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Conference on Integration of Japanese Americans
into Cleveland Community

March 13, 1945 at 9:30 a.m.
11255 Belleflower Road

Those present:

Miss Fern Long, Public Library; Mr. L. B. Bauer, Board of Education; Mr. Joe Lehman, Youth Bureau; Mr. Gresham, Cleveland Recreation Department; Mrs. George Szudi, Y.W.C.A.; Miss Alice Gannett, Goodrich House; Dr. Grace Coyle, School Applied Social Science, W.R.U.; Miss Virgil Payne, W.R.A. Area office; Miss Mamie Goodman, W.R.A. Cleveland office; Mr. Robert George, W.R.A. Cleveland office; Mr. Max Franzen, Cleveland Hostel for Japanese Americans; Miss Beatrice Burr, Cleveland Committee for Re-settlement of Japanese Americans; Miss Emi Kimura, International Institute; Mr. Henry Tanaka, Mr. John Morooka, Mr. Jimmy Akiya, Mr. Nappy Sekiguchi, Mr. Shunji Nishi, Cleveland Church Federation.

This meeting was called by Mr. George of the W.R.A. office to discuss techniques for adjustment which the community and the Japanese Americans can use cooperatively.

Techniques which have been used to date were discussed as follows:

The People Relocating in Cleveland - Miss Payne

Miss Payne brought out the fact that a large proportion of the 1600 Nisei now living in Cleveland are young people between the ages of 18 and 30. Their earning power has been good and it has been comparatively easy for them to establish themselves here in Cleveland. On the other hand it has been a distinct disadvantage for this young group of Japanese Americans to be without home influences and a family anchor. Therefore, the emphasis with W.R.A. at present is on family reunion. It is possible that financial assistance will be necessary in order to bring members of families from the camps.

The government will give this assistance where necessary. W.R.A.'s policy is to encourage the Japanese Americans to meet situations on their own. Groups now coming from camps have been so protected in recent years that they are apt to be over-sensitive in everyday situations. There is need for great understanding but over-attention to small problems will not help the Nisei to strengthen their own self-reliance.

When relocatees leave camp they are given railroad fare, subsistence en route at \$1.00 per meal and \$5.00 per day for the first five days after they arrive in a new location. Relocatees are free to go to any new location they prefer in the U.S.A. with the exception of a very few who are still excluded from the West or East coast. W.R.A. does not take groups to any new location. All camps will be closed by Jan. 1946.

All relocatees are now referred to U.S.E.S. for employment. A few industries are not open to Japanese Americans but there is a steady increase in employment possibilities. Proper placing in employment tends to make for feeling of permanence in new locality.

Agency Experience to Date - Miss Goodman

Miss Goodman stated that almost every agency in the city has had some contact with the Nisei. A few examples were cited as follows:

County Relief Bureau - helps with medical assistance, providing furniture, etc. Reimbursed by state which is reimbursed by Social Security.

Youth Bureau - wage home placements, counselling.

Settlements - two girls living in Goodrich House and giving some service; several assisting at Alta House.

Y.M.C.A - two men working at downtown Y; good cooperation on part of Y when they know of Nisei interested in activities.

International Institute Y.W.C.A. - large proportion of time of one staff member devoted to relocatees; Club activities.

Group Work Council - Special emphasis being given by worker in Hough Area to large number of Japanese Americans now living in this area.

Churches - On the whole, churches have been very cooperative in welcoming Japanese Americans. Approximately 50 meet Sunday afternoons at First Methodist Church. Group of approximately 10 meet once a month at Shaker Heights Christian Church for social gathering. Buddhist group meets every other week in Unitarian Church.

Attempts to develop joint social groups of Japanese Americans and Caucasians have not been too successful to date. Interest on part of Unitarian Church but there was too great a difference in age between the two groups. Lakewood Methodist has attempted a social group but with not too great success.

Schools - Japanese Americans are attending most of the schools for higher education; Music School Institute, Beauty schools, Darvas School of Designing, Case, Fenn, Western Reserve, Business schools, etc.

Other agencies which have cooperated with the program include Travellers Aid, Institute of Family Service, Hospitals, Medical Social Workers, etc.

Nisei Experience to Date - Mr. Sekiguchi

Mr. Sekiguchi stated that he came to Cleveland about 2 years ago. At that time there was approximately 500 Japanese Americans here. The first problem was housing. His difficulty in locating a place to live seemed to him to be a result of discrimination toward Japanese Americans but he later found acceptable living arrangements. Through the hostel he was invited to several churches and found them very cordial. Mr. Sekiguchi and 9 friends have recently joined the Fidelity Baptist Church which has done a great deal in welcoming the Nisei who live in their neighborhood.

Mr. Sekiguchi felt that there was some discrimination at first in employment but after becoming acquainted, he feels that the Nisei are well accepted. He believes that one problem here is the fact that the Nisei do not stay long enough in a given employment situation to prove their dependability.

