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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
WASHINGTON

JULY 4, 1944

AIR MAIL

MR. LUTHER T. HOFFMAN
PROJECT DIRECTOR
CENTRAL UTAH RELOCATION CENTER
TOPAZ, UTAH

DEAR MR. HOFFMAN:

WE HAVE JUST BEEN ADVISED THAT MR. CHARLES C. EBERHARDT, REPRESENTING THE STATE DEPARTMENT, TOGETHER WITH A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SPANISH EMBASSY — PROBABLY CAPTAIN MARTIN, SPANISH VICE-CONSUL AT SAN FRANCISCO — EXPECT TO VISIT MOST OF THE RELOCATION CENTERS ON A SCHEDULE, THE LATTER PART OF WHICH IS APPROXIMATELY AS FOLLOWS:

TULE LAKE CENTER	ARRIVE JULY 28-29
MINIDOKA RELOCATION CENTER	ARRIVE TWIN FALLS AUGUST 2 10:00 P.M.
CENTRAL UTAH RELOCATION CENTER	ARRIVE DELER AUGUST 7 2:10 P.M.
HEART MOUNTAIN RELOCATION CENTER	ARRIVE DEEVER AUGUST 10 3:20 P.M.

MR. EBERHARDT WILL DOUBTLESS WIRE YOU SHORTLY BEFORE HIS ARRIVAL, INDICATING THE SPECIFIC TIME OF ARRIVAL, AND INDICATING WHETHER HE NEEDS TRANSPORTATION.

IT IS SUGGESTED YOU ADVISE THE JAPANESE NATIONAL SO THAT THEY MAY PREPARE ANY QUESTIONS THEY MAY WISH TO PRESENT TO THE SPANISH REPRESENTATIVE, WHO WILL, OF COURSE, BE CONCERNED ONLY WITH JAPANESE NATIONALS. PLEASE NOTE THAT THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SPANISH EMBASSY HAS THE RIGHT TO INTERVIEW PRIVATELY AS MANY JAPANESE NATIONALS AS HE DESIRES, AND THAT HE SHOULD BE PERMITTED TO SEE AS MUCH OF THE CAMP AS HE DESIRES. THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT, IN A RECENT NOTE, HAS ALLEGED THAT THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PROTECTING POWER HAVE NOT ALWAYS BEEN ACCORDED THESE PRIVILEGES. I AM AWARE OF NO CASE WHERE THAT COMPLAINT HAS BEEN JUSTIFIED IN A RELOCATION CENTER, BUT I CALL IT SPECIFICALLY TO YOUR ATTENTION BECAUSE OF THE COMPLAINT.

WE ARE MAKING PROVISION TO SUPPLY, THROUGH ESTABLISHED CHANNELS, DEATH CERTIFICATES FOR ALL JAPANESE NATIONAL WHOSE DEATH OCCURS IN A RELOCATION CENTER, AND WE ARE ALSO UNDERTAKING TO SUPPLY, THROUGH ESTABLISHED CHANNELS, LISTS OF JAPANESE NATIONAL IN RESIDENCE AT RELOCATION CENTERS. ACCORDINGLY, SHOULD CAPTAIN MARTIN MANIFEST AN INTEREST IN SECURING EITHER OF THE ABOVE ITEMS OF INFORMATION, IT WILL NOT BE NECESSARY FOR YOU TO FURNISH THEM TO HIM, SINCE THEY ARE ALREADY BEING SUPPLIED, AND HE MAY BE ADVISED TO THAT EFFECT.

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PLEASE NOTE ALSO, THAT THE SUBJECT OF REPATRIATION IS BEING HANDLED THROUGH THE STATE DEPARTMENT, SO THAT IT WILL NOT BE NECESSARY FOR YOU TO FURNISH ANY LISTS OF REPATRIATION APPLICATIONS TO THE SPANISH REPRESENTATIVE. INDIVIDUALS, HOWEVER, MAY MAKE APPLICATION TO HIM EITHER INDIVIDUALLY OR THROUGH THE JAPANESE SPOKESMAN AS THEY MAY CHOOSE.

WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE USUAL QUESTIONNAIRE HAS ALREADY BEEN SENT TO MOST PROJECTS. THERE IS NO OBJECTION TO SUPPLYING THE GENERAL INFORMATION REQUESTED THEREIN AS LONG AS IT DOES NOT INCLUDE THE SPECIFIC ITEMS MENTIONED ABOVE. A COPY SHOULD BE SENT TO THIS OFFICE.

PLEASE EXTEND EVERY COURTESY TO MR. EBERHARDT AND TO CAPTAIN MARTIN, INCLUDING TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM THE RAIL HEAD, ASSISTANCE WITH ACCOMMODATIONS, AND ANY OTHER REASONABLE REQUESTS.

SINCERELY,

/s/ D. S. MYER
DIRECTOR

Embassy notes and information that might be helpful in speaking with the residents at the various camps and centers.

From Dispatch J-48, Ex.115.000, Feb. 8, 1945

1. (Embassy note to the State Dept. Feb. 6, 1945)

"The Spanish Embassy now wishes to inform the State Department that the Imperial Japanese Government has replied to the American news broadcast of January 23, 1945, that its Memorandum should not be interpreted as a formal proposal to the State Department, but solely as a promise to the internees at Tule Lake to the effect that should a new exchange take place, they would be given 'special consideration'."

2. As has been repeatedly stated, the Spanish Embassy does not give priorities. The Japanese Government proposes and the Embassy accepts.
3. Priorities for the Japanese from Bolivia, Costa Rica, San Salvador or any other Central or South American country, are given by the Japanese Government as they are for the residents of the United States.
4. All of the thousands of internees in the various camps desire to obtain priority in repatriation, and as a consequence all of them are in the same position. In case of an exchange, the Japanese Government will only give priority to 1300 or 1400 - the approximate capacity of the ship.

From Dispatch J-35, Ex.190.000, Feb. 3, 1945

Whether or not evacuees remain in Tule Lake or are transferred to another camp does not depend on the Embassy which cannot demand that the American Government intern the "enemy aliens" in a special place. The duty of the Protecting Power is only to see that in the internment camps, the conditions are up to the standards established by the Geneva Convention.

From Dispatch J-33, Ex.190.200, Feb. 3, 1945

Japanese American subjects, Japanese second generation, who lose their American nationality, will immediately come under the Protection of Spain - as do the other Japanese subjects - but for this they must present to the Embassy a document issued by the United States Attorney General in which it is established that they are no longer considered American subjects. (a photostatic copy of the document)

Handwritten: ~~Handwritten~~ H. 45
Handwritten: Resolution

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Topaz, Utah
January 19, 1943

To The Honorable Don Juan Francisco de Cardenas
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
to the United States
Spanish Embassy
Washington, D. C.

We, the Japanese nationals residing at
the Central Utah War Relocation Authority Project,
Topaz, Utah, desire to express our sincerest grati-
tude to you for granting us the opportunity, through
the recent visit of your representative, Captain
Antonio R. Martin, to report the conditions under
which we live and to submit our requests for the
improvement of our basic needs.

COPY

Topaz, Utah
January 19, 1943

To: Charles F. Ernst, Project Director
Central Utah War Relocation Authority Project
Topaz, Utah

We, the Japanese nationals residing at the Central Utah War Relocation Authority Project, Topaz, Utah, wish to express our gratitude to you for permitting us to have our delegates confer with Captain Antonio R. Martin, representing the Spanish Ambassador to the United States.

We submit herewith for your attention a copy of the letter forwarded to the Honorable Don Jun Francisco de Cardenas, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, and the resolution attached thereto, by the Japanese nationals, residents of this project; containing information upon our life here, together with our requests thereon.

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TO THE HONORABLE DON JUAN FRANCISCO DE CARDENAS
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the
United States
Spanish Embassy
Washington, D. C.

