

3:1

0265

LOS ANGELES COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR RESETTLEMENT

1945

C-A
171

Ruth

LOS ANGELES
COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR RESETTLEMENT

MINUTES OF THE SECOND MEETING, JULY 3, 1945 AT 5:30 P.M., CLIFTON'S CAFETERIA

PRESENT: Chairman Joe Moody, Ataloo, Gracia Booth, Raymond Booth, Esther Briese-meister, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. C. Carr, Harold Choate, Robert Gibson, Clarence Gillett, George Gleason, Esther Hoag, Sohei Kowta, Catherine MacDiarmid, Herbert McCanliss, Elsie Newton, Frank Omi, Dorothy Takechi, George Yahiro, Henry Finch. *John Anson Ford will attend & cooperate*

MINUTES: The minutes of the temporary executive committee which met on June 20 in the Congregational Conference Room were read and approved, thereby confirming the appointment of Joe Moody as chairman of the Coordinating Committee for Resettlement with Elsie Newton as Co-chairman.

BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES: In accordance with the suggestion of the temporary committee that the chair appoint a secretary, Miss Esther Hoag was appointed by Mr. Moody and approved by the group.

NAME OF COMMITTEE: "Coordinating Committee for Resettlement" was agreed upon as an appropriate name for the group--motion by George Gleason, second by Elsie Newton.

SUB-COMMITTEES: The June 20 meeting had recommended that appointment from the chair be made of representative persons to serve on the sub-committees. After free discussion and suggestions from the group, the following sub-committees were appointed and set up; each committee to consist of not less than five members and having the power to add to its numbers. The committee members were instructed to send in to Mrs. Booth's office the names and addresses and phone numbers of helpful persons who might be available to serve on sub-committees, stating their background and qualifications.

1. EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE:

1. Mr. Charles Bratt--War Manpower Commission
2. Father Edward J. Whelan--President Loyola University
3. Rabbi Max Nussbaum--American Jewish Congress
4. ~~Mr. Slade--C.I.O.~~ *Mr. Connelley*
5. Mr. Al Wirin--Civil Liberties Union

6. Mary Jones (Federal Service)

2. HOUSING COMMITTEE:

1. Herbert McCanliss--WRA Housing
2. Newell Steward--American Friends Service, Evergreen Hostel
3. Miss Florence Wirt--YWCA *housing*
4. Frank Wilkinson--City Housing Authority
5. *Miss Esther Hoag (Eagle Rock Friends of Am. way)*

*6. Wm. Carr
Pasadena
Am. way*

3. ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE:

1. Priscilla Beatty--Pasadena Fair Play Committee
2. Miss Alice Grube--International Institute
3. Dr. Miyamoto--Cooperative Service Bureau
4. Mendel Lieberman--Attorney
5. *Dr. Genevieve Carter - manzanar schools - now dir. of re-*

search Mt. L.A. Soc. Agencies

4. INTEGRATION COMMITTEE:

1. Mrs. Rabbi Edgar Magnin
2. John Stone--YMCA
3. Mrs. Jerome McNair--Eagle Rock Friends of the American Way
4. Arthur Takomoto--Buddhist Hostel
5. Rev. Mr. Unura

6. Gillett

7. Elsie Newton (Int. Institute)

5. PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE AND SPEAKERS BUREAU

1. Colonel Finch--Pasadena Fair Play Committee
2. Mr. William F. Cummings--"Now" Editor--(negro)
3. Sam Balter--KFWB Broadcast Station
4. ~~Miss Mary Workman--Catholic Women's Group~~
5. Earle O'Day--WRA Information Specialist
6. Major Warner--Student at USC, very good speaker
7. ~~Atalos (W.R.A.) Am. Indian~~
8. ~~Rev. Harold Kingsley - Pilgrim House.~~
9. ~~Mr. Kelley - W.R.A. district officer.~~
- 10.

