

★ 51.10

67/14

c

65
Isolation
X
DEC 31 1942

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL (PROJECT DIRECTORS) ✓

In my confidential letter of December 24th I asked for certain information that we feel we need in order to develop a segregation policy. I am looking forward to an early reply. In the meantime may I urge that caution be exercised in making arrests of persons other than those caught in the act of committing a crime or engaging in violence.

In all other cases you should be sure that an offense has been committed, and that you have reasonable ground for believing that the person about to be arrested committed that offense. You should know what you plan to do with the arrested person before you arrest him. You should be prepared to file a specific charge or charges, and determine how and where the case will be heard or tried. The Project Director should either personally review such proposed arrests or designate some person to act in this matter for him.

Whenever the FBI or another intelligence agency is involved, care should be exercised in carrying on the investigation. The fact that an investigation is under way should not be allowed to become public knowledge, and proper precautions should be observed to preserve the anonymity of evacuees who assist with the investigation.

In this connection, I feel the need for carefully worked out procedures that may be expected to cause the least amount of disturbance at the centers. We are working now on suggested policies and procedures and you will receive these just as soon as they are formulated.

D. J. Myer
Director
FILE COPY

DSMyer:VHC

12-31-42

cc: Mr. McCaskill) Indian Office
Mr. John Collier)
Mr. Cozzens, Mr. Whitaker, Mr. Smart

34.100

65 430

C O P Y

Loupp

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
WASHINGTON

January 23, 1943

AIR MAIL

MEMORANDUM TO: All Project Directors

SUBJECT: Transfer of evacuees to Moab, Utah-
Notification to military authorities

At the time of the departure of evacuees from your center who are scheduled for Moab, Utah, a wire should be sent to the Ninth Service Command at Fort Douglas, Utah, Attention of Colonel Wing, Security Officer, advising that headquarters of the number of evacuees leaving your center and the approximate time of their arrival at Moab.

E. M. Rowalt
Acting Director

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
WASHINGTON

LEUPP
ES
JUN 5 1943

CONFIDENTIAL

To: All Field Assistant Directors and Project Directors
Subject: The Leupp Center

no 95
I have just signed an administrative instruction concerning the Leupp Center which is now being mimeographed. An advance copy is attached. It replaces the unnumbered confidential administrative instruction of February 16, 1943, which is repealed herewith.

I should like to discuss some of our reasons for revising our policy to some degree and issuing a numbered administrative instruction. Previously some of us had conceived the isolation procedure as being primarily one to facilitate the maintenance of law and order within the relocation centers, necessary because of the unique conditions within the centers. It was not conceived as a punishment for the transferees. As we watch the isolation procedure in operation and see more clearly the implications of isolation, however, it is becoming increasingly evident that transfer to the isolation center is a punishment. This being the case, it is hardly appropriate to provide a punishment without giving the transferee a hearing and an opportunity to present his side of the case, if he has one. Under our present procedures we give a hearing before the Project Director of the Judicial Commission for every minor offense. Surely, therefore, we should give an evacuee a hearing before convicting him of being an aggravated and incorrigible trouble-maker and transferring him to the Leupp Center.

The principal change in the attached administrative instruction from the confidential unnumbered instruction, therefore, lies in a requirement that the evacuee be afforded a hearing before he is transferred. It is not required that the hearing be a public one, or that the evacuee be confronted with his accusers, for we are aware of the difficulties that might face a Project Director if this were required in every case. It is nevertheless imperative that the hearing be a fair one. This means that it is essential to tell the evacuee the purpose of the hearing and inform him of the charges against him -- charges that are buttressed with as much evidence as the Project Director may present without



44,202

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

WASHINGTON

- 2 -

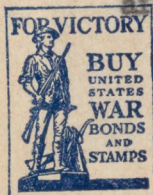
revealing the identity of informants or other confidential sources of information. It means that the evacuee must be given a chance to refute the charges or present mitigating circumstances, through his own testimony and the testimony of other witnesses if he so chooses. It also means that the proceedings must be carefully and impartially conducted in every particular by the Project Director.

