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MINIDOKA PROJECT
Hunt, Idaho

Reports Office

Project Director's
WEEKLY REPORT
December 31 to January 6, 1945

AIRMAIL

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Dillon S. Myer
Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
Washington 25, D.C.

Attention: M. M. Tozier

Dear Mr. Myer:

Resistance to relocation and to the closing of the center among the evacuees, if not increasing, is certainly not diminishing. Since the Nakano family relocated to the West Coast previous to December 17, only one other family has made definite plans to relocate to that area. This family is scheduled to leave here January 10.

Relocation is an unpopular subject among the evacuees, and we do not have sufficient information concerning acceptance in specific communities, or the extent of state and local aid, or housing to combat this sentiment. An indication of the attitude of the extremists was the incident this week of "unknown" persons erecting a Japanese grave marker bearing the names of residents allegedly friendly to the administration. The large outdoor cross for Easter services was found to be similarly marked. People responsible for this action are residents of blocks 29, 30, and 35, and are described as being not ignorant, but definitely narrow-minded. Because they are people of some stature, their extremist, pro-Japanese attitude has considerable influence in the community,--even upon "assimilatable" Nisei. In one block, what was to be a block New Year's party was turned into a funeral service for Mr. Fujii, Community Council chairman.

A story is current within the project of a Japanese girl, married to a Caucasian and living in a Federal housing project in Seattle, who

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was accepted by her neighbors as Chinese. When it was discovered that she was Japanese there was considerable agitation to have her evicted. They also say that though accepted for Civil Service, she cannot get a Civil Service job on the West Coast.

Concerning community acceptance on the outside, residents are hesitant about accepting the West Coast for relocation until 25 evacuees, who have gone West to investigate the situation, return.

The Welfare Office is at a loss concerning what state or local aid is available to evacuees. The only dependency case which has received state acceptance is that of James Sakamoto, blind, a former resident of the State of Washington. The state will accept Sakamoto and his aging parents. The benefits Sakamoto will receive, however, are very small, and 30 days residence is required before the papers can be processed. If dependency cases wish to relocate in states other than those in which they formerly resided, the difficulties are even greater.

The action of the Washington office permitting the Project Director to postpone closing of the mess halls feeding 125 or less until March 1 has made possible the avoidance of an unpleasant situation here. The Project Director anticipated that closing of these mess halls and reduction of the steward division personnel at this time would result in pressure being brought on families in the borderline blocks not to relocate. It is hoped that circumstances will have changed by March 1 so that this anticipated situation will not arise.

No final dissolution of the emergency crew has been made. By transferring the emergency crew's functions to other sections the Project Director has avoided taking direct action in this matter. Direct action was avoided because the emergency crew had demanded that, upon its dissolution, members be transferred as a unit to another section. Rather than do this, which would have meant centering undue power in one group, and rather than precipitate an open break, the Project Director has chosen to let the emergency crew atrophy.

The lifting of the West Coast ban has, of course, made the maintenance of the appointed personnel staff a problem. At an A.P. staff meeting the Project Director asked that the staff stick by its guns in order to avoid the necessity of breaking in new personnel unfamiliar with evacuee-appointed personnel relationships. In closing the camp the Project Director feels that there are several sections to which appointed personnel could be transferred, such as evacuee property, welfare, etc.; and he feels that it would be preferable for those already on the staff, but serving in other capacities to be used in this work rather than hire temporary workers with little or no interest in their job.

In accordance with Mr. Nyer's request that construction be curtailed, C.E. Plank, Senior Engineer, has made a survey of all construction

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now in progress. A report of this was transmitted to the attention of Mr. Utz by the Project Director in a letter dated January 3.

As of January 6 the project population was 7426.

Sincerely,

John F. Graham
Reports Officer

Approved H.L. Stafford
Project Director

FILE COPY 2

MINIDOKA RELOCATION CENTER
Hunt, Idaho

Librarian
Byron
Chatter
Banbury
S. Brown
Ing
W. K.
Tills (74)

In Reply, Please refer to:

Reports Office

Project Director's

WEEKLY REPORT

January 6 to 13, 1945

AIRMAIL

CONFIDENTIAL FC

Dillon S. Myer
Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
Washington 25, D.C.

Attention: M. M. Tozier

Dear Mr. Myer:

The outstanding problem here at the moment is property. Since the resignation of Mr. Gooding, the Property Officer, the post has been vacant, which fact, in view of the ultimate closing of the center, is giving the Project Director considerable concern. There are men here qualified to take the position but so far minor complications have stood in the way. Property records are disorganized. Efforts are being made to orient the personnel involved by use of Flow and Functional charts with all employees participating. However, the problem is that of nomenclature and a concerted attempt is being made to get the Property records in some kind of order.

A situation unprecedented here arose during the week in the case of a 16-year-old girl, the daughter of a family who had asked for repatriation to Japan. The girl, who has a sister in Chicago, didn't want to repatriate with them. So the family beat her up at regular intervals. The last beating was administered by her brother with a piece of firewood.

As a result of the girl's complaints, Welfare and Relocation investigated the situation and agreed that the girl should be separated from her family. With \$45. sent by her sister, and the WRA traveling allowance she was taken out of here without her family's knowledge, spent the night at the medical officer's home in Jerome, and was put on the train at Shoshone.

Later the Project Attorney explained to the father that, under the Endo decision, WRA had no legal right to prevent her from relocating. Col. Connell of the Army was present and expressed astonishment

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that such a family was on the Army's cleared list.

The first of what I hope will be a successful series of broadcasts was held on Monday on Station K T F I, Twin Falls. The program consists of popular orchestral numbers and songs, and its purpose is to show that the Nisei are typical Americans, and, therefore, desirable additions to any community.

We are keeping "speeches" out, though I believe next week we will have an interview with a Nisei veteran.

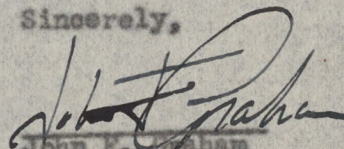
Getting the talent together and organized into a unit was beset with considerable difficulties, but now that the program is actually on the air the difficulties are gradually ironing out.

The Irrigator staff, as previously reported, has been in a turmoil since I had the car searched right after Christmas. However, the person at whom this action was directed was brought into line by other evacuees and the editorial staff has decided to stay on the job.

During the week the Project Director called a small staff meeting together to discuss the possibility of identifying and classifying problem cases here, so that we could have some documentation in reaching conclusions regarding relocation. It was his suggestion that if application was filed with state and local welfare agencies for certain cases we would be able to estimate the percentage of problem cases that these agencies could be expected to care for. The idea is to get them out and see what the reaction is. The Project Director further believes that 90% of our success will depend on the cooperation of other Federal agencies.

A fire broke out in one of the barracks during the week and the question of whether the apartment was to be repaired or whether the family was to move to a vacant apartment was referred to Washington. Recommendations that the family was to move, in the opinion of the Project Director makes WPA's official stand very clear, and was welcomed by the Project Director for that reason.

Sincerely,


John F. Graham
Reports Officer

Approved

H. L. Stafford
Project Director

FILE COPY 2

MINIDOKA RELOCATION CENTER
Hunt, Idaho

Librarian
Bynum
Burtha
Burkley
E. Brown
Zeigler
Cross
McKee
Files (84)

In Reply, Please refer to:
Reports Office

Project Director's
WEEKLY REPORT
January 13 to 20, 1945

AIRMAIL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ FC

Mr. Dillon S. Myer
Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
Washington 25, D.C.

Attention: M. M. Tozier

Dear Mr. Myer:

One of the most delicate problems of the project seemed to be on its way to solution this week, when the Project Director proposed to Mr. Fujii, Chairman of the Council, that the 50 members of the emergency crew, which was to be dissolved in accordance with Washington instructions, be transferred as a unit to the engineering section. Hereafter the crew will be employees of the engineering section under the direct supervision of Mr. Plank, Senior Engineer, and the building heretofore occupied by Mr. Doi, foreman of the crew, will be for office purposes of Property Control and Warehousing. The Project Director explained to Mr. Fujii that transfer of the crew as a unit was made possible by the Post exclusion program of camp liquidation and by a distinct emergency in connection with the failure of the outfall line carrying effluent off the project. This structure has given way and will require a great deal of manpower to uncover the line completely and keep it functioning during the winter months.

On Saturday of this week, Mr. Fujii and Mr. Doi conferred with Mr. Stafford concerning the proposed transfer. Contrary to their sentiments of two months ago, they now object to being transferred as a unit. The Project Director feels that their original request to be transferred as a unit stemmed from their desire to take over the labor activities of Property and Warehousing. Now that there is a possibility

WEEKLY REPORT/January 13 to 20, 1945/-2

of their being shifted to Engineering, they are hoping to get at least a few of their number placed in Property and Warehousing.

The Project Director informed Mr. Doi and Mr. Fujii that the Administration's policy from now on would be to employ only those who were willing to cooperate when and where they were needed; and that no single group would be permitted to dictate to the Administration, with respect to continuance or discontinuance in the employment situation. Mr. Doi and Mr. Fujii stated that they would take Mr. Stafford's reply to the workers and find out their reaction, to proposals to transfer to engineering for work on the outflow line.

At a meeting with a representative from Community Management, Administrative Management, and Operations, it was decided that Mr. Johnston, Community Activities Supervisor, Mr. Harker, Acting High School principal, and Mr. Kleinkopf, Superintendent of Education, would temporarily act as the Board of Control. All community groups who decide to use the gymnasium must first see Mr. Johnston and fill out a formal request two weeks in advance.

The Project Director specified that the gymnasium may be used for community meetings, dancing, limited physical activities, assemblies, plays, etc. No games involving the use of basket balls, volley balls, play ground balls, or hand balls will be allowed in the building because of the stoves and the unprotected stove pipes along the side of the building.

In accordance with Washington's suggestion, the Project Director has appointed Mr. Rawlings, Assistance Project Director in charge of Operations, as Coordinator of Information.

On January 18 the Project Director wrote a letter to Mr. Fujii designating Mr. Rawlings as a member of the Editorial Board of the Irrigator, in the interest of close working relationship on all problems of dissemination.

As a result of the Administrative Management meeting held in Denver from January 8 to January 13, Mr. Nichols, Assistant Project Director in charge of Administrative Management, this week is in the process of reorganizing the Finance and Supply sections perscribed by revised procedures released at the Denver Conference.

The Project Director has informed Mr. Fujii that six members of the appointed staff have been appointed to an advisory board, which is to counsel with the Coordinator of Information. These members are: Victor McLaughlin, Relocation Officer; John F. Graham, Reports Officer; Frank S. Barrett, Project Attorney; Hinkle W. Cox, Evacuee Property Officer; A. Lidle Fite, Senior Counselor; and John DeYoung, Community Analyst. No members for the advisory board have as yet been designated by the council.

