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RELOCATION ADVISORY BOARD

EVACUEE RELOCATION INFORMATION COMMITTEE

Dr. Miyamoto

Dr. Okubo

Rev. Suzuki

Mr. Mack Saito

Mr. Abe

Mr. Nozawa

Mr. Yuzawa

~~Mr. [REDACTED]~~

Rev. Yamaka

Dr. Terami

~~Mr. [REDACTED]~~

Mr. Naka

Mr. Domoto

Miss Domoto

Mrs. Takeyama

Mrs. Yasaki

Y.W.C.A.

Blue Star Mothers

Women Federation

Mr. Asamoto (Pioneer)

Mr. Kay Sugahara

High School Students

W.R.A. STAFF RELOCATION COMMITTEE

Mr. Knodel

Mr. Vecchio

Mr. McClelland

Miss Ramsland

Mr. Gordon

Mr. Turk

Dr. Rademaker

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF RELOCATION ADVISORY BOARD

Dr. Miyamoto

Dr. Okubo

Rev. Suzuki

Mr. Saito

Mr. Sugahara

Dr. Rademaker

RELOCATION EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Mr. Katsuki Iki

MINUTES OF THE ADVISORY RELOCATION BOARD
December 4, 1943

The meeting of the Advisory Board was called to order by the Chairman, Rev. Lester Suzuki, at 8:30 a.m. Present were Mr. Ed Arnold, Director of the Relocation Division of WRA, Mario Vecchio, Willis Hanson, and Walter Knodel of the Project Relocation Division, Joe McClelland, Reports Officer, Samuel Gordon of the Adult Education, Katsuki Iki, Mr. Kono, Kay Sugahara, Dr. Itsuge Okubo, Dr. Tatsuhiro Miyamoto, Yuri Domoto, Shiro Abe, Mr. Yuzawa, Ed Runcorn, Advisor of Consumer Enterprises, J.J.O. Moore of the Public Welfare section, substituting for Virginia Ramsland of the same section, Mr. Nozawa, Mr. Harvey Turk of Community Activities, and John Rademaker, Community Analyst, Mr. Robert Asamoto of the Japanese language section of the Pioneer was present as an observer.

Mr. Suzuki and others gave a brief statement of the purpose of the Evacuee Relocation Information Committee--to inform everyone who is interested in relocation, to lay the cards on the table, to present the facts--all of them, not merely the rosy ones--and let people see with their own eyes and judge for themselves. The old pioneering spirit will be needed again in this venture of relocation, and the better equipped the relocators are, the better are their chances of success. Hence we should carry out the process of securing and making available to the residents of the Center as much information as possible from the evacuees point of view.

A motion was made and seconded to establish an Advisory Relocation Board by merging the Evacuee Relocation Information Committee and the WRA Staff Relocation Committee, the combined committees to act as the Relocation Advisory Board. Membership in the Board should be on a representative basis, with the present composition of the two committees, with some additions to include the High School Students and the ladies, and perhaps some of the staff members, as a basic personnel. This motion was carried unanimously. The suggestion to include representatives of the (1) High School Students (2) The YWCA, (3) The Blue Star Mothers, and (4) the Women's Federations, (5) the staff sections of Community Activities, Community Enterprises, Education, and Relocation, in the persons of Mr. Turk, Mr. Runcorn, and Mr. Gordon or Mr. Garrison, Mr. Vecchio and Mr. Hanson, was approved.

A motion was made to constitute Dr. Okubo, Dr. Miyamoto, Rev. Suzuki, and Mack Saito (with Kay Sugahara as his alternate, since Mr. Saito plans to leave shortly) an Executive Committee of the Board. A question was raised concerning the function of such an Executive Committee, and the motion was split into two parts: (1) whether we want such an executive committee or not, and (2) whether the persons named were acceptable.

The function of the Executive Committee was described as close and intimate guidance and advice of the Executive Secretary of the Board. The Board being fairly large and unwieldy, many detailed questions which do not

merit the trouble of calling the Board together should be taken care of by a smaller group of elected representatives of the Board, composed wholly or chiefly of evacuees. The smaller body, the Executive Committee, is required to refer all matters of basic policy to the entire Advisory Board, but in matters not involving such basic policy, it is to act as any advisory group to advise and assist the Executive Secretary, in carrying out the basic policy defined by the entire Advisory Board. The motion was again made, seconded, and passed unanimously that such an Executive Committee be established.

It was moved and seconded that the persons named by Dr. Miyamoto, on behalf of the Evacuee Relocation Information Committee, be elected to the Executive Committee, with one representative from the WRA staff. Since Mr. Rademaker has operated as liaison man between the Evacuee Relocation Information Committee and the WRA Staff Relocation Committee, it was suggested that he serve on the Committee. (The suggestion of the Washington WRA diagram and plan, that the WRA relocation Officer be made Executive Secretary of the united evacuee and staff body, was considered by the Evacuee Relocation Information Committee beforehand. It felt that that would militate against the success of the work of the Advisory Board and its Information Bureau, since many residents would feel that the Relocation Officer had simply gathered a few docile evacuees to front for the WRA Relocation Division. Hence a person less partial to WRA administrative control should be found. It was felt unwise, however, to have no WRA representative on the Executive Committee, if that is agreeable to all concerned.) This motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Katsuki Iki was nominated for the post of Executive Secretary of the Relocation Advisory Board. It was felt that he was the most suitable person available, so no other nominations were made, and he was elected unanimously, all present voting for him. His duties were stated to be that of directing the Office of the Board, and the operations of the Relocation Library, to counsel persons who requested information or advice concerning relocation, and to work with the Executive Committee and Advisory Board in preparing, formulating, and administering policies adopted by the Board. He is to prepare a monthly report to submit to the Board for its approval, and for the approval of Mr. Lindley, and to prepare financial reports of the operations of the Board as often as requested by Mr. Lindley, to submit all plans involving any expenditure of money to the Board and Mr. Lindley for prior approval. He is to establish an office somewhere on the project, secure an assistant and a secretary-file clerk and in general carry out the actual labor involved in providing information for the assistance of persons who

wish to relocate, and to carry out any other duties pertinent to that basic purpose assigned to him by the Executive Committee and the Advisory Board. He is also to coordinate the work of the Board with the various sections of the WRA staff so as to avoid confusion and misunderstanding.

The Reports Officer reviewed the new machinery for securing information from field offices and other governmental agencies by the Reports Division. He offered the full cooperation of the Reports Section to assist the work of the Board. The Relocation Officer also volunteered his full cooperation whenever requested by the Board and in general agreement with the purpose and work of the Board.

The meeting was adjourned officially to permit Mr. Arnold to meet informally with the members of the Evacuee Relocation Information Committee present. Several hours of such conference followed the adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

John A. Rademaker,
Secretary pro tem.

TO: Community Management Division: Mr. Ray Johnson

FROM: WALTER KNODEL: RELOCATION PROGRAM OFFICER

Berkeley

An army team will be here from Camp Savage shortly to recruit qualified Nisei and Kibei for the next semester.

The men in the armed forces have been a big factor in winning public recognition and public approval for all persons of Japanese extraction. The 100th infantry in Italy and the recruits at Camp Shelby have gained much publicity. The graduates of Camp Savage have been equally active and valuable (but for reasons of military security it has not been publicized). We feel that a number of qualified persons in the center remain of draft age who are eligible. We are calling all members of the appointed personnel to contact all eligible men in their respective department to acquaint all possible prospects of this opportunity.

This project is an important part of our country's War Program. We hope you will succeed in interesting eligible Nisei and Kibei.

All candidates will have an opportunity to talk over with the Army Language Team problems and opportunities connected with Camp Savage.

We will again advise you of the exact date of arrival of the army team, however, at this writing they are expected on the 20th.

Your cooperation is appreciated.

Qualification age-18-38.

COPY

MEMORANDUM

November 9, 1943

TO: James G. Lindley

FROM: John A. Rademaker

SUBJECT: Meeting of the evacuee relocation committee with representatives of the WRA at Amache, November 6, 1943.