WHEREAS: It is universally recognized among modern nations that it is the right of one nation at war to designate a neutral nation to represent it in dealings with another nation with which it is at war; and

WHEREAS: The Imperial Government of Japan has designated the Spanish Ambassador to the United States, as the diplomatic representative of the Republic of Spain, to represent it and its nationals within the United States; and

WHEREAS: Captain Antonio R. Martin, vice-consul of the Spanish Consulate in San Francisco, paid a recent visit to the Central Utah War Relocation Authority Project as the duly designated representative of the Spanish Ambassador to the United States; and

WHEREAS: Acting in such capacity, Captain Martin offered us the opportunity to communicate with the government of Japan, through the Spanish government, in order to inform the government of Japan of the conditions under which we live in the Central Utah War Relocation Authority Project;

BE IT RESOLVED THEREFORE: That we as nationals of Japan, now residents of the Central Utah War Relocation Authority Project, accept this offer and submit the following as

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information upon the more vital conditions under which we are living therein, and as our requests for betterment and improvement thereon, to you for transmittal to the Imperial Government of Japan in our behalf:

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1. THAT: The Japanese nationals, residents of the Central Utah Relocation Authority Project at Topaz, Utah, are cooperating in the program established for us by the United States government and the War Relocation Authority.

In spite of the many difficulties we face here, we are participating whole-heartedly to build a healthy community, spiritually, mentally and physically.

2. THAT: We desire a fair and adequate clothing distribution to protect our health and well-being in summer heat as well as in winter cold; and an increase in the monthly clothing allowance.

3. THAT: Although restrictions upon civilian food consumption are increasing, we request assurance from the government of the United States that we will be furnished a sufficient supply of food for our basic daily needs.

4. THAT: The necessary steps be taken to see that all food and clothing allotted by the War Relocation Authority for our consumption and use, be distributed completely to the ultimate individuals for whom they are intended.

5. THAT: There be the quickest possible adjustment of all abnormal housing conditions, so that not more than one couple, and no single men and women be housed together in the same room. This we ask on the basis of universal principles of health and morals.

6. THAT: From the standpoint of health and the general well-being of this community of over eight thousand people, hospital facilities and medical care are very inade-

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quate. Especially acute is an overwhelming shortage of doctors, medical supplies and ambulances. Furthermore, special types of food required by patients, infants and dietetic cases are imperfect in quality and insufficient in quantity. We request, therefore, both improvement and replenishment in these matters immediately.

7. THAT: The educational facilities at present, both in the way of physical equipment and of teaching personnel are far from adequate. We ask that educational facilities be made available for us and our children which will compare favorably with those on the outside.

8. THAT: Permission be secured to teach the Japanese language, as well as the German language, at this project.

9. THAT: The compensation paid to the evacuee enlistees of the War Relocation Authority work program should be increased, as it is too small to meet even our basic needs.

10. THAT: It be provided that the government of the United States will grant adequate indemnity where an evacuee is injured or meets with accidental death as the result of faulty equipment furnished by the War Relocation Authority.

11. THAT: Vigorous protest be made for the conduct of the military police stationed at this project regarding incidents involving acts of violence beyond the scope of their duty; and definite assurance be gotten that such acts will not recur in the future.

12. THAT: Too often our existence in a relocation

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project is utilized by persons in the public eye to curry political favor and for personal motives of a selfish nature; and we request the government of the United States take steps to discourage such practices.

13. THAT: The residents now at this project should not be forced to transfer in divided units to any other project or projects; nor be required forcefully and against their will to resettle in outside communities.

14. THAT: The government of the United States make a thorough checkup of all our personal property left in California before evacuation; and take whatever steps necessary to insure their complete protection.

15. THAT: A moratorium be declared upon the payment of insurance premiums; or some other feasible and acceptable plan be worked out on this matter.

16. THAT: It be determined what is the true motive behind the repeated investigations and questionings by the Federal Bureau of Investigation of those evacuees who have expressed to the State Department their desire for repatriation to Japan.

17. THAT: A number of evacuees, both nationals of Japan and citizens of the United States, have been notified by the United States government that Japan requests their repatriation. Confirmation is desired whether the government of Japan has actually made such requests.

