226 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago 6, Illinois

May 17, 1945

Mr. Otto Rossman, Head
Business Enterprises Section
War Relocation Authority
1006 U Street N. W.
Washington 1, D. C.

Report on visit to Minidoka Relocation
Center, April 30 to May 9, 1945

Dear Mr. Rossman:

On the afternoon of April 30, I conferred with Mr. Harry L. Stafford, Project Director, and Mr. Bert Weston, Acting Assistant Director in the Community Management Section, respectively. I was pleased to learn that there seemed to exist very harmonious relations and a good understanding between the project administration and the co-operative organization. Mr. Stafford was very congenial in relinquishing his time for a quite thorough discussion of matters pertinent to the Cooperative. Due to need for storage space for surplus farm equipment, it had become necessary to ask the Co-op. to vacate the large warehouse building No. 12 which they had been using and the WRA has reconditioned without cost to the Co-op. the dining hall building in Block 22 tobe used as a warehouse. The transfer was made on April 1 at WRA expense. The new warehouse arrangement results in considerable saving in rental expenses and is more convenient, being located in the same block as the main office of the Co-op.

Upon discussing our policy on liquidation and recommendation for continuation of Co-op services as near to the closing time of the centers as possible, it seemed to meet with the approval of the administration, subject to being conducted in such a manner as not to retard or interfere with relocation and that operations be condensed consistent with the need for services.

I conferred a number of times with the management and key employees and visited all of the shops and everything seemed to be in good order. I checked over the list of various taxes with Mr. George Hara and they all had been filed and paid. The reserve for depreciation of the fixed assets is approximately 45% of cost. The management was satisfied with the new warehouse arrangement referred to in connection with consultation with Mr. Stafford. The Co-op had taken over the handling of the express and freight service recently

for the evacuees and the Co-op from Eden to the center, which according to a report by the management has worked out satisfactorily.

The inventories had been reduced to a mere $30,000. The shoe inventory being only $2,400, they have no worry on shoes. The total dead stock is listed at $1,200 and I am inclined to believe they do not have much in excess of this amount.

In addition to conferring with the management, I held three conferences with the executive cabinet with several board members also present. Before leaving for Salt Lake City, I made an arrangement for a board meeting to be held on Tuesday, May 8. However, upon returning from Salt Lake City, I was informed that the meeting had been called instead for Wednesday afternoon. In the meantime, I learned that I could secure my return reservation to Chicago only for Wednesday, May 9. Under the circumstances, I was unable to meet with the entire board. However, inasmuch as there seemed to be no special problems and since everything seemed to be in good order and there was a fair representation from the board at my other conferences, I feel that meeting with the board was not imperative. Anyway, under the conditions, I had no choice in the matter.

As you may know, Mr. Edward Huberman, formerly Assistant Project Director in charge of Community Management, is now in the Refugee Shelter in Oswego, and Mr. Bert Winston still holds his job as Hospital Supervisor and is acting as Head of Community Management on the side. Thus, he cannot spare much time to the affairs of the Co-op. Incidentally, I met Mr. George Townsend with his wife and daughter in Heart Mountain. They stopped there on their way from Philadelphia to Seattle. He has an assignment to work in the Seattle relocation office and they are making their home in Seattle. However, Mr. Townsend is being detailed to Minidoka in charge of Community Management for a period of two months. I believe he is there now. I am sorry George was not yet in Minidoka during my visit there.

In conclusion, I wish to say that my visit in Minidoka was pleasant throughout my stay there.

Sincerely yours,

C.M.B.

Charles M. Beltt
Business Enterprises Advisor

226 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago 6, Illinois

May 18, 1945

Mr. Otto Rossman, Head
Business Enterprises Section
War Relocation Authority
1006 "U" Street N. W.
Washington 1, D. C.

