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Mrs. James Takashima

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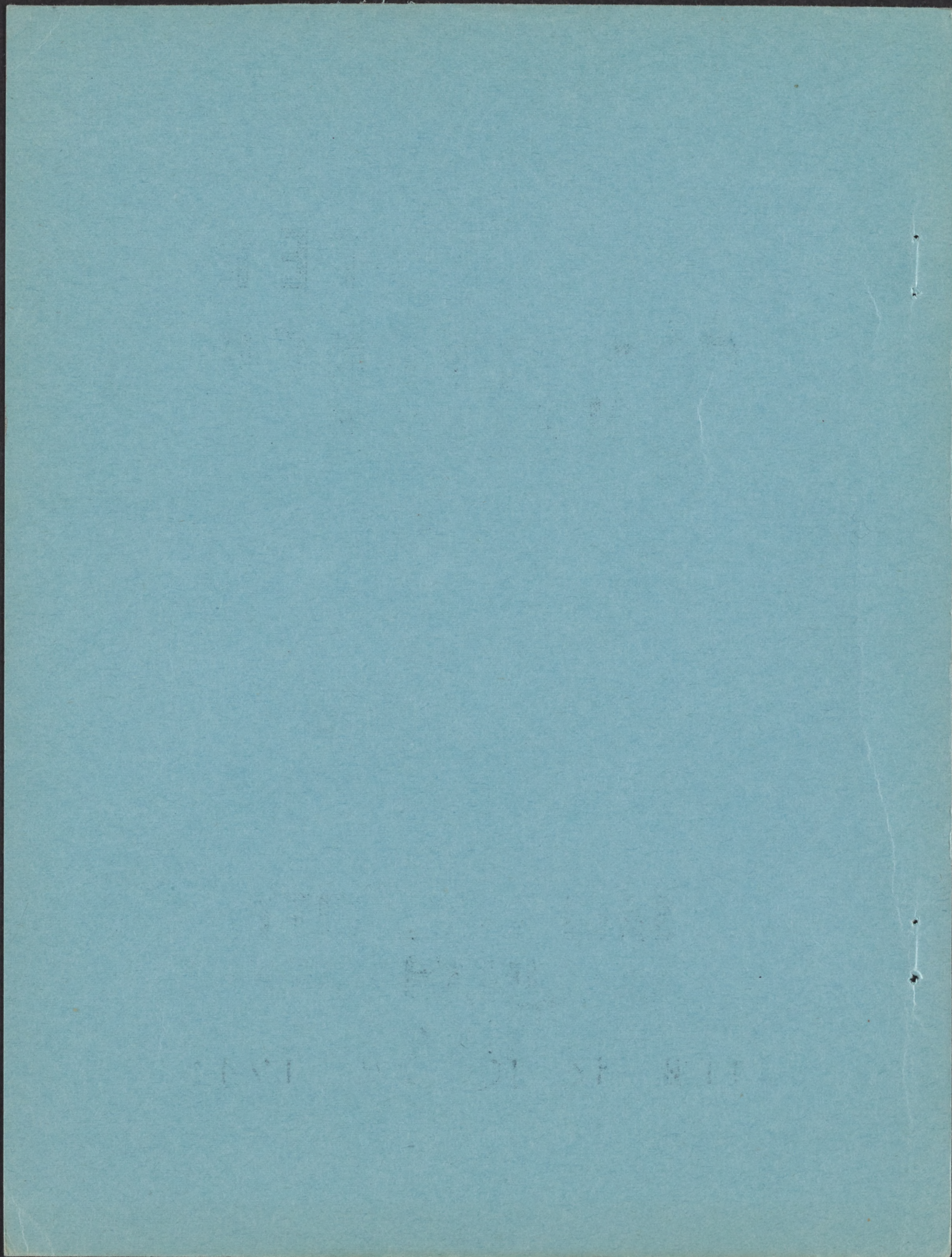
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ALL CENTER CONFERENCE

SALT LAKE CITY
UTAH

FEB. 16 TO 22, 1945



ALL CENTER CONFERENCE
Salt Lake City, Utah

February 16, 1945
First Session

Mr. Masaru Narahara, Acting Temporary Chairman of the Conference opened the All Center Conference at 10:30 A.M., at YACA Conference Room, on February 16, 1945.

Opening Remarks

Mr. Narahara made an opening remarks representing the Topaz Council and also as sponsor of this Conference.

Introduction of Delegates

Delegates from the seven centers were introduced as follows:

Gila:	Messrs. Mitsuru Fukuzawa, Shigeichi Mitsuyoshi, Y. Sato, and Harry Nishimura
Granada:	Messrs. Sakae Kawashiri, Shinichi Furuya, and Roy Uragami
Heart Mountain:	Messrs. Kaoru Akashi, Minejiro Hayashida, Shigeichi Kawano, Minokichi Tsunokai, and Kumezo Hatchimonji
Minidoka:	Messrs. Genji Mihara, Iwao Oyama, Tohru Ogawa,
Poston:	Messrs. Minoru Okamoto, George M. Kubota, Katsumi J. Takashima, Nobuo Matsubara, Y Katow
Rohwer:	Messrs. Chester C. Fujino, Shintaro Ito, and S. Lloyd Shingu
Topaz	Messrs. Masaru Narahara, Kiichi Nodohara, Ichiji Sugiyama, Tsuna Watanabe, Shizuo Sasaki, and Susumu Yamashita

Introduction of secretaries

Japanese Secretary

Mr. Shintaro Murakami, Topaz

English Secretaries

Mrs. Mary T. Yamamoto, Topaz
Miss Mitsuye Endo, Topaz

Nomination of Chairman and Vice Chairmen

A motion was made and seconded to have Mr. Narahara act as Chairman throughout the Conference. It was passed unanimously by majority vote.

Nomination of two Vice Chairmen was opened. Messrs. Minejiro Hayashida, Heart Mountain, and Genji Mihara, Minidoka, were nominated respectively. They were elected unanimously to serve as Vice Chairmen of the Conference.

Invitation to Manzanar

Mr. Oyama, Minidoka, wanted explanation on Manzanar's absence from this All Center Conference.

Mr. Narahara, Chairman, said that he had sent Manzanar Council invitation but had received reply from them saying, "they could not see the importance of this conference" and refused to send delegates.

A motion was made to send a telegram asking again whether they would not send a delegate to our Conference by Mr. Oyama, Minidoka.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Ugiyama, Topaz. Motion carried to send telegram to Manzanar.

(Five Minutes Recess)

Invitations to Different Organizations

Sending of invitations to different organization to send representatives to attend our All Center Conference was open for discussion. The Chairman pointed out that Topaz Council had received a letter from Poston Council suggesting invitations be sent to Civil Liberties Union, American Red Cross, Society of Friends, and Fair Play Committee.

It was unanimously agreed by the delegates present to send invitations to the above mentioned organizations.

Agenda Committee

The following people from seven centers were appointed to serve on the Committee for Agenda preparation:

Gila	Mr. Yoriyuki Sato
Granada	Mr. Roy Uragami
Heart Mtn.	Mr. Shigeichi Kawano
Minidoka	Mr. Iwao Oyama
Poston	Mr. George Katow
Rohwer	Mr. Chester Fujino
Topaz	Mr. Ichiji Sugiyama

There were some discussions concerning appointing a Program Committee but no decision was reached.

Chairman Mr. Narahara adjourned the meeting for lunch at 12:25 p.m. and announced that the meeting will be continued from 2 p.m.

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Afternoon Session

Meeting was opened by Mr. Narahara, Chairman, at 2:15 p.m.

Communications

A letter from Mr. Dillon S. Myer accepting our invitation to attend the All Center Conference and his appreciation was read.

Chairman announced that telegram was sent to Manzanar Block Assembly inviting them to send a delegates to the All Center Conference as was decided in this morning's meeting through the Salt Lake City WRA office.

Chairman Mr. Narahara made an announcement that the Salt Lake Japanese Community extended an invitation to All Center Conference delegates to a dinner at Colonial Restaurant on Monday, February 19, 1945, at 7 p.m.

Mr. Uragami of Granada made a motion that we accept their invitation for the dinner and show our appreciation, and also ask them not to go into too much expense in holding this dinner for the delegates.

Motion was seconded and passed with majority vote.

Nomination of Program Committee

As there was no decision made on the Program Committee in the morning session, the subject was brought up for discussion again with the following people appointed from each Center to the Program Committee:

Gila	Mr. Mr. Mitsuru Fukuzawa
Granada	Mr. Shinichi Furuya
Ht. Mtn.	Mr. Kumezo Hatchimonji
Minidoka	Mr. Tohru Ogawa
Poston	Mr. Minoru Okamoto
Rohwer	Mr. Lloyd Shingu
Topaz	Mr. Kiichi Nodohara

Reports on the resolution from different centers were read by their respective delegates.

Agenda and Program Committees will meet tomorrow morning at the YWCA Conference Room at 9 a.m. with the other delegates excused for the morning.

General meeting from 2 p.m. tomorrow afternoon will be held.
Meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Mary T. Yamamoto
Miss Mitsuye Endo
English Secretaries

ALL CENTER CONFERENCE
Salt Lake City, Utah

February 17, 1945
Second Session

The second session of the All Center Conference was called to order by the Chairman at 2:20 p.m., at the YWCA Conference Room, on February 17, 1945.

Minutes of the last meeting was read by Mr. Murakami, Japanese secretary. Corrections were made and the minutes were approved by the members.

The Chairman announced that last evening from 7:00 p.m., Mr. Fukuzawa, Mr. Ogawa, and the Chairman met and prepared the news release which was published by the Salt Lake Tribune. Announcement was also made that Rev. Tosuke Ota has sent an invitation to the delegates for a tea party on Sunday evening at 8 P.M. at the Japanese Christian Church, 243 W. First South Street.

Report from the Program Committee was made by Mr. Hatchimonji.

