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MINIDOKA PROJECT

Relocation Planning Commission
Relocation Library, 22-3-E
April 5, 1944 -- 1:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. K. Ishii, chairman pro-tempore, with the following members present: Frank Watanabe, Rev. Tsutomu Fukuyama, K. Ishii, Dick Kanaya, and Joseph C. Beeson.

The first business taken up for today's meeting was to disclose the returns in the election of one chairman and two members of the Executive Board for this Commission, which had been continued from the last regular meeting of March 29th and was waiting for votes to be cast by mail.

Mr. Frank Watanabe, Rev. Tsutomu Fukuyama, and Mr. K. Ishii opened the ballots and the returns were disclosed as follows:

For chairman:

Dick Kanaya	(17)
Rev. Tsutomu Fukuyama	(5)
Rev. T. Terakawa	(2)
S. Hara	(2)

For executive board:

K. Nakashima	(11)
Rev. T. Terakawa	(9)
Frank Watanabe	(8)
Mrs. Mabel Shigaya	(7)
Miss Lillian Fujihira	(5)
Rev. Tsutomu Fukuyama	(3)
Dick Kanaya	(3)
Y. Doi	(2)
James S. Nomura	(1)

Mr. Dick Kanaya was elected chairman and Mr. K. Nakashima and Rev. T. Terakawa were elected members of the Executive Board.

Mr. Beeson congratulated Mr. Kanaya upon his election as chairman and said the Commission has made a wise choice in electing him as their chairman.

Both Mr. Nakashima and Rev. Terakawa were absent and it was decided that they would be notified by the Executive Secretary of their election as members of the Executive Board.

Mr. Ishii reported on the new regulations pertaining to the transportation of evacuees' personal properties in which the limitation on the weights was removed entirely.

Mr. Beeson read and explained the revision of the Handbook Section on leave assistance on group relocation, and Administrative Notice on Social Security Board Program for relocated evacuees.

The meeting was adjourned.

RELOCATION PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

November 24, 1943

Recreation Hall 22 -- 1:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by the chairman, Mr. Beeson, with the following members present: Frank Muramatsu, Frank Kawahara, Helen Amerman, Ellen B. Herndon, Takashi Hori, Kenji Ito, Jack Chikata, Tura Nakamura, J. S. Nomura, K. Ishii, Rev. Terakawa, Max Yanagita, Dick Kanaya, F. Endo, Thomas J. Machida, Tsutomu Fukuyama, John de Young, Lillian Fujihira and Joseph Beeson.

The minutes were read and approved as corrected. There being no outstanding committee reports the chairman informed the group of the reorganization of the Relocation Division. The memorandum from Washington on the organization of the relocation planning was read and discussed.

It was decided that the already organized Relocation Advisory Council be called the Relocation Planning Commission.

It was decided to hold an election of a executive secretary at some future date.

The Director's letter of October 28 was read and discussion followed. The preliminary suggestions coming from this discussion was that the relocation teams should visit the centers if possible, and it would be gainful for a member of the team to be able to speak the Japanese language. The group discussed the possibility of a conference, there were a number of suggestions that the conference be held as suggested and there was also other suggestions that the conference be held in the centers of a forum style.

After this discussion there was a discussion of types and purposes of the different kinds of leaves -- short term, seasonal, and indefinite leaves.

Mr. Beeson: Seasonal leaves can not be longer than 7 months and confine you to one county, however you can get the leaves extended.

Mr. Nakamura: There has been rumors flying even to Block 42 and 44 that after January first there will not be any seasonal leaves and those already out will be changed to indefinite, so if you go out it will have to be just indefinite or not at all. I wonder if we would have the block managers make announcements saying that this is not true.

Mr. Beeson: That is a good suggestion, many people are afraid to leave since they feel that once they cut their ties here they can not return. Many people are finding that relocation is paying, according to our records 97% have made good, only 3% have come back. When we began we thought there would be at least 50% coming back to camp but it did not take us long to find out that that was not the case.

Mr. Muramatsu: How far can one go out on seasonal leaves, what states does it include

Mr. Beeson: Eastern Oregon, Eastern Washington, Montana, Idaho, parts of Nebraska, parts of Utah, parts of Colorado and some of Nevada.

Lillian Fujihira: If you cut out seasonal leaves it will lower the morale of the community. People need extra money to relocate and many people earn it in this way. Some families have many young children who need that extra money or ask for public assistance and Japanese do not like to do that, they would rather work themselves than ask for public assistance.

Miss Amerman: How do the people who have gone out on seasonal leaves relocate in proportion to those who have never had any leaves before or has anything been done on that?

Mr. Beeson: It will be completed before long, a large number go out on seasonal leaves and then find jobs that are not seasonal and continue to be employed in a regular position and have remained out. Many people find that indefinite leaves are more practical.

If you are out on seasonal leave you are restricted to that county while indefinite leaves there is no restrictions after their arrival they can consider resettling in any place in the United States east of the evacuated area. Aliens however like any other alien must obtain permission for change of address and travel permit from the U. S. Attorney in that section, they then must send out their notice of change of address to the Department of Immigration and also the W.R.A. The cards for this purpose are furnished at the time of departure from the center.

It was agreed that stopping seasonal leaves would hinder relocation rather than help it.

Frank Kawahara: Are these centers going to be continued after the war, that is 6 months after the war and are there any plans after the war?

Mr. Beeson: Yes, I believe that is the understanding, that they will still be existing until 6 months after the war and as far as I know there are no post war planning at present.

Before long I think we should make some suggestions on what we need and send them to the office in Washington. We should develop them, discuss it and let them know in Washington. They have often written me asking what they reaction of you people were on certain things, they want us to make the suggestions.

I appreciate your attendance as as we go along I hope we can have bigger and better meetings. I would appreciate any suggestions from you and if you do not want to speak up at the meetings write it down on a piece of paper.

Thank you for coming today.

The next meeting will be held December 8, 1:30 P. M., at Recreation Hall 22.

The meeting was adjourned.

MINIDOKA PROJECT

RELOCATION PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

December 8, 1943

Recreation Hall 22 -- 1:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by the chairman, Mr. Beeson, with the following members present: Frank Muramatsu, Frank Kawahara, Helen Amerman, Max Yanagita, Rev. Terakawa, Rev. Kimura, Rev. Matsuda (guest from the Poston Relocation Center), Tsutomu Fukuyama, Rev. Thomas Machida, Dick Kanaya, Jack Chikata, Mrs. Yone Arai, Lillian Fujihira, K. Ishii, Joseph Beeson, S. Hara, Mr. Harada, Clifford Tadakuma, Clyde Linville.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as corrected by Mr. Ishii.

Mr. Beeson: For the benefit of the group and due to the kindness and response of the evacuee property officer, we have with us today Mr. Linville. We have been asked various questions about evacuee property so I thought if we could get first hand information it would help. I have asked Mr. Linville to give us an explanation of the handling of evacuee property. What we have to do to have our property moved from one place to another. As relocation goes along, some one is always wondering what they can take out with them and what the government pays for. I am very pleased to have Mr. Linville with us today and I am sure we will receive a great deal from this discussion.

I will now call on Mr. Linville.

Mr. Linville: Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, to begin with I should like to give a brief outline of the procedure. I would like to answer question rather than talk. As you relocate from here on the project, when you relocate the government will pay for the property to all who want to relocate for 500 lbs. of the property which came here on the expense of W.R.A.

If a family goes on relocation they are entitled to have 500 lbs. of their personal property shipped from the project to the point of relocation at W.R.A. expense. In addition they are entitled to have such property as may have been shipped to the project without their having requested the shipment to the point of relocation at Government expense.

In cases where families have shipped property to the project at their own expense they are entitled to have an equal weight of property shipped from the project to the place of relocation in addition to the 500 lbs. at W.R.A. Expense.

They are also entitled to have all of their personal property in storage either in private or Government warehouse, at the point of relocation at Government expense. This privilege does not apply to commercial property but to such items as personal belongings; i.e., clothing, household furniture including stoves, refrigerators, books and hand tools.

Shipments being made to the point of relocation from the project will be picked up at the apartment transported to the warehouse where the owner will receive assistance in packing and crating and crating material and boxes being furnished by W.R.A. or property shipped from Government warehouse or from private storage in the evacuated areas the property will be properly prepared for shipment including crating and boxing at Government expense.

Common carriers or carriers are not permitted to accept used household goods on personal property on the special rate which applies other than prepaid basis.

Persons going on relocation should before leaving the project execute Form 156 requesting the shipment of their property located on the project. The request for shipment can be held until such time as the persons relocating has definite address to which the property maybe shipped. However, in all cases the request for shipment should be made before leaving the project for relocation. Request for shipment from the point of evacuation from either private storage or Government warehouse maybe processed at any time before or after relocation is accomplished.

