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Miss. Brown

COLORADO RIVER RELOCATION CENTER  
Poston, Arizona

December 6, 1943

MEMORANDUM TO: W. Wade Head, Project Director

FROM: Legal Department

Report: November 28, to December 4, 1943

1. Conferred with the consumer enterprises in reference to transfer of assets from a deceased member to his heirs without going through the formality of probating the estate. As each case must be determined upon the facts in that particular case, no blanket ruling was made except to advise the consumer enterprises to communicate with the legal department and ask for this department's ruling in each individual case.

2. The final disposition of the evacuee camouflage trust fund in Unit 2 was reported to this office.

3. Mr. Masato Ben Hashimoto was employed by the legal department as insurance counselor commencing December 1, 1943. He is replacing Mr. Kagiwada who has relocated to Michigan.

4. On November 29, 2 representatives from Block 17 asked me to intervene on behalf of Roy Sakaya who was sentenced to a 10 day jail term at the Parker Indian Jail. After conferring with the Judicial Commissioners, Youth Counseling Board, Mr. Harper of Internal Security, and the Police Department of Unit 1, the Judicial Commission decided to commute the 10 day sentence and released the boy on the afternoon of November 30.

I made every effort to determine whether any local pressure was put on the Judicial Commissioners but from my connection with this matter the whole matter was decided on its merits only, and that no pressure whatsoever was exerted on the Judicial Commissioners. I think, that under all the circumstances, the commutation of the sentence was fully justified in fairness to the defendant.

5. Several representatives of the consumer enterprises consulted me on a possible libel action against the Poston Chronicle. They were of the opinion that this whole matter could be taken care of on this project, but upon their being informed of the judicial procedure in the state of Arizona that must be utilized in enforcing this type of case, the representatives decided to consider the matter further.

6. Rendered oral opinion that W.R.A. could not deny leave clearance to a 17 year old boy merely at the request of the parents, especially when leave clearance to this particular boy had been granted by the Washington office.

7. The routine business of the legal advice to the evacuees was given by the office, and in addition, thereto, income tax problems were predominate among the advice sought by the evacuees as well as the appointed personnel.

*Thos. Masuda*  
Thos. Masuda  
Acting Project Attorney



Mrs. Brown

COLORADO RIVER RELOCATION CENTER  
Poston, Arizona

December 13, 1943

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. W. Wade Head, Project Director

FROM: Legal Department

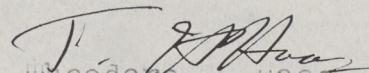
REPORT: December 5 - 11, 1943, inclusive

1. The back-log of cases which have been heard and had not yet been sent to Washington was broken this week. Hearings of dockets which have been sent from Washington have not been held for about two weeks but were set by Mr. Drennen for the week beginning December 13. I suggested that cases of persons who desire to relocate be given preference, and that by December 15, a list be drawn up and sent to Washington showing the names of those who our records show should be granted leave clearance and whose dockets have not been received by the Washington office.

2. On Saturday, the Cooperative Congress passed an amendment to the Articles of Incorporation which will enable it to receive a permit from the Arizona Corporation Commission to do business in this state.

3. The Community Council is considering regulations to reduce fire hazards, including licensing of charcoal braziers. It is contemplating passing a compulsory school provision requiring attendance at school for all who have not reached 18 years of age.

4. In a proclamation signed on December 11, Mr. Head proclaimed December 18 as "Clean-up Day." Specific suggestions have been submitted to the block managers by the Division of Sanitation. The Community Council, local councils, and the block managers are cooperating in this worthy effort.

  
Theodore N. Haas



COLORADO RIVER RELOCATION CENTER

Poston, Arizona

December 21, 1943

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. W. Wade Head

FROM: Legal Division

SUBJECT: Report -- December 12 - 18, 1943

1. Mr. Head appointed nine new members of the Leave Clearance Board. Mr. Crawford, Relocation Program Officer, succeeded Mr. Drennen as Executive Secretary of the Board. ✓

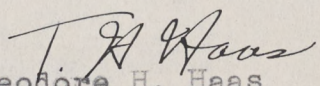
2. Three residents possessing 120 cases of "sake" were arrested.