Background

During a series of some ten or more meetings, the foundations of an organization were laid. The purpose of such a committee--to assist all persons who wish to relocate by giving them better preparation and more information which they need for successful relocation, to supplement and complement existing WRA machinery and activity, to secure and distribution information bearing on relocation, by and for evacuees (on the principle that however well relocation and employment officers work, issei in particular will be much more likely to listen to and depend upon the word of an evacuee than upon anyone else's)--were determined. Two major problems were taken up: (1) Should this attempt be made independently from or in close cooperation with WRA sections, divisions, and relocation officers? Arguments in favor of independence included the psychological advantage of steering clear of all charges by residents of the Center that the committee was a stooge for WRA and simply carrying the torch for WRA rather than trying to serve the evacuees. (Unfortunately there is still a distinction in the minds of some residents between WRA policies, or any government policies, and the welfare and benefit of the residents. The committee does not share the belief in this distinction, but it is aware of this attitude among the residents, and in order to make its work more effective some members felt that the committee should work independently.) However, it was pointed out that the mechanics and financial and other authority rests legally with WRA, so that an independent committee might be suspected of illegal purposes and activities, and also of running counter to some parts of the WRA. In order to avoid this possibility, it was decided that it would be better to work in conjunction with the WRA. In order to avoid the suspicions of the residents, on the other hand, it is desirable that the committee operate as independently as possible so far as actual and ostensible determination of policy is concerned.

The second major problem dealt with finances. Independent support by evacuees was urged. It was pointed out, however, that the work of the committee is in actuality the accomplishment of at least a part of WRA policy and responsibility, and that inasmuch as that was true, and the finances of the residents strictly limited, it would be only just and good business for WRA to underwrite the costs of the operations of the committee, which will certainly not be large in comparison with the cost of similar activities now carried on by WRA. The appeal for private subscriptions to the residents, to the co-op, and to the Recreation Association would certainly produce substantial initial amounts, but would not provide a current, dependable income on the basis of which a budget could be set up, and plans projected. Hence the decision was made to seek an arrangement whereby the funds necessary for the carrying out of the work could be supplied by WRA, with strict accountability to the Project Director for proper conduct and use of such funds.

THE MEETINGS

With this background, meetings were requested at which the program, purpose, and plans of the committee could be presented to the Council, the Block Managers, and the Administration. The Council and Block Managers approved the program, purposes, and plans, and selected representatives to sit on the Committee. The Administration representatives, consisting of the WRA staff Relocation Committee (Mr. Vecchio sitting in place of Mr. Knodel), Mr. Gordon for Adult Education, Mr. Turk for the Recreation Association, and Mr. Rademaker, who was added to the original WRA staff Relocation Committee by the Public Affairs Committee as its staff representative at its last meeting. At this meeting, the administration representation approved the general principle of the purposes, program, and plan of the Committee, but raised some questions as to the procedure to be followed which would enable the committee to secure the administration of WRA funds and still maintain a maximum of independence of action. The suggestions and recommendations worked out included the following:

(1) Enlargement of the existent Relocation Committee appointed by the Project Director in July or August, to include the representative group which represented the evacuees at that meeting, namely,

Council: Shiro Abe, Mack Saito

Block Managers: Messrs Yuzawa and Nozawa

Schools: Samuel Gordon and Dr. Terami
Religious groups: Revs. Lester Suzuki, Shirokawa,
Toshioka, Yonemura, Yahiro
Recreation Association: Harvey Turk
Public Relations: Joe McClelland
Public Welfare: Virginia Ramsland
Employment and Relocation Office: Walt Knodel,
Mario Vecchio,
Kay Sugahara
Co-op: Dr. Miyamoto
General Public: Dr. Itsuji Okubo, Mr. Naka, John
Rademaker, Katsuki Iki

(2) Setting up this enlarged committee as an Advisory Board in control of the activities planned and proposed. This Advisory Board could get up a less cumbersome Executive Committee, elected from among its members, who could exercise direction in detail. The entire Advisory Board to select, direct, and oversee the activities of a Director of the Relocation Information Bureau, and one or two office secretaries and assistants. This office could (if Adult Education agrees) take over the task of operating the Relocation Library, expand it, and make it the central office from which it operates. The entire expense for this would be WRA salary of the director and secretaries, office stationery, and literature, etc. In order to maintain a maximum of at least ostensible independence of policy; it would be advantageous to have the body responsible directly to the Project Director. Expenditures, budget, and accounting of funds would be subject to his examination and approval. If operation proved the necessity for expansion, that would also be subject to his approval. In other words, complete responsibility for the use of the small amount of funds needed would still exist. If the principle of evacuee responsibility for, and evacuee initiative in carrying out, relocation is sound, as we believe it is, then such funds would be amply repaid by increased success in immediate relocation, and ultimately strong increase in quantity of relocation, especially among isseis. It is the purpose and program of the Committee to work with the various sections and divisions of the Administration, in a supplementary and complementary visions of the Administration, in a supplementary and complementary manner, and to avoid all possible duplication or inconsistency in work.

John A. Rademaker
Community Analyst

MINUTES OF THE STAFF RELOCATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Project Director's Office
August 16, 1944
Wednesday, 9:00 A.M.

MEMBERS: Mr. L. T. Hoffman
Mr. Raymond P. Sanford
Mr. Roscoe E. Bell
Mr. Gilbert L. Niesse
Dr. LeGrande Noble
Dr. Oscar Hoffman
Mr. Claude Pratt
Mr. Perry Carmichael
Mrs. Mary Lue Cochran
Miss Eleanor Gerard
Mr. G. V. Morris
Mr. Russell A. Bankson
Mr. George Lafabrogue
Mr. Ralph C. Barnhart
Miss Leah K. Dickinson

PRESENT: Mr. Bell, Mr. Lafabrogue, Mr. Carmichael, Mr. Morris,
Mr. Barnhart, Dr. Noble, Miss Mack, Miss Sundwall,
Mrs. Cochran, Mr. Gonzales, and Miss Dickinson.

As planned in the last meeting of this committee, there was some general discussion of relocation and how the administrative staff can best develop positive attitude toward relocation. Dr. Noble opened up the discussion by asking how best we can reach those persons on the appointive staff who do not attend these meetings and whose attitude concerning relocation is neutral because of lack of information concerning the program. It was felt that these people need more information which might be brought about by having members of the Relocation Staff attend division and section meetings and conduct a discussion on matters of relocation. The appointive staff, who work more directly with the evacuee worker, need to know more of the general objectives of relocation and the answers to give when approached by their evacuee staff members.

Dr. Noble pointed out the fact that the project is operating on a program which, in itself, may discourage the idea of relocation, i.e., renovation and construction which implies that we are going to build an institution that we can be proud of and which seems to be more or less permanent. Mrs. Cochran added that, in the same way, the hospital services tended to develop a health dependency and even while serving its useful purpose, at the same time tended to act as a deterrent to relocation.

Mr. Bell expressed the opinion that it was best to concentrate on good maintenance as against any further construction program. It was pointed that the lack of security arising from poor maintenance and bad conditions at the Center could do much to deter relocation.

It was suggested that families of the boys in service, particularly, the early volunteers might be interviewed, especially in regard to their relocation plans. This would have to be done with careful planning.

Miss Dickinson stated that she has not met one instance of a member of an appointive staff really standing in the way of relocation of any resident worker in their section or unit, but she felt that appointive staff members could be a greater positive force in relocation if they were given more information regarding it.

Mr. Carmichael asked whether or not the Relocation Division got much indication that people hesitated to relocate because they were not trained in any skill. Miss Dickinson replied that there was often indication of this being the case and has showed up, particularly in the material gathered in the family discussions.

Mr. H. V. Nicholson, member of the Fair Play Committee in California, attended this meeting and spoke. He told of the campaign being waged by the "Friends of American Way" to get letters from fair-minded people who favored the return of the evacuees to the West Coast and forward these letters to the military authorities to offset the adverse pressure being brought upon them from other sources. However, he felt that even while this campaign is being waged, the evacuees should not sit and wait in the centers but should find their way into other parts of the country pending return to California, if that is what they desire.

He spoke at some length regarding the Seabrook Farm in Southern New Jersey. A recruiter may be here at Topaz to recruit for this project, which is a food growing and a dehydrating unit. At present, at Seabrook, 350 out of 7,000 persons are of Japanese ancestry. He suggested that five or six persons from Topaz might go out to work for a period at Seabrook to see for themselves what working conditions are like and return to report to the residents of Topaz. It was his feeling that this type of employment holds a great deal of permanency because the post-war employment in this industry is good. Also, having a #1 priority, employees have a good chance for deferment from army service. The housing is new and good and living cheap. The most adverse feature is that it is a rather isolated community and institutional in some aspects. However, acceptance in this part of New Jersey has been good.