We, the undersigned, being duly delegated by Japanese nationals, residents of the Central Utah War Relocation

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Authority Project, located at Topaz, Utah, to present their views and requests in connection with the conditions of our existence at such project; do hereby acknowledge and affirm that the foregoing statements are true and complete translations of such views and requests of these residents as first submitted to us in the original text in Japanese.

CENTRAL UTAH RELOCATION PROJECT

Topaz, Utah

H1.45

Please reply to:

Sashima Itow
13-9-E
Topaz, Utah
February 3, 1943

Mr. Tsune Baba, Chairman
Community Council
1-9-E
Topaz, Utah

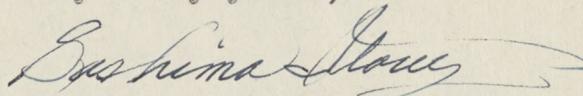
My dear Mr. Baba:

On January 18 and 19 the Japanese national residents of Topaz were granted an opportunity by our Project Director Ernst to confer with Captain Antonio R. Martin, representing the Spanish Ambassador to the United States.

From the thirty-three delegates representing the resident nationals, a committee of eleven was chosen to meet with Captain Martin in conference regarding our problems here in Topaz.

We are sending herewith for your attention a copy of papers forwarded to the Honorable Don Juan Francisco de Cardenas, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the United States. Also copies of the resolutions have been forwarded to Mr. Bernard Gufler, Special Division, Department of State, Washington, D.C. and to Mr. Charles F. Ernst, our Project Director.

Very truly yours,



Sashima Itow, Acting Chairman

Committee of Japanese National
Residents of Topaz

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Enclosures--2

Topaz, Utah
January 19, 1943

To Charles F. Ernst, Project Director
Central Utah War Relocation Authority Project
Topaz, Utah

We, the Japanese nationals residing at the Central Utah War Relocation Authority Project, Topaz, Utah, wish to express our gratitude to you for permitting us to have our delegates confer with Captain Antonio R. Martin, representing the Spanish Ambassador to the United States.

We submit herewith for your attention a copy of the letter forwarded to the Honorable Don Juan Francisco de Cardenas, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, and the resolution attached thereto, by the Japanese nationals, residents of this project; containing information upon our life here, together with our requests thereon.

Topaz, Utah
January 19, 1943

To Bernard Gufler
Special Division, Department of State
Washington, D.C.

We, the Japanese nationals residing at the Central Utah War Relocation Authority Project, Topaz, Utah, wish to convey our deepest gratitude to you for granting us permission to have our delegates confer with Captain Antonio R. Martin, representing the Spanish Ambassador to the United States, and for your helpful advice.

We submit herewith for your attention a copy of the letter forwarded to the Honorable Don Juan Francisco de Cardenas, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the United States, and the resolution attached thereto, by the Japanese nationals, residents of this project; containing information upon our life here, together with our requests thereon.

Topaz, Utah
January 19, 1943

To The Honorable Don Juan Francisco de Cardenas
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
to the United States
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Washington, D.C.

We, the Japanese nationals residing at
the Central Utah War Relocation Authority Project,
Topaz, Utah, desire to express our sincerest
gratitude to you for granting us the opportunity,
through the recent visit of your representative,
Captain Antonio R. Martin, to report the conditions
under which we live and to submit our requests for
the improvement of our basic needs.

TO THE HONORABLE DON JUAN FRANCISCO DE CARDENAS
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the United States
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WHEREAS: It is universally recognized among modern nations that it is the right of one nation at war to designate a neutral nation to represent it in dealings with another nation with which it is at war; and

WHEREAS: The Imperial Government of Japan has designated the Spanish Ambassador to the United States, as the diplomatic representative of the Republic of Spain, to represent it and its nations within the United States; and

WHEREAS: Captain Antonio R. Martin, vice-consul of the Spanish Consulate in San Francisco, paid a recent visit to the Central Utah War Relocation Authority Project as the duly designated representative of the Spanish Ambassador to the United States; and