WEEKLY REPORT/January 13 to 20/1945-3

Within the very near future Mr. Nichols plans to extend the gate control from 16 to 24 hours. Considerable difficulty is being experienced with Evacuee gate clerks on enforcement of new procedures.

This week Gordon O'Bryan, Assistant Fiscal Accountant, was detailed to the Property and Warehousing section to develop flow and functional charts which will be used in a personnel training program for Property and Warehousing.

Sincerely,

John F. Graham
Reports Officer

Approved

H. L. Stafford
Project Director

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

MINIDOKA RELOCATION CENTER
Hunt, Idaho

In Reply, Please refer to,
Reports Office

Project Director's
WEEKLY REPORT
January 21 to 27, 1945

Arrival
Confidential

Mr. Dillon S. Myer
Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
Washington 25, D.C.

Attention: M. M. Tozier

Dear Mr. Myer:

Following the Project Director's conversation with Mr. Doi and Mr. Fujii concerning the proposed transfer of the emergency crew as a unit to the Operations Division, it was reported on Monday, January 22 that the emergency crew intended to quit. The alleged reason for their action was the fear that they were being transferred to an emergency job which would soon end and therefore, in effect, were being terminated. As a result they have not, with a very few exceptions, made any move to report for duty with the Operations Division.

From the Project Director's standpoint the emergency crew was being assigned to new duties as a unit, which was their previous demand. The Project Director found an opportunity to move the crew as a unit because of the emergency arising from the breakdown of the effluent system. He stated to Mr. Doi and Mr. Fujii that following the emergency, other assignments within the Operations Division would be available to the crew. In view of the fact that the emergency crew's apparent motive was not to be transferred as a unit, but in fact was to gain control of Property and Warehousing work; when this probability was eliminated, to quit was their only alternative.

The Project Director takes the view that because we

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are faced with the necessity of closing the camp within one year, no resident or group of residents is in a position to obstruct this purpose by dictating what work will or will not be done.

A unique situation arose during the week as a result of the activities of a recruiter sent here by the War Hemp Industries. This recruiter is a former resident of Tule Lake. Two weeks ago he stated that he had signed up 75 residents for work in the Chicago area. Later, he alleged that the 75 who had been contacted dwindled to three as a result of "organized resistance" to relocation.

Because the Project Director was anxious to uncover any organized resistance to relocation, if it existed, he questioned the recruiter at length. During the conversation it was apparent that the recruiter had no documentary evidence to support his statement.

Because he had had a conference with the Project Director, and because he is known by evacuees to make irresponsible statements; he was advised by evacuee acquaintances to restate his story to the Administration. The channel which he chose for this purpose was the Reports Office, presumably because there was some concern lest the wrong impression be given in my report to Washington. His revised story was this:

He said that he had placed ads in both editions of the IRRIGATOR concerning the Hemp offer. That 30 people had come to his office and talked to him concerning the job. He did not make any attempt to sign them up but merely explained the situation to them. Meanwhile, Fred Numora, a Minidoka resident, circulated among the blocks and spoke to some 30 people also. He said that in all about 60 or 70 people were contacted, but not signed.

On Thursday he became concerned because he had only signed three and on Saturday he announced that the dead-line was January 24. Following this announcement on Saturday, Monday and Tuesday people started coming in and twelve were signed up for indefinite and took the job. He denied that he had stated that there was organized resistance to the job, or that any attempt had been made to discourage people from taking the offer. He said that he had not been in a position to know about this; that people did not kick about the job, but kicked about relocation only insofar as indefinite leave was required. He said that when evacuees could leave the project on trial indefinite, he could get 30, 40, or 50 at a crack; but at the end of four months the evacuees would leave the job, so that their trial indefinite would not be converted to indefinite.

WEEKLY REPORT/January 21 to 27-1945/-3

Evacuees who know the recruiter claim that he is impulsive and inclined to jump at conclusions. This may or may not be true, but it was obvious when he came to speak to me, he was anxious to modify his story considerably.

At Mr. Nichols request, Mr. Stafford designated the Efficiency Rating Committee for this year. It will be composed of Mr. Williams, Chairman, Mr. Kleinkopf, and Mr. Rice.

Sincerely,

John F. Graham
Reports Officer

Approved
H. L. Stafford
Project Director

MINIDOKA RELOCATION CENTER
Hunt, Idaho

Reports Office

Project Director's
WEEKLY REPORT

January 28 to February 3, 1945

AIRMAIL

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Dillon S. Myer
Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
Washington 25, D.C.

Attention: M. M. Tozier

Dear Mr. Myer:

The postponement of the Community Council election was one of the most important events of the week. Out of 42 nominees 35 resigned, including five incumbents. The election has been postponed for several weeks and an amendment to the Council charter is being considered which would prohibit any nomination without the nominee's consent to run. The anticipated effect of such an amendment is that there will be no nominations.

From all appearances the Council seems to be undergoing that process of disintegration which besets every attempt to set up a liaison group between the administrator and the administered. Because of necessity the administration must rule by fiat, the residents, at first optimistic, soon recognize the fact that the liaison group has not power to enforce the residents' interests when these interests are counter to the administration's. The net result is that the liaison group, afraid of arousing the residents' overt animosity, becomes progressively more cautious and, as its reliance upon buck-passing increases, progressively less effective in furthering administration policies. It is my understanding that the Block Managers

WEEKLY REPORT/January 28 to February 3-1945/-2

sustained this same process of disintegration* and in recent months it has certainly been evident in the Council's inability to get a coterie of recalcitrant carpenters back to work on the gymnasium, to move the residents of Block 22 to other quarters (both objectives desirable to the community) or, in two months time, to offer some solution to the emergency crew impasse.

What I am leading up to is the probability of having to make some provision to replace the Council with another liaison group, for as I have attempted to point out, and as this week's fiasco would seem to indicate, the formation of liaison groups at regular intervals is a recurrent necessity to effective project government.

A temporary walk-out of the garbage crew occurred on Thursday and Friday of this week as a result of a misunderstanding between administration spokesmen and the foreman of the garbage crew. The administration was considering instituting a more effective system of collection and a conversation to that effect took place on Wednesday. The conversation was interpreted by the crew foreman to be an administrative directive having the effect of (1) transferring the entire crew from the Motor Pool to the Engineering section; (2) reducing the number of trucks from eight to five; (3) restricting vehicles to stake trucks which would mean extra trips in returning empty cans, and (4) transferring 16 men to other tasks.

It was also alleged that the crew has grievances of long standing, especially in having been denied the supply of adequate work clothes, particularly rubber boots and warm clothing. The crew returned to work on Saturday after assurances that the administration was not contemplating any immediate revision of garbage collection methods.

Primarily to discourage further traffic in private enterprise the Administration this week discontinued hauling express and freight shipments to Hunt where such shipments are on other than government bills of lading. This decision was made by the Project Director as part of the reorganization of camp facilities to achieve the value of work necessitated by the post-exclusion policies of camp liquidation. The Project Director, however, is prepared to

*When the administration asked the Block Managers to check the stoves in the residents' houses, the Block Managers insisted that this was Housing's job; when they were requested to make certain that adequate passageways were provided at assemblies, they said this was the Fire Department's job. Actually, in both cases they were afraid to make any move that would inconvenience the residents.

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force the issue because for two years he had continuous complaints from the Co-op. concerning the operation of private business on the Project but not cooperation from the Co-op. to close up such business. Significantly, as a result of the Administration's initiative in closing up private fish markets in blocks 14 and 30, the executive secretary of the Co-op. this week made a point of stating at the Congress of Co-op delegates held on the project that the Co-op is not responsible for the closing of the private fish business here.

The Community Council this week nominated six residents to serve on the special advisory committee to the co-ordinator of Information. Three of the nominees declined but the Council found three acceptable substitutions.

Last week Mr. Cozzens reported that in the Portland area public acceptance was such that evacuees should be encouraged to return. Soon after the Project Director conferred with the representatives of 20 families anxious to return to Hood River. At a meeting in the Project Director's office the representatives stated that they would return provided that (1) their furnishings were delivered by W.R.A. to their homes, instead of the railhead, (2) that financial assistance for food, clothing, fuel and drayage was provided until the crops came in, (3) that their children (about 20) could reenter school without embarrassment, (4) that they would obtain the return of their leases, some of which expire in April, (5) that W.R.A. will make arrangements for repurchase of all farm equipment, and (6) that arrangements can be made for power of attorney to operate the farm.

The Project Attorney asked that the evacuees submit their leases to him and stated that he would write to the leasees involved. So far he has received only one lease. The Project Attorney is also trying to ascertain applicability of the Alien Resettlement Fund.

Meanwhile, an evacuee attorney returned from a trip to Hood River with an unpleasant report which might have affected those considering relocating to that area. He said that while reception was good around Seattle, it was not good around Portland. In Hood River he found it difficult to eat in public restaurants and at the Hood River Hotel he was requested to leave the lobby in no uncertain terms. He also reported that he had spoken to a storekeeper in Hood River named Isaac who had refused to sign a pledge to boycott the Japanese. This storekeeper's

WEEKLY REPORT/January 26 to February 3-1945/-4

counsel was that the Japanese return gradually rather than in a group.

Concerning funds the evacuee attorney said that many of the evacuees returning to Hood River did not speak English too well and it would therefore be difficult for them to make their own arrangements for financing by long distance telephone.

This week a shibai was presented on the project which I attended. One of the acts was, I think, indicative of evacuee thinking concerning relocation. The song, a burlesque of a Japanese classic in Japanese, was rendered by a middle-aged man. Its gist, after a long paean of praise on the virtues of Minidoka, was that "others may relocate, but not I." To the audience it was one of the funniest acts on the program.

Gate control was established this week on a 24-hour basis, with an appointed personnel gate clerk to check all outgoing and incoming evacuees and car passes. The evacuee gate clerks will continue to work on the 16-hour program as in the past.

The population of the center this week is 7,305.

Sincerely,

John F. Graham
Reports Officer

Approved

H. L. Stafford
Project Director

MINIDOKA RELOCATION CENTER

Reports Office

Project Director's
WEEKLY REPORT
February 10 to 17, 1945

AIRMAIL

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Dillon S. Myer
Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
Washington 25, D.C.

Attention: M. M. Tozier

Dear Mr. Myer:

There is still considerable distaste on the part of the evacuees here of being too closely identified with relocation. For more than a week the Project Director has been attempting to get an evacuee group to sponsor Mr. Myer's talk to the residents in the gymnasium but has had no success. Nor has he been successful in obtaining an evacuee to introduce Mr. Myer. The council refused on the basis that "everyone knows what he wants to talk about" and Mr. Fujii reported that in the council members' unanimous opinion the Administration should sponsor the meeting.