Property other than personal property as heretofore described such as farm machinery, store or restaurant furniture and fixtures and property of that nature, upon request W.R.A. will assist in preparing such property for shipment but are not authorized to pay transportation charges.

Mr. Boeson: Say I have a hotel in Seattle and in this hotel which belongs to me I have some furniture, can I have it shipped from the hotel? I'll use this furniture to furnish my new home.

Mr. Linville: Yes, since you are using this furniture for your new home and not for a commercial purpose.

Mr. Kawahara: What would cars come under?

Mr. Linville: Yes, we make the arrangements to have some one drive the automobile and make arrangements to get the fuel. They then drive the car up as far as Pasco, Washington that is from Seattle and from Portland we make arrangements for them to drive it up to Ontario or we can even have it driven just as far as Pendleton or Arlington.

Mr. Muramatsu: Lots of people had their property in Churches and they find that it has been all messed up.

Mr. Linville: Yes, we've had many cases like that, and we are sorry to say we can't do anything for them. If anybody has property in places like that and they aren't sure if their property is save they should make arrangements to have it put into government warehouses.

Mr. Terakawa: Do you have many complaints?

Mr. Linville: Yes we've had many cases where we were not able to identify the property, they'd been left in the care of some one and when it was sent here things have been missing.

Mr. Boeson: Mr. Linville, where is your office located?

Mr. Linville: Barrack 5, Block 22. If you have any questions I shall be glad to help you.

If you have property you want sent here come to our office and make out the application to have your property taken to the government warehouse where it will be crated and boxed for you and whatever necessary things. You will then receive these things without any expense to the property owner. Where you are not sure of your property you should make definite your self and get it into government storage. We will try and check up this property for you and pick it up and put it in the government ware house. As time goes by there will be more cases where property left in your old home or friends will be missing.

Mrs. Arai: When you have personal property sent out from camp when you relocate does it go at the same time you do or is it shipped out later?

Mr. Linville: A week before you leave you can have it shipped out to you at that time but it depends on the time you make your application.

Mr. Beeson: Any limit after a person leaves?

Mr. Linville: In theory we do not and can not promise to hold it very long since we do not have sufficient warehouse space, however, we will hold it as long as we can. But if you will leave your address or if you are not sure of your address leave the request to have the property sent to you later at the office, we will send the property out to you after you notify us of your correct address.

Mrs. Arai: How much time in advance do you pick up the goods from the apartments which are to be crated?

Mr. Linville: That depends largely on how far you are going and when you want your things to arrive at your destination.

Miss Fujihira: How much time should we let you know before we leave the center?

Mr. Linville: That would depend on the amount of goods you wish to have packed, and crated. It is not possible to make a hard and fast rule as many people do not know exactly when they are going. We would like several days if possible.

Mr. Watanabe: Who packs the property, that is property in private storage back home?

Mr. Linville: Yes, W.R.A. packs in boxes or crates and prepares it for shipment.

Mr. Watanabe: The reason I asked was that my friend had some things sent and when he opened it he complained that nothing but junk came.

Mr. Linville: Did you have it shipped by W.R.A. or privately?

Mr. Watanabe: I'm not sure but I believe a private person was responsible for it.

Mr. Linville: To answer the question in detail, different lines have the contract of picking up private stored property and then conveying it to the W.R.A. warehouse. It may go out of there after it is brought in as it came but if it should need to be crated such as washing machines, or refrigerators then it is crated.

Mr. Watanabe: I see, this property looked like a private concern had packed it.

Mr. Ishii: I have six or seven trunks stored in Seattle and my son wants two or three of those trunks. Can he have just those trunks sent to him.

Mr. Linville: Yes.

Mr. Ishii: What about the things which were left in Puyallup?

Mr. Linville: Is that the articles they took up as contraband?

Mr. Ishii: They were books taken up by WCCA office as contraband. They were Buddhist books, and some Buddhist priests were able to keep theirs but his were taken up. Now he wants to continue with his studies and would like the books.

Mr. Linville: I don't know much about those articles but I believe that they are being processed now.

Mrs. Arai: Will those things taken up before evacuation such as swords, sabers, etc. be returned to the owners, some of those things were of real value to the owner because they were family relics?

Mr. Linville: We do not know.

Mr. Beeson: I believe we have a visitor from another relocation center, from Poston, Reverend Matsuda.

A number of you know we have had quite a few discussions around the various phases of relocation and the new proposed Relocation Planning Commission. At one of our meetings we can develop an agenda for our meetings. The W.R.A. representative, Mr. Kimball explained to us the new planning program from Washington. I'd like to discuss for a little while this plan today. It seems to me the organization of the planning program will come into considerable discussion. This plan will separate the program into 3 areas, the head staff, the evacuee staff and the joint evacuee and caucasian staff. The project director will be at the head of it. The Community Council and Relocation Planning Commission will consist of one group, and the Administrative Staff. From that we would have the joint board which would consist of the Executive board of which the Relocation Officer would be the head, that is myself.

Rev. Torakawa: Who all would be in this group?

Mr. Beeson: The Relocation Planning Commission would be all evacuee.

Rev. Torakawa: Would you suggest a representative from each block?

Mr. Beeson: No, I believe the Relocation Planning Commission will consist of representatives from the Coop, church, Y.W.C.A., and W.M.C.A. and other organizations much as we are in this group.

Should we start planning along this new line or wait and see if the Community Charter is ratified this time?

Mr. Kanaya: I think we should let it rest for a while and see what the reaction of the community is to the charter. I think we should try to work it out as soon as possible and as soon as the Charter is ratified by the community. Personally, I feel it is wise to let it go and then starting from the new year, something more permanent.

Mr. Beeson: Any other comments?

Mr. Ishii: I have the same idea, wait until the first of the year.

It was agreed that the actual planning of the new system should be started the new year.

Miss Amerman: How many members are in this group?

Mr. Ishii: There are 40.

Mr. Kawahara: How many members are there in this group who have relocated?

Mr. Ishii: Nine members.

Mr. Kanaya: This question about student relocation, suppose a person leaves to go to school do they get indefinite leave?

Mr. Beeson: Yes, they do when they go to college.

Mr. Chikata: If a person finishes school and wants to come home can they be reinducted? Their parents live here and want him to come back and if he can't get a job right away.

Mr. Beeson: Yes, but if he has been out to school I should think he would rather not return to camp. Why should a person send a boy out to college and prepare him to live in the center.

There has been approximately 2300 people who have left here on indefinite leave. The other day when Mr. Kimball was here we took a record of it and out of that number about 105 have returned, 14 people out of that were given indefinite leave to go into the army. So that shows that the majority of the people prefer to stay out side.

Mr. Beeson read Mr. Arnold's memorandum of November 20th, concerning the visit of the relocation teams to the Rowher Relocation Center. The first and second pages were read in full.

It was decided that since the holiday season would be a busy one the next meeting would be held on January 5.

The meeting was adjourned.

MINIDOKA PROJECT

RELOCATION PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

January 5, 1944 -- 2:00 P.M.

Block 22 - 3 - E

The meeting was called to order by the chairman, Mr. Beeson. The following members were present: Ellen B. Herndon, Helen Amerman, Gerrit Smith, Tsutomu Fukuyama, Roy Sakamoto, S. Hara, Frank Watanabe, K. Ishii, Dick Kanaya, J. De Young, Rev. Y. Arakawa, Frank Kawahara, Mrs. Yone Arai, and Joseph Beeson.

Mr. Beeson introduced two new members of the Relocation Planning Commission -- Mr. Roy Sakamoto of the Huntville P.T.A., and Mr. Gerrit Smith, a new addition to the staff of the Relocation Division.

Mr. Beeson: We have arranged for this room in this block to use as the office of relocation. We plan to have information in this room of the various sections, localities and communities which we are developing rather slowly of the places where one can relocate. We hope to have our meetings here in the future instead of the Recreation Hall. When we get our executive secretary her office will also be here. We chose Block 22 as the place for our relocation office because we thought it was the center of the project.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The chairman continued, "This is the first meeting on the project of the new year. I presume you all had a very merry Christmas and I wish you all a happy and successful new year. We will have many things to do on relocation this year because since our last meeting many changes have been taking place. Since the charter has been adopted they will work with the council in many matters in the new planning program, as explained and outlined from Washington. The responsibility of the council will over increase. Mr. Kanaya do you know when the elections will be held for the Community Council members?

Mr. Kanaya: I am not sure of the correct day.

