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POLICIES OF THE GOVERNMENT AS TO RESIDENT JAPANESE

Whifford

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE CALIFORNIA DELEGATION

WASHINGTON, D. C., JUNE 14, 1943

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[scribbles]*

WHEREAS, the California delegation in the House of Representatives in January, 1942, initiated its effort to secure the evacuation from critical areas of all enemy aliens and their families whether or not aliens; the internment of such evacuated aliens; that no evacuated aliens be permitted to return to critical areas without a special license; that such critical areas be enlarged to include the three Pacific Coast States and Alaska:

WHEREAS, General John L. DeWitt, commanding the Western Division, subsequently put into effect a protective plan of evacuation and internment consonant with the plan urged by this delegation:

WHEREAS, an effort is being made to remove and relax some of the provisions made under General DeWitt's administration for the protection of the public against subversive enemy efforts:

THEREFORE, the California delegation in the House of Representatives recommends:

That in order to guarantee the security and continued safety of all persons of Japanese ancestry, residing in the United States, and protect against any sabotage, espionage, or disruption of our efforts to destroy the war machine of the Government of Japan, which so ruthlessly attacked the United States,

1. That should the War Department continue to recruit Japanese for military service
 - (a) Such Japanese troops should not be utilized anywhere in the Pacific theatre
 - (b) Such Japanese troops should not be admitted into any areas where the Government of Japan might attempt the landing of any saboteurs or invasion forces, and
 - (c) That no Japanese women should be recruited for use in any of the women's organizations attached to or a part of the armed services.
2. That all known subversive Japanese be immediately segregated and removed from existing relocation camps and be confined in special detention camps for the duration of the war with Japan.
3. That such Japanese as can be utilized, be employed in agriculture and industry in areas outside the defined restricted zones, but that only such Japanese shall be so employed who are reasonably believed to be loyal to the United States after having been investigated and so certified by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. That all Japanese so employed shall be subject to the direct supervision and to such rules and regulations as may be deemed necessary by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

*Mrs Margaret Eisen + rest
367 York Ave
Hawthorne, Cal.*

4. That all remaining Japanese, whose loyalty to the United States can not be definitely certified by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, shall be retained in War Relocation camps for the duration of the war with Japan.
5. That no persons of Japanese ancestry, whether in the military service, related to persons in the military service, or formerly resident within the existing restricted areas of the Pacific Coast, shall be permitted to enter any such designated restricted area without the direct individual authorization in writing of the Commanding Officer of such area.
6. That every effort be made with the Government of Japan to exchange all interned Japanese, subversive and disloyal Japanese and such other Japanese desiring such exchange, for American citizens now interned or held as prisoners of war by the Government of Japan.

Clarence F. Lea

Norris Poulson

J. Leroy Johnson

Thomas F. Ford

Thomas Rolph

John M. Costello

Richard J. Welch

Will Rogers, Jr.

Albert E. Carter

Cecil R. King

John H. Tolan

Ward Johnson

John Z. Anderson

Chet Holifield

Bertrand W. Gearhart

Carl Hinshaw

Alfred J. Elliott

Harry R. Sheppard

George E. Outland

John Phillips

Jerry Voorhis

Ed. V. Izac

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Washington

June 11, 1943

Members of the California Congressional Delegation.

Dear Sirs:

I want to express my appreciation for the privilege of meeting with the California Delegation on June 2. I particularly appreciate the courteous reception by the Delegation and the opportunity to present information regarding certain phases of the War Relocation Authority program in which you are interested. In view of the fact that all members of the delegation were not able to be present, I am submitting to each member a short summary of the War Relocation Authority program and policies.

There is probably no agency in the Government about which more rumors have been circulated. Rumors are inevitable in connection with this type of program. I sincerely hope that each member of the delegation will feel free to call my office in the Barr Building, telephone number Republic 7500, extension 6207, for any information they may wish to have, or to send requests through the mail if we can be helpful in supplying information for your constituents. It is our belief that it is in the interest of California and the country as a whole that the facts be kept straight and that there be no misunderstanding regarding the program of this authority, or any other phase of the war effort.