It seems that the Relocation Division should consider the possibility of doing some recruiting for Seabrook in the late fall after persons return from seasonal leave.

Mr. Nicholson will speak this evening at a meeting called together jointly by the Block Managers and the Community Council in Dining Hall 32. He speaks in Japanese and addresses his remarks especially to the issai.

LEAH K. DICKINSON
Executive Secretary

STAFF RELOCATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Office of the Project Director
August 23, 1944
Wednesday, 9:00 A.M.

MEMBERS: Mr. L. T. Hoffman
Mr. Raymond P. Sanford
Mr. Roscoe E. Bell
Mr. Gilbert L. Niesse
Dr. LeGrande Noble
Dr. Oscar Hoffman
Mr. Claud Pratt
Mr. G. V. Morris
Mr. Russell A. Bankson
Mr. George Lafabregue
Mr. Ralph C. Barnhart
Mr. Perry Carmichael
Mrs. Mary Lue Cochran
Miss Eleanor Gerard
Miss Leah K. Dickinson

PRESENT: Mr. Bell, Mr. Carmichael, Miss Mack, Mr. Barnhart,
Mr. Turner, Mr. Sanford, Miss Gerard, Dr. Noble,
Mr. Pratt, and Miss Dickinson.

Miss Dickinson announced that Mrs. Manwaring, from the Leland Stanford University, would be here on August 24 to interview applicants for the Civil Affairs Training School at that university. The Relocation Division has lined up around nine applications. Interviews have been scheduled for all these people with Mrs. Manwaring plus a few more who are interested in similar post in other sections of the country.

The Administrative Notice No. 120 "Relocation plans for unattached children" was discussed briefly. This procedure divides the responsibility for handling of the relocation plans of youth 16 years of age and under between the Welfare Section and the Relocation Division. This will be a further safeguard against too hasty and unconsidered handling of the plans of these young people, and furthermore, places an additional responsibility on the Relocation Officer in the field.

There was a brief discussion on seasonal leave and some of the more recent instances of interrupted contract, which has been an unanticipated feature of this year's seasonal leave; and it is felt that some time in the next month, there should be a meeting of this committee entirely on seasonal leave policies to review the problems of the current season. It was thought that it would be well if Mr. Peterson of the Salt Lake City Office could be present at this discussion.

Miss Mack reported that the program of Family Discussions had been resumed, and Blocks 2 and 3, Block 4, and Block 5 had been covered with a follow-up scheduling of families who had failed to appear on the first invitation. In Blocks 2 and 3, 65% responded to second invitation; Block 4, 100% response; and in Block 5, no responses at all. Under the present procedure, the Block Manager is contacted and prepares the way for the interviewers. Miss Mack reported that she was discussing the matter of Block 5 with the Block Manager to find out

what happened here. She reported that it is obvious that in this follow-up interview that the families now scheduled are those who have the most difficult problem in regard to relocation, not merely as to attitude but health, age, etc.

There was some discussion as to the advisability of being entirely realistic at this point in discussing relocation problems with the families and bringing out the fact that after the closing of the war a change is indicated, and there is no guarantee that W.R.A. will continue. Dr. Noble felt strongly that the Washington Office of the W.R.A. should come forth pretty strongly very soon as to the policy after the war is over. Mr. Barnhart felt that it was wiser not to build up on uncertainty which can deter relocation and that any Washington statement at this point might be construed as pressure. Mr. Pratt and Miss Mack felt that during the interviews there was no hesitancy in pointing out the fact that the future of center life is uncertain. However, it is done from the point of view of helping the family to meet problems which will have a bearing on their future no matter what happens. It was pointed out that the increased trend toward family relocation may indicate their realization of the trend of the war and the uncertainty of continuation of W.R.A.

In this connection, there was a discussion of the effect of the closing of a center on relocation. Mr. Carmichael pointed out that the announcement of the closing of Jerome almost completely stopped relocation. Quite a few people came back for reinduction to help their families in the transfer to another center. However, it was evident to him that relocation in the long run was definitely stimulated. It was suggested that in the Monthly Narrative Report we might ask other centers, which have received Jerome transferees, to note whether or not Jerome transferees relocated at a greater rate than their own resident group.

Leah K. Dickinson
Executive Secretary

MEETING OF THE STAFF RELOCATION COMMITTEE

Office of the Project Director
August 30, 1944
Wednesday, 9:00 A.M.

MEMBERS: Mr. L. T. Hoffman
Mr. Roscoe E. Bell
Mr. Raymond P. Sanford
Mr. Gilbert Niesse
Dr. LeGrande Noble
Dr. Oscar Hoffman
Mr. Claude Pratt
Miss Eleanor Gerard
Mr. G. V. Morris
Mr. George Lafabreque
Mr. Ralph C. Barnhart
Mr. Russell A. Bankson
Mr. Perry Carmichael
Mrs. Mary Lue Cochran
Miss Leah K. Dickinson

PRESENT: Mr. Hoffman, Mr. Niesse, Mr. Pratt, Mrs. Cochran,
Miss Mack, Mr. Bankson, Mr. Barnhart, Mr. Lafabreque,
Mr. Turner, Mr. Kimball, from the Washington Office,
Dr. Hoffman, Miss Gerard, and Miss Dickinson.

Miss Dickinson called attention to the discussion in the meeting of this committee on August 23 in which it had been expressed that there should be some statement from the W.R.A. Washington Office concerning the future of this agency and the policy after the war. She reported that the consensus of the opinion of this discussion had seemed to be that such a statement might only serve to increase insecurity and might be construed as pressure. She pointed out that there must be some attempt on the part of staff members to resolve their own confusions in thinking about the future of this program in order that they do not transmit their own doubts and fears to residents. Granted there will be a transition period, we have a right to assume that it will be in an orderly basis with provision for the security of the evacuees.

Dr. Hoffman stated that rumors concerning the closure of the center, the lifting of the evacuation order, etc. were more frequent and believed that this reflected the trend of the war. He reported that a committee was in formation among Block Managers to discuss the future of the Japanese-Americans, and it is agreed that this was a hopeful indication.

Miss Dickinson led the discussion in regard to the Ordnance Depot plan which came into the picture this past week. A resume of the Sunday discussion with the Army representatives has been passed around to appointive staff members for their information, but it has been felt unwise to give any publicity to this in the Center at this point. However, it can be talked about, as it is being talked about in the Center through the Council and Block Managers. As yet, our information is not definite enough to answer all questions.

Mr. Turner discussed the matter of group relocation in response to a request from H. Rex Lee, Acting Chief of the Relocation Division, Washington, D. C. Mr. Lee asked that we give him an evaluation of this

program at this time. Mr. Turner felt that the residents were reluctant in developing elaborate plan for group relocation without first having something concrete in the way of opportunity outside, and very few group opportunities had been sent in from the field and most of those not in adequate detail. There is nothing really definite around which a group may form. So far, it has been mostly a matter of interest growing up around an individual leaving for the purpose of investigating relocation possibilities.

Mr. Kimball pointed out that whereas the previous W.R.A. relocation policies were built entirely around individuals, the group relocation plan had represented a new approach. He pointed out that part of our difficulty may be because of the fact that Topaz residents are largely an urban group and have not had the experience of working in groups, which is more prevalent in small communities.

Mr. Kimball also reported that in the Washington Office, a committee had been formed to study plans and possibilities of fostering discussion groups of evacuees in the Center. Whereas it was admitted that to promote such discussion groups from the administrative angle would only defeat the purpose. It was felt any such spontaneous movement toward discussion groups in the Center should be encouraged. It is not the province of the Relocation Division to take any action in this effort. It falls more logically somewhere between Community Activities and Adult Education.

Miss Dickinson called attention to the fact that a revision in the Manual 50.1.70 represents a real change in policy regarding students who come to visit their families during official vacation periods of their educational institutions. They may stay in the Center without payment for either meals or quarters in case they intend to return to school when classes are resumed.

Miss Dickinson announced that she would not be present at next week's meeting since she is attending a small conference on seasonal leave at Heart Mountain. Mr. Hoffman said that he felt that the committee should discuss again the place of the appointive staff in matters of relocation, not merely from the standpoint of attitudes, but from what they may do to facilitate relocation. This may be the topic for next week's discussion.