Following schedules were made by the Program Committee and approved by the members:

1. Monday, February 19, closed session from 9:00 A.M. at the Japanese Christian Church, 243 W. First South Street.
 - . Monday evening to attend dinner at the Colonial Restaurant at 7:00 P.M. which is being sponsored by the Utah Nippo and the J.A.C.L. in behalf of the Japanese community of Salt Lake City.
2. Tuesday, February 20, all-day conference from 9:00 A.M. at the YWCA Conference Room.

A suggestion was made by the Program Committee to complete at this session the preparation of questions and requests to be presented to Mr. Myer.

3. Wednesday, February 21, closed session with Mr. Myer from 9:00 - 12:00 noon, at the YWCA Conference Room.

There will be open session from 1:30 P.M.

It was officially agreed to send invitations to the following organizations to send representative to the All Center Conference to be present at the open session:

1. Friends of American Way - Pasadena
2. Church Resettlement Group - Los Angeles
Dr. Clarence Gillete

3. YWCA - Salt Lake City
Miss Pierce
4. Utah State Supreme Court Justice Wolfe
5. Protestant Commission - Salt Lake City
Dr. Gordon Chapman
6. Fair Play Committee - Berkeley, Pasadena, and Or-
linda
7. JACL - Salt Lake City
8. Pacific Citizens - Salt Lake City
9. Citizens Committee for Constitutional Rights - S.L.
Mr. Arthur Gaeth
10. American Friends Service Committee - Los Angeles
Mrs. Joseph Duvaneck
11. American Civil Liberties Union - Los Angeles
Mr. A. L. Wirin
12. Society of American Friends
13. Mary Knoll Mission - Los Angeles Rev. Hugh Laverly
14. Buddhist and Christian Church - Salt Lake City
Rev. Tosuke Ota and Rev. C. H. Terakawa
15. American Red Cross - San Francisco
16. Utah Nippo, Rocky Shippo, and Colorado Times

4. General meeting will be held on Thursday, February 22, from 9:00 A.M. at the Y.W.C.A. Conference Room. Photographs will be taken at 11:30 A.M. If sufficient time is available, center program will be discussed.

The following recommendations were accepted by the members:

1. No news release unless approved by delegates. Same rule applies to center papers.
2. Minutes of the meetings and the questions and answers of the session with Mr. Myer will be distributed to all delegates.
3. All Center Conference expenses will be equally shared by the Centers.
4. Spokesmen are necessary during the session with Mr. Myer. Members agreed to have one spokesman from each center.
5. Resolution Committee is necessary.
6. Legal assistance is necessary in the preparation of the resolutions.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary T. Yamamoto

Mitsuye Indo

English Secretaries

ALL CENTER CONFERENCE
Salt Lake City, Utah

February 19, 1945
Third Session

The meeting of the third day of the All Center Conference was called to order by Mr. Masaru Narahara, Chairman, at 9:35 A.M. at Church of Christ, on February 19, 1945.

Roll Call

Roll call was answered by the seven center representatives.

Minutes

Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the All Center Conference were approved with corrections.

Communications

- (a) Telegram received from Manzanar acknowledging receipt and extending their regrets to send delegates to the Conference which is being held in Salt Lake City.
- (b) Telegrams from Granada Center and Rohwer Center, extending their best wishes and a successful conference to the delegates to the All Center Conference.
- (c) Letter from Heart Mountain, also sending best wishes to a successful Conference.

Outgoing Communications

The Chairman reported sending telegrams and letter of invitations to different organizations and their representatives.

Business

Committee for news release to give conference news to Salt Lake Tribune and Deseret News. It was decided that a news release committee be formed.

Mr. Y. Katow, Poston, made a motion that we form a Committee on Public Relations instead of News Release Committee.

The motion was carried by majority vote.

The duties of the Public Relation Committee is to handle all news release and reception or any other public relations in connection with the All Center Conference. This was suggested by Mr. Shingu, Rohwer.

Mr. Sugiyama, Topaz, made a motion that one representative from seven center be appointed on the Public Relations Committee. Motion was carried by majority vote.

The following people were appointed on the Public Relations Committee:

Gila	Mr. Harry Nishimura
Granada	Mr. Sakae Kawashiri
Heart Mountain	Mr. Kumezo Hatchimonji
Minidoka	Mr. Tohru Ogawa
Poston	Mr. George Kubota
Rohwer	Mr. Shintaro Ito
Topaz	Mr. Susumu Yamashita

Chairman announced that Public Relations Committee will meet daily after meeting to prepare news release. Members approved Mr. Sasaki's Topaz, motion that news release should be left to the discretion of the Public Relations Committee.

Voting Procedure

Mr. Sasaki, Topaz, made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Nishimura, Gila, that one vote per center is sufficient in taking a vote on resolutions. The motion was carried unanimously.

Agenda Committee Report

Mr. Katow, Poston, made a brief report on compilation of the rough draft of the resolutions from seven centers by the Agenda Committee.

(Mr. Minejiro Hayashida, Heart Mountain, took over the Chair)

Mr. Sugiyama, Topaz, read the rough draft of the resolutions.

Resolution -- Point I: Those wishing to remain in camp(reasons)
Point II: Those wishing to relocate providing requests are granted.

After a lengthy discussion pro and con on which Point should be taken up first, this subject was tabled until after lunch.

Meeting was adjourned for lunch at 12:15 p.m.

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Afternoon Session

Mr. Hayashida, Heart Mountain, called the meeting to order at 1:45 pm.

Expenses

Mr. Masaru Narahara, Topaz, reported on the All Center Conference invitation expense on telegrams and stamps.

Telegrams	\$10.40
Stamps	.24
	<u>\$10.64</u>

Decision on Presentation of Resolution

Discussion on the tabled subject of whether to take Point I or Point II was continued. Mr. Katow, Poston, made a motion that we take up the two points' resolutions together and present it.

(Five minutes recess)

Motion made by Mr. Katow, Poston, was seconded and carried by unanimous vote.

The question of wording the Resolution as an appeal, fact, petition or demand was discussed. The English wording was left up to the Translation Committee but a vote was taken on the wording in Japanese to read as "seigan". It was carried by unanimous vote.

Wordings of the rough draft of the Resolutions compiled by the Agenda Committee were checked and approved by the delegates present.

(Ten Minutes Recess)

Continuation of the approval of the rough draft on resolution. Due to insufficient time and the number of resolutions, this matter was to be taken up again at the next meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary T. Yamamoto

Mitsuye Endo

English Secretaries

ALL CENTER CONFERENCE
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

FEBRUARY 20, 1945
Fourth Session

The Chairman, Masaru Narahara, opened the meeting of the fourth day of the All Center Conference at 9:40 A.M. on Tuesday, February 20, at the YWCA Conference Room.

Roll call of the seven centers was called by the Chairman.

Mr. Mitsuyoshi made a motion to have the translation of the questions and requests to be presented at the session with Mr. Myer prepared first and then proceed with the other business.

Minutes of the February 19th meeting was read by Mr. Murakami and was approved by the delegates after corrections were made.

Mr. Mihara announced that according to the telegram received from Minidoka, Mr. Fujii will be unable to attend the conference.

The Chairman announced the receipt of telegram from the Toiyabe Council extending best wishes and success of the conference; and also announced that the Utah State Supreme Court Justice James W. Wolfe has accepted our invitation to attend the Wednesday afternoon Open Meeting of the All Center Conference at 1:30 P.M. at the YWCA Conference Room. Mr. Gillette of the Church Resettlement Group, Mrs. Maynard F. Thayer of the Fair Play Committee in Pasadena, Mrs. Joseph Duvonck of the American Friends Service Committee in San Francisco, and the Colorado Times sent words that they will not be able to attend the conference.

Mr. Hatchinonji expressed his opinion that the questions and requests to be presented to Mr. Myer were scheduled to be prepared this afternoon.

Mr. Mitsuyoshi made a motion that the translation is necessary on the resolutions and a committee should be formed to translate them as soon as possible since time is short

Motion was made by Mr. Kawashiri to continue with the correction of wording of the resolutions and to select a committee for translation in the afternoon. The motion was carried with majority vote.

(Mr. Hayashida, Vice-Chairman presided from here.)

There was lengthy discussion on the correction of the wording of Point 2 of the resolution; but since there was not sufficient time, the Acting Chairman announced that it will be continued at the afternoon session.

Meeting was called off for lunch at 12:35 P.M.

AFTERNOON SESSION

Meeting resumed at 2:30 P.M. taking up where it left off before lunch.

Mr. Narahara announced that Miss Pierce has expressed her desire to serve tea at the Open Meeting tomorrow afternoon after the meeting is over. The delegates unanimously accepted the offer.

(Mr. Mihara, Vice-Chairman presided over the meeting from here.)

Mr. Ogawa said that he had two suggestions to offer -- one being that persons who might be paroled from now on should be inducted into the center to be with his family. This request should be presented to Mr. Myer.

Mr. Okamoto gave an example of a family in Poston where one member of the family was hospitalized in an outside institution and became separated from the family because the WRA had set up a policy since then providing that anyone who is hospitalized in an outside hospital longer than a month cannot be reinducted into the center. Mr. Okamoto recommended that under no circumstances should the families be separated.

Mr. Nodohara suggested to handle this recommendation separately from the points discussed this morning.

Mr. Takashima suggested to send a letter to the WRA in a form of special request.

Motion was unanimously carried to separate Mr. Ogawa's recommendation from the resolutions.

Mr. Hatchimonji recommended to send a memorandum to WRA on this matter.

Another of Mr. Ogawa's recommendation was to send a letter to WRA not to coerce relocation by stirring troubles in the centers -- for instance, by cutting food supply or by cutting employment rate.

There were some discussions on this and was decided to send this recommendation with the one concerning the parolees as special requests in the form of memorandum.

Mr. Akashi suggested to have one from each center to be on the Resolution Committee.

Mr. Yamashita's opinion was to have the members of the Agenda Committee be transferred to the Resolution Committee.