Relocation is a nasty word around here, though the exceptional popularity of the Relocation Officer has largely off-set the unpleasant connotations of the word.

In defense of our loyal residents it should be noted that they are subject to considerable criticism if they exhibit too pro-American tendencies and since relocation is considered in some quarters to be aiding and abetting the U.S. these people are extremely circumspect in discussing it. There are people here who still believe Japan will win the war, which fact prompted one Nisei to state in all seriousness that he anticipated an outbreak of hari-kiri here as soon as it was evident to certain residents that Japan was losing. I do not believe this is an exaggeration when you

recollect that a couple of months ago it was all over camp that Seattle and Portland had been bombed. All of which adds up to the question of whether to undertake an enormous task of re-education or whether to separate some of the goats from the sheep. I think, also, that we should consider laying it on the line to a lot of our people that if they don't get into war work in short order, they, by their recalcitrance, will be giving that much more ammunition to those who are agitating for deportation after the war.

One of the more discouraging factors in promoting the resettlement of residents on the West Coast is the recurrent instances of violence there. We are, of course, doing everything possible to counteract the unfortunate impression such incidents must make upon the evacuee mind by emphasizing WRA's efforts to do everything possible to combat violence and to see that the perpetrators are brought to justice. To accomplish this we have had the fullest cooperation of the West Coast WRA offices. Fortunately so far in every instance where the perpetrator has been caught he has proved to be a drunk and/or a member in good standing of the lunatic fringe. At least some of the evacuees here realize this as evidenced by the IRRIGATOR editorial of February 10 which commented that "when any such instance is investigated and analyzed the kind of people who perpetrate such an indecent and intolerant act are usually the kind who would be misfits in any society, whether white, black or yellow." I have only one suggestion and that is that more resettlers write their friends here telling how they're getting along. If the field offices would tell us who the friends are we'll make arrangements to pick the letters up for publication in the IRRIGATOR.

From our vantage point here it would seem that much groundwork must still be done to create public acceptance for the Japanese on the West Coast. A case in point is a letter received here from the Eatonville Lumber Company, Eatonville, Washington, in response to an inquiry from us concerning the possible re-employment of one of our evacuees. The reply which we received from Eatonville said in effect that as long as we had accepted the responsibility for the evacuee's welfare since May 20, 1942, we had better continue doing so until the end of the war--when feeling might have died down somewhat. Moreover, said the letter, "to bring them back now would mean riot and bloodshed and interruption of production, as evidenced by a recent communication attached hereto, which was addressed to the undersigned by the recording secretary of Lumber and Sawmill Workers Union 2587." The communication, from the union to the company stated that the crew had gone "on record as refusing to work with the Japanese if they are returned to the operation."

The closing of the mess halls scheduled for March 1 has brought a protest from the Parent-Teacher Association. A letter signed by Mrs. Fujii, PTA president and wife of the Community Council chairman, and addressed to the Project Director, specifically protested the closing of the D.H. 32 on the grounds that (1) the Chef of D.H. 32 has been making special provisions for the Huntville School children who eat lunches there under supervision which would not be available at other mess halls; (2) D.H. 32 has been serving cocoa each morning to some 20 Patrol boys; (3) D.H. 32 has been the ideal place for PTA's monthly meetings.

As Mr. Stafford recently wrote to Mr. Provinse, there have been rumors that the mess hall chefs were contemplating a plan to disrupt the schedule of meals which in turn would throw working hours out of gear. He also noted one rumor which indicated that certain individuals were known to have remarked, "Let them close the mess halls down, and when they do we'll burn them down." Mr. Stafford is, however, not taking this too seriously.

On the other hand the Project Director is concerned about the Washington ruling that the position of Guard for the postal service was being abolished as non-essential. Since he is personally bonded for the Hunt postoffice, which is completely manned by evacuees, it is likely that if Washington does not reconsider he will relinquish his bond. Since Mr. Stafford takes the stand that he could hardly be held responsible for the mail without some provision to safeguard it, it follows that he does not agree with Washington's definition of "non-essential."

Recruitment for the rayon company which has been making a drive here for 150 women workers has been slow. The Relocation Office reports that about 50 have been interviewed, but their reaction is luke warm. There is, in a word, a lack of interest on the part of any substantial number of people.

The Army recruitment for the ordnance depots has netted 33 families from Minidoka. In accordance with Mr. Myer's suggestion that an investigating group of three evacuees and perhaps one staff member travel to the depot in order to make a first-hand report on conditions, Mr. Stafford has suggested that some member or members of the Parent-Soldier-Association might logically make the trip. He is also hoping that the Army personnel at Sioux will make a statement to the effect that if more enthusiasm is not shown right quick by the evacuees the Army will call the whole deal off.

An incident which has potentially bad public relations aspects besides being inherently unfortunate from an administration standpoint was the recent destruction of a high

school classroom. Windows were broken and books were destroyed. Were this the first case of this sort the administration would not have viewed the matter with undue seriousness, but during the school year there has been recurrent destruction of school property. Toilets have been smashed and even locking up the lavatories has not discouraged repetition of damage. The administration, therefore, made a special effort to apprehend those guilty, despite the residents' customary ignorance of evacuee peccadillos. By a little police work on the part of Internal Security three boys were taken to the Jerome jail where, following the silent treatment, they implicated five other boys. The Project Attorney is making every effort to dispose of the case with as little publicity as possible.

The summary dismissal of the aliens employed as chefs by the WRA is causing some embarrassment to this project because, although the Project Attorney has attempted to obtain an adjudication of the matter, he has not yet succeeded in getting any promise for payment of the aliens' back salaries from the WFA. Among the WFA officials whom he has written are: the State Administration head at Boise, the chief of operations at Portland, the area representative at Salt Lake City and eight local WFA camp managers. On the advice of the WRA Solicitor in Washington he has advised the residents involved to file formal claims with the Court of Claims in Washington, and is giving them the counsel they require.

The Project population for the week of February 11 to 17 was 7316.

Sincerely,

John P. Graham
Reports Officer

Approved

H. L. Stafford
Project Director

MINIDOKA RELOCATION CENTER
Hunt, Idaho

Reports Office

Project Director's

WEEKLY REPORT

February 17 to 24, 1945

AIRMAIL

CONFIDENTIAL

Dillon S. Myer
Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
Washington 25, D.C.

Attention: M. M. Tozier

Dear Mr. Myer:

Relocation is foremost in the thinking of department and section heads here and all project work is being directed towards that end. This includes an honest effort to cut down on every activity not essential to the relocation program, including liquidation of the farm and curtailment of maintenance work where it is deemed unnecessary. On the positive side the relocation and welfare officers have been enlarged, evacuee property and legal have new quarters and provisions are being made to transfer personnel from other departments to augment the staffs of those departments connected with relocation.

I think it can be categorically stated that there is no negative thinking on the part of the appointed personnel concerning the possibility of closing the project by the first of next year and there is becoming progressively less on the part of the evacuees. This despite the fact that certain of the old Issei are still holding out for a permanent Japanese-Indian reservation.

The gist of Issei thinking here as indicated by a poll of the blocks prior to the Salt Lake Conference includes the following:

- I. Reasons of those who can not go back to the West Coast or relocate.
 1. Those who were placed in camp by the evacuation order expected the camp to be open until the end of the war.
 2. The government has no right to force these residents out.

3. The fear for life and livelihood, and the fear of persecution and oppression on the outside prevent these residents from leaving.
 4. The government announced that these residents would have a home for the duration. Now the government is breaking this promise.
 5. Forcing these residents out is not in accordance with W.R.A. policy and W.R.A.'s principle that residents would be encouraged to relocate, but would not be forced to go.
 6. Grammar schools and high schools should be kept open as long as the center is in operation.
 7. After the war, when evacuees are going back to their homes, the expenses should be paid by the government.
 8. The majority of the Issei are old and the sons upon whom they could rely are in the army. Those remaining are girls or small children who can not contribute to their parents support.
 9. Because of the notice of the evacuation order, whatever property or goods they had were sold at a loss.
 10. Whatever status evacuees had before evacuation, was the result of their sweat and blood. This status was destroyed by evacuation and their meager savings have been dissipated during the 34 month stay in camp.
- II. Conditions of those who can go back to the Coast or resettle:
1. A guarantee for life and property, and assurance be given to secure housing.
 2. That subsistence must be granted until evacuees are earning a livelihood.
 3. Persecution or fear against minority groups must be cleared up.
 4. To re-establish evacuees to their former status, loans must be made with a low rate of interest.

5. Business licenses of various kinds should be obtainable to evacuees and evacuees must be able to secure insurance.
6. Relocation grants should be increased.
7. Expenses should be paid for preliminary surveys of relocation opportunities.
8. The Exclusion order for parolees must be abolished.
9. Funds should be made available to evacuees for tools, equipment and machinery.
10. Restitution for damage or loss caused by evacuation must be made by the government.
11. Relief for those in relocation centers should be taken care of directly by the government.
12. Emphasis should be placed upon the improvement of community acceptance for persons of Japanese ancestry.
13. Relocation field offices should be maintained until the end of the war and preferably six months after the war.
14. Field offices should assist evacuees with general business transactions, hospitalization, education and employment.
15. The right to eat in restaurants or to buy goods in stores like other citizens must be assured.
16. The five mile limitation order for parolees should be abolished or the mileage enlarged.
17. When parolees leave the center, the freeze order on bank deposits or other property must be lifted.
18. Weekly and monthly parolee reports must be simplified or abolished entirely.
19. When evacuees, after leaving the center, are assaulted by individuals or groups, compensation should be paid to the particular evacuees or a family member.

While this type of thinking is not new to any of us who are concerned with relocation, it is encouraging to note that it seems to be largely restricted to the older generation--the younger generation does not seem to be thinking in terms of hand-outs but rather seems to have complete confidence in its ability to relocate at will. Most of the younger generation here are staying only because of their parents and will be a factor in persuading their parents to move. The attempt of some anti-administration evacuee groups to put social pressure on those who are thinking in terms of relocation, while still apparent, seems to be dwindling. How effective it will be in the future depends, I believe, upon WRA's ability to stand firm in its determination to close the camp by January 1, 1946.

There is nevertheless a seed of definitely pro-Japanese sentiment within the camp. Part of this is inspired by insecurity and the fear that there may be a mass deportation to Japan, but some of it is, in the opinion of the Project Director, definitely subversive. The Project Director is seriously concerned about this and attributes its existence to the fact that segregation was never completed. The situation is inherently vicious because the activities and sentiments of this small group of Japanese patriots can jeopardize the position of the great majority of residents who are loyal to this country. For instance, hardly a resident here failed to contribute to the drive in behalf of Imperial Japanese Army prisoners, not because the residents wanted to contribute but because they feared ostracism if they did not. And yet a good many of them know full well that such contributions if publicized would reflect unfavorably on every person of Japanese ancestry in this country.

