

E2.432

67/14
C

John Powell

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, SUB-OFFICE

PAUL C. DOUGHERTY, RELOCATION OFFICER

Early in January the Chicago office of the War Relocation Authority was opened. Two major problems immediately confronted the Supervisor--the hiring and training of a competent and qualified staff and the preparation of the citizens of the area for the acceptance of the program of the War Relocation Authority and of the American-Japanese into their midst.

A staff was assembled most of whom were entirely uninformed and unfamiliar with the past accomplishments of the War Relocation Authority or its projected program for future relocation of the evacuees. Under the patient tutelage and understanding guidance of our Relocation Supervisor, the members of the staff were informed as to the past history of our agency and gradually began to discern glimpses of the problems which were awaiting solution throughout the months which lay ahead of us. Short periods of assignment to the Washington office for some members of the staff and later assignments for each member to one of the projects for further study and instruction contributed immensely toward giving us a well-rounded and balanced fund of knowledge and an intimate acquaintanceship with project operations and personnel as well as an opportunity to observe and mingle with the evacuees themselves.

Prior to the establishing of the Chicago office a few evacuees had been assisted toward relocation in this area through the efforts of the American Society of Friends, the Young Women's Christian Association and other interested groups and individuals. Very little had been done, however, to inform or acquaint the public with the relocation program. As soon as the office was opened and a staff began to be assembled, contacts were rapidly made with city officials, civic leaders, church and social service organizations and with many individuals. The immediate result was an avalanche of job offers in the domestic field and in the unskilled and lower brackets of the semi-skilled occupations. The result of this was the acceptance of many of these offers by those evacuees who were most desirous of leaving the centers and who, in many instances, used their first jobs as springboards for more desirable connections later. This procession of early resettlers left in its wake many disillusioned and irate housewives who were beginning to feel secure in having obtained through the War Relocation Authority the most efficient maids which the labor market afforded. Other employers also began to complain of the "job-hopping" proclivities of the American-Japanese. The effects of such procedures, whether thoughtless or premeditated, were strongly presented to incoming evacuees as a part of our interviewing and counseling technique, and projects were not only advised but urged to impress upon those evacuees leaving the centers the importance of the impressions and the records made by the early resettlers and their relationship to the relocation program and its ultimate failure or success. These faults have been nearly altogether eradicated and, almost without exception, employers are greatly pleased with the evacuees and satisfactory employer-employee relationships have developed.

Throughout recent months, a concerted effort toward the education of the general public as to the War Relocation Authority program has been in progress. The results to date have been gratifying. Members of our staff have taken advantage of every opportunity to tell the relocation story to Rotary, Kiwanis and Lions Clubs as well as Parent-Teacher Associations, Church and Social Groups, and Business and Trade Organizations. The reception has always been cordial, and the need for such a program of education has been evidenced by the number and kinds of questions asked by the members of the groups addressed.

Articles have also been furnished to the neighborhood newspapers and to the metropolitan press.

Because of the difficulties encountered in obtaining suitable and adequate housing facilities for evacuees, all sections of the city were visited by our representatives and real estate companies, housing organizations and agencies of all kinds were called upon. Single rooms were more easily obtained than apartments and houses. It is generally conceded that housing accommodations are difficult to find in Chicago for newcomers whatever their racial antecedents may be. Practically the entire time of one member of our staff has been constantly given to this phase of the program.

In the early stages of our program here, employers were solicited and jobs were sought for evacuees. Wages, conditions of employment, and the attitude of employers, fellow employees and the neighborhood were carefully inquired into and appraised. As more and more evacuees were employed and became adjusted to their new surroundings and employers and fellow workers became convinced that the American-Japanese were industrious, clean, efficient and loyal workers, additional offers of jobs began to come into the War Relocation Authority office. These offers soon assumed such proportions that it was no longer necessary to conduct an active campaign for calling upon employers, and, in fact, offers for domestic jobs were no longer accepted because of the large number of unfilled offers.

Several firms and factories maintain open job offers with us now so that we feel free to refer evacuees to them at any time knowing that they will be given consideration for employment. Examples which may be cited are Cuneo Press, Shotwell Manufacturing Company, Edgewater Beach Hotel, Sherman Hotel, as well as many Chicago restaurants and garages.

Several Chicago hospitals have eagerly sought laboratory technicians, nurses' aides, dental and X-ray technicians, dieticians, etc., and satisfactory placements have been made in many instances. One of the most difficult fields to invade and one in which only limited progress has been made to date is the entire range of retail stores. One large chain grocery store has hired evacuees and placed them in charge of their retail fruit and vegetable departments. Some are employed in office positions in retail establishments. In many instances, however, retail merchants have permitted anticipated customer reaction and acceptance to influence them adversely toward the employing of evacuees. Negotiations are now under way, however, which may result in the further opening of retail store offers, both in office positions and clerks' jobs.

Since the initiation of our program in this area, the churches have been especially helpful in offering a cordial welcome to the evacuees. They have been accepted as fellow-worshippers and in some instances are sending their children to local Sunday Schools and are attending other activities of the church programs. The Young Women's Christian Association has rendered much helpful service in providing counseling through committees as well as providing housing for some of the evacuees. The Young Men's Christian Association also has admitted to residence in all their buildings many of the young men seeking housing. The Y.M.C.A. Hotel has been especially helpful in providing temporary rooms for both men and women. The hostels operated by the Society of Friends and by the Church of the Brethren have filled a real need in providing temporary homes for newly-arrived evacuees and in supplying helpful advice in their counseling programs. The Chicago Church Federation and the Chicago Advisory Committee have also stood ready at all times for consultation in reference to many problems affecting the evacuees or our own agency.

Although some problems which faced us in the early stages of our program have been wholly or partially solved, there are some of long standing and others which have recently arisen which give us great concern, and will, no doubt, require much thought and study before proper and adequate solutions are discovered.