Naturally the testimony at the hearing and all material facts brought forth should be abstracted and made a part of the docket that is transmitted to Washington, since these must be given their appropriate weight in the consideration given the case by the Board of Review and the Director. This does not mean, however, that the other items in the docket should be neglected. The charges made, the supporting evidence, and the credibility of the persons making the charges are particularly important because the evacuee cannot confront and cross-examine the informants; the Project Director must act in his stead, and to that end must be painstaking in his investigation and cautious in his conclusions. All evidence must be carefully reviewed and weighed; the Project Attorney's services will be particularly valuable here.

A word about the Board of Review and Washington review generally. My decision not to delegate to the Project Directors the authority to make decisions on isolation of evacuees stems chiefly from a belief that we must maintain a uniform set of policy judgments and a uniform degree of strictness or liberality applied to all isolation cases. This cannot be true if decisions are made by 10 different Project Directors.

The administrative instruction warns against attempted use of the isolation procedure to get rid of critics of WRA policy or administration. I know that it may be difficult to determine when an evacuee is merely voicing criticism or attempting sincerely to accomplish reforms and when he is using criticism and related tactics as a method of creating disorder as an end in itself. The Project Directors must conscientiously probe as deeply into the evidence as possible in order to make this determination; any doubt should be resolved in favor of the evacuee.

The risk of a disturbance in the center over transfer of an evacuee to the Leupp Center may be greater now that the hearing procedure is mandatory. The evacuee will know that he is being considered for isolation, and some time will necessarily elapse after the hearing and before the decision to isolate is made and



WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

WASHINGTON

- 3 -

communicated to the Project Director. The danger of disturbance can be minimized, however, if the Project Director does not tell the evacuee what his recommendation is going to be. If the evacuee knows that the matter is not foreclosed he is much more likely to be on his good behavior after the hearing. We must nevertheless expect cases in which the evacuee may create trouble after the hearing, and the Project Director should be on his guard against it. Since any disturbance will necessarily involve the commission of one or more offenses defined in the administrative instruction on trial and punishment, the Project Director will have clear and ample authority to deal with the disturbance.

I realize that there may occur an emergency situation in which you will be convinced that a particular evacuee or group of evacuees must be immediately removed from the center, without waiting for the transmission of a docket to Washington and its review by the Board of Review. To take care of this problem, the attached administrative instruction provides, in section III, that where such an urgent situation develops the Project Director may telephone the Director, summarize the important facts to him over the telephone, and secure telephone authority to make immediate arrangements with the Project Director of the Leupp Center for transfer of one or more evacuees to Leupp. In such cases, as soon as the transfer has been made, the Project Director is to prepare a complete docket on the case and submit that docket to Washington with one copy to the Project Director of the Leupp Center. The Project Director of the Leupp Center will give a hearing or interview to the evacuee on his arrival at Leupp and the future disposition of the evacuee will be further considered by the Project Director of the Leupp Center and the Washington office.

The attached administrative instruction contemplates an indeterminate sentence to the Leupp Center. The Project Director of the Leupp Center is required to recommend a transfer to a relocation center as soon as he believes it appropriate to do so, and he is required in any event to report to the Washington office on each evacuee at 120-day intervals.

(s) D.S. Meyer

Attachment

Director



June 30, 1942

clsol

Memo from Elmer L. Shirrell to Mr. Harvey M. Coverley

"We are encountering some difficulty with several groups of our colonists, some of whom are citizens of the United States, some are citizens but were educated in Japan and others are not citizens. A few of them show a defiant attitude, particularly toward the work program.

The Tentative Policy Statement of May 29, Page 27, Paragraph 3, would seem to indicate that such an evacuee, if all other methods fail, might be deported to another relocation area if he refuses to work. Would there be any possibility of deporting to such an area those who are incorrigible, trouble makers, who refuse to cooperate, etc. Does the Regional Office plan for some type of restraining institution devoted to such groups? Until we can know, we are somewhat in the dark as to how far we can go in our discussions with these people.

We had a little disturbance in the village last night that threatened to be serious but was nipped in the bud. The Japanese Council is handling it. We do not anticipate any further trouble from these individuals. However, we have already spotted some professional gamblers and know we shall have to be prepared to take rather stern measures to hold them in check.

I would appreciate an early reply on this matter.

Leupp

Staffed
✓
Schofer
Kinnery
Davidson
Sandoz

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Washington

October 6, 1943

To: Project Directors

Distribution: E

I know that you will find the attached copies of an exchange of letters between Mr. Paul G. Robertson, Project Director of the Leupp Center, and me both interesting and illuminating.