The Project Director believes that this pro-Japanese group has proved a deterrent to recruiting for Sioux and Tooele, but he is at a loss to know how to cope with it under WRA regulations.

Up to the present time the residents here have had two major objections to Sioux Ordnance work:

- (1) Issei are afraid of being shot if, having worked for a war industry, they are forced to return to Japan.
- (2) Nisei eligible for the draft see no point in going to Sioux if they're drafted anyway.

To meet these objections the administration this week released a story to the IRRIGATOR which stated that, according to an agreement with the War Department, Nisei over 26 are eligible for draft deferment as war workers and Issei working six months or more at the depot will be given

letters of recommendation by the Commanding Officer which should prove a valuable asset in seeking post-war security.

The administration's objective is to relocate 700 people a month or, by July 1, to reduce the camp population to 4400. On the basis of past experience, however, the Relocation Office estimates that the camp population on July 1 will be 6400. Present population is about 7400.

One of the most important events of the week was Mr. Myer's address to the residents in the gymnasium. About 1500 attended and there is no doubt but that what he said concerning WRA's determination to go out of business next January will have a marked effect upon evacuee thinking. My impression, by reading between the lines, is that, if there is still a sizeable number of people in camp next January, camp will thereafter be administered by the Department of Justice. If this is true I think it might be well to have a release from Washington to that effect, particularly pointing up the fact that when WRA goes out of business none of the WRA services such as welfare, relocation grants, evacuee property, etc., will be continued. As I mentioned before, our chief concern is with the impoverished and destitute Issei and I believe that Nisei must soon start thinking in terms of helping out the old folks.

A few days ago the Parent-Teacher Association held a Founder's Day celebration at the gymnasium which 150 or so PTA members from neighboring towns attended. The balance of the audience, about 2,000, consisted of evacuees. The first half of the program included addresses by Caucasian and evacuee members of PTA and was, due to the quality of the speeches, most inspiring. The last half--the entertainment--was to say the least regrettable. Because it was arranged by evacuees who are consistently so motivated by the old kimochi that they lose sight of their objectives, the P.T.A. members of Idaho had the dubious pleasure of witnessing two hours of Japanese songs and dances by the Minidoka school kids whom, the speakers had already assured the audience, were just like other American kids. The tragedy is that most of them are thoroughly Americanized but you would never know it from what we saw that night. All we needed to make the evening complete was a Rising Sun as a backdrop.

This is not by any means a protest against Japanese dances or Japanese culture, but to put on an all-Japanese program with outsiders present is going a long way toward nullifying our efforts to convince the people of American and particularly the people of Idaho that our kids are as American as any others. It goes without saying that the 150 P.T.A.--ers from the neighboring towns were infinitely more important to relocation than the 2,000 evacuees and that each of the 150 was a potential propagandist

for or against the residents.

I anticipated that their reaction over the tea-cups would be "It was beautiful, but you know, they are hardly American," and evidently I wasn't wrong. A few days later I was talking to a P.T.A. officer in Twin Falls and she said that several of those present had called her up, somewhat perturbed that we were teaching "that sort of thing" in our schools. My point is that, while I see no objection to all the Fuki-yoses the residents can take as long as the audience is restricted to project residents and personnel, nor even to a slight dose of it for the edification of outsiders, nevertheless I should suggest from the public relations angle that the administration have some check on the content of such public showings, at least insofar as seeing that every Japanese dance and every Japanese song is counter-balanced by some American tap and American jive. While the older folks among the Idahoans might not like our younger generation's juke-box culture, at least it is something which they're familiar with through their own kids.

The outcome of the Council nominations here which, according to latest reports now number 21, indicates I was somewhat off the beam in my prognostication that if nominees were compelled to run there would be no nominees. Mr. Fujii, the Council chairman, attributes the encouraging response of the residents to the fact that the nominees, proposed as they were by the blocks, are assured of the support of the blocks that nominated them and with this assurance are now willing to run. However, according to one evacuee observer, those selected as nominees are persons of inferior character and intelligence. Elections will be held on February 26.

The resident population for the week of February 17 was 7,220.

Sincerely,

John F. Graham
Reports Officer

Approved

H.L. Stafford
Project Director

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minidoka Relocation Center.
Hunt, Idaho

Reports Office

March 9, 1945

AIR MAIL

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Dillon S. Myer
Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
Washington, D. C. 25

Project Director's
Weekly Report -
March 1 - 8, 1945

ATTENTION: Mr. M. M. Tozier

Dear Mr. Myer:

Prior to the departure of John Graham, Reports Officer, on his trip to Washington, we became aware of the existence of pressure groups working in opposition to the Administration Program leading to reduction of the number of Stewards' Workers and of the closure of certain mess halls. Through Internal Security we contacted persons who provided us with the names of the more active anti-administration organizers.

On March 1 the Steward's Department, which includes the chefs, brought about a slow-down in the serving of meals in the majority of the mess halls. The slow-down affected the working hours of evacuee employees and the attendance of school students. The larger number of mess halls served breakfast and lunch from 15 minutes to over an hour late. The evening meal was not so much affected. Workers, in consequence, for the most part, arrived very late in the morning, left for the usual lunch hour and being delayed did not return for afternoon work until from two to two and a half hours of lunch period had elapsed. The same occurred in the schools. Many workers and students preferred to arrive on time and so went without one or more meals; others expressed resentment and some received threats if they failed to cooperate with the slow-down. In those mess halls where the staff attempted full cooperation with the administration threats of retaliation were made, we are advised. Six of the mess halls out of more than forty closely followed usual schedules.

On Thursday due to uncertainty as to how the matter would develop, no supply deliveries were made from the warehouse to the mess halls.

On Friday the slow-down continued but the mess hall deliveries were made as previously which cut off the rumor that

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the Project Director would hold up delivery of food in order to force compliance.

On Saturday, the third day of the slow-down the Project Director gave a lengthy, detailed, clear statement of the background leading up to the slow-down, the Washington directives, the necessary program of liquidation and the justification for the March 1 release as follows:

From Stafford to Nichols, Rawlings, and Weston.
Re: Timekeeping and Payrolling.

"This is to advise Mr. J. H. Nichols, Assistant Project Director in charge of Administrative Management, which includes timekeeping and payrolling, that effective 8:00 a.m., March 1, 1945, all timekeeping and payrolling will be recorded on the basis of Section A, Page 57 of the new Finance Handbook, which became effective February 1, 1945, procedure allowing hourly rates for evacuee hours of labor actually accomplished on the job.

Mr. Nichols will notify all department heads and section heads effective immediately."

Explanation was also made of the need to carry out the regulations concerning school hours in order that Hunt should remain an accredited school system. The picture was so well and convincingly painted that several school teachers asked if they should not explain all of the foregoing to the students so that they and their parents would force the disturbers to return to the former schedules.

On Saturday night the Parent-Teachers Association sent a delegation to call upon certain of the leaders in the group of non-cooperating chefs and steward's workers. In the meantime persons came in to the Administration Offices to report secretly their experience with certain of the rougher members of the Do-Shikai group. If these people are to be believed the coercion went beyond threats. The Project Attorney at the direction of the Project Director therefore conferred privately with the chief troublemakers and explanation was made of the Director's power to refer cases which circumstances justify to the Department of Justice for removal from the Center.

On Sunday the Center was quiet and no complaints of delayed meals were made.

On Monday the Project went ahead as though no slow-down or other action had occurred. Undoubtedly the Project Director's

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plain talk, the invoking of the hourly rates and the unexcused tardiness of school children, brought the body of the people into a determined mass which the disturbers did not care to affront any further. The statements to the leaders of the power of removal also must have had a sobering effect. In any event the Project has functioned regularly and workers and school system have been operating as effectively this week as in any previous period.

A point which has often been brought up in relocation discussions, concerns temporary housing and it seems well that you should know what evacuees are proposing on the subject. The congested coastal areas, and the areas in which lessees refuse to move from evacuee property, contain W.F.A. camps. Evacuees want to know why they cannot temporarily enter such camps while locating housing. Many claim willingness to relocate if they could go out of the Project into a W.F.A. camp which provides an assurance of a place to stay until other quarters are located. Obviously W.F.A. camps are operated for a purpose quite apart from that of a haven for evacuees. However, as we are thinking relocation and grasping at possible solutions we pass this one to you. If W.F.A. Washington thinks well of allocating a part of its camps in regions we indicate we are assured we can fill them with relocated families.

It should also be stated that the \$11,000(plus) claimed to be owing to the evacuee workers in the W.F.A. kitchens for this past harvest season, and unpaid since November 9 to Minidoka residents has done more to undermine confidence in the Government promises than anything else we have heard discussed. Workers and their spokesmen have pressed for satisfaction of their claims, constantly bringing to our attention their determination not to relocate while the Government withholds their wages.

While Mr. Eberhardt and Capt. Martin were here on their inspection on March 6 and 7 they made particular inquiries relative to the pending prosecution of 8 Hunt school boys under the Idaho Juvenile Law as Juvenile Disorderly Persons. These boys were a part of a larger group, (testimony said 15) who on February 9 at some hour of the night broke 32 window panes, and sprayed the fluid contents of a fire extinguisher about the equipment of class rooms. The damage was not great but the effect on the school faculty was profound and pressure was exerted by the school authorities upon the other departments to take over the problem of investigation and punishment of those found guilty so that discipline could be restored. After three sessions of court in Jerome the County Judge sitting as the Juvenile Court pronounced sentence on March 8. At each session of Court the school boys accused, their parents, Community

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Council Education Committee and several teachers were present. All papers in the matter including the proposed Commitment Order (sentence) were read and explained to Messrs. Eberhardt and Martin who expressed interest because the children of Aliens are affected. They were entirely satisfied with all steps taken.

A very great deal of interest is manifest throughout the Center in the pending cases of George Ochikubo, Elmer Yamamoto, and Kiyoshi Shigekawa. These cases before the Federal Court at Los Angeles were brought as tests of the military power to exclude American citizens of Japanese descent from any coastal region.

The resident population for the week at this reporting is 7110.

Sincerely,

F. S. B.
Frank S. Barrett
Acting Reports Officer

Approved H. L. Stafford
Project Director

FSBARRETT:yk

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.

Minidoka Relocation Center.
Hunt, Idaho

In reply, please
refer to: Reports Office

March 17, 1945.

Mr. Dillon S. Myer
Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
Washington, D. C., 25

Project Director's
Weekly Report -
March 9 - 16, 1945.

