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Basson w/ Tufford

November 20, 1943

MEMORANDUM TO: Project Director, Rohwer Relocation Center
and Relocation Supervisors.

SUBJECT: Relocation Teams

In the Acting Director's letter of October 28th it was proposed that relocation teams made up of relocation officers be sent to the centers to stimulate interest in resettlement in specific areas. The first team is being sent to the Rohwer Relocation Center. The purpose of this team will be to aid the project relocation division in presenting full information about opportunities for resettlement in the various areas. It should be stressed that high pressure methods will be avoided. The visit of the relocation team is in the nature of a special service to the evacuees and not a special pressure.

The first experimental team will be composed of:

Harold Fistere, Cleveland Area Relocation Supervisor, Chairman.
Elmer Sherrill, Chicago Area Relocation Supervisor.
Dr. P. A. Weber of the Salt Lake City Relocation Office.
(Expert in the Japanese language)
Miss Gretchen VanTassel of the Washington Reports Office.

The team will meet in Chicago on November 29th with Philip W. Barber of the Washington Relocation Staff, for a two day conference to prepare materials and discuss presentation methods. Edwin G. Arnold, Chief of the Relocation Division will be present at some of these meetings on November 30th. This team, accompanied by Mr. Barber, will arrive in Rohwer the evening of December 1st and will remain there for about ten days, returning to Chicago for a summing up conference on December 13th with Mr. Arnold and Rex Lee of the Washington Relocation Staff, at which time experiences at Rohwer will be evaluated, plans made for future use of team methods, and procedure written. It is planned that the team, while at Rohwer, will develop the following activities:

1. Relocation meetings held each night in designated mess halls, located so as to cover the whole area of the center.

The program for the relocation evening meetings will feature the two WRA produced sound color films "The Way Ahead", showing relocated evacuees, and "Go For Broke", showing the combat team in training at Camp Shelby. The sequence of the evening program is tentatively set as follows:

a. Introduction of the team by the Project Relocation Officer or the Project Director.

b. Introductory remarks in Japanese and English by Doctor P. A. Weber.

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c. Screening of "The Way Ahead". Commentary in Japanese by Doctor P. A. Weber.

d. Talks by members of the team including general material on public attitudes, cost of living, housing and experiences of resettlers, types of job opportunities open to evacuees, and characteristics of areas and cities.

e. Discussion and question period.

f. Screening of "Go For Broke".

g. Tea and crackers served and general social period with opportunity for conversation with members of the relocation team and examination of visual exhibits.

2. Afternoon meetings scheduled with special groups, such as agricultural workers, high school students, motor pool employees, clerical workers, etc.

Afternoon meetings with special groups will be briefer than the evening meetings and will feature material of particular interest to the group concerned. For the agricultural workers there should be a general presentation of agricultural opportunities, including steps in agricultural relocation from farm labor to share cropping to eventual ownership. High school students would receive information outlining the types of opportunities open to young people with some emphasis on social adjustment, accompanied by screenings of "The Way Ahead" and "Go For Broke". Clerical workers would of course be acquainted with general opportunities for secretaries, clerks, accountants, etc. If possible these meetings will be supplemented by showings of film strips or special films dealing with fields of interest.

3. Individual conferences each morning and during those parts of the afternoons when other meetings are not scheduled.

It is proposed that these conferences be held at the rear of the mess hall where the previous evening's meeting took place, to facilitate contact between evacuees and the team. It is hoped that arrangements can also be made for appointments with working evacuees wishing to consult the relocation team. The visual exhibits and as much material for distribution as possible should be on hand to stimulate interest while evacuees are waiting for appointments.

4. Meetings with the Community Council, and with appointed personnel.

An important part of the work of the relocation team will be meetings with the Community Council, the Evacuee Relocation Committee, and the appointed personnel. At these meetings the relocation team, or one of its members, can make clear the

proposed future program in regard to relocation, present a picture of current outside conditions, and answer questions.

PARTICIPATION OF PROJECT REPORTS OFFICE

The cooperation of the Project Reports Officer and his staff will be an important factor in carrying forward the work of the relocation team, for it is essential that residents of the center be promptly and accurately advised of the various activities in connection with the program.

The Reports Officer should arrange for publication in the project newspaper of announcements and notices in connection with meetings, explanations of the types of information available to residents of the center from members of the team, news stories based on interviews with team members, facts about different relocation areas, comments of relocated evacuees, and any other material which is deemed pertinent.

It is expected that the Reports Officer will assist in making arrangements for the meetings, in preparing necessary exhibits and displays, arranging for posters and signs, in establishing a library of relocation information and in such other matters as may be necessary in helping the relocation team to effectively present its program.

A press release announcing the coming of the relocation team and outlining its program is being prepared in the Washington Office for release in the project paper, and will be forwarded to the project in the near future.

MATERIALS FOR RELOCATION TEAM

Since the relocation team will be concerned with making the most effective possible presentation of all information pertinent to resettlement it is important that adequate materials be available for its use. These will be both visual aids and reference material and the relocation field offices and the Washington Relocation Division will jointly take the responsibility for supplying this material.

