

F2.782

67/14
C

OK

FINAL REPORT GREATER ILLINOIS DISTRICT

By

John K. Brenton

FINAL REPORT GREATER ILLINOIS DISTRICT

By John K. Brenton

I. DESCRIPTION OF THE DISTRICT GEOGRAPHIC BOUNDARIES:

The Greater Illinois District includes the State of Illinois with the exception of thirteen counties; Calhoun, Greene, Jersey, Madison, St. Clair, Monroe had by mutual agreement been included in the St. Louis Area. This agreement was subsequently confirmed by Washington memorandum.

The counties of Cooke, McHenry, Lake, Kane, Kendall, Will, DuPage were part of the Chicago Metropolitan District.

Originally Scott County, Iowa, containing Davenport was regarded as an integral part of the Rock Island-Moline industrial area and assigned to Illinois. Scott County was taken back by Des Moines District and its transfer officially confirmed by Washington memorandum of July 26, 1944. For practical purposes, the district was still further limited by the exclusion of what amounted to the whole southern half of the state. The active section may best be described by a statement in a Field Bulletin of February 15, 1945, giving communities opened under the Community Invitation Plan: "The entire State of Illinois, except that part south of Quincy, Springfield, Decatur, Champaign and Urbana."

Principal Cities

In the northern half of the district there are fourteen cities of over twenty-thousand population. They are as follows: Peoria, 105,000; Rockford, 85,000; Springfield (capitol), 75,000; Decatur,

59,000; Rock Island, 43,000; Quincy, 40,000; Champaign-Urbana, 37,000; Danville, 37,000; Moline, 35,000; Bloomington, 33,000; Galesburg, 29,000; Freeport, 22,000; Kankakee, 22,000.

As per memo of February 1, 1944, the War Manpower Commission had designated Moline, Springfield, Decatur, as Group I, cities "with current acute labor shortage." Freeport and Rockford were classed in Group II, as "areas of labor stringency or anticipating a labor shortage within six months." Champaign, Galesburg, Peoria, and Quincy were named as Group III, cities "in which a slight labor surplus will remain after six months." Bloomington and Danville were classed as Group IV "in which a substantial labor surplus will remain after six months."

Most Popular Communities

The major industries of the Peoria Area are machinery, food, including distilleries, chemicals, iron and steel, ordnance, and apparel. Housing which was reported as readily available in the early days of relocation became critical toward the end. A serious lack of houses and apartments on a rental basis was reported in 1945. Fifty-one family houses under a Federal project were available in the summer of 1945. Sleeping rooms at \$4 to \$8 per week were always available. The cost of living was reported as comparing favorably with other cities of like size.

Rockford's major industries included non-electric machinery, ordnance, iron and steel products, textile mill products, non-ferrous metals, furniture. Rockford is considered one of the machine-tool centers in the country. The housing situation was recognized as "tight";

however, accommodations for single persons or couples was always readily obtained. Single rooms rented for \$3.50 - \$5 weekly. In general, living costs were reported as no higher than other cities of comparative size and standards. Living costs, however, were reported as being 13.3 per cent higher than those in Chicago from a survey made during the months of June, July and August, rent and clothing showing the greatest increase.

Peoria is located in the agricultural valley along the Illinois River, 160 miles southwest of Chicago.

Rockford, is situated on the Rock River in a rich agricultural section of the state about ninety miles west of Chicago.

It is difficult to account for popularity or its lack in the resettlement program from a study of the various communities. Many contained manpower shortages and housing opportunities. The fact that Rockford and Peoria were the largest cities in the district, bears out the opinion that larger communities contained more of the factors required for successful relocation. It is the personal observation of the writer that the chief requisite is relative freedom from factional issues. The popularity of the two cities of Peoria and Rockford may be due in part to a history relatively free from contention, racial or industrial. Other factors may be stated as shortage of labor in other than war production; habitual wage levels relatively good without too great union domination; support of the relocation program by relatively influential groups without strong enemies. In addition a leading factor is the acceptance of the

co community by the resettlers resulting in the actual presence of Japanese-Americans. Successful development of relocation might have taken place in other communities had the resettler given preference to their early invitations. It is inevitable that the first pioneers exert a gravitational pull. Successful relocation in Chicago was always a limiting factor to relocation elsewhere within the field of its influence. In this, the Japanese-American immigrant tended to follow the pattern of the original resettlers. It was always more attractive to go where the pioneer had cleared the way.

Wages were generally lower in Peoria than in larger cities, and in the early months of relocation, there was no great labor shortage so that employment opportunities were not extensive. There were, however, plenty of domestic position paying from \$12 to \$15 per week, plus maintenance, for single persons, and \$100 per month for couples. That these jobs proved attractive started subsequent relocation in the district of Peoria. Based on the facts of its resettler population, Rockford, a smaller city, with greater labor shortage but less available housing has shown the greater popularity. Proximity to Camp Grant, where many Nisei soldiers were stationed, resulted in attracting many wives and families to this city. It resulted in diverting to Rockford the pioneer trail down which many subsequent resettlers followed.

Reasons For Lack of Interest in Relocation in Other Major Communities

Any local factor which tended to delay acceptance by the resettler tended to divert the stream of immigration. High-priority

war work requiring area clearance or joint board approval frequently served to delay and divert acceptance by the resettler. Other causes of delay were frequently local opposition, absence of job offers sufficiently attractive to draw the pioneer as in Bloomington, Quincy, Galesburg and shortage of housing. In some of the "unsuccessful" cities such as Champaign-Urbana, habitual wage levels were low. In those twin cities living costs were high and housing due to proximity of Chanute Field, non-existent. In some cities the first support of the program had been expressed by persons or factions with strong opposition, resettlement took on some of their unpopularity. Some evidences of such attitudes were found in Sterling, a critical manpower area, and Galesburg.

Bloomington and Danville were always an area of surplus labor. The Decatur-Springfield Area is a section where both labor conflict and racial antagonisms had been high. It was natural that this combination produced tension on the part of political and labor leaders that was above normal where joint board requirements established a threshold discouraging to resettlement. In general, the whole southern section of the district may be classed as high in unfavorable factors, such as racial friction, habitual low wage scales, existence of factions opposed to innovation and shortage of housing. Southern Illinois was an area of labor surplus from which the rest of the state drew manpower as shortages increased. Even periods of great labor shortage created by cannery packs or fruit harvesting did not offer

sufficient advantages for more than occasional bands of seasonal workers.

Extent of Resettlement

Rockford figures run highest; peak estimates reached 250. This was during the time when Camp Grant population was greatest and Nisei soldier's families had followed them in some numbers. Resettlers with a degree of permanence probably did not exceed 150.

Peoria resettlement totalled something between 100 and 150.