Attention: Mr. M. M. Tozier

Dear Mr. Myer:

A. In the last report at the bottom of page 3 reference was made to the school disturbances of February 9. Those six found guilty were paroled to the Chief of Internal Security of the Project under detailed instructions of the Court. As the parole does not prevent relocation we are working jointly, the Relocation Office, Internal Security and Welfare to produce a workable plan and willingness on the part of the respective families to relocate. Briefly here is the picture: (1) Toranishi Kawako family number 17359, age 57 with wife and two sons aged 25 and 18 and daughter aged 16 resident at this project. Another daughter aged 26 is relocated to Chicago, and a son and daughter are living in Japan. The family intends to go to Seattle, but date is not determined.

(2) Yoritaro Tsuboi family number 17628 age 59 in bad health, former grocer for 22 years. Lives at this Project with wife and one son. A daughter has relocated to Hazelton, Idaho; a son to Highland Park, Illinois; a son to Caldwell, Idaho; and a son in the Army. Plans are being made to return the family to Seattle.

(3) Tomijiro Yamada, F. N. 17079, age 76, lives at Project with one son. The mother is patient in Seattle Sanitarium, and two sons are in the Army. The family greenhouse has been lost and so far the parent will not talk relocation.

(4) Seiichi Tambara, F. N. #15406, age 66 lives here with wife, daughter age 26, and two sons aged 13 and 15. Another daughter has relocated to Salt Lake and a son is in the Army. Mr. Tambara has diabetes and states that the place of relocation must be such that he can get regular doctor's care. He is a former Southern Pacific R.R. employee.

(5) Kagiru Tochiara, F. N. 12041, age 67 resides here with a son 15 and daughter 14; the wife is in Japan. One daughter is relocated to Twin Falls, Idaho; one daughter to Chicago; and one son is in the Army. This family will probably go to Chicago.

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(6) Tohei Enoki, F. N. 16894, age 58 lives here with wife and 4 sons aged 19, 17, 16, and 9 and two daughters aged 15 and 7. An older daughter has relocated to Cleveland, Ohio. This family will return to Seattle vicinity to truck farm, the father complained that he could not support this family outside, but we believe we can convince him that with his sons' help he can do so.

B. Last Sunday we had three other school boys in the Twin Falls County Jail under arrest for theft of an automobile from the Project. It appears that Mr. & Mrs. Plank of the Project had left their car with the keys in the ignition lock for a short time late Saturday afternoon, March 10. When they came back to the place where the car had been left it was gone. Later it was discovered in Twin Falls. How the boys got through the entrance gate we are not certain, except that the gatemen must have recognized the car and believed that Plank was driving. The boys had no gate pass, and three of them were in the car. In Twin Falls they must have known that the car was being watched as the boys rented a taxi cab and started for Hunt. They were overtaken by Internal Security, and although the boys jumped from the taxi and ran on foot away from the road, two of them were overtaken and lodged in the Twin Falls Jail, where it was found that they were aged 15. They gave information on the third boy, also 15, so he was also placed in jail. The three boys also implicated a fourth. The summary of these four families is briefly as follows:

(7) Harue Kawashima, F. N. 16056, age 53, (husband deceased), lives here with 16 year old son; a son age 27 and daughter age 21 are relocated to Colorado. Mrs. Kawashima does not think the son and daughter in Colorado can provide a place for them but we are working along this line.

(8) Taka Andow, F. N. 15228, (wife) lives here with son 16; the husband is in the Earlville, Illinois plant of the War Hemp Industry; 3 daughters, 24, 23 and 18 years are relocated to Cleveland, and one son in the Army. As the father does not consider his work permanent he will not move the family to Chicago, but plans for uniting them in Cleveland are progressing, they do not plan to return to the West Coast.

(9) Hachisuke Uyesugi, F. N. 15153, age 52 lives here with wife and three sons aged 18, 16, and 11; also two brothers and two sisters-in-law. The family formerly operated hotel property in Portland. We are trying to persuade them to return to Portland, but they resist, claiming to have sub-leased the hotel which will not be available to them until after the war.

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(10) Yoshihei Shiraishi, F. N. 15484, Age 54 lives here with wife and 5 daughters aged 19, 17, 13, 11, and 8; one son aged 15. A daughter is relocated to Spokane. This family lost the farm and equipment at Gresham, Oregon, and has heard so many adverse accounts of community acceptance they refuse to return now. The father claims that he cannot support the family off of a farm.

As car theft charges against the boys would likely prove expensive to defend; the parents to save these boys are going to do a lot of thinking over relocation in the next few weeks. We have no assurance that the court will follow our recommendation in this instance, as occurred in the matter of the school disorders, but to hold open the relocation question will do our best to induce all to relocate and the court to suspend all sentences if they do.

C. Many of our residents have lately received substantial dividends from the Sumitomo Bank of Seattle. For a number of months we could not induce the Liquidator to accept affidavits in lieu of pass books and certificates of deposit. Claims have been established now on the affidavits establishing loss of the other evidence during evacuation. In a surprising number of cases the depositor has died since proof of claim and dividend checks arriving at the project have to be returned to the Liquidator for reissuance to the widow or other heirs in a proceeding which avoids probate. This simplified handling has been worked out to avoid delay and expense of administration. The sums thus made available serve to make relocation easier to plan in many cases.

D. We continue to hear with disconcerting frequency actual cases of evacuee homes damaged and contents subjected to theft and vandalism. We are doing all we can to induce such owners to return anyway on indefinite leave to protect such value as is left. One large family which left this past few days had all beds and furnishings stolen from a 7-room home. To temporarily house them we had Welfare agencies in Seattle lend bedding and Father Clement, chaplain left here with them to assist in procuring the necessary things. This case is not to be considered an exception as the evacuee property and legal office are working up facts in numerous cases.

E. We are holding the inaugural ceremony for the Block Commissioners and Community Council in the Hospital tonight, March 16. The new chairman, vice chairman and secretary of the Council together with the retiring chairman called on the Project Director to see if a ceremony could be arranged which would lend prestige to their offices. Bert Weston, Supt. of the Hospital and Acting Assistant Project Director in Charge of Community Management has arranged for a dinner in the Hospital. The hospital staff agreed to do the added kitchen work on a volunteer

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basis which is indication of how highly they esteem the Supt. The newly elected community government is composed of former internees and oldsters whose allegiance to the United States may not be without condition. We have therefore figured out a special oath to be used in the ceremony which makes no reference to the Constitution of the U. S. but does refer to the W.R.A. Manual. The Oath which reads as follows, will be separately administered to the Commissioners and to the Council:

"You and each of you, as newly elected members of the Community Council of the Minidoka Relocation Center do solemnly swear that you will diligently perform those duties which are defined in the Manual and Administrative Instructions of the War Relocation Authority as the obligations of Councilmen and that you will cooperate with the Administration in the carrying out of the WRA Program doing all things possible to instruct those among the residents who are uninformed about the WRA policy; that you will take steps with the Block Commissioners to prevent the spread of untruthful and harmful rumors and to terminate contention and will otherwise do those things which in your honest judgment will induce understanding and tranquility among the people and will further the respect and friendship of all persons for the Japanese-American residents of this country. Answer I do."

F. We have endeavored for quite a while to move the Co-op out of the Warehouse #12 and into the now vacated mess hall of Block 22. We need the warehouse for surplusage of property. The Co-op has demanded several things in connection with the move such as the erection of a partition across part of the building, boarding up 3 doors, cutting a truck sized drive-in door, and spreading of a large quantity of gravel to support trucks going to and from the mess hall. The ground though soft and muddy now, will soon be dry, however the Co-op will not willingly make the move until the work is done at WRA expense.

G. An interesting and recurring problem is that of S. Itoi who has leased the "Carrollton Hotel" for many years. He owns the furnishings. In each past year of evacuation renewals have been granted by the owner under threat that the WRA would agree to store the furnishings. Now that the WRA will not agree to store the hotel furnishings (not previously in WRA warehouse) the building owner again refused renewal and claims that evacuee lessees will be forced to sell out at the end of the terms of leases because from now on owners will make them remove furnishings or sell at sacrifice prices. Notwithstanding hardship we will refuse to agree to WRA storage in such cases.

Sincerely yours,

Approved by:

H. L. Stafford
Project Director

Frank S. Barrett
Acting Reports Officer

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

MINIDOKA RELOCATION CENTER
Hunt, Idaho

In Reply, Please refer to,
Reports Office

PROJECT DIRECTOR'S
WEEKLY REPORT
March 18 to 24, 1945

Mr. Dillon S. Myer
Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
Washington 25, D.C.

Attention: M. M. Tozier

Dear Mr. Myer:

A disturbing note in the operation of the project was the discovery last week of vandalism in the interior of Rec. Hall #39. Apparently this vandalism has been continuing for some time, but was only recently discovered when someone noticed the windows were broken. A large part of this vandalism is probably due to the innate mischievousness of people when confronted with an empty building. This particular recreation hall has not been used for recreational purposes since last August. This fact can be traced to the disorganization of Community Activities previous to last October, when all recreation halls were kept under lock and key by the Community Activities committee and were only opened for special occasions. During this time the residents established the custom of using mess halls which were always available and recreation halls fell into disuse.

The Project Director, the Assistant Project Director in charge of Operations, the Acting Assistant Project Director in charge of Community Management, and the Community Activities supervisor this week inspected all of the recreation halls and found that only 14 were being used solely for recreation purposes, six for churches, four combined with play school and recreation and four being used by Co-op. as warehouses and canteens. The balance are vacant. On the basis of this inspection and after consulting with the supervisor of Community Activities, the Project Director has concluded that 22 of these buildings can be surplused and removed by June. 1.

The Project Director has two reasons for making this recommendation: (1) the buildings are of a prefabricated type and can be salvaged if taken down as soon as they are no longer needed; (2) making these buildings available to the public would alleviate certain housing problems in this area. Pictures have been taken of the damage in recreation hall #39, 17, and 42 and a letter from the director has been sent to Mr. Utz on the subject. Mr. Stafford has also written a letter to the Community Council requesting them to take action in this matter.

Since the mess hall slow-down from March 1 to March

WEEKLY REPORT/March 18 to 24, 1945/-2

5 all has been quiet on that front. While most of the residents were opposed to the slow-down in the first place it was the evacuee president of the Parent-Teacher-Association who was the chief instrument in having the slow-down called off. The P.T.A. president took action when the administration made it clear that school children would lose credits if they did not report to school on time. Because the slow-down was not a success the Mess Hall Workers' Association was broken up and the association's funds were turned over to the P.T.A.

It is said that many of the chefs who have continuously been turning down outside job offers are now considering them favorably. The only unpleasant features of the slow-down, other than the overall inconvenience which it created, were some instances of violence between evacuees who favored the strike and evacuees who opposed it.

A minor, but none the less interesting, indication of evacuee thinking concerning relocation is the stock of seeds for sale at Co-op. canteens. Last year at this time the Co-op. was completely sold out; this year seeds are still going begging. The fact is that while many of the evacuees are most articulate in their opposition to relocation, practically all, according to my evacuee informants, have a relocation alternative in mind.