FOR VISUAL EDUCATION

I. TO BE SUPPLIED PRIMARILY BY RELOCATION FIELD OFFICES.

a. Film strip machine.
b. Film strips of industries or areas, as available.
c. Additional movie films showing areas, as available.

II. TO BE SUPPLIED PRIMARILY BY WASHINGTON.

a. Sound movie projector, 16 m.m.
b. Outline map of the United States showing states, relocation centers, relocation area offices and relocation offices.
c. Movie films: "The Way Ahead" and "Go For Broke" with written commentary in Japanese.
d. Photographic exhibits mounted to fold, with packing

case, showing relocated evacuees in their homes, at work, schools, industries, farms, etc.

e. Recent editorials, news items, etc., blown up so as to be easily read. Favorable and unfavorable, contrasting west coast attitudes with middle west and east.

f. Chart of cost of living, showing comparative cost of living in different cities and areas of the United States.

g. Chart showing total resettlement.

REFERENCE MATERIAL

I. TO BE SUPPLIED PRIMARILY BY RELOCATION FIELD OFFICES.

a. Analysis of fields of employment open to evacuees in each community with information as to the number of placements already made in these fields and wages received.

b. Selected job offers.

II. TO BE SUPPLIED PRIMARILY BY WASHINGTON.

a. Facts on aids to security in areas of resettlement, such as: Social Security Funds, Farm Security Administration, etc.

b. Scrapbooks of recent favorable newspaper publicity in English and Japanese.

III. TO BE SUPPLIED JOINTLY BY THE RELOCATION FIELD OFFICES AND BY WASHINGTON.

a. Thumb nail sketches of successfully relocated families in each area emphasizing Issei, with successful examples of resettlers' participation in community activities.

b. Sketches of each area and typical cities, giving climate, population, cost of living, and housing in "down to earth" form readily comprehended by the average person.

As much of the above material as possible should be prepared immediately for the use of the Relocation Team at Rohwer. This should be sent to Elmer Shirrell at the Chicago Relocation Field Office so as to reach him not later than November 29th. Additional material should be gathered, however, since it is tentatively planned to send out three relocation teams in January and February to the remaining centers. Their effectiveness will depend largely upon the material supplied them and it should be born in mind that the effective presentation for the case of each area will depend upon the information supplied by the area.

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Material gathered by relocation field offices after November 29th for use by the teams in January and February should be forwarded to the Relocation Division in Washington as promptly as possible.

Edwin F. Arnold

Chief, Relocation Division

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Relocation Program

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Relocation Branch
McGehee, Arkansas
March 6, 1944

Mr. Herbert Keno
Relocation Officer
634 Circle Tower Bldg.
Indianapolis 4, Indiana

Dear Mr. Keno:

The office of Adult Education here has been working with the local relocation office on some simple device for better orientation of relocatees, something which may have wide use among the projects, relocation offices, hostels, and relocation committees.

To do the things we have in mind at all well we need your help. Would you list for us a minimum of five Do's (maximum 10) and a minimum of five Don't's (maximum 10) for relocatees who wish to get along well outside. Please choose the most important. Also with each item give a descriptive case making clear what you mean. We have in mind a number of valuable educational uses we will make of this materials, including pictorial as well as verbal uses. In case there are individuals (relocatees or others) or groups in your city who could submit such items, will you request this of them and send the results to us?

While we do not wish to rush you unduly we would like for you to forward this material to us within six days after receipt of this letter. We assure you, you will get full use of whatever materials we develope from your contribution.

Sincerely yours,

Nat R Griswold

Nat R. Griswold, Director
Adult and Continuation
Education

Note: This letter is being sent to all W. R. A. Relocation Offices, Hostels, and various relocation committees.

Rohwer

Memorandum.

To: Miss Gifford

From: Wilma van Dusseldorp

Subject: Progress of Relocation. In reply to teletype request of 4-13-44.

1. Methods of Interpreting Program to Residents.

Chiefly through the Chairman of the Community Council. By frequent contacts with the Chairman of the Executive Board, composed of representatives selected by each of the thirty-three Blocks, which contacts started shortly after receiving the November release describing the proposed program, we shared with the Chairman the contents of the Washington proposals, and the Rohwer Welfare Section responce to those proposals. Many of the contacts after the first discussion which was by appointment (and covered more than three hours of time) were a number of subsequent discussions which were more informal. Frequently the Chairman stopped by the office for a discussion of a few minutes on a point about which he wanted the Welfare Section's point of view.

From the beginning, the Chairman was interested in and anxious to promote the program. As he presented the proposed program to the Central Board, however, he met with great doubt and resistance. About a third of the Board members expressed interest in the plan to the extent that they would agree to appoint a committee to serve as the Counseling Committee, by the middle of December when the Counselor left forTule Lake. There were no discussions on the subject during the Counselor's absense.

