry.

I hereby testify that there is absoluteley nothing wrong within the Co-Op. Every thing is in order and honorable.

ANSWER TO MR. SAM FURUICHI WHO HAVE USED PARADOXICAL WORDS AND LIED AGAINST ME.

Mr. Sam Furuichi has lied and lied at the 39th Congressional meeting, while I was absent. I cannot understand why he lied so. I have always tried to cover him for protection when he met major troubles while he was working with the Co-Op. First of instances is that he received black mail twice in May 1943. One was accusation against him of speeding extravagantly coop's money while on his buying

trip to Salt Lake City. The other was his private matter, so that did not concern us. However, these black mails became a subject of discussion at the Board meeting, and as the result Mr. Furuichi wished to resign but I had advised him, that he can stay on the Board until his term of office expired, which was end of June 1943. He did stay until then, as result of my advise. After that time, from July 1943 he became as an employee with name of "supervisor" which title Toby Ogawa gave him for his position. Other occasion was last year. When he was serving as temporary Service Department Manager, around April, May, June and July, 1944, and when a good man was found for permanent manager of Service Department, his service became trembling position. He made many errors at that time, which resulted in his "loss of Job." I then, recommended to warehouse manager to the Board, where thousands and thousands dollars of goods come in and out--in other words that position is the trusted position. The Board of Directors were unanimous in "voting down" my recommendation with, some severe criticism against my nomination of Mr. Furuichi for warehouse manager. Why the directors unanimously turned down the recommendation is in the mind of the board members. That I was unable to give him a suitable position. If Board says "No" it means "No."

There happened another important thing last year. This one is sad news to Mr. Furuichi. He appeared to the public as if though he resigned from the position of temporary manager of Service Department, but the truth is it was not. He was dismissed for certain reasons, the evidence of which is in my hand. It was this. Because certain reasons, his superior Mr. Kawaguchi wanted to dismiss him from the service entirely. He made it in writing, that his service is not satisfactory and that Mr. Kawaguchi was not satisfied with Mr. Furuichi's service no longer. As soon as I learned of this fact, I asked Mr. Kawaguchi to be kind enough to let me have that letter. He said that he would, with the understanding that Mr. Furuichi be dismissed from service. I agreed that I would, but it should be in a nice way-- have him resign, and save his face as man. This was agreed upon. Through "resignation method" I had to have Mr. Furuichi leave from the service. But that saved his face. Many employees thought I had done right thing in using "resignation" as the means of his leaving. It was that time, the Board of Directors at its 110th Board of Directors meeting, voted to pay him \$50.00 (August 18, 1944) for his overtime and remembrance. We have minutes of the Board to that effect. He was expecting \$100.00 the way I was suggested at that time. I told him that he worked as an employee since July 1943 to August 1944. The estimate of overtime and remembrance amounts just \$50.00 not such sum as \$100.00

The Board of Directors was good enough to consider the above sum, although he seemed to have expected \$100. We can only pay what is believed to be fair. Manager Class did not keep overtime before. Late October, the Board felt that they should be taken care of their overtime. Mr. Furuichi said that he did not know for what reason, he was given \$50.00, the way minutes of Congress reads. If he did not know what he was paid for, why did he receive that pay check? If he did not know for what reason he was paid, he should never accepted that money. Is not it so? Certainly, one should never receive any money that is not clear in its nature of payment. I don't like the idea Mr. Furuichi should receive any money that was not coming to him--at least that is the way he presented it to the congress, and complained that his man under him received \$100.00 and accused me of not being fair to Mr. Furuichi for I did not try to get from the Board \$100. for him also. Well, I have already explained enough on this. By the way Mr. Kawaguchi's letter to Mr. Furuichi for his dismissal was dated Topaz, July 29, 1944. Mr. Furuichi resigned on August 11th. 1944. Mr. Jihei Yoshida knows all about these incidents.

Co-Op instituted this "Orei and overtime payment method" during the term of Mr. Hikoreku Honnami as the Chairman of the Board. The "Orei" in cash of \$100. was given Toby Ogawa, through suggestion of Mr. Takakuwa, then a director and passed by the Board (January 25, 1944). This was the beginning of "Overtime and Appreciation payment" when an employee leaves after long service. If this was not started may be we did never kept up this system of paying overtime. But once started, then, other employees too look forward to it.

At the congressional floor of 39th Congress, Mr. Furuichi has stated that there is suspicion on the miscellaneous expense account of December 31, 1944 statement, that every congressman should get statement and investigate it. This is bad words-- it cause unnecessary suspicion on Chief Accountant and Cashier, as well as to the management and executive head. Why does he speak such foolishness? He knew that there is nothing wrong in that item. Yet he said it and laid cloud of suspicion there. I cannot help, but think that he designed for present troubles, and it was this reason that the Board of Directors wanted to see him, before he left for California. We are sorry that we were unable to see him before he left for California. We did not know his departure until

day before he left. We even tried to see him on Saturday, April 7, 1945 in order to demand his explanations on his misdeeds against the Board as well as to me personally. It is absolutely unexcusable on his part for lies, he has spoken at congressional floor.

ANSWER TO MR. HOSHIGA

Mr. Hoshiga has stated on the congressional floor on March 13, 1945 to Congress that I had said to Mr. Hideshima "shut up." at April 4, 1944 Congress, while discussing loan of \$15,000. from the Bank. THIS IS ABSURD. I have never said such profane language to Mr. Hideshima. What I had said was "SIT DOWN". I said it for he was speaking while Mr. Tanaka has floor, and floor of congress was so noisy that it was absolutely necessary to control the order of the floor. Since then Mr. Hideshima and I were in good term and full understanding. He was a very good cooperator during term of my office as president of Co-Op, to which I am grateful. WHY DOES MR. HOSHIGA BRING UP ONE YEAR OLD DEAD STORY TO ACCUSE ME? WHAT IS HIS PURPOSE? Why, Mr. Hideshima has forgotten all about the incident. Oh, NO. Mr. Hoshiga had some other reason. Mr. Hoshiga used Mr. Hideshima as an excuse and used him as the means of expressing his (Mr. Hoshiga's) hate against me, BECAUSE I DID NOT GIVE HIM RIGHT TO SPEAK ON THE FLOOR OF CONGRESS on the night of April 4, 1944. Why should I have given him privilege of speaking on the floor, when he came as an observer, in place of congressman of block 4? Mr. Hoshiga was dying to speak that night. He raised his hand again for right to speak. Each time I said "NO." hand

That is the reason Mr. Hoshiga said that I was acting like a dictator, and suppressed free speech. The truth of his accusation is not for the interest of Mr. Hoshiga. That was for his own case.- his own hatred against me, because I did not give him right to speak that evening. "Is it a good sportmanship?"

ANSWER TO MR. SETSUJI TANAKA ABOUT OVERTIME PAYMENT AND OREI

This subject is discussed already, therefore I am not taking much space here. Board of Directors are not to receive any orei or bonus or such other than actual service, not to get paid intrincical services. But the case with the employees are different. The By-Laws, Article 5, Section 9, 5-B provides for taking good care of employees. Taking care of employees is considered the right of management, and not the power of policy making body-The Board of Directors. But it always did come up in the Board meeting and the Board took care of it, through general manager.

I have never paid unreasonable pays to employees. All payments were made on reasonable and justifiable grounds. I say again here, THAT NONE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS EVER RECEIVED SINGLE PENNY FOR BONUS.

ANSWER TO EXTREMELY SEVERE PERSONAL ATTACK MADE BY HATSUKI NAKAHARA

Mr. Hatsuki Nakahara, congressman from my own block 20, had said in the Congress that "why should a person who failed to be elected to Block Assembly even, be appointed to Executive Secretary? This is responsibility of the Board of Directors."

Mr. Nakahara should know very well, how I was not elected from the building to the Block Assembly. It is difficult to understand your mind, to have laid barrage of unreasonable accusation, personally, against me, when I have served for the people of this center, and to the establishment of Co-Op on a sound and firm foundations ever since founding of Topaz Co-Op, and for past two years and half as one of the leaders of Co-Op who have shown the finest result and prouder record of achievements.

I heard of an incident of last election in my block, especially my building, that there was passed in under the door of one of the apartments, with THREATENING WORDS "that if you vote for Yamate, watch your window." I can well imagine who is the person who done this misdeeds in influencing voters. This is just one incident. You know all this very well.

In this world of ours, there are not men like you always- there are men who are open minded and fair in judgement, without prejudices. I am sure of it. To those men I depend for fair and impartial judgements. Executive Secretary and Treasurer need not be member of the Board nor he need be a congressman. This is clearly stated in the By-Laws. For first one year and half, Topaz Co-Op had men without being Board members and or congressman.

When I was elected and offered the Executive Secretaryship, I only accepted it as an expression on my part, as the evidence of my sincere appreciations for the cooperations - wonderful cooperations I have received during the term of my office as President and Chairman of the Board, for past one year. When I was offered with that position some Board Members expressed regret that the position of Executive Secretary is too small for me. But I said that anything is good enough for me. I only will be very glad to cooperate with the Board for I am deeply appreciative of wonderful cooperations I was given by old board members and large number of congressmen- I only wished to show small part of my deep appreciations toward them. "If you want me to do janitor, I will do so for you. I am just grateful for wonderful cooperations and smooth operation of Co-Op for past one year." These were the exact words I told to my old friends in the Board.

After serving as Vice President and Vice Chairman of the Board for a year and half and after serving one full year as the President and as the Chairman of the Board of Directors, is Executive Secretaryship an honor position to be in?

I accepted Executive Secretaryship just to show my sincere appreciations to the wonderful cooperations I received last two years and half, particularly during the term of my office as President and Chairman of the Board.

ANSWER TO MR. OKAMOTO WHO COMPLAINED OF " NO SOUP FOR BARBERS."

If Mr. Okamoto is dissatisfied with the " NO BONUS TO BARBERS " why not appeal to managers meeting and lodge complaint about it. I am sure the managers group will be very glad to take it up. You should present complaint where it should be taken to. Take it through manager of Service Department, and through General Manager, and then to the Board. It is hardly the place for you to make complaint at the Congress. Especially, to lay personal attack against me in congress for you is not becoming as an employee of the Co-Op.

I would like to call attention of congressmen to the fact that Mr. Okamoto has income from Co-Op a total of \$30.75 every month. Even a board member, he only receives \$19.00 for his service as an employee and plus clothing allowance a total of \$22.75. Mr. Okamoto receives said \$22.75 plus \$5.00 for tools, rental and \$3.00 for janitorial service a total of \$30.75. NOT BAD, IS IT? What is your thought, gentlemen who are receiving \$16.00 and \$19.00 for cash allowances. You don't mind receiving \$30.75 and some more by " TIPS."

Board felt that the Barber shop lost money ever since we had it opened. For any shortage, we had to cover with the money which made by other department employees, with sweat day after day. Covering shortages every month in this manner is bad enough. If we pay out more, then we will be using more of money made by other fellows efforts. That is the way the Board looked upon the situation. If you have overtime, YES, sure you will be paid.

What do you readers think of these situations? What would members of Co-Op think? I ask fair judgement on this complaint. Do you think Mr. Okamoto should have more income other than above mentioned items? Best thing will be for Mr. Okamoto to go to Managers Meeting and take it up with them. Then present the case to the Board for consideration. This is my sincere suggestion.

ANSWER TO MR. NAKAJAYASHIS PLAN AND MISUNDERSTANDING

You say that appointment of person not in congress nor in Board is contrary to the spirit of By-Laws. What do you know about the spirit of By-Laws. Why, do you know these By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation are prepared by Mr. Kanazaki and myself after study and study and picked up the best ones for our use. Then spirit of By-Laws are expressed clearly in words. True enough there is little difference here and there, may be typing error, may be not direct in translation etc. But we had never had troubles like last one and half month in the history of Topaz Co-Op. Why all these fuss about? It does not matter what change you might make in By-Laws, if it is against Cooperative Laws of D.C. that would be null and void. If you read well, contents of ANNOUNCEMENT by the Board of Directors, dated April 11, 1945, then you will understand better I am sure of it. Treasurer and Executive Secretary are elected by the Board, as officers of the corporation.

Treasurer and Executive Secretary need not be a member of the Board now they need be a congressman.

The reason I am making a written answer to the vicious false accusations is to give the public my side of the story. One sided story leads to misjudgement, which is unfair. Persons who accused me were heard already. I wish to present my side of story for your informations and sincerely wish that you will kindly give these questions a fair judgement.

Respectfully yours,

Sasato Yamate

April 5, 1945

After I have written the above, I came to think more of the situation and have decided to present more clearly just what is the trouble with the present Co-Op situation.

In present Co-Op troubles, we are obliged to see clearly, that Mr. Koshiro Nakabayashi and Mr. Hatsuaki Nakahara of Block 20, are the central figures and leaders of opposing group. They have tried their best against my interest at 39th Congress, for they have tried their best to have "Vote of No Confidence" passed. They are living in the block where I reside.