Resettlement throughout the rest of the district north of Decatur-Springfield line is made up of small units. In 1945 resettlers were reported in twenty-five cities and towns. They fall into the following categories: Students in various college towns; the largest of such groups is probably in Urbana, totaling approximately twelve. Other groups can be found in several other Illinois schools -- Jacksonville, Carbondale, Carlinville, Galesburg, Bloomington and several other college towns. Both Issei and Nisei individuals and couples are currently employed as domestics in various communities. A number of farm families are scattered throughout the northern half of the district. Many institutions, chiefly operated by the Catholic church, including hospitals and schools, employ both Issei and Nisei. Issei are scattered in small numbers throughout the farms of the northern section. Relocation of all kinds throughout Greater Illinois did not exceed 600 or 700.

II. COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION:

Extent and Nature

Support of the resettlement program by groups, interested individuals was general throughout the cities of the northern half of the District. Even in those cities where relocation failed to develop, there existed a strong support. Such influence consisted for the most part of leaders in the churches, the Protestant denominations interested through the Church Federation and the Catholic through their respective bishops; leaders in education and progressive individuals. Where such support encountered heavy obstruction as in the Springfield-Decatur Area, it tended to become inactive.

Peoria had the only formally organized group called the Sponsoring Committee. Rockford and Freeport had groups which functioned as committees but were never so formally organized. Bloomington had a small groups of quite influential persons who were active and sympathetic. These individuals assisted in finding employment opportunities and functioned in other ways as a sponsoring committee. Lag in relocation there resulted not so much from lack of zeal and support as from low wage scales, labor surplus and lack of acceptance by the resettler.

Decatur had a small group of interested supporters, one of whom was the owner of the Decatur Herald and Decatur Review. Job openings were found, both domestic and industrial. The interest kindled, however, was not sufficient to withstand the opposition of factional groups.

In Champaign-Urbana, Galesburg, and Quincy strong leadership in the church, educational and welfare fields was enlisted. Had other favorable factors been present, relocation might easily have developed.

The Resettlement Committees

The Peoria Committee was organized before the local War Relocation Authority office was established. In April, 1944, it was reported as having taken considerable responsibility for obtaining housing, furthering integration of resettlers to make them feel that they belong to the community. Organization work was done by a national leader of the Church Federation and the head of the Employment Division of the War Relocation Authority in Washington. At that time it was described as consisting "mainly of interested church people -- Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A. secretaries and several leaders interested in church work."

In 1945 its membership was as follows:

Chairman: Mrs. Herbert W. Crowe, 405 Parkside Drive
Peoria 5
Member of the Inter-racial Fellowship of
the Y.W.C.A.; Quaker

Members: Mrs. Garfield Goin, 916 Shipman Street
Outstanding Negro member of the Inter-racial Fellowship
of the Y.W.C.A. In touch with all Negro groups.

Mrs. Paul Hootman, 221 Rebecca Place
Member, YWCA Board

Mrs. O. E. Hokin, 316 Barker Street
Leader of Jewish Refugee Committee

Rev. Barton Hunter, West Bluff Christian Church,
Res. Alice Street
Member of the Inter-racial Fellowship

Miss Helen Hudson
Secretary, Y.W.C.A.

Amer Johnson, Secretary, YMCA

Mrs. W. J. Whipple, Knoxville Road
Represents Catholic Women's Organization

Rev. W. J. Arms, First Universalist Church
111 Melrose Place
Member of the Inter-racial Fellowship

Miss Chiye Horiuchi, 200 Orange Street
YWCA Nisei Representative

Mrs. Fred Kataoka, 110 Cedar Avenue, W. Peoria
Nisei representative

Mr. Kelly Yamada, 713 Warren Street
Nisei representative

Mr. Ken Uyesugi, 602 Bradley
Nisei representative

Mrs. R. L. Baker, 119 S. Maplewood
President of the YWCA Board, formerly case worker
with Family Welfare

Mr. E. W. Browning, Librarian, Public Library,
member of the Inter-racial Fellowship

Mrs. W. J. Crawford, 707 Carrington
Member, YWCA Board

Mrs. Gary Crone, 2016 Indiana
Community Council of Church Women

Mrs. E. J. Connor
Member of the YWCA Board; member of the Community
Council of Church Women

Mr. and Mrs. David Citron, 520 Ellis Street
Jewish Refugee Committee members

Mrs. Ted Fleming, Grandview Drive
Member of the YWCA Board

Rev. Gill Middleton, 413 N. Monroe Street
Secretary, Catholic Charities

Mrs. Amos Paterson
1st vice-president of Church Women

Rabbi Henry Pastor, 102 N. Glenwood Street

Mrs. Frank Mitchel, N. Adams Street, c/o Menonite Church

Mr. L. V. Stonecipher, 713 Thrush Avenue
Council of Churches, businessman

Mr. Arthur Snyder, 105-4th Street
Secretary, Council of Social Agencies
Associate Director of Community Fund

In June, 1943, a housing incident occurred which served to reactivate the committee which had been only relatively active. The committee assigned sub-committees for supplying educational materials to the churches and for contacting young peoples' groups and on housing. A member was assigned to report on all newcomers and to contact church groups to which they would naturally belong. Under leadership of a real estate man, the housing committee endeavored to obtain homes for incoming resettlers. An educational committee was ^{formed} under the leadership of the YWCA Secretary and included a local Rabbi and Catholic priest. It undertook to contact ministers of the city and provide literature to be given out at churches. Another group worked with Christian Endeavor and Youth Groups, Jewish Young Peoples' Groups, and Catholic Youth Organizations. Letters were sent out to various civic organizations to promote the discussion of relocation and provide a list of available speakers. A woman leader was assigned to contact women's civic organizations. In January, 1944, the main function of the committee was reported as

housing and social adjustment. The committee also acted to correct situations involving discrimination and proved itself most effective. At the closing date a member of the committee is serving as a registry of temporary lodgings. In April, 1944, the committee sponsored a get-acquainted social for resettlers in Peoria at the YWCA. Numerous addresses were made by various members.

An example of the activity of the Peoria Committee is found in its action when two Nisei employees were discharged on February 18, 1944, from a local A & P store. The store action was taken as a result of a policy announced from the office of Mr. D. B. Austin, of the Western Division of the A & P chain. The local committee aroused opposition resulting in demands for reinstatement and the Peoria store abandoned the announced policy. Only one of the two employees returned to work, however. The application of the second man for reinstatement was apparently never acted upon. The local ministerial association worked with the committee. Letters were written to Mr. Austin; two persons called upon him at his office and protests were registered with Mr. John A. Hartford, President of A & P system, in New York. Contacts were made through the Federal Council of Churches. At that time Peoria was the only city in which A & P employed resettlers.

In December, 1944, the Peoria committee included three resettlers in its membership. By this means it was felt that the committee service became more efficient.

