

Memorandum to Colonel W. L. Magill, Jr.
Western Defense Command
Provost Marshal and Director of Evacuation

February 1942

Committee: Galen M. Fisher, Member of the National Council of the Y. M. C. A. and President of the Board of Trustees of the Pacific School of Religion; Gordon Chapman, Superintendent of Presbyterian Japanese Missions; C. A. Richardson, Board of Missions of the Methodist Church, New York; G. Doubleday, American Friends' Service Committee; F. H. Smith, Superintendent of the Pacific Japanese Conference of the Methodist Church and Pacific Coast representative of the Home Missions Council of North America.

General Purpose.

Our general purpose is to be of any assistance possible to the Western Defence Command in the execution of whatever measures of evacuation may ultimately be deemed necessary after full consideration of all the factors involved. Our primary competence is in connection only with the Japanese residents on the Pacific Coast.

- I. We offer the facilities and staffs of our Protestant Churches to aid in sifting the loyal from the disloyal among the Japanese by means of Hearing Boards set up by the Army. Specifically we offer 80 church buildings and capable interpreters. We can furnish 20 white men, 10 white women and 300 or more citizens of Japanese parentage. These persons can assist the evacuees during the period of preparation for removal, and in the various localities to which the evacuees may go, and on the journey thither. Many of the alien Japanese do not readily understand English, so that the aid of Americans who speak their language, and who understand the instructions laid down by the Army, should greatly help to prevent friction and mistakes. We believe these Hearing Boards might well consist of one Army officer and two reputable civilians. In examining the aliens one of the civilians might be a person well acquainted with the Japanese language and character. In the case of the American-born one of the Board might be a local school teacher as they know these Japanese-Americans better than any other white American. We believe that 80 or 100 such Boards should handle the whole of the Japanese population on the Coast in a few weeks.

In this connection it may be pertinent to observe that many of the alien Japanese would have long before this have become citizens had we allowed them the privilege of naturalization. We believe they are not likely to resent evacuation, provided it is well planned and considerately executed. But the citizens of Japanese ancestry are likely to feel deeply resentful if they, as full-fledged American citizens are evacuated as a whole, because of their racial connection. On the other hand, they will as a rule, cheerfully abide by the findings of the authorities if evacuation or internment is based on impartial investigation such as the F. B. I., supplemented by Hearing Boards would carry out. The indiscriminate evacuation of "Nisei" is almost certain to drive some of them into disloyalty during the war, and into trouble-making after the war. It would also go far to justify the claim of the Japanese Government propaganda that Japan is the protector of the colored races against the intolerance and discrimination of America and England.

II. We offer our assistance in the care of those who must be moved from danger zones. Our churches and pastors have played a large part in caring for the Japanese already evacuated from Alameda, Watsonville, Monterey and Terminal Island. We suggest the following definite places:

Mr. Doubleday, A. F. S. C. Owens Valley.

(As a committee we know nothing of the merits of this place.)

Mr. Fisher, the so-called Korematsu plan.

This embraces 60,000 acres of Sante Fe land near Albuquerque, N. M.

Mr. Chapman, Presbyterian churches.

Gilroy Hot Springs, 50 aged or invalid persons

Hanford, 10 families and 50 workers (agricultural)

Cortez, " " " "

Dr. Smith, Methodist churches.

Livingston, 10 families and 50 workers " "

Fresno, " " " 250 " " "

Dinuba, Orosi, 50 " " " 200 " " (Gov. Help)

Delano, 20 " " " 250 " " "

Bakersfield 10 " " " 20 " " "

Niland 50 " " " 200 " " (Gov. Help)

Mesa, Ariz. 10 " " " 50 " " "

Loomis, Cal. 10 " " " 50 " " "

Newcastle 10 " " " 50 " " "

3.

Marysville	10 families and 50 workers (agricultural)
Sonoma Co.	20 " " " 50 " " "
Hood R., Ore.	20 " " " 50 " " "
Salem, Ore.	10 " " " 20 " " "
Caldwell, Ida	50 " " " 100 " " "
Wapato, Wash.	25 " " " 50 " " "
Spokane, "	20 " " " 10 " (railway)

III. If mass evacuation is deemed necessary we offer our personal assistance to keep up morale, to provide religious and moral guidance, and to help in education till the public school system can function. For this service we offer 40 white missionaries, men and women, and 80 Japanese Christian pastors. We are authorized to offer the aid of our inter-denominational Home Missions Council. The National Boards of our various churches can supply several experts in agriculture, education, and community planning who will cooperate with the Federal and State authorities in making adequate plans for settlement. One aspect of their service would be to secure the friendly cooperation of the existing and social agencies in the neighborhood of the new settlements.