H. S. Myer
Director

C
O
P
Y

C
O
P
Y

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Leupp Relocation Center
Box 872
Winslow, Arizona

September 27, 1943

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

Dear Mr. Myer:

I have read and re-read Manual Release No. 6 regarding transfers to Leupp Center.

I am convinced that we now have a procedure set up that will afford every evacuee a fair opportunity to defend himself before being incarcerated in Leupp. I appreciate the thought that has been given to this matter and express my appreciation for elimination of the emergency provision by the manual.

Yours very truly,

/s/ PAUL G. ROBERTSON

Paul G. Robertson
Project Director



C
O
P
Y

C
O
P
Y

October 6, 1943

Mr. Paul G. Robertson
Project Director, Leupp Center
Box 872
Winslow, Arizona

Dear Mr. Robertson:

I have read with pleasure your letter of September 27. In the first place, it always gives me pleasure to find that a Project Director "reads and re-reads" manual releases, handbooks, and Administrative Instructions. They are the substance of "the law of WRA" and need to be carefully read and followed if all the units of the Authority are to move in the same direction.

I am glad to note, also, that you share my belief that we have now greatly improved the procedures that govern transfer of evacuees to Leupp. I am as happy as you are over the elimination of the early provision for "emergency transfers" with full administrative hearing at the project and in advance of submission of a docket to Washington. You will be glad to know that in not a single instance since the issuance of the manual material on Leupp has a Project Director asked for an exception to be made in any case.

By the way, I am sending copies of your letter and of this reply to all the Project Directors for their information.

Sincerely,

/S/ D. S. Myer
Director

Leupp Relocation Center
Box 872
Winslow, Arizona

November 13, 1943

AIRMAIL

Mr. Dillon S. Myer, Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Bldg., 910-17th St. NW
Washington, 25, D. C.

Attention: John Baker

Dear Mr. Myer:

I have just finished reading an editorial in the Gila News-Courier published Saturday, November 6, which I believe deserves a retraction and an apology to the Leupp residents. I am enclosing this editorial for your review.

I have underscored the statement which I believe has no basis of truth--the one in which they state that instigators of the riot at Tule Lake have been identified as agitators and trouble makers from Leupp. In the first place, there are only three persons now residing at Tule Lake who were ever in the Leupp Center, namely Mike Tanimoto, Henry Imahara and Tom Tambara. I am confident that these three boys had nothing to do with the trouble at Tule Lake. In any event, if former Leupp residents were partially responsible for this trouble, we should have been notified immediately.

This sort of publicity certainly does not lend itself to proper rehabilitation. If, as I believe, there is no basis for this editorial, I would appreciate your having a retraction published in the Gila News-Courier as soon as possible.

Yours very truly,

Paul G. Robertson
Project Director

PGR:cm
Enclosure
cc:R.E. Cozz ens



Haynes

FOR RELEASE APRIL 26 PM from Washington, D. C.

Leupp
2/6/44

WRA TO REOPEN LEUPP CENTER

Plans of the WRA to reopen the Leupp Center near Winslow, Arizona about May 15 were announced today by Secretary of the Interior, Harold L. Ickes. The Leupp Center is being reopened to take care of those evacuees of Japanese ancestry who have been agitators or troublemakers at the Tule Lake Segregation Center in northern California. It will be operated under administration of Tule Lake Project Director Ray R. Best. Approximately 100 men, the majority of them American citizens, who were arrested after taking part in a disturbance in the Tule Lake Center last November 4, will be sent to Leupp. Since the November disturbance they have been confined in a stockade at the Tule Lake Center. Some of the aliens who took part in the disturbance have been transferred to Internment camps for enemy aliens under the jurisdiction of the Department of Justice.

The Leupp Center was opened as an isolation unit under the War Relocation Authority on April 27, 1943 and was closed on December 2, when its inmates transferred to Tule Lake Center which had meanwhile become the segregation center for persons whose loyalties were with Japan rather than with the United States.

The supervising officer of the Leupp Center will be designated by R. R. Best, Project Director of the Tule Lake Center who was the director of Leupp Center before being appointed to his present position.

(Phoned from Washington 4/25/44 PM)

(Phoned to Tule Lake 4/26/44 AM)

m.l.

Wash
4/26