FUNCTIONS OF SUB-COMMITTEES: Following a lengthy discussion regarding the function of these sub-committees--whether they would coordinate activities of various groups already at work or would carry on a definite program as planned by this group, it was voted by motion of Colonel Finch as follows:

The function of the sub-committees would be that of surveying the field and endeavoring to coordinate the work being done by member groups. The findings of each sub-committee shall be reported back to the executive who shall then issue them to every member of the group in time for individual study before the next general meeting.

1. Employment Committee--This committee should endeavor to enlist the interest of representative employers and union men.
2. Housing Committee--This committee, in addition to assistance in temporary housing and hostel work, should bring pressure to bear upon housing authorities for increased permanent housing facilities for all minority groups.
3. Assistance Committee--This committee should render such advice and assistance in legal and property matters not covered by the work of public agencies. It should also endeavor to raise special funds for special purposes such as loans for purchasing of furniture, bedding, tools, etc., or purchasing at wholesale prices as opportunity may present itself, then selling to evacuees at cost.
4. Integration Committee--This committee should endeavor to gage the extent of community acceptance in various neighborhoods, enlisting the interest and assistance in this field of integration of friendly and influential individuals living there, encourage resettlers themselves to meet the community at least half way by voluntarily taking part in all community activities possible.
5. Public Relations and Speakers Bureau--This committee should serve at least the following three purposes:
 - a. Fact finding, members should be alert for all criticisms and comments in the press, on the radio, etc. reporting same to the chairman,
 - b. Immediate reporting to Chairman Joe Moody, Clarence Gillett of Congressional Committee, Gracia Booth of Fair Play Committee, the WRA, Raymond Booth of the Council for Civic Unity, etc. of any "incident".
 - c. Formation of a speakers bureau made up of carefully-selected, well-informed, level-headed individuals to present the problem of resettlement with constructive suggestions to interested groups.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

HOUSING PROBLEM: The critical housing situation was discussed at length. In support of his opinion that private housing cannot meet the problem by January 1, 1946, Mr. Carr brought out the point that but 4% of the Japanese-Americans have returned to California and gave a typical case of the head of the family arriving, finding a temporary place to live, securing employment, sending for his family, then moving again and again and not finding a permanent home for five months.

Mr. Choate, of the WRA, expressed a more hopeful point of view and told of WRA plans developing but which cannot be reported until the next meeting. He stated that WRA cannot do the job alone but must depend upon civilian groups for cooperation and support.

Mr. Booth stressed the point that reestablishment can be accomplished only by the people of the community through the impetus of the character building organizations. He said, "We must begin NOW to exert a friendly pressure technique to find out what has happened to the mayor's committee on low cost housing for Los Angeles."

Colonel Finch suggested a survey on civilian housing. Mr. Gillett told of the list of those willing to give temporary housing which had been compiled by the Church Federation but that there had been practically no request for this service.

Mr. Gibson, Council for Civic Unity San Francisco, told of the housing survey carried on there resulting in community action in helping to secure the promise of 500 units in a private housing project, these to be allocated without racial discrimination. "From NOW on," he said, "there will be no more government housing projects, only private commercial housing."

It was pointed out that the housing problem is of two kinds:

- a. housing for those who can pay rentals or buy property,
- b. housing for those on relief.

A "Rooms Registry" which would list rooms in private families for young women was suggested as a possibility under direction of the International Institute.

Mr. Choate reported 1500 pieces of property owned by Japanese Americans which might be available for future housing. The WRA are adding a new staff member to locate owners and to help in property matters of all kinds.

SUGGESTIONS FOR GROUP ACTION: Dr. Gleason spoke of a recent Vox Pop Radio Program in which a service man who was interviewed gave highest praise to the service record of the 100th Battalion and recommended that the Chairman write a note of commendation to the Radio Station. It was so voted.

Mr. Carr spoke of the importance of getting in touch this next week with County Supervisors and asking them if those who pass Civil Service will be employed. The question of new employment is coming to a head this next week, needs action.

It was voted that a friendly letter of inquiry be written Mayor Bowren asking about The Mayor's Committee on Low Cost Housing for Los Angeles.