About the third week in January, after the Counselor's return from Tule Lake, it was learned that no Committee had been appointed. There had been no meetings of the Relocation Committee of which the Assistant Leave Officer (an evacuee) was chairman. The personnel of the Central Board had been concerned with other problems and had not discussed the Counseling program. The Counselor reviewed again with the Chairman the importance of being able to advise the Washington office about the needs of people desiring relocation, and the reasons why many people were not making definite plans for relocation. and the Chairman asked the Counselor to attend a meeting called just for the purpose of discussing the proposed plan. That meeting was postponed due to the greater interest the membership of the Council had at that time in the results of the January 20th decision with regard to Selective Service. About the middle of February the Chairman spent a couple of hours in the office, reviewing the original plans in preparation for another meeting of the Central Board. The Board spent a half day discussing the subject,---in Japanese,--which meeting was attended by one of our evacuee staff members. Mr. Kataoka reported that the subject was ably and convincingly presented, but a majority of the Board would not approve theselection of a Council Committee to "work on the program". There was a willingness that the Welfare Section should proceed with the interviewing program, finally, but since the majority of Board members looked upon the plan as one developed in Washington to promote what they considered "impossible" plans for relocation, they did not which to be closely identified with it.

It was in March that the Chairman of the Council came to the office in good spirits to announce that the majority of theBoard membership had appointed two people to

serve on a"Welfare Committee", intending that the committee would be enlarged by staff members for the present, and possibly, at a later date by additional members of the Council Board. One of the two people selected was also a member of the Relocation Committee, a meeting of which had not been held for a long time, and which was referred to as inactive.

These appointments were accepted with encouragement. A meeting was held the third week in March, and the Chairman left on a short term leave, with intentions to plan his own relocation the week following the first meeting. The Council appointed in his place the person who was to be Acting Chairman of the Council until the next election would take place in May, since the Chairman of the Council who had served as such since the organization of the Council was leaving to relocate. Also this second appointment was the Chairman of the American Red Cross Board, and as such extremely busy. There have been several short conferences with him, but no committee meetings.

During all of this period, we have had such limited staff, that little was done more than to prepare files, for the identification of the different groups of people who might present special problems, as a foundation for the couseling program which would proceed as staff was available. The Chairman (now gone),the present Acting Chairman and several people on the Council Board have become familiar with thesteps that have been taken, and they want to participate in the program as it proceeds. It is believed that the Board as a group were finally willing to appoint two members as a result of a comment made by the Counselor, and which was shared with the Board members by the Chairman, to the effect that if the Council as a whole seemed opposed to the plan chiefly because they opposed the promotion of relocation,----that fact was considered thestrongest reason why they might find it to their interest to participate in the program. The use of the term "plan for their future" had never been seriously believed by the majority of the Council members.

It is noteworthy that during all the period in which there were the discussions about whether or not the Council should appoint a committee to work with the Welfare Section, several residents who had been present during the Council discussions took occasion to talk with the Counselor about theposition taken, to assure the Counselor that there was confidence in the Welfare Section staff and program. On several occasions men talked very confidentially about how they felt about the administrative staff members generally, and referred to the Welfare Section "as one office in which they could have confidence", and that they hoped their retarded action was not considered as evidence of any lack of confidence in the Section. In the main (with one ortwo exceptions) these spoksmen were in sympathy with the appointment of the committee, and they made that clear. If they were among those voting against the appointment of the committee, they were only wishing to express their opposition to a "promotion" of relocation. One of these people has since himself relocated. He was ating largely as a representative of his constituents who were opposing relocation, until opportunity was opened for group relocation for farmers.

It is planned that as soon as the new staff member (one whose application has been sent to Washington) comes, that a meeting of the committee composed of Council members and staff members willbe called, and this group will together plan the steps to be taken for a community wide counseling program.

2. Approximate date interviewing started.

The formalized "family by family" program of interviewing has not started. As staff members have contacts with people through the course of the regular welfare services, their interests in "future plans" are being discussed a great deal. We are having a great many contacts with families of men of draft age, through the service established for the Selective Service Board, and these contacts are productive of many opportunities to becomefamiliar with peoples desires, hopes and plans. These are being recorded. We have considerable information about people which as yet has not been assembled or analysed, which will be of value as the more formalized program proceeds.

3. Approximate number of interviews held. There has been only one fully developed history prepared and sent to the Relocation Program Officer in the interest of relocation which wasin behalf of a person (head of a small family) who asked for that service wholly unrelated to any other interest,---or need such as public assistance, selective service, relocation of other members of the family groups, etc. There have been many instances in which reports have been sent to the Relocation Program Officer about people who present special needs for relocation, but who are still not ready for definite action.

4. Number referred to Relocation Program Officer.

We have not kept account of cases referred to the Relocation Program officer. The Relocation Office keeps account of the referrals we make to them, when the referral is with regard to persons who have not previously been given service by that office. In the majority of instances the people in behalf of whom we make reports to the RelocationProgram Officer are already known to that office, and the report we make is likely not to constitute a "referral".