3. Several articles or memoranda had been written criticizing the Community Enterprises in recent weeks, some addressed to the "Chronicle", one to the Project Director and several to the Project Attorney. ✓

4. The attempt on the part of the Stewards' Department to change the project ruling that evacuee friends could be brought to the personnel mess was defeated.

5. The Community Council<sup>is</sup> considering resolutions dealing with truancy in the schools and injury to school property.

6. Chairman of Canal Community Council adds to the many other project councils which have asked Poston for help in establishing a Judicial Commission. (61/24)

  
Theodore H. Haas  
Project Attorney



COLORADO RIVER RELOCATION CENTER

Poston, Arizona

December 28, 1943

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. W. Wade Head

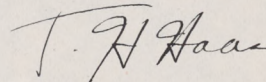
FROM: Legal Division

SUBJECT: Report -- December 19 - 24, 1943

1. Considerable time was spent in introducing Dr. David French, Poston's community analyst to certain of the residents and discussing with him many phases of Poston life.

2. The growing ability of the evacuee leaders to solve their problems was demonstrated by the handling of a law and order problem.

3. Leave Clearance Board reinforced by nine new members continued the hearings of about 300 dockets which had been sent from Washington within the last few weeks.



Theodore H. Haas  
Project Attorney



*Brown*

*DMU 7/29*

COLORADO RIVER RELOCATION CENTER

Poston, Arizona

February 22, 1944

Memorandum to: MR. DUNCAN MILLS  
Acting Project Director

From: Legal Division

Subject: Report - February 13 to 19, 1944

1. Leave clearance decisions have been coming in from Washington, D. C. with greater frequency.

2. On February 14, the Judicial Commission of Unit 1 sent Rentaro Shimomai for 60 days in the Parker Jail for an assault committed on Don Masaru Uyeda.

Mr. Uyeda and Mr. Shimomai were then sentenced for violation of parole to 30 days in the Parker Jail. The 30 day term of Mr. Shimomai is to run concurrently with the 60 day term.

The Unit 3 Judicial Commission sentenced Mr. Hirose of Unit 3 to 30 days and 6 months probation for an assault on the Unit 3 Chief of Police. The sentence was suspended although arrangements were made for Mr. Hirose to work in the hospital.

3. Mr. Masuda and I were asked on Saturday night to attend the arraignment of George S. Fujii who was accused of sedition before the U.S. Commissioner held at Phoenix on February 21.

*T. H. Haas*  
Theodore H. Haas  
Project Attorney



COLORADO RIVER RELOCATION CENTER  
Poston, Arizona

March 6, 1944

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. Duncan Mills, Acting Project Director

FROM: Legal Division

RE: Weekly Report Covering February 28 to March 4,  
1944

1. Preliminary hearing on George Fujii sedition case was heard by U. S. Commissioner at Phoenix on Thursday, March 2, 1944 at 10:30 a.m. The U. S. Commissioner, after the hearing, bound George Fujii to the Grand Jury and a bond of \$10,000 was fixed.

2. On the evening of February 28, police of Unit 1 raided a basement apartment in Block 13 where gambling was in full progress. About 25 people were present and 11 were arrested for gambling. Trial for this case will probably be heard some time next week.

3. On Saturday, February 26, and on Monday, February 28, a jury of 12 with two alternates listened to testimony for and against the eviction of one family in Block 36. The jury after hearing all testimonies rendered a 11 to 1 decision in favor of eviction. Arrangements are now being made to have this family move to Unit 2 or 3. The Unit 1 Council by regulation established a cumbersome procedure for eviction in order to discourage as much as possible attempts of eviction of families from the various blocks.

4. The opposition to the selective service program does not seem to be of any serious proportions. A petition to the President has been circulated suggesting certain restoration of civil rights but it seems that it has been drawn up very carefully and with no apparent disloyal sentiments expressed. As far as I know, this petition has not been forwarded at this time. Apparently, many of the leaders of the community are discouraging any possible resistance to the selective service, and it does not appear that the circulars that have been posted or the arrest of George Fujii have created any particularly adverse reaction.