FUTURE MEETINGS: It was discussed and agreed upon for the present at least, that monthly meetings would be held with the privilege of calling special meetings for emergencies. The Chairman stated that he would notify members of the time and place for the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Esther M. Hoag, Secretary

Los Angeles

Kingman

COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR RESETTLEMENT

MINUTES OF THE SECOND MEETING, JULY 3, 1945 AT 5:30 P.M., CLIFTON'S CAFETERIA

PRESENT: Chairman Joe Moody, Ataloe, Gracia Booth, Raymond Booth, Esther Briese-meister, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. C. Carr, Harold Choate, Robert Gibson, Clarence Gillett, George Gleason, Esther Hoag, Sohei Kowta, Catherine MacDiarmid, Herbert McCanliss, Elsie Newton, Frank Omi, Dorothy Takechi, George Yahiro, Henry Finch.

MINUTES: The minutes of the temporary executive committee which met on June 20 in the Congregational Conference Room were read and approved, thereby confirming the appointment of Joe Moody as chairman of the Coordinating Committee for Resettlement with Elsie Newton as Co-chairman.

BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES: In accordance with the suggestion of the temporary committee that the chair appoint a secretary, Miss Esther Hoag was appointed by Mr. Moody and approved by the group.

NAME OF COMMITTEE: "Coordinating Committee for Resettlement" was agreed upon as an appropriate name for the group--motion by George Gleason, second by Elsie Newton.

SUB-COMMITTEES: The June 20 meeting had recommended that appointment from the chair be made of representative persons to serve on the sub-committees. After free discussion and suggestions from the group, the following sub-committees were appointed and set up; each committee to consist of not less than five members and having the power to add to its numbers. The committee members were instructed to send in to Mrs. Booth's office the names and addresses and phone numbers of helpful persons who might be available to serve on sub-committees, stating their background and qualifications.

1. **EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE:**

1. Mr. Charles Bratt--War Manpower Commission
2. Father Edward J. Whelan--President Loyola University
3. Rabbi Max Nussbaum--American Jewish Congress
4. Mr. Slade--C.I.O.
5. Mr. Al Wirin--Civil Liberties Union

2. **HOUSING COMMITTEE:**

1. Herbert McCanliss--WRA Housing
2. Newell Steward--American Friends Service, Evergreen Hostel
3. Miss Florence Wirt--YWCA
4. Frank Wilkinson--City Housing Authority
- 5.

3. **ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE:**

1. Priscilla Beatty--Pasadena Fair Play Committee
2. Miss Alice Grube--International Institute
3. Dr. Miyamoto--Cooperative Service Bureau
4. Mendel Lieberman--Attorney
- 5.

4. **INTEGRATION COMMITTEE:**

1. Mrs. Rabbi Edgar Magnin
2. John Stone--YMCA
3. Mrs. Jerome McNair--Eagle Rock Friends of the American Way
4. Arthur Takomoto--Buddhist Hostel
5. Rev. Mr. Unura

5. PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE AND SPEAKERS BUREAU

1. Colonel Finch--Pasadena Fair Play Committee
2. Mr. William F. Cummings--"Now" Editor
3. Sam Balter--KFVB Broadcast Station
4. Miss Mary Workman--Catholic Women's Group
5. Earle O'Day--WRA Information Specialist
6. Major Warner--Student at USC, very good speaker
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

FUNCTIONS OF SUB-COMMITTEES: Following a lengthy discussion regarding the function of these sub-committees--whether they would coordinate activities of various groups already at work or would carry on a definite program as planned by this group, it was voted by motion of Colonel Finch as follows:

The function of the sub-committees would be that of surveying the field and endeavoring to coordinate the work being done by member groups. The findings of each sub-committee shall be reported back to the executive who shall then issue them to every member of the group in time for individual study before the next general meeting.