Two days after passing of "Vote of No Confidence" measure, Mr. Nakahara came to Co-Op office jubilantly and had said "that at a time like this, the Board of Directors should resign en masse," for it is the Board's responsibility that appointed Mr. Yamate for Executive Secretaryship. - This was said to Mr. Takahashi. It appears from Mr. Nakahara's statement that this trouble was well planned before hand, and not an incident. This is especially so in the case of Mr. Nakabayashi - he has presented to the floor of 41st Congress, held on April 6, 1945, after AGENDA FOR EVENING was finished THAT THE ENTIRE BOARD SHOULD RESIGN. This demand was a bomb-shell from clear sky for the Board members for that was not in the agenda. This is known fact for audiences have heard and we have congressional records that will prove of the fact that he is one of the leaders of present Co-Op troubles. What are the reasons that they are trying so hard to have present Board Members to resign? What is the reason, that they are so anxiously after my Executive Secretaryship?

The attempt to overthrow present Co-Op Board of Directors is A DESTRUCTIVE ACT WHICH IS NOT PERMISSIBLE IN THE EYES OF PUBLIC INTEREST. When we see these two men's activities, we can see part of the activities that prevented my being elected to the Block Assembly from my building. When I mention this, you can understand that Mr. Nakabayashi and Mr. Nakahara's activities are representatives of those group of people who are against me in the block. And, there must be reasons of opposing me in connection with OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, SUCH AS BUDDHIST CHURCH, VARIOUS PROBLEMS SURROUNDING THE "SHARI-TOW," and in the matter of personal reason of opposing me might have deep root in STUDENT AID TROUBLES OVER FUMIKO NAKABAYASHI CASE. When you give thoughts on these points, you can well understand WHY Mr. Nakabayashi is so strenuously opposed to my being Executive Secretary. They are confusing private and other organizations problems with the Co-Op and causing these troubles. SHOULD PUBLIC PERMIT MR. NAKAHARA AND MR. NAKABAYASHI BRING BLOCK TROUBLES OR PERSONAL CONTRAVERSIES, OR OTHER ORGANIZATIONS TROUBLES INTO THE CO-OP? I am sure they understand what I mean? I am sure they will not deny their personal feelings are very much injected into the present Co-Op troubles.

I ask people's fair and impartial judgements on present Co-Op troubles.

April 16, 1945

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Mr. Sanford

NOTES ON CONFERENCE REGARDING CO-OP FACTIONAL DISPUTE.

Conference of April 2.

Present: Mr. Hoffman, Mr. Sanford, Mr. Kanzaki, Mr. Takahashi,
Mr. Yamate, Mr. Nozaka, and Mrs. Hunter.

The Friday evening (March 30) meeting had an "undesirable ending". Mr. Kanzaki "saw no hope to do anything". They had considered 1 - discontinuance of patronage refund receipts so that they might concentrate on liquidation, and 2 - the question of election of directors - the last two elected on February 20.

Mr. Nozaka stated "employees disgusted at Congress political trouble and expressing desire to get away from this employment". He said further that a false rumor was spreading that some directors took Co-op money. He suggested that the Congress meeting be postponed for awhile, but was told that they must comply with the by-laws. (The by-laws provide for a regular Congress meeting on the first Tuesday of each month.)

Mr. Yamate stated that my memorandum of March 23 concerning discontinuance of refund receipts "came in too late" for the meeting of March 30. I pointed out that they had received it a week before. He stated that it was "not available" but that Mr. Nozaka had explained my memo.

It was suggested that all communications be read at the beginning of meetings. This would tend to prevent objections by the opposition that information was withheld from them. It would serve also to make clear that we are impartial in our opinions and advice.

NOTES ON CONFERENCE REGARDING CO-OP FACTIONAL DISPUTE.

Conference of April 3

Present: Mr. Hoffman, Mr. Sanford, Mr. Hoshiga, Dr. Ochikubo, Mr. Nakabayashi, Mr. Ishizaki, Mr. Nakamura, Mr. Hide-shima, and Mrs. Hunter.

This group stated that it represents 39 Congressmen (from 24 blocks) who attended the Congress meeting of March 30. The group met April 1 and asked these men to represent them at a meeting with the administration to explain the issues involved in connection with the special Congress meeting to be held April 6. They charged that Mr. Kanzaki conducted the March 30 meeting in a high-handed manner, refused to put questions to a vote and then "dismissed" the meeting.

The group was now wasking to oust the entire Board for failure to function properly. It was pointed out to them that they had given no notice of intention to oust at the special meeting to be held April 6th; that they had merely given notice of charges against the Board. The group decided that they would move a vote of lack of confidence in the Board; if the Board should refuse to resign the group would then give notice of intention to remove them at the next meeting.

M I N U T E S

MINUTES of a Meeting held on Wednesday, April 11, 1945, in Mr. Sanford's office, regarding differences between the Board of Directors of the Business Enterprises and a group of 36 Congressmen.

PRESENT: Mr. Sanford, Mr. Bell, Mr. Buchanan, Mr. G. Hoshiga, Chairman of the Resident Group, Dr. G. L. Ochikubo, E. S. Ishizaki, S. Nakamura, Nobuo Tabata, S. Hideshima, and K. Nakabayashi.

Mr. Sanford presided as Chairman and Mrs. Hunter took the minutes.

After the meeting was called to order, Dr. Ochikubo outlined the difficulties and developments which lead to the Special Meeting of the Congress held last Friday night (April 6, 1945).

Dr. Ochikubo stated that a group, consisting of the resident members present, met with Mr. Nozaka and Mr. Kanzaki and asked them if they would grant the special meeting which they had requested. Mr. Nozaka and Mr. Kanzaki, in turn, presented a memorandum suggesting that the group in question meet with them Thursday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock. They finally agreed to meet at 10:30 on Friday, at which time the Board of Directors had a quorum present.

Mr. Buchanan, Project Attorney, called attention of the group to the fact that a statement had been made to the effect that he had suggested and advised that the present group ask for a vote of lack of confidence. Mr. Buchanan said: "As a matter of fact, you left our last meeting with the apparent idea of asking for a vote of lack of confidence. At first you were concerned with getting two board members out, but later you were interested in getting them all out." Subsequently, Mr. Buchanan stated, he had received word to the effect that at a meeting when Mr. Sanford and Mr. Hoffman were present, he had suggested that all of the directors should be asked to resign. "In other words," he said, "the suggestion of ousting the entire Board is laid to me. What I really said was, after you had suggested such a

Procedure, was to hold off on that and only use it as a last resort."

The resident members present agreed that this was so; that they came with the idea of asking for removal of the entire Board; and that Mr. Buchanan had advised them only as he stated; and that he had not been the one to suggest that the Board be ousted.

Mr. Nakabayashi said: "In order to have a meeting, we had to have a definite purpose and then we put in the fourth item - the motion for a vote of lack of confidence." "You suggested we should have a purpose," he added.

Dr. Ochikubo explained that pursuant to a gentleman's agreement between the group present, representing a majority of the congressmen, and Mr. Kanzaki representing the Board of Directors of the Co-op, the fourth item was withdrawn.

Mr. Nakabayashi said that the group was advised that if they (the board of directors) were forced to the issue of the vote of lack of confidence, they would fight it, but if the group withdrew the fourth item, they (the board of directors) would resign.

Dr. Ochikubo said, in augmenting Mr. Nakabayashi's statement, that they had said the Board would resign automatically. He said that at the meeting they got through the three points without much argument, but as nothing was settled regarding the gentlemen's agreement, they asked for a continuation of the meeting - a continuation of the meeting held Friday night, April 6, 1945.

Mr. Nakabayashi added that they were promised a continuation of the meeting within two weeks.

Dr. Ochikubo said that the group they are representing has now requested a special meeting for this Friday, April 13, 1945, to consider the question of the resignation of the entire Board of Directors and to consider officially the petition signed by the 36 Congressmen.

Dr. Ochikubo said that on Monday morning Mr. Ishizaki was asked by the group to see Mr. Kanzaki to see if they would meet with the group. He said they would meet on Monday afternoon at 3 o'clock, but after lunch he went to Mr. Ishizaki's place and said they would hold a board of directors' meeting and would meet with the group on Tuesday.

Dr. Ochikubo added in effect: We do not believe our request for a special meeting will be granted. The last meeting was not granted until four or five hours before the meeting. In view of this we came today to ask Mr. Buchanan some questions. We have not received notice of the meeting yet. We will ascertain if the Secretary has sent out notices. If not, we want to call a special meeting and send out our own notices and we want to know about the legality of the procedure. We want to send out our own notice to all congressmen to the effect that we have presented our petition and will hold a meeting on Friday evening. We want to know if that is legal. If the Secretary advises that notices are not being sent out, can we do that? The By-laws do not provide for a meeting or procedure to call a meeting in such a case.

Mr. Buchanan said in effect: The question which is bothering me and which has bothered me all along is the question of giving advice to one group or the other. Recently I have not answered the questions raised in letters sent by Mr. Kanzaki, as Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors because of this fact. I don't think it is wise. I am trying to avoid answering questions or issuing opinions on any matter that is in dispute between two factions. If on the other hand, the Congressmen would meet and then present questions, that would be a different matter. The questions would be put by an official body representing both sides. Your questions are put on behalf of one group and even though a factional group represents a majority it is still an unofficial group. The administration does not want to take sides in these matters.

Dr. Ochikubo said in effect: We came here with a single question. We merely want to know if our contemplated procedure is legal. We are trying to find the proper procedure. If the answer to our question is "yes", and the Board of Directors will not attend the meeting, which is what we expect, but we have a quorum present regardless of that fact, we feel that we could elect a temporary Chairman and hold the meeting.

Mr. Buchanan: Let us assume that you hold a meeting; that the members of the Board of Directors do not attend; that you vote to oust the Board of Directors; and you claim a properly called meeting and they claim otherwise, what have you then? You still have a dispute to settle.

Mr. Sanford: This group, I understand, represents a group of 36 congressmen who signed the petition. Suppose Mr. Kanzaki would be willing to call a meeting of the Board immediately and send some half dozen delegates to represent them, would you feel that it would be proper for both sides to ask questions. In that way both sides would get the same answers as to what can and what cannot be done.

Mr. Buchanan: On March 30th both sides were present but no questions were asked at that time. The only time questions are asked of us is by one group or the other separately.

Dr. Ochikubo: They did not abide by their gentlemen's agreement. The Board has no right to deny a special meeting which has been called.

Mr. Bell: The point that Mr. Buchanan raised was that he did not want to answer questions propounded by one group because he would not be dealing with an official body. If a meeting was held with members of the other group in attendance, the same thing would still apply unless the delegates were officially empowered to represent the Board of Directors.

Mr. Buchanan: Yes, if we were to receive the other group, both factions would be present but to be official the Board of Directors would have to authorize the delegates to represent them. We have received word from Washington endorsing the idea of not giving advice when it is purely to factional groups. In this case there are two factional groups.

Mr. Sanford: You want to have both sides hear the answers to legal questions at the same time?

Mr. Buchanan: The way it is now, if I say something they like they talk about it and if I don't, they withdraw it from circulation. As I understand it, the Board of Directors wanted a small two-group meeting and this group said they would meet with them providing they would call the special meeting requested.

Dr. Ochikubo: You seem to think it is going to be more difficult if you answer questions now but I think it will be more difficult if we are not proceeding legally and I think we should be advised as to proper procedure.

Mr. Bell: You would not have any objections to the representatives of the other group getting the same legal advice that you get.

Dr. Ochikubo: The advice could be in writing and they could receive a copy, the same as us.

Mr. Sanford: I want to make it clear that the Project Attorney has been put in a rather embarrassing situation because, let us say, of language difficulties. One side or the other has interpreted things differently than he has stated. For that reason, he would probably prefer to answer questions when both groups were present.

Dr. Ochikubo: We will leave the questions with you and you send a copy of the questions and answers to the Board and to us.

Mr. Sanford: Even the, the other side will probably have additional questions to ask.

Mr. Bell: You can appreciate that I have not been in on the controversy, but I want to do the right thing. I will be glad to give consideration to the answering of any questions asked of Mr. Buchanan. I cannot promise a direct answer immediately of all questions as there may be some questions of policy involved which would require some time and attention.

Mr. Tabata: We only want an interpretation of the by-laws. We are not interested in receiving advice.

Mr. Buchanan: I would like to point out to you, and I think the Board of Directors understand this clearly, that the Co-op comes under the Community Management Division. Your questions should be put to Mr. Sanford, Assistant Project Director in charge of the Community Management Division. They will come me through regular channels if Mr. Sanford decides they should be answered. Whether or not any of the questions will be answered or not will first have to be decided as a matter of administrative policy.

The group present through Dr. Ochikubo then presented the following questions:

1. Should the Secretary fail to give Notice of a Special Meeting which has been requested by one-third of the Congressmen, would it be legal for the group requesting the Sepcial Meeting to issue its own notice to all members of the Congress?
2. Would a meeting held under such conditions, (regardless of whether any officer or member of the Board of Directors attends) with a quorum present, be official and legal?
3. Is it within the authority of the Congressmen requesting a special meeting to set the date, time, and place of such meeting when sufficient notice is given to the Board of Directors in regard to the meeting?