In re: Report on visit to Heart Mountain
Relocation Center, April 18 - 28, 1945

Dear Mr. Rossman:

On the morning of April 19, I met with Mr. Guy Robertson, Project Director and Mr. M. O. Anderson, Assistant Project Director in charge of Community Management and had a very interesting conference with them. The highlights of the discussion were chiefly the following:

Mr. Robertson gave a brief history of the organizational aspect of the Cooperative and the development of the two factions, namely the Trustees' group and the other group who have been in favor of organizing a cooperative association to take over the Business Enterprises; and the strife which has existed between the two groups. According to expressions of Messrs. Robertson and Anderson, the business enterprises has been functioning very efficiently and satisfactorily under the trusteeship plan and in their opinion the leadership of the opposing group consists of certain belligerent and more or less undesirable element and inferred that the responsibility of this group is questionable and that in their opinion they do not enjoy the confidence of the residents as a whole. Thus, on the basis of the above existing conditions, the continuation of the business enterprises under the present trusteeship system is to the best interests of the residents. The merchandise stocks should be reduced to a bare minimum and commodity service thus curtailed so as to encourage relocation. However, the service shops should operate as near to the closing time of the center as possible, asserted Mr. Robertson. In this connection I explained that although it is our policy to encourage relocation and render any reasonable assistance in same, nevertheless, it is not our policy to use the facilities of the cooperatives for coercing people in favor of any cause. No issue was taken at this point.

The books of the cooperative had not been audited for the fiscal period, August 1, 1944 to January 31, 1945 and Messrs. Robertson and

Anderson favored an immediate audit.

The general plan for liquidation and our recommendation for continuation of services, at least on a limited scale, as near to the closing date of center as possible, was discussed and it seemed to be entirely agreeable to the Project Administration.

The potential organizing of a cooperative association was briefly discussed and it appeared that the Project Administration had no interest in endorsing or favoring such a project for reasons afore stated. Inasmuch as they seemed to be concerned as to whether I would revive a drive for organizing a cooperative association; I stated that notwithstanding that we have advocated organizing cooperatives in relocation centers, we are now leaving the matter entirely up to the residents. This stand seemed to meet with the approval of the Administration.

Considerable concern was expressed over the dead stocks and slow-moving merchandise and my cooperation was requested in minimizing this deficiency and I assured them that it has been and still is our policy to encourage keeping clean house in this respect and especially so with the inevitable liquidation of the business so near. However, I believe a clear understanding was reached as to the necessity of maintaining adequate stocks of staple commodities to serve the needs of the residents.

As to the time for terminating rental and other service charges, such as for truck and car service, etc., it is the wish of the Project Administration that it be covered by an Administrative Instruction or Notice under the signature of Mr. Dillon S. Myer. Maybe you can help in getting this instruction through in due time.

On April 19, I also met for the first time with the management and the trustees of the cooperative. I presented our plan in detail for liquidation and explained our recommendation for continuation of the present cooperative services as near to the closing date of the center as possible, also the necessity for appointing trustees (possibly three) for liquidation and provision for the disposition of the final residue, etc. No objection was raised on any of the points, only of course the purpose for which the final residue would be appropriated to, could not be decided. The trustees and the management suggested that a more specific recommendation be made through the Washington Office as to the purpose for which the final residue funds should be appropriated. However, I explained that this is entirely a matter for the cooperatives to decide and that we are merely making suggestions to assist them in arriving at some amicable decision.

During my visit in Heart Mountain, I conferred with the management and trustees nearly every day, so I am not attempting to summarize the

discussions in a chronological order, as it would result in considerable repetition.

A stock clearance sale had been just conducted, resulting in a net sale of dead stock and slow-moving goods of $8,100(invoice cost of $10,600). The present dead stock was claimed to consist of the following: Shoe Repairs $1,500, Shoes $3,000, Dry Goods, etc. $2,400, or a total of $6,900. Their total inventories amounted to $55,000. Inasmuch as their shoe inventory amounted to $15,000, I have reason to believe that their total dead stocks may exceed considerably the amount stated above. However, they seem to be in the process of making an honest effort in cleaning up their stocks. I recommended that they dispose of all obsolete goods unsalable in the center to outside dealers as soon as possible. They had nothing in the warehouse except about one thousand pairs of shoes and they are planning on terminating the use of the warehouse entirely and use a part of a barrack building for a warehouse, which has been lately used for conducting special sales on slow-moving goods. They are still waiting for ration relief on shoes through the efforts of the Washington Office. Is George Ishiyama making any progress in this matter?