Mr. Beeson: At the last meeting the possibility of having a relocation team composed of W.R.A. men visit the various centers and a trial team to the Rowher Center which was considered quite successful, was discussed. The Washington office is now planning to have relocation teams visit other centers. I have a letter from Washington asking us if we want the team to visit our project. Since our next meeting wasn't till January and we had been asked to answer the letter by January 1st, I asked the opinion of a few members with whom I was able to contact and they thought it was a good idea. So we wired them that we would like them to visit our center. These men on the Relocation team will meet with the Community Council, Relocation Planning Commission as well as the different blocks. We do not have a community council as yet but perhaps by that time we shall. These teams will visit our center approximately the last part of January or the first of February.

Mr. Watanabe: Mr. Beeson, how many members in this team?

Mr. Beeson: Two specialist on the Japanese language, and two others that is four members.

The group who visited the Rowher Center was composed of Harold Fistere, Mr. Elmer Shirrell, Relocation Supr. of the Chicago area, Dr. P. A. Webber, specialist of the Japanese language, Mrs. Van Tassel of the Washington Relocation Office and Phillip Barber of the Washington staff.

Would you be interested in having such a program at this center?

It was unanimously agreed that this would be a good idea but thought it would take longer than 5 days to cover the camp.

Mr. Sakamoto: Would the same team who visited the Rowher Center visit here?

Mr. Beeson: I do not know.

Mr. Kanaya: How long will they be here?

Mr. Beeson: Four or five days, but that will be up to the committee in charge to decide, we can get them to stay longer if you think it is necessary.

Mrs. Yone Arai, Mr. Ishii, Mr. Hara, and Mr. Watanabe were elected by the group to work out the program in regard to the visit of the relocation team. Mr. Hara was appointed chairman of the committee and Mr. Ishii, vice chairman.

Mr. Beeson read the resolution presented by the Rowher Relocation Planning Commission after the visit of the Relocation team. Discussion followed.

Mr. Beeson asked the group if they thought it would be worth while to send it out to all the members of the council.

Mrs. Herndon: Yes, I think it would be.

Rev. Fukuyama: Could you tell us where that came from?

Mr. Beeson: Yes, the Rowher Relocation Center.

Mr. Ishii thought it would be a good idea to translate it into Japanese and print it in the "Irrigator", but didn't know if the "Irrigator" would print it.

Mr. Sakamoto: Anything that is of much value to the residents I think might be mimeographed and sent to each block.

Everyone agreed that it would be a good idea to mimeograph copies of the resolution to be sent out to the members and the blocks.

Mr. Beeson read the letter from the Heart Mountain Community Council suggested a conference of all the 9 centers to be held at some central location. It was approved by Mr. Dillon S. Myer and the approximate date has been set as the first part of February. The conference would be composed of two members from each relocation center and 12 members from the various field offices. Each center will pay for the expenses involved of their delegates.

A discussion followed. A motion was made by Mr. Roy Sakamoto that a committee be elected to look into the possibilities of sending a representative from this center and a means of raising funds to send delegates. It was seconded by Mr. Fukuyama. The motion was carried.

Mr. Fukuyama, Mr. Kanaya, Rev. Torakawa, and Mr. Sakamoto were elected to serve on the committee. Mr. Beeson appointed Mr. Kanaya as chairman and Mr. Sakamoto as vice chairman.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be held January 19, 1:30 P.M. at Block 22 - 3 - E.

P 2.35

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING CALLED FOR THE
PURPOSE OF A MEETING BETWEEN THE COMMIT-
TEE OF THE RELOCATION PLANNING COMMIS-
SION AND THE BLOCK DELEGATES

January 18, 1944

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Joseph Beeson,
Relocation Program Officer at the Block 22 Recreation
Hall at 2:00 p.m.

Those in attendance were:

Ken Yamada
M. Funakubo
K. Kuraoka
Y. Fujii
T. Yamada
F. Kubota
Jiro Sumida
G. Hara
M. Ota
Roy R. Akiyama

E. Fujitomi
J. Hayatsu
Shigeru Osawa
R. Hino
I. Masumoto
Frank Toribara
C. T. Takahashi
S. Sugawara
Joseph Beeson
Karl Tambara

(Lillian Fujihira and Pat Nitta, secretaries)

* * * * *

Beeson:

Gentlemen, the meeting will come to order. The Adminis-
tration of this project called this meeting because we
knew there was a question to discuss which was very
definitely of interest to the residents. Some time back
when the proposal first reached the project, Mr. Stafford
asked me as Relocation Officer to start developing some
action in the community here with regards to this confer-
ence, so at that time at a meeting of the relocation
planning group I suggested the election of a committee to
study the question to be discussed here today; and that
group did elect a committee consisting of Mr. Kanaya,
Mr. R. Sakamoto, Rev. Terakawa, and Rev. Fukuyama. Two
of these men are here but two are absent. Rev. Terakawa
has been quite ill. Rev. Fukuyama went to Boise to a
church conference. He was expected back but has not come
back as yet. The two members of the committee here have
information concerning the proposed conference, and I think
that they can discuss this with you, and you can make up
your mind as to what action should be taken. The project
administration locally is very sympathetic to anything
that points to the welfare of the people here on the proj-
ect, but this particular question is a question that so

Beeson: definitely concerns the future of the residents, the
(cont.) Administration has decided not to take any active part
in the participation of the proposed conference. However, I want to say that the Administration is willing and anxious to facilitate anything you think should be done. We will contribute anything in any manner that you want us to contribute. But leadership, plans, and formulation of whys and wherefores is definitely a question concerning your people. With those brief remarks I am turning this meeting over to Mr. Kanaya. He has Mr. Sakamoto with him and they will proceed from here on. Before closing I think I should tell you who I am. I am Joseph G. Beeson in charge of the Relocation Division on the project. This is the first time I have had the honor of standing before the delegates. I am glad to be here. I will now turn the meeting over to you.

(At this time the meeting was turned over to the committee of the Relocation Planning Commission.)

* * * * *

Chairman: Last time we had a meeting, four men were elected for the
(Kanaya) Relocation Guidance Committee. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss whether to send delegates from this Center to the Chicago conference or not. This problem came up before the boilermens' problem, but due to the imminence of the boilermens' strike this problem was held pending until now. We had been asked to hand in a decision by January 10, but the problem had not yet been discussed at that date. This plan to send two delegates from each center to Chicago conference originated at Heart Mountain. I have a letter here from Heart Mountain which reads as follows:

"December 6, 1943, Fair Labor Practice Board, Minidoka Relocation Center, Hunt, Idaho. Gentlemen:

"We are initiating a movement to have the national WRA in Washington call a conference of all centers in some convenient locality for the purpose of evacuee participation on planning and policy making of the WRA relocation program.

"We have discussed "pro" and "con" on the question of relocation methods, but we have come to an unanimous agreement that a national conference is necessary to present these views to the men who are responsible for much of our planning.

"We have received the unanimous consent from our Administrative project appointed personnel to have their

whole-hearted cooperation. Hence, we are presenting to you some of our views, and we do hope that you will compile and send us your feelings on this matter in order that an agenda for such a conference might be made available and proposed in case such a gathering is sanctioned by Washington.

"The following are some of our points which we feel are important and should be included in this conference. Agenda:

1. To present evacuees' attitudes toward relocation to Washington officials.
2. To make possible participation in the national policy making and program of relocation.
3. To present the necessity of having evacuee field representatives in the various relocation areas.
4. To ask questions on various phase of project activities, including future plans of such activities.
5. To carry on intra-center exchange of information pertaining to center operation, management, etc. as well as relocation planning.
6. To propose, recommend, and activate plans of molding desirable attitudes among evacuees and WRA staff so that mutual cooperation and active participation might be possible in future program of WRA. This necessitates the need of understanding problems which faces individual evacuee families.

"The aforementioned points are some of the views that our Council feel necessary to discuss in such a conference. We feel that you have much to contribute, and, therefore, we wish that you might present us with your ideas in order that a comprehensive plan might be presented to Washington.

"Please concur on the enclosed resolution, and if there are additions that you feel necessary, please add them and send them to us. At the same time, notify Dillon S. Myer through your Project Director's office of your support of this program which we shall initiate together. We want accurate timing so that the greatest result might be obtained for our mutual benefit. We are suggesting mid-January as the time to hold this national gathering."

This letter came to the Fair Labor Practice from Mr. T. T. Sashihara, Chairman of the Heart Mountain Community Council. (The six points in the letter were explained more thoroughly in Japanese by the Chairman.) There is a definite attitude of resistance on the part of the evacuees toward relocation; therefore, there must be a discussion with the evacuees to make a good relocation program. We must crystalize the thought of the evacuees about relocation as mentioned by the Heart Mountain people in

their letter. I believe this is the important thing to consider at this time. Pertaining to this problem there is a teletype from Mr. Myer saying that he okays this program and idea.

"The proposal for a National Conference of evacuee delegates from the nine centers to meet with the Director and consider problems related to the future of evacuees and others of Japanese ancestry in the United States has been given serious study. As such a conference can do much to improve mutual understanding and cooperation in achieving our common objective, I am planning to set aside a few days in late January or early February for this purpose.