The group said they would call back at 2 o'clock in the afternoon to receive their reply. A few minutes later they announced that they would withdraw the questions and would not ask the Project Attorney for an interpretation of the by-laws, and that they would proceed without receiving an opinion on the legality of their actions.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 o'clock A.M.

Mrs. Adeline Hunter

Resident Members Present and Addresses:

G. L. Ochikubo, D.D.S.	23-9-C
E. S. Ishizaki	19-3-D
S. Nakamura	12-12-C
G. Hoshiga, Chairman	4-7-B
Nobuo Tabata	3-4-F
S. Hideshima	31-10-C
K. Nakabayashi	20-3-C

ANNOUNCEMENT IN REGARD TO THE APPOINTMENT OF
MR. SASATO YAMATE AS THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Topaz, Utah, April 11, 1945

TO: The Members of Topaz Consumers Cooperative Enterprises, Inc.

At the Congressional Meeting, held on March 13, 1945 there had been passed a motion against appointment of Mr. Sasato Yamate, as the Executive Secretary. Mr. Yamate was Chairman of the Board of Directors and President of Topaz Co-Op last one year and previous to that, he served as the Vice President, ever since founding of Topaz Co-Op. The motion against Mr. Yamate was presented by Mr. Setsuji Tanaka of Block 9, Congressman, who had said that it was his Block's Block Meeting resolution, and he was supported by Mr. Shizuo Sasaki Block 23 Congressman, Mr. Sam Furuichi of Block 6 and two or three others. They had made false statements and false accusations without ground against Mr. Yamate defaming the good name and character of Mr. Yamate.

On that evening, Mr. Yamate was not present at the Congressional Meeting, therefore, he didn't know what had happened. He was not given notice of such accusations being laid against him, therefore, he had no chance of answering and refuting against accusations. It is very regretful that Mr. Yamate was not given a chance of answering against false accusations.

At that meeting Mr. Hatsuki Nakahara Congressman of Block 20 (Mr. Yamate lives in Block 20) had gone into an extreme of saying that the Board of Directors responsible for the appointment of Mr. Yamate as the Executive Secretaryship. For this reason, the Board of Directors wish to make it known WHY MR. YAMATE was appointed for the Executive Secretary, and WHY THE BOARD HAS CONFIDENCE IN MR. YAMATE, and ask your fair judgement on the issue confronting us.

Mr. Yamate is one of the founder of Topaz Co-Op, and ever since then, he had been one of the active leader of the Co-Op. He had strived for healthy development of coop. and had struggled to lead the Co-Op for a healthy operation, on a sound basis and has succeeded in establishment of Co-Op on a FIRM FOUNDATION financially and otherwise. You are familiar with these well known facts.

It is well known facts also, that ever since the founding of Topaz Co-Op, Mr. Yamate had been active figure in the Board as well as a leader in the Congress, and as such, he met many debates and arguments in deciding major policies of the Co-Op, but always his contentions and proposals as to the policies were carried with overwhelming majority. He won most of major points because he was always for the best interest of the people. His decisions were not beclouded by any personal reasons. He was for the peoples interest, first and last. For these reasons, at times, he caused to invite personal envy and even caused to make an enemy out of debates and arguments. However, it is very common, that a man of PUBLIC LIFE very often meet such a situation-i.e. make enemies. Mr. Yamate's case is no exception to this. For instance, he had fought against certain group of residents who opposed in opening Co-Op Fish Market-this fight lasted one year and a half but finally won the battle and Co-Op Fish Market was opened finally last August. The residents appreciate lower prices compared with exorbitant prices we were obliged to pay to Delta Fish Market. Residents have been saving thousands dollars from this fish market alone, but very few people know of Mr. Yamate's effort and resultant benefit they are enjoying.

The Board of Directors felt that Mr. Yamate is the best fitted person for the office of Executive Secretary, for he is one of the founder of the Co-Op and he is the man of long experience in business with honorable records, and he knows A to Z of Topaz Co-Op. His ability is beyond question; his honesty and integrity is beyond question. For these reasons, the Board of Directors felt that it is for the best interest of the people, that he be appointed the Executive Secretary and serve the people with his utmost of his ability.

We are not interested in the troubles of other organizations to which Mr. Yamate might be involved, and we are not interested in his personal and private controversy.

The Board of Directors resent any attempt to bring about confusion into the Co-Op from outside sources. We resent any attempt on anybody's part to make a Co-Op problem a political foot ball, of this center. We sincerely request your serious considerations on our position and this is especially so, when the case in question is absoluteley have no foundation.

Mr. Setsuji Tanaka, who had presented with the so called Block 9 Resolution had admitted that he has erred, in that he has made report to the block, on syrup with insufficient knowledge and misinformation, which resulted in decision of the Block Meeting of Block 9 to present with the Vote of No Confidence Measure against Mr. Yamate. He deeply regretted that he was too hasty and apologized Mr. Yamate in presence of Board's Legal Committee and Fact Finding Committee on the night of March 27, 1945 at the Co-Op Office. This is good, one of the evidence that Mr. Yamate is innocent of accusations laid against him.

The Board reaffirmed Confidence in Mr. Yamate at 142 nd Board Meeting with unanimous votes.

These are the reasons which we have elected and appointed Mr. Yamate for the important official position of the Co-Operative, to which we sincerely request the members to give kind understandings and sincerely hope to have your cooperations. We only ask for your fair and impartial judgement in this question.

Respectfully submitted,

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF TOPAZ CONSUMERS
COOPERATIVE ENTERPRISES, INC.

m Sanford

ANNOUNCEMENT

April 12, 1945

TO: THE MEMBERS OF TOPAZ CONSUMERS COOPERATIVE ENTERPRISES, INC.

As of April 6, 1945, we have made announcement and report to you of what has happened up to March 30, 1945 on which date Cooperative Congress met. We have kindly requested of you to have through understanding of the situation confronted the Co-Op. Since then, the development is not satisfactory. Especially, for past few days the situation is getting to be worse and have developed into a grave situation. It is very difficult to determine at this time, what an unforeseen misfortune may suddenly happen. For this reason, we are obliged to make this announcement public, and explain the position of the Board of Directors and clarify the situation in order to have your understanding of the situation thoroughly.

The Congressional Meeting, held on March 30, 1945 had turned into a very bad atmosphere. For this reason, the Chairman had declared, "that I am unable to proceed with the business of the evening, therefore, I shall declare this meeting closed for the evening." This is clearly presented to you with the announcement of April 6, 1945. This declaration was caused by the bad atmosphere of the Congressional meeting which developed gradually and business of the evening was impossible to proceed. There was danger of violence through increasing feeling of antagonism through arguments on the floor. The Chairman wished to avoid such unfortunate incidents, for he felt it to his responsibility to act accordingly.

The Chairman had exercised his authority to take care such a situation. That is the Chairman's authority. There is no question as to his authority in such an emergency.

Some Congressmen say that "the closing of the meeting without consulting the floor is against the right proceedings of the meeting and that it is contrary to the provisions of the By-Laws," BUT THAT IS NOT TRUE. THEIR THINKING AND CONTENTION IS ALL WRONG. Please give a thought to this- that when the floor of meeting gets out of order and noisy with voices rise all in one time and when disturbance appears from audience's floor and when the floor of Congress demands change of Chairman, and when some one rises from the floor without Chairman's consent, to speak, then it is high time to act quickly. The floor would listen to no reason, at such time. At such a time, what could be gained by asking the floor for advice in closing the meeting?

The Project Director has seen it fit that his good office may be able to help settle the difficulty, and has seen representatives of Co-Op and that of opposition group consisting of Messrs. Ishizaki, Hideshima, Ochikubo, Nakabayashi and Hoshiga. He proposed to have meeting of both party and talk things over, with each side's arguments outlined in brief form, so that he can study the situation thoroughly, and may be able to offer solution.

To the above proposition of the Project Director, it is reported that the opposition parties declined his good offer on the ground that if that was done the whole inside story of personal attack may be revealed in open.

We, the Board of Directors have always stood on the RIGHTeousness- and right arguments and stood on RIGHT GROUND- "SEIGI." We, the Board of Directors have nothing to hide from public nor from Project Director. We have nothing to be ashamed of in our contentions and facts to be presented to the public nor to any of the administrative officers. Our acts are all above BOARD and open to public. We have no intention of personal attack in public questions. We agreed to the proposal of Project Director's good office, but the opposition group declined the mediation, we are at loss, why they did not accept good offer from Project Director.

The Congressional Meeting of April 6, was held because of petition to have it held, received from the above opposition representatives and their adherents. The meeting was held on firm agreement on both parties to the following points;

1. that there shall be no HOT ARGUMENTS like that of last Congress and that peace and orderly proceedings of the business for the evening.
2. that the Board's representatives had demanded to have Mr. Yamate be given an opportunity to refute false and vicious accusations made against him at 39th Congress. But this was agreed to be the first business of the Congress to be held shortly after that evening's Congress. The business of the evening were to be only those presented in the petition. This was agreed upon.

3. The meeting was to have following three points as agenda;
(Charges made by the opposition group)
 - A. that the Board failed to execute resolutions of the 39th Congress. This is an act of ignoring the congressional decisions.
 - B. It is outrageous that the Board failed to make public certain public documents at the Congressional meeting.
 - C. that Chairman's failure to consult the floor for closing of the meeting is contrary to the right proceeding of a meeting.

The Congress was to have explanations from the Opposition group first to which Board of Directors were to answer their charges.

4. The opposition group agreed to take off "Advise to the Board to Resign En Masse," signed by 23 Congressmen, including themselves, and not to make it an issue that evening.

WHAT WAS THE SCENE THAT EVENING? After making above agreements, the opposition group, after hearing the answers from the Board, and when there was no ground to demand the Board to resign, the Congressional Meeting was ready to close. The Chair announced his intention of closing the meeting. But, suddenly, Mr. Koshiro Nakabayashi raised a demand that the Board resign En Masse. THIS IS CONTRARY TO THE AGREEMENT ENTERED IN THE AFTERNOON of April 6, 1945, when representatives of both parties met. The persons who represented opposition group lead the HOT ARGUMENTS instead of abiding by the agreement of that afternoon. The arguments went into early morning 12:30 A.M. Finally both party agreed: that there shall be special congressional meeting held within two weeks, and agenda of the meeting is to be arranged by the meeting of two parties, of which 5 persons were to represent Congress, by appointment by Chairman of the Congress and meet Board's representatives. The meeting closed for the evening 12:30 A.M. of April 7, 1945.

However, the attitude of the opposition group developed to be outrageous since then. They have not sent Congressional Committees to talk things over with the Board's representatives. Instead they have drawn up demand for Board's resignation as entire body. This was on April 10, 1945 - that Mr. Ishizaki, Hoshiga, Nakahara, Ochikubo and Nakabayashi appeared at the Co-Op office and delivered to Mr. Kanzaki, Acting Chairman of the Board, with DEMAND FOR RESIGNATION OF ENTIRE BOARD. The reason was given to be "that they have absolutely no confidence in the present Board." Beside them, there is listed additional co-signers 30 in number.

MEMBERS OF THE COOPERATIVE, WE APPEAL TO YOU TO HAVE YOU CONSIDER, What is that they have in mind. They totally ignore the decisions of 41st Congress (held on April 6, 1945) What is the reason that they are taking such an outrageous hasty steps? THEY ARE THE ONE IGNORE CONGRESSIONAL DECISIONS. - Not the Board. Board is respecting the decisions of the Congress when they are legal.

The Board of Directors were elected only two months ago. The Board is sincerely planning for sane administration of the cooperative enterprises. What wrong has the Board committed? Has the Board committed any serious act that requires resignation of entire body? CERTAINLY NOT. Making troubles on the Co-Op is the work of certain group of opposition camp of the Board of Directors. WITHOUT ANY SOUND REASON, THEY ARE TRYING TO FORCE PRESENT BOARD TO RESIGN. IS THIS FAIR WAY OF DOING THINGS? How can any one dare disturb a peaceful operation of the Co-Op? How can any one dare raise storm on the peaceful flat land?

The Board of Directors had met in emergency meeting that evening and had taken the petition into a serious consideration, and have reached to the following conclusion;

1. The petition to hold special congress without consultation is the Board's representative as to its agenda is contrary to the decision of the Congress (April 6, 1945)
2. The Board needs time to study the petition that demands resignation of entire Board, as a whole. For this reason, the Board is unable to hold special congressional meeting on the date they demand (April 13, 1945) for there is not sufficient time, therefore, the Board will notify the opposition group as soon as the date is set. They can come to the Pre-Congress meeting of committee in joint meeting with the Board's representatives.

The Board had sent letter to Messrs. Hoshiga and Ishizaki on 4/11/45 accordingly.