IV. General Considerations.

- A. As Christian workers with many years of experience among Japanese both here and abroad we believe that thousands of loyal Japanese can be selected from those resident in the United States. The doubtful and suspicious should be classed with the disloyal.
- B. We believe that a mass evacuation of women, children and the aged is not necessary except from the Class A military zones. It is of course possible for the Army to place the 115,000 Italian, 72,000 German and 33,000 Japanese aliens in California on trains and transport them to a distant place, but the care of the many elderly people would be very difficult, if they are uprooted. Even the small number evacuated from Terminal Island created a great problem in Los Angeles.
- C. Mass evacuation would result in tremendous loss in the quantity of foodstuffs produced in California when we need food as never before. Crops already planted could not be tended. Harold J. Ryan, Los Angeles County agricultural commissioner reports that of the county's 40,000 acres of produce farmlands, the Japanese operate 25,600 acres. Of the 1172 Japanese farmers, 533 are aliens and 619 are citizen Japanese.
- D. Wholesale evacuation would result in great losses to property. Orchards and vineyards which have required years to develop would be greatly damaged in one critical month without care. Chickens and animals would starve. Stocks of perishable goods would rot. Houses by the thousand would stand vacant.

- E. To evacuate Japanese alone would create exceedingly difficult international problems in both Asia and Europe. Discrimination is dynamite. Many white Americans believe that Nazi and Fascist aliens are a greater menace than Japanese.
- F. England has found the licensing or identification card system satisfactory in controlling her aliens. Even Hawaii does not consider mass evacuation.
- G. The morale of our 80,000 Japanese-American citizens would be greatly injured if not completely destroyed. Several thousand have responded gladly to the draft. Parents are proud to have their sons in our Army. It is well to remember too that the hearts of the fathers are with their sons and not with their nephews in the Japanese Army.
- H. We believe that the hysteria for mass evacuation is largely engendered by politicians, by scheming carpet-baggers who hope to profit by forced sales and by thoughtless and irresponsible people of whom California has its full share.
- I. The F. B. I. has already apprehended several thousand alien Japanese and without doubt already has the most dangerous element in detention.
- J. There has been information supplied to American Intelligence Services by the 2nd generation young people to an extent not known to the general public. This can be proved by checking with the proper officials.
- K. "Nisei" in Colleges and Essential Posts.
A considerable number of "Nisei" are studying in the colleges and universities of the Coast. A few others are rendering technical service in the teaching of Japanese to groups of Army and Navy officers, and translating for the office of Coordinator of Information. In the case of the students, it might be possible to arrange with the academic authorities, and with the International House at Berkeley, to exercise such close supervision as would practically eliminate whatever risk of espionage or sabotage might be feared from leaving such groups near the coastal areas. At each college the "Nisei" could be concentrated in one or a few houses, and placed under close restraint.
- L. Preparatory Planning.
The best way to calm the fears of the evacuees and to make them willing cooperators in their evacuation will be for the Army to formulate, and then to announce comprehensive plans for all the major problems involved, such as transportation, custody of property, medical care enroute and afterward, specific areas available for settlement, agricultural and other advisors available, Government loans for development and equipment, housing, allowances for temporary maintenance. We understand that such complex and extensive undertakings will require time to plan, but there is no doubt that if the evacuees were given at the outset assurances that thorough plans are to be made, their anxieties would be allayed, and possible passive resistance would be replaced by cheerful cooperation. Such planning would also go far to put a stop to the extreme demands being made by certain politicians and pressure groups, which threaten to issue in vigilante action unless checked.

March 24, 1942

Lieutenant General John DeWitt
Headquarters, 9th Army Corps
Salt Lake City, Utah

Dear General DeWitt:

We, as citizens of California, are addressing this letter to you in support of your efforts to meet the Japanese problem with efficiency and fairness, on the basis of a realistic acceptance of practical fact. We feel that much can be gained for the future by wise action now in handling the Japanese situation here. We look forward to a post-war world where all people of good will may live in mutual respect and amity, and we are concerned that the necessary measures for our present safety should not in any way jeopardize this ultimate aim. If the task of protecting our interests against actions of possible saboteurs is done with efficiency, and yet with consideration, it will be one of the finest demonstrations ever staged of the working of democratic processes.

71 In view of the report from the Chief of Police of Honolulu, Mr. W. A. Gabrielson, that no acts of sabotage were committed in Honolulu or Pearl Harbor on December 7th, and that none have been committed since that time, the wisdom or necessity of the segregation of all Japanese residents of the State may certainly be questioned. Moreover, the doubtful constitutionality of the internment of citizens without due process of law presents a problem in civil liberties which might prove embarrassing.

Whatever our attitude toward the Japanese at the present time may be, all of the American-born Japanese must eventually be absorbed into American life as citizens. It would, therefore, be most unfortunate if our present treatment of them -- through unfairness or lack of consideration -- should build up psychological reactions which would make their reabsorption into normal peace-time life as citizens more difficult. We also recognize that for all of these people, many of whom we believe to be deeply opposed to the policies of the military regime in Japan, the situation in which they are placed by the war is at best one of terrific psychological stress and that, therefore, far from making the situation more difficult, we should do everything in our power to minimize its effect upon their characters.

From the point of view of winning the war, a very important consideration would be to stress the fairness with which the Japanese, and especially the American Japanese, were treated, and thus drive a wedge between the civil and military groups in Japan. Any unfairness would, of course, be a powerful weapon of propaganda in the hands of the Axis. Considerations of reciprocity in the treatment of American nationals in Japan bring a high degree of self-interest to bear on this particular issue. We cannot expect our citizens to be treated any better than the treatment we give to those of other nations who are under our jurisdiction.