Mr. Duncan Mills

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March 6, 1944

5. Liquidators of the Sumitomo Bank of Sacramento announced dividend checks in full to all creditors which will be mailed about April 8, 1944. This applies only to this one particular bank, and should not be confused with the other Sumitomo Banks in California.

*Scott Rowley*

Scott Rowley  
Project Attorney

cc: Pauline Bates Brown,  
Reports Officer



COLORADO RIVER RELOCATION CENTER

Poston, Arizona

March 13, 1944

Memorandum to: MR. L. L. NELSON  
Acting Project Director

From: Legal Division

Re: Weekly Report Covering March 5 to March 11, 1944

1. On March 7 there was a hearing of 11 defendants in a gambling case. Also of one defendant for a disturbance created by him. There was a plea of guilty in all cases.

In the gambling cases, sentences of 45 days were given to two defendants who were found to have been implicated in former offenses of the same type. Thirty days of this time was suspended. The balance of the defendants received 30 days sentence each which was suspended. All of the defendants were put under probation for 6 months. The 2 defendants mentioned above are now serving their 15 days in Yuma.

In the disturbance case which was connected with the gambling case, a sentence of 15 days and 6 months probation was placed upon the defendant. He is now serving sentence in the Yuma jail.

2. The George Fujii case is set for hearing upon a habeas corpus proceeding for Monday, March 13. It was not thought necessary that we have a representative of the project attorney's office present for purposes of observation for this hearing as Mr. Fujii is ably represented by counsel and we can secure all the information necessary without a personal trip.

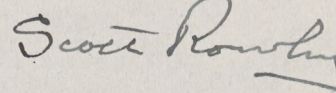
3. There have been one or two minor police matters, one of which was operating an automobile without a license in Camp 3. There was also a cutting affair that was not prosecuted as the police thought it was clearly a matter of self-defense against a somewhat intoxicated person who was very much superior in size and physical capacity. Also because of the repentant attitude of the aggressor when he became more normal, this office concurred in the conclusion as the parties are apparently now under good terms.



4. The publication of the Notice of Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation is now complete and the affidavit has been turned over to Mr. Beltt to be filed. I feel we should have the authorization to do business in Arizona in a very short time.

We are working on copies of the By-laws and on the draft of an agreement for the transfer of the assets from the trust to the cooperative.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Scott Rowley". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Scott Rowley  
Project Attorney

cc: Mrs. Brown,  
Reports Officer



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COLORADO RIVER RELOCATION CENTER

Poston, Arizona

March 20, 1944

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. Duncan Mills, Acting Project Director  
FROM: Legal Division  
RE: Weekly Report Covering March 12 - 18, 1944

1. The office was extremely busy the early part of the week in meeting the last minute rush for income tax reports. We have a breathing spell at the present time but expect another rush on the April 15 reports as soon as the new forms come through.

2. The habeas corpus proceedings in the case of George Fujii was held on March 13, and the court took the case under advisement. We have not heard that a decision has been given as yet. The Grand Jury will meet on March 21, and there is a possibility that his case may be presented to the Grand Jury at that time although we have no definite information on that.

There have been one or two minor matters that have arisen in the matter of arrests by the police, but nothing of any particular importance. On the whole, the situation, aside from the selective service problem, has been uneventful.

3. This office, like others, has been busy on leave clearance hearings and have others scheduled.

4. We have just received authorization for the Community Enterprises to do business in Arizona as a foreign corporation. The By-laws will be completed shortly and an agreement for the transfer of the business from the trust to the community enterprises will be prepared.

5. The credit union seems to be becoming more active, and we are working with Dr. Balderston on some amendments to the by-laws which we hope will make it more effective. We will have a further report on this in the near future.

6. The usual amount of routine matters is coming up every day. These matters take a considerable amount of time but probably are such that a detailed report will not be helpful.