The question of Joint Board Clearance continues to be one of paramount importance in the thinking of many of the evacuees. Regardless of any counsel or advice to the contrary, many of the young men insist upon employment in war production plants. As long as the draft is not applicable to them, this demand for a share in the war effort will probably continue. Through a local agreement with the Personnel Security Branch of the Sixth Service Command covering this area, names of plants which are potential employers of evacuees may be sent in for clearance. Where clearance is granted evacuees may be referred for employment. In most instances, the company will require the submission of the Personnel Security Questionnaire which leaves the evacuee in constant fear that he will probably be removed from his employment at a later date after the Provost Marshal General has received his Personnel Security Questionnaire form. A speeding up of Joint Board Clearances is greatly desired.

Another problem with which we must necessarily be concerned to some degree is the attainment of a successful adjustment of the resettlers in their new surroundings and a proper assimilation both of individuals and family groups. We all know that a job is not enough. There are spiritual, health, education, recreation and social needs which must be supplied before a complete sense of security is acquired in their new homes. Committees in the city are now at work and ready to experiment in arriving at some satisfactory solutions for this rather pressing problem.

Dr. Harold S. Jacoby, formerly of Tule Lake, joined our staff on November 9, 1943, and will act as the co-ordinator of all community integration activities.

A minor problem which is in process of solution at the present time is the admission of high school students into the Chicago Public Schools in cases where neither parents nor guardian are residents of the city. We are hopeful that a satisfactory arrangement can be worked out before very many more of these young boys and girls arrive expecting to complete high school courses here.

I believe, however, that the problem which gives us most concern at present is our inability to find enough candidates in the centers who will accept the jobs which are offered to them. As S. Burton Heath states in his recent article in "Harper's Magazine", "Actual relocation has become a psychological problem more difficult than the mechanical problem it was in the beginning." I feel sure that this problem is recognized by both project directors and relocation officers as well as by our Washington office. Steps toward its solution have already been taken as evidenced by the creation of a Relocation Division to function both in Washington and in the projects. Also, Relocation Offices are submitting their best job offers in as attractive ways as possible in order to induce evacuees in the centers to become interested in them. The reasons for this apparent lethargy at the projects are well known--I will not go into them. The difficulties which relocation officers face have already been enumerated. A patient, sympathetic study and understanding of our common problems may enable us to select the right roads down which we are hopeful we may continue to move until

eventually we will come into that clearing where the white light of a more complete knowledge may dispel the mists of uncertainty and the clouds of indecision.

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, SUB-OFFICE

HAROLD M. MANN, RELOCATION OFFICER

The Minneapolis office was opened informally by Mr. Harold Choate in January, 1943. Mr. Choate was succeeded by Mr. Clement L. White, who secured office space and began operations therefrom February 2, 1943. Mr. White had for a short time a temporary appointee as his secretary, but on April 1, 1943, Marian Kadomatsu was regularly appointed as secretary and has continued to date. On October 1, 1943, Mr. White was transferred to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, to open an office there, and I was appointed Relocation Officer for this district.

To the best of my knowledge, there has been no organized opposition toward relocation in this entire area. Such difficulties of a serious nature, as have been encountered locally, have been due to the actions of other government agencies rather than to any local organization or movements. Rather strong and active resettlement committees in both St. Paul and Minneapolis have undoubtedly been factors in maintaining local good will toward the incoming evacuees, and the cooperation of innumerable social and religious agencies and civic organizations have been even greater factors in paving the way for our heaviest relocation which has been in the Twin Cities.

The hospitals making up the Mayo Clinic at Rochester, Minnesota, took from the first, an extremely broad and liberal view and served to open up that community to a considerable number of American-Japanese. To a large extent the cooperation of all of these groups can be attributed to the work of Mr. Choate, Mr. White, and to initial visits here by George Rundquist, Mr. Holland and Mr. Shirrell.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS--Both Mr. White and I have sought and found many opportunities to address small and large groups in this area and a great deal of public speaking has been done also by Niseis and by various civic-minded individuals of whom I should particularly like to mention Miss Virginia Swanson, a missionary assigned to work among the American-Japanese in this area by the Baptist Church. The press has been friendly and uniformly has shown a good attitude toward our program. In the month that I have been here, hardly a day has passed that some mention has not been made of American-Japanese in one or the other of the St. Paul or Minneapolis papers.

Job offers here, as in most parts of the country, have come in excess of the number of persons available to take them. Wage rates are good in comparison to those usually paid locally. In unskilled jobs, and in most manual skills, wage rates here compare favorably with those in other localities east of us. Labor offers concurrently on file range from 55 cents to 79 cents per hour for men and factory jobs for women, mostly of the piece-work nature, range from 45 cents to 80 cents or \$1.00, depending upon proficiency. Domestic wage rates range from \$10 to \$22.50 with a great surplus of offers available at \$15 to \$22.50 per week, plus room and board. Placements have been made over a great range of occupations with the one noteworthy feature that the hospitals of Minnesota, particularly those in Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Rochester, have attracted large numbers of trained nurses and nurses in training. These hospitals also employ men in various professional capacities.