The Peoria committee took prompt action in another incident which subsequently appeared to have no foundation. An old Peoria resident

reported to the United States Marshall, that a local store had discriminated against a resettler, through the Better Business Bureau. The Marshall referred the matter to the War Relocation Authority, who made a study of the situation. According to the findings of the committee, the customer had withdrawn application for credit, having been discouraged by the amount of "red tape" involved. The fact that this action was taken in a community where racial discrimination had been common, was effective in serving notice that resettlers were not without influential support.

In Rockford a committee functioned in all but official title.

In 1944 its membership was listed as follows:

Chairman: Miss Eleanor Kirby, YWCA secretary

Members: Mr. William L. Hockstad, Community Fund, News Tower

Mr. Walter Springer, Manager of the USES

Mr. Edward Gannon, 841 N. Main Street
President, Midwest Fixtures Corporation

Mrs. W. A. Forbes, 633 N. Main Street

Mr. Karl Williams, News Tower, State's Attorney

Mr. Boyd Easton, City Hall Building
Real Estate and Investments

Mr. Guy Moorehead, USES, rural industries, 227 N. Wyman

Mr. Henry Brunemeyer, Winnebago County Farm Bureau,
Farm Adviser

Miss Mummery, Secretary, YWCA, 228 So. Madison Street

Rev. and Mrs. Russell Lambert
Centennial Methodist Church

Rev. C. P. Connolly, Christian Union Church, News Tower

Mr. Richard Shade, National Farm Loan Association,
Secretary-Treasurer, Empire Building

Relative freedom from incidents of any sort, the semi-official nature of much of the resettlement in Rockford and the prevalence of Nisei soldiers in nearby Camp Grant were probably deciding factors in not formalizing a committee.

In Freeport, a nearby community where Rockford influence is felt, several community contacts became interested to the extent that a committee similar to the Rockford committee developed. Resettlement in Freeport, however, did not proceed beyond the first stage; i.e., domestic and service employment. Meetings of interested people were called. There is, however, no record of incidents or action. The nucleus of the group was Mrs. John Barrett, 223 South Vincent and the Reverend Clarence Fike, Pastor of the Church of the Brethren, 775 West Pleasant Street. Other persons who met from time to time included Mrs. C. W. Mier of Parkview Home, C. F. Ogden; Mesdames L. C. Ferguson, R. W. Hyatt, Jr., Clem Bauch, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick G. Smith, David M. Burrell, Mr. and Mrs. Ennenga, J. Billerbeck, D. L. Breed, Dr. C. B. Zipf.

Cooperation From Public and Private Agencies

Cooperation in Peoria was freely accorded by civic officials, Church groups, and social agencies. In a report of March 2, 1944, the Relocation Officer stated: "To date we have not been able to get various labor unions to agree to accept Japanese-Americans as members.

However, in one instance, a resettler has joined a union and there has been no question about his membership." In Decatur and Springfield, support was forthcoming by churches and social agencies. However, opposition was encountered by labor unions and city officials.

As early as May 19, 1943, a report states: "In Springfield we had a second meeting of a representative committee following a meeting of April 15 and following a good many individual contacts. While there is considerable interest expressed in the resettlement program, it has become increasingly apparent that there is strong opposition centered in the State headquarters there of the United Mine Workers and echoed in the Mayor's office. This opposition which was openly expressed in our last meeting is verbalized around the fear of public disorder if Japanese-Americans came here. It seems that there is strong personal racial prejudice of some of the persons in the opposition."

Under the same date a report on Decatur states: "During this period we had our first meeting -- a representative group of twenty people in Decatur. This followed a few personal contacts in this community, and was characterized by a general expression of interest and support of the resettlement idea. The labor representative and the farm adviser both expressed the opinion that their constituents would not approve of such a move."

A July 1, 1943, report states: "AFL, Central Labor Trades Assembly has seen fit to publicly oppose the relocation program. This opposition has not taken any form except a resolution by the Assembly

and publicity in their paper." In Springfield report of the same date refers to "The extreme opposition of Mayor Kapp and United Mine Worker." Under date of January 19, 1944, interview was had with Mayor Kapp who expressed his opposition in the words "The Japs were not here before the war, and we don't see why they should come to Springfield now." He held that the War Mothers and the American Legion were opposed and he also again mentioned the race riot of thirty years ago as reasons for not allowing new elements to come to Springfield. In a report of January 28, 1944, reference is made to job offers for factory and foundry employment obtained in Decatur. The report states: "We were later requested to hold up our efforts on these by the Decatur Garment Company, because of an unfavorable article in the local paper quoting the Mayor as being opposed to bringing in Japanese workers."

A report under date of April 16, 1943, with reference to Galesburg states: "In 1942 Knox (college) had been approved for Nisei students and had accepted six. However, at that time it was Necessary to get the approval of the Mayor of the city and Mayor Lindberg of Galesburg had violently opposed the plan. He based his opposition primarily on the fact that it would not be possible to protect the student when they circulated throughout the rest of the town. He had taken this issue to the city council and had secured a negative vote from them." This early action tended to crystallize the opposition by the city hall which was never overcome.

The Mayor of both Champaign and Urbana approved those communities

for placement and in June, 1943, gave assurance that the public would be quite ready to accept Japanese-Americans because they have been accustomed to seeing Oriental students at the University. There was, however, a split in opinion within the University itself. There was real desire for maintenance help. In a report of July 1, 1943, Relocation Officer states: "However, the higher administration in the University is supposedly opposed to this and have prevented Mr. Wentworth from proceeding." Under date of October 21, 1944, the officer reports that the University accepts Japanese-American students and at present twelve are enrolled. "One of the provisions, however, made by trustees of the University is that students must have sufficient funds on hand in order to carry them through the year without work. Apparently it was the feeling of the trustees that there might be some competition for jobs, that could be a possible source of friction between the Japanese-Americans and other students."

Differences in opinion served in many instances to delay acceptance of the program by hospitals. Many hospitals were in desperate situation because of the lack of nurses' aides, student nurses, and other workers. In Peoria "grumbling" of the medical staff at St. Francis Hospital delayed acceptance of Nisei girls already enrolled in nurse's training. This resulted in their not starting school for several months and some of the girls became discouraged and left.

Outstanding Individuals and Agencies

There is so much evidence of zealous effort that it is difficult to limit mention. Mrs. Crowe, Chairman of Peoria Committee, has

been most active. She has assisted in improving community relations in the city. David Citron, a real estate man, has been instrumental not only in improving community relations but has been effective in making housing available through sale and lease. Miss Helen Hudson, Secretary of the YWCA, has helped in community acceptance in promoting recreational programs for resettlers and is at present acting as a clearing house for resettler problems.

In Rockford, Miss Eleanor Kirby of YWCA has promoted recreational programs and assisted in furthering integration in the community. Mr. Lambert, formerly chairman of Race Relations Committee in Peoria and now member of Race Relations Committee of the State of Illinois has brought great strength to the resettlement program. He ~~wields~~ influence beyond that of an ordinary pastor.

In Freeport, Mrs. Barrett has been a first friend of all resettlers.