The problem facing California in regard to Japanese farmers is particularly difficult, not only because this group contributes substantially to our food supply, but because the removal of their families involves costly dislocations of doubtful defense value. If American-born Japanese farmers of recognized loyalty were allowed to remain on their land, any surveillance of these families deemed necessary would be relatively simple, since their identity is so clearly marked. ✓

We desire to bring to your attention a concrete plan which has recently been formulated whereby the housing at present needed for evacuees could be so planned and constructed as to be of value at the end of the war for another purpose. This purpose is the provision of sanatoria or rehabilitation centers for disabled members of our armed forces. It would enable such Japanese nationals as must be interned, together with any Japanese Americans who might care to cooperate, to have a major part in the planning and construction of communities in which they would themselves live for the duration, and in which work and skills as they had contributed would continue to be enjoyed and appreciated

PROP.
41050

Plans for Evacuees
Ray Lyman Wilbur

during the "cooling off period" which many feel should precede final peace settlement.

The plan calls for the location of four or five villages planned and built on the most efficient modern lines in such a way as to provide easily for medical care, but without the institutional atmosphere associated with large and congested hospital units. It is possible also that other types of villages could be built in areas where post-~~army~~ war expansion is anticipated. These villages would be ready for use by ex-service men and by those now engaged in war activities in congested areas. The planning and construction could be placed under the supervision of some existing agency, such as the architectural division of the Farm Security Administration.

Would it not be possible to select sites for four or five such villages in the interior valleys of California where the safety factor would be adequate, where climate soil, water and other physical conditions are favorable, and which would be appropriate for the post-war uses mentioned?

If such sections could be located, mobile camps could be set up on the patterns employed by the Farm Security Administration in handling migrant workers in farming areas of short season demand. The men from families to be relocated could be moved into these camps with the least delay, to be followed by their families as fast as accommodations can be provided. The new settlements would be organized on a cooperative basis, and all those desiring employment assigned to tasks for which they are trained. Medical cooperatives could be organized to take care of all health needs. Schools could be established with teachers selected, in large part, from the group itself. Recreation could be organized for young and old, and all utility services could be run on the basis of municipal ownership and control.

A group of Japanese architects who are graduate of the University of California have already expressed their desire to be of service in any undertaking where their skills can be utilized. Engineers, carpenters, masons, plumber, and others experienced in construction could be employed in building houses, health and recreational centers, hospital units, and all other buildings which go to make up such a community. Gardeners could be employed in landscaping the villages and in the care of parks and other public grounds. The skills and energy of the group would be utilized in every way possible in preparing for ~~their~~ a better post-war period. Their voluntary employment would provide income for their support and would release other labor for needed work in defense activities.

When the war is over, the families occupying these villages could return to their former homes, or relocate as conditions permitted, while the villages planned on the best modern design would become valuable and permanent assets.

Respectfully yours,

Ray Lyman Wilbur (President of Stanford University)
Edgar Eugene Robinson
Jessie Knight Jordan (Mrs. David Starr Jordan)
Edith Jordan Gardner
Edward S. Heller
Josephine W. Duvenack
Frank Duvenack
Berde Isenberg
R. F. Isenberg

Emily Oga Joseph
Walter E. Packard
Howard Moise
Allen C. Blaisdell
Max Radin
Monroe E. Deutsch (Vice-President
and Provost U. of Cal.)
Paul S. Taylor
Catherine Bauer
Alexander Watchman (AFL)
George Wilson (\$ CIO)
Edward Howden.

copy to President of U. S., Sec'y of War, Gov. of Cal., U. S. Attorney Gen.

Files

W R A.

100
A 1030

April 14, 1942

Reverend Ralph M. Johnson, Secretary
Yakima Council of Churches
Yakima, Washington

Dear Reverend Johnson:

Lieutenant General J. L. DeWitt has directed me to reply to your letter of April 10, 1942, and to thank you for your kind expressions of cooperation.

The Commanding General is under a duty to evacuate from the Pacific coastal area and to temporarily re-settle various persons, including those of Japanese ancestry.

V. J. Lantieri
The evacuation is not only for the military protection of the country, but for the protection of the evacuees as well. You will appreciate that unreasoning persons might not, at this time, distinguish between loyal American citizens of Japanese ancestry and enemy aliens.

The Commanding General is insistent that, unless urgent military necessity should dictate otherwise, the temporary re-settlement camps be adequate and sanitary. While there are, inevitably, hardships and sacrifices incident to the evacuation, such have been held to a minimum. It is believed that there has been no grounds of complaint by or on behalf of the evacuees concerning their treatment, transportation or the living conditions which prevail at the various camps.

After the evacuation and temporary re-settlement of the evacuees, War Relocation Authority has the responsibility of settlement, other than temporary. Your letter is therefore being referred to Mr. Milton Eisenhower, Director of the Authority, for his consideration.

Very truly yours,



HUGH T. FULLERTON
Captain A. G. D.
Assistant Adjutant General

*Noted
no reply
Hm*