5. Number for whom relocation plans not currently feasible.

We can offer to you the number of cases we have in our "bread-winnerless" file, for instance, which is not offered as complete. It is nearly complete, but therewill be additions from time to time when in the course of our contacts we become familiar with additional situations not now known to us. There are 103 unattached individuals (may be single, widowed or divorced) who have become known to us because they are currently receiving or have in the past received public assistance, and who are 65 years of age or over. There is an additional 44 "unattached" individuals who are under 65 years of age, but who for one reason or another are "unemployable". We know of 18 family groups without an "economic" head, 13 of which are recipients, or have been, of public assistance. Five of these families are independent of public assistance in the Center because it is possible for the widowed mother to work in the block. It would not be possible for these mothers to work and care for their families outside the center.

There are 90 family groups composed of both parents and children, in which there are 5 or more children in the family here <u>in the Center</u> (in a few instances one or two older children have relocated, and are not counted) who are largely under 14 years of age. In each of these 90 cases, there are at least three children under 18 years of age,---but as a matter of fact, a review of the cases impresses us with the fact that the majority of the children are very young. Broken down a little further, these 90 families can be presented as follows:

37 have five children each, 3 or more under 18.
33 have 6 children, 3 or more are under 18.

8 have 7 children, 3 or more of whom are under 18.
9 have 8 children, 3 ormore of whom are under 18.
2 have 9 children " " " " ".
1 has 10 children, " " " " ".

These 90 families represent 719 people, 180 parents and 539 children. This is a group about whom we need a great deal more information than we have assembled and analysed.

6. Forces which tend to hold families in center.

A desire to farm as independent entrepeneurs, under circumstances which makes it possible for groups of Japanese Americans to be close to each other, and maintain social interdpendence to which they are accustomed.

An inability to speak English.

Uncertainity about help from draft age sons, who are likely to be called into the Armed Forces.

Lack of leave clearance for some of the young people, particularly, but it has deterred a few of the parents.

The Center facilities have established for a substantial number of people,---- some of us estimate it at a third, it may not be more than a fourth of the population,---- a standard of living which is substantially higher than that to which they were accustomed prior to evacuation, and the economic heads of these families have not the skills, and often not the interest in acquiring the skills that would be necessary, to assure them opportunity for establishing economic independence on the outside, with the standard of living they have come to want, since living in the Center.

There are plenty of families,---some with large families----who have a lower standard of living in the Center than they had on their farms in California, but without the "supports"; such as, working for Japanese employers, if they cannot be independent businessmen or farmers, association with members of a large family group or very close friends, ---they feel uncertain about their ability to re-establish their economic independence and have a chance to have even the standard of living they have in the Center, much less re-establish the standard they had before evacuation. By and large, the men interested in farming do not want to work for non-Japanese employers or landlords. When they worked for Japanese employers or landlords, they felt they were "understood". They are unfamiliar with "dry" farming, and really prefer irrigation farming.

Desire to return to California, and a disposition to "hold out" with the hope that they will eventually have the chance to return to California. Some of these people own land in California they wish to return to.

Without wishing to express a lack of confidence in the WRA, (for the most part they have confidence in WRA protection while they are in the Center) they doubt the wisdom of assuming they can depend upon any agency for help if, once on the outside, they encounter more social rejection than they can stand, or stronger forms of prejudice which might bring them into contact with the local court about contracts in employment or use of land, or right to use public facilities, etc. That is particularly true as

they contemplate relocation as single families, in localities unfamiliar with Japanese Americms.

A deep pride in being "Japanese" Americans, causes some residents to resist too rapid an assimilation, even as they have chosen America in which to live and in which they desire their children and grand-children to live. They are truly "internationalists" is some senses, in that they wish to "test" American ways of living before giving up that which they have. This is complex and not easily presented without giving the impression that fundamentally, such people are disloyal. They are not disloyal. Usually they are the best educated persons, who live more thoughtfully than therank and file who have taken on the veneer of American culture without weighing values involved. One specific interest in which this point of view emerges is with regard to the marriage of the children and grand-children, with Caucasians or other races. The more articulate among them will say they doubt the soundness of inter-marriage for the first two generations in America. They feel that the cultural differences are so great that there is little or no foundation for building secure family life, except for a few unusual individuals. They feel the WRA is unmindful of the problems presented in a plan for assimilation immediately, and scattering over the country is bound to introduce inter-marriage before the young people are ready for it. More than one issei has said to us, "wait until I get my daughters married, then we go out." Some of these daughters are still quite young! One issei said to merecently, when we were having a long talk about many things that gradually drifted to discussion about his future plans, "You who are more 'Merican (he says to me a first generation Hollander with some French blood and whose parents had the same ideas this man has), you do things too fast. Always in a hurry. I got plenty time. You can no make me 'Merican so fast. Children grow. They go out. They do smart, maybe I go too. We no want stay here. You tell Mister Myer I go out someday. Not now." He has a large family of growing children. He is more than average well read on political and social subjects. He was a large scale independent vegetable grower before he went into wholesale produce business. Nevertheless he has limited means, he says, and althought I do not know by what standard he expresses that opinion, I believe him. He is a generous kind of person who has much less than the usual interest in money per se, as compared with many of the other residents who have accumulated money by exploiting their children, and living very frugally.