Leah K. Dickinson
Executive Secretary

Mr. Brent Bowen
HKB

MINUTES

STAFF HOUSING COUNCIL MEETING

November 3, 1944

PRESENT:

Miss Leah Dickinson
Mrs. Raymond Sanford
Mrs. Gilbert Niesse
Miss Margaret Mack
Miss Florence Thorp

Mrs. Clarence Ostlund
Mrs. C. A. Tyrrell
Mrs. C. E. Horaback
Mr. Ralph Earl
Mrs. Helen Fry

1. Miss Dickinson reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting. Mrs. Sanford reported that there will be only one delivery of groceries per week from Sutherland. Mrs. Tyrrell said that Stevens grocery in Delta charges 10¢ per order for delivery, and Miss Dickinson suggested that a survey be made of the other grocery stores in Delta to find out what their charges would be. Orders should be phoned in the afternoon before delivery, if possible.
2. Miss Dickinson asked about the progress of the Red Cross chapter. Mrs. Sanford said that Mrs. Bell had requested that those who are interested in forming a group to work with the Delta chapter let her know by a certain time. So far the response has been slow.
3. The progress of the paper drive was brought up for discussion. More information is needed on this.
4. In connection with the work of the Recreation Committee Mr. Earl reported that folk dancing is progressing satisfactorily. The Rec. Hall piano has been tuned. Mr. Boyce has a juke box lined up, and the pool table has been installed. Mr. Lafabregue has asked for a schedule of the activities in the Rec. Hall in order to avoid conflicting engagements. So far the only nights actually scheduled are Thursday and Friday. It was suggested again that the monthly staff party be held on Saturday night. The committee members are in favor of this change, and a recommendation will be made to this effect. Mrs. Chastain will be asked to make a schedule of Rec. Hall activities.
5. Mrs. Tyrrell reported for the Playground Committee, and said that gravel is needed between blocks 205 and 206. Several other blocks, including 201, 209, and 210, were mentioned. A recommendation will be made as to where gravel is needed, particularly the space around the laundry. Mr. Bell has written that due to the breaking down of the trucks the delivery of gravel will be held up until some time in November.

6. Another member must be appointed to the Finance Committee to replace Mr. Glenn Seal, whose resignation has been submitted and accepted by the Council.

7. Mr. Henry Watson has been contacted about the request for lumber to build shelves or cupboards for canned goods. He has said that he will take this up with Mr. Hoffman to see if it is permissible.

8. Colored slides can be obtained from Mr. Hoffman and Dr. Collier. Mrs. Niesse suggested having a record concert in combination with the showing of the slides in the Rec. Hall. Mr. Earl mentioned that the State Education Department has slides available free of charge.

9. Mrs. Niesse said that every time there is a party the question of raising funds comes up. It was suggested that a bake and candy sale be held for this purpose. Miss Dickinson appointed Mrs. Niesse to form a committee to make arrangements. The north end of the administrative canteen, the section used by the mimeographing department at present, will be vacant, and can be used for a bake sale. The date was set for Thursday, November 16.

10. Quite a good deal of interest has been shown by staff members in getting an indoor drying place. Miss Dickinson questioned what preference would be shown as to location. The administrative warehouse is the closest building, but the goods stored there now would have to be moved in order to provide space. The Internal Security building will be vacant, and, while it is small, could be used temporarily. Whatever building is finally decided on, it will be necessary to provide a stove for the winter. Mr. Earl suggested that the Internal Security building be used for storing some of the things now in the warehouse, and the warehouse used for indoor drying.

11. Miss Dickinson brought up the matter of the whereabouts of sewing machines on the project. Mr. Howard has said that there are some available. The machines in block 2 had been taken out and never returned. Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Roraback have machines, and there are also two in Dormitories C and D. Mrs. Roraback was asked to schedule these machines for use in much the same manner as the washing machines are scheduled. Miss Dickinson will find out from Mr. Howard the whereabouts and condition of the machines.

12. Mrs. Sanford mentioned that she had been able to secure some wax and said that it is available at the center. Miss Dickinson appointed Mrs. Fry to find out the project regulation on the use of wax and furniture polish by the staff members. If it is available, a notice will be sent out to the staff.

13. A Community Thanksgiving dinner is being planned in combination with the next monthly staff party. Questionnaires on this, to be sent out to the appointive staff, seem to be the best way of contacting people and securing information. Miss Mack remarked that because the kitchen crew is so small, service would have to be on a volunteer basis. It will also be necessary to plan something for the children. Mrs. Sanford has inquired about turkeys for the holiday season and was told there will be a sufficient number, but that orders should be placed early, at least a week before Thanksgiving. Mrs. Niesse suggested that Mess Operations be asked to supply the ingredients for the dinner to the extent of the ordinary dinner price charged. The questionnaires will be sent out on Monday, and a special meeting of the Housing Council will be called on Friday, November 10, to make plans.

14. Miss Dickinson mentioned that in making plans to give candy as Christmas gifts to the janitors, cleaning women, and other help on the project, the orders must be in early. Also in ordering be sure that the name of the person for whom it is intended is indicated clearly. This will be taken up at the next staff meeting after a list of the people who are to be included in the gift presentation is made up. Miss Dickinson will inquire as to what has been done before in this connection.

15. Miss Mack reported on some complaints that have been received from the janitor and cleaning woman in block 2 on the condition of the laundry after it has been used by people from the apartments. They report that the laundry has been left in terrible disorder. Another complaint is that apartment people have been using the washing machines, overload them, and then fail to report any damage that occurs. A meeting is to be held in block 2, and it will be decided then just what steps are to be taken. While the residents of block 2 feel that they should not keep people from using their laundry entirely, they would like to have some assurance that the laundry will be left in good condition, and the equipment used carefully. They would also like people to refrain from using block 2 laundry at the times when it should be vacant for the use of the residents down there. The appointive staff laundry also was discussed, and it was decided that in all laundries one tub will be set aside for washing animals, and a notice will be sent out to all to use equipment with care and report any damage promptly, so that it may be corrected. Mrs. Koraback will post a notice in the laundry that the wringers on the double machine are very hard on silk things.

16. Mrs. Niesse said that some objection has been raised to having 12 and 13 year old children attend the staff parties. After a discussion of the various aspects it was decided to talk this over with the various blocks and discuss further at the next meeting.

17. Mrs. Niesse mentioned that the children want to schedule a baseball game with the older members of the staff, and that they have asked for a mixed team of men and women. Mr. Earl will attempt to recruit the opposition for this ball game.

18. Miss Dickenson reported on the all-important question of commercial transportation. The request went to Denver, and the Denver O.D.T. turned it down. The administration is still trying to get the Denver O.D.T. to reconsider, and Mr. Hoffman has called Washington in an effort to bring about some consideration of the request. Mrs. Niesse suggested forming a car pool in groups of four or five, and arrangements for trips to Delta can then be made according to the car pool schedule. This suggestion will be worked on, and a questionnaire prepared.

19. The Hallow'een activities of the children were discussed, particularly in connection with damage done to some cars and roaming through the dormitories. Miss Dickinson said that this had been brought up at the Project Director's morning conference. Mr. Roof has made an investigation and reported his findings. The parents will be contacted in an effort to prevent using the dormitories as a thoroughfare and a short-cut on the part of the children. Notice to this effect will also be placed in the Desert Wind. Further discussion brought out the fact that some children have been building shacks on the project, and it was felt that this is rather dangerous and could easily result in injury to some of them.

20. Mrs. Fry said that a number of complaints have been received as to the poor quality of the food served in the administrative dining hall. Most of the complaints have been concerning the lack of balanced meals, and the fact that no effort seems to be made to plan meals along these lines. The Dining Hall Committee needs more concrete backing from staff members if their requests are to be met. Miss Dickinson will meet with Mr. Howard and the other committee members and decide what action to take.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 P.M.

Helen Fry
Secretary

STAFF HOUSING COUNCIL MEETING

Mr. Grant Bowen

December 1, 1944

PRESENT: Miss Leah K. Dickinson
Mrs. Gilbert L. Niesse
Mrs. Raymond P. Sanford
Miss Florence Thorp
Mrs. J. Hugh Turner
Mrs. Clarence Ostlund
Mrs. C. A. Tyrrell
Mr. Doren Boyce
Mr. Vincent Gonzales
Mr. Ralph Earl
Mr. Otis Kelly
Mrs. Martha Chastain
Mrs. Helen Fry

1. Mr. Gonzales reported on the contributions received and expenditures of the Staff Housing Council fund. The balance to date is \$83.41. An itemized statement is attached to the original of these minutes.