A question was raised as to whether the average Nisei wants to stay in Cleveland. Mr. Sekiguchi feels that this is just a stop-over and that the Nisei want to return to the West Coast. Mr. Tanaka, however, feels that the Nisei are so young that they do not have roots strong enough on West coast to draw them back there. If families were here and well integrated, Nisei would want to stay here. If families are somewhere else and dissatisfied, Nisei will want to leave. Mr. Morooka agreed with this and stated that if the Nisei are well received and feel welcome in Cleveland, their roots will sink in Cleveland. The younger group where families are still in camp, will be influenced by their families.

Mr. Lehman expressed the point of view that there is a question on the part of all in-migrants as to what the situation will be after the war. The possibilities of unemployment tend to make all in-migrants apprehensive of settling in Cleveland. The circumstances surrounding the coming of Nisei to Cleveland, i.e., the evacuation, relocation center experiences, devious identification with an enemy country, were mentioned as factors differentiating this "in-migrant" group from others. Mr. Morooka stated that future security will have greater appeal to Nisei than emotional appeal to return to California. It was also brought out that Cleveland weather does not have the appeal of California weather.

Summary - Mr. Franzen

Mr. Franzen summarized the above discussion as follows:

There are two major problems:

1. Nisei with part of family still in camp. No real resettlement can be made until family is together.
2. Nisei living in rooms, hotels, etc. with little or no social or community life.

Activities to date have been of stop-gap nature. Need now is to make younger group feel more secure in town. Nisei have made very little attempt to adapt themselves to Cleveland community life. How can this be brought about?

The meeting was now thrown open for general discussion which centered around the meaning of community integration and how it can be brought about.

Dr. Coyle expressed the opinion that there is need of an understanding of segregation. Voluntary separation may be good in that it provides a protected environment at first and also a common background to build self-confidence. However, individuals should not develop national characteristics to the point that they can not move freely from this group to other groups. Any element of distinction may bring about segregation but it is not necessarily a factor in creating segregation. Ex: all red-headed people might become a segregated group; factory workers, etc.

Miss Gannett brought out the fact that the Nisei should recognize that they are a minority group - one of many such groups - and yet a part of the whole Cleveland community. Individuals should be made to feel that they have a contribution to make to the community.

It was brought out that Nisei were not well-integrated in California although they sometimes think they were. Voluntary segregation existed due in large part to language difficulties and cultural patterns of parents.

Mr. Franzen brought out that there is no compulsory segregation of Japanese Americans in Cleveland. If segregation exists, it is in the minds of Nisei.

Dr. Coyle advised that the problem may be that the Nisei find it easier not to make the effort of adjustment. This is true of all individuals at some time in life. The two problems seem to be:

1. Need for Nisei to desire to become part of community.
2. Need for community to open up its resources.

Dr. Coyle believes that is a matter of method as to working out the above problems. Outstanding leaders among the Nisei should be encouraged to get into community groups and thereby encourage other Nisei to broaden their interests.

It was the feeling on the part of the Japanese Americans present that it will be difficult to get the Nisei to enter into groups and clubs and to want to accept leadership.

The group agreed, however, that opportunities should be provided whereby Nisei and Caucasians can get together on common basis. Mr. Gresham stated that Nisei could be trained as leaders in playground activities. If this will result in the bringing

together of Nisei and Caucasian leaders, this experiment will be valuable. Mrs. Szudi will try to bring Nisei into industrial groups at the Y.W.C.A if she can secure names of industrial workers.

It was suggested that another meeting should be held to discuss concrete suggestions of ways and means of opening other community activities to Nisei and of stimulating desire on part of Nisei to participate in these activities.

Miss Burr suggested that the members of the Community Participation Committee of the Cleveland Resettlement Committee be invited to attend the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Beatrice Burr

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SUMMARY OF REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF RESETTLEMENT WORKERS

June 1-2, 1945
Cleveland, Ohio

Attendance 50

The Conference was opened by Mr. George Trundle, Jr., Chairman of the Cleveland Resettlement Committee. In his welcome to the delegates, Mr. Trundle reviewed the development of the Cleveland Committee and the progress which has been made in establishing the resettlers in this city. He reminded the delegates that the challenge of the task of resettling these American citizens marks a step toward facing the greater problem of all minority groups in this country.

The conference program evolved around four major problems of the resettlement program:

1. How are resettlers adjusting themselves in your community?
2. Housing
3. Employment--future outlook
4. Community services

Following is a brief review of each session:

How are resettlers adjusting themselves in your community?

Chairman: Miss Grace Mayette, League of Human Rights, Cleveland

Discussants: Rev. John Yamazaki, Council of Churches, Cincinnati
Mr. Thomas Rehorn, Council of Social Agencies, Toledo
Miss Emi Kimura, International Institute, Cleveland

Miss Mayette opened the discussion with a review of several recent polls on employment of Japanese-Americans after the War, and indicated that the consensus of opinion seemed to be that Caucasians should be given preference. The seriousness of this situation would indicate the need of careful thought in helping the resettlers find their place in each community as soon as possible as accepted citizens.

Mr. Yamazaki reviewed the relationship of the church to the resettlement program, emphasizing the responsibility which the church has assumed, not only since the evacuation but ever since the Issei first came to this country. Powerless to help avoid the evacuation, the church turned its program to assistance in the relocation centers and later to definite programs in the larger communities in which the evacuees are re-locating.