In the attached statement, we have not tried to cover all the details of policy, but are merely trying to touch the high spots and will assume that if you have questions which are not answered here that you will give us the opportunity to provide additional information.

We will plan from time to time to supply each member of the Delegation a short statement of new policy developments so that you may be kept informed in relation to this program which is naturally of great interest to the people of California. Again I want to express my appreciation for the very courteous reception I received on my meeting with the Delegation on June 2.

Sincerely,

D. S. Myer
Director

Enclosure

THE WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

The War Relocation Authority was created by Executive Order of the President (9102) on March 18, 1942, to provide for the relocation of persons or groups of persons excluded by military commanders, acting under authority of Executive Order 9066. The primary task of this agency thus far has been the relocation and maintenance of some 110,000 persons of Japanese ancestry, evacuated by the military from the states of Washington, Oregon, California, and Arizona during the spring and summer of 1942, pursuant to orders issued on March 29, 1942.

Exclusion of persons of Japanese ancestry from the strategic military areas had been begun by the Department of Justice in February, and exclusion from the entire coastal area was announced on March 2, with evacuation placed on a voluntary basis.

Objective, Quick Resettlement

From the beginning, the objective was to relocate the evacuated people, two-thirds of whom were American citizens, in order that their removal from private life and productive work would be brief. The War Relocation Authority began a search for locations where wartime communities might be established in the interior of the country, land that could be developed for agricultural purposes, water supply, access to transportation, and electric power were among the requirements. An effort was made to find land that could be obtained without displacing large numbers of people and removing them from agricultural production. Ten sites were found, and Army engineers supervised the construction of ten new communities, two each in California, Arizona, and Arkansas, and one each in Utah, Idaho, Wyoming, and Colorado.

Guards Demanded

Early consultations with state officials indicated that they would not be responsible for law and order in the vicinity of the relocation centers. Accordingly it was deemed necessary to have the relocation centers guarded by military police for the protection of the evacuees as well as the public outside.

The actual evacuation was carried out in an orderly manner by the military and evacuees at first were quartered temporarily under military supervision in cantonments hastily constructed within the evacuated area. Later, as construction of the relocation centers was completed, the people were moved by the military authorities to the relocation centers, where they came for the first time under jurisdiction of the War Relocation Authority. The movement to the relocation centers took place over a period of several months, from late May to early November, 1942.

Way Stations

Relocation centers are not to be confused with internment camps for enemy aliens. For most of the evacuated people, the relocation centers

are way stations, places where they can live until they can be reabsorbed into the normal life of the nation. While they are in relocation centers, the War Relocation Authority provides them with food, lodging, medical care, and education for the children through the high school level. Everyone is encouraged to work, and about 40 per cent of the population actually is employed in the relocation centers, about the same proportion as before evacuation. Those who work are paid nominal wages, of \$12, \$16, or \$19 a month, depending on the kind of work and the amount of training and skill required to perform it. In addition to wages, each worker is paid a cash allowance for clothing for members of his family.

While an effort is made to have life in a relocation center approach life in a normal community, no more than a remote approach is possible. The residents of a relocation center do not leave the relocation area without special permission. During the daylight hours they may move within the relocation center, which in each instance includes several thousand acres, but after dark they are confined to the residence area, usually about a mile square. This area usually is fenced with barbed wire.

Living quarters are barrack-type structures, one story high, divided into compartments about 20 by 25 feet for a family of 5 or 6 people. In some instances the limitations of space require that two or more small families share a compartment. There is no family type cooking, and everyone eats in dining halls, about 275 to a dining hall. The food is sufficient, but not elaborate.

Food is Rationed

All restrictions and recommendations of the Office of Price Administration concerning rationing of foods are observed in the relocation centers. Sugar rationing began in August, 1942. Meat was rationed in the six western centers in November, 1942, and in all centers in January, 1943. Relocation centers had not purchased ham, bacon, or butter since January 28, 1943, until rationing was put into effect. Since March 1, canned and processed foods issued from the warehouses to mess halls have been rationed. The point rationing system is followed in purchasing and using all rationed foods. The War Relocation Authority established a maximum allowance of 45 cents per person per day in estimating food costs, and at the present time food costs are actually about 40 cents a day for each person, this in the face of rising food prices. Menus include both American and Oriental type dishes because the older people, aliens, favor the foods with which they were familiar in Japan, rice, fish, tea, leafy greens and pickles of various types; their children, born in the United States prefer typically American foods.