The fixed assets have been depreciated approximately 45% on the books and all project constructed fixtures have been charged off to only a nominal value.

The trustees claimed that a certain group in the center (they call it an element) has demanded immediate dissolution of the cooperative and distribution of the equities. They also said that a demand has been made on the cooperative to donate $2,000 to the Community Activities and $650 to a certain scholarship fund. There has also been a demand presented for the immediate distribution of the Unallocated Reserve fund of $15,000. This development involved considerable discussion and the trustees requested me to clarify these matters to the Trust Committee and the Community Council. In the meantime, I learned that Mr. Robertson was opposed to the donations and it appeared that the trustees were not in favor of it either. However, the trustees claimed to have written an inquiry to the Internal Revenue Department as to whether making such donations would affect the income tax exemption status of their cooperative. No response as yet had been received to the inquiry. Upon discussing the matter of donations with Mr. Byron VerPloeg, he expressed an opinion that, while according to the statute under which the income tax exemption has been granted, it seems safe to make such donations; nevertheless it is difficult to predict what action the commissioners of Internal Revenue may take on the matter and thus, it is more or less risky to make large donations without the permission of the Department of Internal Revenue.

Upon meeting with the Trust Committee and the Cooperative Council, I gave them a twenty-minute pep talk on the achievements of cooperatives in the centers and the significance of the part they have played in the center life and the benefits that they may enjoy from their cooperative experience in post-center life. I also summarized considerable statistics on cooperatives on a national and international scale. I explained our policy for liquidation and the retention of the Unallocated Surplus until final liquidation. I also explained the income tax angle involved in the matter of donations. However I made it clear that we sanction no authority on the matter of donations and that in their particular case under the trustee form of administration, the decision rests entirely with the residents, trustees and the Project Director. A considerable number of questions were made and answered at both meetings. I believe most of the tension was relieved as a result of these two meetings.

Upon discussing the matter of audit with the trustees, they agreed to apply to the Northwest Audit & Service Association for an immediate audit. All taxes were reported to be up to date.

In the course of my visit I found especially Mr. M. O. Anderson to be very keenly interested in the cooperative and had many lengthy discussions with him. I had several discussions with Mr. Byron VerPloeg, Project Attorney, two conferences with Mr. Guy Robertson, Project Director, and also had a chat with our good friend, Claud Todd. Naturally, I visited all of the shops.

I enjoyed most congenial treatment from everybody in the center and had a most pleasant visit.

Sincerely yours,

C.M.B.

Charles M. Beltt
Business Enterprises Advisor

226 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago 6, Illinois

June 25, 1945

Mr. Otto Rossman, Head
Business Enterprises Section
War Relocation Authority
1006 "U" Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Rossman:

Report on Visit to Granada Relocation Center, May 24 to June 4, 1945.

On arrival to the Center, I conferred with Mr. J. G. Lindley, Project Director and Mr. W. Ray Johnson, Assistant Project Director in charge of Community Management. In the opinion of Messrs. Lindley and Johnson, the Co-op was confronted with the following major problems:

1. Revocation of Income tax exemption status by the Department of Internal Revenue. Application for reinstatement of exemption is pending action of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

2. Due to the accelerated relocation movement, the Co-op is loosing many of its key employees. Mr. James Hikido, Treasurer and Mr. Akira Inaba, Executive Secretary are relocating immediately and others may follow. Due to this condition Mr. Johnson feels it is desirable to end normal operations of the Co-op as of June 30 and start process of liquidation. He also pointed out that the Center population is expected to be reduced to 3,500 by June 30 and to 2,500 by July 31, and that this also is ~~also~~ a factor in favor of early liquidation of the Co-op.