Mr. Kato's suggestion was to have new selection of members for the Resolution Committee.

Mr. Shingu's idea was to have the Agenda Committee be on the Resolution Committee and appoint three others with knowledge of English to be on this committee.

Majority agreed to have new selection of members to be on the Resolution Committee and the following delegates were selected:

Granada	Mr. S. Kawashiri
Gila	Mr. Y. Sato
Heart Mountain	Mr. K. Akashi
Minidoka	Mr. T. Ogawa
Poston	Mr. K. Takashima
Rohwer	Mr. S. Shingu
Topaz	Mr. I. Sugiyama

Motion was passed to have the Resolution Committee hold a meeting separately at this time to prepare the resolutions in both Japanese and English.

Mr. Furuya's motion to set up the resolution in Japanese first and then translated into English was accepted unanimously.

Mr. Mihara, Acting Chairman, announced that questions and requests to be presented at the session with Mr. Myer should be set up at this time.

Mr. Furuya read the Granada Center paper containing the questions and answers as a result of the session with Mr. Myer at Granada for the benefit of the members in preparing the questions and requests.

Mr. Mihara's suggestion was to present the questions and requests with the attitude that the seven center delegates are of one opinion and show true evidence of the reasons being presented.

There was some discussion on how to present the questions and requests to Mr. Myer at the Close Session on Wednesday, February 21, from 9:00 A.M. at the YWCA Conference Room.

Mr. Kato's suggestion was to select three spokesmen from the Public Relation Committee and appoint a Chairman from this group.

Since the group agreed on having one spokesman from each center at an earlier meeting, delegates decided to follow it.

The following delegates were selected to be on the Spokesmen Committee:

Granada
Gila
Heart Mountain
Poston
Minidoka
Rohwer
Topaz

Mr. S. Kawashiri
Mr. M. Fukuzawa
Mr. K. Hatchimonji
Mr. G. Kubota
Mr. T. Ogawa
Mr. C. Fujino
Mr. S. Yamashita

Meeting was adjourned at 5:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Mary T. Yamamoto
Miss Mitsuye Endo
English Secretaries

ALL CENTER CONFERENCE
Salt Lake City, Utah

February 21, 1945
Fifth Session

The meeting of the fourth session of the All Center Conference was called to order by the Chairman, at 9:45 A.M., at YWCA Conference Room.

Mr. Narahara: We shall dispense with the regular meeting procedure and begin with the questions to Mr. Dillon S.

Myer. At this time I would like to extend welcome greetings to Mr. Myer. In behalf of the delegates we appreciated your very kind letter you sent me. Here at this conference seven centers are represented. They know that this is very serious as far as residents are concerned and delegates are working very hard and very diligently. We recognize and appreciate what the WRA has been doing for the residents in the Relocation Centers.

I know Mr. Myer has been under considerable fire at times but he has pulled through for the best interest of the residents. The delegates are gathered here in the spirit of cooperation with the policy of the WRA. This spirit of cooperation should not be misunderstood.

Some of the facts we would like to present are the actual facts that we have gathered from all centers relating to relocation. We realize this fact also that there are some 70,000 residents still remaining in the center today. These 70,000 people also realize the fact that we ourselves cannot accomplish much. If and when these facts are presented, these facts will be let known to the public and public opinion is very necessary. This morning I know the delegates here would like to discuss in a very friendly way as round table discussion to really express ourselves in the way we can be understood. Probably there may be some new information Mr. Myer may enlighten us with. So without further remarks from myself, I would like to introduce Mr. Dillon S. Myer.

Mr. Myer: Mr. Chairman and delegates of the conference. You don't know how happy I am to be here and quite delighted to meet with you and talk about common problems. I am sure that you will agree with me that even though your problem is little bit different from my problem and our problem that the objectives, your objectives and our objectives are the same. Each individual have little different problem in working out the program.

We have to recognize that. I am mighty pleased to hear about the report up to date. I am assured that you folks have the spirit to think through together and work together on trying to determine

Myer: what are the essential factors in your program and just how you think you should go about helping to solve the problem.

Neither I nor anyone else can help you think through your problem. Regardless of anything else that has happened this is about the only country in the world today where people are absolutely free to think and express themselves. WRA has tried to operate on basic principle and I believe, you will agree on that. Now I am not going to make any long speech.

I think you know pretty well by this time in general what the WRA thinks should be done and some of the reasons for that. I rather spend my time to help discuss further problem or problems that are already existing to find solution. I think you know that WRA has assumed right from the beginning that most of the folks of 100,000 people want to continue living in this country, and we try to base our program on that kind of foundation. We also assume other things which are natural to the people in the country; that is, all American citizens should be treated on the same basis. While we haven't been, we have eliminated some of the misunderstanding and discrimination and that all law abiding aliens should be treated like other good folks. We have believed strongly that loyalty and understanding can only be developed in the atmosphere of mutual trust and in an atmosphere of hostilities while it has been a little strenuous at times to convince people that we are not a bunch of "softies".

We have had few people in the United States that have not understood your problems. I think I have to admit that WRA in the beginning did not understand you because we did not know you very well. It is not quite possible to understand every individual problem but I do think that we have better understanding of your problems because we have worked with you on the basis of mutual trust and confidence, and I think we have been able to do a reasonable good job in presenting this problem to the rest of the country, and we will continue to do so on constructive basis.

We have 130,000,000 people in this country. Your group is 1/10 of 1% of that total. It is just as important as any other segment of the population. I think at the moment it is most important for the simple reason, eyes of the country are on you and on the WRA, and what we do in connection with this problem will not mean only a great deal to you but to the people of the country and other minority group of this country. I am not only interested in your problem but I am interested in broader aspect of that problem, and what it means to the country as a whole, and particularly what it means to your youngsters who were born in this country, and who have most of their lives ahead of them.

I came here not with the idea of preaching to you, I came here with the idea of sitting down with you and see whether or not I can be helpful to you in clarifying the situation on some of the problems

Myer: which we have on hand. I am quite sure that all of us will be in complete agreement as to procedure and detail. That does not mean that we are not going to be friendly and angry at each other but what I want to do is to convince you that whatever we have done was done in the spirit of trying to do the right thing for you as well as for the country.

For the last year we have been on the offensive and would like to stay like that. Because of the fact that there are several thousand of Japanese boys in the American Army who have given us opportunity to crack at antagonistic group along with the help of your people have maintained a peaceful situation, generally speaking, and you have conducted yourself in such a way that I can brag about you.

I am sure that you will agree that any fight you have is not probably with the WRA. Any fight that I have is not with you but we do have a common fight and I want to assure you that I am ready to continue fighting for what I believe in and I believe in most of you people here. As long as I believe that they are willing to work with us on friendly, understanding basis we can fight this thing together. Wars are not won overnight. I am not discussing about wars going on around us but I am talking of our war. The battle has been going on for 40 years. I frankly did not know about the battle until I started working with you people. I think I understand pretty well and we have the organized help of the country to finish the battle. I am here in that spirit of trying to see what is the best way to wage this battle from here on.

There are certain things I can do and I cannot do. We are only a small segment of the United States. I have been amazed and pleased at the help we have gotten from other segment of the body, and particularly from the Congress of the United States. I did not come here to make a speech but to talk to you about the problems you have discussed in this session and see if I can throw some light on those things.

Narahara: Before we go on with any discussion, I like to say this to Mr. Myer, the facts that these center delegates have presented we find that center residents may be divided into three groups.

There is one group that have certain advantage at this present time--they have children that have relocated and reestablished themselves and various other reasons for relocations.

There is another group that desire to establish themselves with the family but because of economic losses and age, dependents, and many other reasons they are not quite decided at this time. There are certain amount of fear for themselves and their families.

Third group, which I believe you know, that principally because of age, finances, sickness and such, desire to remain in the center.

Narahara: We believe, our task is in the second group to reestablish themselves. This group does not want charity, it does need confidence and assurance once outside of the center they could have economic security, provide reasonable and decent living to all its members.

Myer: I would like to discuss on that point. I agree with you 100% on the general division. I think I understand as to your problems and I think it is understandable. The first group you mentioned are not probably a serious problem. They have pretty well made up their minds. They are very well provided. The second group are more frustrated which is understandable, so are going to need more assistance perhaps, and must build up confidence.

You say the third group has probably the most difficult problem, I am not sure that they have. I like to talk a little about problem on the outside as well as on the inside. I like to say first that I think you know and I know that you can't guarantee anybody complete economic security. That is impossible. There can be reasonable guarantee to make a living and I don't know what is going to happen, but there isn't any reason why we can't develop a situation where at least folks have a chance to use their own efforts in getting economic security, and that is the job we have to help you with.

You have different problem within the populations in the center than they do in the most cross section of the population. We have mixture of farm folks, businessmen, and laborer, just like they have every place else. In view of the fact, pattern has been broken somewhat by the evacuation. We now have instead large group of people in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle and Portland. We have as you know already, 30,000 to 35,000 people living in lots of other parts of this country. There are now 8,000 people of Japanese ancestry living in Chicago area. We have reason to think that probably there are more opportunity is because it is a large city, is reasonably friendly and it is the center of big middle west area. Lots of people are now living in New York, Cleveland, Denver, and Salt Lake City.

We have to recognize that there is the situation many of the folks in the center who did business perhaps at the time of evacuation with other people and among themselves must realize that they will have to do business with other nationalities. I don't think we will go back to the same pattern. There is no question that it will be more difficult from now on than it has been in the past. I do want to point out that I think we might as well convince the people that we will not have the same pattern as before. What the pattern is going to be and how we can fit into that pattern is a problem but we are willing to help them fit into that pattern. I know people are afraid and it is perfectly normal to be afraid because people don't know much about the outside. There has been incidents

Myer: (continued) violence and there will be incidents, but there are also friendly people of which there are hundreds. I think we are going to have few brave souls around which the people of the center can rally, either in California or other parts of the country. We anticipated more than two years ago that probably one of our biggest problem will be community acceptance, but it hasn't been our biggest problem because we had the help of people we did not think would give help.