1. Employment Committee--This committee should endeavor to enlist the interest of representative employers and union men.
2. Housing Committee--This committee, in addition to assistance in temporary housing and hostel work, should bring pressure to bear upon housing authorities for increased permanent housing facilities for all minority groups.
3. Assistance Committee--This committee should render such advice and assistance in legal and property matters not covered by the work of public agencies. It should also endeavor to raise special funds for special purposes such as loans for purchasing of furniture, bedding, tools, etc., or purchasing at wholesale prices as opportunity may present itself, then selling to evacuees at cost.
4. Integration Committee--This committee should endeavor to gauge the extent of community acceptance in various neighborhoods, enlisting the interest and assistance in this field of integration of friendly and influential individuals living there, encourage resettlers themselves to meet the community at least half way by voluntarily taking part in all community activities possible.
5. Public Relations and Speakers Bureau--This committee should serve at least the following three purposes:
 - a. Fact finding, members should be alert for all criticisms and comments in the press, on the radio, etc. reporting same to the chairman,
 - b. Immediate reporting to Chairman Joe Moody, Clarence Gillett of Congressional Committee, Gracia Booth of Fair Play Committee, the WRA, Raymond Booth of the Council for Civic Unity, etc. of any "incident".
 - c. Formation of a speakers bureau made up of carefully-selected, well-informed, level-headed individuals to present the problem of resettlement with constructive suggestions to interested groups.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

HOUSING PROBLEM: The critical housing situation was discussed at length. In support of his opinion that private housing cannot meet the problem by January 1, 1946, Mr. Carr brought out the point that but 4% of the Japanese-Americans have returned to California and gave a typical case of the head of the family arriving, finding a temporary place to live, securing employment, sending for his family, then moving again and again and not finding a permanent home for five months.

Mr. Choate, of the WRA, expressed a more hopeful point of view and told of WRA plans developing but which cannot be reported until the next meeting. He stated that WRA cannot do the job alone but must depend upon civilian groups for cooperation and support.

Mr. Booth stressed the point that reestablishment can be accomplished only by the people of the community through the impetus of the character building organizations. He said, "We must begin NOW to exert a friendly pressure technique to find out what has happened to the mayor's committee on low cost housing for Los Angeles."

Colonel Finch suggested a survey on civilian housing. Mr. Gillett told of the list of those willing to give temporary housing which had been compiled by the Church Federation but that there had been practically no request for this service.

Mr. Gibson, Council for Civic Unity San Francisco, told of the housing survey carried on there resulting in community action in helping to secure the promise of 500 units in a private housing project, these to be allocated without racial discrimination. "From NOW on," he said, "there will be no more government housing projects, only private commercial housing."

It was pointed out that the housing problem is of two kinds:

- a. housing for those who can pay rentals or buy property,
- b. housing for those on relief.

A "Rooms Registry" which would list rooms in private families for young women was suggested as a possibility under direction of the International Institute.

Mr. Choate reported 1500 pieces of property owned by Japanese Americans which might be available for future housing. The WRA are adding a new staff member to locate owners and to help in property matters of all kinds.

SUGGESTIONS FOR GROUP ACTION: Dr. Gleason spoke of a recent Vox Pop Radio Program in which a service man who was interviewed gave highest praise to the service record of the 100th Battalion and recommended that the Chairman write a note of commendation to the Radio Station. It was so voted.

Mr. Carr spoke of the importance of getting in touch this next week with County Supervisors and asking them if those who pass Civil Service will be employed. The question of new employment is coming to a head this next week, needs action.

It was voted that a friendly letter of inquiry be written Mayor Bowren asking about The Mayor's Committee on Low Cost Housing for Los Angeles.

FUTURE MEETINGS: It was discussed and agreed upon for the present at least, that monthly meetings would be held with the privilege of calling special meetings for emergencies. The Chairman stated that he would notify members of the time and place for the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Esther M. Hoag, Secretary

LOS ANGELES
COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR RESETTLEMENT

MINUTES OF THE THIRD MEETING

August 22, 1945

7:30 p.m.