3. Due to lack of a qualified person to handle shoe ration stamps, sale of rationed shoes had been discontinued a few weeks ago. However, they expected to secure a person to take care of the shoe ration stamps in the course of two weeks, which would enable the Co-op to resume sale of shoes.

4. Liability of Co-op to Federal and State Unemployment tax is under investigation and study of Mrs. Mima R. Pollitt, Acting Project Attorney.

5. Question raised regarding the status of the Part Paid Membership fund of $10,500 and the status of same regarding liability to income tax.

6. The large warehouse leased by the Co-op was being vacated and rental charges terminated.

7. The proposed post Center Co-op was discussed but in the opinion of Mr. Johnson, there seemed to be too many handicaps against such a venture at this time, chiefly the following:

(a) Chief interest of the residents is in relocation and strictly personal problems.

(b) Relocatees settling all over, scattering in different parts of the country.

(c) Such proposed organization may cause unfavorable public reaction towards relocatees.

(d) Claim residents show no interest in such a venture and thus such a proposal would constitute more or less an imposition on the residents. However, he said that the W.R.A. administration would place no obstacles in the way if the residents show interest and wish to participate in the formation of the proposed post Center Cooperative Organization.

8. The relations between the W.R.A. and the Cooperative seemed to be harmonious and there was apparently a sound understanding of interdependence between the Co-op and the Project administrations.

Following my conference with Messrs. Lindley and Johnson, I consulted with the Executive Cabinet of the Co-op and I also paid a visit to Mr. Tokuyoshi Kawasaki, former Executive Secretary of the Federation. Most of our discussions were confined to the needs and the feasibility of the formation of the proposed post Center outside cooperative organization. As pointed out in my prior communications from Amache, the interest of the residents seemed to have dwindled quite low towards the proposed outside Cooperative.

In the course of our conversation with Mr. Kawasaki, he explained to me of his efforts towards the proposed Co-op. As you may know, early in 1944 Mr. Kawasaki prepared a pamphlet entitled: "Proposal on Economic Rehabilitation For Evacuees in WRA Centers." This pamphlet is very comprehensive in pointing out the common needs of relocatees and the need for a cooperative organization to serve those needs. As you may know, in May of last year Mr. Kawasaki made a trip at his own expense to Heart Mountain, Minidoka and Topaz to introduce his plan to the residents of these Centers. However, he said that the response to his proposed plan was rather discouraging and that the only person who showed keen interest in the plan at that time was Mr. Thomas Sashihara of Heart Mountain. Notwithstanding the opinion expressed above, the boards in Heart Mountain and Minidoka went on record endorsing the plan but expressed doubt that the residents could be interested to the extent of actually participating in the formation of the Co-op. However, as we could have expected, Mrs. Kawasaki encouraged me to do my best in interesting the management, board of directors and the block delegates (Business Committee) in the proposed outside cooperative. Incidentally,

as a result of Mr. Kawasaki's visit to Topaz, he said that the Topaz Co-op joined the Federation of Center Business Enterprises. The acceptance of the temporary secretaryship of the Federation by Dr. Miyamoto met with the hearty approval of Mr. Kawasaki as well as the entire Co-op group in Amache.

During my visit in Amache the board of directors of the Co-op held (3) three meetings and the Business Committee of (40) block delegates held one evening meeting. In the meeting of the Business Committee, the writer was afforded an opportunity to speak for one hour along the lines summarized in the outline mailed to you from Amache. As a result of the conferences and several meetings the board of directors expressed almost unanimous approval of the proposed outside Co-op. However, official action was pending still another meeting to be held a day or two subsequent to my departure. Incidentally, Mr. Kawasaki is now here in Chicago and he just said that the entire board of the Amache Co-op were all in favor of the proposal at the time of my departure. Mrs. Pollitt also deserves due credit for her contribution in boosting the post Center Co-op to the board of directors.