Evacuees Do the Work

The War Relocation Authority has a relatively small administrative staff at each relocation center, but most of the work, administrative and otherwise, is done by the evacuees. In any community, a fair proportion of the population is concerned with procuring, distributing, preparing and serving food, and so the largest group of employees in any relocation center

is attached to the dining halls and the food warehouses. Others work on the farm, in the administrative offices, on the newspaper staff, in the co-operative stores, with the construction and maintenance crews, or in the hundreds of varying types of work which are necessary for the operation of any city.

Army Production

Several hundred of the American citizens in three relocation centers have been engaged in making camouflage nets for the Army. This work has now been completed. At two of the relocation centers last summer and fall the evacuees produced several hundred carloads of vegetables, enough to meet the immediate needs of the residents where they were produced, make shipments of fresh produce to other relocation centers, and leave thousands of bushels to be stored for later use. One of the centers in Arizona had about 1,000 acres in vegetables last winter. Poultry and hog production is well under way at most of the centers; beef cattle are being fed in three centers, a dairy herd is established at another. Almost all the centers will have vegetable production during 1943 sufficient to meet their needs, and a major share of their requirements for pork and poultry products. In all, it is expected they will produce about one-third of their total food requirements. Rationed foods produced are deducted from the ration allowance and the cost of all foods produced is deducted from the money allowed for food.

Each relocation center has a hospital, and a staff composed largely of evacuee physicians, nurses, pharmacists and aides, with non-Japanese in only the supervisory positions. Since living conditions do not permit home care of the sick, almost every illness is a hospital case.

The school system, supervised by non-Japanese, is planned to meet the standards of the state in which the center is located. Because of the shortage of materials, classes have been held in buildings originally intended for living quarters or for recreation halls, although high school buildings are under construction at most of the centers. Some of the shop work necessary to the operation of the center is utilized in vocational training. The regular school course covers the elementary and high school grades, and in addition programs of adult education are carried on, sometimes with members of the regular school staff and sometimes with evacuees as teachers. One of the most popular courses for foreign born adults is English. Courses in American history and American geography also are much in demand. Emphasis now is being placed on vocational courses which will fit evacuees for outside employment.

Leisure time activity has been developed almost entirely as a result of the evacuees' own initiative. Arts and crafts are popular with evacuees of all ages; the younger people, almost all of them American citizens, enjoy about the same kinds of recreation that any other group of young Americans do. There are soft ball teams by the hundreds; during the past winter, the boys and girls have been playing basketball, usually out-of-doors, and they have provided competition for nearby high school teams. The young people have brought to the relocation centers the same tastes in activity that they

learned in American schools and universities; so they have glee clubs and choirs, they jitterbug to the latest dance tunes, they have their own orchestras; the Hawaiian influence is rather common, for many of the people came to the mainland of the United States by way of Hawaii, and so Hawaiian string orchestras are fairly common.

Freedom of Speech and Religion

Evacuees have complete freedom of speech in the language of their choosing; they have freedom of religion, and Buddhist, Catholic, and Protestant services are held every Sunday, in recreation halls or dining halls, for no church buildings have been erected. Almost half of the people are Christian, and the Christian church membership covers a wide range of denominations. A higher percentage of the American-born are Christians than is the case with aliens.

Leave Program

Last July the War Relocation Authority announced a policy of permitting American citizens whose record had been thoroughly checked and considered good to leave relocation centers to live outside. On the first of October this policy was broadened to include aliens as well as citizens. Only a few evacuees took advantage of this opportunity at first, because most of them had few contacts in the interior of the country which would result in jobs or other means of support.

In recent months, however, the War Relocation Authority has placed staff members at strategic points over the country to contact employment agencies and to make known to them the fact that eligible Japanese Americans with training and experience would be available to help meet the manpower shortage. We have worked closely with the War Manpower Commission, especially with the U. S. Employment Service, and with the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Private groups, especially the churches, have been exceedingly helpful in establishing local contacts and in developing understanding of the situation. To date over 6,000 evacuees have left the relocation centers on indefinite leave, to live in ordinary communities outside the evacuated zone.