A discussion as to how these funds should be considered followed. Mr. Boyce said that when parties were first given they paid for themselves, and that later it was agreed that any profit would be used to defray expenses. He suggested by-laws to determine how the funds should be spent. Mr. Gonzales suggested that if each staff party is to pay for itself, a committee separate from the regular Finance Committee of the Council be set up. Miss Dickinson appointed the Chairmen of each of the committees - Mrs. Chastain, Mrs. Tyrrell, and Mr. Kelly - to work as a committee with Mr. Gonzales. The possibility of depositing the funds with the Credit Union on the project was discussed, and Mr. Gonzales was asked to look into this.

2. Mrs. Chastain reported on the activities of the Recreation Committee. The Committee met in Mr. Lafabregue's office on Tuesday, November 21, the minutes of which meeting were read to the Council. A schedule of Rec. Hall activities has been made, and there are three open nights in the week. Mrs. Earl is trying to work out a Sunday afternoon program for the children. A special events night is to be started on Monday with the showing of films of the rodeo and other project activities, by Mr. Niesse. On December 11 and 18 a community sing of Christmas carols is scheduled.

Mr. Boyce said that he had talked to Mr. Hunter about a juke box, and Mr. Hunter will contact people in Salt Lake City and Provo.

The question of whether children should be allowed to use the Rec. Hall was raised again. The Council was agreed that the children need a place of their own, one they can build and take care of themselves. There is a possibility of moving a CC building for this purpose. Mrs. Chastain will meet with the children as a group, and the problem will also be taken

up by the Recreation Committee with Mr. Bell. The question of locking the Rec. Hall, and particularly the small room where the pool table is at present, was discussed by the Council. According to Mr. Purcell the table has been damaged already. It will need a new top, and once that has been done it would be inadvisable to have it used by the children. A motion was made to the effect that keys to the Rec. Hall will not be given to school children without proper supervision.

Mr. Kelly mentioned the possibility of having a "Snack Bar" in the Rec. Hall for the staff. Miss Dickinson appointed a committee of the dormitory representatives, with Mr. Maggiora as chairman, to work on this. Mr. Boyce suggested a possible connection with the military canteen as a source of supply.

3. Mrs. Tyrrell for the Playground Committee reported that there are some things that need to be done on the playground. The sandbox still needs a shelter and there are no wind breaks. The swings need new ropes and rings. Mr. Gonzales, Mr. Boyce, and Mr. Earl volunteered to take care of this. Miss Dickinson will see Mr. Bell about the gravel that is still needed between blocks 205 and 206 and under the swings. Mrs. Ostlund said that it has been suggested storing the teeters for the winter. Miss Dickinson will find out available places, possibly the administrative warehouse, and Mrs. Tyrrell will have some of the older children help move them.

4. Mr. Niesse has informed the Council that an indoor drying place is to be provided. The building, a coal house, will be moved after arrangements have been made to provide more windows.

5. Miss Dickinson read a memorandum from Mr. Honderich concerning available sewing machines on the project. Mrs. Koraback will schedule these in a manner similar to the scheduling of the washing machines.

6. Mrs. Fry reported that a memorandum has been received from Mr. Niesse to the effect that floor wax and furniture polish are supplied to dormitory residents but not to people who live in apartments.

7. The question of having young children attend the staff parties was discussed, and a recommendation to the parents will be made in the Desert Wind that as far as possible young children should not be taken to the staff parties, as they are primarily adult affairs.

8. Miss Dickinson reported on the matter of commercial transportation. All the necessary approval has been received, and a bus is to be brought from Detroit. It will probably be in operation by the first of the year.

STAFF RELOCATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Project Director's Office
January 10, 1945
Wednesday, 9:00 A. M.

MEMBERS: Mr. L. T. Hoffman Mrs. Mary Lue Cochran
 Mr. Raymond P. Sanford Miss Eleanor Gerard
 Mr. Roscoe E. Bell Mr. Perry Carmichael
 Mr. Gilbert L. Niesse Dr. LeGrande Noble
 Mr. Claud Pratt Dr. Oscar F. Hoffman
 Mr. E. W. Conrad Mr. George Lafabrague
 Mr. G. V. Morris Miss Leah K. Dickinson
 Mr. Grant Bowen.

PRESENT: Mr. Bell, presiding; Mr. Barnhart, Dr. Hoffman Mr.
 Sanford, Miss Mack, Dr. Carmichael, Mr. Conrad, Mrs.
 Cochran, Mr. Bowen, Mr. Pratt, and Miss Dickinson.

Miss Dickinson reported on the coverage of the Topaz Times on items of information concerning leaves, visitors, etc., as a means of informing residents of current changes in procedures. Most of the good news and bad news has already been presented to the residents through the Times.

She also reported on the clearing of the Army list and the Alien list clearing through the Department of Naturalization and Immigration representatives now at the center.

There was a discussion of the matter of evacuee participation in planning and relocation. The Future Planning Commission has not been called together since the announcement of the opening of the West Coast. It was the consensus of opinion that it would be well not to involve this group at this time. The reasons for this decision is that currently through the center there is a good deal of confusion due to the organization of an Information Committee through the Block Managers and the Community Council. It was felt best to wait a few weeks and see if the new committee would supplant the Future Planning Commission.

Miss Dickinson also discussed the problems relating to visitors at the center and described the way in which these problems have been handled. There was a discussion of the prospect for Farm Security and RFC loans in the relocation to the West Coast. The suggestion was made that a little later representatives from these organizations might come to the center and explain their policies and possibilities to the residents directly.

The matter of defense jobs on the coast for evacuees was discussed. There has been a great deal of publicity on the possibility of defense jobs but at the center we have no way of knowing what these possibilities are and the WRA offices on the West Coast appear not to be organized sufficiently as yet to give us this information. We would like to know what the possibilities for defense jobs are for the residents. The suggestion was made that the U. S. Employment Service might make an occupational survey of residents still in the centers with an idea of using intelligently the skills represented here.

L. K. Dickinson
Relocation Program Officer

STAFF RELOCATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Project Director's Office
January 17, 1945
Wednesday, 9:00 A. M.

MEMBERS: Mr. L. T. Hoffman
Mr. Raymond P. Sanford
Mr. Roscoe E. Bell
Mr. Gilbert L. Niesse
Mr. Claud Pratt
Mr. E. W. Conrad
Mr. G. V. Morris
Mr. Grant Bowen.

Mrs. Mary Lue Cochran
Miss Eleanor Gerard
Mr. Perry Carmichael
Dr. Legrand Noble
Dr. Oscar F. Hoffman
Mr. George Lafabregue
Miss Leah K. Dickinson

PRESENT: Mr. Hoffman, Mr. Bell, Mr. Sanford, Mr. Lafabregue,
Dr. Carmichael, Mr. Barnhart, Miss Altgater, Mrs.
Jenkins, Miss McCluskey, Mr. Sezerak, Miss Meck,
Miss Kiester, Mr. Derrickson, and Miss Dickinson.

This was a special meeting called for the purpose of hearing the report of the Project Director on his recent visit to the West Coast. He described the program of the meetings held under the auspices of the Pacific Coast Committee, American Principles and Fair Play, giving important details of the contents of these meetings. He was well impressed with the attitudes voiced by representatives of the Government agencies--both state and federal. The statements of policies have been put on record through these meetings, and all seem to indicate that they are ready to help evacuees return.

He described the organization of the WRA offices on the Coast and gave a picture of the problems. These offices will be handled the same as other WRA offices although it had been announced that they were not going to operate in the same manner.

In his visit to the Western Defense Command he was impressed with the fact that the WDC did not consider the detainee list as final and will reconsider on a basis of appeal. They pointed out that this is their responsibility to ask for such recommendations, not ours to offer them.

Mr. Barnhart gave a report on the sentiment in the center at the present time. He feels that the tenor of the center-

wide discussion is on the whole healthy and that as soon as we are able to give a few answers, groups opposing center closure will drop out of the picture. He emphasized the fact that all appointive staff members must accept the fact of center closure and speak in those terms in the presence of evacuees.

L. K. Dickinson,
Relocation Program Officer

STAFF RELOCATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Project Director's Office
January 31, 1945
Wednesday, 9:00 A. M.