Most of my time and effort was devoted to the timely proposed post Center Cooperative organization. However, all of the problems which are summarized in the beginning of this report were also discussed with the Executive Cabinet and the Board of Directors. The matter of income tax is still pending and no further action was taken. The matter of Unemployment tax had been referred to Mrs. Pollitt, Acting Project Attorney for study and investigation and was left pending investigation of Government field representatives. The question raised regarding the status of the Part Paid membership fund had likewise been referred to Mrs. Pollitt for study and I believe she was finally convinced that the fund has been appropriately titled and should not be subject to income tax. No doubt, Mrs. Pollitt has submitted to you a detailed report regarding the above matters. While the Project Administration favors ending normal operations of the Co-op as of June 30, the board of directors favor continuing to August 31. I told them that we recommend that no definite date be set until further notice. I might mention that there seems to be a general trend now towards early liquidations of the Center Co-ops.

The inventories had been reduced to $40,000. The stocks looked quite clean and they claimed to have very little dead stock on hand. The depreciation reserve for fixed assets is 45.58%, which I believe to be adequate. The financial ratio as of April 30, was 4.49. The educational program had been almost suspended. The reserves have been held intact. The Board and Business Committee had been meeting regularily.

The concerned members of the Project Administration as well as of the Cooperative were very courteous and cooperative, so I enjoyed a very pleasant visit in Amache.

Sincerely yours

Charles M. Beltt
Business Enterprises Adviser

~~Community Mgmt.~~
Business Ent.

226 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago 6, Illinois

June 25, 1945

Mr. Otto Rossman, Head
Business Enterprises Section
War Relocation Authority
1006 U Street N. W.
Washington 1, D. C.

Dear Mr. Rossman: Report on visit to Rohwer Relocation Center, June 7 to June 13, 1945

On arrival to the Center, I conferred with Mr. Ray D. Johnston, Project Director, and Mr. E. B. Moulton, Assistant Project Director in charge of Community Management. In the course of these conferences, it seemed evident that there has been lack of close working relations or collaboration between the Cooperative and the Project Administration. In consultation with Mr. L. S. Forrest, Project Attorney, I also learned that he had not been consulted by representatives of the Co-op on any legal matters, at least for several months.

Especially, Mr. Johnston was quite concerned over the large dead stock inventories and the apparent careless manner in which the affairs of the Co-op have been administered. For instance, no one in the Project Administration had been consulted or notified when the Co-op discontinued issuing cash register receipts to customers, effective June 1 this year. In spite of the remote relations between the Co-op and the Project Administration, Mr. Johnston seemed to have followed the activities of the Co-op quite closely, but apparently had not intervened in any of its actions. The chief accountant and the Dry Goods buyer had just relocated and concern by Mr. Johnston was expressed regarding the future of the accounting department of the Co-op. Mr. Abiko, Stock Control Clerk, also plans on relocating very soon. So it all adds up to the same story of the key employees relocating and jeopardizing the efficient operations of the Co-op. The Project Administrations naturally do not overlook these facts and are inclined to favor early liquidation of the Co-ops while there is still qualified personnel to carry out the necessary work involved.

Mr. Johnston had just received the post Center Co-op file and call for the all-center conference and had transmitted it to Mr. Moulton. Messrs. Johnston and Moulton were both very favorably impressed with the proposal, especially after I gave them some

supplemental information regarding the proposed venture.

Following the conferences with Messrs. Johnston and Moulton, I consulted with the key people of the management and visited the various shops and inspected the inventories, etc. Thereafter, I met twice with the Executive Cabinet and a special meeting of the Board of Directors was held on the evening of June 12, at which I was afforded an opportunity to speak for one hour. My talk was along the same lines as the one I gave in Amache, as per outline sent to you from Lamar, Colorado, with slight modifications to make it more appropriate to local conditions. Discussion regarding the post-Center Co-op followed my speech.

From the outset I endeavored to keep up interest in the proposed post-Center Co-op, but the immediate response was not encouraging. The key people of the Co-op granted that the idea may be feasible in principle, but they offered the same objections as did Mr. Ray W. Johnson in Amache. (Please refer to Amache report.) However, by departure time I was informed that the board and management is in favor of participating in the Federation meeting on condition that the meeting be held East of the exclusion zone. This reservation, they claimed, had been made because they expected to send some excludee delegates to the conference. I could not forcast whether they would rescind this reservation in case the meeting should be held in Los Angeles or San Francisco.