Personal calls and invitations to regular church and community activities bring better results than specially sponsored parties for resettlers. Church attendance can not be forced with any group. However, personal interest on the part of the church, former church ties and the children have drawn many resettlers into the churches, especially in the smaller communities. Integration into the churches is possible, even for the Issei, if the church makes the effort to bring it about.

Mr. Rehorn outlined a plan for welcoming the resettlers in the community. He suggested that a large spot map be prepared, indicating the location of group work agencies and also where the resettlers are living. Give list of resettlers to heads of agencies and urge them to extend a democratic welcome to the resettlers in their vicinity. One of the greatest problems in agencies is getting workers to make home calls to get better acquainted with families. Children frequently give more effective help than adults in bringing about integration.

Miss Kimura advised that we should not expect too much from the Nisei. There is a gap to bridge from their experience in the relocation centers. The longer a person stays in the center, the greater the adjustment. However, excuses should not be made for the Nisei because they are Nisei, especially in the employment field. It is equally as bad to be discriminated for as against. The Nisei have a definite contribution to make, both as Nisei and as American citizens. It is difficult to divorce yourself from your background. Miss Kimura mentioned an Italian who said, "First of all I am an American, but also I am an Italian. There is nothing I can do about that." If democracy means anything, it means accepting the individual and the background from which he comes.

Miss Kimura discussed the function of resettlement committees. They are a community resource for assistance to the resettlers and for information to the community. It is a short-term project but one which requires planning for the future when the resettlers will have found their place in the community and there is no longer a need for a special committee to look after their interests. Resettlement committees have their own particular job to do and can go about it with no ax to grind, with the result that there should be a greater measure of accomplishment.

Miss Kimura closed with a plea that the Issei be permitted to take part actively in a free Japan movement. She expressed, also, the opinion that something should be done to provide citizenship for aliens in this country, and that there should be an extension of W.R.A. until better adjustment of the resettlers has been brought about. The real crises will come after the centers close. The resettlers should be treated as people, not as a particular group.

Due to the fact that the speaker for the schools did not arrive, Mr. Robert George, W.R.A. discussed this angle briefly. He stated that other school children are very interested in why the Japanese-American children were coming to the schools but know little or nothing of the evacuation program. Children of resettlers entering school in the middle of year naturally feel ill at ease. Youth who work, in addition to attending school, have little opportunity for social adjustment. Many schools are trying to help but there are two trends: either they open the door too far or they open it just a crack. In many cases, the latter situation is better since it gives the children the opportunity to go ahead the rest of the way themselves. In Cleveland, grade schools are most easily influenced by a "hands off" policy. Jr. High Schools have done a very good job of integrating children. In Senior High Schools children have fitted into classes very easily, on the whole.

It was brought out that very cordial relations have been established between resettlers and the P.T.A. in many communities. It was suggested that it would be helpful to have the local P.T.A. advised by the P.T.A. at the center, of children coming to a given school. There is an agreement between W.R.A. and the national P.T.A. and Miss Noble stated that there should be close cooperation.

A discussion of the school attendance department and visiting teachers brought out that there has been good cooperation with the Vocational Counseling group. Attendance at school has presented no problem due to the emphasis which the resettlers place on education.

Toledo has a group of Japanese-American students who meet at the Y.W.C.A. twice a month. Their program has been largely recreational. It was thought by the conference group that gatherings similar to this should become inter-racial rather than remain as a separate group of Nisei. Study groups were reported in several cities, considering such subjects as the San Francisco conference, city planning, etc.

The question of Nisei participation in the USO cantons was discussed and brought out that in certain communities Nisei soldiers are welcomed at the USO just as any other man in service. In one USO cantoon, at least, a Nisei has volunteered her

services as hostess.

It was brought out by Mr. Kodama of Dayton that interesting events concerning Nisei often are not heard of until too late to have publicity value.

The contribution which the Nisei can make to the community was emphasized: boy scout leaders, Sunday School teachers, etc. In Cleveland, a recent survey indicated that approximately 60 Nisei are participating actively in church groups.

Housing

Chairman: Mrs. Earl Brailey, Chairman, Cleveland Housing Committee

Discussants: Mr. Tosaburo Sashihara, Cleveland;
Miss Veda Satterfield, W.R.A. Detroit
Mr. Max Franzen, Baptist Hostel, Cleveland
Mr. Shigeo Tanabe, Council of Churches, Detroit
Miss Beatrice Burr, Resettlement Committee, Cleveland
Mrs. Ola Crabbe, Y.W.C.A., Cleveland

Mr. Sashihara divided the housing problem into three categories:

1. Housing for single persons
2. Housing for small families
3. Housing for large families

The first two types of housing have presented comparatively little difficulty except for public relations which have been well handled by resettlement committees. Resettlers have accelerated public acceptance by proving themselves good tenants.

A more difficult problem arises with the arrival of large family groups. There will be not only the shortage of houses which is felt by large families of any race, but a new phase of public relations enters the picture. To date, we have had largely Japanese-American citizens who speak English with little difficulty and who are American in appearance and mannerisms. With the coming of more Issei into the community, we have aliens with a pronounced accent and more oriental appearance. It is a task which will take much skill, technique and tact.