MEMBERS: Mr L. T. Hoffman
Mr. Raymond P. Sanford
Mr. Roscoe E. Bell
Mr. Gilbert L. Niesse
Mr. Claud Pratt
Mr. E. W. Conrad
Mr. G. V. Morris
Mr. Grant Bowen

Mrs. Mary Lue Cochran
Miss Eleanor Gerard
Mr. Perry Carmichael
Dr. Le Grande Noble
Dr. Oscar F. Hoffman
Mr. George Lafabregue
Miss Leah Dickinson

PRESENT: Mr. Hoffman, Mr. Niesse, Mr. Sanford, Mrs. Cochran, Mr. Pratt, Dr. Carmichael, Mrs. Pollitt, Mr. Morris, Dr. Noble, Dr. Hoffman, Mr. Conrad, Mr. Lafabregue, Mr. Sererak, Mr. Derrickson; Mrs. McCord, Mr. Wolter, from the Washington office, and Miss Dickinson.

Mr. Wolter, of the Center Liaison Section of the Washington office made a good presentation of the problems facing the centers in the matter of relocation. He advocated taking the hardest lumps first and trying to answer the problems of those who cannot see a way out. He spoke concerning the Resettlement Assistance Program saying that it represented a tapering off of the WRA program of total support. It will mean a long process of negotiating with other agencies and will call for streamlining of our center facilities. The mechanical skills and geographical knowledge of all staff members must be used in the interest of relocation.

Miss McCord gave a description of the plans for care of dependency cases. She said that we should never commit a county or state to the granting of a certain amount of money. But we can assure residents that they will receive adequate care when they arrive and we will not send them until the plan is adequate and clinched. There can also be supplementary wage assistance for large family groups which represent the borderline cases.

There was a discussion of the resettlement fund which is to be used to help those who have been affected by restrictive action of the government. Because these are federal funds the eligibility requirements is the same in all states. The amount of assistance might vary between states.

It was felt by some members of the committee that this assistance should be received more easily by the residents if they knew that the resettlement funds are carried in the WRA budget even though administered by other state agencies.

Mr. Hoffman reported on the Information Committee. Out of the group of 64 Block representatives a committee of 7 was selected to meet with the Project Director on matters concerning information and center closure. With this committee of 7, 7 councilmen and 7 block managers comprised the committee. On the issue of the council stand that they were the representatives of the people this "Committee of 21" dissolved. Now the council is asking for a vote of confidence from the center on the issue. In the meantime we still have no Information Committee, but are using the Topaz Times for dissemination of information.

Mr. Wolter spoke again concerning the opening of Southern areas to the evacuees. He outlined opportunities now opened for share cropping and leasing. There is to be a conference this month in New Orleans to complete details for presentation to the centers.

L. K. Dickinson
Relocation Program Officer

STAFF RELOCATION COMMITTEE MEETING

HRB

Project Director's Office
March 21, 1945
Wednesday, 9:00 A. M.

MEMBERS: Mr. L. T. Hoffman
Mr. Raymond P. Sanford
Mr. Roscoe E. Bell
Mr. Gilbert L. Niesse
Miss Mack
Mr. E. W. Conrad
Mr. Light
✓ Mr. Grant Bowen
Mrs. Mary Lue Cochran
Miss Kleanor Gerard
Mr. Perry Carmichael
Dr. LeGrand Noble
Dr. Oscar F. Hoffman
Miss Leah K. Dickinson
Mr. Lloyd Buchanan

PRESENT: Mr. Hoffman, Dr. Hoffman, Mr. Niesse, Mr. Bell, Mr. Sanford,
Mr. Light, Mr. Dingley, Mr. Sekerak, Mr. Conrad, Miss
Gerard, Miss Mack, Mrs. Cochran, Mr. Buchanan, Mr. Bowen,
Mr. Enlow, Mr. Carmichael, Dr. Noble, and Miss Dickinson.

Mr. Sekerak reported briefly on the visit of Mr. William Holland. Mr. Holland came to the Center on March 12 and left on March 18, but he will return later this week. Considerable preparation was made for his visit here, including publicity and organization of a committee from Agriculture; however, very little active interest was shown in these farm offers from the Middle-West. Upon Mr. Holland's return to the Center, he may find that some interest has developed. But, on the whole, the response was very discouraging.

This topic lead into the discussion of group relocation in general. It was interesting to note that while Mr. Holland was here, a spontaneous interest developed in a group relocation plan for Hereford, Texas. No one seems to know quite where this started, but it involves very much the same group that we were organizing for Mid-West offers. Mr. Hase and Harry Tsuji are the two leaders involved.

Mr. Hoffman suggested that where there seems to be no organized group back of the person who is interested in a group relocation exploratory trip, the Council Future Planning Committee should be asked to take more responsibility in ascertaining whether or not the opportunity represents a real group interest. However, in such a case as this Texas plan, where there seems to be a group of 20 persons involved, the Relocation Division should work up the plan and present it to the Project Director for a special approval for coach fare and subsistence for two group representatives. This special approval must be obtained from Washington. At the same time, the Relocation Supervisor's approval of the plan must be obtained, and a survey made of the relocation plans of those families who are involved in the group.

In general, the Committee felt that there is not much cohesion in these group interest to date. No real group relocation plan has taken hold in this Center.

Mr. Dingley discussed the situation regarding the recruiting for ordnance depots. There have been no applications in the past two weeks for either Sidney or Tooele Ordnance Depots. Mr. Jennings of the Salt Lake City office and Mr. Shiwota came into the Center this past week on a recruiting visit and it is believed they took away with them three signed applications for Tooele. On the whole, the objection to making application for ordnance depot work seems to be tied up with a fear of PMGO disapprovals which still is running around 45 per cent. Even persons on the white list are receiving PMGO disapprovals and there is a hesitancy in making application directly at the depot on short-term leave because people do not wish the embarrassment of going to work at the ordnance depot only to be told later that they had been disapproved for the job. There seems to be little hope that there would be any wide spread response to ordnance depot work so long as this situation exists.

Mr. Carmichael asked if there was any indication that persons who had qualified as mechanics, welders, or other skilled trades had been up-graded at the ordnance depots. Mr. Dingley replied that in great many cases that men who went to depot as machine handlers were transferred to more skilled positions and up-graded in 30 to 60 days. However, we do not know of how many instances of this there were. It was suggested that we ask the Field Offices in Salt Lake City and Denver to get us information concerning this up-grading of persons who have already been employed at the depots.

Mr. Carmichael also desires to get substantiating information regarding opening in auto mechanics, welding, institutional cooking, etc., to justify to the State Vocational people for courses here at the Center. Miss Dickinson agreed to get as much of this information as possible to get names of employers in many instances.

Miss Mack reviewed the Administrative Notice #226 which came in this week and which seems to indicate that the public assistance grants should be liberalized in cases where the head of the family is already relocating and the family to follow soon thereafter. It was agreed that in very special cases, as recommended by the case conference to the Project Director, that public assistance might be used to meet extra clothing needs and other such items before the family's departure from the Center. However, it was pointed out that this must be used with extreme discretion.

Miss Dickinson called attention to the fact a new release has just come in - Social Security Handbook - which seems to be the information on resettlement funds for which we have been waiting. This should be publicized to the Center in sections as quickly as possible. It seems to cover in general the types of situations in which resettlement funds may be of assistance. However, it was pointed out that in

no way can we commit the outside agencies to any program of resettlement assistance.

Mrs. Cochran pointed out the rapid increase in mental illness in the Center, saying that new cases were being discovered and are now being handled entirely through the Hospital and the medical social worker. She urged the members of this committee to help as much as possible in getting the names of residents ^{who} may seem to be mentally afflicted and especially to get their relatives to come to the medical social worker for an interpretation of the needs of the patient.

There will be a meeting of this Committee on April 4, planned and conducted by Mr. Sekerak in Miss Dickinson's absence.

L. K. Dickinson
Relocation Program Officer

BRP

STAFF RELOCATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Project Director's Office
May 16, 1945
Wednesday, 9:00 A. M.