Y. M. C. A.

PRESENT: Chairman Joe Moody, Ataloe, Esther Bartlett, Priscilla Beattie, Gracia Booth, Raymond Booth, Chas. Bratt, Clyde J. Barnett, Mrs. L.M. Barnett, Robert Emerson, Katherine Fanning, Henry A. Finch, Margaret C. Forthman, Clarence Gillett, Alice Grube, Esther M. Hoag, Iwanaza Tomaki, Sabei Kowta, Lawrence Mendelson, Gentara Miyahara, Glenn W. Moore, Frank M. Omi, Carl Palmberg, Margaret Peterson, Louise Rounds, Masao Satow, Warren Smith, Newell Steward, Virginia Swanson, Dorothy K. Takechi, Herbert L. Walker, Florence M. Wirt, J. Yoki, Kojiro Unara.

MINUTES: The minutes of the July 3rd meeting were approved as read.

Chairman Joe Moody stated the main purpose of the meeting was to discuss reports and recommendations of sub-committees. He called upon committees as follows:

EMPLOYMENT: Chas. Bratt, Chairman, reported that he had consulted individual members but had not called a committee meeting because up to the present time the employment problem for returning Japanese-Americans has not been pressing and, therefore, need for community action had not appeared paramount but that from now on employment will be more difficult because those returning will be older, more reluctant to leave the camps and harder to place.

Mr. Bratt reported that through the War Manpower Commission 25 firms had agreed to accept returning Nisei as eligible for employment; that local U. S. Employment Offices had received notification of job possibilities and direction for utmost co-operation; that in the future information secured by the War Manpower Commission will be turned over to the WRA office, thus keeping them fully informed on the day to day employment situation.

Mr. Bratt suggested that hostel people and others interested in helping to secure employment keep in touch with local USES offices and tell them of the number of persons available with definite information on background and abilities of applicants.

Interesting reports were given of work being done in various communities.

- Santa Monica had interviewed USES and private employment agencies for job possibilities.
- Pasadena Fair Play Committee had interceded for Social Workers eligible for Civil Service appointments.
- Mr. Steward, Evergreen Hostel, stressed the point that while there are jobs for gardeners and domestics there is great need for small business opportunities and for jobs for industrial and white collar workers. He had done some newspaper advertising for work in these lines.
- Mrs. Booth reported that leases held by 150 farmers in Imperial Valley had been cancelled and spoke of the need for land for those formerly engaged in agriculture.

CIVIL SERVICE STATUS: The question was raised of the present status of civil service employees suspended on leave at the time of evacuation. Reports were made that:

- County Hospital workers may be reinstated three months after the close of the war.
- City Board of Education employee relationship was not severed--no employees have returned as yet but the way is open.

Warren Smith volunteered to consult Civil Service Authorities on these questions

RELATIONS WITH UNIONS: It was reported that AFL Drivers Union have forbidden Japanese-Americans to return to the Los Angeles Central Market. A meeting with the Teamsters Union had been attended by Mr. Bratt. One union will take old members back but no new members.

Warren Smith offered to check on the present policy for workers in the Fruit Growers Association.

LIABILITY INSURANCE: Difficulties were mentioned in securing insurance for Japanese American truck drivers. Insurance may be had from the Golden State, Travellers Co. and Aetna Insurance Co. (Mr. Moody has 5 truck drivers and 28 employees with general public acceptance as good.)

SALES TAX PERMITS: A new policy seems to have been established in certain offices which prevents returning Japanese-Americans from securing permits.

Mr. Moody will look into this matter and report to Earl Kellys WRA office.

REPORT TO WRA OFFICE: It was stressed that the WRA office should be informed of difficulties arising on any of the preceding questions.

HOUSING COMMITTEE REPORT: The Committee had not met. Newell Steward, member of the Committee reported that the WRA is working with the Federal Housing Authority and hoped to have an encouraging report soon.

(b) that the housing situation is easing up a bit -- while there are no rentals available, there are more low priced houses for sale.