In Bloomington Mr. Arthur Smith, Chief of Illinois Liquor Commission, has been a primary source of advice and information about the community and has been a spearhead of the program. He is a man of high leadership which he has used to ^{improve} community relations on behalf of the resettlers. He provided domestic employment for early resettlers and opened his house to them as a small informal hostel.

In Champaign-Urbana, Dr. Paul Burt of the Wesley Foundation was one of the early friends of the program and a source of personal encouragement to individual resettlers. The YMCA proved itself a strong supporter of the movement by offering employment to a Nisei

secretary. Had it been possible to fill this position, subsequent development of relocation in Champaign-Urbana might have improved materially.

In Quincey, the Reverend Father Seraphin Tibesar, Head of Quincey College, was a champion of the program. His influence and example proved of great help in influencing other Catholic clergymen and institutions. He was a pioneer supporter of this movement.

In Decatur, Miss Winifred Morin, General Secretary of Family Welfare Association, became an early defender of an unpopular cause. She acted as an informal chairman in the forming of the committee. Mr. Henry Schaub, owner of the Decatur Herald-Review, although not acting in any public capacity was the most influential sponsor in that city.

Reasons For Not Organizing Committees

In Rockford where it might be considered logical for a committee to have formed, the Council of Social Agencies is quite active, influential and cooperative. A number of local groups were organized for various phases of work but no formal organization of an overall resettler's committee was ever crystallized. The USO had a room-registry service which was available to evacuees. The Traveler's Aid, the YWCA and various Protestant churches, actively cooperated. Several leading local business men were available for advice and influence. The smooth operation of the program in Rockford, the readiness and support of the Council of Social Agencies and the general availabil-

ity of local agencies all served to make the formal organization of a committee unnecessary. Employment of resettlers as domestics and service workers in institutions and seasonal workers raised little, if any, local opposition.

In other cities in which work was done, the situation was either too discouraging as in Springfield, Decatur, or lacking in promise of resettlers acceptance as in Champaign-Urbana, Bloomington and other low-wage areas, so that the service of a resettlement committee never reached the point of immediate necessity.

III. PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE:

Problems Encountered in the District

Some consideration has been given to states of public opinion in various sections of the District under Section I above. Something has been said of the discouraging factors existing in various communities which tended to delay resettlement and divert the stream of immigration to more favorable communities. In general, the smaller the community, the more provincial were the reactions of its citizens. Before the war, persons of Japanese extractions living in local communities were of exceeding rarity. Even in Chicago's 3,500,000 only about 300 were of Japanese extraction. Awareness of Japanese people began with Pearl Harbor. In most Illinois communities, the Legion Post is a highly influential organization. In all southern Illinois communities and many in the northern half of the state, minority groups were either non-existent or kept in strict limits. Agitation by minority groups as in Decatur and Springfield and by minority group

champions as in Galesburg served to heighten community tensions so that the introduction of a brand new minority group was regarded with alarm.

As indicated in Section I, above, many communities in the district had severe labor shortage in high priority war production. Such areas did not prove to be the most encouraging to resettlement. The resettler tended to move into those communities where production of civilian goods and services had been drained by demands of war production. The existence of labor supply from other sources as down-state farm areas or labor surplus in some northern cities tended to block resettlement. The strongest ^{support} ~~area~~ was the fairly influential employer badly in need of labor. The most common problem met in the early days was in such situations where objection was voiced by local bigots.

Specific Steps to Build Acceptance or
Overcome Instances of Discrimination

In the early days Relocation Officers undertook broad programs of community education; addresses were made before luncheon clubs and civic groups; local leaders were called together for purposes of discussion; strategic placements were made of selected candidates for domestic employment or other key locations; programs of education were stimulated in the churches and church groups.

Instances of discrimination or over^t antagonism were relatively rare throughout the district. Relocation, itself, was its own strongest

educational support. The process of natural selection by which the pioneer resettler became "Exhibit A" for the enlightenment of his community was generally successful. The resettler tended to make his own local acceptance.

Action of the Peoria committee in overcoming discrimination by a national chain store is discussed under Section II above.

In Quincy the social action committee of the Council of Churches made and passed a lengthy resolution indorsing the resettlement plan. This action is mentioned in a June 12, 1943, report. This committee circulated its resolution to influence various other civic organizations to join in its action. Similar action was taken by Decatur Ministerial Association. After a presentation of the resettlement plan and lengthy discussion, the Council of Churches mimeographed a one-page statement of the most important facts of the resettlement plan for distribution among Protestant churches. It was also provided to the local press.

In Lincoln, Illinois, in February, 1944, three chick sexers employed by a local hatchery, were advised to move temporarily to Peoria to avoid friction. Reports of threats against them have been received by the War Relocation Authority office in Peoria and the men were removed to Peoria. The Relocation Officer immediately went to the employer and with his cooperation a local campaign of education was begun. This served to allay opposition and three days later plans were made for the return of the three resettlers. At this time Dr. T. T. Yatabe, representative of the Japanese-American Citizens League, was scheduled to speak in Peoria as part of an educational

campaign. A local resettler participated actively in a World Day of Prayer Meeting held in one of the local Peoria churches.

Unusual Incidents

Distressing incidents were rare. One such occurred in June, 1943, in Peoria as reported by the Relocation Officer on June 30. "One of the resettlers succeeded in finding a furnished house in a good neighborhood after paying his deposit, neighbors brought pressure upon the landlady to such an extent that she was unwilling to rent to him. This pressure was reported as resulting from a general race prejudice rather than the war situation. Only a slight effort seems to have been made to correct the situation and the housing was lost by the resettler. No publicity was given to the incident and other housing was obtained. This incident served to reactivate the local committee, however, and no similar incident was subsequently reported."

In Rockford in a report of March, 1944, the Relocation Officer states: "The resettlers advised us that they feel like they belong to Rockford; that they are a part of the community and do not have the feeling of not being wanted or being left out of activities." In that city, there has been repeated evidences of a desire on the part of resettlers not to be given special consideration as a minority group. Mr. Lambert reports that his invitations sent out to some 200 resettlers received only two acceptances and only one resettler came to a special Nisei social event.

Monthly dances in March, 1944, for Nisei, sponsored by the Young Women's Christian Association were held with very small atten-

dance. Nisei subsequently stated to the Young Women's Christian Association that they would prefer to receive invitations to general community events rather than special Nisei activities.

Local Nisei leaders have repeatedly declined to form a resettler's committee. Unfavorable public reaction to Japanese-American organizations on the Coast may be responsible for this hesitancy. The resettler states that he does not wish to be considered as a minority problem nor to regard himself as such. Integration in Rockford did seem to be a natural process which the resettler has expressed himself as being "satisfied."