It is my feeling that my predecessors have achieved one factor which may be regarded as particularly outstanding and that is the matter of community adjustment. I have been told by many evacuees here how much they like living in the Twin Cities and have gathered that this attitude is prevalent. I have noticed in persons coming to Twin Cities from the projects a willingness to take lower salaries and, in very frequent cases, a willingness to consider other factors than the salary offered as primary. It is my impression that these attitudes are the result of evacuees previously relocated here having made known to their friends on the projects that these cities are friendly cities and ones in which they can expect to live comfortably.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE--The major problem, in my estimation, throughout the cities of Minnesota, is the one of housing which I believe will never be solved to a satisfactory degree unless changes in other agencies of the government permit large scale building here. The Mayor's committee on housing in Minneapolis, of which I am a member, has made a thorough survey of Minneapolis and its suburbs showing that as of this week there are 614 unoccupied homes or less than .4 of 1 per cent of the total available. Most of these unoccupied places are not satisfactory for human habitation. Rooms for unattached persons are fairly readily obtainable and with the cooperation of our committees and through the normal turnover in tenants, we have been able to house persons already coming here and expect to be able to continue for some time with our present flow of American-Japanese into the Twin Cities. The Mayor's committee on housing here has plans on foot which may be of some assistance to us. Some new housing in the sense of conversion of property is going to be made with government assistance and we will be entitled to a small share of this. I regard our basic problem--and the only real limiting problem--to be that of housing.

FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA, SUB-OFFICE

ELMER B. ISAKSEN, RELOCATION OFFICER

Looking back in an attempt to evaluate the progress of the relocation efforts in the Fargo area since the opening of the office early in April, I would say that from the standpoint of securing public acceptance of the American-Japanese, we have been fairly successful. However, if we attempt to use the number of evacuees relocated as a yardstick, we have not been too successful. Our inability to relocate a large number in the area is due, first, we believe, to the evacuees' reluctance to relocate in smaller cities and, secondly, to some of the same reasons that we have discussed here before.

The city has always had attractions and apparently these same attractions exist for the American-Japanese as well as they do for our other groups. An example from my area may help to illustrate this point: We placed eighteen men in a resort hotel near Fargo last spring. The men came out on indefinite leave and at the end of the season we attempted to interest them in other job offers we had in the community. All except one evacuee went into larger cities--Minneapolis, St. Paul or Chicago. Several of the younger men who were students went on to school and one joined the Army. Besides this group of eighteen, we had four others come out from one of the centers to accept employment at the resort, but they arrived too late and the jobs were filled. But they, too, preferred jobs in the city and went on to a hotel job in St. Paul.

However, we have made some progress and we were able to get some forty-five or fifty people out from the centers into our area. Most of them were employed

in hotels, some half-dozen families on farms, one in a newspaper office, and others as domestics.

Our most serious problems up until the end of the harvest season had been with the resistance created by the president of the State Federation of Labor. Shortly after we opened the WRA office in Fargo, he gave us complete assurance that he would stop any attempt to place evacuees in North Dakota. He was bitter in his criticism of attempts by the government to place evacuee labor in the State.

His first step, after calling at our office to denounce the WRA, was to openly attack WRA at a state-wide meeting called by Governor Moses to discuss farm harvest labor shortage. Following this attack, Governor Moses issued a statement to the press in which he expressed opposition to the movement of evacuee laborers into North Dakota. Later, we called on the Governor and reached a fairly satisfactory understanding with him.

However, as a result of labor's attitude and some of the shouting and waving of arms, we found that some employers, although they needed help, hesitated to place offers with us. We feel that the cool attitude of the United States Employment Service and especially its State Director is due, at least in part, to the renting of the State Federation of Labor's President.

As to the prospects of securing job offers sufficiently attractive to pull evacuees into the Fargo territory during the next six months, we must be pessimistic. During the past week we attended the sessions of the North Dakota County and State War Boards (agricultural) which were attended by the Extension Service workers, all AAA fieldmen, the Army and Navy representatives of the State Selective Service, USES, and others. As a member of the committee assigned to the "farm labor", we spent an entire day with representatives of these various groups and from this session one could only conclude that the labor supply in North Dakota and the Red River Valley was quite ample; that is, for the coming winter months. Calls on the managers of the USES offices in northwest Minnesota substantiated the results of the labor conference.

In view of the critical shortages in other areas, some explanation is perhaps necessary: North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota are primarily agricultural. My guess would be that between 80 and 90 per cent of the labor force of the area is concerned with agriculture; that is, actually on the farm. Selective Service, since harvest is releasing all 2C's and 3C's, men who have been deferred because of agricultural work, to go into such lines as creameries, garages, the building trades, machine shops, packing plants, trucking, etc. These men are referred by the USES in the outlying rural areas to the USES managers in the larger towns such as Moorhead, Fargo, Grand Forks and Bismarck. In one day, the Moorhead USES office secured twenty-four such referrals from the adjoining county of Becker. These men in the 2C and 3C classification are eligible to remain off the farm until March 15 or April 1, depending on when spring farm work will begin. They are coming into Fargo and other towns, filling any vacancies there may be. Farm wages for winter months are as low as \$50.00 and \$60.00 per month, and most single men would prefer to work in town during the winter months.

A number of the families we had placed on farms during the summer are now out of work and we spent several days last week attempting to secure winter employment for them. While trying to place these families, we found that garages, the packing plants, the union stock yards and five or six smaller war plants all

had complete staffs and were turning down men. On the same day we were told by the employment office of the Armour packing plant at West Fargo that they were turning down men. We read in the Minneapolis Tribune that the South St. Paul Union Stockyards were overflowing with cattle and hogs with not enough workers available to handle them. Some of these same employers had requested evacuee laborers during the past summer.

We should explain why these farm families are out of work inasmuch as they came out on indefinite leave on a year job. OPA onion price ceilings were such that their employer found it more profitable to sell all his onions--20 or 30 carloads--direct from the field rather than storing and selling during the winter in small lots as he had done in other years.

Evacuees who are capable of managing their own farms should be given every encouragement by other Federal Agencies, especially the Farm Security and the Farm Credit Administration. The cooperation of these agencies should not be limited to financial assistance, but the FSA should assist the evacuee in locating a suitable farm and the necessary follow-up exactly the same as with other borrowers. We would like to learn whether the Farm Security Administration Supervisors have received a memorandum or instructions from their Regional or State Directors with respect to assistance the FSA may extend to evacuees.