7. Any special factors you wish to report.

When first I read the new release on project employment, with eager expectation I read into Section 50.5.2.C dated 2/23/44, something which upon second reading I decided was not there. I had been looking for a revision of policy which would not only permit, but require that administrative staff positions be thrown open for qualified evacuees. Our failure to provide for that continues to widen the gap between the WRA and the evacuees. The longer that gap remains, the wider the breach will become, in my own opinion, and other appointed staff members on the Welfare Section staff as well as Dr. Hunter share thatopinion.

From this point on, I will comment more from a personal point of view than I have in the above, since what I write, I have not so fully discussed, recently with the rest of the Welfare Section staff.

As I see it, one source of (inactively expressed) growing distrust the evacuees have of the administration is that they have no voice in the administration of theCenter. A few of the more articulate residents who have spoken frankly but in confidence with me personally, about their experience here and what they think of it

have said inessence, "If you Caucasians do not trust us here in the Center, how do you expect the people on the outside toaccept us?" To me, it is so true, it is painful to contemplate upon. The evidence of thetruth of what they say is embarrasing. The last time the comment was made to me, it was made by a man who is, I would say the strongest and most popular leader in our Center. Most of his family have relocated and have performed with distinction.

He was reviewing with me the progress or rather the lact of progress we have made in relocation. He recalled our first adventures of last summer. A Relocation Council was appointed by the administration (both he and I were members of it)and the membership was entirely composed of persons who had been named by the Project Director. The evacuees had no part in the selection of their representatives, much less the selection of the staff representatives. It was shortlived, needless to say, for it had no power.

Several members of the Welfare Section staff have commented to me that to their knowledge, our Section was the only one in the Center,---the only office, in the Center in which the evacuee staff not only had access to all instructions and releases issued from Washington, but in which these instructions and releases were routed to the staff regularly as issued.

In December when I was about to depart for Tule Lake, I had a short conference with the Chairman of the Relocation Committee of the Council who happens also to be the Assistant Leave Officer, and learned that he had not even known about the existance of a Washington release on the Counseling program, much less seen it. Before I left, I sent a brief informal memo tothe Relocation Program Officer reviewing my interests in the continuance of efforts to interpret the Counseling program to the Council, and commenting casually that due to some oversight, no doubt, the Relocation Committee chairman had not reviewed the Washington description of the proposed program, and since I had only one copy in our office, I asked him if he could use his copy to help Mr. Fujino become familiar with it, so we could proceed with the program even though my Associate might not be able to give as much time to it as I had given. As a result, the Chairman of the Relocation Committee had access to those documents, as he advised me (with some amusement, making apoint to advise me) upon my return.

Just four days ago I was in conference with the Relocation Program Officer about some relocation problems, and as he discussed one situation, he stopped short with some impatience and said, "Really, just between you and me, not a one of these evacuees can be trusted. They say one thing and think another." I was not surprised, because his actions had implied such convictions, but he had never said as much before. I happen to know that few of the leading evacuees really "trust" him. I thought a minute and then commented something like the following: I had found them confused and uncertain about what of their hand of cards they would show, but seldomm dishonest,--not moreso than any other people, particularly as I thought of other first generation and second generation Americans. As I had worked with first and second generation Polish, Swedish, German, Italian, or what have you, I noted that until they knew where they stood with a new acquaintance, they often put up a better front than they could deliver on. I recalled with him my first conference with a Hawaiian-Caucasian social worker--the head social worker in the Islands---during which she cautioned me about the tendency of oriental or Hawaiian workers to "put up a good front, and pretend to know more than they did." She gave me her suggestions about ways in which their tensions could be relaxed, and they "would come out of their dramatized front."

As I worked with her staff, I adopted the suggestions she offered, but, I found them no different in principle than the methods employed when in Minneapolis, years ago, I met the Polish and Swedish people, and in Iowa, the Germans, or later, as I met the Anglo-Americans in New Mexico. People of foreign extraction often,---but not always have a feeling of insecurity. The Relocation Program Officer's comments to my remarks were,---"You dress it allup in fine language, but it all amounts to the same thing, doesn't it?" I couldn t agree, but I laughed it off, for the present. I doubt if I made a dent.

To me this experience ---andmany others I do not offer for lack of time and space ----means only that a good portion of our fundamentally well meaning staff members have not the education which prepares them for working with the evacuees. It seems to me,---even at this late date,---it would help immensely, to have In-Service Staff Training, for everyone from the Project Directors down. I know that is a stiff statement. But, it is not produced impulsively. I felt that a year ago.

The evacuees have us all lined up on two sides of a fence: those "for them" and those "against them". As a matter of fact few staff members are really "against" them. A large majority of staff members have no the education which would help them to understand the evacuees. Few have the imagination to get that understanding without outside help,----from Washington.

Besides the matter of feeling tone which reflects incomplete understanding of evacuees, there is the pattern ofadministrative policy andprocedures which seems tobe rooted in a class or caste conception of society. "The underlings don't need to know", kind of philosophy. I ask, why shouldn't it be an obligation to share all instructions and releases from Washington to all evacuee staff members carrying administrative responsibilities,---or service responsibilities, for that matter?