It has been feared that the resettlers will want to segregate in small communities forming "Little Tokyos". This is not the desire of the resettlers but it must be remembered that there is a tendency for people of the same race to stick together. It is natural that they should want to live in a neighborhood where they can visit one another. It is thought by some that the best solution of the Japanese minority is complete diffusion into American society. This may be true as far as economic, political and educational phases are concerned, but there should be some reservation as far as social diffusion is concerned, and planning for the resettlers should recognize the natural desires of the individual.

Detroit's housing situation was outlined briefly by Miss Satterfield and is typical of that of any large city. Long transportation presents a problem as evacuees want to live near their work and this is impossible in most large cities. However, in spite of the shortage, resettlers are finding housing and the outlook should be brighter as other in-migrants return to their former homes.

Mr. Franzen reported that 102 persons have lived at the Cleveland Baptist Hostel since January 1, 1945. This includes 23 families numbering about 60 persons. Operating a Hostel on the family basis presents many problems. It is necessary to find housing as soon as possible to make room for other families who have already set the date of their departure from camp. Experience shows that it is more desir-

able for the entire family to resettle together since emphasis is then placed on finding housing. The services of one member of the W.R.A. staff designated to handle housing has greatly helped the Cleveland situation. Unfortunately, there is a possibility that the Cleveland Hostel will be closed in July unless a new location can be found.

Detroit churches have worked with Miss Satterfield, according to Mr. Tanabe. A number of resettlers have bought or leased apartment buildings and it is thought that these may provide housing for evacuees. The employment situation in Detroit causes many resettlers to question locating there.

The work of the Cleveland Housing Committee was outlined by Miss Burr: interpretation to landlords, home owners and the Apartment Owners Association; letters to advertisers of homes to rent; cooperation of Metropolitan Housing Authority secured; interpretation of transportation situation to resettlers; appraisal of homes which resettlers are interested in buying; arrangements for purchase of second hand furniture; a small furniture pool, etc.

Many single girls have taken room and board jobs in Cleveland. Mrs. Crabbe reported on the wage-home standards which were worked out by the Housing Committee in order to have a fair arrangement between girl and employer. Mrs. Crabbe has been responsible for placing many resettlers in board-room jobs. It was thought that centering this type of placement at the Y.W.C.A. might lead to participation by the girls in various Y.W.C.A. clubs. This, however, has not proved to be the case because, with a board-room job, there is too little opportunity for recreational activity, and the Y is too far from the localities in which the girls live.

The open discussion period brought out several points:

Can some emphasis be placed on locating homes where the young people have gone from the home leaving a large part of the house unoccupied? Some resettlers would be glad to assume part of the household responsibilities in exchange for sharing such homes.

A family docket giving information regarding each family is sent to churches in Cincinnati with the hope that they can locate housing for families.

Resettlers in Dayton have shared the responsibility of settling newcomers by offering temporary housing for them in their own homes. Resettled evacuees are pursuing every possible lead to find housing in their neighborhoods for the newcomers.

Resettlement committees can give definite assistance by helping interpret resettlers to new localities.

Some plan should be worked out so that resettlers returning to the West coast will make their present living quarters available to newcomers.

Need for some means of circularizing information among resettlers, such as a newsletter.

Employment

Chairman: Mr. Victor Einach, Committee on Discrimination in Employment, Buffalo

Discussants: Mr. Robert Kodama, Dayton
Mr. Masao Kondo, Cleveland
Mr. Earl Mueller, Pearsol Appliance Corp., Cleveland
Mr. Richard Shaw, Chief, Division of Placement, War Manpower Commission,
Cleveland

Mr. Einach advised the conference, in considering employment problems of the resettlers, to bear in mind that the desire for and the importance of economic security is common to all people, and that there is need for integration among all nationality and minority groups. The characteristics peculiar to this group are that they were a comparatively late immigrant group and that they were formerly occupationally and geographically more concentrated. On the West coast, they were employed largely in trades related to agriculture, with approximately 26% engaged in wholesale and retail trades concerned with the distribution of Japanese grown produce.

Today, in the middle West and East, Japanese-Americans are found in every conceivable type of employment. They are the ones who are doing the best selling job of themselves to the new communities, and of the new communities to those still in the centers.

Some of the phases of the problem to keep in mind in considering the employment picture are:

1. Employers and other employees
2. Evacuees themselves
3. Particular and specific industrial set-ups in the communities
4. Employment as it affects the resettlers

Mr. Kodama reminded the conference that the evacuees who constitute the residue of the centers have been away from normal community contacts for more than three years, and despite the fact that the relocation program has been carried on with increasing intensity for over two years, less than half the evacuees have relocated. The early resettlers have had fewer adjustments to make, while the remaining Issei have not only the problem of age, but that of greater family responsibilities, language and cultural handicaps.

The need for public relations and public education regarding the evacuees is now more urgent than ever. Those already familiar with the problem and with the relocatees are the churches, schools and social workers. The group not yet approached and who must be informed if the evacuees are to have acceptance are the rank and file--common people--of the laboring class.

In the labor picture, nationally and regionally there are good relationships and understanding, but local unions are suspicious and have yet to be convinced. Employers' attitudes are often good but the personnel manager feels that he must consider the workman next to the evacuee--will they work together well; will the morale and efficiency of the shop be affected; etc.