"The recommendation made by the Community Councils in two centers and concurred in by several others, that each center send two delegates, meets with my approval. In addition, we are planning to invite one representative from each of the Relocation Field areas and two from those areas where the greatest number of former center residents have now settled, namely Salt Lake City, Denver, and Chicago. This will make 30 delegates in all, 18 from the centers and 12 from the field areas.

"Of the several cities suggested for the meeting place, Chicago has been decided upon, and arrangements will be made to hold the meetings at 215 W. Jackson Boulevard in a special conference room there. Other necessary arrangements will be made locally as soon as we have word as to the number that expect to be there.

"As it will not be possible for WRA to pay either traveling or living expenses of the delegates, I would suggest that ways and means of raising the necessary funds to defray their expenses be considered immediately as well as who the delegates are to be and how they are to be chosen. One suggestion is to have one delegate from the Council or Relocation Commission and the other elected from the community at large. My only interest is that, however they are chosen, they represent the community.

"Not later than January 10, I should like to have a list of the important questions you feel should be answered at the conference, together with a statement that your center will or will not be represented. Prior to the conference you will also want to agree on, and have ready a list of the major problems facing center residents in terms of their future, as well as specific

plans or proposals for creating better understanding and working relationships between the evacuees and the authority.

"It is my feeling that we are entering the new year with a better understanding on the part of the American public of our mutual problems and objectives than ever before. I hope that the new year will bring for the many thousands in your and other Relocation communities a resolution to meet our present problems with determination and fortitude.

"I am looking forward to meeting your representatives in Chicago the first part of February, the exact dates to be announced as soon as we have your replies."

(The teletype was explained in Japanese by the Chairman.)
The WRA cannot pay traveling expenses for the conference.

Delegate: How much is the traveling expense?

Chairman: About \$400.

Delegate: Why can't the WRA pay the money?

Chairman: It has not been explained but the explanation will come within two or three days.

Delegate: The average person thinks it's a swell thing to have something like that, but is not willing to pay. It's a serious matter.

Delegate: Mr. Chairman, may I say something about this. I believe the WRA should take the responsibility about this. Since this is sponsored by the WRA, and they chose the spot of the meeting, they should go on and finish it up. They should pay our expenses because we cannot afford to pay for it. Besides we have lost plenty already due to evacuation and we people are in here because we cannot afford to go outside. I think this conference is a good idea, but we must be careful who we choose because he must carry to the meeting the thoughts and ideas of the whole people here in camp.

Delegate: Question is an economic one. Therefore, I propose that the money question of the matter be taken up. Another thing before the meeting of the nine centers be called at Chicago or any place, relocation question must be discussed and understood by everybody on the project because if any person

goes without knowing what the people in the Centers want, the expense will be nothing so I ask you to take up the financial question first.

Chair: Before we decide about the question of money, we have to decide whether we'll send delegates or not. Will this group agree to send two delegates from this Center?

Dels: Yes, we agree.

Del: Before we decide that, we must consider carefully who are to be chosen and how and from what groups so that we may get the true opinion of the people as a whole in this Center. It is important that the delegate carry to the conference what we really want them to convey.

Chair: Let me finish what I want to say. Concerning this problem this is the telegram from the Granada Relocation Center:

"Gentlemen: Regarding teletype from Dillon Myer concerning national conference of evacuee delegates from nine centers we request your opinion regarding such conference. Mr. Myer requests submittal, by January 10th, of questions to be answered at conference with statement whether or not we be represented. He states we raise funds for expenses of delegates, since not possible for War Relocation Authority to pay such expenses. We asked Mr. Myer to prolong deadline to January 20th for our further needed consideration. Regarding expenditures relative to conference, we feel War Relocation Authority should recognize secondary importance of expenses as compared to realization of successful objectives. We asked Mr. Myer further consideration of expenses, so that funds be provided by War Relocation Authority. Since proposed conference holds great possibilities of improving mutual understanding and cooperation towards common end, we feel it worthy of serious consideration. For successful conference, it is imperative every center be fully represented. We request your opinion regarding who should be responsible for expenses of delegates. Please consider carefully foregoing points. May we have immediate reply?"

That the expenses should be paid by the WRA is brought up in this letter.

I will read the telegram from the Rowher, Arkansas Center.

"Regarding teletype of Dillon Myer concerning national

conference of evacuee delegates from nine centers and relocated areas with Mr. Myer we of Rohwer community council resolve that proposed conference be divided into three separate meetings. First meeting with only delegates of relocation centers, second meeting delegates of relocation centers and relocated areas without Mr. Myer's presence. Third joint meeting of all delegates with Mr. Myer we request your opinion regarding our resolution and any plans which would make this conference successful and beneficial. Rohwer Community Council made arrangement for expenses delegates through Community Enterprise hoping that your Center would be represented because we feel that this conference holds great possibilities of improving mutual understanding toward our interest." (The letter was explained in Japanese.)

This telegram shows that the money should be raised by the Community Enterprises. I suppose the first two meetings were proposed to be held without Mr. Myer so that the delegates may express their thoughts more freely. The following is a teletype from Dillon Myer.

"Replies concerning national evacuee meeting Chicago indicate more time needed for development of agenda for such meeting. To achieve most constructive results it is advisable to postpone the meeting for the present. Will you please inform the council or other evacuee representatives who have interested themselves in plans for the meeting. Letter follows explaining more fully than our teletype of Jan. 1 permitted, why WRA unable finance expenses of delegates at such meeting and what are the expectations for such a conference".

Today we received a telegram from Granada as follows:

"In view of second teletype refusal by War Relocation Authority dated January 8, 1944. To bear expenses of conference delegates our chance of representation is remote. However on strength of latest teletype from Dillon Myer of January 14, 1944. We wish to consider matter further at our next meeting. Meantime awaiting promised letter from Dillon Myer. Please advise us as to your decision." Shiro Abe, Chairman Community Council, Granada Relocation Center, Amache Colorado.

Chair: I think the problem of expenses is the same for the nine relocation centers. Are you satisfied as to sending the delegates or not? Of course, at the present time, we have no money to give to the delegates but maybe we can get the money by sponsoring

a bazaar, carnival, etc.

Del: The telegrams, etc, came from all Nisei, didn't they?

Chair: I don't believe so. I think it's made up of Issei and Nisei as our group here. Most Community Councils have issei and Nisei.

Del: Just Granada and Arkansas is all you know?

Chair: Yes.

Del: What does Poston say?

Chair: We haven't received any correspondence or heard anything from that Center yet.

Del: I think it's an important thing to hold the meeting. It's a bridge of understanding between the people and the WRA. The matter about the expenses is a small matter, and it may create a bad feeling. It's the principle behind it. They think the Administration is not sincere. Before misunderstanding occurs it should be cleared up. I think it will affect vitally everyone going there. There are lots of ways of raising money, but it's the principle behind it.

Del: It's the responsibility of the WRA to take the responsibility of relocation. The matter of expenses should be cleared up the quickest way.

Chair: Then as to sending the delegates you have no objection.

Del: I think it's a wonderful idea. We must send someone that is honest and sincere and really understands the people of the Center. Not a "yes" man.

Chair: I think they want to discuss something besides relocation.

Del: I think the problem is to present a united front.

Del: From this I think the government can get lots of suggestions, etc., that will assist them in the relocation program. By putting emphasis on a small thing like expenses, people might get wrong impression. I've already heard from 20 different people last night that since WRA is interested in relocation of the people, they should pay the expenses. One person says he wouldn't go to a meeting like this if he had to pay his own expenses. Another person says, "I thought the WRA wanted relo-

cation. I should think they would stand the expense of it."

Del: The WRA is paying the representatives of the WRA to Chicago, but the WRA won't pay the expenses of the evacuees.

Chair: Beeson said no appointed personnel from here will be going.

Del: No, but there'll be some from the outside.

Chair: We have more reasons why they won't pay the expenses.

Del: In the first place the government should pay more money for relocation. They give excuses for not giving, but there is no excuse. Everybody wants to relocate, but they don't because of the uncertainty of the future and the financial condition.

Del: They've spent so much money already what's a few cents more. The name itself implies their responsibility. We're willing to cooperate what more can they expect. There are ways of getting the expenses out if they want to but they won't do it.

Del: Did you say this meeting in Chicago was suggested by evacuees or the WRA?

Chair: You weren't here when the letter from Heart Mountain was read. According to the Heart Mountain letter it says:

"We are initiating a movement to have the national WRA in Washington call a conference of all centers in some convenient locality for the purpose of evacuee participation on planning and policy making of the WRA relocation program."

Del: That will make another reason why they can't pay expenses.