It is our opinion that any attempt to set up groups of evacuees on a co-operative basis should probably be discouraged. If steps are taken to relocate any on the group basis, it should be a very informal plan with not more than three or four families involved.

One problem which we hope may in some degree be solved at the projects is the evacuee's attitude toward accepting work which he believes to be beneath his dignity. We find that they come out from the center with an inflated desire for short hours, high wages and housing conditions which only a few of our local people are able to secure. On their arrival some are disappointed and undoubtedly letters go back to their friends at the center pointing out that perhaps life in the center, after all, is just as good.

It seems that we must emphasize that after all there is a war on; there are housing shortages; many people have been uprooted from their homes and are making sacrifices; high wages are being paid in some positions, but many of the jobs they hear about are for highly skilled workers in crowded areas. We find, too, that they suspect employers are prone to take advantage of them because of their race. They hear that a co-worker is receiving seventy cents an hour while they receive only sixty cents. They may not understand that their co-worker came in for only a short time during the seasonal peak load while they have been on the payroll for several months while the work load was light.

We hope that we have not appeared too critical of either the WRA or the evacuees, but have brought out some constructive criticism. After all, during the seven months existence of a WRA field office in Fargo, we were able to place some exceptionally fine American-Japanese in the area, people who have won the respect of the leading citizens in the community. We speak of "Exhibit A's" and, with but one or two exceptions, those we have assisted to relocate have conducted themselves in a manner which is a compliment to them and their friends and relatives remaining in the centers.

MADISON, WISCONSIN, SUB-OFFICE

JOHN H. PUTZ, RELOCATION OFFICER

The Madison field office of the War Relocation Authority was opened in April, 1943, after the return of the Relocation Officer from a visit to the Jerome Relocation Project. Mrs. Bess Lahiff, secretary, who started with the office was transferred to the Internal Revenue Division in May and Mrs. Ochi arrived from the Central Utah Project to fill this position. Since September 27, 1943, when Mr. E. Ketchpaw of the Milwaukee office was inducted into Service, the Madison and Milwaukee offices have been consolidated and at present both offices are under the direction of John H. Putz, Relocation Officer.

The Madison Committee on Relocation of American-Japanese, composed of some of the leading citizens of Madison, had been organized prior to the opening of the office and some work in public education regarding the relocation program was under way which was very helpful to the program in the early days of the office. The committee included the Mayor of the city and representatives of religious, educational, industrial and professional groups.

Outside of the attention given to job opportunities in Madison, emphasis for the first four months was on opening and developing opportunities in the agricultural field. While at first the farmers were not very receptive of the idea of using evacuee help, after some ground work had been done through contacts and general education on the relocation program through cooperation with the County Agricultural Agents, USES Managers, ministers and other interested persons, a favorable attitude was created to the extent that four farm offers, representative of farm jobs available in Wisconsin, were sent to the centers. These farm offers were followed by many others including requests for single workers, couple and families, but no favorable response was received to any of them. Pamphlets, booklets and other descriptive material and a letter explaining the farming conditions and opportunities in Wisconsin were sent to all the projects in an attempt to stimulate interest in farming in this area, but no interest was shown. The availability of jobs in the farming areas of the middle west in types of work to which they were accustomed, lack of experience in dairying, together with the isolated nature of the work, are some of the reasons for the lack of interest in this kind of work.

Opportunities in the lumbering industries and in mining, two other major industries in Wisconsin, were also explored. A special trip was made to Loretta, Wisconsin, to investigate personally the working conditions, wages, surroundings, and sentiment in that area regarding the cutting of pulpwood. An offer from the Consolidated Water Power and Paper Company for a number of workers needed in the various jobs in the woods was written up in detail covering the many phases of the work, but no favorable response was received from any of the projects.

Although job opportunities in other fields of employment such as for nurses, job printers, hospital workers, mechanics and domestics were received from some of the other larger cities, interest of evacuees for relocation in this area has centered and continues to center in the Madison area. The number of approximately seventy-five people relocated in this area are almost all employed in Madison although a few are working in other places and some are attending schools in other cities. Evacuees seem to show very little interest in relocating in areas which are unknown to them and in which no other evacuees are located.

Placements in Madison in the professional line have included nurses, accountants and an architect. Two more architects are now being considered for employment in the office of the State Architect. Others have been placed as office workers, warehousemen, stock clerks, mechanics, beauticians and in service and domestic work.

General public education regarding the relocation program has been carried out in most of the major cities in the area covered under this office such as La Crosse, Eau Claire, Wausau, Chippewa Falls, Janesville, Beloit and also in the smaller cities and communities, through talks, committees, church group organizations and various other interested groups. In communities where there is no committee or group, contacts have been made with two or three individual persons who may be called upon whenever needed. Newspaper articles and editorials favorable to the relocation program have appeared in a number of instances, and talks by evacuees and other persons interested in the program have helped to promote a favorable public attitude. In general, acceptance of evacuees in all of these communities is favorable, excepting perhaps for Janesville and Beloit, where some opposition has been felt largely due to the number of men from this particular area having been killed in action in the Philippines or are now prisoners of war. In and surrounding Madison, where relocation seems to have been concentrated, community sentiment and acceptance have been exceptionally good. Some credit for this favorable attitude is due to the local committee, but the largest factor has been the performance of the evacuees, both in employment and in their contacts with the public.

Contacts were made with the Director of the State Bureau of Personnel who is interested in applications of persons of professional skill and also with the Personnel Officer of the University of Wisconsin, another source of employment opportunities, approval for which is being temporarily held up for clearance with the Sixth Service Command.

All public education officials have been cooperative, and a policy has been adopted by both the public schools and the adult vocational schools whereby evacuees coming to Madison with intention of residing here may enroll without payment of tuition in these schools.