One of the areas of great labor shortage was in a small town of Sterling and Rock Falls. One of the largest employers, the Northwestern Steel and Iron Company, of Sterling was most anxious to employ Japanese-Americans in some quantity. The local newspapers had written a story explaining the company's need for men and its importance to the community at large. The mayor had issued a statement that Japanese Americans are American citizens and will receive the protection of American citizens in Sterling. When the proposal of introducing Japanese Americans was discussed with employees, obstruction by the union officials was raised. This company had had serious trouble in 1937 between labor and management. The Northwestern was apparently the only large plant organized and also the only plant asking for Japanese-American help. According to union leaders, this was regarded as an indication that the management wanted to introduce such labor so

as to hurt the union. Effort was made to enlist other companies in the demand for Japanese-Americans. The damage was done, however, and the opposition crystallized. Records do not show any action taken by the union. Discussion took place in an open meeting, however, where Northwestern's officials were questioned about the introduction of Japanese-American labor. In spite of the fact that the employer met the objection successfully, relocation did not take place in any measure.

Under date of December 15, 1944, Relocation Officer reports: "We have had particularly good community sentiment in the small rural communities in towns as small as 600 Caucasian population. We have as many as 44 Japanese-Americans, mostly Issei, working with Caucasian men and women with very fine spirit of cooperation."

In December 2, 1943, Relocation Officer reports: "Visited Macomb and found a feeling in the community that while their boys were at some productive work or in the Army, an American-Japanese boy could go to school and prepare himself to compete with their boys when they returned from the factory and the armed forces. The feeling did not seem to be anti-Japanese but anti-college for boys during the time that we were at war."

The Relocation Officer reported under date of May 25, 1943, that he called upon the De Kalb Hybrid Seed Corn Association. He met the man in charge of the personnel recruitment for that organization. "While in his office he showed us a letter from one of their competitors located in Indiana in which they stated that they had received

several cancellations, when it became generally known that they were nurturing the idea of using evacuees in its organization."

Under date of August 7, 1943, a report of an interview with State Farm Mutual Insurance Company in Bloomington, gives a picture of local sentiment. The official interviewed stated that "He was not personally against the relocation program, but he did not consider bringing in Nisei young men to take the places of American boys who were being drafted. He added that he knew all about Japanese as he was a native Californian. He did say, when he was leaving, that the situation might get worse, that they would then consider Nisei."

Report of contact with the Rock Island County Farm Agent in June, 1943, indicates open antagonism. The farm agent reported broaching the subject to the Association of Onion Growers in the northern part of Scott County (Iowa), he said, "That the member hooted him down on the subject with the statement 'We would rather lose the crop! Approximately 75 per cent of all the farmers in Scott County are of German extraction.'"

Under date of August 21, 1943, the Officer reports an interview with the Decatur Businessmen in which he stated that "Last week he had attended a meeting of the farm group in Decatur and was amazed at the amount of active opposition among the farmers. There were at least four members who got up and emphatically denounced the relocation program. These men stated that they had sons who were at present engaged in combat with the Japanese in the Pacific and they simply could not tolerate young Japanese boys taking the boys' places

on the farms."

November 13, 1943, George Segawa, who had war-plant clearance, was denied employment by a Peoria war plant because of the fear of violence on the part of their employees.

In September, 1943, the Peoria Association of Commerce was instrumental in calling a meeting of retail stores in Peoria. There was a shortage at that time of 75 to 100 workers, mostly in sales work. Although sixteen merchants had been invited to attend, only six of the stores were represented. Two of the stores had phoned in expressing their opposition. No job offers resulted.

As indicative of the state of public acceptance, even in such a large community as Peoria, a resettler reported that "she never goes down town because there isn't a time when people don't turn around and stare at her and it makes her rather nervous. She also mentioned that the other day a man stopped her on the street and inquired whether or not she was Mexican. Rather than inform him of her Japanese ancestry, she agreed with him. The girl reported that they were able to walk around the streets of Chicago without being noticed."

Another incident involving a ²⁶⁰⁰chick sexer occurred in Nokomis, Illinois. Nokomis is a town of ~~25,000~~ population in Montgomery County, about 100 miles from St. Louis. Under date of March 4, 1943, the Officer reported on an interview with the proprietor of a hatchery, who had informed him that "On February 20 a riot had occurred in the course of which the back door of the hatchery had been knocked in and he had been threatened with physical violence and ordered to get

rid of the Japanese within one week, or have his hatchery wrecked and himself disposed of. The occasion for this demonstration was a Saturday night dance, a regular affair, originally sponsored by the Townsend Club, but now degenerated into a gathering of rowdies and low characters from the region around Nokomis. About fifty persons had participated in the disorder with one hundred as spectators. ~~Rio~~ leaders had been a soldier and three youths soon to be inducted into the armed forces. One arrest was made of a youth later released without penalty after a trial before a justice-of-the-peace. Mr. Smith opined that the individual, who had initiated the unrest which culminated in the riot, were his competitors and members of the Anti-Thief Association or ATA, a local lodge with large influential membership and actually a quasi-vigilante group. A town meeting was called in the townhall attended by the mayor, chief-of-police, states attorney, sheriff, and a large delegation from ATA. Among the speakers was the relocation Officer. Saturday, February 27, the ultimatum date set by the mob passed completely without incident. The employer reported that the day after the meeting his shop was visited by many new customers and that strangers approached him to express their approval of the relocation program."

A report of an incident near Urbana was made under date of July 23, 1943. "A farmer living between the small towns of Fithian and Ogden, without any report to this office, attempted to place Mr. Kenji Nakane as a farmer on his farm. This was done with the cooperation of the American Friends Service Committee. Before the

resettler arrived the townspeople protested, signing petitions and prevented the employment of Mr. Nakane. As a result of this incident the area around Fithian and Ogden was temporarily closed to resettlement."

On August, 1943, Stevenson County had a slight flurry of opposition. Fifteen resettlers on seasonal leave had been employed by a local vegetable grower. One of the men had been drinking in a nearby saloon and was accosted by a drunken farmer who demanded to know the nationality of the resettler. Some argument ensued. According to the bartender, the fault was entirely that of the drunken farmer. As a result of this encounter, a meeting was held at which the whole program was explained by the Relocation Officer. City Council and leading businessmen of Stockton attended and also the town marshall and the postmaster. No further friction was reported.

On July 10, 1943, a Peoria resettler paid a rental deposit on a house and just before his family arrived and he was about to move in, the landlady informed him that some of her neighbors objected to his moving into the neighborhood. The landlady was very indignant and resented her neighbors telling her what to do. She suggested that the resettler move in anyway, which he did. The neighbors proved very friendly, assisting him with the loan of temporary furniture and other neighborly acts.

In May, 1943, a Peoria rumor was widely circulated effecting indirectly three Nisei girls. These girls were employed in the home of a woman who operated an art photographic studio. Probably started

by enemies and fed by local gossip, the rumor had it that this business woman was operating a house of prostitution just outside the city limits. This rumor was reported to the Relocation Officer and several investigations were made. No justification for the rumor was ever found and eventually it was generally conceded that the rumors were malicious and without justification.