(c) WRA office has a real-estate man who is co-operating with them with result that they have a growing list of available houses at lower prices than formerly.

TEMPORARY HOUSING: It was reported that the County Welfare Dept. have accepted 300 former residents for return but that there is no housing available for them.

Ataloa reported an increasing number of evacuees returning weekly, the number will probably reach 1000 per week

- (b) that some churches have been used for overnight accommodations
- (c) that opening of their homes for temporary hospitality is an opportunity many more citizens should be given the chance to share in

It was emphasized that (a) hostels are now accommodating more than they were set up to care for

- (b) that the turnover in them is not as rapid as was expected
- (c) that the greatest demands for temporary housing will be in its most critical period in the next two months.

CLOSING OF CAMPS: Announcement was made of the recent instruction sent to directors of relocation camps that they name early dates for internees to leave the camps with eviction and withholding of aid following for those not voluntarily leaving on proceeding dates.

Before leaving to attend another meeting Raymond Booth spoke briefly saying that the problem of providing family unit housing is definitely a government job which cannot be shifted,

that the Los Angeles Coordinating Committee for Resettlement should ask where the Government is going to house the evacuees returning to Southern California.

After considerable discussion it was agreed that telegrams should be sent to Secretary Ickes and Dillon Meyer asking that the Government provide adequate housing before closing relocation camps. The Chair appointed Mr. Gillett and Mrs. Booth to word the telegrams. The telegram as quoted below was presented as a motion by Mr. Gillett with second by Dr. Moore and was carried with 18 for and 4 against the action.

UNTIL HOUSING IS MADE AVAILABLE BY THE GOVERNMENT
WE DEEM IT IMPERATIVE THAT PROJECT DIRECTORS AND
RELOCATION OFFICERS IN RELOCATION CENTERS BE
DIRECTED TO TEMPORARILY DELAY RETURN OF THE EVAC-
UEES TO SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.

LOS ANGELES COORDINATING COMMITTEE
FOR RESETTLEMENT

JOE MOODY, CO-CHAIRMAN

ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE: Miss Beattie, chairman, spoke of the probable increase from now on of returning evacuees who might need financial assistance in the way of loans for tools or equipment or funds to establish small business enterprises. She asked for discussion on the need for small loan assistance fund, financial arrangements governing such a fund, how it would be operated and by whom. She stated that the Evergreen Hostel now has a small loan fund.

After consideration, it was agreed that for the present Evergreen Hostel be asked to act as a center where loans may be made

(b) that a list be made of those who would be willing to act as co-signers on loans secured through private loan agencies.

Miss Beattie reported her Committee had secured eleven attorneys who will help returnees in legal matters -- list is attached.

Ataloe reported that the WRA are this week adding a lawyer to their staff, Mr. Meany, to whom groups or individuals may be referred.

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Col. Finch told of their Committee meeting at which a bad situation in "Little Tokyo" had been disclosed -- white workers had incited negroes against Japanese. Latest report was that the situation had eased and now that the war is over there would probably be no further trouble.

Col. Finch spoke of the photographs of returning Japanese-Americans which appear so frequently in certain newspapers as a type of publicity which causes needless excitement and that the WRA had been asked to minimize that kind of publicity.

Sgt. Harry Tannaway, formerly with the 100th Battalion and now at WRA, was mentioned as an excellent Public Relations man and good speaker available to groups.

INTEGRATION COMMITTEE: Mr. Gillette, chairman, reported that they had had a good committee meeting and were ready with a good report. Due to the lateness of the hour, however, this report was postponed until the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Esther M. Hoag, Secretary

Al Wirin	MI - 9708
J. B. Tietz	MI - 9708
Chas. Christopher	PL - 2-7177
Katz, Gallagher & Margolis	VA - 7153
Lawrence Mendelson	MU - 9129
Jacob Paull	HE - 3114
Hugh McBeth	MU - 0696
Mendel Lieberman	MI - 7575
Legal Aid Foundation	MU - 9126

EMERGENCY MEETING!