There happend another outrageous act on April 11, 1945. This act was committed in the name of Congressional Committee. This GROUP sent out to all congressmen, notice of special congressional meeting, to be held on April 13, 1945 at Dining Hall 26. The entire wording is as follow;

" April 11, 1945

NOTICE OF SPECIAL CONGRESSIONAL MEETING

Date: Friday, April 13, 1945 7:30 P.M.
Place: Dining Hall 26
Agenda: Demand of Reignation of Entire Members of The Board of Directors

Complying with the By-Laws, Article 1V, Section 9, request to Mr. Kanzaki, acting Chairman of the Board of Dirretors, has been made by more than one third members of the Congress to call special congressional meeting on Friday, April 13, 1945 at 7:30, at Dining Hall 26 becuae of absolute lack of confidence in the Board of Directors. Therefore, it is urgentltly requested that all Congressmen attend this special meeting.

Congress Committee "

With this turn of the situation from bad to worse, we are unable to forsee what misfortune might befall upon the cooperative enterprises. For this reason, we are obliged to appeal to entire coop members to have them kindly see things in the light of RIGHTEOUSNESS and give right decision in meeting the serious situation which is rocking the cooperative. We wish to fortell the seriousness of the situation to all members so that they can be governed accordingly.

To this date, the cooperative enjoyed a perfectly peaceful and smooth operation and have been very successful. We wish to state that financial condition is sound. Business conditions have been satisfactory. Books are streightly kept. All records are clear. If you are interested in, and if you so desire you can look into these statistics and records at anytime. We invite your check up at any time.

In as much as ~~the~~ some of Congressmen are taking very outrageous attitude and acting in a questionable ways, IF AND WHEN? ANY MISFORTUNE MAY BEFALL UPON THE COOPERATIVE, AND RESULTANT DAMAGES TO THE COMMUNITY, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF CONSUMER ENTERPRISES CANNOT AND WILL NOT TAKE RESPONSIBILITY. THE RESPONSIBILITY OF SUCH MISHAPPENINGS, REST, ENTIRELY WITH THE CERTAIN GROUP OF CONGRESSMEN, WHO IS ATTEMPTING TO DESTROY SMOOTH OPERATION OF ENTERPRISES WITH UNREASONABLE ATTITUDE AND ACTS. THEY ARE THE ONES RIGHTFULLY TO SHOULDER THE BLAMES OF DESTRUCTIVE MOVEMENT "THAT HAS COME TO OPEN." We wish to have all members kindly understand the above. It is not the Board that is making troubles. IT IS THE CERTAIN GROUP OF CONGRESSMEN THAT ~~WERE~~ INSTIGATED AND CARRIED ON TO THIS STAGE OF OUTRAGES, which caused danger of smooth running of the cooperative.

Respectfully submitted,

BOARD OF DIRECTORS,
Topaz Consumers Cooperative Enterprises, Inc.

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CONGRESSIONAL MEETING

Held at Dining Hall 19, Monday, April 16, 1945, 8:05 p.m.

Due to the absence of the Chairman, the meeting was called to order by the Acting Chairman, Dr. George Ochikubo. Messrs. Tanaka and Nakahara were designated Acting Japanese Secretaries and Mr. Tabata, the Acting English Secretary.

ROLL CALL: 42 Congress members were present. There were approximately 125 observers from the various blocks.

AGENDA: The agenda for the evening was passed upon unanimously, namely: Because of absolute lack of confidence that Congress demand the resignation of the entire Board of Directors.

Mr. Hoshiga explained the distribution of adverse propaganda by the Board.

Messrs. Narahara, Sugiyama, Nodohara, Ichiyasu and Yoshizumi of the Community Council were presented to the Congress. Mr. Sugiyama acted as spokesman and explained that they were approached by both parties concerned to act as intermediaries if possible.

The Congress decided not to use the good office of the Community Council to settle this dispute. Reason given: that the Congress could trust the Community Council but that they have no faith in the word of the Board members to reach any satisfactory conclusion.

During the discussion that followed, Dr. Ochikubo relinquished his chair in favor of Mr. Nakabayashi.

At this point, the Community Council members retired so that discussion could be held by the Congress members only.

In order to free the Council Committee from all obligations and responsibilities but in appreciation of their kindness in purpose, a motion was made by Dr. Ochikubo that: "The presence here tonight of the Council Committee should be regarded as those of honored guests and observers." The motion was seconded by Mr. Nakahara and was passed upon unanimously.

A motion was then made by Dr. Ochikubo that: "The Congress demand the resignation of the entire membership of the present Board of Directors because of the absolute lack of confidence". The motion was seconded by Mr. Ogi.

Due to the importance of the motion, a ten minutes recess was called for by the Chairman.

It was decided by the Chair that a secret ballot should be taken so that no one could be swayed by undue individual opinion. The motion was carried unanimously, there being 41 "YES" and no "NO", with the Chairman not participating in the voting.

A motion was made by Dr. Ochikubo that: "The resolution of the above decision be sent and tendered to the Board of Directors to be effective midnight, Friday, April 20, 1945, the date set for special election". The motion was seconded by Mr. Ishizaki and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Kojimoto that: "A letter of thanks for their kind efforts to mediate be sent immediately to the Community Council with reasons why their good office was not used by the Congress". The motion was seconded by Mr. K. Kawaguchi and passed unanimously.

With the approval of the Congress, the Chairman was instructed to choose the Nomination Committee for the purpose of selecting 15 names for the new Board of Directors. The Chair named Mr. Ishizaki chairman and the following to assist him: Messrs. Hirotsu, Omori, Sakurai, Ishida, Nakahara, Tabata and Messrs. Aso and Yoshida representing the old Board.

At the kind suggestion of the Chairman, a standing vote of confidence and appreciation was accorded Mr. Hoshiga for his unselfish and untiring efforts in the prolonged fight of the Congress to oust the remaining members of the Board of Directors.

A motion was made by Dr. Ochikubo and seconded by Mr. S. Nakamura that: "The meeting be closed". The motion was carried unanimously and the Special Congress meeting was officially closed at 11:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nobuo Tabata, Acting Secretary
Cooperative Congress

MINUTES OF THE NOMINATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Held at Dining Hall 19, Tuesday, April 17, 1945 at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by the chairman, Mr. Ishizaki.

ROLL CALL: The following members of the Committee were present. Messrs. Sakurai, Ishida, Hirotsu, Omori, Nakahara, Tabata and the Chairman. Messrs. Aso and Yoshida absent.

The purpose of the meeting was to nominate 15 candidates for the Board of Directors as set forth in the By-laws of the Cooperative Enterprise Congress. After a considerable discussion, the following names were selected to be presented to the Congress at the special Election meeting to be held Friday, April 20, 1945:

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Block</u>
1. Dr. G. Ochikubo	23
2. K. Nakabayashi	20
3. G. Hoshiga	4
4. K. Ogi	4
5. S. Tanaka	9
6. K. Kawaguchi	6
7. S. Hideshima	31
8. S. Nakamura	12
9. M. Fukawa	9
10. S. Tokawa	35
11. T. Miyata	5
* 12. S. Nozaka	28
* 13. K. Yoshida	38
* 14. B. Aso	39
* 15. K. Ikuma	41

Note: Asterisk denotes members of the old Board of Directors.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Nobuo Tabata

Nobuo Tabata, Acting Secretary
Cooperative Congress

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CONGRESSIONAL MEETING

Held at Dining Hall 19, Friday, April 20, 1945, 8:00 p.m.

Due to the absence of the Chairman, the meeting was called to order by the Acting Chairman, Dr. George Ochikubo. Messrs. Tanaka and Nakahara were designated Acting Japanese Secretaries and Mr. Tabata, the Acting English Secretary.

ROLL CALL: 38 Congress members were present.

Japanese version of the previous meeting's minutes were read and approved.

Although the agenda for the evening called for election of the new Board of Directors, this was laid aside while the Chairman explained a meeting with the Project Director was being arranged in which the latter expressed his desire to settle this matter in a more amicable manner. Those attending the meeting held Thursday afternoon, April 19, at Mr. Hoffman's office included: Messrs. Ishizaki, Nakahara, Nakabayashi, Hoshiga, Tabata and Dr. Ochikubo who acted as spokesman for the group. The proposition as suggested by the Project Director was that the present Board of Directors and the majority group of the Congress each send 5 representatives with full authority and power, to meet with Mr. Hoffman. All three parties are to agree upon a date for the calling of an official Congress meeting, make up the agenda for the night and Mr. Hoffman will, as well as the other two parties concerned, abide by the decision rendered at that meeting.

Discussion concerning this proposal was discussed by the Congress including further explanation by Messrs. Hoshiga and Ishida regarding an informal meeting held by some 14 members of the majority group that afternoon, Friday, April 20, 1945.

A motion was made by Mr. Kojimoto that, "The Congress accept Mr. Hoffman's suggestion for mediation". The motion was seconded by Mr. K. Kawaguchi and passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Ogi that, "The Chairman to appoint the committee of 5 to represent the majority members of the Congress". The motion was seconded by Mr. Sakurai and passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Ishida that, "The Committee shall have full power and authority to represent the Congress with the following 4 points for the basis of the proposed meeting. a) Meeting to be held within a week, b) Dissolution of the Board of Directors, c) To insist on the above, d) The Board, the Congress and the Administration to abide by any and all decisions reached at that meeting". The motion was seconded by Mr. S. Nakamura and passed unanimously.

The Chair selected the following 5 men to serve on the Committee: Messrs. Ishizaki, Hoshiga, Nakabayashi, Tabata and the Chairman.

A motion was made by Mr. Nakabayashi that, "This meeting be recessed until further clarification of the proposed mediation meeting with Mr. Hoffman". The motion was seconded by Mr. Ishizaki and passed unanimously.

The meeting was recessed at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nobuo Tabata, Acting Secretary
Cooperative Congress

MINUTES OF THE 43rd CONGRESSIONAL MEETING

Held at Dining Hall 26, Friday, May 4, 1945 from 8:00 p.m.

Due to the absence of all Board of Directors members, Mr. Raymond Sanford, Assistant Project Director, called the meeting to order. This was immediately followed by the election of a temporary chairman as requested by Mr. Sanford.

Dr. Ochikubo was elected temporary chairman; Messrs. Tanaka and Nakahara were designated as acting Japanese secretaries and Mr. Tabata, the acting English secretary.

ROLL CALL: 49 Congress members were present.

New Congressmen were introduced to the Congress: Messrs. Sato (8), Fujii (13), Maruyama (13), Kimura (22), Hatanaka (22), Yaguchi (26), and Yoshida (42).

At this time, the Congress officially accepted the resignation tendered by the old Board of Directors clearing the way for the election of the new Board. The resignation was accepted unanimously.

Mr. Dowke of Block 36 presented a resolution from that Block calling for the resignation of the entire Congress. Reason: That if the old Board had to resign, it was just as much a responsibility of the entire Congress to do the same such being the case, the Congress should resign en masse.

A motion was made by Mr. Hoshiga that: "Congress refuse to accept the resolution of Block 36 and will not resign under such circumstances since each Congressman has the full confidence of his respective Block". The motion was seconded by Mr. Ogi and was passed unanimously.

The Chairman then appointed a nominating committee of 7 comprised of the following men: Messrs. Ishizaki, chairman, Ishida, Tabata, Sakurai, Omori, Hirotsu and Nakahara.

After a recess of twenty minutes, the nominating committee submitted the following fifteen names for the Board of Directors: Messrs. Hoshiga, Ogi, Miyata, Kawaguchi, Kojimoto, Fukawa, Tanaka, Nakamura, Ozawa, Nakabayashi, Isoye, Ochikubo, Hideshima, Tekawa, and Akiyama.

8 names were nominated from the floor and added to the list.

<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Nominator</u>	<u>Second</u>
Hirotsu	Hoshiga	Ogi
Ishizaki	Nakamura	Nakabayashi
Ishida	Hideshima	Ishizaki
Sakurai	Fujii	Kojimoto
Nakahara	Miyata	Sano
Omori	Kawaguchi	Hirotsu
Tabata	Fujita	Murata
Miyakusu	Akiyama	Hoshiga

Nomination was then closed by Mr. Tabata, seconded by Mr. Ishizaki.

Final results of the election:

	First Ballot	Second Ballot	Third Ballot
Number of votes cast	45	46	44

<u>Names</u>			
1. Ochikubo	42		
2. Hoshiga	41		
3. Ishizaki	41		
4. Nakamura	41		
5. Tanaka	41		
6. Hideshima	40		
7. Nakabayashi	40		
8. Omori	37		
9. Ishida	37		
10. Tabata	36		
11. Sakurai	36		
12. Nakahara	35		
13. Hirotsu	33		
14. Tekawa	32		
15. Fukawa	22	16	39

16. Miyata	19	2	
17. Kawaguchi (6)	18	5	
18. Ozawa	17	6	
19. Isoye	17	8	5
20. Akiyama	15	5	
21. Ogi	11	0	
22. Miyakusu	9	4	
23. Kojimoto	3	0	

A motion was made by Mr. Hoshiga that: "The auditing of books up to the present time be made immediately, that if any infraction is discovered, the new Board of Directors cannot be held responsible". The motion was seconded by Mr. Ogi and passed unanimously.