Del: Myer himself said when he was here that the WRA is not forcing relocation. It is encouraging relocation.

Chair: I might read the letter from Heart Mountain a little more to clear up the matter.

(The remainder of the letter was read.)

Del: The program is a very important idea, and with a program like that I think they'll go way ahead in the relocation program. As far as sending delegates, it's very important. I think in each project they should get together with Issei or Nisei that is going and give a complete program.

Chair: What is your suggestion as to how to select these two delegates?

- Del: The quickest way would be possibly get each block to select one Issei and one Nisei and let the block arrange a meeting to discuss the various questions and give their block representatives information for this program. Then from these representatives pick out who they should send. There's no use saying, "Who wants to go?" and forcing on them political information. This is too big a thing.
- Del: It is essential to have one Issei and one Nisei. Then everyone who has various ideas can assist them and give them constructive ideas.
- Chair: They way it looks now, since the postponement of the conference date, we probably will have a Community Council established before the delegates are sent. It may be more advisable to follow the plan as proposed -- that of sending one delegate from the Community Council and one from the evacuee population.
- Del: No use sending a "yes" man.
- Del: This picking delegates is very important.
- Chair: What do you think about the one Issei and one Nisei combination?
- Del: Two Isseis or two Nisies -- as long as they go to the conference and talk. That's important.
- Del: And really fight for his rights.
- Chair: Well, supposing the WRA is willing to pay the expenses?
- Del: To avoid misunderstanding on the part of the residents maybe it's best that WRA not be brought into this conference, neither financially nor in the conference matter.
- Del: Assuming that we are sending delegates to that conference and we pick out the delegates. Still we have to have discussion before they go there so they'll know what the opinion and sentiment of the people are in this matter; otherwise, our feelings might possibly be misrepresented. We must have discussion on this matter.
- Chair: That's one reason why I wanted to talk with all the block delegates. That's the only channel we can get in touch with the residents here. They can discuss "pro" and "con" about this question and the Block Delegates can bring the opinion of the people to the Block Delegates' meeting. Then the Block

Chair: Delegates can give their opinion to the two representatives.
(cont.) Sending a man because we think he's good would be dangerous. Mr. Myer's teletype says: "My only interest is however they are chosen they represent the community." so when they come back they can report. That's their responsibility to the community.

Del: We don't know what people think in regards to relocation.

Del: I think you can right this minute say they want successful relocation. The majority opinion is 100% on the part of the government on successful relocation. As long as they can get protection and assurance, I think there is nobody that would not want to relocate. The thing is they'll go so far and then it's your baby. You carry the ball whether we sink or swim.

Del: Your main point today is first of all whether it's a good idea or not.

Chair: What do you think about sending two representatives. What's your opinion? Let's leave the expense matter aside for a while.

Del: If I were one of the residents presented with this problem, I'd say this: Why didn't they tell us first? Why didn't they
2 consult us. We have no right to decide this here.

Del: I think the new councilmen and block commissioners should be the ones to decide.

Del: Make it a recommendation. That's the only thing we can do.

Chair: In principle we agree that two men should go. Do you all agree?

Del: Yes, we agree.

Chair: The next question is how are you going to select these people. Select from Community Council?

Del: Yes, I think it's a good idea.

Chair: Seventh of February is our general election. The selection of the two delegates is referred to this Community Council and block commissioners joint meeting, I suppose?

Del: Yes.

Del: This is not sponsored by the government is it?

Chair: It was initiated by Heart Mountain, and the government is encouraging it -- that's all we can say.

Del: It was initiated by Heart Mountain and the government merely approved it.

Del: Government and relocation -- the people here they won't like it. Present it as that the government is not against it.

Del: There are some people that intend to stay in camp and they don't like relocation. It should be tactfully done.

Chair: The matter of selection is deferred until the establishment of the Community Council, then, is that right?

Dels: Yes.

Chair: We will refer this matter to the newly elected members of the Community Council and Block commissioners.

Del: Yes, because they would be more representative of the people than we are.

Chair: Then that is settled. Now we have to discuss about the expense proposition.

Del: You're going to have two schools of thought anyway. One school will say that the government should pay it; and then the other school will think the community should pay if then they wouldn't be under obligation and can say what they think. There'll be that two schools of thought and we better see what the others believe.

Chair: In that case shall we refer this to the Community Council, too?

Del: Yes.

Chair: In that case I think this is all that I have to propose.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

MINIDOKA PROJECT

RELOCATION PLANNING COMMISSION

January 19, 1944 -- 2:00 P.M.

Block 22- 3 - E

The meeting was called to order by the chairman, Mr. Beeson. The following people were present: R. Matsuda, S. Hara, Rev. G. Y. Kimura, Jack Chikata, Mabel Shigaya, Frank Kawahara, Roy Sakamoto, Dick Kanaya, Shuji Sugawara, Joseph G. Beeson, K. Ishii, James Sakoda, Yone Arai, and Mr. Berman.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Mr. Berman, who is from the Pocatello Relocation Office and out on general field assignment for 18 months, was introduced to the council by Mr. Beeson.

Mr. Berman: I got to know Japanese people in Hawaii, where I went to school with them. In Hawaii 40% of the school is composed of American boys and girls of Japanese ancestry, I also worked with Japanese employers.

I have been in this program for 18 months and I have been concerned why I got only the nisei girls and boys, out in the field. I have gotten very few of the isseis. Where ever I had issei families who relocated they have made very good adjustment and things have turned out very well for them. In the Pocatello area which is 125 miles from here, I had 20 Japanese families who have lived there for the last 12 or 20 years. The war has not hit them at all. They have been very sympathetic and interested in you folks from the west coast and have been encouraging you to come out to their farms, they have established a hostel. The situation there is very friendly and that is one thing I have tried to impress on the older people. The young children are living a real kind of life, they go to a real school come home to a home. Living a kind of life in the United States which is wholesome and good for the children, which they wouldn't get on the project. I realize it is hard for families to start out living on the outside for many of the parents are 55 or 60 years old and have to start all over again, but when they think of the children living a normal life it is worth it.

From my interviews I find that the farther away you go from the west coast the better the feeling is for the people of the Japanese ancestry in this country. On my trips as field man I have visited Japanese families in Montana and Idaho where there were only one Japanese family in that town. I talked with them and they were getting along just fine and did not miss having other Japanese. They were accepted by the community and were doing thriving businesses or had farms out there.

Even if you were able to go back over night it would be impossible for you to find living quarters. If you were able to go back to Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle or Portland today you would find that all the homes are filled, you would find that everything has changed. If you stay in the center with that thought in mind you are mistaken. The situation has changed, instead of staying in camp you should be living a normal life outside, and when the war is over it will be easier for you to go back. Sitting in the center not moving, your children go to school out of normal conditions because the children are not coming in contact with Caucasians and other children that is not life. This is going on for the second year and it is going to be a lot worse and lot harder for you to start living a normal life if you wait.

Mr. Beeson: Possibly some of you can take this opportunity to speak to Mr. Berman in the Japanese language if you would like.

Mr. Sakamoto: Have you noticed any difference in the Hawaiian Japanese boys and the American-Japanese boys?

Mr. Berman: I don't know if there is a difference between the Hawaiian Japanese boys and the American-Japanese boys. There may be a little difference in the language they use, they do not speak as perfect English. The Hawaiian Japanese boys had better opportunities than the mainland boys, but the mainland boys are getting their chance now. For instance back in Hawaii Japanese-American girls teach school along with the caucasians.

Mrs. Shigaya: You being a field man perhaps you can tell me if a person goes out on a contract do they have to stay out there even if the conditions aren't what they are supposed to be. You see a group of girls went out to the cannery and they found that the living quarters weren't good and what they had expected so they went to the field man and told him about it but they were told that he couldn't do anything about it. They were never very happy out there but they went ahead and fixed it up.

Mr. Berman: I am very much surprised on the part of the field man. We try to avoid such things and if the conditions aren't satisfactory you can be released from your contracts. However, I imagine it depends on the field man.

Often times some of the offers come directly into the centers and the field man doesn't have the time to investigate it. Quite often I get a wire signed by Mr. Stafford asking if I approve so-and-so's job and his coming out to Pocatello. The job wasn't submitted by me but I go out and investigate the job.

Mrs. Shigaya: Once they sign the contract do they have to keep it?

Mr. Berman: The contract is just a piece of paper, it contains certain things, such as wages, hours, etc. The contracts are based on good feeling and good will. If the employer has good feeling he'll live up to his contract.

Mr. Kanaya made a report on the Chicago Conference.

Mr. Kanaya: We met with the block delegates to discuss the Chicago conference yesterday.