Integration is very important but economic security comes first. The approach which the resettlers want is that of equality of opportunity: promotions, raises, etc. similar to those received by other workers; no privileges and less attention to physical differences.

Public relations and education in this field are important. Evacuee participation in the public relations program is important. Direct contact is convincing. People like to see what is being talked about.

Mr. Kondo, secretary of the Issei Club, stated that there are now 200 Issei living in Cleveland. A recent survey indicated that 25 of the 200 had been independent business men before the evacuation. At present 33% are domestic workers; 15% work in stores, offices, school cafeterias, etc.; 33% work in factories, garages, etc.; and only 6% are independent. Mr. Kondo felt that success in establishing independent businesses would determine whether the Issei remain in Cleveland.

The Issei Club has 12 committees concerned with studying all phases of life as it touches the Issei: employment, recreation, food problems, social welfare, housing, lectures, etc. They are anxious to share their experience and activities with the Issei of other cities.

The employer's angle was presented by Mr. Mueller who stressed the importance of personal contacts. Pearsol Appliance Corporation employed its first Japanese-American in June 1943. There was some hesitancy at first through consideration of personnel relationships within the factory (40 workers). Japanese-Americans have proved conscientious and industrious; they get along well with fellow workers, both in and out of business; they have entered into outside activities with other nationality groups.

This firm has given the Nisei an opportunity to do contact work with other business firms, with the result that the Nisei have grown in confidence. As a result of their satisfactory work experience with the Nisei, this firm has been instrumental in opening other employment opportunities for the resettlers.

Mr. Shaw reviewed briefly the efforts which the War Manpower Commission has made to broaden employment opportunities for the resettlers: educational conferences for staff members to acquaint them with the particular problems of the resettlers; special effort to get employers to accept Japanese-Americans and other minority groups; routine handling of evacuees but with special attention given to their particular problems; periodic joint conferences with W.R.A. to get the benefit of their experience; employers called before referrals are made if there is a question of acceptance.

Cutbacks have not started as yet except for women in the Detroit area. There are still unfilled opportunities for men although cutbacks are anticipated in many areas. Mr. Shaw looks to the re-establishment and strengthening of the former relationship with management. He anticipates a large surplus of women workers in industry but believes there will continue to be a shortage of men in basic heavy industries. Trends in immediate future are difficult to determine due to conversions and cutbacks.

Discussion brought out the following points:

Industry has been permitted for some time to use 1% of its personnel on reconversion plans.

War Manpower Commission is seriously concerned about possibility of discrimination in post-war period, especially in case of negroes. Customary "last hired, first fired" will probably apply and provoke our major home front problem.

Legislation might help but there is a question of how it can be policed very effectively. As a public agency, W.M.C. cannot discriminate in referrals. However, employers can discriminate by not placing their order for labor with W.M.C. (plant operated employment offices).

Legislation in New York brought with it an effective educational program and noteworthy public relations work.

Prejudice breeds with misinformation or lack of information. If a person is honest, he will accept facts. You cannot legislate thinking.

The development of the War in the Pacific may increase tensions against the Japanese-Americans and bring about decreased employment opportunities.

Employment for women in the home is questionable due to many state laws which have been enacted to do away with "sweat shop" labor.

Information regarding the evacuees is available. The problem is how to get it out to the public and particularly to the common man. If people have the right information and facts, there will be understanding.

Community Services

Chairman: Mr. Allexander Robinson III, Chairman, Community Services Committee,
Cleveland

Discussants: Mr. Laurin Hyde, Regional Office, Social Security Board, Cleveland
Miss Louise Noble, Regional Office, W.R.A., Cleveland
Miss Mary K. Fisher, Cuyahoga County Relief Bureau
Miss Mary E. Blake, American Service Institute, Pittsburgh

Mr. Hyde discussed the relationship of the Social Security Board to the resettlement program. Funds have been allocated to the Social Security Board to be made available for resettlement assistance. Agreements have been made by Social Security with state departments of public welfare to administer these funds through their best qualified local agencies. The responsibility of community planning rests, therefore, with the local agency. Great credit should be given for the leadership both state and local agencies have given in this program.

The selection of the local agency which administers the resettlement assistance funds is made by the state welfare department and may differ from state to state. Standards, also, will differ depending on the adequacy of the program selected. This method of administering the assistance funds was made in preference to a federal program for several reasons:

1. Local agencies know the community
2. A supervisory pattern is already established
3. Standards of living vary in different sections of the country making it impractical to try to establish a national standard for resettlement assistance. Good public relations require that the local standard of assistance be followed unless it is below standard. In this case, minimum resettlement assistance is given.

Medical care is usually handled by the County commissioners. County residence is not required by the Social Security Board. To make medical ^{care} readily available to resettlers, special arrangements have been made with the state departments of health.

Legal residence has long been a concern of public welfare officials. This is a nation-wide problem which must be faced due to the shifting of the population during the war. For resettlement assistance, in most cases, legal residence will not be required. However, if federal funds for this purpose are withdrawn, the issue of residence may be raised by state or county officials. For this reason, persons leaving the centers and needing long time institutional care should return to their state of legal residence.