A motion was also made by Mr. Hoshiga that: "The minutes of the last meeting held on Friday, April 27, 1945, is not to be published and distributed to the members until after Congress approval." The motion was seconded by Mr. Ishida and passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Akamatsu that: "Congress thank the Congress representatives who worked so hard to accomplish our aim of ousting the old Board". The motion was seconded by Mr. Nakagiri and passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 11:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nobuo Tabata, Acting Secretary
Cooperative Congress

MINUTES OF THE 44th CONGRESSIONAL MEETING

Held at Dining Hall 26, Friday, May 11, 1945 from 8:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: 42 Congress members were present. Due to the resignation of the Block 30 Congressmen, Messrs. Ikeda and Nakamura, Mr. Maeda, Block 30 Assembly chairman attended the meeting as observer.

Also present at the meeting were Mr. Sanford, Chief of Community Management, Mr. Runcorn, Cooperative Enterprises Field Advisor, Mr. Sekerak, Relocation Officer, and Mr. Honnami of the Credit Union.

Minutes of the previous meeting was read in Japanese and approved.

The Chairman introduced to the Congress, the new Board of Directors and members of the various Board committees. The Chairman also explained to the Congressmen the reasons for streamlining the committees from eleven to six. Mainly, this was to facilitate the work of the committees.

Mr. Runcorn then gave an interesting talk to the Congress. Some of the highlights were: 1) His relationship to the Topaz Coop, 2) The announcement that this Coop saved \$150,000 in its two years in business. Of this amount over \$85,000 has already been refunded to the people and there is more than \$60,000 in equity. His third part of the speech dealt in: a) educating the Coop members, b) liquidation, and c) Income Tax.

Concerning Part A, he had the following remarks to make; that the lack of educating the members and other patrons of the Coop was the basic fault and this tended to give a general lack of interest in the Coop. Also, the fact that the former Board members were employees as well created confusion between policy making and operation of business. Mr. Runcorn recommended the more frequent publication of the Coop financial status. For this purpose he urged the immediate formation of the Auditing and Education Committees.

As far as liquidation is concerned, he stated that this Coop was in the best position of any centers because he found the inventory here to be the lowest and preparation for liquidation was in the advanced stage. He suggested that refunds from October 1944 to March 1945 be paid immediately. One example of liquidation - that of Jerome with its three-men trusteeship - was described to the Congress.

Mr. Runcorn felt that taxes had to be paid on 1) lost stubs, 2) services where no stubs were issued and 3) unallocated reserve. Why the Coop had to pay income tax at this late date after being exempted for so long was explained by him in detail. The Internal Revenue office now claims that Topaz Coop is not a non-profit social benefit organization.

The Board recommended to the Congress the issuance of receipts to all services to avoid the necessity of paying tax hereafter. The recommendation was passed unanimously.

The Board recommended to the Congress that the Coop send two representatives to Salt Lake City to confer with the Internal Revenue officer regarding this matter of income tax. Dr. Ochikubo and Mr. Ishizaki were mentioned and \$50 were set up for expense. The recommendation was passed unanimously.

Regarding Cash Service, it was pointed out to the Congress that it was not necessary to have two banking services here. Also that if Cash Service is to be discontinued, then the loans should be paid back as soon as possible to the members. Both were approved but the first point must still be discussed with the Directors of the Credit Union.

Mr. Ishizaki gave a financial condition as of when the new Board took over the business. He also recommended the change of auditor which meant a saving in expense. Cashing of government checks will be handled gratis by the Credit Union.

The auditor and Mr. Runcorn both recommended that the Coop should not handle Cash Service hereafter. This also applies to Coop banking. The Chairman explained that the Board was in accord with this move.

Mr. Honnami of the Credit Union then explained the position of the Credit Union, its history and its stability as well as security. He further stated that the money deposited with the Credit Union was safe and loans are made only under the following conditions: 1) Credit Union can only buy government bonds and securities, 2) loans made only to other Credit Unions, 3) loans made to Credit Union members of not more than \$100, and who must have two guarantors who must have more than the borrowing amount in the Credit Union. The Board of Directors of the Credit Union consists of seven men.

The Board then recommended to the Congress that Cash Service be discontinued and said Cash Service turned over to the Credit Union. The recommendation was passed unanimously.

Mr. Fujii of Block 13 questioned the Board if they approved the issuance of bonus checks to resigning workers. The Chair explained that the Board became aware of the fact only after they took over the Directorship. At that time, some checks were issued by the old Board and already cashed. Several others are still held pending further disposition. The new Board emphatically did not approve such issuance of bonuses.

Mr. Dowke of Block 36 questioned if any of the new Board members had Blocked Accounts. He stated that those with Blocked Accounts are considered Blocked Nationals and therefore ineligible to hold office as Board members. This question was referred back to Block 36 with the recommendation that that Block investigate the matter further.

Mr. Ishizaki recommended the change of auditors. He explained that the former auditor was a Coop specialist. The high cost of the present auditor was also brought out. A motion was made by Mr. Ishizaki that: "The Coop change auditors from the present private Salt Lake concern to Mr. Jones who formerly audited the Coop books." The motion was seconded by Mr. Fujii and passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 11:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nobuo Tabata, Secretary
Cooperative Congress

JOINT MEETING WITH THE CREDIT UNION AND MR. MAX THOMAS OF NEPHI

Thursday, May 24, 1945 from 4:00 p.m.

Those present were as follows:

Coop Board of Directors - Messrs. Nakabayashi, Hoshiga,
Tabata and Dr. Ochikubo.
Credit Union Board of Directors - Messrs. Homami,
Sugiyama and Watanabe.
Coop General Manager - Mr. Nozaka.
Nephi Bank - Mr. Thomas.

The Coop members were primarily present to act as liaison between the Credit Union members and Mr. Thomas.

Credit Union requested to change their name of Service Club of Topaz to New Topaz Cash Service. A suggestion was made that the old forms formerly used by the Coop Cash Service be utilized. However, Mr. Thomas promised to make entirely new forms so that there would be no errors.

Consequently, Mr. Thomas will print 5,000 new forms at the Bank's expense and the Credit Union will formally adopt the name: Service Club of Topaz.

Shipment and deposits of money and other matters pertaining to banking facilities were discussed at some length by the members of the Credit Union and Mr. Thomas.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Nobuo Tabata

Nobuo Tabata, Secretary
Coop Board of Directors

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CONGRESSIONAL MEETING

Held at Dining Hall 26, Monday, May 28, 1945 from 8:00 p.m.

New Congressmen were introduced, namely: Mr. Tokuyemon Koga Block 38, and Mr. Kenkichi Nakajima Block 34.

Also present at the meeting was Mr. Lewis P. Jones, the new auditor.

The minutes of the regular 44th Congress meeting held on May 11, 1945, was read in Japanese and approved.

The minutes of the two special Congress meetings held on April 16th and 20th were read in Japanese and approved.

COMMUNICATION -- Incoming.

- 1) A letter of resignation to the Board of Directors was received from Mr. Koshiro Nakabayashi. He stated that the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco notified him that he is a Blocked National and therefore could not hold a position as member of the Coop Board of Directors.

Mr. Jones was then introduced to the Congress and he gave a detailed report regarding the income tax situation as it concerned the Topaz Coop. A question-and-answer period followed his talk.

The following three Congressmen were unanimously elected to serve on the Auditing Committee:

<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Nominator</u>	<u>Second</u>
1) Kenkichi Nakajima	K. Fujii	S. Nozaka
2) Yoshinori Murata	N. Tabata	T. Sakurai
3) Koshiro Nakabayashi	S. Nakamura	S. Nakatani

Since no other names were submitted, the nomination was closed and seconded by Messrs. H. Kaneko and T. Miyata, respectively.

The Chair gave a comprehensive report of the expense incurred on a trip taken to Salt Lake City to confer with the Internal Revenue agent. The expense sheet included that of Mr. Matsumoto's expense as far as Salt Lake City. The total amounted to \$30.95 for the committee.

The Chair explained that the so-called "bonus" given to employees amounted to \$2,311.75 to date. There are about 50 workers who have worked for the period of over one year and a half. If all workers who have not as yet received remuneration in the past were to be given compensation at this time, we would have to give nearly \$2,000 to 115 employees. This item will be entered under "wages" and will not be charged to "miscellaneous expense" as heretofore.

A motion was made by Mr. Nakatani that: "The Coop will compensate all employees for faithful services rendered but that no further compensation of any means will be paid in the future. However, overtime pay will be continued". The motion was seconded by Mr. Kaneko and was passed unanimously.

These compensations will be paid as soon as feasible.

The Chairman related the following Board policies to the Congressmen, that:

- 1) No Board member to be a paid employee of the Coop.
- 2) Committee reports to be resumed at the earliest possible time.
- 3) Rebate stubs will be issued for all services.
- 4) Cash Service discontinued.
- 5) Fish Market and Shoe Repair Department to be incorporated under the Service Department.
- 6) Breakdown of Miscellaneous Expense above \$50.
- 7) Lewis P. Jones to be the new Coop auditor.
- 8) January, February and March 1945, rebates to be issued as soon as possible. The amount for rebate is \$12,668.77.

Mr. Nakabayashi representing the Student Aid Fund asked that some portion of the fund derived from Unclaimed Rebates be allocated to this worthy cause. It was claimed that the Unclaimed Rebates aggregates to about \$3,000 a month.

The Chairman stated that appropriate containers will be placed in certain strategic places upon the initiative of any organization, where the Coop patrons can place any rebate stubs they want to donate in them. These containers will have the names of all organizations which would want to share this fund.

Mr. Fukawa brought back the question of giving a hearing to Mr. Yamate as promised by the Congress. A motion was made by Mr. Fukawa that: "Congress accord Mr. Yamate an opportunity to attend the next regular Congress meeting so that he may adequately explain statements made in his pamphlets which were distributed among the residents several weeks ago". The motion was seconded by Mr. Hoshiga. A vote was taken and it was passed! Yes - 31 and No - 4.

The next regular Congressional meeting will be held on June 5, 1945.

Mr. Miyata, Personnel Manager, requested that the Congressmen make special effort to find workers for the Coop.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 10:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Nobuo Tabata

Nobuo Tabata, Secretary
Cooperative Congress

TOPAZ CONSUMERS COOPERATIVE ENTERPRISES, INC.

TOPAZ, UTAH

April 18, 1945

TO: THE MEMBERS OF TOPAZ CONSUMERS COOPERATIVE ENTERPRISES, INC.

On April 16, 1945, a meeting was called by so called "Congress Committee" at Dining Hall 19. At this meeting a large number of congressmen had signed a resolution, which demanded resignation of entire body of present Board of Directors, as of mid-night of April 20, 1945.

However, such meeting was called without consultation to the Board of Directors.

What is the reason or reasons of demanding resignation of entire board? What is the foundation?

Congressmen who signed such a resolution is likely to have difficulty in making answers to the Block Co-Op Members the reasons why he signed resolution and for REASON the entire board must resign.

False rumors fly one after another. Man who heard that rumor adds more to it, and by keeping on that way, the original rumor gets changed entirely from the original rumor. RUMORS ARE VERY FEARFUL AND DANGEROUS TO THE SAFETY AND GENERAL WELFARE OF THIS COMMUNITY.

Block Congressmen should check up all rumors or supposed to be true story which he think it to be true, or what he heard at meeting etc. Before he makes reports to block meeting of members or to Block Assembly, he should check up whether what he heard is true or not, otherwise he will be held responsible for mistakes. THAT IS THE ONLY WAY A MAN OF RESPONSIBILITY SHOULD ACT. HE SHOULD NOT FOLLOW RUMOR LEADERS BLIND ALLEY. HOW MANY MEN MADE INVESTIGATIONS BEFORE HE MADE REPORT TO THE BLOCK MEMBERS on present Co-Op RUMORS and troubles?

There must have been some congressmen who signed above petition without knowing the reasons of resolution, without knowing true facts. -- he must have been caused to sign, just by psychologically, led by the moment's atmosphere of that night. TO THIS DATE ONLY BLOCK CONGRESSMEN WHO INVESTIGATED OUR BOOKS AND EVIDENCES ON MANY QUESTIONS BEFORE PUBLIC AND BEFORE THE MEETING WAS BLOCK 36 CONGRESSMEN AND THEIR ASSEMBLY. Not one of other block congressmen came to investigate at our office for many RUMORS and FALSE accusations laid against the Board or to Mr. Yamate. THE RESULT OF BLOCK 36 REPRESENTATIVES INVESTIGATION WAS THAT THEY WERE PERFECTLY SATISFIED THAT THE RUMORS AND FALSE CHARGES MADE AGAINST MR. Yamate and the Board has NO FOUNDATION AT ALL. They proved to be all LIES. We have a written approval letter from Block 36 Assembly Chairman. They found nothing wrong with the Co-Op books or otherwise.

to resign

Making demand on the Board of Directors/on false ground or on rumors without foundation, causing defamation of characters and honor of the Board members sneared is unreasonable. some people say this Co-Op meeting is more interesting than the "shows". But that criticism is very unfortunate and is of indignity of the Co-Op. We would like to appeal to the members who believe in RIGHTEOUSNESS, --do right thing on right thinking for the present difficulty of the Co-Op.

There is nothing wrong with the Co-Op. Why make all these troubles?

Members who are truly interested in general welfare of the residents will please come to the Co-Op office and check up books and records and make study of it in order to find out the facts. We are confident that you will be more than pleased.