LOS ANGELES
CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR RE-SETTLEMENT

Purpose: (1) Emergency report of Housing Committee
(2) To plan immediate unified action to secure adequate permanent housing for returning evacuees.
Time: Thursday, October 11th, 12:00 noon.
Place: Clifton's Cafeteria, 648 So. Broadway in the Brown Room.

Joe Moody
Chairman

Minutes of Last Meeting
September 22, 1945
7:30 PM at YMCA

PRESENT: Ataloea, Wm. Atkins, Priscilla Beattie, Gracia and Raymond Booth, Mr. & Mrs. J.R. Forthman, George Gleason, Alice Grube, Esther Hoag, H. B. McAfee, Lawrence Mendelsen, Arthur F. Miley, Fay Nylander, Frank Omi, Carl Palmberg, Rita Reed, Louise Rounds, Mr. & Mrs. Robt. Simkin, Dorothy Tekechi, Mr. & Mrs. Scotty Tsuchiya, H. L. Walker, A. L. Wirin, Jane Wright, K. Yamamoto, Rev. S. Yasui, Rev. J. Yokoi and Kojiro Uwara.

In the absence of Chairman Joe Moody, because of illness, Mr. Raymond Booth presided.

Since the minutes of the August meeting had been mailed to all member organizations, they were not read, but accepted for file by unanimous vote.

Mr. Booth introduced Miss Prudence Ross, WRA Area Supervisor, who gave an inspiring talk on WRA work done in the Middle West, particularly in Chicago.

15,000 resettlers have located in that city and have made good there in a wide variety of work. 200 have started into business for themselves. Many professional and technical people have found work suited to their training; a few mercantile openings and many jobs for mechanics and factory workers were secured; far more domestic employment was offered than there were applicants for that kind of work.

Miss Ross spoke of a difference between the West Coast and the Middle West in that in Chicago the task was that of introducing to an "indifferent" large city a group not previously known and as they arrived connected in the minds of the community only with the enemy, Japan. Acceptance of the new group was not as difficult as had been expected. Many organizations and community committees did valiant work along lines upon which all resettlement committees are working, but a few highlights from Miss Ross' talk can be given here:

EMPLOYMENT: 2000 Chicago employers signified willingness to employ resettlers. After one year employers were questioned as to dependability, efficiency, ability to work with other employees and there were but two unfavorable replies to these inquiries.

HOUSING: A few of the methods used were:

1. Strong campaign among real estate companies.
2. Hundreds of speeches--clubs, church and many other groups.
3. File listing vacancies built up through the aid of many groups.
4. Classified advertising followed up.

Many landlords interviewed through study said they preferred Japanese tenants.

INTEGRATION 1. In the early months the Japanese-American Committee under Dr. Roy L. Smith acted as counsellors to the resettlers who after their camp experiences needed orientation in a large city new to practically all of them.

2. A Church Federation study showed Nisei had not segregated but had scattered into many churches.

3. In the Community-Nisei are "feeling at home" as evidenced by their accepting committee work and other general community responsibilities having to do with Chicago rather than Japanese-American problems.

Miss Ross said that one of the disappointments connected with resettlement had been that most of the resettlers have located in the larger cities and not in the rural districts. She also said that since VJ Day there has been a decided change in the attitude of the resettlers as to return to the West Coast. Because of the desire of parents and older people to return to their former homes, many Nisei are giving up their work in the Middle West and returning or planning to return to California.

The second half of the evening was given over to Committee reports.

INTEGRATION COMMITTEE: Ataloe reported for Mr. Gillette, Chairman, that the Committee is now being organized somewhat along the Chicago plan of work with the churches and other groups.

Miss Newton told of the monthly "Open House" at the International Institute. Six meetings have been held with average attendance of 150. The group has now been divided, the younger members meeting twice a month and the Nisei, once a month. Varied programs are arranged to meet the interest of the two groups. Invitation to the "Open House" evenings is extended to all members in the Coordinating Committee.

Miss Alice Grube has been added to the International Institute staff to give service to those having individual needs and problems.