On the whole, as I see it, it is the problem of learning to walk again as far as people in the centers are concerned. They should make plans, decide what they're going to do because that is the only way the people in the centers can get over their fears. It is a matter of making adjustments. I recognize the problem; I'm sympathetic and understanding but it should be solved step by step with patience, with helping individuals solve their problem. That is the way we work in the complex situation, and I think you will agree with me that they are not getting over the feeling of fear by continuing to live all the rest of their lives in the relocation center. It will get worse than better. A decision of that type grows with having it sealed off rather than the other way around.

The problem is how to reassure people and how to take the first step in how not to feel too sorry for themselves. The only way to get this job done is quietly and patiently, getting folks to understand their problems and getting back to secure feeling where they can live on the outside and getting readjusted. People are apt to magnify little incidents that have happened here and is perfectly natural that they don't hear of good things that have happened. I don't say there hasn't been trouble and there will be trouble. There are some people in the center who are pretty old and who may be having reasonable rest for the first time in the center; and there are few people who are living a little better life in the center and would like to keep it as far as security is concerned than they did on the outside.

We might as well understand that that group will be most difficult to relocate. Now, I think, we can help with the problem of those people who are too old to work. We can assist them in such a way to help them by step-by-step proposition with each individual family. There isn't any one family that have exactly the same problem. The principle may be the same but not the problem.

We have the Welfare Agency on the outside who are less busy today than normally because people who are able to work are working. The majority of the Welfare people are friendly. We have provided some fund from our budget because we think there are more qualified to help work out problems. When we are gone they will still be there. I think we could work out plans for most of the folks even before they leave the center. I admit the business group as represented by large number of people do have a difficult task. I

Myer: (continued) discussed with some of the people and they feel that minute the war is over that they could go back and live the life they had. The longer they stay in the center it will be harder to move out. Groups who have economic interests in opposing your returning to normal community are not going to quit the minute the war is over. They are going to continue opposing and just about as tough about it as they are now. It will take, in my judgment, sixty to ninety days to crack that opposition if we're intending to get down to business.

Their campaign is based completely on stirring up more fear in the hearts of the people who are doing excellent job. They have people who are being paid to do this in newspaper columns and encouraging boycott. Just because lots of people sign petition it does not mean that they are bad people. It happens every day; it even happens in relocation centers. However, petitions are not worth anything, people sign because it is easier to do under the pressure than argue. It is the problems that you have and I have, and the people in the Center have. I think we understand that it is going to take step-by-step cooperation on some of the leaders in the center to prove that it can be done, and step-by-step through the months and of the year. If we don't do it now by reasonable time, we might not be able to do it. Group we are fighting are now on the run. If we can complete this job by the help of the good people, we will continue to have them on the run. But if we just sit tight, they have you right where they want you. Hearst, Native Sons of the Golden West, and some other Grange people have been fighting the WRA from the start.

They have frequently hoped that they could keep you people in the camp and ship all of you out of the country. They never quit trying as long as they are not licked completely. If we let our foot slip now, we are playing right square into their hands. We have to convince the folks in the center that it is essential to go and sell, that we do this job within a reasonable time and get back into normal community to clear up some of these things as soon as we can.

It is not easy; it is very difficult for lot of people. What lot of people are forgetting is that they will never be able to build back any security that they have as long as they remain in the relocation center. Not many people are making money by staying in the camp but there are lots of jobs on the outside such as labor for skilled persons, business, or in farming. They are making money; that is why they are opposing your return. There are places where everybody today can make money reasonably enough to get back on their feet again.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Narahara: In regard to visiting rules, we feel that current visiting rules are rather strict. It is quite deterrent to relocation.

Myer: We consider any detail on procedures, of course. Why we put those visiting rules in the first place. We felt reasonably sure that with some of the center will be unable to close by having seasonal leaves in effect.

One of the reason why we have limited visits is because if we did not, we were sure that we will have seasonal leave in another form. if we kept on with the same rules and regulation. We are going to avoid hardship as much as possible. One of other reason why we have put this rules into effect is because individuals with 30 days leave feel that it is not long enough so they might request extension of leave to three or four months, then we'll have seasonal leave all over again.

Another reason is that many youngsters thinking that they have a place to come to will cause bad public relation by quitting their jobs and returning to the center. We have been giving consideration to make adjustments here and there in order to meet objective, and still not impose hardship on them. However, I think that the people who are working close by and want to commute back and forth should make plans to get the family together, that will be fine but this will keep right on going. I will promise to consider any suggestions you have if it is interfering with relocation.

Ogawa: You made implications that the second group, the fears they have, is the most important issue, probably. We're not quite sure that, working on that basis, the setting of a time limit for closing the center, in the first place, will help. In the second place, we as a group feel that that work will not be accomplished within a year. The fact is, the people are afraid and I think we have to be realistic about it.

Myer: I realize that but I like to say again the only way to find out is to go and see. I don't think that the work will be done unless time limit is set. I think some people in the center are discouraging relocation on the part of the other people until they have decided what to do themselves. I hope and I think that the most of your more intelligent people will understand through conference this kind, through conferences here, and in centers, some good reasons will make their own individual plans. I think frankly that some folks in the center will find it necessary to make a tentative type of relocation (some of them already have). What they need mostly is to be reasonably sure that they have a place to go, and they have somebody to give them a lift or be helpful. There are great deal of disagreement on this time of closing the center, I happen to be one of the people who believe it can be done, and it has to be done, and will be done. If more and more people make up their mind to get the job done and if we don't do this in reasonable time, it is going to be more and more difficult for the folks to go both from standpoint of outside pressure and from the

Myer: (continued) standpoint of fear and insecurity if they stay in the center. I hear a great deal of this difficulty and that difficulty we can solve only one by one if we can get folks to understand that there is solution to do it. Good many of the difficulties are psychological. Lot of them are dreaming of a dream world they would like to have, that is understandable too. I think we can work together to get this job worked up. Between 18,000 to 20,000 youngsters in relocation centers are attached to families with the exception of few children of Manzanar. Those youngsters have a whole life ahead of them, it is going to be difficult to make adjustment if not made soon. It will be harder and harder to go out and meet situation that they will meet all their life. It is the most important thing to my belief. I think we can work out problem and assist every individual family if we can start the ball rolling so that pattern can be fitted together again, but if we don't start it will never be fitted together again.

Ogawa: What is being done of getting fear out of people?

Myer: You people and I (WRA) have got to work that problem out with individual family. It is the responsibility of the WRA and responsibility of the people who are now going out and finding condition as they are and reporting back and also the responsibility of the community on the outside. It is not an easy thing. It will take step by step rebuilding of confidence to get them to take this step.

Hatchimonji: As a delegate here representing Heart Mountain Center, we would show our cooperation and ask you to cooperate with us, that is asking you to be one of us and we know that you have fought very hard on the outside. From now on the big thing is relocation and we must pull together. We would like to have you visit our centers more often.

According to the statistic taken regarding relocation in Heart Mountain are as follows:

60%	Unable to relocate
18%	Who will relocate on condition
9%	Who will relocate on present WRA relocation program

(This statement given by Mr. Hatchimonji, Heart Mountain, was not in behalf of Center)

Myer: Thank you very much for your information, I am very pleased that at least 9% of the people are either going out now or later. It is very encouraging to me. It is more than I had expected at this time. I am quite delighted at the progress that you leader in Heart Mountain have made so far in staying on the constructive side of the program. I haven't spent much of my time in the center but have visited every centers at least three times with the exception of

Myer: (continued) Rohwer where I visited twice. I would like to spend all of my time in the centers but I can't do it. If I can help by making repeated visits I want to do it. It hasn't been that I don't want to visit the centers but I had to do lot of business on the outside. I hope you will not think that I don't study your problems, I read every report that comes in from every center to my desk. I get letters from residents, I read Community Analysis reports so I do study the problem and I recognize we have a job of communicating with folks in the centers. It is a problem because I do not speak Japanese but with the help of your folks and organizations established in the centers, I will try to assist them in their problems.

Narahara: You mentioned a little while ago that you expect and it is your desire as far as closing of center to have it worked out according to relocation program. Along with this you mentioned that it may take longer.

Myer: I don't want you to misunderstand me, I don't believe it will take longer, I hope it won't.

Ogawa: About your visiting the centers oftener, I think that might not be necessary if you would accept our analyses and presentations of fact as such, because we are making it in all sincerity and I think the basic issue here is a difference of opinion in terms of official WRA thinking which is that 100% relocation by the end of the year is possible. But this conference does not agree. The other point is that the setting of the time limit, you said, will naturally materially assist in basic point of getting the people to change their minds and to take the first step. There again this conference is not in accord.

Myer: I frankly will say this up to this time I think as far as effect of attitude of the center is concerned, maybe the announcement of the time limit may have interfered with the progress of relocation. Unless we set a time limit people just won't do anything about it even after the war is over. I say it honestly, it is easier to stay right where you are than to move. I think you all know the reasons why. There are five of them as to why we made this decision:

1. Because of the youngsters. It is essential to get back to normal community and school just as soon as possible. They must learn to live with other people and should start soon.
2. I think now everybody who can immediately get established back into business who want positions either young or old, it is easier to get foothold right now. We could get this job under way now that the exclusion order is lifted, and we urge people to make adjustment at a time where we could help find a position since most of the people are not business people.

Myer: (continued)

3. Welfare Agency who will need to help some of the old and ill, and problem cases or other type of assistance can be done now.
4. We had pretty good cooperation from United States Congress. They asked me how long the next budget would cover. I told them just as long as the mass exclusion order is not lifted and for reasonable time afterwards. Our budget for 1946 is in. We realize that we couldn't close the center in a month. We figured the point thoroughly and thought we could do it in a year for those who want to stay in this country.

I was convinced that if time was not set by WRA, somebody else would have done it. If the WRA did not set a time limit, it would have closed much sooner.