Respectfull yours,

Board of Directors
Topaz Consumers Cooperative Enterprises, Inc.

4-18-45

Snt

MEMORANDUM TO: Topaz Consumers Cooperative Enterprises, Inc.
Attention: Board of Directors and Congress

In recognition of and in reply to the various communications and reports, both written and verbal, having to do with the present controversy between the Cooperative Congress and the Board of Directors, and in view of expressed and implied feelings of possible violence, and what is more serious to my mind, possibilities of a disrupted community, I am requesting you, the Board of Directors and the Congress, to each appoint a committee of three to five representative members to meet with me, Mr. Sanford, and Mr. Buchanan of the Administrative Staff on Thursday afternoon, April 19.

The purpose of this meeting is to seek a common basis of agreement regarding plans for a general meeting at which time specific complaints against the Board of Directors might be presented and, at the same time, opportunity given for reply of the charges made. In order that such a meeting might be conducted in an atmosphere of mutual seeking of the facts upon which any action regarding possible resignations would be based, this meeting with the committees has been called to agree on procedures for such a meeting.

I made such a suggestion last week to the representatives of the Board of Directors at an informal get-together in my office, and later to the representatives of the Congress, but as yet I have had no reply or acceptance of our offer to assist in any way possible to help find a common meeting

ground on which a solution of the present Co-op difficulties,
that
/would be in the best interests of the Community, could be found.

My stepping in at this time is done in the same spirit and with the same objective in mind, and only because all past efforts of committees and of the Community Council to find such a mutually agreed basis has failed.

I do not and cannot approve of the forceful methods used and "deman^d" tone and wording of the action taken at the special meeting on Monday p.m. to force the ouster of all members of the Board of Directors. For any such serious move, which cannot help but have its tragic consequence throughout the Community, a full opportunity to the complaintants should be given for filing and presenting such charges, and the same opportunity given the defendants for answering those same complaints. I also do not approve of the failure of the Board to provide free opportunities for the Congress to present those charges. However, in my opinion, this matter should be handled on an individual basis and not en masse.

While there is nothing in the by-laws or in the Co-op charter to require such a procedure, there is or should be common agreement that such opportunity is right, is just and fair, and for the best interests of all members of the co-op and of the community as a whole. We all need to know the facts, we need to know how much fire there is behind all the smoke of the past few months. I know as you do, how long this fire has been smoldering and I feel as I am sure you also do, that it cannot be smothered any longer without an explosion, which now

appears imminent. Before that takes place, as the Project Director and responsible for the general welfare and peaceful administration of this Community, I want to be sure that adequate precautions are taken and that every possible means of release through constructive channels be first utilized.

For those who feel or may reply that the Administration is not in a position to "step in" on and tell the Co-op how they should handle their own affairs, I would remind them first that every possible effort has been made and will continue to be made to have the Co-op handle its own problems and insofar as possible settle them. However, when they reach the point of possible violence, friction, and general community-wide concern over possible disruption of normal business activities of the Co-op, I feel that in keeping with my responsibility as referred to above, it is time to step in and call to your attention certain basic requirements for continued participation in affairs of the community affecting all its members.

This is not a question of intent, it is a question of net results and future welfare of individuals and it is my responsibility to take whatever steps appear necessary to maintain the general welfare, well-being, and good reputation so far achieved of the community and that I intend to do.

Without going into the question of legality of any action taken by the Congress on Monday, as to voting out the Board of Directors, I am requesting that the meeting called for Friday not be held until we have an opportunity to come

to an understanding with all parties concerned as to how to proceed with the necessary airing of the complaints of the Congress and for the necessary opportunity for reply on such changes, before any drastic action towards the removal of any one or more Board members is taken.

This is a general outline of the reason for calling this preliminary meeting and I will be glad now to entertain any questions for clarification of the Co-op situation and the next steps to be taken towards its solution that you may have.

M I N U T E S

MINUTES OF A MEETING held Thursday afternoon, April 19, 1945, at 2:00 o'clock P.M. in the office of Mr. L. T. Hoffman, Project Director, regarding controversial issues between the Board of Directors of the Business Enterprises Section and a group of Congressmen.

Present: L. T. Hoffman, R. P. Sanford, Lloyd Buchanan, G. Hoshiga, Nobuo Tabata, K. Nakabayashi, Dr. Ochikubo, E. S. Ishizaki and H. Nakahara.

Mr. Hoffman presided as Chairman and Mrs. Adeline Hunter took the minutes.

Mr. Hoffman opened the meeting and explained that in spite of all that has been said and done, the administration still hoped that a common point of agreement between the congressmen and the Board could be reached, whereby plans could be formulated so that complaints could be heard and answers could be made to the complaints. He said that before any general meeting to accomplish this was decided upon, it would probably be necessary to have a joint preliminary meeting with representatives of the Congress and of the Board, probably three to five representatives from each group. He said that in such an informal meeting with representatives of both groups present, it was hoped that plans could be laid which would lead to an early settlement of the controversy in question which would be to the best interests of all concerned and to the community as a whole.

Mr. Hoffman explained that he had prepared a memorandum dated April 18, 1945, to the Topaz Consumers Cooperative Enterprises, Inc., attention of the Board of Directors and the Congress, and that he had intended to send this memorandum to both groups, but had later sent our notices calling the present meeting, and a separate meeting with the Board members. He suggested that a reading of the memorandum in question might give the group a clearer understanding of the Administration's viewpoint and purpose in calling the present meeting.

Upon the request of the group, Mr. Hoffman read the memorandum referred to. (see memorandum referred to above).

After the memorandum was read, Mr. Hoffman stated that actions have been taken which are not for the best interests of the community as a whole, and the Administration officials felt that this factional dispute must not become a center-wide disturbance and reflect against the good name that has so far been achieved at Topaz.

Dr. Hoffman then asked if there were any questions in regard to the memorandum.

Dr. Ochikubo said he did not know the reactions of the rest of the group, but that he personally felt the talk about violence was without grounds. He said the congressmen are more orderly than the board of directors and they are not contemplating any violence or disturbance.

Mr. Hoffman said, however, that past actions of the congressional group might create a situation in that congress has voted out the board of directors and the board of directors have not accepted the action. He said therefore there might be two boards of directors and if the present board failed to turn over control some unpleasant situations might follow. He said that he was not afraid that there would be any physical violence but that he wanted to avoid disturbances which appeared imminent under the circumstances.

Dr. Ochikubo said: "In other words, you know definitely then that they won't remove from their position." "We haven't crossed that bridge yet. We have no idea of how we are going to remove them if they do not go out amicably. "

Mr. Hoffman said he felt the situation was growing worse; that it was disrupting the community with people taking sides and that the sooner the matter can be settled the better it will be for all concerned.

Dr. Ochikubo said people have been asking why the pamphlets are being circulated. He referred to two pamphlets from the Board and one from Mr. Yamate.

Mr. Hoffman explained that he had neither approved nor disapproved the pamphlets of their issuance.

Mr. Nakabayashi said the pamphlets contained personal accusations against him and that people who are accused should have an opportunity to defend themselves.

Dr. Ochikubo said that congressmen were more or less against issuing pamphlets but said if the coop continued to issue pamphlets it will make trouble.

Dr. Ochikubo said the group appreciated that the Administration was trying to settle the controversy as peaceably as possible. He referred to the details surrounding the gentlemen's agreement which had previously been entered into between the two groups but said the coop had broken the agreement, and that the people were now putting the pressure on the congressman as to what they were going to do. He said that instead of issuing pamphlets the Board could call a meeting and make their statements to the public.

Mr. Sanford said that while in his capacity as "censor" of the co-op news and other co-op publications he had okehed the issuance of the pamphlets he had made a notation on the margins to the effect that he was not necessarily concurring with or approving the contents. He said that the pamphlet issued by Yamate, personally, had not been approved or disapproved by him. He explained that he only agreed to the issuance of the pamphlets after he had been given to understand that the mimeograph equipment, etc. was available to this present group for similar use if they desired to use it.

Mr. Sanford said that another point he would like to mention was that some procedure should be worked out whereby the residents can handle the situation themselves; otherwise it will be said that the residents are not capable of conducting their own affairs which would affect public relations and the good record made so far.

Mr. Hoffman asked if there were any other questions.

Mr. Tabata said the controversy was just a case of a few people on the board against approximately the entire community. He said: "You say you don't want violence or trouble in the center, but if the present board of directors stay in, they won't get cooperation from the Congress. If four or five men can control the situation, what is the use of having a congress. I think you should give them a hint to go out."

Mr. Buchanan said: "Isn't it a question of procedure? The thought of Mr. Hoffman stepping in and saying YOU GET OUT is silly. There are certain proper democratic procedures." Mr. Buchanan explained that the situation had reached its present point in spite of the fact that the group had been working on the matter for weeks. He said: "You have now called a meeting for Friday night and

we can only see trouble in the offing." If both sides agree on certain proper procedure and agree on a properly called meeting, the matter can probably be settled once and for all.

Mr. Hoffman explained that the "in" group was entitled to the support of the Administration and that they would receive such support as long as they are in office. He read excerpts from the by-laws and the operating agreement with WRA and explained the duties of the Administration. He also read an excerpt from a letter from the Co-op dated April 19th referring to rumors to the effect that the Board of Directors has been spending considerable amount of money for their private purpose and that if necessary all books of the Cooperative Enterprises could be inspected by WRA and the result of the inspection published to counteract such rumors.

Dr. Ochikubo asked: "What if congress resigns? Can the board function? If necessary, we will resign."

Mr. Buchanan asked the representative what peace they would have if the congress should resign. He said that would not solve the problem; that a solution was sought which would bring peace and harmony to the community. He said the manner in which the group was proceeding was not going to settle anything.

Mr. Sanford asked if Mr. Hoffman would outline three or four appropriate steps which could be taken.

Mr. Hoffman said that as a first step the administration is suggesting a joint meeting where representatives of both sides would be present, having in mind that at such joint meeting a general meeting would probably be decided upon, a meeting that would be a properly called meeting, called by the Board of Directors for the purpose of hearing complaints and answering them; that an agenda could then be worked out for the general meeting, limiting the matters to be considered, and at the conclusion of the meeting a motion could be made to take in the meeting of Friday night.

Mr. Buchanan said the group would probably want to take in what it did on Monday and Friday nights.

Dr. Ochikubo said they wanted to cooperate; that the Congress would have a meeting the next night and if agreeable to the Congress, delegated representatives will meet in a joint meeting with the Board of Directors as suggested.

The meeting was adjourned at 3 P.M.

Mrs. Adeline Hunter

M I N U T E S

MINUTES of a Meeting with representatives of the Board of Directors of the Business Enterprises regarding controversial issues between the Board of Directors and a group of Congressmen, held Thursday, April 19, 1945, at 3:00 o'clock P. M. in the office of the Project Director.

PRESENT: Mr. Hoffman, Mr. Sanford, Mr. Buchanan,
Mr. Kanzaki, Mr. H. S. Nozaka, Mr. I. Takahashi,
Mr. J. Noda, and Mr. S. Kawaguchi.

Mr. Hoffman presided as Chairman and Mr. Nozaka acted as spokesman for the Board of Director Representatives. Mrs. Adeline Hunter took the minutes.

Mr. Hoffman handed the representatives a copy of a memorandum dated April 18, 1945, addressed to the Topaz Consumers Cooperative Enterprises, Inc., attention of the Board of Directors and Congress. He explained that he had intended to send this memorandum to them, but had later sent out notices calling the present meeting and he requested the representatives to read the memorandum which would explain the reasons for calling the meeting. (See memorandum of April 18, 1945 referred to.)

After the memorandum had been read, Mr. Hoffman asked if there were any questions regarding it. He explained that the memorandum had been presented to the opposition group earlier in the day.

Mr. Nozaka referred to the second paragraph on page 2 stating that complainant should be given an opportunity to file and present charges and that the same opportunity should be given to the defendants to answer the charges. He said it was not their intent that these opportunities should not be given.

Mr. Hoffman said that regardless of reason or intent it appears that a previous meeting which has been requested was not called within specified time and had resulted in an opinion that the Board does not want the Congress to have the the opportunity to file charges.

Mr. Nozaka outlined briefly what had transpired at a meeting on April 6 and said the Board had agreed to call a special meeting within two weeks but felt they should have time to study and consider the vote of lack of confidence and that

they felt that under the District of Columbia laws they would have thirty days within which to call a special meeting requested by a special group, in this case the Congress.

Mr. Hoffman said it was not a question of intent but what has transpired was affecting the future welfare of individuals and the entire community and the administration had decided to step in, not to dictate or control, but merely to suggest that both groups get together in a joint meeting at which arrangements and procedure could be decided upon which would solve the problem in the best interests of all concerned. He added that the opposing group were submitting the memorandum request to Congress with the recommendation that it be accepted and that the action on Monday night be held in abeyance, and said he would now like to know how the Board members felt about the matter.

Mr. Nozaka said that the Board of Directors very much appreciate the attitude the administration is taking regarding the controversy. He said all members present and all other Board members feel that way about it.