The main point of the meeting was to get the feeling of the public through the block delegates. That is one reason why the meeting was called. Whatever decided may be we could inform the residents through the block delegates and get the reaction from the public. The first question we asked them was "Are you in favor of sending 2 delegates?" If the residents do not want that is that. That was the first question we asked them, 2nd, well it's part of the first topic of the first question, if they are willing to send 2 delegates what method should be used to select the delegates.

The second main topic we asked the, "In the case everyone agrees to send delegates how shall we raise the money needed for the travel expense plus the subsistence while in Chicago.

In regard to the first question, everyone thought it was a very good idea and we should participate and we had a responsibility and so that was settled. On the second part of the question there was quite an argument. Not exactly an argument but a difference of opinion. No definite method was agreed upon.

The opinion of the block delegates was varied in regard to the means of raising the fund. Some of the people thought since this was to be a conference of WRA the WRA should pay for it even if the Heart Mountain Community Council suggested it. The WRA should furnish the funds so that the residents do not have to spend money when they don't get much in camp.

The other opinion was: Since this program was suggested by evacuees it is up to the evacuees to furnish the funds. If you get the subsistence through the WRA you are obligated and you are responsible just to the evacuee people if we raise the money ourselves and have no obligation to WRA. It was the general opinion of the delegates to wait till the Community Council was elected and let them decide what method should be used to raise the funds since the conference has been post-poned until the latter part of February or first of March. The general election of the council will take place on February 7th.

Mr. Sakamoto: There was one point that I would like to mention. It was agreed that prior to the time the delegates leave to this conference they should have meetings with the residents in various blocks to get a better idea of what the public is interested in.

Mr. Kanaya: Yes, this will form the agenda for the meeting, the residents could give various suggestions to the delegates, that was a unanimous opinion.

Mr. Boeson: That was a very good report, May I ask the committee to take this up with the council then.

Mr. Boeson explained the latest details of the visitation of the Relocation team.

The period of the Relocation team's visit to Minidoka will be for 4 days beginning February 7 to February 10th. Members of the team will be Harold S. Fisteres, Chairman of the team, from the Cleveland office; Elmer Shirrell, Chicago office; Dr. P. A. Webber, Salt Lake office and Mr. Fischler of the Washington Reports division.

To assist the Relocation Division in the way of preliminary work to be done prior to the arrival of the team, Leo Simmons of the St. Louis office and Oxeer Buttodahl of the Washington reports division are expected to arrive January 31 for a three-day visit. Simmons, in conjunction with the relocation program officer, will do preliminary work and Buttodahl will work with the reports office largely on matters of publicity and information concerning the camp visit.

Roger Clapp of the Boston office and Milton Gauthier, Peoria office will follow the team to remain at the center for a period of two weeks and be available for personal interviews and other aid pertaining to relocation.

A discussion of where the meetings should be held. Block 28 or 34 were suggested for area B, but no definite place was decided upon.

Frank Kawahara suggested that the relocation team meet with the high school group, in that way eliminate the high school age group from coming to the evening meetings which will be crowded.

Mr. Ishii took charge of the meeting since Mr. Boeson had to leave.

Mr. Ishii gave a report on the scholarship committee.

Mr. Ishii: I suppose I will have to make a report on the scholarship committee. The meeting was held last Friday, January 14 right over here. And that was because since last October I have been studying about the Matsumi Scholarship fund by the Japanese Association of Northwest in Seattle, Washington. At that meeting Mr. S. Mihara of the Japanese Association of Northwest came over to the meeting through a request made by Mr. Boeson and we the committee asked him about detail about the Matsumi scholarship fund. The amount of money would be more than \$1000 but the exact amount of money couldn't be given at that time. The committee thought that this Scholarship Fund should not be handled by the Relocation Planning Commission in this center. It was suggested to turn over the scholarship job to the community council.

Mr. Sakamoto: That money can be used for high school graduates?

Mr. Ishii: Yes, Mr. Folsom told us that we could ask the government to release the money for the purpose of using for high school students.

Next about Mr. Myer's answer to the Rohwer Community Council, a copy goes to each member of the council and almost each block delegate and block manager and we have about more than 150 copies in case you need more. Parts of Mr. Myer's answer was translated for the issei people.

The next meeting will be February 7.

The meeting was adjourned.

MINIDOKA PROJECT

Relocation Planning Commission
22-3-E
February 7, 1944 -- 2:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by the chairman, Mr. Joseph Beeson.

Those present: Yone Arai, Jack Chikata, Florence Endo, Harold S. Fistere, Lillian Fujihira, Y. Fujii, Ellen B. Herndon, S. Hara, N. Harada, K. Ishii, Dick Kanaya, G. Mizuki, Mitsu Yasuda, Cherry Tanaka, Rev. T. Terakawa, James Sakoda, G. Shoji, Mabel Shigaya, Clifford Tadakuma, Roy Y. Sakamoto, P. A. Webber, Frank Watanabe, Frank Ozawa, Frank Kawahara, Rev. H. T. Sakuma and Joseph G. Beeson.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The schedule of the relocation team while they are visiting the center were passed out to the members. A correction was made by Mrs. Yone Arai -- The Stafford P.T.A. will meet with the team in Block 32-12 instead of Block 38 as written in the schedule.

Mr. Harold Fistere of the Cleveland office and Dr. Webber were introduced by the chairman.

Mr. Fistere: First I would like to thank you, the commission for inviting us here and for the work that you have been doing preparing for our visit. Dr. Webber and I have come here with these purposes in mind.

First, is to bring as much information about the outside to the residents of this center and also meet you people.

Second, to get an introduction from the people in this center as to their needs and how we can help them. We would like to help both the individuals and also families so we would like to know your problems in relocating.

Third, we should like to be of service to all those who are planning relocation and those who plan to relocate in the future. We are very anxious to do as much as we can during our visit. We don't know all the answer, and we don't know how all the people in the centers feel. We are here to learn as well as to give information.

Dr. Webber and I had a very interesting visit in Heart Mountain, meeting with a similar group of people as this one. We met with a group of people selected from the residents and we would like to do the same with you. In the afternoons we are going to be in the Relocation Office where Mr. Beeson sets us up and we would like to talk over your problems. In Heart Mountain we met and talked over various things and like most good things the time came for us to close because of another engagement. However we met again the next day and continued and learned a lot and we hope while we are here we can learn some more. We ask you to give us any suggestions and criticism of our program and any suggestions which can be added to the relocation office.

Briefly our night meetings are something like this: a representative of the evacuee usually acts as the chairman, then Dr. Webber speaks in Japanese. We have the moving picture after that. First, "The Way Ahead" which was taken by WRA, we also have pictures of farms in the middle west. The second picture was taken by the Department of Agriculture. An agricultural picture which shows some of the crops grown in Michigan. After that I usually talk, up to now it has been our practice for Dr. Webber to interpret as I went along. If it's all in English it makes it easier for me and Dr. Webber. Afterwards we open the meetings up to the public for discussion and let the people ask questions or whatever they want and we try to answer the questions. We have been doing that at some of the centers and doesn't mean that we'll have to follow this program, that's entirely up to you. This is just what we generally do and does not have to be followed.

Dr. Webber: My talking is supposed to be in Japanese but you people all understand English. We have had a great time so far. We have been having a rather busy time trying to get to the next place in the two days we are allowed and it's over so hard to get train

reservations and all but so far we have made our schedule. It is a pleasure to come and meet you. In 4 days we hardly get to know your names, covering so many centers has its advantages but it is most unsatisfactory to get to know a person and then have to leave. When I find a friend I like to stay a little while rather than stay 4 days in seven or eight projects to Topaz next to Gila and then on to Poston. I have been more or less associated with the Japanese people for a number of years. I spent 18 years in Japan so have become acquainted with the situation and the Japanese people. Good many of you people I have met in Portland, and Seattle. At the present time I am with a small college in Nashville, Tennessee.

We would like to send two of your fine young ladies from this camp to work out there. We have a wonderful opportunity for them. I think the South has wonderful opportunities for the Japanese, although there aren't very many of them living there now it will come a little later. We have been looking into the possibilities of people relocating down South and there are a number of possibilities which might materialize and we have a number of people who are interested or at least curious.

The people who have relocated in the East and South are surprised at the hospitality they receive. The groups relocated to the Salt Lake area are living in large groups and living in the poorer section of the city and starting about the same conditions and sections as you did in the west. While in the middle west and east the people in New York were mingling in with the Caucasians you people were making little Tokios out in Los Angeles, San Francisco and all the other towns on the coast. Quite a number of people can still relocate to Chicago and still not be noticed. You can live on Park Avenue or any other place you should choose in New York while in Salt Lake you have to just about live in that district, that is the difference. You realize that there are people who are not prejudiced against the Japanese.

Group difference doesn't make much difference back East, many people of Japanese ancestry would really find America. I am talking about America of Ohio, Florida, etc. where Japanese farmers can live like anyone else. The picture we have of Michigan depicts life on a farm out in that part of the country and you'll find it is different from the coast but yet similar.