The Relocation Office is sending out about 120 people a week. The relocation program officer anticipates that this rate will increase as the spring progresses. However, the Relocation Office is seriously handicapped by the lack of personnel. At the present time relocation is handling as many people as it can with the personnel available, but it must increase the number of relocatees per month to 700 if the project is to be closed by January 1, 1946. Since last January 1, 128 people have resettled in Washington, 115 to Oregon, 109 to Illinois, and 167 to Idaho.

Estimates as to the number of people who will be here next September vary from the relocation program officer's optimistic predictions to the pessimism of the die-hards. The middle road seems to be that about one-half of the present number of residents will be here next September.

Effective this week Evacuee Property has been re-organized to take care of the outflow of evacuees' belongings. The new set up includes a system whereby relocatees will list their belongings with the Evacuee Property Officer. From there the belongings are picked up at the evacuees homes and taken to warehouse #2 for crating and boxing. Evacuees need not accompany their belongings to the warehouse, though the administration prefers that they do as an insurance against loss. At warehouse #2 a crew crates and boxes the property in accord-

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ance with standards and specifications established by the railroads. From the warehouse a crew takes the property to the railroad. Mr. Rice, Farm Superintendent, has been detailed to supervise this work.

About two weeks ago on March 17 three boys from this project were apprehended by members of Internal Security between the project and Twin Falls. They had taken a car belonging to Mr. Plank, Chief Engineer. Internal Security took the boys to Twin Falls where they were jailed until released on WRA recognizance. They have since been living on the project. The case has not as yet come up for final disposition.

According to the Community Analyst, only one member of the relocation planning commission showed up for the bi-weekly meeting. The Community Analyst attributed this to the fact that relocation was unpopular with the residents and that even the members of the commission did not wish to participate. The fact is, however, that three members of the commission were at the meeting and others had good reasons for not being present. One had relocated, another was visiting Seattle, a third had gone to the train to meet his brother, a fourth was attending a council meeting and a fifth was engaged at that particular time in P.T.A. work. There is no indication that any of the members deliberately avoided the meeting. Until the last meeting of the Relocation Planning Commission, eight to twelve members have attended.

The population of this project at the present time is 6813.

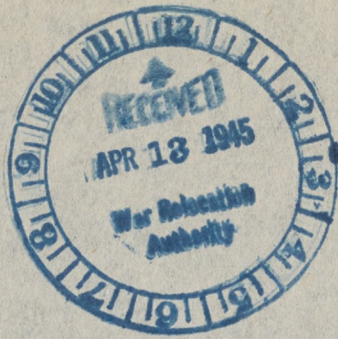
Sincerely,

John F. Graham
Reports Officer

Approved

H. L. Stafford
Project Director





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PROJECT DIRECTOR'S
WEEKLY REPORT
March 25 to April 14, 45

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War Relocation Authority

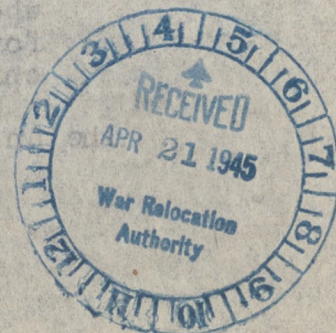
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Project Attorney and by Mr. Bernhardt, Assistant Solicitor, who was visiting the project. The answers forwarded to the Superintendent of Education are briefly:

- (1) That the WRA does not recognize any obligation to continue the schools after June 1;
- (2) That the State of Idaho assumes no responsibility for the maintenance of a school system on the project and in all probability the state cannot provide either facilities, teachers, or transportation for students from this center wishing to attend nearby schools;
- (3) That the State of Idaho will not accredit a school unless the teachers are accredited and that WRA is discouraging any such operation because of the inability to supervise such a school. "Relocation is the main objective," the Project Attorney said, "And all personnel will be used to further relocation as contrasted by the maintenance of a school system."

A representative from Block 14 called on the Project Director last week to protest the fact that Block 14 only has one boiler man as contrasted with two in the other blocks. Mr. Stafford said that in all probability the boiler men from the other blocks would gradually be terminated, but if this did not happen a second boiler man would be hired for Block 14 in order that there would be no inequity.

While relocation has held up above the 100 a week rate established at the first of the year, it took a slight slump during the last week of March. It is our understanding that Granada is now leading the other projects in the percentage of the number relocated to the total population with 8.9%. Minidoka is second with a percentage of 8.1%. However, Minidoka has relocated 685 to Granada's 580. This indicates that we will hold departures to about 100 a week for the month of April and this figure will prevail until the end of school.

A better bus schedule has been arranged to Shoshone for making train connections but there is still some difficulty in the amount of baggage involved.

Welfare is concerned about the lack of progress made on dependency summaries. Although 92 plans are now in the field, some of these since the first week in January, no answers have been received. Mr. Fistere in a telephone conversation with the Relocation Office recently explained that many of these are being held up because his office feels that too many dependency cases thrown on the welfare agencies in and around Seattle at this time would create unfavorable public

A circular blue ink stamp. The outer ring is a clock face with numbers 1 through 12. The word "RECEIVED" is printed in a bold, sans-serif font in the center. Below it, the date "APR 21 1945" is stamped. At the bottom, the words "War Relocation Authority" are printed in a smaller, sans-serif font. A small arrow points to the number 4 on the clock face.

relations.

The shortage of rice has been the subject of extensive conversation among the evacuees. The Assistant Project Director in charge of Administrative Management and the Chief Steward have released stories for publication in the English and Japanese sections of the IRRIGATOR explaining that the project is making every effort to obtain rice and that the quartermaster has promised us a priority even over export. Nevertheless, according to the Chief Steward, the rice shortage can in a great measure be explained by the fact that the liberated people in the Philippines depend on the United States to provide some 700,000 pounds of food stuff, much of which is rice, each day. The Chief Steward believes that although in the past we have consumed between 90,000 and 100,000 pounds of rice on the project per month, we can, without causing hardship on the residents, get along with 80,000 pounds. Until publication of the IRRIGATOR story there was some sentiment among the evacuees that the WRA was trying to starve the evacuees out, but now that they have the whole story there should be no further conversation along this line.

As a result of project rumors (no doubt emanating from the volatile staff of the English section of the project newspaper), the executive secretary of the Co-op. requested a clarification of the administration's policy regarding the continuation of the IRRIGATOR. In reply the Project Director pointed out that "it appears safe to say at this time that the IRRIGATOR cannot conceivably operate for any period beyond which it is unable to maintain an adequate staff," and that since the matter of staffing the IRRIGATOR for any definite time appears to be problematical, the IRRIGATOR should be made subject to the liquidation policy of the Co-op. consistent with the general objective of the Co-op. to be completely liquidated by December 31, 1945.

Last week the Project Director informed the Chairman of the Community Council that in accordance with procedural mandate providing that mess halls serving 125 or less be closed, the mess hall in Block 10 would be closed this week. The Project Director pointed out that in accordance with previous policy concerning mess hall closures, other facilities such as the laundry, and boiler room operations would continue in the normal manner.

It is significant that there has been no adverse reaction to the closing of the mess halls which would seem to indicate that the residents as a whole are resigned to the gradual liquidation of the camp.

In line with the Project's retrenchment policy 52 evacuee employees were terminated this week. Most of those terminated were employed in agriculture and engineering. The reshuffling at the same time resulted in increased evacuee employment in the Reports and Relocation Divisions and the Health,

Education, Welfare and Transportation Sections.

A bottleneck in the dissemination of information concerning job offers was uncovered this week between the Reports Officer and the Relocation Officer. A multitude of job offers of every description are sent to this project each week but there is no effective channel to inform the residents of these offers as they come in. This is due, according to the Assistant Relocation Officer, largely to a lack of adequate personnel in the Relocation Office. At the present time the Relocation Office has only five of the eight appointed personnel positions filled.

Another factor which has handicapped the Relocation Office is the rapid relocation of evacuee secretaries. The upshot is that the Relocation Office has not been able to carry through the block to block interviewing which they would, with adequate personnel, like to do. I think, however, that some method of getting employment information to the residents more rapidly can be worked out between the Reports Officer and the Relocation Program Officer.

Until recently many of the residents have been talking about juvenile delinquency but nobody has been doing anything about it. There have been, however, two positive steps taken to solve the problem.

Following two overt acts of juvenile delinquency which were placed in the hands of Internal Security, the Community Council announced the organization of Juvenile Board to function as part of the Community government under the jurisdiction of the Community Council. The Juvenile Board consists of three members and a secretary and includes the chairman of the Hunt U.S.O., the vicar of the Episcopal Church and the Assistant Community Analyst.

The second step was the opening on March 14 of the "Sage Door Canteen" which includes booths and a snack bar for high school youngsters. The canteen also includes a game room, two ping pong tables, a lounge and very shortly it will have a horseshoe pit and volley ball court. Since the high school has no girls' athletic program the Community Activities Supervisor will probably institute an athletic program for girls.

The canteen is open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and students are permitted to drop in during their free periods. The Community Activities Supervisor said that the school authorities reported that there had been less destruction of school property since the canteen opened. The canteen was started with \$50. provided by the Community Activities. All the carpentry work and decoration was done by the high school students. Membership of the canteen consists of 1600 and 300 are in and out during the day.

WEEKLY REPORT/March 25 to April 14, 1945/-5

Funds for the operation of the canteen are held by the Community Activities Supervisor. There is now approximately \$100. in cash and \$200. in stock including soft drinks, popcorn etc. The canteen is under the sponsorship of a committee consisting of one representative from the Welfare section, two high school teachers, and two members of the student council. The student committee which runs the place consists of a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, chairman of the house committee and chairman of the program committee.

Recently there has been agitation on the part of some of the students that funds taken in by the canteen should be retained in the hands of the student committee. The Community Activities Supervisor on the other hand is objecting to this because (a) the students are minors and all are potential relocatees. The Community Activities Supervisor, however, feels that the books should be kept open for the students' inspection and he has asked student representatives to inspect the books. They have, however, at this writing not taken advantage of his offer. If there is any indication of trouble along this line the Community Activities Supervisor will insist that the Co-op. take charge of the canteen's funds.

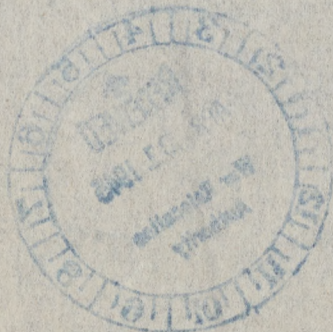
The project population at this time is 6,541.