5. John Lechner, Hearst, McClatchy, 23rd District of the American Legion of Los Angeles, have economic interest in keeping relocation centers maintained for the reason I have given. We are on the offensive. We have part of the battle won and it will cost less hardship if we get this job done now.

If you play into their hands, they will push you, if you don't, people will help you on the outside. This decision was not made overnight. It was learned by studying through pattern. I do know the outside problem and what you're ultimately going to find if the job isn't done now, we don't believe in force. It isn't simple; it is a day by day hard work, job that we all have to work together and understand each other on. It is going to be a hard pull. There are few people who can't work any more and people who are afraid, people who need fund but it can be done. There will be lots of other problems but the only thing to do is to get down to work.

If we eliminate the words "can't", "unable", and "insurmountable difficulties" and say we can do it, we can get the job done.

Ogawa: "How", we are concerned. It is fundamentally with the thinking of the people today. We disagreed on time, and how, and a few other things. We know what the people are thinking, and what will solve their problems. Somehow or other I get the impression that this looks to us like a matter in which you are our big brother, who really has our interests at heart, but who is taking our candy away from us, because it isn't good for us. But in order to change our way of thinking, what you are doing isn't right.

Ogawa: (continued) Your approach of taking away the candy is bad. WRA's new procedures and policies are being interpreted as coerced relocation; for example, the closing of the schools, and cutting of employment.

Myer: I agree with you that it has developed basis of argument. We had long long discussion before the time limit was set. It isn't with the idea of coerce relocation. We had to set up a program that can be defended. By the first of June, there will be quite a different picture. Today we are at a high point and have been for a year. Public sentiment either on the outside or inside can change our minds fast. Lot of people began to realize that maybe they had been misled when the newspapers started publishing about the records made by the 100th Battalion 442nd Unit.

In any population of the country there are segment of people that act differently. Ten percent will fight anything the other fellow does and always fight with 80%. As far as twenty percent is concerned they are at one end of the scale and want to stay there. Once they have the facts, you get about 50%, depending upon the sentiment of the group. It happened in California and it can happen in Relocation Center. If it does not happen it is going to be tough for you and for me so I hope that we can get on the basis of trying to convince at least that most of the 80% of the people. I don't think you can convince everybody. If you can convince your 75% or 80%, they can help. Public sentiment will move toward the constructive side if we can get the leadership who can understand the fact and can present it to the people effectively.

Ogawa: For the majority of the people who are saying that they cannot go out under present condition, there are facts behind it.

Myer: We have to find out why they are unable to relocate and then help them to understand that it isn't absolutely impossible to relocate.

Yamashita: Before we left camp we knew that what Mr. Ogawa expressed was the thinking of our residents. After coming here I find that the thinking of the delegates of all centers are the same, and that reflects the thinking of the majority of the people in all centers.

Myer: I don't question it for a moment. My feeling is very frankly that the majority could be moved to the other way if we work together.

Ogawa: How?

Myer: With your help by getting facts to the people in the center, and by the WRA getting facts back to the center from the outside.

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Furuya: By your repeated advice and explanations, the center people are quite understandable that WRA is trying to assist us to make it easier for our resettlement. But still there are many uncertainty in our mind.

Most center residents are anxious to know that we would like to have assistance procedures simplified. For instance, a certificate stating the total amount of assistance to be granted by involved agencies, Federal and Local, be eligible to evacuees before they leave the center for resettlement.

Myer: Now as you know the only definite assistance we give is railroad fare, subsistence grant, and on top of that each individual receives \$25 grant. If there are people who need additional grant, it will just have to be worked out on each individual case. I don't think it is feasible or possible for anyone else to understand the general proposal to hand money out to everybody. The worst possible thing I could do would be to give money when they don't need it. It makes them soft. Now, as far as people who need fund, program may be set up.

If I were able to say that we will provide \$5,000 to everybody, some of you would sit tight and ask for 10,000. What we want to do is to give reasonable assistance to folks who need help and inasmuch as I like to be able to, I just can't do it. I am only working for the government, I don't want to do you people harm or any other people harm in doing things on blanket procedure. I believe that on individual basis if people really need fund, help may be granted.

Ogawa: I think you misunderstood the question. The point Mr. Furuya stressed is that the people would want a definite tangible assurance of aid, a definite amount of assistance before they left the centers.

Myer: I hope I can say that everybody who had license or civil service rating before evacuation can get it back. As far as government agencies are concerned we must assume that they are going to render the same service that they render to all citizens unless proven otherwise.

Question: Does the government make loans to the evacuees?

Myer: I cannot make commitments at this time because of the fact we are making restudy on that problem. WRA is considering it. It is one of the psychological barriers affecting lots of people.

Hayashida: You say you have submitted the 1946 budget already, is that final or can you make any adjustments if you find it necessary?

Myer: We ask for deficiency budget if correction is to be made. This new budget carries lot more fund for relocation assistance including fund to be transferred to Social Security Board for those who need help, transportation, etc., so it could not be reconsidered and Bureau of Budget will not listen to us.

Hatchimonji: What would happen if 25% of the people are still left in the center on January 2, 1946?

Myer: We have no plans for them. "RA has no program except to get the job done this year.

Narahara: At this time since we are not using the words "can't" "unable", or "insurmountable difficulties", I assure you this that we are going to present facts.

Myer: I appreciate that more than you ever know, I am going to fight right along side with you. I think you know that I appreciate the attitude that you are joined in this meeting. I know you're in a difficult spot but don't let that get you down. The biggest job in this world is to get in to a spot and getting out of it. I realize what kind of a spot you are in. I have confidence in you that you will take back the facts. We will be glad to have the recommendations and will look at everyone of them and try to help you.

The Chairman expressed appreciation of Mr. Myer's presence at this meeting.

Meeting was adjourned for lunch at 12:20 p.m.

AFTERNOON SESSION

The open meeting was called to order by the Chairman Mr. Narahara at 2:30 p.m.

Guests present: Mr. Dillon S. Myer, National Director; Judge James W. Wolfe, Utah State Supreme Court Justice; Mr. Solon Kimball, Washington WRA Office; L. T. Hoffman, Project Director of Topaz; Rev. Ernest Chapman and Carl Nugent, Protestant Church Commission; Mrs. Sigmund Helwing and Mrs. Zucker, Council of Jewish Women; Mrs. Izola Peake and Mrs. Pierce, YWCA; Mr. Saburo Kido, JACL National President; Mr. Larry Tajiri, Editor, Pacific Citizens; Mr. Haruo Imura, Editor, Heart Mountain Sentinel; Mr. Togasaki, and Mr. Kameichi Kurida, Japanese Community, Salt Lake City; and Mr. K. Inouye, Cannery recruiter.

The Chairman gave the following address:

Narahara: It is now nearly three years ago that 110,000 persons of Japanese ancestry were evacuated from the West Coast to relocation centers. As you know, that evacuation was complete. It included farmers, businessmen, professional men, laborers, the old and young, aliens and citizens.

During the past three years a great many things have happened to us. We have found that there are many public and private organizations, and many people of good will who were interested in working toward a just solution to the difficult problem imposed by evacuation.

We believe that as the result of your efforts and these many thousands of good will, that many thousands who knew little of us have come to understand our problems and our position in this country. We also believe that a better understanding has been built on the basis of our record during these difficult war years. No one is better acquainted with the fact that thousands of our sons are now serving in the armed forces on all fronts of the world, and that their record is one which has continually called forth praise and recognition from military commanders and even from the President of the United States.

It is also true that many thousands have left the relocation centers. The understanding acceptance of these new pioneers on the part of their employers and their neighbors in the new communities where they have settled is a cause for satisfaction, and a strong manifestation of the spirit of fair play and justice for which this country is noted. Thousands have taken seasonal work on farms, in canneries, on railroads and other places, and have made friends and furthered additional understanding.

America is a country of pioneers. We too, wish to think of ourselves as pioneers. Most of us came to this country thirty and forty years ago. With the strength of our bodies we helped to build the West's railroads, to mine the ore and coal, we worked in forests and lumber mills, and we helped turn desert and waste lands into fertile gardens. In terms of the vastness of America's millions, we are only a handful, but we would like to think that we too have contributed toward the building of this country.

In the tradition of America we wish to establish homes, to be independent, to be well regarded by our neighbors and friends. With the passage of the years, many of us succeeded in this aspirations. We are proud of the scholastic record of many of our sons and daughters. We hold a tremendous faith in the value of education, and through toil and perseverance many of our children were able to graduate from high schools and colleges. These are the sons who are now fighting for America, the land of their birth.

Now that the army has rescinded the exclusion order which took us from our homes, we are once again free to return to them.

Narahara: (continued)

We are particularly grateful, because it means that our children will have the opportunity to grow up in the wholesome atmosphere of normal communities. There are however, many problems which we still face, and it is your sympathetic understanding of these problems that we ask of you and of the American people.

The relocation centers still hold nearly 70,000 people. Over 30,000 most of them the young and vigorous have already left to reestablish themselves in new communities throughout the country. Most of those left are the old and the young. Since the responsibility for the children still rests with the parents, we must speak for what they are thinking.

We believe the center residents may be divided into three groups. There is one group, which because of owning property to which they may return, because of children who have established themselves, and for other reasons, are now making plans to leave the centers as soon as possible.

There is a second group which desires to reestablish themselves and their families, but which because of economic losses, age, dependents, and for many other reasons, are fearful for themselves and their families.

There is a small third group which because of age, financial reasons, sickness and fear, desire to remain in a center until the end of the war.

It is the second group which constitutes by far the great majority of the center residents.

The problems of this second group are such, that only with full understanding and cooperation can they be solved. This group does not want charity. It does need, however, confidence and assurances that once outside the centers it can have a measure of personal and economic security that will provide reasonable and decent living for all its members. It is to that task, that we, delegates of this conference, believe the greatest thought and consideration must be given.