As a matter of fact, those of us on the appointed staff do not get instructions and releases, as provided for. I got the instruction on public assistance, received here January 12th, on April 4th, and then only because the visiting auditors called attentionto the fact that our Section was still quoting Instruction #35 which was obsolete. That is only the latest such experience. It happens repeatedly.

I feel very strongly about the importance of opening administrative positions to qualified evacuees, and hope that help willbe given which breaks that bottle neck before too long a time. It would be helpful to ther elocating as well as to the continuing residents of the Center. In the menatime, it is my hope that there willbe a continuing of the field visits to the Center by representatives of the different services, at more fequent intervals than in the past. Recently we have had several very helpful visitors. Field workers from Washington are seldom if ever really welcomed by administrative staff members. Too frequently, these visitors jar routines! Offer disturbing new ideas! Or persist in making repeated suggestions about things administrative staff members have tried toavoid having to do! It should be encouraging to Mr Hoffman who visited us recently, very helpfully,to learn that plans are afoot to improve the physical arrangements for interviewing in the Relocation Office. The RelocationProgram Officer tells me that a social worker, Miss Cockran from New York is about toarrive, and he has asked us to help orient her. This we will be glad to do, taking care that we do not do allthe "orienting". I fear the Relocation Officer would be only too willing that we do it all. We will try to establish described divisions of responsibilities between us. We have, I believe a good working relationship with the Relocation Office, to build upon.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Rohwer Relocation Center
McGehee, Arkansas

~~Arnold~~
Walter Dolms
Lee

IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO:

September 13, 1944

Mr. Dillon S. Myer
Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
910 - 17th Street, N. W.
Washington 25, D. C.

Attention: Mr. Edwin G. Arnold
Chief, Relocation Division

Dear Mr. Myer:

Your letter of September 6, 1944 in regard to the July monthly report has been received.

You seem surprised that only nineteen initial interviews were held and only seven relocation summaries were referred. Since the relocation adviser did not report until July 19, I think that he did very well to complete as much work as he did during the last few days of the month. I assure you that we concur in your goal to complete as soon as possible an interview for every family remaining at Rohwer.

Doesn't anybody else do initial interviewing?

The Advisory Unit began to take shape when the Relocation Adviser, Mr. Young M. Orsburn, reported for duty on July 19, 1944. On August 1, 1944, Miss Corine Key reported as Assistant Relocation Adviser, and Mr. Alton Cole started to work as Assistant Relocation Adviser on September 1, 1944. One evacuee Assistant Adviser was added during August as well as one typist and one clerk typist. This group now comprises the advising and counseling group.

In all business, scheduled and over-the-counter, a receptionist fills out a short information form on each individual desiring advice on relocation. Then the individual's folder is secured from the file clerk and with the note clipped to the folder, it is carried to the Adviser's office. The Assistant Advisers and the Adviser take in clients as they are able to get to them. If approval is given for leave an inter-office memo is made out to that effect stating the purpose of the leave as well as the destination of the person. The memo, with each folder, is carried to the Leave Officer for final checking and processing.

The Case Review Committee, composed of Mr. Orsburn, one Assistant Adviser, and two Welfare Counselors, meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays of each week. This committee studies cases handled between the meeting

dates. These cases may be initial interviews, by either the Relocation Division or the Welfare Section, and also follow-ups with progress in order reviewed. This committee has agreed upon a plan for clearing all cases. Two kinds of memoranda have been drawn up and are being used by the Advisers. One memorandum merely refers initial interviews by the Relocation Division where no special problem is apparent, to Welfare for clearance and endorsement. This form is prepared in duplicate and completed forms are forwarded several times each day. The welfare case studies are checked and providing such files agree with the Adviser's initial steps, a copy of the memo with the Welfare Counselor's endorsement is promptly returned to our division, and the case is continued from there. General over-the-counter business is usually not slowed up in processing papers for individuals concerned. The other memo makes a definite referral to Welfare if the initial interview has brought out some special problem which may be a handicap to the relocation of the individual in question. An appointment is made with the Welfare by a memorandum in such a case. A Welfare Summary is prepared with recommendations given. This summary is sent to the Relocation Adviser and is reviewed. Studies are usually made at the next committee meeting for further disposition. Upon a joint approval, the summary is completed by the Advisory Unit and forwarded with WRA-12's to the office in the area chosen for relocation by the subject concerned. Telephonic clearance is made by the Welfare Section with the Relocation Adviser when an initial interview is started in that office.

Relocation only one doing I.I. non-welfare undistributed this must be reason for check with Welfare NO

The cases of children sixteen to eighteen are automatically referred to Welfare by the Advisory Unit. Necessary steps for placement are begun and recommendations made. Cases involving eighteen to twenty-one year old boys and girls are referred to Welfare when special problems exist, as in any other case, and when further counseling is deemed necessary. All cases interested in relocating in Chicago, in accordance with Mr. Booth's teletype of August 8, 1944, are cleared through Welfare. Advance approval is left to the discretion of the Chicago office. The Welfare studies, WRA-12's, WRA-329's, WRA-340's, and transmittal letters are forwarded on many of these cases.