Sincerely,

John F. Graham
Reports Officer

Approved

H. L. Stafford
Project Director





UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

MINIDOKA RELOCATION CENTER
Hunt, Idaho

In Reply, Please refer to,

Reports Office

PROJECT DIRECTOR'S
WEEKLY REPORT

April 15 to May 5, 1945

AIRMAIL

Mr. Dillon S. Myer
Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
Washington 25, D.C.

Attention: M. M. Tozier

Dear Mr. Myer:

With only a few scattered complaints from the evacuees Minidoka Project operations are gliding smoothly along the groove. Every indication is that we have finally turned the corner here and that all the residents, whether they talk about them or not, have relocation plans of one sort or another.

Despite this generally positive attitude on the part of the residents, the chairman of the Community Council on April 30 wrote a letter to the project director protesting the project employment cut which went into effect April 1. The Community Council chairman reported that the Council members and Block Commissioners had asked for clarification of the administrative policy concerning unemployment since they felt that the policy "should be and can be either modified or altogether changed if the reactions to it prove negative from the broader, over-all purposes of the WRA." The letter stated that "the creation of an unemployment situation appears to be part of the pattern to pressure residents into relocating."

Fairly well convinced that the letter was the work largely of a noted project politician who has considerable influence though no official position with the Council, the Project Director nevertheless sent a lengthy reply to the Council Chairman in which he pointed out that it had always been WRA policy "to provide employment opportunity calculated to keep the essential project operations functioning and

Project Director's Weekly Report/4-15 to 5-3/-2

assist prospective relocatees to take the final step in relocation." While the percentage of employed persons has perhaps been higher than would be found in outside communities, the Project Director pointed out, "under the post-exclusion order policy, and in anticipation of closing the camp and liquidating much of the activity, it naturally follows that planned employment must necessarily embrace lesser numbers of project residents." The Project Director also quoted the budget transmittal letter from Washington which pointed out that our evacuee employment ceiling for the 4th quarter had been cut from the requested 2,374. But, the Project Director added, "this administration can make no interpretation of the present employment situation except one of a natural and normal sequence, following the institution of a process of project liquidation."

The Project Director has also received a letter from the Community Council protesting the closing of schools on June 1--this despite the fact that Mr. Myer's reasons for recommending closing of the project schools has already received considerable publicity here in English and Japanese and despite the fact that the Project Attorney has investigated the legal aspects of the case as it pertains to agreements with the Idaho school system and has already transmitted these findings to the project P.T.A.

It can only be concluded that the Council wrote the letter at the behest of some resident die-hards. Nevertheless the Project Director is planning to reply to the Council restating Mr. Myer's views.

As a result of a suggestion made by the Coordinator of Information, a plan to obtain closer cooperation with the evacuees in solving relocation problems is to be instituted on the project on May 10. The plan is that appointed staff members meet every second and fourth Thursday of each month with 14 representatives of the Community Council and the Block Commissioners. The meeting is to be held in a mess hall, instead of in the Council chambers. The Project Director purposely selected this neutral territory in order that the evacuee representatives would be able to talk free of any political pressures. The Project Director is organizing the meetings in an honest attempt to discuss relocation questions sincerely and frankly with the evacuee representatives. He has stated that the success of the meetings will depend equally upon the sincerity with which appointed staff members discuss the questions brought up for discussion by the evacuees, with no publicity to be given to the discussions.

The weekly relocation bulletin printed in Japanese each week under the supervision of the Reports Office is getting an excellent reception on the project. In response to one job offer appearing in the bulletin a resident himself wired the prospective employer (in New Jersey), an action without

precedent here.

Eight boys employed as drivers by the Motor Pool were terminated recently by the administration when they were placed on the Army's stop list. This resulted in a Council protest to the Project Director, the Council's contention being that the boys could be given driving jobs not requiring them to go off the project. The administration found, however, that there were only three driving jobs in which there was no possibility of leaving the project. This was explained to the boys concerned and presumably there will be no further comment.

The Project Director has also received protests regarding the food being served on the project. Residents in various blocks have grumbled about this situation and have interpreted the bad meals as an attempt by the administration to starve them out. A check with the Chief Steward shows, however, that the same quality of food is being delivered to the project. The bad meals result from (a) the chefs' refusal to stick to the menus, which results in food shortages at the end of the week and (b) the fact that deliveries are sometimes late which necessitates last minute menu changes. Inasmuch as the Chief Steward felt that a large part of the food shortages resulted from the chefs' improvisation, the Reports Officer suggested that the steward post the daily fare on the mess hall bulletin boards for the residents' information.

The Motor Pool since last December has been undergoing extensive re-organization under the supervision of the Assistant Project Director in charge of operations. Last year from 20 to 35 vehicles were regularly out of commission; now, with the exception of six truck motors in Denver for repair, never more than five or six are on the rack at one time. There are, not including tractors, now 158 vehicles on the project divided as follows: 28 passenger cars of which 19 are on 8-and 24-hour assignment and 9 are in the Motor Pool,

- 18 pick-ups on assignment
- 9 station wagons; 5 on assignment and 4 in the pool
- 50 cargoes; 6 on assignment and 44 in the pool
- 33 stakes; 12 on assignment and 21 in the pool
- 2 ambulances on assignment
- 2 busses in the pool
- 2 semi-trucks in the pool
- 2 fire engines on assignment
- 1 load lugger in the pool
- 13 dump trucks in the pool

Twenty-one tractors have already been surplused leaving a total of 13 in use. While more tractors and a half-dozen trucks could be surplused, the chances are that no action will be taken on this till sometime in the summer.

Project Director's Weekly Report/4-15 to 5-5-/4

Since the re-organization plan by which the majority of passenger cars were returned to the Motor Pool went into effect the Assistant Project Director reports that on only rare occasions has the Motor Pool been unable to furnish members of the appointed staff with required transportation.

The surplus property sale held here on April 25 was attended by 81 registered farm dealers and 40 registered automobile dealers. Of 89 items offered and sold, 69 of them went at ceiling prices.

There has been a noticeable turn-over of appointed personnel in recent weeks with 10 resignations and 19 additions to the staff. Now on the payroll are 178, or seven less than our 185 ceiling. The probability is that the cushion will be absorbed by Relocation.

Of the approximately 75 teachers here, 21 will be detailed to jobs on the project in Relocation, Evacuee Property and Welfare. Twenty others have already found jobs outside.

The Personnel Officer is generally optimistic about the personnel situation here and foresees no trouble in filling existing vacancies. At the present time the only shortage is in clerk-stenographers, the division most handicapped in this respect being Relocation. Relocation has, however, brought its quota of interviewers from five to its allotted eight in the last couple of weeks.

Relocation, despite its stenographic handicaps, is proceeding at a smart rate. While a lull was expected until school closed, 169 people left the project last week. The Relocation Program Officer is especially pleased by the fact that substantially more Issei are visiting the Relocation Office than previously.

The center population is now 6,053.

Sincerely,

John F. Graham
Reports Officer

Approved

H. L. Stafford
Project Director



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

MINIDKA RELOCATION CENTER
Hunt, Idaho

In Reply, Please refer to:

Reports Office

AIRMAIL

Mr. Dillon S. Myer
Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Bldg.
Washington 25, D.C.

Attention: M. M. Tozier

Dear Mr. Myer:

One of the finest examples of administration-evacuee cooperation was culminated last week with the initial step in solving a particularly persistent project problem--the juvenile delinquency of a gang of 'teen age boys. These were the boys who were apprehended for destruction of school property and they have been a concern to the evacuees as well as to the administration.

Some weeks ago the Community Council appointed a juvenile delinquency board consisting of evacuees in their thirties who have had experience and an interest in juvenile welfare. The first case to be brought to the attention of the Project Director was that of one of the boys who was implicated in the school case.

Accompanied by three members of the juvenile delinquency board, the boy was brought to the Project Director's office. Also present were the Project Attorney, two appointed members of Internal Security and the Reports Officer. The Project Director set the pace in his questioning of the boy. He discovered that the boy's father spoke no English and the boy spoke no Japanese. The boy does not have a mother. There was, however, a sister-in-law in Minneapolis who could take responsibility for the boy's welfare.

One of the I.S. officers pointed out that the boy was high-spirited and a leader. The Project Director commented: "Often those who later become leaders have difficulty in conforming to the rules and regulations of society."

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Project Director's

WEEKLY REPORT

May 6 to June 5, 1945

Librarian
Lynn
E. Brown
Beattie
Bullman
Trull
McKee
Prinzel
Spicer
Beckhoff
Files (MS)

The Project Director's recommendation was that the boy make a contribution to the community and to himself by working on the project's memorial park. Later the boy's friends called on the Project Director to find out what the disposition of the case had been. The Project Director told them about the memorial park and suggested that they might help their friend. The boys have taken to the suggestion and for the last week they've been working in the park, mowing the lawn and keeping the gardens in order.

The Project Director also recommended that the offender who was brought to his office be found a new home outside. The juvenile delinquency board arranged this with his sister-in-law and, with the help of the Community Analyst, convince d the boy's father that the boy should leave in the company of two juvenile delinquency board members who were going East. The argument, I understand, went on for several days and it was only a couple of hours before train time that the father released the boy.

The consensus of opinion is that the boys are only troublesome when together and every effort is being made to see that they relocate to different areas.

Another juvenile delinquency problem concerns girls here between the ages of 14 and 16. The juvenile delinquency board, however, has not yet had the opportunity to tackle this one.

The second in a series of informal meetings between the administration and the evacuees was held last week with 14 of the appointed personnel turning out and three evacuees. Despite the evacuees' poor showing the Project Director is not inclined to be critical of their attendance. The stand he takes is that it will take at least three or four meetings before we have obtained the evacuees' full confidence.

A situation in garbage collection which, I think, reflects an unawareness on the part of some evacuees of the altered conditions of camp operation since the lifting of the West Coast ban has arisen here within the last ten days. The situation was apparently precipitated by the administration's effort to discontinue the garbage crew and to set up in its stead a ground maintenance crew. The re-organization was initiated as a result of an agreement made with an outside contractor whereby he collected all garbage suitable for pig feed. The ground maintenance crew was designed to collect all dry garbage and keep the grounds in order.

In addition to the assignment of new duties, the administration also hoped to eliminate the garbage crew's unauthorized use of government vehicles, insufficient working hours and a beer and gambling concession operated by the foreman.

Although members of the garbage crew were informed of the contemplated change and were offered jobs on the new crew, 13 promptly turned in their resignations. The up-shot has been, of course, that the garbage has been stacking up throughout the project. Evidently this brought about the desired result because at this writing the hog farm foreman has volunteered to head the ground maintenance crew with 12 men of his own selection.