*Scott Rowley*  
Scott Rowley  
Project Attorney

*(Mrs. Brown has copy)*



COLORADO RIVER RELOCATION CENTER  
Poston, Arizona

March 27, 1944

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. Duncan Mills, Project Director  
FROM: Legal Division  
RE: Report Covering March 19 - 25, 1944, Inclusive

1. Internal Security and Selective Service. The 9 boys who refused to register for pre-induction physical examinations were arrested by a group of F.B.I. representatives on Saturday, March 25, and taken to Phoenix. There seemed to be very little excitement over the matter except, I have been informed, that some of the members of Block 13 were quite upset because of the fact that the boys were taken early in the morning without time to prepare themselves. This, however, seems somewhat a minor matter.

In Camp 3, there appears to be an exceptional number of the selectees who are making an appeal, which, of course, is their right, but it may indicate a continued feeling of resistance.

Three Japanese who were taken to Yuma were returned on Friday, March 24, having served their sentence.

In view of the long distances to Phoenix and Yuma and inadequacies of the jail at Parker, I wish to again raise the question of the possibility of having a jail of our own in Poston. It would be a very great saving of time and expense which might possibly more than offset any unfavorable aspects.

When in Yuma, I met a county attorney, the judge, and the sheriff and members of his office. They seemed very cooperative.

2. Cooperative. We are working on the by-laws and transfer agreement of the Cooperative and will soon have them completed. Authorization has been secured from the state of Arizona to do business as a foreign corporation.

3. Community Council. In some instances, the Community Council seems to be exceeding its authority somewhat. I see in the minutes of the Local Community Council in Unit 2 dated March 13, 1944, that the Council approved the plan that the Sewing Department handle its own wages and expenses and continue the work. This may be merely a recommendation to the



Director, in which case, it would not be out of line. If, however, it is an indication that the work is to be continued under the suggestion made and approved by the Council or private persons, then it gets into the field of private enterprises, which is, of course, not in accordance with W.R.A. regulations. I merely call this to your attention.

*Scott Rowley*

Scott Rowley  
Project Attorney

cc. Mrs. Brown.



COLORADO RIVER RELOCATION CENTER

Poston, Arizona

*DM 4/3*

April 3, 1944

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. Duncan Mills  
Project Director

FROM: Scott Rowley

SUBJECT: Report: March 26, 1944 to April 1, 1944

1. The Selective Service situation seems to be fairly well in hand with the arrest and conviction of the nine draftees who refused to report for pre-induction physical examinations. There is still apparently a decided feeling that evacuees should have full civil rights restored and this feeling is tied up with the draft situation. In some cases the expatriation applications seem to be clearly the result of a desire to evade army service. However, from the reports from the Project Attorney's office in the various units, it appears that any opposition now is largely in the form of appeals to the draft boards which is of course a legal and appropriate way of approaching the subject.

2. The Internal Security situation seems to be well in hand. There have been a few arrests for traffic violations and in a number of instances the offenders' licenses have been taken from them.

One case involving a disturbance which is apparently a feud between the messhall employees and the meat truck boys has resulted in the arrest of four boys and the case will be heard within the next week or two. The Judicial Council made commutation of sentence of one of the prisoners in the Indian Reservation jail at Poston and he has been released after serving 45 days. It would seem that both the sentence and the commutation of a comparatively small part were advisable.

3. The By-laws and the Transfer Agreement from the Community Enterprises Trust to the Poston Cooperative Enterprises, Inc., have been prepared and have been sent to Washington for approval. Undoubtedly the transfer will be made in a short time, and the cooperative will be operated by the corporation.

*Scott Rowley*

Scott Rowley  
Project Attorney

cc: Brown



*Burke*  
*Stwick*

COLORADO RIVER RELOCATION CENTER  
Poston, Arizona

April 10, 1944

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. Duncan Mills, Project Director *JM H 11*  
FROM: Legal Division  
SUBJECT: Weekly Report Covering April 2 to 8, 1944,  
Inclusive

1. There has been more activity in the Internal Security Division recently than usual. Possibly it arises from increased activity of the police. Two sets of gambling charges have been filed, two of assault, one of disorderly conduct, and one for traffic violation. There was also a boys' gang fight in one of the schools. As it did not result in any serious difficulty, the boys were given a lecture and no charge was made against them.

2. The selective service situation seems to be developing as well as could be expected. There is probably still a certain amount of passive resistance, and there has been a number of appeals filed. The resistance seems to be more in the line of an orderly and legal resistance as has been observed heretofore.