Through the Committee's help, church groups, and other organizations in the YMCA and YWCA, the relocated people have been extended invitations to attend various affairs and have been invited to become members. Others have made their own contacts individually and have been invited into the homes of many of the residents. Plans are underway to broaden this program of assimilation through a Nisei committee.

The main bottle neck in relocation progress is seemingly still the reluctance on the part of the evacuees to relocate. As far as the relocation office is concerned, soliciting offers which in many instances do not receive any response is not only embarrassing, but is a decided handicap. It may be that interest in relocation can be stimulated by some plans of contacting, individually, persons for the various opportunities received whenever possible. Personal contact seems to give the evacuees that much needed reassurance and encouragement.

Based on our experience, it is our opinion that the following factors contribute greatly to the lack of participation by evacuees in the plans for relocation:

1. Fear of not being accepted in a community to the extent that necessary social adjustments cannot be made. Despite the assurances of relocation offices and persons already relocated that a friendly feeling prevails in most middle west communities, there is a feeling of uncertainty in this respect on the part of some evacuees, especially older Isseis with families. Undoubtedly, the assimilation of those older persons whose appearance, manners and speech plainly identify them as having resided in Japan is more difficult than for others especially during the war period. This would apply to a greater extent in rural areas than in urban communities.

Evidences of successful relocation in the form of letters from evacuees to those in the centers and visits to centers of those who have relocated with talks to interested groups, should help in removing the fear of inability to become integrated. In rural areas, group relocation may be an answer, but a satisfactory plan for such relocation has not been worked out. In general, there would be opposition on the part of local residents in well-established rural communities, and the evacuees are not interested in the less productive communities.

2. Misunderstanding of the amount of average earnings for the various occupations in the different areas, and distorted ideas of evacuees as to the high cost of living on the outside, together with a lack of understanding of the application of the income tax deductions from wages, may be other points which retard relocation. Relocation officers and those who have relocated could furnish more complete information regarding these items to be used at the projects for further education especially in group discussions.
3. Housing is still one of the biggest problems. In many areas, housing is very difficult to obtain. However, a number of evacuee families including young children have found satisfactory housing. The evacuees have encountered very little or no discrimination in the matter of housing. It is usually a matter of being the first one to make application when a vacancy occurs. In Madison, this can be accomplished by watching the newspapers closely and keeping in touch with the National Housing Agency which has been particularly cooperative. Rooms have been available at reasonable rents for single persons and for heads of families who come out ahead of the family. With this arrangement, we have not felt the need of hostels for families, although such arrangements would prove very helpful in cities where larger numbers of evacuees are relocated.
4. Stimulation of interest in relocation plans for families could be encouraged in many instances through more active participation in such plans by other members of the family or friends already relocated. We believe that relocation offices could contact those persons in a particular area, in correlation with a contact of the family in the project, by the Relocation Division personnel.
5. It is essential that evacuees be given first hand information regarding employment opportunities, and factors pertaining to their health, education, recreation, and other social needs in the different communities. Visits of relocation teams to the centers would be a means of providing this essential information.

6. The functioning of a Relocation Division at the centers, with responsibility for the relocation program, should result in better service to evacuees and to relocation offices. The plan to reach every family to determine the reasons for resistance to relocation should be effective in that relocation offices will know the causes for such resistance and will be able to work for the removal of obstacles to relocation in a particular area.

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN, SUB-OFFICE

JOHN H. PUTZ, RELOCATION OFFICER

History--The Milwaukee office was opened about March 15, 1943, staffed by Victor P. Tabaka, relocation officer, Joseph H. Hansen, associate relocation officer and a temporary secretary. On May 28, 1943, Sumi Shinozaki joined the staff as secretary.

Mr. Tabaka resigned his office on May 31, 1943, to accept a position with a Michigan firm and was succeeded by E. E. Ketchpaw. Mr. Ketchpaw had been in charge of the Rockford, Illinois, WRA office and was transferred to Milwaukee. He continued in charge until September 27, 1943, on which date he joined the armed forces of this country. At that time, John H. Putz, who had been in charge of the Madison office, was given the additional responsibility of directing the Milwaukee branch.

One of the first problems that confronted the local office was convincing residents of a county bordering Milwaukee that a wholesale resettlement scheme was not contemplated in any area. These rumors had been the result of a farm survey made by two young evacuees interested in a farm lease proposition made them by land owners who also own and operate a vegetable canning factory and a vegetable freezing plant in that county.

Accomplishments--As a part of the general public education, personal calls were made at the offices of public officials, influential citizens, church dignitaries, religious groups and various civic organizations of the area. County agricultural agents and their groups were also contacted. In all instances, the WRA program as a whole and as it applied to a specific locality, was freely discussed. Generally speaking, great interest in the program was shown and assurances of cooperation were received.

Newspapers of this area have been very generous in space for the program. While the Hearst papers have opposed the relocation program as a matter of national policy, they have, on the whole, been generous both as to space and attitude in reporting items of local interest.

Numerous outside speakers appearing before Milwaukee audiences have taken the relocation program as their topic. These talks were not WRA-sponsored and many times the WRA did not know about them until later. Evacuee speakers have on a number of occasions appeared before various groups throughout the state and have been well received. A number of stores specializing in women's and children's wearing apparel sponsored a radio program known as the "Nancy Gray Hour". Miss Gray visited the Manzanar center and while there made numerous recordings of project activities which were broadcast in Milwaukee each day for one week following Miss Gray's return. These broadcasts created state-wide interest and served as a stimulus for many job offers, mainly domestic.

Most of the job offers received after the opening of the WRA office were for domestic employment. However, as the agency became more firmly established, a variety of job offers was received, among these being radio and laboratory technicians, secretaries, electrical engineers, chemists, draftsmen and stenographers. A number of excellent job offers have been filled in the electrical engineering, radio and laboratory fields, as well as some excellent secretarial positions. Automobile mechanics predominate among those placed in the skilled brackets.