In the past week the Relocation office has instituted three minor but important changes in procedure; (1) heretofore if any property was missing the evacuee's pass was withheld, now adjustments are made in the fiscal office; (2) some supervisors have been permitting evacuee employees to sign statements that all WRA property had been returned, now Relocation insists that a member of the appointed staff take this responsibility; (3) until the present time Housing had been situated in Block 22 but has been moved to the Ad area in order that relocatees can follow through the entire leave procedure with a minimum of inconvenience.

While there are some residents who still think that the schools will open next fall, among them being the mother of a notorious girl delinquent, the more intelligent are convinced the jig is up. After one volley at the administration the president of the high school P.T.A. went back to Seattle. The last volley was fired by the chairman of the Community Council (who is scheduled to relocate in another week or so). In a letter to the Council the Project Director discussed the situation at length. Listing the published policies of WRA as they pertain to the closing of the schools and the liquidation of the center, the Project Director concluded.

"Valuable time will be saved, and more pleasant relations will result, if the council and the residents, together with the administrative staff, can approach the facts in this situation on a basis of cooperation and unity of purpose."

Sincerely,

John F. Graham
Reports Officer

Approved

H. L. Stafford
Project Director



Mr. Stafford:

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

MINIDOKA RELOCATION CENTER
Hunt, Idaho

In Reply, Please refer to
Reports Office

Project Director's
WEEKLY REPORT
June 5 to June 25, 1945

Mr. Dillon S. Myer
Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
Washington 25, D.C.

Attention: Mr. M. M. Tozier

Dear Mr. Myer:

The War Food Administration has owed \$14,000 to 53 residents of this center since November 7, 1944. The Project Attorney, by repeated requests from the Chairman of the Community Council and various creditors, has written letters on the subject to various people connected with the War Food Administration. As yet these residents, many of whom are citizens, have been given no consideration whatever. That is to say, their correspondence to WFA is ignored, they claim, and no payments have been made. This has held up relocation of many residents and greatly impaired the confidence of these people in the government, and has created great dissatisfaction as a result of the proof of discrimination against them. These people had labor contracts executed by WFA which were treated as a nullity. Since their contracts were repudiated these workers consider that the government's good faith is lacking in other things.

At the joint Appointed Personnel-Community Council meeting on Thursday, June 14, the evacuees present were considerably surprised to hear the favorable reports of conditions in Portland related to them by Mrs. Friedman, Relocation Officer for that area. This, despite the fact that such information as contained in the Northwest News Letter, prepared by the Seattle office, has received considerable circulation here.

Relocation within the past two weeks has fallen off. There are many factors contributing to this situation among which are the following:

1. The feeling that resettlement assistance, as administered in the center, is the first step toward reimbursement for losses suffered through evacuation. Residents argue that if they "hang

WEEKLY REPORT/June 5 to June 25/-2

on" long enough in the center, financial assistance will be increased.

2. Rumors that WRA will change its stated policy and reopen schools in the fall.
3. Wishful thinking that WRA will soon designate some center to be kept open for the maintenance of those who consider themselves unrellocatable.
4. A belief that conditions on the "outside" are too difficult. Some of this is caused by letters from disgruntled relocatees who write the worst of their experiences to friends in the center. Moreover, despite the fact that employment opportunities are given wide circulation in the center, there is the fear that suitable jobs with good tenure possibilities are not available. There is also the fear that returning veterans will offer too keen competition in the labor market and that in consequence, relocatees who have secured employment on the "outside" will lose their positions as soon as demobilization assumes large proportions. There are similar trepidations occasioned by news of cut-backs in war industry and the temporary unemployment of former war workers during the reconversion period.

This does not mean that residents have ceased to plan for relocation, but that many of them are delaying the consummation of their planning until they are convinced of the truth or falsehood of the above-mentioned rumors.

For the first time in project history the population is lower than 5,000. As of June 25, the population is 4,932.

Sincerely,

John F. Graham
Reports Officer

Approved: H. L. Stafford
Project Director

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

Minidoka Relocation Center
Hunt, Idaho

FILE COPY

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In Reply, Please Refer to:

Reports Office

Project Director's
WEEKLY REPORT
August 25 to 31, 1945

Mr. Dillon S. Myer
Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Bldg.
Washington 25, D.C.

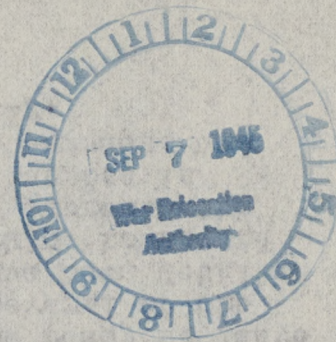
Attention: Mr. M. M. Tezier

Dear Mr. Myer:

While I do not have the final figures of departures yesterday, I do know that we have passed the total figure of 1,000 relocatees for the month of August. This brings the total population down to approximately 3200, and we feel we are in a good position to empty the center completely on schedule.

Next week we have three days on which special coaches are scheduled to leave for the West Coast, two on Tuesday with 141 persons signed to go, one large coach on Wednesday with 69 signed up, and two more coaches on Friday. This last has not yet been signed completely but we are confident we can fill them. The following Tuesday, September 11th, we have two special coaches scheduled with the space all signed up now.

We have had some cancellations during the week of individuals and families who had relocation plans all made, but refused to leave on the days planned because of a bottleneck which has developed in the packing and hauling of personal property. We can assume no responsibility for property left in the barracks and those ready to leave refuse to go until the crating is done. Several of the appointed personnel from other sections have been detailed to help in this emergency, both during working hours and in the evenings, but we are still far from current with the load of work. Evacuee labor for this purpose is available for picking up property in the barracks and transporting it to crating warehouses only.



TO THE DIRECTOR, WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
FROM THE DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
SUBJECT: [Illegible]

RE: [Illegible]
[Illegible text block]

1. [Illegible]
2. [Illegible]
3. [Illegible]

Very truly yours,
[Illegible Signature]

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We are endeavoring to get more temporary people for this purpose, but our recruiting efforts have not met with much success. Lack of labor to manhandle evacuee property appears now to be a major problem.

On Thursday morning one of our carry-all trucks was involved in an accident on the road near Shoshone, while hauling evacuees and baggage to the Union Pacific depot. The car turned over and one woman suffered a fractured rib. Four children were also bruised, but not seriously hurt. They were brought back to the hospital here for treatment.

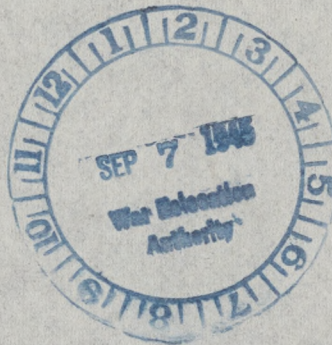
As a result of our series of educational meetings which were concluded last week, we have now moved into the Class A group (persons with relocation plans made and a date of departure fixed) some 770 people. We expect to resume the meetings next week, notifying individuals to attend who have not yet made plans. These notices will be distributed by the Internal Security.

The Chambers of Commerce in Jerome and Twin Falls are becoming interested in the further development of Bureau of Reclamation lands started by WRA. I am expecting a call from these people, accompanied by a member of the United States Congress today.

Sincerely,

W. E. Rawlings
Acting Project Director





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RECEIVED

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON, D. C.

TO THE DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
FROM THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
SUBJECT: [Illegible]

1. [Illegible]
2. [Illegible]
3. [Illegible]
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6. [Illegible]
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11. [Illegible]
12. [Illegible]

Very truly yours,
[Illegible Signature]

Hunt, Idaho

In reply please refer to:
Office of Project Director

September 10, 1945

Mr. Dillon S. Myer, Director
War Relocation Authority
Washington D. C.

Dear Mr. Myer:

While the movement of people out of the center on relocation continued at a good pace, it was not as good as we had anticipated because of postponements caused mainly by the bottleneck in packing and shipping evacuee property. We have detailed personnel from the appointed staff to the fullest extent possible and yet the work is approximately a week behind schedule. Appointed staff members have worked extra hours and in evenings to help out in the handling of property. People are unwilling to leave until the property has been packed. On Tuesday when we had special coaches leaving for Seattle and Portland, there were 45 postponements because of the property delay.

We have posted notices in the area and are making every effort to recruit laborers locally. Some handbill mimeographed matter has been sent to the Seattle office, so that arrangements can be made to distribute it there at place where lay-offs are occurring. Certain other measures are being taken, which we have discussed with the Washington office on the telephone. If we can get additional people on the job we hope to clear up the backlog on the property packing and shipping. We have plenty of cars spotted to load.

The series of educational meetings which were conducted this week were well attended and I believe we are getting results. There was not the flood of new people coming to the relocation or welfare interviewers as a result of the meetings this week, that we noted last week when the first meetings were held. However, there has been an increase. We estimate now that there were about 150 persons who received notices to attend these meetings, who failed to do so, representing of course more than that number of center residents because these are heads of families. We still had 70 excludées and 41 detainees at Minidoka when the War Department proclamations were issued this week. This action will be helpful in many cases. A typical one

is a family involving 13 persons, where three were on the excluder lists. Now the family can be returned to the West Coast as a complete unit.

Our figures show that in the Class B cases (ones who have a destination picked out but have set no date for departure) there are remaining 1130 people. In the Class C (those who have no plans or date) there are remaining 230. This does not mean, however, that the figure of 230 represents our remaining difficult cases, because many of the Class B people have selected a destination but appear reluctant to set a date and are probably using the classification merely as a stall.

The third series of meetings will be held next week for those who failed to attend those held this week. These people will not only be notified by Internal Security but will be escorted to the meeting place. At this time we propose to outline very plainly the steps that will be taken to close the center and give them a last chance to voluntarily make plans.

The two week notice system has been quite effective. We find that when these notices are served a number of those receiving them immediately come in to talk of plans. Two week notices are now being served on all B cases.

The delay in getting approval on the welfare case applications submitted to the West Coast states, has been giving us considerable concern. The time lapse has been running a full month in most cases and much longer in the more involved ones. This week we started sending out wires followed by letters on all cases which have been submitted prior to August 15th, and as a result we have had action on some 35 pending cases. We propose to continue this plan sending out wires next week on all cases which were submitted prior to August 25th. The California cases are as a rule much slower than those from Washington and Oregon.

The number of new intake cases at the Welfare office has also increased in the last week as a result of educational meetings. There was a total of 67 new cases, including the re-settlement assistance, since September first.

There are a number of very involved welfare cases, which are causing us some concern. There are also a number of cases where it is extremely difficult to establish three years legal residence. These are most often old men who had been itinerant workers in the fishing or farming industry or on the railroads. We feel that every possible step should be taken by

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the Washington office to aid in preventing a residue of unfinished cases of this kind and to catch up on pending applications with the states of legal residence before the time is too short for the closing of the center.

Sincerely,

W. E. Rawlings
Acting Project Director

*Prepared by
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