Knowing the Japanese people as I do and understanding them has made me realize what the future and opportunity they will have in the east. The people in Chicago are not going to come out to meet you people so you will have to go out and meet them. You will find on the outside of you folks are alike. You'll find the opportunities to establish yourself.

The isseis will find the attitude of the people in the east is different too. We've met the people clearing the attitude of the people towards the people of Japanese ancestry and when we explained to the public of evacuation and the back ground of the Japanese people we find the public is ready to accept them and try to understand the problem.

I was very much impressed when talking with three nisei girls in Chicago. One came from Hawaii, one came from camp and the other was born and raised in Chicago. When we had a discussion about the evacuation and the relocation program now, she did not know anything about it. This was the first time that this girl realized she was very different from any other person.

One third of the people who are living out side of the relocation centers have been living outside continuously. Many of the isseis are considered just as American as the other person, even though he is technically not an American citizen you are still an American. You have boys and girls who are Americans. And your staying here signifies your way of life is the American life and choosing America for your country.

The folks who call you damned Japanese aren't worth spitting on. When I was in Japan some of the bad boys liked to have fun so they yelled out ijin, ijin, baka! whenever they saw me. But I didn't think I was a baka so it didn't bother me. Well, when you young ladies go out and the people look at you they're staring at you because you're good looking. I know of a little girl who was born

in Japan and then came to America, when she came here no one looked at her and she was bewildered because she was so used to being stared at, she was six or seven years old and during all that time she'd been looked at so missed it when she came here. In Japan everywhere she went she was stared at and she loved it. Some people are curious and when you are the first Japanese American they've met they just stare.

Mr. Beeson: Does anyone wish to lead us in a discussion with the men here?

Mr. Kanaya: Mr. Fistere, in your Cleveland area are there many issei people relocated in that area?

Mr. Fistere: On December 1st we took a survey of the people there and on that date there were 93 for a total of 10% of the people relocated in that area. And a very interesting thing about the issei about 4 or 5 months ago an issei gentlemen came to me and asked me whether or not it would be possible for all the isseis of the city to get together so that they could hear their own language spoken and discuss various things, and get to know each other better. So I wrote a letter to all the isseis and invited them to the Cleveland hostel and we all introduced each other to one another. Since that time they got together at regular intervals. These isseis have been very helpful to us. One of the men, Mr. Okajima, has been very helpful, he is one of my right hand advisors. Mr. Mitayama who was at Heart Mountain has been very helpful to us also. Mr. Okajima is a very splendid man and had been in the Cleveland area before and know the kind of people who lived in that part of the country. You'll find that the people in the Mid-west area is entirely different from what it is in the west and inter-mountain area. Take the people who were in business before the war, they still are doing business and find that nothing has changed.

I'd like to tell you the story of Abe Hagiwara, he's from this center and I think many of you know him. Abe is a boys and girls leader in the Y.M.C.A. For the first couple of days there was a strange feeling, most of the kids had never seen a person of Japanese ancestry except what they had seen in the funny papers. After they started coming they discovered Abe was a pretty nice guy and a good leader. More important was the fact that these kids got to know him. During the summer he went to camp with them, and they discovered that he was no different from the rest of them. The attitude of those kids is pretty much same of the average American who lives in the Mid-west and East.

Along the same lines, four girls were working with 60 other girls and women. These nisei girls worked by themselves and no one talked to them, they were more or less left to themselves. About 4 days later one of the girls was in the rest room and another woman was in there also, suddenly she asked the nisei, "why don't you go back to where you came from?" She answered, "why, I would if I could go back to California." This other lady was surprised when she learned that this nisei had been born in country and had never been back to Japan and was an American citizen. Well, after that the word got around that these girls were good American citizens and then the other workers began talking with them. When one of the girls left the factory these women got together and gave her a present. That's the way it has been once we explained to them they understand and we've had very little trouble.

Mr. Kanaya: Dr. Webber, a little while ago you said that you thought there was a future for the evacuee in the South; I think that that part of the country is less known to us. We understand the south is sort of where they raise cotton and tobacco, and the attitude of the people wouldn't be so good because we are colored. Could you kind of give us an idea of the South?

Dr. Webber: Fortunately or unfortunately, at least fortunate as far as the Japanese is concerned there is a color line, but that color line is between the negro and the other races. All other race outside of black is considered white, if you are not a negro you are white.

Once in a while some nisei girl will ride in the back of the cars and the conductor will tell her that that isn't where she belongs and tell her to go up front.

The crops that is the kind of agriculture is not so different from that in the north, being raised in the North and having lived in the South, I can see the difference but the same kind of crops can be raised. In the South you can have a second crop which is advantages. I feel the South a little later will be a very ideal place to relocate.

But put this down, in the South, no Japanese has ever been considered a colored race. As far as the color line is concerned it's just between the negro and all the rest is considered white.

Mr. Kanaya: They have some Japanese farmers in Georgia or the Carolinas I'm not certain but I was talking to a boy who was raising some what the same crops as we did in Seattle and Washington and Oregon.

Sakoda: I think the residents would like to know at this time, and it would be very timely if you could explain how they could be draft deferrable.

Fistore: I'm sorry you asked that question for I would like to think that the nisei in this center will be willing to do their duty as any other American. The selective service has included the Japanese of America due to the successfulness of the combat team. Draft deferment is up to the local board and so that question has no other answer than that.

Mr. Chikata: Dr. Webber, 90% of the residents are ignorant of the conditions of the various cities, I wonder if you could compare them with the larger Japanese cities and then the issei would have more of an idea. In that way they would know which city would be more suitable.

Dr. Webber: Yes, we'll try to do that. These pictures we have may give you a better idea. I'm sorry that Mr. Cullum couldn't be here to give you a picture of New York.

Mr. Beeson: If you have no further questions the team will have to go to another meeting so we'll have to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned.

Hunt, Idaho

22-3-E

February 23, 1944 -- 2:00 P.M.

In the absence of the chairman, Mr. Boeson, Mr. Ishii took charge of the meeting.

Those present: Tsutomu Fukuyama, Frank Watanabe, Frank Kawahara, Rev. G. Y. Kikura, R. Matsuda, Rev. T. Torakawa, K. Ishii, Helen Amerman, Ellen B. Herndon and Dick Kanaya.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read by the members and approved.

A motion was made by Tsutomu Fukuyama and seconded by Frank Kawahara, that the meetings begin on schedule and a set time should be made for the closing of the meetings, if during that time the business can not be transacted the meetings should be prolonged or the business may be continued at the next meeting. The motion was unanimously carried.

Miss Amernan: I wonder if we are getting the information about relocation to the people. I still don't believe the majority of the people know that you can be reinducted into camp if you go out on indefinite leave and all does not go well with you outside.

Mr. Ishii explained that Mr. Beeson was planning block meetings to explain to the residents and especially the isseis and to discuss the relocation program.

Miss Amerman: I wonder what the reaction of the residents would be. Wouldn't they feel that they were being pushed out?

Mr. Ishii: These meetings would be to give information to the people and they do not have to relocate.

The visitation of the relocation team was discussed. Mr. Ishii explained that the meetings for the relocation team was very well attended, and it was thought that each time more than 600 people attended the lectures, and movies presented by Mr. Fistere and Mr. [redacted] [redacted], and thought the visit of the relocation team was a [redacted] [redacted].

Mr. Kanaya: Mr. Ishii, when Mr. Clapp and Mr. Guether were here and held meetings in our section those meetings were not very well attended. They did not bring pictures but those people who did attend the meetings found it very interesting. I think more publicity should have been made for those people so the people could attend the meetings, also at these meetings they did not have interpreters so they called on somebody at the last minute to interpret to the issai people. I think it is up to the committee to have a person at meetings like those who can interpret.

Mr. Ishii: I think each block has someone who can do that.

Mr. Kanaya: You know that the plan Mr. Beeson has for such lock meetings should be handled very carefully. The people may think they are putting pressure on relocation and will not like that. The success of such meetings will depend on how it is handled.

Mr. Ishii: Mr. Beeson had me translate several sheets from English, 2 or 3 sheets, and in that paper Mr. Beeson stated the Government has a policy for the relocation program. Before, the Government made some mistakes in the relocation program but now they have changed the plan, and it is up to the people of the center. The Government is not going to force any one out. At the meetings Mr. Beeson plans to give out these mimeographed sheets to everyone who attends the block meeting.

After a discussion it was agreed that it would be a good idea to give out informations about the meeting **before** the **block** meetings are held.

Rev. Torakawa: Mr. Ishii, those forms you gave us last year to have each family fill out, how far did we go on that.