Indefinite leaves (trial-period) originate in the Adviser's office with his initials properly placed designating approval and are then forwarded to the Relocation Program Officer for signature. Short term leaves are also approved by the Advisory Unit.

The relocation library material includes one "relocation shelf" in the community library, nineteen books each on a separate state, material on trade schools and commercial schools, and other pamphlets of interest to the evacuees are in the Relocation Division Office.

Plans are in the making for a bilingual sheet to carry not only relocation opportunities but also express terms of, and procedure on, various regulations governing leave. An outline of the steps followed in processing leaves will be helpful to the evacuees preparing to relocate. Such information will be invaluable to the people remaining in the center.

During the month of August, Mr. Orsburn and Miss Key completed 296 initial interviews and mailed out 61 complete summaries. All of these initial contacts and follow-ups had counseling, and 329's and 340's made out as well as notes to be referred to in case of future contacts. Many extensive studies were prepared and good results were noted from this careful plan with the prospective relocatees.

Sample

At the present time the Advisory Unit is working on summaries and counseling with families where one or more members of the family have relocated. The Welfare Counselors are working on the "bread winner-less groups", and will soon start on the large families still together as one unit. It is our aim to reach every family for or against relocation within the center.

Forms which have been originated in the Relocation Division office are being used by the advisory staff to aid in the processing of families interviewed. We are enclosing a copy of the following:

(1) Reception service information.
(2) Relocation summary data.
(3) Memoranda
    a. Referral to Welfare for endorsement.
    b. Referral to Welfare for further planning.
(4) Inter-office memo.
(5) Notice to family heads to report for an interview.

On the back of each form is a brief description of its use.

The departures on relocation continues at a steady pace. We are still handicapped with an uncomplete staff and our contemplated office changes have not been carried out.

We are always glad to have a member of the Washington staff, but since the appointment of the Relocation Planning Commission is a local problem, I do not believe that the presence of one of your assistants would expedite matters. I presume that we will be able to confer with you at Denver the last week of this month.

Sincerely yours,

E. B. Moulton

E. B. Moulton
Relocation Program Officer

Enclosures

Reception Service Information

Date _____

Name:

(Last) (man) (woman) (child)

Alternative names used:

Address: Referred by:

Purpose:

Status: Active ( ), Worker, Service given,
Closed ( ), Services given, New ( )

Referred to:

Action taken, or Remarks.

This blank is used by the receptionist giving the date, name of the person, whether man, woman, or child, and usually the family no. is added. The address and purpose of the interview, referred by some other section, are in order. If the case is active or closed, it is checked by the interviewer who may have been working on the case before, or it may be an initial interview. The bottom part of the blank and the back as well, may be used as notes and remarks as to action taken by the interviewer. This is used for, all over-the-counter business as well as scheduled interviews.

2

RELOCATION SUMMARY DATA

Basic Family Unit	Address	Age
Man Woman		

Family No. _____

Interviewer _____

FORMS COMPLETED	DATE
WRA - 12	
WRA - 329	
WRA - 340	
Reloc. Summary	
Welfare Summary	

REFERRALS

TO	DATE	BY

CORRESPONDENCE

TYPE	SENT	REPLY

Other Relatives At Center

Family Members Not In A Center

Relocation summary data card is used to get the information which usually is included on the 329. It also gives the interviewer's initials, the forms completed by dates, also checking relocation summary and welfare summary as to dates completed. There is a space for referrals and a place to list correspondences by the type, the date sent, and the replys listed by date. The back of this card is used to check follow-ups. All of these cards are filed alphabetically and monthly reports can easily be noted from such recordings.

3-a

M E M O R A N D U M

Date _____

TO: Welfare Section

FROM: Relocation Division

The p erson named below has been interviewed and it has been found that no special problem exists which stands in the way of his relocation plans.

NAME	ADDRESS	FAMILY NO.

Signed _____

ENDORSEMENT:

A check of the welfare record indicates that _____

_____

This memorandum is used to refer a case to Welfare where no special problem has been found which might hinder the relocation plans of the individual noted thereon. Welfare receives this in duplicate, checks and files to see if their records agree with our statements, and if they do, an endorsement is made by the Welfare Counselor and one copy returned to this office. The case may be carried on from there and in general business, processing is usually already begun.

34

M E M O R A N D U M

Date _____

TO: Welfare Section

FROM: Relocation Division

The person named below has been interviewed and it has been found that his relocation plan is handicapped by _____

_____

NAME	ADDRESS	FAMILY NO.

Signed _____

This memorandum is used when it is found that there is a problem existing which handicaps the relocation of the individual noted thereon. This is sent to Welfare and along with it a memorandum is sent with the individual for an appointment with the Welfare Section.

A

INTER - OFFICE MEMO

DATE_____

TO:

FROM:

SUBJECT:

This memorandum is used to approve cases for leave from the Advisory Unit to the Leave Officer and is also used for making appointments for individuals, with the Welfare Section.

5

RD-340a

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
RELOCATION DIVISION
42-2-C

Date

Relocation Branch
McGehee, Arkansas

My dear

So many residents of the Center have asked for a counseling service which would give them an opportunity to talk over their plans for the future of their families that such a service has now been made available.