Only those evacuees whose records have been carefully studied, and found satisfactory, and who have jobs or other means of support, are permitted to leave the relocation centers. In cases where there is any question, a check is made against the records of the intelligence agencies of the government.

Farm workers, farm operators, domestic servants, hotel and restaurant workers, and wives and sweethearts of Japanese American soldiers leaving to join their husbands or fiances are most numerous among the evacuees who have left the relocation centers to date. The range of employment, however, is quite extensive.

Seasonal Farm Work

There is a great demand in agricultural areas, especially in the sugar-beet-producing regions of the inter-mountain states, for evacuees as agricultural workers. Nearly 10,000 evacuees worked in the beet fields last fall, and they harvested sugar beets enough to provide a year's sugar ration for approximately 10,000,000 people. Over 5,000 already have gone into agricultural work this year on seasonal leave permits, and it is expected that the number may grow to a figure larger than that of last year.

Army Accepts Evacuees

On January 28, the War Department announced that a combat team of Japanese Americans would be formed, to be recruited on a volunteer basis from American citizens of Japanese ancestry in the relocation centers, in Hawaii, and on the mainland outside of relocation centers. More than 1,200 Americans in relocation centers volunteered.

Simultaneously with the recruitment of Army volunteers, all adults in relocation centers were required to fill out questionnaires which would give much information regarding their attitudes and loyalties. The questionnaires filled out by citizen males were to be used in selecting candidates for the army, or candidates for work in defense plants; while those filled out by the aliens, women and citizen males over military age were to be used in determining which of the evacuees would be granted permits of indefinite leave from the relocation centers, and their qualifications for war work. One of the questions dealt with loyalty to the United States. It sharpened the issue of loyalty as it had not been done before. The results of the registration indicate that there are many thousands who manifestly want to be Americans, while others want to be Japanese. The process of determining eligibility for leave is now going on, with the collaboration of the Army, Navy, and Department of Justice.

Segregation Is Desirable

There are some people in the relocation centers who have indicated that they wish to be Japanese, rather than Americans. There are others whose records indicate that it would be undesirable for them to live in ordinary communities. These people, we feel, should be segregated as soon as is feasible. The others, including aliens as well as American citizens, whose records are satisfactory, should be encouraged to relocate as soon as possible outside the relocation centers. The aim of the War Relocation Authority is to stress outside relocation so that long before the war ends all those who can support themselves and contribute to the war effort will have left, and the residue will include only those who are ineligible for leave and those who because of age or infirmity are unable to make their own way in the outside world.

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Appendix - page A 3953-54

Hon. Karl E. Mundt
Japanese War Relocation Program and Its
Progress

His impressions and observations following the Costello Sub-committee of the Dies Committee hearings.

OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

WB-1178

Text of Address by Dillon S. Myer, Director of the War Relocation Authority, over the National Broadcasting Company network at 10:45 p.m., EWT, Thursday, July 15, 1943.

During recent weeks, a great deal of public attention has been given to the War Relocation Authority, the relocation centers, and the Japanese-American people who live in these centers. Unfortunately, much of the information given circulation was untrue, and misleading. Much of what has been said has caused confusion, by focusing attention on some minor details and covering up the really basic issues.

The proper handling of the people of Japanese ancestry who were removed from their homes along the Pacific Coast into relocation centers is a matter of importance to every person in the United States. It is essential that everyone who gives thought to the problem keep certain facts clearly in mind.

First---enemy aliens suspected of being subversive were arrested immediately after Pearl Harbor and are now interned. They have never been in relocation centers.

Second---During the first month of the evacuation period -- in March 1942 -- the Japanese-American people were first told simply that they must move out of the Pacific coastal zone and were free to go anywhere else they liked. It was only after this voluntary movement had caused difficulties that controlled evacuation came into the picture. Relocation centers were established primarily to provide living quarters for the evacuees while long-range resettlement plans were being worked out.