3. In order to coordinate to the greatest degree the work of the Legal Department with that of the Evacuee Property Department, the work of which departments are very closely related, we have made arrangements with Mr. Schmitt whereby the offices of the Legal Department in Camps 2 and 3 are being used by Mr. Schmitt together with services of the employees there. This should result in increased efficiency without any extra expenses, if it works out as we hope. We do not feel that it will add to the burdens of our employees in the other units, but, on the other hand, because of the close coordination, it may be an actual saving of work.

4. The community government has been having some controversy in the matter of block managers, but I think the matter is being worked out satisfactorily. Apparently, the council has attempted to assume some authorities which seem to be beyond its prescribed powers.



5. There is one case, a Tao case, which seems to be raising some difficulty, and there seems to be disposition in places to avoid responsibility in that case, possibly because of the fact that the defendant is a man of considerable standing in this community. From what I hear, the judicial commission is not overly anxious to assume any responsibility in the matter, and it may be a case that will come to the Project Director personally. I will keep you informed as to any developments in this matter.

6. We have two matters relating to Community Enterprises, one or both of which may result in some litigation. One is a suit by the La Vida Bottling Works, Placentia, California, where, apparently, the party from whom the goods were ordered was an agent of the bottling works. This party was paid and, apparently, did not settle with the bottling works. We hope that this can be worked out without legal action being taken by putting some pressure upon the alleged agent. Another relates to some shoes that were purchased and proved defective. In this, we are trying to secure refund on the amount paid.

*Scott Rowley*

Scott Rowley  
Project Attorney

cc: Pauline Bates Brown,  
Reports Officer



*Mr. Rudge*  
*JM 4/17*  
COLORADO RIVER RELOCATION CENTER

Poston, Arizona

April 17, 1944

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. Duncan Mills  
Project Director

FROM: Legal Division

SUBJECT: Weekly Report Covering April 9 to 17, 1944  
inclusive

1. Several cases were tried by the Judicial Commission. The case involving the four boys charged with disturbing the peace was, on a motion of the prosecution, dismissed on the grounds of insufficient evidence.

2. The case involving a former police officer of Camp 1 charged with disturbing the peace has been continued until the 15th of May for plea. The defendant in an assault and battery case pleaded not guilty and requested a jury trial. This case has been set for trial on April 26.

3. Nine defendants were arrested, charged with gambling. One, an elderly woman, was sentenced to 55 days, 30 days of which was suspended, and she was placed on six months' probation. The balance of the sentence amounting to 25 days was to be commuted upon her paying a fine of \$25 which was paid. One of the other defendants charged with gambling was sentenced to 30 days, 20 days of which was suspended. He was placed on six months' probation. The balance of 10 days was to be commuted in the event he paid the fine. The fine was paid.

Six of the defendants plead guilty. They were sentenced to 30 days which sentence was suspended and they were placed on probation for a period of six months. The remaining defendant was then engaged in very essential work and his case was continued until April 17.

Apparently the woman was given a heavier sentence than the balance as it was a feeling of the Judicial Commission that she was more deeply involved than the other defendants. There are some indications that an appeal may be made to the Project Director in the case of the woman.



4. There is a report of an attempted suicide in the hospital. The party is under mental observation by the Medical Department.

5. The matter of the dispute between the block managers and the council is apparently being worked out in a satisfactory manner.

6. I am informed that in the pre-induction physical examinations of April 16, only one of the boys did not take the examination. It was a much better showing than in the first of the examinations.

7. Tom Masuda left early this morning on his leave. On the trip he will spend a considerable time in visiting places where there are relocation offices and in contacting evacuees who have resettled in those sections. The information gained this way should be very helpful to our Relocation Department and also to many evacuees who are relying considerably upon Tom's judgment in making relocation.

8. Edgar Bernhard, Principal Attorney at San Francisco, will be here two days this week. He should be very helpful in assisting our office work out various problems which have presented themselves.

*Scott Rowley*

Scott Rowley  
Project Attorney

cc: Pauline Bates Brown,  
Reports Officer