The general liberal attitude of people in the Midwest has been expanded by an educational campaign directed toward the WRA program. That attitude, plus the ability and the desire of evacuated persons to make good, has resulted in far more requests for evacuee employees than it has been possible to fill.

Future Problems--In our opinion, the reluctance of evacuees to accept job offers would be eliminated to a large extent if adequate housing were available. Community contacts are being made by a committee--representing church groups, civic organizations, educational groups, labor organizations, War Housing, the "Y's" and welfare societies--to give all possible assistance to evacuees in locating adequate housing. While the housing situation is desperate, we believe that fair housing may be located if interested persons are not too critical at the outset with the type of housing which is available.

It is questionable that much effort in locating living quarters for family groups is being made by the family member who accepts an employment offer in advance of the relocation of the family group. That member of the family who leaves the project first to accept employment should be encouraged to assist the family as much as possible in locating a future home.

On the project level, heads of families should be encouraged to accept employment offers even though the type of job is not entirely to their liking or the beginning pay does not seem adequate to support the whole family. It should be pointed out to them that many resident family heads do not earn enough money to adequately support their families according to accepted standards. In many instances of this kind, the family budget is being augmented by earnings of other family employables or other adjustments may be made which permit a fairly high standard of living.

There is an apparent lack of interest on the part of those persons already relocated in planning for the relocation of their families. Interest should be stimulated by interviews with relocation field office members together with a contact with the family at the project by the project relocation personnel. These contacts with the relocated evacuee and the families at the projects should be closely correlated in order to be effective.

The present method of forwarding employment offers to the projects has not always stimulated sufficient interest in relocation on the part of the evacuees. In our opinion, visits to relocation centers by relocation field representatives would result in greater interest being shown in the area represented and in acceptance of job offers presented.

PEORIA, ILLINOIS, SUB-OFFICE

MILTON C. GEUTHER, RELOCATION OFFICER

The Peoria Office was opened April 1, 1943. Perry B. Hall, Relocation Officer, was in charge of the office from April 1 to July 1, 1943. After he resigned, Miss Madeline Jacobs, Office Secretary, was alone in the Peoria Office until October 1st, when Milton C. Geuther was appointed Relocation Officer for this territory.

The first problem was to inform the people of Central Illinois of the program. Mr. Hall had contacted public-spirited citizens (mainly church groups) in the various towns, meeting with these groups and filling speaking engagements with Service Clubs. Some hospitals and similar institutions were contacted which resulted in placing several evacuees in Peoria and a few in Bloomington.

When I came to Peoria, the first thing I did was to contact industrial plants and other employers to get the correct information to them. I did not expect to convince them on the first contact, but to get them thinking about hiring American-Japanese. After they have investigated for themselves, and their labor shortage gets more acute, I am satisfied that a certain percentage will call and ask for workers. It was my experience in the Chicago area that on several contacts with farmers where I gave them the information, and they were apparently not too interested at the time, yet within sixty to ninety days, they called in a job offer. In addition, I have made several speaking engagements and have several more definite dates to speak. I have had several articles in the newspapers in this area to help explain the program.

In order to get the evacuees to know more about Peoria and to help them to want to come to Peoria, a manila folder was prepared that had a personal letter to the Project Director explaining why the folder was prepared and sent to the project. The folder, itself, included:

1. A letter to the evacuees telling something about the City and a word of greeting.
2. A road map showing the area covered by this office and the train time from Chicago.
3. Information on schools, churches, parks, industries, libraries, etc.
4. Information about the age, size, etc., of Peoria.
5. Pictures taken in and around Peoria.
6. Testimonial letters from evacuees resettled in Peoria.
7. Names, address and former addresses of evacuees located in Peoria.
8. Information on vegetable farming in Peoria area, and
9. Other pertinent information.

In our subsequent job offers sent to the projects, we refer specifically to this folder of material. When we find other explanatory material, it is sent to

the project with a request that it be included in the folder.

The local Committee in Peoria has taken an active interest in helping to get housing and to integrate the evacuees into the community. The Committee is made up mainly of church men and women, and while it is effective, much could be gained if there were a few professional and business men on the Committee to help give it additional prestige. (Other Committees will be formed. The Committee is valuable, and it will receive cooperation from this office.)

Since not many employers have been informed, there are not very many job offers at the present time in this area.

As a result of arrangements made by the Chicago office with FPFA, a conference was held in Peoria with the Peoria Housing Authority, and I believe that the Housing project will be made available to American Japanese. This should result in more families coming to Peoria since this housing is new and is reasonable in its charges.

Activities—In addition to calling on employers to explain the WRA program, we are also doing some telephone canvassing for job offers. A set speech was prepared and tried out on several calls, then revised as we found better words to use in the canned speech. Employers, such as dental laboratories, beauty parlors, dressmakers, accountants, etc., were called, and as a result, we secured five job offers. In addition, we were asked to call in person and explain the program and we feel sure that these calls will result in job offers at a later date. This plan was used in Peoria. At a later date, we hope to use it in at least four other cities in Central Illinois. Since the Farm Security Administration has offices in these cities, we plan to ask them first to use their telephones to make the canvass. If we are unable to use their telephone, we will try other agencies including the churches, and we feel sure that we will not have too much difficulty to obtain this favor. It is recognized that a personal call is the best, but with the limited personnel, it is almost impossible to cover the territory. After the openings are found, it is easy to go to the places where there are jobs and explain the program.

Two of the Army Camps in this area have been contacted and they are interested in securing help for the Post Exchange. Col. Henry, who is in charge of all Post Exchanges in this command, has a nisei stenographer and is very pleased with the work which she is doing in his office. He is suggesting to the personnel at each field that they make every attempt to secure American-Japanese to work in their Exchanges. At Camp Ellis, there is a housing shortage, and we are attempting to work with the local War Manpower Director to see if it will be possible to get some portable CCC barracks moved and made available near this Camp. That would take care of the housing angle.