MEMBERS: Mr. L. T. Hoffman
Mr. Raymond P. Sanford
Mr. Roscoe E. Bell
Mr. Gilbert L. Niesse
Mr. E. W. Conrad
Mr. Joseph Eyring
Mr. Grant Bowen
Mrs. Mary Lue Cochran
Miss Eleanor Gerard
Mr. Perry Carmichael
Dr. LeGrand Noble
Dr. Oscar F. Hoffman
Mr. Lloyd Buchanan
Miss Leah K. Dickinson

PRESENT: Mr. Bell, Mr. Conrad, Mrs. Cochran, Dr. Noble,
Dr. Hoffman, Mr. Carmichael, Miss Dickinson,
Mr. Eyring, Mr. Buchanan, Mr. Pratt, Mr. Sekerak
Miss McNeese

Mr. Conrad read a letter from Mr. Ura who has relocated to Berkeley, California. This letter was in answer to a couple of anonymous letters which Mr. Ura had received from Topaz following the publication of his letters in the Topaz Times. This reply will be published in the Times and a copy given to the Block Managers.

Mr. Conrad reported on the field visit of Mr. Russell Bankson from the Reports Division, Washington D. C. During Mr. Bankson's visit he conferred with Mr. Conrad, Miss Dickinson, and Mr. Sekerak regarding the type of information wanted from the field offices and the number and method of distribution of Relocation literature. It was decided that the present Relocation Bulletin be changed in form and published weekly as "Relocation News". This will be a three or four page weekly including articles, letters and special job offers. It is planned to make up a Mast-head to make this publication more attractive. Mr. Conrad reported that one of his translators had departed and several suggestions for a successor were made. Mr. Sekerak in his new position as Community Organization Assistant will act in a liaison capacity between Mr. Conrad and the Relocation Division and will have more time now to do this.

Mr. Pratt discussed the present status of the merger between Welfare and Relocation Division. The move has been completed, the districting worked out and he has met with the Area Supervisors. The Relocation Library is established in barrack nine. 21 of the 34 blocks in the center have been assigned to district workers. Next week Mr. Sekerak will introduce the district workers to their assigned blocks.

Miss Dickinson reported that Mr. Pratt and Mr. Sekerak will meet with the Block Managers some morning this week to explain the new district plan. She said that there had been

a mild protest from the Community Council, to which Mr. Pratt is preparing a reply. It seems that some of the Councilmen feel that the Welfare service may be less efficient under the new set-up. We do not consider this protest to be a very serious one. In our reply we will offer to meet with the Council to explain the advantages of the reorganization.

Dr. Carmichael reported on the activities of Mr. Asaeda, adult education teacher, who is lecturing in the center to large groups of issei four times per week. He is being furnished with War Maps and encouraged to give the trend of the Pacific War. He is also given Relocation Material.

There was a discussion of the effect of the new intensified warfare in the Pacific Area upon the center residents. Dr. Hoffman said that he was not sure which of two reactions would predominate--either there would be a great feeling for not letting their mother country down or there would be a feeling that they were on their own with no hope of any further protection of their interests by Japan. They are apt to be more afraid of adverse sentiment as there is a greater focus on the Pacific War. Mr. Bell commented upon the large number of Red Cross messages to and from Japan in the past month which shows the close-tie up with relatives in Japan. Dr. Noble felt that young people of high school age were showing increasing sentiment for Japan and being indoctrinated by issei in the center. Some members of the Committee felt that the outward demonstration of high school students might be interpreted more as youthful pranks than actual disloyalty.

Mr. Buchanan reported on Administrative Notice 248, procedure for obtaining reconsideration of blocked accounts by the Treasury Department. All evacuees on the clear list may have their accounts unblocked in a new and simple procedure. This has been announced in the Topaz Times and a notice to Block Managers and Councilmen is being sent out. The Evacuee Property Officer will handle the applications.

Mr. Conrad stated that the new district plan would provide a more orderly system for showing movies on relocation in the center. He has now four short movies on Chicago, New York, Washington and New England of which he will give two showings in each of the four center areas in the next two weeks. Mr. Sekerak and the district workers will assist in organizing these showings.

Leah K. Dickinson
Executive Secretary

STAFF RELOCATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Project Director's Office
June 6, 1945
Wednesday, 9:00 A. M.

MEMBERS: Mr. L. T. Hoffman
Mr. Raymond P. Sanford
Mr. Roscoe E. Bell
Mr. Gilbert L. Niesse
Mr. E. W. Conrad
Mr. Grant R. Bowen
Mr. Claude Pratt
Mrs. Mary Lue Cochran
Miss Eleanor Gerard
Mr. Perry Carmichael
Dr. LeGrand Noble
Dr. Oscar F. Hoffman
Mr. Lloyd Buchanan
Miss Leah K. Dickinson

PRESENT: Mr. Hoffman, Mr. Buchanan, Mr. Sanford, Mr. Bell, Dr. Noble
Mr. Conrad, Dr. Carmichael, Mr. Stahl, Mr. Boyce, Mr.
Kimball, Mr. Niesse, Mr. Pratt, Mr. Sekerak, Miss Seymour,
Miss Dickinson.

Miss Dickinson announced that the Evacuee Property Office was being moved to block 2 today. Mr. Eyring who has been on detail as Evacuee Property Officer is leaving June 9th and Mr. McConnell is going to carry the work of the Evacuee Property Officer as well as transportation until we secure further help. Mrs. Adeline Hunter will serve as Leave Officer instead of Mr. McConnell.

Most of this meeting was taken up with a discussion of the new procedure on Resettlement Assistance. Miss Dickinson outlined the procedure and several actual applications for Resettlement Assistance were presented and discussed in some detail. It was pointed out that with the rigid regulations set up by Washington on the disbursement of these funds it was hardly likely that those cases which are eligible will exceed the ten percent of non-dependent families which is the limit set for this kind of assistance.

It was emphasized by Mr. Pratt and Miss Dickinson that the controls set up by Washington will call for a great deal of interpretation and counseling to the families who make application whether ineligible or eligible for this type of assistance. It will greatly increase the work of area supervisors and district workers and necessitate a stream-lining of all functions of the division. Several minor functions have already been transferred elsewhere.

It has generally been agreed by the Relocation Staff that the value of this opportunity for increased counseling afforded by the consideration of an application for Resettlement Assistance will out-weigh the disadvantages of the tight controls.

It was pointed out that there must be special interpretation to the center to insure that dependency cases are not confused and alarmed by this new feature. District workers will continue to focus their attention on dependency cases. However it is evident that in the first wave of applications for Resettlement Assistance our incomplete staff will be heavily burdened.

Among the functions under consideration for revamping is the rationing procedure. We will try to eliminate the issuance of ration books to relocatees, substituting a letter stating that the person has been in a Relocation Center and has never received a ration book. He will present this letter to the ration board in the outside community and the ration book will be issued there. This procedure seems to have been effect in other centers. There was some discussion of this change with some members of the Committee contending that we should not change the procedure because the issuance of the ration books within the center is a service which will save the relocatee from one additional pain of readjustment. However, the majority felt that the sooner the relocating person makes a definite connection with the ration machinery on the outside the better.

Dr. Noble stated that there was still a sentiment in the center that schools will reopen in the fall. It was decided that Dr. Noble and Dr. Carmichael should colaborate in preparing an article for the Topaz Times on this subject to make certain it was understood in the center that War Relocation Authority had no plans for continuing schools this fall and that the state of Utah had no responsibility in the matter. It was also suggested that Washington be reminded that some statement to this effect is timely.

Mrs. Cochran announced that she was gathering material on prepaid hospital and medical plans all over the country for distribution to the center. She and Mr. Conrad will publish some of this information in a Relocation News issue very soon.

Miss Dickinson announced that Mr. Pratt and Mr. Sekerak will discuss the Resettlement Assistance program with the Block Managers and Councilmen in meetings this week and next week.

Leah K. Dickinson
Relocation Program Officer

BFB

STAFF RELOCATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Project Director's Office
June 20, 1945
Wednesday, 9:00 A. M.

MEMBERS: Mr. L. T. Hoffman
Mr. Raymond P. Sanford
Mr. Roscoe E. Bell
Mr. Gilbert L. Niesse
Mr. E. W. Conrad
Mr. Grant R. Bowen
Mr. Claude Pratt
Mrs. Mary Lue Cochran
Miss Eleanor Gerard
Mr. Perry Carmichael
Dr. LeGrand Noble
Dr. Oscar F. Hoffman
Mr. Lloyd Buchanan
Miss Leah K. Dickinson

PRESENT: Mr. Hoffman, Mr. Sanford, Dr. O. Hoffman, Dr. Noble
Mr. Buchanan, Mrs. Cochran, Miss Gerard, Mr. Pratt
Mr. Sekerek, Mr. George Young of the Washington WRA
office, Miss Dickinson.