Mr. Hoffman said the administration felt such a meeting is necessary and that as Project Director he is responsible for the general welfare of the community.

Mr. Nozaka said that the Board at a meeting the night before had discussed the advisability of holding a meeting at which complaints could be discussed, having representatives from each block, other than congressmen, where both sides could express their thoughts freely.

The administrative members present said they could not see where anything constructive would be gained from such a meeting.

Mr. Hoffman said the administration was suggesting a meeting with representatives from both sides, probably 3 or 5 from the Coop and 3 or 5 congressmen where future procedure would be determined upon and if it was decided at this preliminary meeting that some sort of a general meeting should be held, an agenda could be worked out limiting the functions of the meeting to the agreed agenda.

Mr. Hoffman further explained that the administration did not intend to participate in such a general meeting; that the residents should handle the meeting, but that administrative personnel would be present as observers if desired.

In answer to questions regarding what they would do at a meeting if legal questions were raised, Mr. Buchanan said that while the administrative personnel would be present only as observers they could try to see that the meeting proceeded in a legal manner, without favoring one side or the other.

Mr. Hoffman said that the number of representatives who should attend the preliminary meeting was not discussed with the other group. Mr. Nozaka suggested five representatives from each group but added that if the other group wanted seven it would be all right with the Board.

Mr. Hoffman said that the matter of issuing pamphlets had been brought up in the other meeting and should probably be mentioned here. He said the other group had asked why the Administration had approved the circulating of the pamphlets in question. He explained that he had neither approved or disapproved the pamphlets.

Mr. Sanford explained that as he has told the other group, that while in his capacity as "censor" of Co-op News and publications of the Co-op he had approved the issuance of the pamphlets he had made a notation on the margin that he was not necessarily concurring with or approving the contents. He said the statement issued by Mr. Yamate, individually, had not been approved or disapproved by him. He added that he only agreed to the issuance of the pamphlets after he had been given to understand that the mimeograph equipment, etc, was available to the other group for similar use if they desired it.

Mr. Hoffman said that it seemed to be the consensus of opinion that the pamphlets were doing more harm than good; that one pamphlet called for another and no solution would be reached through a battle of pamphlets.

Mr. Nozaka said he had heard that the opposition group intended to elect a new board of directors at their Friday meeting and then come in Saturday and demand that the present board turn the directorship over to the new board.

Mr. Hoffman explained that the administration had considered that possibility and it is because they do not want two boards that they decided to step in and attempt to effect a peaceful settlement of the controversy to avoid any such action or any possible violence which might ensue such an action. He said the other group had also made a statement to the effect that a member of the Board had threatened one of their group.

Mr. Hoffman told the Board members that the administration would support the present board of directors as long as they were in office as long as they were proceeding properly. He said, however, that the administration will not take sides in any controversy and that the other group had been informed to that effect.

Mr. Nozaka said that was perfectly satisfactory to the Board.

Mr. Hoffman explained that he would like to have the preliminary meeting as early as possible, either on Saturday or Monday as he was leaving for Washington on April 28th and would like to have the official meeting, which he presumed will be called by the Board after the preliminary meeting, concluded before he left the Project, as time would have to be allowed for notice of the meeting, etc.

Mr. Buchanan suggested that the two groups have an impartial Chairman in the preliminary meeting. The Board concurred with this view and they were willing to have the meeting at any time. said

The Board members were notified that they would receive word about the date and time of the meeting as soon as arrangements could be made with the other group.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 P.M.

Mrs. Hunter

Original

Mr. Sanford

M I N U T E S

MINUTES OF A MEETING held Monday, April 23, 1945, at 2:00 o'clock P.M. in the office of Mr. L. T. Hoffman, Project Director, at which representatives from the Board of Directors of the Co-op and representatives of the Congress met in a joint meeting in an attempt to outline procedure to bring to a conclusion the controversial issues between the Co-op and the Congress.

Present: Mr. Hoffman, Mr. Sanford, Mr. Buchanan (Mr. Bell for part of the meeting), Nobuo Tabata, K. Kanzaki, H. S. Nozaka, S. Kawaguchi, I. Takahashi, G. Hoshiga, Dr. Ochikubo, K. Nakabayashi, E. S. Ishizaki and J. Noda.

Mr. Hoffman presided as Chairman and Mrs. Adeline Hunter took the minutes.

Mr. Hoffman opened the meeting and announced the purpose saying a common meeting ground was desired and it was proposed that the subject matter and at least a tentative agenda of a meeting at which both points of view could be expressed would be outlined and agreed upon,- the objective being, of course, a settlement of the controversy insofar as the Co-op was concerned.

Dr. Ochikubo said that as far as his group was concerned they understood this meeting was to lay the general ground work for a so-called congressional meeting whereby both the Board of Directors and the Congressmen would meet, if an agreement to that effect can be reached.

Mr. Nozaka said their view was a little different, that they understood this meeting was called for a peaceable settlement of the controversy,- their idea being that each side would send representative speakers, probably three to five each, to a meeting to discuss the controversy and that there would be judges who would decide the issues.

Mr. Hoffman said there should be a meeting but as to the type of meeting that is something that was to be determined here today. He said the suggestion the administration made is contained in my memorandum of which you both have copies. There should be a meeting at which both sides will be given an opportunity to be heard, one to make complaints, the other to answer them. He added that a special meeting, called by the Board of Directors, would result in an equal opportunity for both sides to be heard.

Dr. Ochikubo said that the congress had agreed to the so-called general meeting and if the Board of Directors had also agreed on such a meeting, the agenda could be outlined.

Mr. Hoffman said the congress had notified him verbally that they agreed to the procedure outlined in his memorandum and that the Co-op had written him a letter to that effect.

Mr. Nozaka said they did not go into detail in the letter; that they thought there would be a meeting with representative speakers on both sides and that judges would make the decision.

Some discussion followed, and it was thought that there had been some misunderstanding on the part of the Co-op in that it was not the understanding of others that judges were to be chosen or appointed.

Mr. Hoffman said there was one other point of agreement which was that it was agreed we should seek a solution of the problem, not on the basis of technicalities, but on the basis of common sense and fairness, with an opportunity for both sides to present their views. He said the administration will act only as observers and not as judges.

A rather lengthy discussion followed as to the type of meeting which should be held, the size of the meeting, the persons who should be invited to attend, other persons who should be admitted, the place where the meeting should be held, the control which should be exercised, etc. etc.

It was ~~tentatively~~ decided that the meeting should be a regular or special meeting called by the Board of Directors, preferably a special meeting; that it should be held in a dining hall; that the invited audience should be limited to approximately 130 persons, consisting of 34 block managers, 34 members of the City Council, 68 congressmen and some appointed personnel. It was agreed that there would be some overlapping of persons in these categories. It was suggested that the balance of the audience should consist of persons who desire to attend to the extent that the hall would not be overcrowded and that Internal Security should exercise control over the conduct of the audience.

Mr. Hoffman asked about the choice of a Chairman for the meeting. Dr. Ochikubo said they thought the Chairman of the Board should be Chairman of the meeting. Mr. Hoffman explained to the Board that Mr. KANZAK as Chairman could have two advisory chairman who would be available for legal questions and to insure correct procedure if he so desired, so that he would be assured that he would not be proceeding contrary to the by-laws.

Mr. Hoffman said there should be a statement of the meeting, - a statement by the Chairman of the purpose of the meeting which would attempt to clear the atmosphere and limit what was to be done; that the statement should probably specify that no oratorical addresses were in order and should state definitely who would be recognized by the Chair. He added that the Chairman should limit the statements on both sides and give each side an equal opportunity to make complaints and answers.

Mr. Buchanan suggested that the chairman could limit the complaints and the answers to a certain time.

Dr. Ochikubo suggested that the agenda of the meeting should be prepared and that the time should be limited on both sides.

The matter of an agenda was discussed and it was suggested that the first matter of business should be a general statement of the purpose of the meeting by the Chairman. It was also suggested that such statement should be prepared in advance and should be accepted by both sides which would insure the meeting starting amicably.

It was also suggested that the agenda should call for a statement outlining the expected and required conduct of the people attending the meeting.

At this point, Mr. Nozaka said his group~~a~~ was not in a position to agree upon an agenda for the meeting as they had understood that the meeting would be different. i.e. that it would be one where both sides could speak freely and where judges would decide the issues; that in view of that fact it would be necessary for his group to meet again with the board of directors and explain the present developments. He said his board would meet that night and make their decision.

After some discussion a five minute recess was called.

It was decided after the recess that the meeting should adjourn until Tuesday, April 24, 1945, at 2 P.M. at which time representatives from both sides would return, and the representatives from the co-op would be delegated with authority to act for the entire board.

The meeting was adjourned until 2 P.M. Tuesday, April 24, 1945/

Mrs. Adeline Hunter.

M I N U T E S

Minutes of Continuation of Meeting held Monday, April 23, 1945, which adjourned at 5 P.M. to reconvene Tuesday, April 24, 1945 at 2 o'clock P.M. in Mr. Hoffman's office. This was a meeting between representatives of the Board of Directors of the Co-op and representatives of the Congress regarding controversy between the two groups.

Tuesday, April 24, 1945.

Present: Mr. Hoffman, Mr. Sanford, Mr. Buchanan, Mr. Bell, and Messrs. Nobuo Tabata, K. Kanzaki, H. S. Nozaka, S. Kawaguchi, I. Takahashi, G. Hoshiga, Dr. Ochikubo, K. Nakabayashi, E. S. Ishizaki and J. Noda.

Mr. Hoffman presided as Chairman and Mrs. Adeline Hunter took the minutes.

The meeting was called to order at 2:10 P.M., and Mr. Hoffman announced that they would go back to where the last meeting left off.

Dr. Ochikubo said two points were to be clarified and settled, - one the matter of the representatives of the Board being delegated with full authority to act, and the other the matter of dropping the idea of having judges decide the issues which was formerly advocated by the Board representatives.

Mr. Nozaka said he was spokesman for the meeting but wanted to explain that he was speaking as spokesman only and not as an individual expressing his own ideas. He explained that at a meeting the night before the Board had discussed the two points in question and felt that the issues should be discussed at the coming Friday meeting but that the decision on the issues should not be made for a period of thirty days thereafter.

Mr. Hoffman said he interpreted that to mean that the judge matter had been dropped; that they wanted to go ahead with the Friday meeting as agreed; that that meeting would then adjourn and no decision would be made for thirty days. He then asked: In such event, who would make the decision, and how would that matter be handled ?

Mr. Nozaka said those matters had not been determined. He proceeded to explain at some length the reasons why the Board wanted an additional thirty days, some of the reasons

being that they wanted sufficient time for the residents to consider the matter; that they wanted the atmosphere to be cleared and wanted to wait until people were less excited about the matter; that they wanted to get the matter before the people, etc. etc.

Mr. Nozaka still stressed the advisability of having judges,- saying that the Board felt that if they could not expect the administration members to act as judges even with judges to be appointed from the City Council, etc. as outlined in the previous meeting, they thought the only other way of settling the matter was to go to an outside court. He said they agreed, however, that this should not be done and it should be avoided if possible. He said they were not in favor of that step.

Mr. Nozaka said the representatives present were delegated with full authority to act.

The matter of getting the matter back to the people was discussed at some length. The congress group contended that the people were the congress and that the congressmen being duly elected representatives of the people, were the people; that if the Board chose to ignore the congress, they, being congressmen themselves, would also be ignoring themselves. Mr. Nozaka said his group had different ideas, saying that the congress was the congress and the people were the people.

Mr. Hoffman urged them to get back to the purpose of the present meeting and said it was agreed that the matter of judges was out and the meeting should proceed from that point.

Mr. Nozaka said they did not agree on the matter of not having judges as a principle, but said they felt if they must concede to that they would make an alternative offer, that being the proposition of allowing thirty days time between the Friday meeting and the decision on the hearing.

This brought up the question of who would make the final decision. The matter of taking the matter to the people was again discussed and suggestions were made regarding the blocks taking a vote of confidence or non-confidence in their congressmen, the idea being to ascertain if the congressmen truly represented the people in their blocks in their present stands. It was suggested that any congressman not receiving a vote of confidence would either be obliged to vote with the opposition group or to resign.

After a discussion of these matters in which the Board members said their honesty had been questioned and they should have a right to vindicate themselves, the congress group explained that they did not question the honesty of the Board members or the efficient operation of the Co-op, but it was only a question of lack of cooperation with the congress and of ignoring the congress in certain matters. This brought up the question of having a vote of confidence in the Board so far as operation of the Co-op is concerned and the honesty of the Board members. There was some discussion along this line.

It was then suggested that the Friday meeting be held as agreed but that the meeting adjourn with no decision being made until the following Friday. The Board, however, still wanted thirty days to elapse between meetings.

The meeting then recessed from 3:50 to 4 o'clock P.M.

When the groups returned, Mr. N zaka again reiterated the reasons why thirty days time should be granted. Mr. Hoffman said if they were not in accord with the week between meetings as suggested, that they make a counter offer.

When no counter offer was made, Mr. Hoffman turned the meeting over to Mr. Sanford for further discussion.