The major matter discussed regarding operations was the large dead stock inventory. I was informed that the total merchandise inventory amounted to approximately $30,000. Broken down as follows: Dry Goods, $4,875; Shoes, $2,625; Groceries, Drugs and other Merchandise, $22,500. Included in the above, according to segregated listings, they claimed to have the following dead stock: In Dry Goods store $1,900, in warehouse $3,500; total dead stock $5,400. However, in my opinion, a careful check of the stocks would reveal dead stock considerably in excess of the amount above stated.

I also casually called their attention to the high expense percentage and suggested that they endeavor to keep it more under control, if possible. I am attaching herewith copies of a recommendation addressed to the Project Director, attention Mr. Shigetomi, regarding dead stocks, amendment to Articles of Incorporation and Documentary tax stamps.

As reported formerly, the Co-op discontinued issuing cash receipts to patrons as of June 1 this year, or at least served notice to the residents that cash register receipts issued after above date would not be honored for patronage rebates. Effective June 1, a discount of ten percent (10%) was allowed on all sales. I was not informed by anyone of the new procedure, but learned it through observation and inquiries. Taking up the matter with the Executive Cabinet, I pointed out the risk involved regarding income tax and the

Treasury license. The cabinet members claimed that it had not occurred to them that the change would involve any risk and offered to change back to the standard practice, if so advised. Under the circumstances, I was reluctant to assume the responsibility of advising t em to revert to the old system without referring the matter to your consideration. I advised them to hold the matter in abeyance pending your advice. Your recommendation to revert to the usual practice came in just as I was leaving for St. Louis and I was informed by Mr. K. Ikezoe, Executive Secretary, that they have called a meeting of the Block Delegates for June 14 to authorize going back to the usual system. He said that you and the Project Administration will be properly notified of the action of the meeting.

In connection with the several Co-op meetings, I stressed very strongly the need for collaborating with the Project officials and the Project Attorney on all major problems and changes involving general policies.

I found that all taxes, except the Documentary tax, had been taken care of. The reserve fund had been held intact. The financial ratio as of April 30 was 2.82. The depreciation reserve for fixed assets was 46%. Shops operating were the following: Canteens 2, Dry Goods Store 1, Barber Shops 2, Shoe Repair Shop 1, and the Movies. The beauty shop and one shoe repair shop had been closed recently. I was told that the Board of Directors and the Block Delegates have been meeting regularly with full attendance. I was also told that all committees, except the Education Committee, are active.

No date had been set for ending normal operations, but due to reasons pointed out elsewhere in this report, there is a strong trend for early liquidation of the Co-op.

Assistance in procurement of rice through OPA priorities was requested and I have referred the matter to your attention in a former communication.

In connection with my conferences with the Executive Cabinet, I reported on my findings while visiting various suppliers (wholesale houses) in St. Louis and Chicago and informed them that such suppliers as Butler Brothers and several others in St. Louis had promised to start selling goods to Rohwer Cooperative. As a result of my report, Mr. Shiro Ishida and Mr. K. Ikezoe accompanied me on a buying trip to St. Louis and Chicago. As reported formerly, I assisted Messrs. Ishida and Ikezoe in establishing buying connections for one day in St. Louis and I also worked with them here in Chicago on June 18 and 19. Although merchandise are scarce, they said they had purchased some $6,000-$7,000 worth of goods, some of which are quite critical. They seemed to be very appreciative of our assistance.

On the afternoon of June 13, my last day in Rohwer, I met with Messrs. Johnston, Moulton and Forrest and reviewed with them all major matters regarding the Co-op and my recommendations were apparently well taken and they also seemed to be appreciative of our assistance.

As at all other Centers visited, I also had a most pleasant visit in Rohwer.