In this area, the need is to acquaint employers with the program, to get workers to know who the American-Japanese are so they will accept them as fellow workers, and make all of the people aware of race problems and help to give them the desire to help solve the problem and to overcome the sense of defeatism over race problems that seems to be growing at the present time.

The plans are to use newspaper publicity, work with Committees, cooperate with other agencies, fill as many speaking engagements as possible, and try not to miss an opportunity to work with others who are going in the same general direction as the WRA. I want to send as much information to projects as possible to help build up the desire to want to relocate—and then to relocate in Central Illinois.

It would help us to know who and what is available in the projects. Then having secured a job offer for that particular individual, it would help if the project could use all persuasion possible to convince the evacuee that this is the "job for you", take it now, etc. Additional information at the project to be given to evacuees as to "You will have to decide for yourself" should forewarn them so the shock will not be too abrupt. The average employer needs help now; he cannot understand the need to postpone simple decisions (to him) for several days. The need for tolerance both ways is great.

The material sent to the projects as job offers and other explanatory material is not always used to the best advantage, we are told, partly due to lack of display facilities. If these facilities could be provided and the interviewing could be done in private, I believe more could be accomplished.

Trained Caucasian interviewers familiar with the general area in which they are suggesting relocation, would also assist the evacuees in making favorable decisions in that they would feel more confidence in the advice being given to them.

Counseling at the project would make the evacuees' adjustment from the project to the "outside" much easier and should help to speed up the relocation program. Counseling the relocated evacuees would help them to get adjusted to life "outside", and it is recognized that by having them satisfied with life outside, they will write the kind of letters to the Centers that will inspire others to relocate.

From the Washington Office I would like to see more publicity released giving information that is correct to help counteract certain newspapers. Magazine articles, radio programs and a closer tieup with other government agencies would help the program in the field.

ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS, SUB-OFFICE

Kendall Smith, Relocation Officer

The sub-office in the city of Rockford was opened around March 25, 1943, under Mr. E. E. Ketchpaw.

The first problems quite naturally were introducing the general idea to the leading citizens who, in most instances, had barely heard of evacuation and had no knowledge of either the Japanese people or their problems. Mr. Ketchpaw did a splendid job on his original contacts. The leading business men, the press, the law enforcement agencies, the USES, and the County Farm Agent were well-informed about the program generally, and specifically, some placements had been made as domestics, auto mechanics and workers in poultry. There were, on the first of June, approximately forty people who had been relocated through the WRA office.

At this time, I was transferred to Rockford and, because of my knowledge of individuals among the Japanese people, the program underwent a decided change. Formerly, job offers were processed and sent to the projects in the regular routine. Immediately, specific jobs were offered to specific people in the projects. The stress in securing job offers was put on front office jobs; by this I mean, jobs on a par with Caucasians and, in most cases, working together with Caucasians. The first placement, made in Rockford, of this character was

an accountant with the firm of Seidman and Seidman. This accountant's capabilities were such that we received job offers from three other branch offices of this firm. As individuals, whose qualities were personally known to me, were placed in positions comparable to those held by Caucasians their outstanding ability and personality were revealed to their employers who helped us to sell the idea of employing persons of Japanese ancestry to other employers.

Addresses on the evacuation and the relocation program were made before various groups such as: church classes, the W.C.T.U., the Lutheran Conference, the Council of Social Agencies and many luncheon clubs. A feature article was published in the Morning Star recently on the relocation of our people in the Rockford area. With respect to schools for children of relocated families, I approached the Superintendent of Registration at the Board of Education explaining to him our program and the possibility of enrolling children of Japanese ancestry in the public schools of Rockford. This was accomplished and, to date, there are twelve pupils of Japanese ancestry enrolled in the elementary, junior, and senior high schools in this city.

There are more than 200 people of Japanese ancestry relocated in the city of Rockford. There are eleven families with a total of 20 children. About 65 to 70 girls are doing domestic work. Some 45 to 55 occupy front office positions. The remainder are cooks, bakers, poultrymen, nurserymen, garagemen, mechanics, car washers, etc.

Mr. Ishizaki, the watchmaker, is one case of an outstanding relocation. He was offered a job in a watch repairing and jewelry firm; he arrived in Rockford on August 20 and started work the next day. He has sent for his wife and five children and mother-in-law, has purchased a home in the better part of Rockford and is well established both in his work and in his social standing with his neighbors. His children attend Sunday School regularly. Miss Sumi Kobayashi is another successful relocatee. She is employed by the Rockford White Truck Company as a bookkeeper. Not long ago, she was able to rent a well-furnished, modern, fully-equipped apartment for herself, a girl friend and a sister who is a registered nurse in one of the hospitals. Miss Kobayashi resides in a purely residential section of Rockford.

From observation of the typical homes rented by the evacuees in other localities, it would appear that the evacuees in Rockford have been extremely fortunate in securing housing in the better neighborhoods. Not one evacuee is living within a colored or Italian district. The majority of them are housed in modern buildings in the clean part of the city. Housing, as always, is the major problem confronting this office. However, if sufficient time is given to securing housing, it is not impossible to find adequate housing. Here, too, as in the placement of our people in good jobs, I have found that the first landlords and landladies who have rented rooms or apartments to evacuees have been so well pleased with them that they were eager to fill vacancies with other Japanese.

With regard to future problems, at the moment I can think of none. There are no problems in my area worth mentioning which cannot be solved with applicants for the work to be done. The brand-new paper sent out over the signature of Leland Barrows should go a long way toward solving this problem if the paper or the policies therein are to any degree put into force. My only suggestion for needed action at the Washington or project level is the installation of intelligent men in the positions of Relocation Program Officer and his assistant in the various projects.