After June 1st, all grants for furniture will be made by W.R.A. at the centers before resettlers leave. All other assistance will be given through the local agency, which has been designated to handle the assistance funds.

Miss Fisher described the amount of resettlement assistance given to date by the Cuyahoga County Relief Bureau, the agency designated by the state to handle this program:

Total referrals	86
Medical	30
Burial	2
Transportation	6
Maintenance	12
Furniture grants	26
Consultation	10

Total resettlers in Cleveland 1700-1800.

Medical care exceeds other needs due to fact that this is usually of emergency nature and resources have not yet been accumulated to take care of emergencies.

The question of giving grants for furniture raised various questions:

1. What standard of assistance should be used? What consideration should be given to family's previous standard of living as told by applicant? What effort should be made to verify these statements?
2. Shall total income or only income of head of family be considered in arriving at amount of assistance?
3. To what extent should the young boy or girl desiring to enter college be encouraged to save earnings for higher education while home is being established through federal funds?
4. Shall families be expected, when feasible, to contract debts to meet their household needs?
5. Is it not wholesome to consider this program in the light of what the Government will do for the able bodied returning veteran who is in need of re-establishing a home inasmuch as both the veteran and the relocated persons are victims of war?
6. What effort should be made at this time to stimulate community consciousness of the problem of the resettlers? Is it not advisable to stimulate this interest before we proceed with the relocation of families which may include some unemployable, ill and dependent individuals?

A committee made up of representatives of health and welfare agencies has been formed to consider such questions and to aid in the process of assimilating the resettlers into the Cleveland community. The functions of this committee are outlined as follows:

1. To consider the needs of the Japanese-Americans and the community facilities to meet these needs.
2. To help agencies determine their policy in relation to this group.
3. To relate these services to over-all community planning for the Japanese-Americans.

Miss Noble advised the delegates that W.R.A. has a number of agreements with national agencies. These should be used to the greatest extent at the local level: Travelers Aid, Family Welfare, Legal Aid, Red Cross, International Institute, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, War Housing, P.F.A.

It was brought out that evacuees frequently do not know of assistance that can

be given through local agencies. Dayton has worked out a pamphlet listing local resources. This is being used with good success.

Committees are an important means of bringing about complete utilization of community services and assisting W.R.A. both at the centers and in the community. Their function is advisory and coordinating and they should not, at any time, attempt to establish policies for local agencies.

Miss Noble advised that there are three groups of evacuees remaining in the centers:

1. Those with very adequate financial resources who need to make up their minds about relocation.
2. Those who need help in getting started, both economically and socially.
3. Dependency cases with specific problems. Advance approval must be secured from local agencies for this group. This will vary from state to state.

Miss Noble explained further about the giving of furniture grants at the centers. It will be done on the basis of need, size of family and resources. Checks will be forwarded to district office in area to which resettler is expected to go. When part of family is already relocated, a person may go to district office and make full statement of all resources. Grant will be made at the center. All pending cases as of June 1 will be followed through by local agency. Local agency will continue to care for necessary assistance after resettlers have arrived in a community.

Miss Blake outlined the functions of the American Service Institute of Pittsburgh. It is an organization working on the problems of people of foreign birth, looking toward their integration into the community. It is an educational job with old stock Americans as well as people of foreign birth, helping them to understand each other. Considerable thought has been given to the resettlers.

The following suggestions were made:

1. A movie might give information about the resettlers
2. Standards to aid group work agencies in working toward inter-cultural programs.
3. A neighborhood house to serve everyone in immediate community with staff, board and committees taken from a cross section of neighborhood so that they would understand background of group they serve.
4. Mixed groups rather than segregated groups
5. Personal contacts by agency staff
6. Newsletter which goes to interested people of all groups. Give community an opportunity to know the Japanese-Americans.

Discussion brought out the following points:

1. Every social agency overworked today. Immediate assistance may not be possible, just as it is impossible with long time residents.
2. Residence is a question of state law and varies in different states. The granting of resettlement assistance and its effect on legal residence is entirely a state and county decision and depends on the opinion received. Some good case should be used to test situation. Cuyahoga County has assumed attitude that furniture grants are rehabilitation and not relief. Other counties in Ohio may not make same decision.

3. Each state sets up its own method of receiving the assistance funds from Social Security: some use own money and bill government; others draw a sum and have it in treasury to use when needed.

4. There are various laws pertaining to legal residence. For example: the intent and action of establishing oneself in Ohio makes one a resident. Marriage, divorce, old age assistance, aid to dependent children and general assistance all require varying lengths of residence.

5. Unattached children, without a guardian, may present problem in educational field.

6. Local health authorities should be consulted before hostel is established. Visiting Nurse Association should be asked to cooperate. Health standards should be as high as possible.

Following are recommendations which were VOTED by the conference at the last session after considerable discussion of each point.