Sincerely yours,

Charles M. Beltt
Business Enterprises Adviser

Business Enterprise

Minidoka Project
Hunt, Idaho

August 24, 1945

Mr. Otto Rossman, Head
Business Enterprises Section
War Relocation Authority
1006 U. Street N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr Rossman:

Herewith is enclosed a report on my visit to Heart Mountain Relocation Center, June 29 to July 5, 1945. As you will note, this report is not complimentary to the management and trustees. However, subsequent to the peridd covered by this report the conditions have changed entirely. On my last visit August 11-17, I found liquidation of the Co-op to be in excellent progress and everything well in hand.

Due to the limited time I had in Chicago and the shortage of stenographic help in the WRA office, I was unable to have this report typed before departure and it has trailed me to Heart Mountain and then forwarded to Minidoka. I am sorry for the unavoidable delay.

As stated in my teletype of August 22, I expect to leave here on August 25, arriving in Denver on August 26 (Sunday). Provided I can secure stenographic help in the Denver WRA office, I will prepare reports there on my current visits to Heart Mountain and Minidoka. I expect to be in Amache August 29-30-31 and remain in Rohwer approximately one week. In order to utilize my return trip transportation tickets and to save my fare for a trip to Chicago, I am anticipating back-tracking from Rohwer to Amache Denver, Minidoka and Heart Mountain and return to Chicago.

I would appreciate receiving your reaction as to whether the tentative itinerary suggested above is satisfactory.

Sincerely yours,

Charles M. Boltt
Business Enterprises Adviser

cc
E. H. Runcorn
Lionel Perkins

E2.53

226 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago 6, Illinois

August 9, 1945

Mr. Otto Rossman, Head
Business Enterprises Section
War Relocation Authority
1006 U Street, N. W.
Washington 1, D. C.

Dear Mr. Rossman:

SUBJECT: Report on visit to Heart Mountain Relocation Center, June 29 to July 5, 1945

This will supplement my tentative report of July 1, 1945. Inasmuch as my last visit in Heart Mountain was cut short due to the sudden call to the Co-op meeting in Salt Lake City and since I spent considerable time in persuading the Board of Trustees to send delegates to the Salt Lake meeting, there is not a great deal additional to report on my last visit. I am, also, tied up just now on tentative reservations and may be called to leave for Billings on sudden notice.

As stated in my letter of July 1, the trustees had decided not to participate in the Salt Lake conference. However, as a result of meeting with the Board of Trustees and the trust committee (block delegates), they decided to send two delegates to the meeting. I am sure they are now satisfied to have participated in the conference. Incidentally, I received a letter from Mr. Ted S. Okumoto, Chief Accountant and Board member, from Heart Mountain, commenting on the success of the Salt Lake meeting. I am attaching herewith a copy of the letter referred to above. Thus, I believe our Salt Lake meeting was very informative on liquidation problems, and judging from the numerous comments from the delegates, we have reason to believe that everyone concerned was very much satisfied with the progress made at the meeting.

The chief weakness which I observed in Heart Mountain was the excessive dead stock inventory. In spite of the fact that I called this matter to the attention of the trustees on my previous visit, April 18 to 28, nothing had been

done to rectify the situation. On this visit, I again called the matter to the attention of the trustees and the trust committee and issued a memorandum addressed to Guy Robertson, Project Director, attention Mr. H. C. Iwasaki, chairman of the Board of Trustees. I am herewith attaching a copy of the memorandum referred to above which is self explanatory. At this time, I was assured by the Board of Trustees that they would take immediate action as outlined in my memorandum referred to above.

From my observation during this visit, I drew the conclusion that the Board of Trustees had been rather indifferent concerning the affairs of the business enterprises, and in consultation with Mr. Robertson, it appeared that he shared my opinion regarding the recent activities of the trust committee. I, also, consulted with Mr. Byron Ver Ploeg, Project Attorney, and it appeared that the representatives of the Co-op had not consulted Mr. Ver Ploeg lately on any legal matters concerning the business enterprises.

I believe the above comments cover all of the important points pertaining to this visit in Heart Mountain.

Respectfully yours,

Charles M. Beltt
Business Enterprises Adviser

Enclosures

cc: E. H. Runcorn
Lionel Perkins