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA, SUB-OFFICE

HERBERT KENO, RELOCATION OFFICER

Prior to the formal opening of the Indiana office of the War Relocation Authority, Mr. Ted Waller visited Indianapolis with a two-fold purpose--the first being to stop, if possible, any action on the part of the Indiana Legislature which was being considered at that time against the evacuees and, secondly, to conduct a preliminary investigation of community sentiment and forward his report to Mr. Thomas Holland, at that time Head of the Employment Division in Washington. Mr. Waller's visit occurred in the early part of February. From that time until April 16, the War Relocation Authority was represented in the State of Indiana by Mr. Edmund T. Cleary, who worked out of the Chicago office. On April 16, 1943, a lease was signed through Office of Emergency Management with the management of the Circle Tower Building, Indianapolis, Indiana, and the WRA was officially in business in Indianapolis and the surrounding territory. On May 4, 1943, Mrs. Marie Kitazumi joined the staff of War Relocation Authority in Indiana as secretary to Mr. Edmund T. Cleary. Mr. Cleary reigned supreme in Indiana until September 1, 1943, when he resigned to return to private industry. He was officially replaced by Mr. Herbert Keno on October 1, 1943.

From all the evidence in the files, we learn that Mr. Waller did a remarkably fine job in talking certain members of the State Legislature out of their original ideas of enacting any legislation against the WRA. At the time that Mr. Waller was here, he undertook to make certain arrangements with various labor groups whereby the evacuees would not only be permitted to work but would be assisted in finding work and would be guaranteed a certain amount of freedom from prejudice by both AFL and CIO Unions. However, Mr. Waller found that while the Unions knew very, very little about our program, they were even less interested in helping us. During his stay, Mr. Waller also found time to interview Governor Schricker, Charles Dawson, Lt. Governor, and various other members of the Indiana State Legislature. He also presented the program of the Government to newspapers, Federal District Attorney, Major-General Robert Tyndall, Mayor of Indianapolis and to Negro Representative, Cleo Blackburn, Director of Flanner House, an experimental Negro settlement. At that time, contacts were also made with certain leading citizens, such as Evans Woollen, Jr., President of the Fletcher Trust Company, Mr. William Book, Executive Secretary of the Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce, and a Board of Industrial leaders, representing the prominent large industries located in Indianapolis. Military Intelligence, Naval Intelligence, the FBI and Internal Security were also contacted. A breakfast meeting was held, according to the files, with various religious and social service agencies. The Department of Agriculture was also contacted and acquainted with our program.

Prior to my being transferred to Indianapolis, we were beginning to make some fairly good headway in the Calumet area composed of Gary, Hammond, East Chicago and South Chicago. We found in these areas, as we probably expect to find throughout the whole country, that there are certain groups who will always be against any racial minority. However, in general, the citizens residing in this area were very happy to be told the program of the Government and, in most cases, not only promised, but actually went out and attempted to help the WRA directly and the evacuees indirectly. South Bend and Mishawaka areas, being a little further removed from Chicago, were not quite so happy at being presented the problem of absorbing some of the evacuees. However, I think we can safely say that, for the main part, we received very good cooperation in that particular area. Fort Wayne, as checked by both Mr. Cleary and myself, brings an entirely

different picture than almost any other community in Indiana. Everybody, from the Mayor and the Chief of Police right down to the individual citizens on the streets, is very much interested in preserving the rights of all citizens. We have a peculiar situation in Fort Wayne. However, due to the fact that 97½ per cent of the population is at least second generation American citizens, we find that their interest in citizenship rights is very much keener than that of most other communities. Throughout the whole State of Indiana, wherever I or my predecessors have made contact, we have found that all newspapers, whether they were Republican or Democratic, have been very cooperative in most instances, and have agreed to back the program of the WRA.

The last official report of the number of evacuees relocating in Indiana showed that we have 101 now working in various parts of the State. Very frankly, I am inclined to put this figure closer to 200. I know that we have not received reports on everybody who has come into the State because every once in a while I will either receive an inquiry concerning some evacuee in some town that WRA has not had time to enter officially, or somebody will telephone to tell me that last Saturday he was at the Iowa-Purdue football game at Lafayette and saw two Japanese boys there. My information regarding this particular incident was that there were approximately 16,000 people attending this football game--- the two nisei boys wandered freely amongst this crowd and had no trouble whatsoever. One of the evacuee boys now working as a domestic in Indianapolis came into my office the other day to tell me that his papers have been accepted by a college in Terre Haute, Indiana, and that he is planning to go there just as soon as the new semester starts. Although I previously did not know of any evacuees coming to Hammond, Indiana, I have just received a teletype from Manzanar asking for information concerning a Nisei girl who has recently come into Hammond. As far as I know, there are no trouble spots in Hammond. From various information I have received, it appears that there is a number of evacuees in Northern Indiana who have never been reported to the Indianapolis office. The outstanding fact, of course, is that no trouble has developed anywhere.

As far as school is concerned, arrangements have been made by Miss Ross for any of the Nisei boys and girls to attend the elementary and high schools of Indianapolis. Contrary to our expectations, no difficulty was involved in making these arrangements. In Fort Wayne, we now have two Nisei girls attending the South Side High School. In South Bend, we have been assured by the authorities that no objections will be raised to any of the boys and girls who wish to attend school. In Gary, Indiana, Mayor Finnerty himself gave me his personnel promise that room would be found in the schools for the evacuees.

As far as public education is concerned, while I was working in the northern end of Indiana, the Government's program was brought before such groups as the Kiwanis, Rotary, Lions Club and Chambers of Commerce. Since I have taken over the Indianapolis office, I have continued the policy of contacting all such groups and have included high schools in the various towns that I have visited. An average of three speeches a week has been maintained since I have taken over the Indianapolis office.