We know that neither the government or any man can guarantee what the future holds but it is possible for the government and its representatives to make a forthright statement as to the objectives which it is now endeavoring to reach. Such objectives should include in behalf of people of Japanese ancestry equal opportunities with all others for them to work out their destiny in proportion to their ability.

Myer: Delegates of the Conference and other friends, I had most of my speech making this morning so I don't think I will make a long speech this afternoon. I like to discuss briefly to the very excellent speech just made by the Chairman.

First, I want to compliment the Chairman and the delegates again on

Myer: (continued) constructive attitude and on the type of meeting that they are holding here which I think is essential. Second, good plan is essential to the residents in the center and essential to the others. I think the country understands the problems in Relocation Centers. The people on the West Coast understands that 36,000 boys and girls have taken places in other part of the country. Most of the people who have gone out received acceptance and they made lots of friends and their friends begins to make other friends.

I think that was evident within the past couple of months. Hood River Legion did a dastardly thing. This incident proved how many people understood the problem of the Japanese. I might say that in spite of the fact I don't appreciate that sort of thing, I think once in a while people who do those things help us more than they know by making other people mad. I appreciate more that you ever know the cooperation the WRA had in the administration, relocation program, and general public relation problem refraining from those things which helps to cause misunderstanding.

Now I haven't said very much in detail about the other friends that are helping. I have been not only pleased but amazed at the number of good-will people in this country. I don't intend to name all individuals and organizations. The one who have been most helpful is committee of American Principle and Fair Play, they have done an effective and a quiet job that was absolutely essential, they stuck through this thick and thin. Dr. Sproul, Mr. Galen Fisher, Mrs. Kingman, and Mrs. M. Gifford, who had the courage to stand on sound principle and are still at work and not going to stop.

American Civil Liberties Union have been most successful and helpful; American Friends Service Committee who had long experience and have been most helpful in our program throughout the country. Resettlement Council of Church and all different branches have done job which I am proud and they are still continuing to do it.

Many of the Catholics group such as Maryknoll and other segments of the Catholic population has been tremendously helpful. We had many many other people--employers and important businessmen. People like Mr. Ball of Madison, Wisconsin, and many people throughout the country. More recent in the past few months, we are getting help from other source. We are getting it from inside of Army now from those officers who have helped to train your boys and who have learned to know from that. I get letters from those people once in a while so we are getting understanding gradually throughout all the agency where we did not have.

WRA have lots of publicity by the good people of the country who have worked with the government, with the press, with the armed forces--some of them already in the armed forces. Every day we get

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Myer: (continued) new recruits and I want to assure you that we are going to do everything we can to get more recruits. There are only few of us in WRA so our problem is to get as many hundreds and thousands of people in this country to know your problem and to understand it, to be sympathetic about it and realize it.

Housing is a problem it has been true with our relocation program. While housing is difficult, I don't think it is too difficult.

Finance is not a serious barrier now. Relocation center is not a good risk any more for loan. Corporations and business stocks are good risk as far as past history has proven.

As far as WRA is concerned we will continue to help whenever and wherever we can in doing everything necessary. We are not going to do it all ourselves. We are going to do all we can to try to have other fellows help. It is going to take the cooperation of the people in the center, people in the organization and institution, WRA and other government agencies. I have confidence that job could be done. It isn't going to be easy but it can be done and it will be done.

The Chairman introduced the following guests who made a few remarks respectively:

Judge James W. Wolfe, Utah State Supreme Court Justice, Reverend Ernest Chapman of Ogden, Utah, and Reverend Carl Nugent of Topaz, Utah, Mr. Solon Kimball of Washington WRA Office, and Mrs. Pierce of YWCA, Salt Lake City.

YWCA members served tea and refreshment and open discussion followed.

Discussion was cut short since Mr. Dillon S. Myer was scheduled to leave for Topaz, late this afternoon. A short meeting was held to select one from each center to cut stencils for the Japanese minutes. The following were chosen:

Gila	Y. Sato
Granada	S. Furuya
Minidoka	I. Oyama
Heart Mountain	M. Tsunokai
Poston	N. Matsubara
Rohwer	C. Fujino
Topaz	K. Nodohara

Meeting was adjourned at 6:00 P.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary T. Yamamoto
Mitsuye Endo
All Center Conference
English Secretaries

ALL CENTER CONFERENCE
Salt Lake City, Utah

February 22, 1945
Sixth Session

Meeting of the sixth day of the All Center Conference was called to order by the Chairman Mr. Narahara at 9:45 A.M., Thursday, February 22, 1945, at the YWCA Conference Room.

The Chairman outlined the business to be taken up this morning.

Roll call was called by the Chairman. Reverend Carl Nugent of Topaz, Utah, spoke to the delegates explaining the work of the Protestant Church Commission and extending their services to the Japanese people of this country.

Minutes of the February 20th Meeting was read by Mr. Murakami and was approved after coorections were made.

The Chairman announced that a letter was received from Mr. Galen Fisher extending regrets of not being able to attend the All Center Conference, and outlined briefly of the situation in California.

Mr. Clyde Baird, Father Laverly, Mr. Wirin, Mr. Carr of the Friends of the American Way, and Gordon Chapman also extended regrets for not being able to be present at the open meeting on Wednesday, February 21.

(Mr. Hayashida, Vice-Chairman presided from here)

Report from the Resolution Committee was made by Mr. Sugiyama, Topaz.

There was some discussion regarding who the compiled resolutions should be sent to.

Mr. Okamoto, Poston, suggested to send the resolutions to WRA and send copies to other organizations.

The majority agreed to send the resolutions to Mr. Dillon S. Myer, and also to the following governmental bureaus: Department of Interior, Department of Affairs, Justice Department, House of Senate and Congress, and War Department.

At 11:45 A.M. the delegates had a group picture taken in front of the YWCA Building.

There was some discussion on how to send the resolutions. The delegates agreed to send the original to Mr. Myer and send copies to various organizations and governmental bureaus.

The delegates agreed to leave to the disgression of the Public Relation Committee as to the distribution of the resolutions to the various organizations which are sympathetic with the cause of the Japanese of this country.

Poston explained the reason for the refusal of sending resolutions to other governmental bureaus as being because majority agreed not to send one to the President of the United States, and felt that if not sent to the President, none should be sent to the Departments of the U.S. Government.

Mr. Kubota, Poston, expressed his desire to have the resolutions sent to the three governors of the West Coast States; namely, California, Oregon, and Washington.

Meeting was adjourned for lunch at 12:30 P.M.

AFTERNOON SESSION

The afternoon session was called to order by Mr. Hayashida, Acting Chairman at 2:40 P.M.

The delegates approved the final resolutions as set up by the Resolution Committee.

The Acting Chairman announced that the Topaz delegates has extended an invitation to the other delegates for dinner party at Dawn Cafe this evening at 7 P.M. Members accepted the invitation.

There was discussion on forming a headquarter organization to handle problems concerning closing of centers after the All Center Conference is through.

Mr. Sato, Gila, suggested to form this organization throughout the large cities in California, and to help solve problems of the Japanese people of this country. Mr. Sasaki's, Topaz, suggestion which was accepted by other delegates, was to form a headquarter in Topaz and discuss problems dealing with closing of centers only.

Since there was sufficient time, delegates discussed center problems, also the Stencil Committee will cut stencils tomorrow morning from 9:00 A.M.

As there were few other businesses to be accomplished, delegates agreed to prolong the conference one more day and the delegates were asked to meet at the YWCA Conference Room on Friday, Feb. 23, 9:00am.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary T. Yamamoto

Mitsuye Endo

All Center Conference

English Secretaries

ALL CENTER CONFERENCE
Salt Lake City, Utah

February 23, 1945
Seventh Session

Meeting of the seventh and the last day of the All Center Conference was called to order by the Chairman Mr. Narahara, at 10:00 A.M. at the YWCA Conference Room, on February 23, 1945.

The Chairman announced the business for today.

1. Translation of Resolution
2. Report by the Public Relation Committee
3. Urgent Agenda
4. Future Planning Organization

Roll call of the seven centers was called by the Chairman.

Minutes of the sixth session was read by Mr. Murakami and approved after corrections were made.

A report was made by Mr. Sugiyama, Topaz, on his volunteering to cut the stencils for the resolution. Mr. Sugiyama questioned whether actual percentage of people who believe cannot relocate be reported in the resolution or the word majority be inserted. Discussion followed. Majority agreed to have the actual percentage reported in the resolution.

The Chairman asked the Translation Committee to get together and start translating the resolution into English.

Mr. Yamashita, Topaz, member of the Public Relation Committee, thought that it would be better to retract the motion made at yesterday's meeting not to send a copy of the resolution to the President of the United States.

There was a lengthy discussion on this. After the consideration of the Public Relation Committee to retract the decision made at yesterday's meeting, majority agreed to send a copy of the resolution to the President of the United States.

Mr. Fujino, Rohwer, suggested to send original of the resolution to Mr. Ickes rather than to Mr. Myer. After some discussion on this, majority of the centers agreed not to accept Mr. Fujino's suggestion.

Mr. Nishimura's, Gila, suggestion to reward the three secretaries for the work they have done, and send letters of appreciation to the YWCA, to the Utah Nippo, WRA Salt Lake City Office, Japanese Christian Church and to the Japanese Community was approved unanimously by the delegates.

The following suggestions were approved by the delegates:

1. To hold another farewell party tonight. Arrangement was left to the Public Relation Committee. (Mr. Kubota, Poston)
2. To translate the minutes of the meeting with Mr. Dillon S. Myer into English. (Mr. Kawano, Heart Mountain)
3. To maintain a headquarter in Topaz until the time of next conference to handle problems of all the centers in connection with the closure of the centers.
4. To collect fund to start this headquarter. Members agreed to return to the center and get the approval of the Council before deciding on the matter of the amount of the fund.