Mr. Ishii: That is finished Miss Hughes, the high school teacher helped us with it and she covered 10 or 15 blocks during harvest vacation.

Mr. Kanaya: I heard that during Dr. Smith's talk, this may be just a rumor because I heard it from another person who heard Dr. Smith, he mentioned something about this center being closed soon. That is this center and Manzanar would be closed.

Mr. Ishii: I haven't heard anything about it but I will ask Mr. Boeson about it.

The meeting was adjourned.

MEETING OF RELOCATION PLANNING COMMISSION

July 13, 1944
2:30 p.m.

Relocation Library
Minidoka Project
Hunt, Idaho

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Richard Kanaya, Chairman, with the following order of attendance: S. Sugawara, Rev. T. Terakawa, M. Nakata, Richard Kanaya, James Sakoda, J. G. Beeson, Tura Nakamura, S. Hara, Harry R. Hatate, Mrs. Yone Arai, and K. Ishii.

Kanaya: We do not have any idea as to what to discuss today as we have not had any meetings since April 2. Therefore, we should get some insight as to relocation. Mr. Beeson, will you say a few words about relocation in the last few months.

Beeson: We have had responsibility of interviewing and gathering information from all the residents of the project. We got over the first coverage of that now. The response to that program was very outstanding and remarkable. Assistance by the Block Managers was commendable. Most of the month of May, June, and the first week of July was spent on this. It was figured that about 90% of the people responded. This shows that most people are willing to discuss their problems. Now that this first coverage of interviewing is out of the way, we have some very definite follow-up work that must be done in connection with that program. A number of families signified that they would like to leave the project, if satisfactory work can be found. Therefore, this is the first responsibility of my division to accomplish. Others said they would leave the project after certain business or family problems are solved. The biggest group said that it was their intention to remain on the center so long as the evacuated area continued to be under exclusion. However, I was pleased to find that there were so many people ready to relocate.

We found a lot of other needs and we expect to summarize those needs so WRA can meet them. We found that we had people who have physical defects that need attention that we had no records of before. We found outstanding qualifications that we did not know of before. All in all we found many conditions that would have to be met before people can leave. Ten per cent did not have the chance, but will get the opportunity to discuss their problems. We are not going to report anyone who failed to respond but we hope to find situations for those people who showed immediate readiness to go. Community Management has a big responsibility as long as people expect to remain here on the project. We will have to work pretty fast. Since the last meeting we have had considerable time to make observations, and we have heard said that relocation is not popular on this project. People understand that relocation is voluntary and our responsibility is to get the information out to the project and keep them currently informed, because we are isolated. People who assume positions of leadership must keep the residents in contact with the outside world, because all people will establish relocation sometime or the other. Information must be presented for the welfare of our neighbors and all others just as sincerely for people who expect to reside here as those who expect to leave.

Kanaya: Because we cannot do anything without joint participation of the people as a whole, Relocation Planning Commission should be under the Community Council.

Sakoda: There is a committee of six divisions like health, food, etc. under the Community Council. As we all know this Relocation Program is very important, but should the Relocation Planning Commission be an independent program? But in order to get in touch with the residents it is much easier to get facts to the Community Council. That is the primary reason why this Relocation Planning Commission should be a division under the Community Council the same as others. Thus, Relocation Planning Commission is different from others because the Relocation Program is not in the favor of many, and only a minority of the people here are in

favor of relocation. Therefore, in order to get more response and participation from residents and administration I have a feeling that it might be better to put the Relocation Planning Commission as one of those under the Community Council. I am quite certain that certain members from the Planning Commission would be transferred to the new committee thereby aiding to get more results. If they concentrated their energy on relocation, residents would not suspect anything, because it would be part of the Community Council. Of course, we were elected by Mr. Stafford last year about June 26. At that time the Relocation Guidance Council was established, but we had no Community Council. Therefore, it was O. K. as it was. Of course, we could carry on Relocation Planning without aid of the Community Council but that would be pressing into a harder predicament. We have not done very much relocation planning work for the simple reason that people were afraid to go to the meetings and were scared to talk. I think that as long as this group stands as a separate group, fear will hang.

Beeson: Washington favors a setup under the Community Council because they feel that the Community Council is representative of the people. At the time when the Community Council was formed, I went over as thoroughly as I could about our idea as to what was a good program and told them how we would be operating. The Planning Commission then asked them to assume their official connection with it. They said they would and appointed a representative to the Commission meeting for the purpose of getting acquainted and the Commission was recommended. The program at that time was that they would assume an official position. And as replacements were to be made by the Community Council, we did not feel that a group of residents should immediately be dropped and a new group be appointed. We thought that would be too rough, handling it that way and thought we should let it continue a short time as turn over has been quite heavy. All the Commission would be appointed by the Community Council. Then later about the time when I was in Chicago, joint participation was discussed. Joint participation does not mean that the only people we are interested in are the people who are leaving. A person who is going to be here is still a problem for the Relocation Planning Commission to consider and to plan something for. Relocation means planning for the future. The best thing for some families would be to remain on the project and for others to go out. Therefore, all the people are our responsibility. That is the way I feel about it. I agree that the Commission should be connected with the Community Council. That does not mean that everybody should be in favor of relocating. But people should know about relocation. It has been suggested to me frankly by residents to keep relocation separated from the Community Council on the ground that so many were opposed to relocation.

Sakoda: A separate group would be a target and create antagonism and suspicion.

Beeson: The Community Council is interested in every problem. Therefore, they should be sitting in on this problem the same as every other problem. It isn't that of for or against relocation but that of the future of the people.

Sakoda: What was those people's argument against the committee being under the Community Council?

Beeson: Only that of opposition by many. I would like to make this suggestion. I would like to see this group appoint a joint committee. I do want to see the Relocation Planning Commission dropped. I need this guidance. Relocation is a serious program and personally I need a group such as this.

Kanaya: If the Relocation Planning Commission is directly under the Community Council, they would want to elect their own members.

Beeson: That would be O. K.

- Kanaya: They want all members, about six or seven, out of the Block Commissioners.
- Sakoda: Shall we make a motion that this group be disbanded and start all over and ask them to get a new one? There is a desirability of not leaving any trace at all of the old committee. This name Relocation Planning Commission may not be wanted. They may want something like Future Planning. It would be easier for them to work out the problem.
- Kanaya: Should this exist as it is or be a new one?
- Beeson: This committee has done a swell job. I would like to see the group underwrite the new group. They are willing to make a group appointed by the Community Council. You fellows should be willing to say your piece in connection with that. I should be notified that the Relocation Planning Commission was disbanded.
- Hatate: Under the present setup, they should choose their own committee --Community Council and Block Commissioners who should be representing the people. I find no other way that we can proceed with this Relocation Planning Commission.
- Hara: It is better to disband this. My opinion is like that of Mr. Hatate. It is easier to reach the residents through the Community Council.
- Kanaya: Once in a while when they have meetings with the Community Council, they could bring up some issue. The Block Managers could get to the residents. If we do not get cooperation from the Community Council and Block Managers, it is a waste of time.
- Beeson: I feel that complete program of joint participation must be connected.
- Sakoda: First disband this committee and send a memo and ask them to make the contacts.
- Beeson: Would that make the Relocation Program Officer responsible for asking the Council to appoint the new setup?
- Sakoda: We could write a memo stating this.
- Kanaya: The chances are that the Community Council will select people who are already connected with relocation, because they will know more about it. If some former members were appointed, we would not suffer so much from the loss. Some people who are not interested but somebody who is very active may be selected.
- Hara: We should not recommend anyone from this organization.
- Sakoda: Would you make a motion, Mr. Hara? You are the oldest member and not connected to Block Commissioners.
- Nakamura: Some government assistance should be provided for receiving evacuee property at the point of relocation. Many people have property stored in evacuated area and since they do not know which crates contain the immediately necessary items, they must send for the whole lot. As most people stay in small apartments, some storage space provided by the government would be of great help.
- Beeson: Anything that would contribute to the convenience of the Relocation Program should be brought up in these meetings.
- Hara: I move that the present Relocation Planning Commission be disbanded effective July 13, 1944, and the Community Council be requested to appoint a new committee.
- Nakamura: I second the motion.

Kanaya: All in favor say aye.

All: Aye.

Kanaya: The motion is carried unanimously. A memo shall be sent to Mr. Beeson stating that this group has been disbanded.

Beeson: These pictures of old colonists--what value do you think they are actually?

Sakoda: It's good in that it gives idea as to how former colonists are getting along.

Beeson: We are trying to get a full budget of a full family group as well as some single girl. The budget should include everything. Up to now there has been no one willing to have their name published but unless actual names are given, people will not give much attention to the information.

"Over 40" pamphlets will soon be here in Japanese language.

Kanaya: I think it would be very good if we could have some budgets to publish on the project.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.