Recommendations

Resolutions Committee

Mr. Max Franzen
Mr. Robert Kodama

Mrs. Marie Doi
Rev. John Yamazaki

Mrs. Clyde Watford

I. COMMUNITY ADJUSTMENT

1. Recommend that citizens committees, local church groups, and community organizations organize public relations programs in all relocation areas, including small communities. Suggest use of church and other social agencies as much as possible. Appoint research committee to explore new possibilities and compile bibliography of material.
2. Recommend that Home Missions Council extend appreciation to cooperating group work, case work and health councils through national organizations in the various committees.
3. Urge use of PTA's in accomplishing school adjustments. Urge relocation centers to send information to local PTA's when children go to a new community. Local committees should inform center PTA where child will go to school.
4. Recommend to national boards of various denominations, through Home Missions Council, that they consider financing ministerial students as relocation personnel in relocation areas where there are no full-time workers.
5. That community service committees be aware of and use all community facilities for accomplishing integration of evacuees whom they contact.
6. Citizens committees should give church groups, student groups, etc., specific projects and people to work with on community adjustment.

II. HOUSING

1. Recommend to evacuees to relocate families as a unit as the best method of relocating families, rather than heads of families preceding rest of the family, providing temporary housing is provided for them.
2. Urge Home Missions Council to continue church assistance on temporary and permanent housing in all areas.
3. Urging committees to request authorities to get priorities for building homes and opening housing projects to Nisei.

III. EMPLOYMENT

1. Recommend that evacuees in centers consider employment in smaller communities.
2. Urge increasing representation of labor and Management in citizens committees and relocation work as a means of broadening employment opportunities.
3. That subcommittees of citizens committee should specialize on employment, counselling newcomers and persuading reluctant employers and Unions to employ Japanese.
4. Recommend that evacuees call attention immediately to WRA and citizens committees any instances of prejudice on the part of Unions or Management. WRA and citizens committees are to attempt to remove such prejudices.

IV. COMMUNITY SERVICES

1. Request WRA to compile all national agreements and proclamations favorable to Japanese-Americans, such as actions by American Legion posts, CIO, Traveler's Aid, PTA, etc., and send copies to all citizens committees for use in bringing such information to local agencies and so that resettlers can be informed.

V. GENERAL

1. That WRA consider extension of the life of its field offices to carry on work on adjustments in cooperation with local agencies after closing of camps. (Less than half of the people have relocated from the centers and their adjustments are incomplete. Yet, those who have relocated have been the most adjustable group. It is difficult to expect the second half, the most difficult to adjust, to become adjusted in two to six months after their relocation.)
2. That citizens committees and other agencies provide for carrying on their programs after relocation phase is completed.
3. We abhor the idea of second class citizens and feel that efforts should be made to give loyal Japanese persons the right to become American citizens.

Respectfully submitted,
Beatrice Burr, Executive Secretary
Cleveland Resettlement Committee

GREAT LAKES AREA CONFERENCE
Hotel Statler, Cleveland, Ohio
Room 345

AGENDA OF MEETINGS

Wednesday, July 18, 1945

Morning Session - Hotel Statler

9:00 - 10:30 Miss Louise M. Noble, Ass't Relocation Supervisor - Chairman

New Pay and Leave Regulations -

Leader - Mrs. Yuki Katayama, Admin. Assistant

Discussion -

Small Business Opportunities -

Leader - Mr. E. L. Dakan, Special Relocation Officer
Mr. Thomas T. Sashihara

The following men will be present to answer questions:

Mr. A. H. Anderson, Regional Price Executive, O.P.A.
Mr. H. S. Folkes, Regional Rationing Executive, O.P.A.
Mr. C. R. Dyck, Director, Commodity Credit Corp.
Mr. I. S. Crawford, Director, O.D.T.

Discussion -

10:30 - 11:00 Recess

11:00 - 12:30 Mr. Robert M. Cullum - Chairman

Introduction - Director Dillon S. Myer

Relocation Program in Districts - Great Lakes Area
(limited to 7 min.)

Michigan District	- Mr. Wendell P. Gee
Northeastern Ohio	- Mrs. Dorothy G. Barber
Central & Southern Ohio	- Mr. Carl Spicer
Western New York	- Mr. George E. Graff
Western Pennsylvania	- Mr. Howard Mather

Reports on Visits to Relocation Centers -
(limited to 5 min.)

Granada	- Miss Mamie Goodman
Heart Mountain	- Mr. Carl Spicer
Rohwer	- Mr. Howard Mather
Heart Mountain & Granada	- Mr. Godfrey B. Frankel

Questions and Discussion -

12:30 - 2:00 Luncheon - Hotel Statler (Room 341)

Wednesday, July 18, 1945

Afternoon Session - Hotel Statler

2:15 - 3:30 Statement from Director Dillon S. Myer -
Regional & Local Representatives present.

Questions and Discussion -

3:30 - 3:45 Recess

3:45 - 5:30 General Discussion with Director Dillon S. Myer -
WRA District and Area Staffs.