Mr. Tsunokai, Heart Mountain, expressed his opinion that it is the wish of the Heart Mountain delegates to have the statement made by Mr. Hatchimonji during the session with Mr. Myer crossed off the record. Other delegates thought it would be better to include it in the minutes explaining that it was an individual statement and not of the center.

Mr. Mihara, Minidoka, read a letter of appreciation to the Topaz delegates signed by Mr. Akashi, Heart Mountain, and seconded by Mr. Mihara, Minidoka, Mr. Okamoto, Poston, and Mr. Uragami, Granada.

Mr. Akashi read a letter of appreciation to the Chairman, Mr. Nara-hara, two Vice-Chairmen, Mr. Hayashida, Heart Mountain, and Mr. Mihara, Minidoka, and the three secretaries signed by the seven center delegates.

Mr. Nishimura announced that the farewell party will be held this evening from 7:00 P.M. at the Dawn Cafe.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary T. Yamamoto
Mitsuye Endo
All Center Conference
English Secretaries

COPY

February 24, 1945

Mr. Dillon S. Myer, National Director
War Relocation Authority
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Myer:

We of Japanese ancestry residing within these United States feel that the people of this country, generally, have accepted us on the strength of our record as law-abiding residents during the past fifty and more years. We have engaged in farming, commerce, fishing, industry, etc., as operators and laborers, and so had established solid foundations in this country.

The outbreak of hostilities between the United States and Japan in 1941, was followed, in 1942, by the War Department's order that all of us who resided within the West Coast area, inclusive of American citizens as well as Japanese nationals, be forcibly evacuated. We suffered extreme shock and mental anguish, as well as substantial material losses. The foundations we had created by years of toil were almost completely wiped away. We have existed these past almost three years within the confines of barbed wire fences, within camps located in desert wilderness.

On December 17, 1944, the Western Defense Command announced the rescinding of the exclusion order. At the same time the War Relocation Authority announced that all our camps would be closed by not later than January 2, 1946.

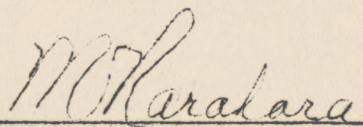
Surveys of general opinion among center residents as a result of the foregoing dual announcements disclosed the fact that due to their present economic status, their fear of violence and discrimination on the outside, etc., the majority were not in a position to make plans either for relocation or for return to their former homes on the west coast, under present conditions and under currently available facilities and assistance provided by the WRA and other agencies.

As a natural consequence, this, the All Center Conference, was decided upon. Delegates representing seven relocation centers met from February 16 to February 24, 1945, at Salt Lake City. After serious deliberation, mindful of our grave responsibility to do our utmost for the best welfare of 75,000 people, we now make the fervent appeal that the WRA centers be kept open for the duration of war and for some time thereafter as may be needed, and, further, be operated with a view

to providing residents with necessities, facilities and services on at least on equal level as in the past.

We, hereinunder submit a statement of facts and recommendations with the request that you will accord them your full and sympathetic consideration.

Respectfully submitted,


Masaru Narahara, Chairman
ALL CENTER CONFERENCE

Approved:

/s/ H. Nishimura
Delegate for Gila Project

/s/ S. Kawashiri
Delegate for Granada Project

/s/ G. Mihara
Delegate for Minidoka Project

/s/ M. Hayashida
Delegate for Heart Mountain Project

/s/ G. Katow
Delegate for Poston Project

/s/ C. Fujino
Delegate for Rohwer Project

/s/ I. Sugiyama
Delegate for Topaz Project

Copy: Harold Ickes, Secretary of Interior

STATEMENT OF FACTS

1. Mental suffering has been caused by the forced mass evacuation.
2. There has been an almost complete destruction of financial foundations built during over half a century.
3. Especially for the duration, the war has created fears of prejudices, persecution, etc., also fears of physical violence and fears of damage to property.
4. Many Issei (average age is between 60 and 65) were depending upon their sons for assistance and support, but these sons are serving in the United States Armed Forces. Now these Issei are reluctant to consider relocation.
5. Residents feel insecure and apprehensive towards the many changes and modifications of W.R.A. policies.
6. The residents have prepared to remain for the duration because of many statements made by the W.R.A. that relocation centers will be maintained for the duration of the war.
7. Many residents were forced to dispose of their personal and real properties, business and agricultural equipment, etc., at a mere trifle of their cost; also drew leases for the "duration", hence have nothing to return to.
8. Practically every Buddhist priest is now excluded from the West Coast. Buddhism has a substantial following, and the members obviously prefer to remain where the religion centers.
9. There is an acute shortage of housing, which is obviously a basic need in resettlement. The residents fear that adequate housing is not available.
10. Many persons of Japanese ancestry have difficulty in obtaining insurance coverage on life, against fire, on automobiles, on property, etc.

RECOMMENDATIONS

We recommend:

1. That special governmental agencies or units be established solely for providing assistance to evacuees who might require funds in reestablishing themselves.

- a. Resettlement aid (grants).
- b. Loans.

2. That the present relocation grant be increased. It should be given to every relocatee. The penalty clause on the present form should be deleted.

We further recommend that federal aid be granted according to every individual's particular needs until such time as he is reestablished.

3. That long term loans at a low rate of interest be made available, without security, to aid the residents in reestablishing themselves as near as possible to their former status in private enterprises, such as business, agriculture, fisheries, etc.
4. That the W.R.A. use their good offices so that consideration may be given on priority by O.P.A. Because of evacuation, residents were forced to dispose of their equipment, trucks, cars and etc., many of which at present require the approval of an O.P.A. Board. These equipment are essential to many residents in order to reestablish themselves in former enterprises.
5. That the W.R.A. make every effort to obtain a return of properties, for evacuees who, due to evacuation and consequent inability to maintain installment payments, have lost the same; further, in order to prevent loss of property, to obtain some definite arrangement for the granting of governmental aid, as may be necessary, to evacuees unable, as a result of evacuation, to maintain installment payments.
6. That the W.R.A. give financial aid to residents with definite plans, for the purposes of defraying the expenses of investigating specific relocation possibilities.

7. That the W.R.A. establish adequately staffed offices in important areas and employ persons of Japanese ancestry since they understand Japanese psychology; and also establish in these field offices, legal advisory and employment departments.
8. That the W.R.A. continue the operation of evacuee property offices for the duration, to fulfill the needs of relocatees.
9. That the W.R.A. accept for reinduction into centers those who relocate and who find themselves unable to make satisfactory adjustments.
10. That the W.R.A. arrange for the establishing of hostels and other facilities in various areas; and furthermore, build new housing through the F.H.A., with W.R.A. assistance.
11. That the W.R.A. provide transportation of evacuee property door to door.
12. That the W.R.A. negotiate for the establishing of old people's homes exclusively for persons of Japanese ancestry.
13. That the W.R.A. make negotiations to arrange (1) so that evacuees formerly civil service employees will be reinstated and (2) so that persons of Japanese ancestry will be able to secure business licenses as formerly.
14. That short term leave regulations be changed to permit an absence of two months with one month extension privileges. Also, that the evacuee investigating relocation possibilities be permitted to become employed, without change of status.
15. That when an evacuee relocates or returns to his former business or home, W.R.A. should make every effort to release frozen assets (blocked accounts), both in cases of individuals or organizations.
16. That the W.R.A. negotiate for the concluding of arrangements whereunder alien parents may be able to operate or manage properties with powers of attorney issued by their children, particularly by sons in the United States Armed Forces.

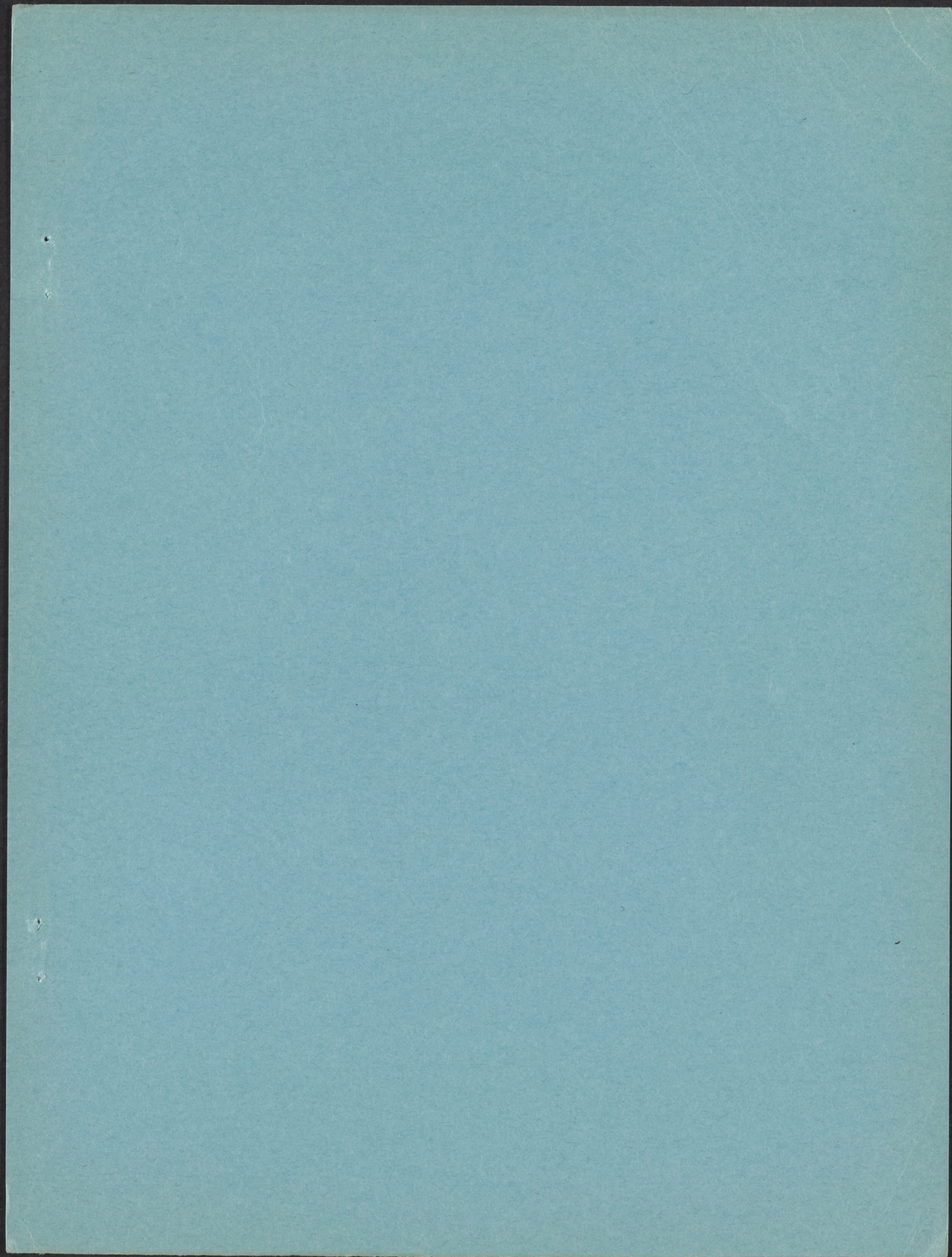
17. That the W.R.A. arrange to secure outright releases for parolees who relocate.
18. That the W.R.A. obtain the establishment of some avenue of governmental indemnities for relocatees who may become victims of anti-Japanese violence in terms of personal injuries or property damage.
19. That the W.R.A. arrange for adequate government compensation against losses to evacuee property by fire, theft, etc. while in government or private storage or while in transit.
20. That the W.R.A. arrange to provide students of Japanese ancestry with adequate protection in case of need, and opportunities equal to those enjoyed by Caucasian students.
21. That the W.R.A. make every effort to secure work opportunities for returnees and relocatees on equal basis with Caucasian citizens, particularly in reference to admittance into labor unions.