The evacuation did not imply for one moment that all evacuees were guilty or even suspected of endangering the national safety. It was a precautionary move taken in view of the exceedingly critical military situation on the West Coast. The evacuees in the relocation centers are not charged with any crime or subversive intentions; they are a dislocated people who had to have some place to live-- and the relocation centers seemed to be the most feasible temporary solution to the problem. There is no reason to conduct the relocation centers as internment camps or prisons.

On the contrary, there are good reasons why they should not be so conducted. Two-thirds of the people who were moved into relocation centers were born in this country. They are American citizens, and 72 per cent of this citizen group have never even seen Japan.

(over)

X-18063

In the ten relocation centers, the evacuees are provided with most of the basic necessities of life--and the opportunity to earn a small amount of money so they may buy other things not provided by the government. They receive food, lodging, and medical care, and schooling is provided for the children.

The living quarters are barrack-type frame buildings, divided into family-size compartments--and furnished with cots, mattresses, blankets and heating stoves. There is no running water or cooking facilities in the barracks--but community bath houses and mess halls are located in each block to serve 250 to 300 people.

The school program is planned to meet the standards of the state where the center is located, but until recently there were no buildings put up especially for school purposes. Classes have been held in barrack buildings originally intended for living quarters or for recreation.

The medical service in a relocation center is barely adequate even as measured by wartime standards. Non-Japanese doctors and nurses are in charge of the medical staff in each center, but most of the staff is composed of evacuees.

Any community of--say--ten thousand people, eating three meals a day--will require a lot of food. Most of the relocation centers were able to produce very little of their own food last year--and so most of it had to be brought in. People who have seen the trucks going into the relocation centers loaded with food quite naturally have been impressed with the large amounts--and so many rumors have started that the evacuees in relocation centers are getting huge amounts of food--far more than other civilians.

I want to say right here and now that people in relocation centers are rationed--just the same as the rest of us. Most of the food is bought through the Quartermaster Corps of the Army. But there is a top limit of 45 cents a day per person which may be spent for food, and the actual cost has ranged from 34 to 42 cents a day. By way of comparison, the Army allows a maximum of 61 cents a day and actually spends 55 to 57 cents a day for each man. From the standpoint of quality, the food served in the centers is, of course, never better than Army standards. And on many items, such as beef, it is definitely inferior.

The government of the United States has an obligation to feed the evacuees in the relocation centers but--we are doing it in strict accord with rationing regulations--and with a keen regard for the heavy demands on the nation's food supply.

I won't take time to dwell on other details of the relocation center activities--except to say that the War Relocation Authority is operating with a minimum staff--and has attempted to give a maximum of responsibility to the evacuees themselves for providing the services needed by the community--and for managing their own affairs.

The wages for those who work are just about enough to provide for the necessities--12, 16, or 19 dollars a month--plus a small clothing allowance for each member of the worker's family. The evacuees are not compelled to work--but only those who do work receive wages and clothing allowances. About 90 per cent of the employable evacuees at the centers are now engaged in some kind of work.

In spite of the fact that the War Relocation Authority is responsible for managing the ten relocation centers--we don't feel that they are desirable institutions, or anything in which the people of the United States can take pride. It isn't the American way to have children grow up behind barbed wire. It may be possible to make good Americans out of them--but the very surroundings make a mockery out of principles we have always cherished and respected. It's difficult to reconcile democracy with barbed wire--freedom with armed sentries--liberty with searchlights.

But, in spite of these discouraging surroundings, Americanism is predominant in the relocation centers. It is taught in the schools--in the adult education classes--through organizations such as Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, 4-H Clubs, Future Farmers of America, Girl Reserves, and Parent-Teacher Associations. Several of the centers have U.S.O. Clubs or similar arrangements for the entertainment of soldiers of Japanese ancestry who come back to the centers to see their families or friends.

However, there are some people in the relocation centers who have indicated that they prefer to be Japanese rather than American. And there are others whose records indicate that they might endanger the national security. Accordingly, we are planning within the next few weeks to segregate these pro-Japanese people and establish them in a single center where they will live for the duration of the war or until repatriated to Japan. It has taken time to gather enough information for such a program of segregation. We now have the necessary information and we expect to carry out the program as soon as transportation can be obtained to make the move.