AUG 2 Rec'd

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
Great Lakes Area
960 Union Commerce Building
Cleveland 14, Ohio

R E P O R T

Great Lakes Area
Conference

Wednesday, July 18, 1945 - 9:30 to 10:30 AM

SMALL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES -

- Louise M. Noble - Chairman
- Thomas T. Sashihara - WRA Discussion Leader
- Everett L. Dakan - WRA Discussion Leader

Participants:

- Members of Area Staff and District Officers
- Mr. H.H. Anderson, Regional Price Executive, OPA
- Mr. H.S. Fowkes, Regional Rationing Executive, OPA
- Mr. H.F. Yates, Special Ass't. Commodity Credit Corp.
- Mr. P.R. Castor, District Program Ass't. Commodity Credit Corp.
- Mr. I.S. Crawford, Ass't. Director, ODT

Chairman opened the discussion with a brief remark that there is a considerable number of evacuees who wish to rehabilitate themselves in the line of business in which they were engaged previous to evacuation and that the object of this morning session is to find the ways and means of helping these people.

Mr. Dakan suggested to begin the discussion with the factual examples of specific problems faced in various districts and center the discussion on these problems.

Mr. Wendell Gee of Michigan district related difficulty encountered by an evacuee who had started manufacturing soy bean sprouts and other oriental foods. In this case the evacuee invested all available resources including borrowed money on his life insurance policy. After he had spent all his money in renting and fixing up a place and buying a large quantity of soy beans, he found out that he was violating a city zoning ordinance. He was successful in having the restriction removed. Also his application for sugar, fat and other commodities were denied by the local and Washington rationing board. With all his resources tied up and without a cent of income from the business, he had to turn to Social Security for subsistence. As an incidental remark Mr. Gee pointed out that in borrowing money on the life insurance policy, the bank charged 4% interest whereas the insurance company asked 6%.

Mr. Fowkes of OPA emphasized the advisability of going to the OPA and other agencies first and not after a man starts a business. He stated that similar mistakes as related by Mr. Gee are made by many other businessmen. Lots of headaches and financial losses can be avoided if the necessary information and advice were sought before a man starts a new venture.

Regarding the application on rationed commodities, Mr. Fowkes stated that all new applications must be approved by Washington. On denial the applicant has the right of appeal. At the present time, the food processing business is extremely difficult to start. New application for sugar, fat and oil has very small chance of approval in view of the fact that even old established firms are allowed only 33 1/3% of the 1943 allotment.

The discussion was shifted to the problem involved in restaurant business. Mr. Fowkes stated that a new restaurant man has a better chance of obtaining sugar, fat and other scarce commodities than new industrial users. He can get his share of rationed items on the same allotment basis as his competitors. The rationing board determines the amount used by his nearest competitors and allows his allotment on this basis.

A question was asked whether a man will be allowed increase on his allotment with the increase of his business. Mr. Fowkes answered that new applications are accepted every 60 days to adjust the allotment.

Mr. Anderson, Regional Price Executive, OPA, gave highlights on ceiling prices as follows:

- a. Commodity prices are established by the local office.
- b. All prices must be in line with competitors.
- c. Perishables are priced on weekly basis.
- d. Non-perishable commodities are priced on the price level of March, 1942.
- e. Restaurant prices are based on those of April 10, 1943.
A menu with ceiling prices must be submitted to the local board and must be posted at the place of business.

Mr. Harrison F. Yates, of Commodity Credit Corp., informed that in regard to food processing there is a Food Advisory Committee which will direct the businessmen to a sub-committee which is comprised of experts in that particular line and will give him all information and advice available. Mr. Yates also emphasized the advisability of thorough investigation before a man starts any business and make use of the services offered him by the Office of Supply and Commodity Credit Corporation. This office is equipped to assist in obtaining supplies and giving advice on installation of equipments. To the question whether cellophane papers are available or not, Mr. Dyck answered that cellophane and many other packaging items are available in allotment basis, and very hard to procure at present. As for printed matters, allocation of paper will be needed if the printing is done by the manufacturer, but if it is done by the printer, the printer may do so, using his allocation in which event the manufacturer will need no allocation.

Mr. Crawford of ODT stated that if a man is fortunate enough to buy a used truck or light or medium size, the new regulation which went into effect this week will allow him enough gas for local service irrespective of what kind of commodity he carries on the truck. The local service is defined as within 25 air miles.

Mr. Fowkes cautioned at this point that no new tire will be obtainable unless the truck owner is in essential industry. However, second hand tires will be available without a permit. For the use of trucks beyond 25 mile limit, such as a farmer taking his produce to market, ODT regulates mileage and allows gasoline accordingly.

The difficulty of obtaining credit for evacuees was pointed out due to the fact that no bank will advance credit to any person not residing in the district more than six months. Mr. Sashihara pointed out the possibility of establishing credit on evacuees' pre-evacuation record, and also stated 50% finance on certain lines of business is possible with local and credit companies who charge 6% interest per annum.

Recommendation and Suggestions:

1. Every new business is a problem in itself.
2. Every evacuee interested in establishing a business must be on the ground - not in a center.
3. This is a tailor-made project where the evacuee must be the person who takes most of the initiative.
4. The WRA staff members should know all essential sources of assistance in order to advise the prospective businessmen how to proceed.
5. Before any investment is made the following agencies should be contacted:
 - a. O.P.A.
 - b. O.D.T.
 - c. C.C.C.
 - d. W.P.B.
 - e. City Zoning Authority
 - f. City Health Authority
 - g. City License Authority
 - h. State License Board
6. Nothing in this report even hints at the question of a man's business experience and ability. Success is not a matter of merely starting a business but numerous factor of management and judgment are involved.