Mr. Sanford then outlined what he thought should be done. He said it will soon be a month since the meeting to be held Friday night was requested and he pointed out that the Co-op had already had a month to get information to the people which they had done by means of pamphlets, etc.

The question of time between the two meetings was again discussed, the Board still advocating that they be granted 30 days between the two meetings.

Mr. Bell called attention to the fact that the Friday meeting is to be held (that being a point of agreement) and that it will be a matter for the congress to decide when it will adjourn and when they will reconvene- whether it is one day, two days, one week or thirty days.

Mr. Hoffman explained that it was because of that fact and because any agreement as to time made at this meeting would be binding upon the two groups, that he had made a special effort to have the matter of time settled here. He explained that it should prove an advantage rather than a disadvantage to the Board, as the congress would have the leaway to shorten the time to one or two days if it wished.

At this point, Mr. Nozaka asked for a brief recess.

After returning, Mr. Nozaka said his group would make a compromise,- that they would shorten the time to three weeks.

✓ Mr. Hoffman said that being the case, there was nothing further that could be done in the present meeting. He said they would have to go ahead and have the Friday meeting as agreed and keep the agreements which had been made up to the point that no decision would be made on Friday, but as to the time when the meeting would adjourn and when it would reconvene would be left to the congress.

At that point, Mr. Nozaka asked to meet separately with his group again for a few minutes. Upon returning he said they had agreed to a one week interval between the two meetings, provided the Friday night meeting would be held in the auditorium.

It was pointed out that in the previous meeting, it was agreed that the meeting should be held in a dining hall with a limited number of persons in attendance, etc. A long discussion followed regarding the advantages and disadvantages of having the meeting in the auditorium. The disadvantages seemed to outweigh the advantages and when it was finally decided that the meeting would not be held in the auditorium Mr. Nozaka asked for another recess. Upon returning, he explained that they had now decided they must have three weeks time between meetings.

✓ Mr. Hoffman then explained that there was nothing else he could do. He said there is nothing further to do here. I have made every effort so that matters could be settled here, he said, but if that is not so, there is nothing to do but to go along with the Friday meeting as agreed, with the Chairman as agreed, at Dining Hall 26 as agreed, and with the understanding that the Chairman will write a statement of the purpose of the meeting, to be approved by both groups, as agreed. And then, it will be up to the congress in that meeting to decide where to go from there.

At this point, the matter of having the Friday meeting in the auditorium was again discussed, and the matter of

taking the issues back to the blocks after the Friday Meeting was discussed. It was then suggested that in lieu of having a vote of confidence or non-confidence in the respective congressmen by the blocks that the congressmen be instructed to vote at the adjourned meeting - that the people in the meantime, after the Friday meeting, could weigh the questions and instruct their congressmen in the matter of voting on the decision. This was discussed at some length but was not settled.

Mr. Hoffman in another effort to settle the matter of time suggested that ten days be allowed between the Friday night meeting of April 27th, which would bring the decision meeting on Tuesday, May ~~2nd~~.

Mr. Nozaka said his group would agree to this ten-day interval.

Some discussion followed regarding details of the meeting, such as notices, statement of the meeting, invitations, policing, protection, etc. and it was decided that these details would be left up to Mr. Sanford and the Board chairman. It was agreed, however, that no more than 300 people would be allowed to attend and that the two groups would request the Internal Security to handle the seating of the audience, etc.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 P.M.

Mrs. Hunter

M I N U T E S

MINUTES OF A MEETING regarding the Co-op controversy, at which representatives of both groups were present, - held Thursday afternoon, April 26, 1945, at Mr. Sanford's office from 2 to 5 P.M.

Present, in addition to representatives from both groups, were Mr. Sanford and Mr. Buchanan.

Mr. H. S. Nozaka acted as spokesman for the Board of Directors of the Co-op and Dr. George Ochikubo acted as spokesman for the opposing group of Congressmen.

There was a long discussion regarding the wording and content of the Notice of Special Congressional Meeting and a statement of the meeting by the Chairman.

Finally the Board yielded on its demand that two and one-half hours should be allowed for charges and defenses to be made, and the opposing group yielded on its demand that one hour be allowed for each. This resulted in an agreement, thru compromise, that a period of one-and one-half hours each would be allowed for the charges and for the defenses.

See copy of "Notice of Special Congressional Meeting" and "Special Congressional Meeting" attached.

The congress group demanded that the Board request Mr. Yamate to absent himself from the meeting on the ground that it was evident from a prior vote taken by the Congress (later declared illegal) that the majority of the congressmen would not want him present, especially in view of the fact that no charges were to be made against him. The Board would not agree to this on the ground that Mr. Yamate technically is still the Executive Secretary of the Board and is therefore entitled to be present at the meeting in that capacity.

The meeting adjourned at 5 P. M.

R. P. Sanford
Mrs. Hunter

Attachments

NOTICE OF SPECIAL CONGRESSIONAL MEETING

April 25, 1945

TO:

_____ Blk. _____ Bldg. _____ Apt. _____
Congressman

A Special Meeting of the Cooperative Congress for the purpose of hearing charges against the Board of Directors and defenses thereto will be held,

Date and Time: Friday, April 27, 1945 at 7:30 P.M.
Place: Dining Hall 26

The Community Council, the Block Managers and about 150 visitors are to attend as observers only.

Time for Charges:	1-1/2 hours
Intermission:	15 minutes
Time for Defenses:	1-1/2 hours
Intermission:	10 minutes
Rebuttal:	10 minutes
Intermission:	5 minutes
Surrebuttal:	10 minutes

No vote is to be taken at this meeting. But, a deciding vote as to whether or not the present Board of Directors is to be removed from office will be taken at a Special Meeting of the Cooperative Congress on Tuesday Evening, May 8, 1945.

OK

H. C. K. S.

TOPAZ CONSUMERS COOPERATIVE ENTERPRISES, INC.

X Kanzyki

SPECIAL CONGRESSIONAL MEETING

April 27, 1945

A. Opening Remarks by the Chairman

As the Chairman of the Special Congressional Meeting this evening, I wish to express profound gratitude for the kind assistance extended to us in making this congressional meeting possible, - by the Project Director Mr. Hoffman, and other administrative officers.

The meeting is called this evening for the purpose of hearing charges against the Board of Directors and defenses thereto, so that we shall be able to find out if there are solid foundations and sound reasons in the accusations against the Board of Directors and can ascertain whether or not the Board should resign as a body. ~~xxxxxx~~

The floor must be in good order at all times during and after the arguments and during the recess periods.

The only speakers will be those Congressmen who are recognized by Dr. George A. Ochikubo and Mr. Isamu Takahashi, of the respective sides.

We ask your fair and impartial judgment.

B. PROCEDURES OF THE MEETING

1. The charges against the Board of Directors are to be made by the representatives of a group of congressmen, demanding the resignation of the entire Board.

TIME: 1-1/2 hours (the speakers may finish
anytime within 1-1/2 hours)

Intermission: 15 minutes

2. Answers against the charges made by the representatives of the Board of Directors.

TIME: 1-1/2 hours (the speakers may finish
any time within 1-1/2 hours)

Intermission: 10 minutes

3. Rebuttal.

TIME: 10 minutes

Intermission: 5 minutes

OK
G. A. Ochikubo

K. Kamazaki

4. Surrebuttal.

TIME: 10 Minutes

C. Closing Remarks by the Chairman.

1. The presentation of arguments by both sides is now over.
 2. The vote for or against the removal of the present Board of Directors will be taken on the night of May 8, 1945.
-

The meeting is adjourned. Thank you for coming.

*OK.
D. Ochi Kuroki S.*

H. Kanzaki

SPECIAL CONGRESSIONAL MEETING

April 27, 1945

Opening Remarks By The Chairman

As the Chairman of the Special Congressional Meeting this evening, I wish to express profound gratitude for the kind assistances extended to us in making this congressional meeting possible, by the Project Director, Mr. Hoffman and other administrative officers.

*for the purpose
of hearing charges
against the Bd of
Directors and
defense there to*

The meeting is called this evening (in order to ~~present~~ give opportunities to the representatives of a group of congressmen, who is demanding the resignation of entire board members, to air their complaints against the Board, and at the same time, the Board members can answer the charges, so that you we shall be able to find out if there are solid foundations and sound reasons in their accusations, that if, the board have to resign as a body, or not. We ask your fair and impartial judgement. ~~with~~ *omit*

PROCEDURES OF THE MEETING

1. The charges against the Board of Directors are to be made by the representatives of a group of congressmen, demanding the resignation of entire board.

TIME: ~~1 1/2~~ ⁵ hours - the speakers may finish anytime within ~~1 1/2~~ hours.
(Then 10 minutes rest)

2. Answers against the charges made, by the representatives of the Board of Directors.

TIME: ~~1 1/2~~ ⁰ hours - the speakers may finish anytime within ~~1 1/2~~ hours.

(Then 10 minutes rest)

3. ~~Rebutal by the accusing congressman~~ *by first PART - ~~side~~*

TIME: 10 minutes

(Then 5 minutes rest)

4. ~~Rebutal by the board members~~

TIME: 10 minutes

Closing Remarks By the Chairman

Tonight's presentation of arguments is now over.

C. Closing Remarks By the Chairman

1. The ~~argument~~ presentation of arguments by both sides is now over.
2. The vote for or against the removal of present Board of Directors will be taken on the night of May 8, 1945.

The meeting is adjourned. Thank you for coming.

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE EVENING

1. ~~Presentation of the case and answers are to be in Japanese.~~
- (2) The floor must be in ^{good} order at all the time-during and after the arguments, and during the recess.
3. ~~The audience, including congressmen, other than speakers, may not have right of speech.~~

Chairman's
statement.

Coop

M I N U T E S

MINUTES of a Meeting held Tuesday, May 1, 1945, at 1 o'clock P.M. in the office of Raymond P. Sanford, Assistant Project Director.

PRESENT: Mr. Sanford, Mr. Buchanan, Mr. Yamate, Mr. Nozaka and Mr. Kanzaki. Mr. Bell, Acting Project Director, was present during part of the meeting.

The meeting was originally called to discuss an income tax matter affecting the Co-op.

SUMMARY OF TAX MATTER

Mr. Kanzaki presented a letter dated April 21, 1945, signed by the Acting Deputy Commissioner of the Treasury Department in Washington, in which it is stated that the status of the Co-op for federal income tax purposes has been re-considered and that it has been determined that the business is not exempt under Section 101 of the Internal Revenue Code. Mr. Buchanan is to take this matter up with the Office of the Solicitor of W.R.A. in Washington.

Mr. Kanzaki also presented a letter dated April 26, 1945, issued by the Internal Revenue office in Salt Lake City. This is in connection with an application for refund of taxes paid. Because it involves the question presented in the other letter, it was agreed to wait until some further information on the principal question is received, but not beyond the thirty-day period within which to file a protest.

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Resignation of Board of Directors

Mr. Nozaka, speaking for Mr. Kanzaki, said that the directors, while agreeing to function until their successors are elected, do not want to meet with or deal with the opposition group. The mechanics of further proceedings were then considered and the Board representatives suggested that the next meeting of the Co-op Congress be called for some day earlier than May 8th for the reason that they felt the opposition should be prepared to take over immediately. They felt also that

the limit beyond which they will not function is and should be May 8th.

It was suggested that Mr. Kanzaki preside at the next Congress meeting, at least long enough to call for the election of another presiding officer. Mr. Kanzaki was reluctant to accept this suggestion, however, and the Board representatives suggested that the administration designate an administrative representative to be given "a power of attorney" to preside at the meeting.

Mr. Sanford raised the question of the advisability of such procedure and suggested that a neutral resident preside at the meeting. Mr. Buchanan then suggested that Mr. Bell be consulted in regard to the matter.

Mr. Sanford and Mr. Buchanan then conferred with Mr. Bell, who, on the basis of precedent and to expedite the present situation, thought it would be advisable to have Mr. Sanford act as temporary chairman of the meeting.

It was then suggested to the Board, and they agreed, that the Board would call a regular meeting of the congress to be held on the evening of May 4, 1945, and that Mr. Sanford would be elected Secretary or Treasurer of the Co-op before the meeting replacing the present Secretary or Treasurer. Then Mr. Sanford as the only officer or director present at the meeting would act as Chairman until another chairman should be elected. At that point Mr. Sanford would resign his office and the Acting Chairman of the Congress meeting would declare a short (ten minute) recess. During the recess Mr. Sanford would notify the Board, meeting in the rec. hall of Block 26, that he had resigned and they would proceed to elect a new Secretary or Treasurer as the case may be. That having been done, Mr. Sanford would so advise the members of the Congress at their meeting, and the meeting would continue.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 P.M.

Mrs. Hunter

NOTICE OF REGULAR CONGRESSIONAL MEETING

May _____, 1945

TO:

_____ Blk. _____ Bldg. _____ Apt. _____
(Congressman)

A Regular Meeting of the Cooperative Congress will be
held at Dining Hall 26, on Friday, May 4, 1945, at
7:30 P.M.

TOPAZ CONSUMERS COOPERATIVE ENTERPRISES, INC.