WHEREAS: Acting in such capacity, Captain Martin offered us the opportunity to communicate with the government of Japan, through the Spanish government, in order to inform the government of Japan of the conditions under which we live in the Central Utah War Relocation Authority Project;

BE IT RESOLVED THEREFORE: That we as nationals of Japan, now residents of the Central Utah War Relocation Authority Project, accept this offer and submit the following as information upon the more vital conditions under which we are living therein, and as our requests for betterment and improvement thereon, to you for transmittal to the Imperial Government of Japan in our behalf:

1. THAT: The Japanese nationals, residents of the Central Utah Relocation Authority Project at Topaz, Utah, are cooperating in the program established for us by the United States government and the War Relocation Authority.

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6. THAT: From the standpoint of health and the general well-being of this community of over eight thousand people, hospital facilities and medical care are very inadequate. Especially acute is an overwhelming shortage of doctors, medical supplies and ambulances. Furthermore, special types of food required by patients, infants and dietetic cases are imperfect in quality and insufficient in quantity. We request, therefore, both improvement and replenishment in these matters immediately.

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10. THAT: It be provided that the government of the United States will grant adequate indemnity where an evacuee is injured or meets with accidental death as the result of faulty equipment furnished by the War Relocation Authority.
11. THAT: Vigorous protest be made for the conduct of the military police stationed at this project regarding incidents involving acts of violence beyond the scope of their duty; and definite assurance be gotten that such acts will not recur in the future.
12. THAT: Too often our existence in a relocation project is utilized by persons in the public eye to curry political favor and for personal motives of a selfish nature; and we request the government of the United States take steps to discourage such practices.
13. THAT: The residents now at this project should not be forced to transfer in divided units to any other project or projects; nor be required forcefully and against their will to resettle in outside communities.
14. THAT: The government of the United States make a thorough check-up of all our personal property left in California before evacuation; and take whatever steps necessary to insure their complete protection.
15. THAT: A moratorium be declared upon the payment of insurance premiums; or some other feasible and acceptable plan be worked out on this matter.
16. THAT: It be determined what is the true motive behind the repeated investigations and questionings by the Federal Bureau of Investigation of those evacuees who have expressed to the State Department their desire for repatriation to Japan.
17. THAT: A number of evacuees, both nationals of Japan and citizens of the United States, have been notified by the United States government that Japan requests their repatriation. Confirmation is desired whether the government of Japan has actually made such requests.

Mr. Ochs

SPANISH JOINT COMMITTEE OF TOPAZ, UTAH
PRESENTED THROUGH CITY COUNCIL

1. It was stated that the American Government guarantees medical care. Nevertheless, at present, an expenditure of several thousand dollars is being paid for eye-glasses and dental plates out of nominal monthly cash allowances. It is believed that eye-glasses and dental plates are considered as part of medical care. Therefore, such should be provided without cost to residents.
2. Negotiate to WRA through Council that daily living items of necessity such as brooms, door mats, buckets, mops, and soap should be issued not only in the initial supply, but continuously.
3. All accumulated and future compensatory time should be paid by cash; at once for the former and monthly for the latter.
4. The Spanish Consul has sent a copy of Japanese Translation of Geneva Conference relative to treatment of war prisoners to this center. Ascertain.

SPANISH JOINT COMMITTEE OF TOPAZ, UTAH

Date _____

1. FOOD PROBLEM

- a. At present, no comment.
- b. Since May, specially prepared diet being provided to patients.
- c. At present, milk is provided at the rate of one-half pint per person a day. Due to insufficient amounts, no milk was provided to persons over 10 years old so that one full pint per day can be provided to aged persons, children under 10 years old, and patients.

Now, therefore, request the additional supply of 150 gallons of milk daily.

- d. At present, the cost of food materials is forty-five cents per day per head. However, this amount should be increased accordingly by the increase in market price.

2. HEALTH PROBLEM

- a. Insufficient supply of medicine for women, children, and aged people.