Believing that you are interested in this service, we are setting aside o'clock for you and any members of your family who would be interested to come in and talk with us at 42-2-C. If for any reasons this time is not convenient for you, please let us know so that we can make another appointment which will be more convenient for you.

Sincerely yours,

E. B. Moulton

E. B. Moulton
Relocation Program Officer

This notice is used to call in all parties who have been scheduled for interview. The head of the family is usually the one the letter is addressed to. A schedule of interviews for each advisor for each week is handed to the receptionist in advance so that she may know who is to see whom.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Rohwer Relocation Center
McGehee, Arkansas

IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO:

Walter Wolfe

December 11, 1944

Mr. Dillon S. Myer
Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
910 - 17th Street, N. W.
Washington 25, D. C.

Attention: Mr. H. Rex Lee
Acting Chief, Relocation Division

Dear Mr. Myer:

Monday of last week, we teletyped you that Mr. Chester Fujino was not in position to accept the offer mentioned in your letter of November 24th. He was to have given me a memorandum expressing his regret and explaining the reason why he was unable to accept it. As he stated to me, the chief reason was problems in connection with his family. We have interviewed Mr. Roy S. Shingu, who is now the Head of our Red Cross Unit and who is a very splendid speaker and translator and he knows both languages very well. He would be a splendid person for the position if he can accept. He is now considering the matter and was supposed to have talked to me Friday afternoon but as yet I have not seen him. We have others in mind if Mr. Shingu is not interested.

We have received the thirty personal history statement forms for applicants to be used in connection with the position which you outlined in your letter of December 2nd. We are going to give this as wide publicity as possible.

Mr. Chester Fujino is the Chairman of the Community Council and, no doubt, will be named the Chairman of the newly formed Resettlement Planning Commission. If he is not to be the Chairman, he will play a big part in this activity. We are hoping that the offer mentioned above will be one of the responsibilities of this Resettlement Planning Commission. We will want to write more on this subject at a later date. Working through the Project Director

plans are on the way for the formation of a Staff Relocation Committee. We have read the report of the Central Utah Relocation Center and find that they offer helpful suggestions. We are encouraged to believe that our newly formed Resettlement Planning Commission (so named by themselves) and the Staff Relocation Committee will aid materially in the family relocation program especially in view of the probable future developments.

Very sincerely,

Chas B. Price

Charles B. Price
Relocation Program Officer

C
O
P
Y

MEMORANDUM

February 23, 1945

TO: Welfare Section

FROM: Austin Smith Jr., Forms Clearance Officer

Sometime ago your Section submitted to me, as Forms Clearance Officer, Forms which had originated at the Project. These were assigned Rohwer numbers and were sent to the Washington office for approval.

The numbers and titles of the forms submitted are listed below:

WRA-Rohwer- 501 - Relocation Planning Information
502 - Reception Service Information
503 - Family Case Face Sheet
504 - Steering Blank
505 - Memorandum - Public Assistance Grants
506 - Memorandum - Cash Clothing Allowance
507 - Change of Address
508 - Supplementary Information for WRA-From No. 95
509 - Supplement to WRA From 95 (Family Earning and Compensation)
510 - Finance Sheet - Public Assistance Grants
511 - Housing Form - Block Managers Weekly Report
512 - Housing Form for Spot Resident and Vacancy Maps.
513 - Vital Statistics Record

All of the above forms were approved by the Washington office with the following exceptions:

WRA-Rohwer- 501 - Approval of this form is being withheld pending further information as to the exact purpose, use, and disposition of this form. No explanatory note appears to have been received with this form.

502 - Consideration is being given to devising a uniform form for this purpose. Until such forms are available there is no objection to the use of Form No. 502.

503 - Further information is desired as to why Form WRA-329 could not be used.

Welfare MEMORANDUM (2) Feb. 23, 1945

WRA-Rohwer- 505 - There is no objection to the design of this form. However, a representative of the Welfare Section plans to check into the operation involving the use of this form during his next visit to Rohwer.

508 - Approval is being withheld pending further information concerning the exact use of this form and how it is executed.

509 - It appears to us that the information contained on this form could and should be included in the information on Form WRA-95. Not approved.

510 - This form also appears to be unnecessary and a duplication of Form WRA-95.

511 - There is no objection to the use of this form but it is believed that it might be easier to use only the changeof address and keep a card file from them.

512 - Approved, provided this form is not made up oftener than once a month.

513 - If it develops that this form is continued in use, we should appreciate receiving further information.

According to present procedure, a list of the numbers and titles of approved forms will be sent to the Mimeograph Room and no forms will be mimeographed unless they are on this approved list. Mimeograph Requests and stencils for forms should carry the form number as well as the title.

Since the original list of forms was submitted to Washington you have requested the approval of the following:

WRA-Rohwer- 514 - Report From School To Welfare Section

This form will be sent to the Washington office and you will be notified as soon as we are advised of the decision there. In the meantime, we suggest that you continue the use of this form, but that you keep the supply as low as possible until we hear from Washington

/s/ Austin Smith, Jr.