Mr. George Young of the Washington WRA office, who has been at Topaz for several days described the work he is doing. He is interviewing residents who were previously in domestic service on the Bay Area. (1) To find out if they have been in contact with their former employers and with what result. (2) If they desire to take up their former employment again. Following this survey at the center Mr. Young will go into the Bay Area and interview these former employers to ascertain their attitude concerning the re-employment of these residents.

Mr. Young has interviewed already around 50 persons in the center with good response. He has explained this project to the block managers and to the Community Council. He expects to finish up this end of the work by Saturday, June 23.

There was some discussion of this plan and it was generally conceded that it was a very helpful and promising approach. Miss Dickinson said that Mr. Young's reports of these interviews with the former employers will be awaited with much interest.

Miss Dickinson commented on the copy of the Relocation Office Manual which the Poston center has been using to describe their Merged Welfare-Relocation set-up. She pointed out that the district plan of Poston was essentially the same as here at Topaz, but there is an important difference wherein the processing of the entire Division is done by the Administrative Management Division at Poston and the Evacuee Property office is also in that division. This certainly lightens the burden on the Division in the Poston plan.

Practically all the difficulties encountered in the merger at Topaz had been centered around the Administrative unit where the processing is done. We are still working to smooth out this machinery.

Mr. Pratt gave a report on the Resettlement Assistance program. In the first 16 days of the month 7 grants have been approved in amounts ranging from \$220.70 to \$34.00 and a total of \$759.70. This program is being administered with a very tight control. The question of deduction on Life Insurance Policies has been referred to Washington. The answer received from Washington does not coincide with the procedure. Until Mrs. Lane visits the project around July 8, we will continue to deduct the loan value of the policies.

Mr. Pratt has disapproved 2 applications which came to his desk and the district workers have disapproved verbally a number of other applications which were made to them. It is evident that our tight control is discouraging application for this type of assistance and it will probably be necessary for district workers to suggest this type of assistance to persons in their blocks where the need is evident.

Mr. Hoffman spoke briefly on the Buddhist Conference which is to be held in the Salt Lake City on June 28, 29 and 30th. There will be 20 delegates from Topaz and about 30 from other centers. Rev. Okayama has gone to San Francisco on short-term leave to assist in setting up a hostel at the Buddhist Temple. He has taken with him form 156 applications for the moving of stored property from the Temple to WRA warehouses.

Mr. Hoffman commented that a major from the Western Defense Command was on the project now to interview person on the detainee list.

There was a lengthy discussion of Director Myer's teletype on center closure in which the necessity for staggered dates for the closing of centers was emphasized. It was the consensus of opinion in this committee that our task of relocation can be accomplished as easily by December 1, as by December 31. In view of the fact that there will be no school at Topaz this fall, it was emphasized that there must be much concentration on the relocation of families with school children during the month of June and July. In order to accomplish an earlier closing date it will be necessary to stream line our procedure to the utmost. It was suggested that each Division again analyze their own procedure for this purpose.

In this discussion of center closure, the suggestion was made that dates of closure of certain activities within the center be staggered as well as the final closing date and that consideration be given to setting a date probably August 1, as the closing of Community Activities for children of school age and that

August 31 be announced as a dead line for the relocation of families with school children, as far as possible.

It was emphasized that these actions are not designed to make things unpleasant for the residents but to make them feel the necessity for earlier planning and to make it possible for the Administrative staff to concentrate on the job ahead.

It was suggested that the project director send a mimeographed letter to all residents on the school situation and also prepare a letter to be given to all residents at the time of their relocation wishing them well in their new venture.

Leah K. Dickinson
Executive Secretary

STAFF RELOCATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Project Director's Office
July 4, 1945
Wednesday, 9:00 A.M.

YTM

MEMBERS: Mr. L. T. Hoffman
Mr. Raymond P. Sanford
Mr. Roscoe E. Bell
Mr. Gilbert L. Niesse
Mr. E. W. Conrad
Mr. Grant R. Bowen
Mr. Claude Pratt
Mr. Sekerak

Mr. J. G. Atkinson
Mrs. Mary Lue Cochran
Miss Eleanor Gerard
Mr. Perry Carmichael
Dr. LeGrand Noble
Dr. Oscar F. Hoffman
Mr. Lloyd Buchanan
Miss Leah K. Dickinson

PRESENT: Mr. Hoffman, Mr. Niesse, Mr. Conrad, Mr. Kimball,
Mr. Bowen, Dr. Carmichael, Mr. Buchanan, Mrs. Cochran,
Dr. Hoffman, Miss Gerard, Mr. Pratt, Mr. Atkinson,
Mr. Sekerak, Mr. Dingley, Miss Mack, Mrs. Jenkins,
Mr. Rex Lee, Chief Relocation Division Washington,
Mr. Haight of Salt Lake City and Miss Dickinson.

Miss Dickinson announced that Mr. Atkinson arrived last week to enter upon the duties of Acting Evacuee Property Officer. His first heavy assignment will be to get the evacuee property now stored at the project warehouses in order and under control. We hope soon to learn the extent of this problem. Mr. Lee commented that the real deadline on the moving of property stored on the project is the final closing date of the center. It does not seem to be good sense to insist on the evacuees taking their goods if they do not have permanent housing but we should continue to push those who are really in a position to move their goods.

Mr. Pratt reported on resettlement assistance. We have received applications from 17 families to date. With average grants from \$34.00 to \$257.00 we have allocated about 5% of our total amount allotted for this purpose. We are still uncertain as to the handling of insurance and will wait until Mrs. Lane's visit to settle this question. Mr. Pratt said that many field offices seem not to be adhering to the eligibility requirements. They send very sketchy information and we have to send back for fuller information. Mr. Lee promised to study some of those cases and correspond with field offices on this matter. On the question of cases of dependency which would not be accepted by a state of which the applicant was not a resident, Mr. Lee advised that such cases be sent to Washington for negotiation.

There was some discussion of the closure of Topaz schools. A letter is being sent to all families in the center to assure them of the fact that there will be no school facilities in Topaz in the Fall. Mr. Hoffman reiterated that a statement from Director Myer on this subject would be helpful.

There was a discussion of the visiting procedure which the relocation staff is finding a genuine nuisance. It is far too time-consuming. We are ready to recommend that all visitors pay and there be no limitation on these visits for this is what is causing most of the difficulties. We have to recommend on all cases which will exceed the visit of 30 days prescribed by procedure and in almost all cases these extensions are justified by reason for relocation plans. We are willing to continue investigating all unexplained over-stayed visits and for cases requiring non-paying status. However, the justifiable exception is rapidly becoming the rule. Mr. Lee agrees to take this matter under consideration.

Mr. Hoffman initiated a discussion of center closing date. He said that evacuees with whom he has discussed this matter have not seemed to be disturbed about the prospect of an earlier closing date. We have felt that there should be a closing period rather than a closing date. This period probably should be from November 1 to December 1. Relocation would be voluntary up to November 1, and would be scheduled movements from November 1 until December 1. He emphasized that all efforts should be made to persuade people to come in to see if we can solve their problems of relocation before November 1. WRA will accept the responsibility for only those cases in which we cannot work out a solution.

Mr. Haight spoke briefly on the Buddhist conference recently held in Salt Lake City. He felt that this had been a very successful event and the group were very serious in their effort to solve the problems of relocation Buddhists. They appreciated very much the efforts made by the Project Director of Central Utah Project in their behalf. They have decided to move their headquarters to San Francisco during the next 60 days. They are preparing to accept through the Board of Trustees of the Buddhist Church of America the responsibility of arranging for transportation and storing a goods presently stored in the Buddhist Temple in San Francisco.

Mr. Dingley demonstrated the use of block maps as they are kept up to date and coded by district workers. This is a visual device whereby the worker can measure progress in becoming acquainted with the problems in his district.

Mrs. Cochran brought up the question of institutional cases now at the Provo State Hospital. The WRA contract for payment for the care of such cases expired July, Mr. Lee explained that this

deadline referred primarily to California in passing the responsibility for such cases to the state and county. He advised that the State Hospital at Provo should start negotiating with the State of California for the payment for or transfer of such cases.

Leah K. Dickinson
Executive Secretary