A report of July 5, 1943, from the Peoria office covers an interview with Mr. John Roister of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. "Mr. Roister wanted a list of evacuees resettled in the Peoria and other downstate cities under the jurisdiction of his office. He planned to interview each one and get their history. Mr. Roister reported that he has had some fifty calls from people in Peoria asking who these people are, by persons who had seen them on the streets and wondered about their nationality. Upon request of Mr. Roister, the Officer agreed to report to him newcomers in the territory."

Under date of October 19, 1943, Rockford office reported that a resettler purchased a home for himself and family. At first it appeared that the neighbors were alarmed at this action and were united to oppose it. Further inquiry showed that the opposition was prompted by one individual. Effort by the Relocation Officer had a member of the local "committee" satisfied the neighbors and the incident subsided.

IV. DEVELOPMENT OF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

In strict usage, job offers were never so much developed as discovered. Great pressures were felt in many fields for relief of manpower shortage. As has been stated above, the areas of greatest shortage never developed the greatest relocation. Job offers consistently far exceeded resettler acceptance. Based on job offers alone, a resettlement population of four times that of present figures could undoubtedly have been employed. The techniques of successful relocation required the sorting of job offer, the selection of those in areas highest in favorable factors and in promoting acceptance by the resettler.

A January 11, 1944, report includes this statement: "Job offers are plentiful but it is no easy matter to make the prospective employer understand why the takers are so few. After job offers are placed with this office, we are bombarded with questions and telephone calls from the employers wanting to know why there is no immediate response to their offers. Some of them have withdrawn their offers because of this apparent lack of interest in them by the people in the projects. A still earlier, i.e., November 3, 1943, report from Rockford states: "Still confronting us is the impossible situation of having employers anxious for workers and unable to understand why some one of more than 80,000 are not interested. Under conditions which made it impossible for this office to refuse, job offers have been placed.....Failures on the part of evacuees to make even one response to such a job offer, causes the employer to adopt

an attitude which is very harmful to the entire program."

Variety of Jobs Offered and Held

Just a brief study of job offers indicates that the variety was extensive. The type of jobs lacking from the employment opportunities are more easily described. That included all types of war production for which joint board clearance was required. Our records do not disclose any instance of Japanese Americans employed in the district in high priority war production. The same statement can be made with allowances for a relatively few exceptions for types of work controlled by labor unions. With the elimination of these two categories, resettlers were offered and held wide range of employment in an extensive cross-section of commercial, industrial and service agencies.

Because of the limitations mentioned above, there is no evidence on which to base a statement of contribution of resettlers in war industries.

Relationship with Employers and Unions

Little evidence appears in our files to show what the relationships between employer using Japanese American help and the resettler was anything but cordial. There are many evidences in our files of great appreciation by employers for the skills, integrity, adaptability of the resettler employee.

Under date of July 24, 1943, Relocation Officer reports:
"Rockford United States Employment Service manager had received

complaints of poor work record from two employers. This was immediately offset by the collection of favorable reactions from sixty others.

Relationship With Union

Study of operations in Greater Illinois discloses little helpful action by labor unions. There are several references of unfavorable action, notably in Decatur, Springfield, and opposition in Sterling. On behalf of the unions it might be said that there has been in the past some evidence that manufacturers make use of minority groups in conflict with the unions.

Under date of May 13, 1943, the report of an informal meeting, the Relocation Officer states: "The union men appeared to be particularly concerned about the possibility of the introduction of these persons into the larger plants and trades..... In general we agreed that they would not be coming in to secure positions for which there are local workers available..... As the meeting progressed, the feeling of tension became more relaxed and C.I. O. people began to make suggestions as to the ways that they could help us in the educational job. That entered the suggestion that they might arrange a meeting with the stewards..... Mr. Marks suggested that he could use some small items about the program in the union paper from time to time..... Mr. Estep also agreed that he might be able to use some material in his paper but pointed out that the acceptance of new specific workers in the A.F.L. unions would rest entirely with the individual union. It would be out estimate

that a good deal of initial understanding can be built up from these beginning contacts, and that we can have avenues that will help us to deal with any situations that might arise. We were pleasantly impressed with the friendliness and reasonableness of the specific labor men that we were dealing with at this time."

Under date of June 1, 1943, the Relocation Officer reports "In Decatur following our first meeting with a representative group of citizens, the A.F.L. Labor and Trades Assembly passed a resolution opposing the placement program." Reference to the strong opposition of the United Mine Workers in Springfield has been made above.

Under date of March 15, 1944, the Relocation Officer reports "We do not know of any union in the Rockford district that will accept persons of Japanese ancestry, except in one instance, withdrawal membership from California was reinstated in Rockford... It is our understanding that less than one-third of the plants were organized in the Peoria district. We have one man who joined the Bakery and Confectionery Food Workers Union, Local 145....."

Relation With United States Employment Service

Cooperation with local offices of United States Employment Service has been spotty. In a report of July 24, 1945, the Relocation Officer stated "Effectiveness of the U.S.E.S. in the placement of resettlers in Greater Illinois has depended on: (1) local labor market (2) personal attitude among staff (3) fear of outside pressure in regard to potential employment (4) departure of resettled

Nisei for industrial employment in larger cities. While ostensibly friendly, the local manager is not likely to go out of his way to befriend a minority group for the number of potential workers is too small to affect the labor shortage yet prompt enough to cause a reaction against the importation of labor in time of surplus. Whatever success War Relocation Authority has had with U.S.E.S. has been due primarily to the good will efforts of individual, sympathetic employees. Job placements continued to be made by U.S.E.S. At best, however, their experience with evacuees has been extremely limited. This for several reasons, (1) the preponderance of evacuees in institutional and service employment rather than industrial (2) tendency of resettlers to find their own jobs either directly or through friends (3) the job complication implicit in housing problem. Because of lack of experience and/or in making industrial placements, the U.S.E.S. will normally grant an immediate referral card to any new immigrant with a job in mind, or even dispense with this formality altogether. Releases, however, from essential employment are handled the same as for any other applicant.....In Rockford the local U.S.E.S. manager cannot be considered sympathetic to the Nisei-Issei problem. Some individual staff members have already been approached and found sympathetic."

In Peoria "The local U.S.E.S. manager is rather cautious in his attitude claiming that there were better work opportunities for resettlers in the larger cities where racial tensions are not as evident... The U.S.E.S., of course, did refer evacuees to job openings available, but he was quite skeptical of employer acceptance."

In an October 20, 1943, report from Springfield, "Mr. Graham, U.S.E.S. manager said he didn't think anyone would hire American Japanese. Personally he was in favor of bringing them in."

In September 15, 1944, Mr. E. C. Claflin, U.S.E.S., is listed as a person who can be called upon to assist newcomers in the community.