We feel that the remainder of the population--those who are thoroughly American in their loyalties--should not be required to remain in relocation centers. They can make a much greater contribution to the war effort by working on farms, in factories, and in other places where their abilities can be used to best advantage.

In the spring of last year, when the evacuation was only beginning, there was an insistent demand from sugar beet growers and refiners for evacuees to work in the beet fields of the Western States. Before the harvest season was over, about 10,000 people from the centers had gone to work in the fields of the West--and they harvested enough beets to provide a year's sugar ration for about 10 million people.

The results of that program were generally good from every point of view. And so the War Relocation Authority went one step further. Starting in July one year ago, we began to work out a program whereby evacuees with sound records might leave the centers indefinitely to take jobs and establish homes in normal communities. Up to the present time, about 10,000 of the evacuated people have taken advantage of these procedures and have gone out on indefinite leave to establish themselves mainly throughout the interior sections of the country. In addition, approximately 6,000 have gone out on seasonal leave for work chiefly on farms throughout irrigated sections of the West. And in all these months, not one case of disloyal activity on the part of these people has been reported from any reliable source.

(Over)

X-18063

Within the past few weeks, there has been a great deal of public discussion about the release of people from relocation centers. The procedures for granting release and the methods of investigating individual evacuees have been widely misunderstood. So tonight I want to state those procedures just as clearly as I can in order that the public may have the true facts. Over a period of many months, we have gathered a considerable amount of information on each evacuee 17 years or over -- information on their individual backgrounds and interests and their past employment records. Before any evacuee is granted indefinite leave, this information is carefully checked at the relocation center. If there is any indication that the evacuee might endanger the national security or interfere with the war effort, permission for leave is denied.

In addition--as a further precaution--we have submitted the names of all evacuees past 17 to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The FBI has now checked nearly 90 per cent of these names against its files and has supplied us with whatever information it had on the individuals involved. We have been using this information in determining eligibility for leave. But I want to emphasize the determination is made by WRA and not by FBI.

There are certain classes of evacuees who automatically are denied leave: one-- those who have asked to be repatriated or expatriated to Japan, two-- Shinto priests, three-- American citizens who have refused to swear allegiance to the United States and four-- those who have been denied leave once because of bad records. At the same time, there are thousands whose records show no reason why they should not be permitted to leave the centers.

The main point I want to make concerning the granting of leave to evacuees is this: the War Relocation Authority is exerting all proper precautions for the national security--and at the same time is providing the means for loyal American citizens and law-abiding aliens--to take their place in the national life and enjoy the freedoms which are assured by the Constitution.

The War Relocation Authority recognizes that the foremost task before the people of this country is to win the war. This means concentrating on fighting the enemy -- rather than fighting among ourselves -- and using all our available manpower where it can do the most good.

We have faith in the American democratic way of life, with equal rights, privileges, and responsibilities for all, regardless of race, creed, or national origin.

We assume that the great majority of the people of Japanese ancestry now in this country will stay here during the war and afterwards.

We have confidence in the ability of the armed forces to wage the war, and of the authorized intelligence agencies of the Government to give proper surveillance to all suspected or potential enemies within our country.

We believe that it is possible to distinguish between the loyal and the disloyal people of Japanese ancestry, as well as with other national or racial groups, to a degree which will insure the national security.

We believe loyalty grows and sustains itself only when it is given a chance. It cannot flourish in an atmosphere of suspicion and discrimination.

Let me repeat -- the manner in which the WRA conducts its program is of concern to all the people in the U.S. And it has a significance which goes far beyond the boundaries of this country. Our actions are being watched in Japan, where thousands of American soldiers and civilians are held as prisoners or internees; undoubtedly they are being watched in China, India, Burma and other countries whose collaboration is necessary if we are to defeat our enemies surely and quickly. These countries are watching our actions to see if we mean what we say when we talk about racial equality.

So it is important that we all approach this problem sanely and calmly, without racial emotion or hysteria. As I have said before, let's not handle this problem as Hitler would handle it in Nazi Germany, or as Tojo would approach it in Japan. Let's do it the American way.

X-18063