Miss Tekechi spoke of participation by Nisei young women in the program for business and industrial girls and other YWCA groups, these groups not exclusive as to nationality and race but composed of all young women interested in the program offered. The Personal Service Dept. of the YWCA is giving aid to many Nisei girls in their personal problems such as housing, employment, etc.

ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE: Miss Beattie reported that her Committee was waiting the return of Mrs. Thayer before announcing further Committee plans. Ataloe spoke of the splendid work being done by Miss Beattie's committee in securing people to meet trains and said that Miss Grace Channon, recently returned from work in Honolulu, is now assisting Miss Beattie in this big job.

EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE: Mr. McAfee of the USES reported that there are not many applicants among the returnees for household work. He did not know about other departments. In the general employment situation in the city, he said, there is a shortage of workers in service trades.

A case of "adverse" newspaper publicity was reported by one hostel as being followed by several offers of employment.

PUBLIC RELATIONS: In the absence of Col. Finch, Ataloe told of several incidents reported to the WRA-three cafes (one in Montebello and two in Los Angeles) had refused service to Japanese-Americans. These cases are being followed up by the proper authorities.

Mr. Wirin, of the Civil Liberties Union advised that discrimination is not a crime but a violation of personal rights. The Civil Liberties Union will assist anyone willing to go to the Civil Court in such a matter.

Other cases involving restrictive covenants on rented houses were reported as being followed up. Mr. Wirin said that enforcing restrictive covenant regulations (houses or rooming house occupancy) is a matter of the court and takes a long time and that anyone suffering under restrictions should be advised to continue residence and to seek the aid offered by the Civil Liberties Union.

An inquiry regarding hospitals accepting Nisei doctors and their patients was referred to the WRA Office.

W.R.A. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mr. Walker of the WRA staff announced a dramatization of the return of a Nisei Serviceman and his search for re-establishment, this to be given from 7:00 to 7:30 p.m. on September 27th over the Mutual network. He asked that we help give publicity to this special broadcast.

He also announced that 1st Lt. Roger W. Smith of the 44th Combat Division will be in the City for two weeks and available for talks on behalf of the Nisei.

HOUSING: Mr. Rex Lee, National WRA Staff member, is now in Southern California meeting with committees and groups on the housing situation.

It was reported that a number of Japanese families have been placed in the Traylor Houses in Long Beach. Families must have service connections to be eligible.

Miss Takechi reported the re-opening in the latter part of October of the former YWCA residence for Japanese business girls--the hostel is to operate on an international basis with present preference, because of their great need, given to Nisei young women.

Mr. Booth summarized most forcefully the present critical situation giving the figures that while in the last nine months, 2500 evacuees have returned, in the next ten or twelve weeks, 10,000 of the 30,000 now left in Relocation Centers will probably return to Southern California. He pictured the present general housing shortage as running contrary to all figures compiled by housing experts who estimated a greater exodus of workers after war production cancellations and did not take into account the very large percentage of service men being demobilized who have decided to stay in California or to migrate to California from other parts of the country.

"We are facing another cumulative tragedy," Mr. Booth said, "and must pledge ourselves individually and collectively to major on the housing situation so that we may avoid another terrifying experience for evacuees and a great discredit to Southern California."

Mr. Booth asked:

1. That the Co-ordinating Committee meet every two weeks until the end of the year.
2. That we get a statement from a policy making person in the WRA office of what we may expect from the WRA.

The following recommendations were made:

1. That Mr. Howard Holzendorph be added to the Housing Sub-Committee.
2. That this group ask that the Sub-Committee on Housing be called immediately and urged to follow up in this special emergency.
3. That all sub-committee chairmen be asked to bring suggestions and recommendations to a general meeting to be called by the Chairman at his earliest convenience.

These recommendations were approved as suggested. The Secretary was asked to convey to Mr. Moody the good wishes of those present and the hope for a speedy recovery from his illness.

Respectfully submitted,

Esther M. Hoag