Agricultural Opportunities

In general, farm opportunities in Greater Illinois may be described by the statement that many resettlers, some married, obtained employment as farmhands in various sections of Northern Illinois. Many groups were recruited in Centers in emergencies on seasonal leave. There were few share-rent opportunities developed and they were offered to resettlers without takers. There is no record of purchase, rent, or sharecropping of farms by resettlers. As to the extent of employment, estimates vary. Actual farm employment lies between fifty and one-hundred.

Methods Used

In April, 1943, on opening the program, letters were sent to county agents under United States Department of Agriculture of nineteen counties in northern tier of Illinois. At that time farmers were extending every effort to increase production to meet war food demands and were facing a shortage of trained workers. The cooperation of the county agent was requested in acquainting local farmers with the possibility of employing experienced farmers from the Relocation Centers. Many job offers resulted from this initial solicitation.

Several of the county agents expressed themselves as not in favor of the program.

Under date of April 22, 1943, R. C. Smith, Farm Advisor of Rock Island County Farm Bureau, states "Under present circumstances, even in view of the labor shortage, I do not believe that the farmers of our county are psychologically disposed to acceptance of Japanese Americans to do farm work. The situation may change."

Under date of April 20, 1943, W. P. Miller, Farm Advisor of Kendall County Farm Bureau, "We have very little truck gardening in this county or general farm work. The opinion is that this type of labor would not be satisfactory either from the standpoint of ability or from reception into homes of farm people. It seems to all with whom I have talked about the situation, that the best location for these Japanese-Americans would be in areas where truck gardening is a specialty, since they are both accustomed and adapted to that kind of farm work."

Under date of April 16, 1943, Donald G. McAllister, Farm Adviser of DeKalb County Bureau wrote: "The farmers are very hesitant about taking such individuals into their homes and having them live with their family. However, it is entirely possible that this attitude may change." During that period the Relocation Officer interviewed Mr. Frank Shuman, Farm Adviser in Whiteside County. He reports "Mr. Shuman was somewhat familiar with the relocation program in that it had been discussed at some of their United States Department of Agriculture group meetings. He was very much in favor

of our program, both from the standpoint of farm labor shortage in Whiteside County and from the standpoint of his own personal interest in the problems confronting Japanese-American people. Mr. Shuman has discussed the possibility of Japanese labor on the farms with several of the farmers that have come into his office and he advises that the reactions have been pretty much the same in all cases 'We don't like the Japs' is the sentiment expressed by these farmers."

To gain resettlers acceptance, carefully detailed statements of job offers were relayed to the Centers.

Under date of December 16, 1943, in a letter to a Relocation Center, the Officer wrote: "This general area of Illinois is, of course, farmed quite extensively with general farm crops; dairy cattle, beef cattle, hogs, being the principal livestock raised on these farms. Around each city we have considerable truck farming for the local market, and also for the St. Louis and Chicago markets. In addition there are the canning crops such as green beans, peas, asparagus, and tomatoes that are grown throughout the central and northern part of the state. We are again suggesting that for farmers wishing to relocate the best opportunity is for them to come as workers, so that they will establish themselves in a community; and we believe that after they have become known in the community, they will not have difficulty if they wish to rent land or buy land to operate on their own."

Descriptive of conditions in LaSalle County, a report of the

Relocation Officer under date of April 8, 1944, states "There are no resettlers in LaSalle County at the present time and the farmers are inclined to be cautious. However, there is a need, estimated by the farm adviser, for about thirty married men on farms with housing and at least fifty single men who would live in homes of farm operators. Generally, we find the monthly wages are not so high as in the northern part of the state such as in Winnebago, Boone and McHenry counties. Married men will probably start at \$90 a month in LaSalle, while those in northern county get \$100.

The land in LaSalle County is fertile and is adapted to growing of vegetables. We suggest that those interested, come out and take jobs as farm workers. We believe that after they have spent a year or two in one, there will be definite opportunities for them to purchase land, if they have funds, or to lease it."

At that time a serious shortage of farm labor existed for single and married men. A number of farmers were anxious to employ Japanese-Americans. The position of the livestock farmer was particularly bad. He was having to reduce his herds, trim livestock production due to inability to take care of them. Farmers were ready to hire persons without livestock experience, if they were acquainted with operation and care of tractors and other farm machinery.

In the Progress Report for the period of April 16 to 30, 1944, the Officer stated: "In reporting the activities for the Greater Illinois district, we are pleased to note the number of farm offers for single and married men that have been received. Several Japanese

Americans have accepted farm jobs; and we believe that by encouraging these men to recommend similar jobs to friends, we will be able to slowly build up the number of Japanese-Americans on farms. One of the boys had been in Chicago for almost a year doing factory work and his coming to the farm suggested to us the possibility of sending letters to all resettlers in Chicago advising those that are farmers of the possibility of working on farms in the Midwest, getting to know the community, soil, climate, and markets so that they could, if they wish at a later date, purchase or lease land to operate on their own. Farm labor situation is such that we believe several hundred resettlers could be placed within the area 120 miles from Chicago.....

"As a follow-up on Mr. Kennedy's visit to Mount Morris on April 19th, I visited Mount Morris and discussed the possibilities of making farm placements with the Reverend Newman and Mr. Milton Dunk, Vocational Agriculture Teacher, and Mr. Warner, farm adviser at Oregon. They have agreed to discuss these possibilities with the farmers and that on my next visit to Mount Morris they would have the names of farmers in need of hired labor."

The March, 1944, report from Rockford indicated interest centering around farm opportunities. "Several offers have been received for help on combination dairy-grain farm in this district."

In April, 1944, the Relocation Officer reports on the Rockford district, "Farm offers from the rural areas and gardening offers from urban area continue to be received in this office. The farms are in desperate need of help and are anxious to secure Japanese-American labor as soon as possible."

Southern Illinois was never attractive to farm laborers. On August 11, 1943, the officer reported "Farm opportunities in central and southern Illinois to date have been few and the wages offered for these positions do not seem to attract evacuees although they are standard for the community and do afford a fairly good living."

A report of June 5, 1943, states Mr. Guether talked with Mr. Russell Kelley, State Head of Farm Placement of U.S.E.S. "He recommended that since this Area, (Johnson County) has been a labor surplus area, that we do not take any action until he gets more information. They have been able to get enough strawberry pickers (1943) and believes that they will be able to meet need locally." In spite of these unfavorable conditions, some seasonal leave farm labor was employed in the Southern Illinois section.

Under date of August 27, 1943, a report indicates a crew of ten men from Rohwer on seasonal leave were employed on Eckart farm in Belleville, Illinois.