3. CLOTHING PROBLEM

- a. Existing clothing allowance of \$3.75 per month per adult is insufficient, resulted by increase in cost of commodities. Therefore, an increase is requested.
- b. Request negotiation for granting of monthly clothing allowance to center residents regardless of whether employed at center or not. (Note: It is reported that all residents in Tule Lake Center are being granted such allowances.)

4.

- a. What is the opinion of the Japanese Government in relation to American citizens of Japanese ancestry (Nisei) who were forced to evacuate by military necessity without due process of law and to reside in relocation centers.

5.

- a. Clarification from American Government as to treatment of residents remaining at relocation centers after the war.

Is there any regulation in the Geneva Conference pertaining to above matter?

6. EDUCATION PROBLEM

- a. Adequate qualified teachers for elementary schools are urgently requested.

7. PROBLEM OF PARENTS' RIGHTS

- a. The memorandum from Spanish Consul advised that all matters pertaining to Selective Service of American citizens of Japanese ancestry be negotiated with the American Government directly. However, it seems that any matter pertaining to minors under the custody of parents' care be negotiated through the Spanish Consul.

(Note: Mr. Dillon Myer, Director of WRA, and Mr. Charles F. Ernst, Project Director, are in the opinion that this is possible.)

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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
Central Utah Project
Topaz, Utah

March 9, 1945

Captain Antonio R. Martin
Spanish Delegate
San Francisco, California

Dear Captain Martin:

The undersigned, the Spanish Embassy, the Joint Committee representing all of the alien Japanese in this center hereby, respectfully submit to you the attached requests and the resolutions passed by the delegates of the all-center conference held at Salt Lake City, Utah on February 24, 1945 to be transmitted to the appropriate the United States and to the Japanese Governments.

Very respectfully yours,

The Spanish Embassy Joint Committee

The requests by the Japanese Nationals in the Central Utah Relocation Center, Topaz, Utah.

1. We understand that the schools will be closed at the end of the present semester ending June 1, 1945. The War Relocation Authority definitely states in their new policy these centers will be closed by January 2, 1946. We would like to obtain assurance that schools will be maintained as long as the centers are in operation.
2. We have been receiving post cards from Japan, we should be given same mail services from the United States to Japan. So far we have been unable to communicate with Japan by means of post cards. Mails from Japan should be given better services in this country. The mail bore U.S. post marked October 1944 and delivered four months later in February 1945.
3. Our urgent desire is that the United States Government be notified at this time that the United States Government should bear full responsibility for the loss of lives and properties due to necessary relocation in compliance with the new WRA policy.
4. We request the Spanish Embassy to give us answers to our former requests at an early possible date.
5. The WRA new policy is to close all the centers by Jan. 2, 1946 is so vital problem for us now staying in the centers. The desire of the majority of us is to stay for the duration. The resolution passed at the all-center conference was submitted to your Consulate at San Francisco emphasizing this point. We urgently request you to use your good offices so that our desires can be fulfilled.
6. The WRA policy is to curtail and eliminate various operations in the centers, consequently many evacuee workers will be out of work and will have no source of income. This income is very small, but it is necessary assistance to maintain our bear existence. Some means of assistance should be provided to supplement this income.
7. It is our desire to learn the attitude of the Japanese Government as to our forced relocation during the time of war. The deadline of closing of all the centers is January 2, 1946.

8. That WRA should not coerce the Japanese National evacuees to relocate. The WRA state that they do not intend to force us to relocate, but they really do. For instance, the WRA give all property and transportation facilities at government expense for those evacuees who relocate but they cease to perform these services for those remaining in the center. Also the WRA do not permit Japanese visitors to enter into the center but only on business to discuss relocation.

9. That the provision in the application form for those applying for relocation grant should be stricken out, namely, "those who wilfully and knowingly make false statement in obtaining relocation grant should be punished by a fine not more than \$10,000 or imprisonment not more than 10 years or by both", because the WRA is giving this grant to every evacuee who relocate, without investigation of the means of the applicants who obtain said grant. It is a temptation to make false statement on the part of the relocatee.