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MAY 26, 1942

MR JOHN BIRD
DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
812 BARR BUILDING
WASHINGTON D C

AM GREATLY DISTURBED THAT PICTURE NUMBER NINETY-FIVE CANNOT
BE KILLED FROM TOLAN COMMITTEE REPORT. COLONEL BENDETSSEN
HAD ASKED THAT PICTURE BE WITHDRAWN, CONSEQUENTLY MY WIRE
TO YOU AND THIS REQUEST FOR AN APPEAL TO TOLAN COMMITTEE.
UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES BECOMES NECESSARY MAKE THIS INFORMATION
KNOWN IMMEDIATELY TO COLONEL BENDETSSEN.

EDWIN BATES

211
May 28, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR Mr. John Bird
Director of Information

SUBJECT: Photographs - your May 26
memorandum

I will admit that the situation with reference to Dorothea Lange and the impounding of photographs looks pretty confusing. I think, however, I can straighten it out for you.

1. It now develops that Col. Boekel had no authority to issue a pass to Miss Lange. The pass would have been withdrawn on that basis, if for no other.
2. The fact that Miss Lange had a pass signed by Col. Boekel came to light when Army officials objected to what they considered interference. You have already been informed of that story. I believe my letter of May 25, which crossed your letter of the 26th, explains the Army's position.
3. All photographs sent to you have been cleared with the Army. In the case of No. 95, and also the three others, Col. Bendetsen, who made a rather final review to satisfy himself in the matter, asked that the negatives be surrendered and the prints impounded. He has been informed that No. 95 will appear in the Tolan Committee report and he has no objection to it. He does feel that in the instance of that picture, the individual looks as if he was being manhandled. There is also a woman in that picture who appears to be in distress.
4. I should say that the Army checks our photographs not alone for military security but with an eye to the chance misuse which may be made of them by propagandists. In the case of all four of the pictures withdrawn by Col. Bendetsen, I should say that that consideration was the most important.

5. Miss Lange can still visit assembly centers, but application must be made in each instance and if it is found that there are no indications that her activities would interfere with the management of the center, she will be admitted.
6. Two things in this whole case should be remembered:
 - (a) Miss Lange has become highly emotional over the evacuation and I should say greatly out of sympathy with it, and
 - (b) The Army, because of many requests from people who want to visit centers out of curiosity, has become increasingly strict about granting passes to any one.

That's the situation with all its confusion.

Edwin Bates
Chief, Information Service Division

EBates:em

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4399

June 9, 1942

SUBJECT: Clearance of pictures and negatives.

TO: Edwin Bates, War Relocation Authority,
Regional Office, Hotel Whitcomb,
San Francisco.

This is in reference to your oral inquiry of today regarding a clearance of all pictures and all negatives of the evacuation of all persons of Japanese ancestry (and the relocation in Assembly, Reception or Relocation Centers) from any area within the states comprising the area of the Western Defense Command and Fourth Army. These states are Washington, Oregon, California, Utah, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, and Arizona.

In reply to that inquiry I wish to point out:

1. The privilege accorded War Relocation Authority in making pictures of the evacuation processes or of making pictures within the Centers themselves for whatever purpose is limited by an agreement with Wartime Civil Control Administration that (a) all such pictures must be submitted to and approved by the Western Defense Command and Fourth Army before being released by War Relocation Authority to anyone, or to any group, for any purpose, and (b) that all pictures and negatives that are objectionable to Wartime Civil Control Administration shall be turned over to Wartime Civil Control Administration.

Yours very truly,

Norman Beasley
Major, A.U.S.
Chief, Public Relations
Division

NB/es

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JULY 31, 1942

JOHN BAKER
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
WASHINGTON DC

TWO CONTACT PRINTS EACH OF 45 PICTURES DEVOTED MAINLY TO AGRICULTURE, HOUSING AND GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF RELOCATION AREAS AIRMAILED YOU TONIGHT. THESE WILL TAKE CARE OF YOUR MOST IMMEDIATE NEED BUT THERE WILL BE FEW MORE TO FOLLOW ON THESE SUBJECTS. PLEASE CONSIDER THESE PART OF OUR AGREEMENT TO FURNISH YOU BETWEEN 200 AND 300 REPRESENTATIVE PICTURES.

ARMY DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT OUR PICTURE A-95 TAKEN BY LANGE WHICH APPEARS ON FRONT COVER OF CIRCULAR WHICH FRIENDS SOCIETY NOW TRYING TO DISTRIBUTE AT ASSEMBLY CENTERS AND TO WHICH ARMY SERIOUSLY OBJECTS. THIS PICTURE APPEARS ON PAGE 11804-K OF PART 31 OF TOLAN COMMITTEE HEARINGS.

PICTURE FIRST SENT TO BIRD ON MAY 2 AND LATER COPIES SENT FOR USE OF TOLAN COMMITTEE AND OFFICE FACTS AND FIGURES. IN VIEW OF WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND OBJECTION/^{WE}ARE ANXIOUS ROUNDUP ALL PRINTS AND HAVE THEM RETURNED HERE EVEN THOUGH PICTURE DOES APPEAR IN TOLAN HEARINGS. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR COOPERATION.

(SIGNED)

EDWIN BATES

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211
AUG 13 1942

Mr. Franklin L. Fisher,
Chief, Illustrations Division,
National Geographic Society,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Fisher:

We are sending you under separate cover 13
8x10 prints covering the evacuation and housing
of evacuees of Japanese ancestry.

We regret the pictures selected by Miss LaVerne
Brandley of your office have been impounded by
the Press Relations Officer of the Wartime Civil
Control Administration. We have, therefore, taken
the liberty of making a selection from Signal
Corps pictures and are forwarding them to you.
It is requested that each photo carry a Signal
Corps credit line.

We are hoping that these pictures will meet
your requirements and that we may be of service
to you in the future.

Yours very truly,

(SIGNED)
Edwin Bates
Chief, Information Division

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