Difficulties Encountered Inviting Suitable Employment

Difficulties encountered from opposition of political and union leaders have been discussed in Sections I and III above. Strictly speaking, these, however, are not difficulties in finding suitable employment. During the periods of great manpower shortage, after the initial phase of the program was accomplished, it could scarcely be said that difficulty in finding employment existed. There are many evidences indicating that it was frequently difficult for

Relocation Officers to meet increasing criticism by prospective employers for whom candidates could not be found. This was true in urban areas and in those rural areas where the initial opposition had been overcome. As has been stated elsewhere, so far as job opportunities were concerned, many times the number of resettlers could have been successfully employed. In farm employment it might be said that difficulty was encountered in finding the type of farm job acceptable to the resettler. This was due in great part, of course, to the different farm methods in operation in Illinois from those to which the evacuees had been accustomed. Exceptions of this, of course, were market gardening and in the southern sections the fruit growing. The latter opportunities did not attract resettlement chiefly because of low wage scale and the general availability of some alternate plan of labor.

Difficulties in Interesting Evacuees in Accepting Employment

Difficulties in interesting evacuees in accepting employment can best be reported from the Center. There are frequent references in the records of the bewilderment of various relocation officers in meeting local criticism directed against the evacuees who refused to respond to job opportunities which seemed to offer possibilities for successful resettlement.

In September, 1943, a Relocation Officer reported on his efforts in a Project to interest evacuees in accepting farm placement states: "The majority of evacuees with whom I talked about farm

wanted some sort of deal on share basis before they relocated. The farmers in this area with whom I have talked did not consider such a plan unless and until they had information or knowledge of the evacuees' ability to operate the farm had first been given. As I see it, that confidence can only be gotten by the evacuees accepting a paid position for at least one season.

Methods Used To Promote Employment

Various methods were used by Relocation Officers to promote both employment and its acceptance by evacuees. Campaigns by mail and personal visit with accompaniment of local sponsors, addresses of rural and urban groups and enlistment of effort by committees and other interested persons. A great variety of factual information was forwarded to the Chicago District and to Projects through periodical job summaries. Exceptional offers were written up in detail and copies sent directly to all Centers.

In September 22, 1943, the Relocation Officer in Rockford reports "I should again wish to emphasize the fact that job offers and job opportunities are ten times more plentiful than applicants.

"In September, 1943, most of our people have come by reason of direct offer, either because they were known to me or to someone who had already been relocated. Possibly this has been due to my method of procedure and the result generally has been good."

In a report given in January, 1944, Peoria Officer states: "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.

"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 telephones, 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.

"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."

In a similar report for that period the Rockford Relocation Officer stated: "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 U.S.E.S., 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

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."

Under date of December 15, 1944, the Relocation Officer reported: "We plan to interview as many as possible of the resettlers, and in those cases where the resettler is at all interested, after we dis-

cussed the advantages of having his family with him, we will prepare a docket so that the details of the problem will be at hand, and we will be able to work with the relocation program officer at the Center. These reports, of course, will be filed in the district office in such a fashion so that the data is easily available to carry out the future plans for relocating families. An attempt will be made to make definite appointments with evacuees, setting the time and place at their convenience in so far as possible.

"In addition, of course, the resettlement committees will play a large part in talking to the resettlers and helping to make them feel as a part of the community and to want to bring their families out of the centers at the earliest possible time.....

"The use of employers will not be overlooked. Most employers recognize that if the employees' families are with them rather than a thousand miles away, they are inclined to be stable and efficient and less liable to become restless and leave their jobs for another."

Under date of October 15, 1943, with regard to overcoming problems of Relocation Officer indicated his program: It seems to take a certain amount of time for employers to decide they will hire (or offer to hire) American Japanese. I have noticed that, especially in farm contacts around Chicago, farmers would call in a job offer, perhaps two months or more after a visit to their farm or office to explain the program. I plan to keep a list of the people contacted for our records.

"The personal call on the prospective employer is naturally

the best, but with these larger cities in the area - Bloomington - Pop. 33,000; Springfield - 80,000; Decatur - 60,000; Danville - 37,000; Champaign-Urbana - 37,000; Quincy - 40,000; Jacksonville - 20,000; Galesburg - 29,000, plus the rural areas, it is impossible for one man to cover the ground. I have written a set speech to be made on a telephone call to the employer who is only hiring a few workers. By doing this telephone canvassing, I believe we will be able to locate openings for many evacuees that we could not find by any other method. You will find attached to this report a copy that we have started to use. This experienced accountant as a result of the first series of calls. You will note that ordinarily after an opening is found (i.e. workers are definitely needed) a follow-up visit is recommended to explain the program. In the large cities or towns already opened up, this may not be necessary, but in new territory it does offer possibilities for most kinds of jobs. In a large city it could be used for finding openings for special or out of the ordinary kinds of positions.

"The plans at present are to continue to make as many contacts as possible and to assume that almost every community in this area will accept American Japanese. Some of the exceptions are the Southern Illinois surplus labor area, and the mining towns."

In some instances (July 28, 1945) direct information was sent to the Community Councils (Gila River).

In Spring and Summer of 1945, Greater Illinois undertook a

"re-relocation" program. The effort was to interest persons with rural or small town background dissatisfied with Chicago in moving to farm or institutional offers available throughout the District. As of August 1, fifty-seven re-relocation requests were received; forty-one interviews held of persons referred by the Chicago District office. Additional sixteen applications were received directly from the Chicago office, correspondence or other interviews. These fifty-seven cases involved 216 persons. As of that date, five families had been placed; representatives of two other families temporarily located; two families on trial; two others awaiting October relocation; fourteen assignments were pending.

Job-housing opportunities were canvassed by mail and personal contact from lists of "gentlemen farmers", Catholic and Protestant institutions. This development, while never involving great numbers, continued to be effective in relocating families until the close of the program.

Reasons For Success Or Failure

Neither success nor failures of the program can be attributed to any particular separate cause or causes. Some consideration has been given above to the essential combination of favorable factors necessary for satisfactory relocation. If it may be accepted as fact that the actual presence of well-adjusted individuals tended to overcome unfavorable factors and to create favorable ones, it probably follows that the greatest single cause of obstruction of the program

was the lack of acceptance by the resettler of available openings. It is the belief of the writer, unsupported by evidence other than his own impression, that reasons for this may be sought in: The somewhat penal atmosphere of relocation centers which tended to emphasize administrative problems rather than social or psychological ones. Had the Supreme Court decision of December, 1944, been possible in December, 1942, the growth of institutionalism in project administration or in project population would not have developed. As it was it did not seem possible for project administration to create an atmosphere in which "spirit to relocate" could develop. Acceptance by appointed personnel that the evacuee was a wartime "problem" was a continual reminder to Center population of the insecurity of relocation and the relative security of Center life. Whether unavoidable or not, the conditioning of the evacuee by Center life was for the continuation of Center life not for relocation. This writer is well aware that this does not tell the whole story. In too many situations, local bigots were able to spoil a generally favorable atmosphere. There would seem to be, however, strong evidence to support the statement that causes for obstruction to the program, at least so far as Greater Illinois District is concerned, existed inside rather than outside of the Relocation Center.