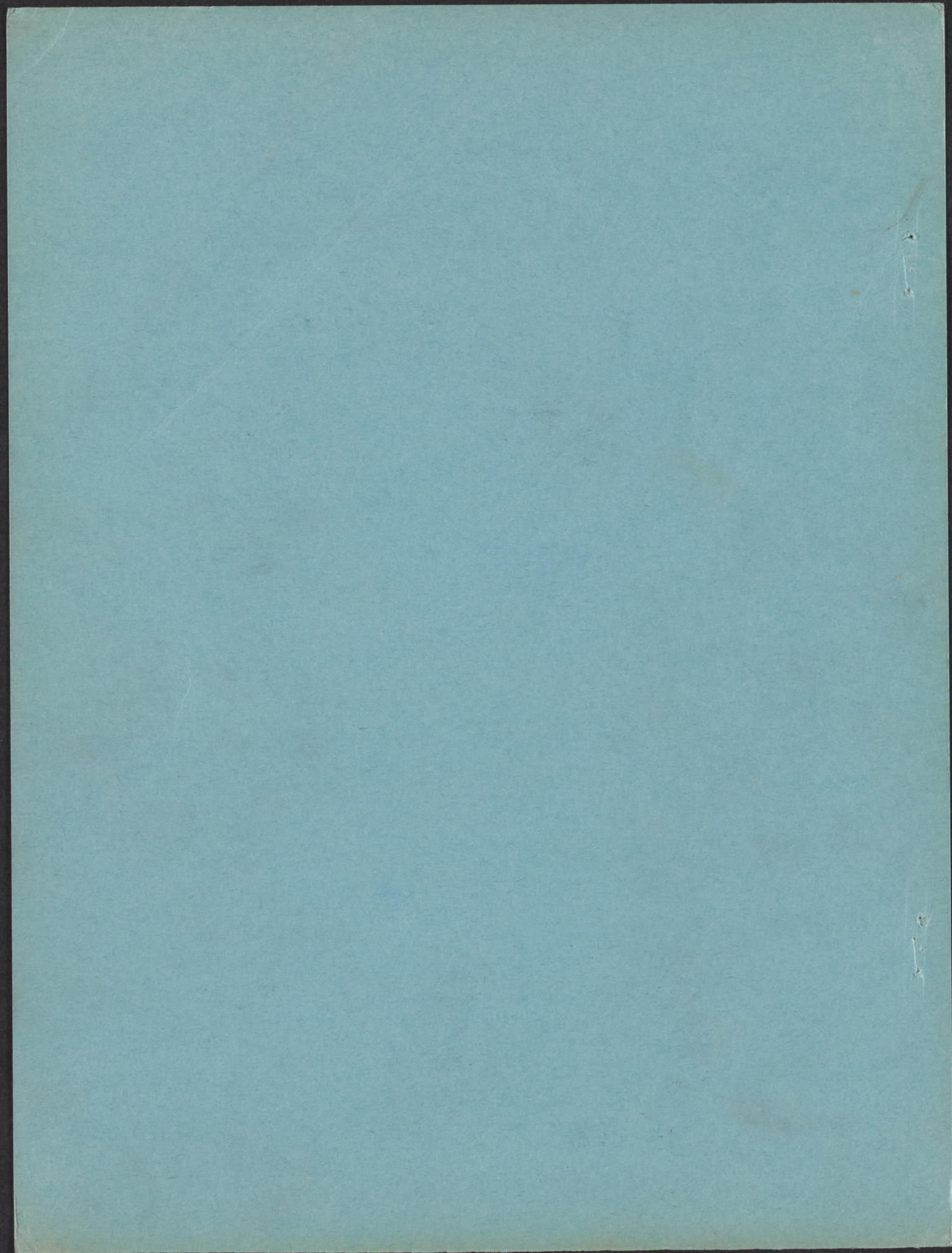
SUGGESTION

The foregoing is a partial list of appeals emanating from center residents, and each item is founded on factual cases. We make the suggestion that the W.R.A. should verify the existence of these problems, possibly by adopting some such procedure as follows:

The W.R.A. should conduct a more accurate and intensive relocation survey than at present, with intent to determine what are the actual needs of the residents, in terms of making their relocation possible. This survey might be conducted in every project, by interviewing a number of evacuees selected from among those unable to make relocation plans, and further selected with a view to obtaining an accurate cross-section (occupations, location of former homes, etc.) The assistance of interpreters recommended by the Community Councils might be enlisted.

Note: The suggested survey should, perhaps, be conducted so that all center residents will be interviewed, however, as a first step, we recommend the interview of lesser numbers, in the interests of expediency, because we desire the earliest possible acknowledgement of the conditions, and establishment of adequate policies for the furthering of relocation.





F 13.00

ALL CENTER CONFERENCE
SALT LAKE CITY

February 17, 1945

The second official meeting of the All Center Conference was called to order by the Chairman at 2:20 P.M., at the YWCA Conference Room, on February 17, 1945.

Minutes of the last meeting was read by Mr. Murakami, Japanese secretary. Corrections were made and the minutes were approved by the members.

The Chairman announced that last evening from 7:00 P.M., Mr. Fukuzawa, Mr. Ogawa, and the Chairman met and prepared the news release which was published by the Salt Lake Tribune. Announcement was also made that Rev. Tosuke Ota has sent an invitation to the delegates for a tea party on Sunday evening at 8 P.M. at the Japanese Christian Church, 243 W. First South Street.

Report from the Program Committee was made by Mr. Hatchimonji.

Following schedules were made by the Program Committee and approved by the members:

1. Monday, February 19, closed session from 9:00 A.M. at the Japanese Christian Church, 243 W. First South Street.

Monday evening to attend dinner at the Colonial Restaurant at 7:00 P.M. which is being sponsored by the Utah Nippo and the J.A.C.L. in behalf of the Japanese community of Salt Lake City.

2. Tuesday, February 20, all-day conference from 9:00 A.M. at the YWCA Conference Room.

A suggestion was made by the Program Committee to complete at this session the preparation of questions and requests to be presented to Mr. Myer.

3. Wednesday, February 21, closed session with Mr. Myer from 9:00 - 12:00 noon; at the YWCA Conference Room.

There will be open session from 1:30 P.M.

It was officially agreed to send invitations to the following organizations to send representatives to the All Center Conference to be present at the open session:

February 17, 1945

1. Friends of American Way - Pasadena
2. Church Resettlement Group - Los Angeles
Dr. Clarence Gillette
3. YWCA - Salt Lake City
Miss Pierce
4. Utah State Supreme Court Justice Wolfe
5. Protestant Commission - Salt Lake City
Dr. Gordon Chapman
6. Fair Play Committee - Berkeley, Pasadena, and Orinda
7. JACL - Salt Lake City
8. Pacific Citizens - Salt Lake City
9. Citizens Committee for Constitutional Rights - Salt Lake
Mr. Arthur Gaeth
10. American Friends Service Committee - Los Angeles
Mrs. Joseph Duveneck
11. American Civil Liberties Union - Los Angeles
Mr. A. L. Wirin
12. Society of American Friends
13. Mary Knoll Mission - Los Angeles
Rev. Hugh Laverly
14. Buddhist and Christian Church - Salt Lake City
Rev. Tosuke Ota and Rev. C. H. Terakawa
15. American Red Cross - San Francisco
16. Utah Nippo, Rocky Shippo, and Colorado Times

4. General Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 22, from 9:00 A.M. at the YWCA Conference Room. Photographs will be taken at 11:30 A.M. If sufficient time is available, center program will be discussed.

The following recommendations were accepted by the members:

1. No news release unless approved by delegates. Same rule applies to center papers.
2. Minutes of the meetings and the questions and answers of the session with Mr. Myer will be distributed to all delegates.
3. All Center Conference expenses will be equally shared by the centers.
4. Spokesmen are necessary during the session with Mr. Myer. Members agreed to have one spokesman from each center.
5. Resolution Committee is necessary.
6. Legal assistance is necessary in the preparation of the resolutions.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary T. Yamamoto
Mitsuye Endo
English Secretaries

ALL CENTER CONFERENCE
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

February 22, 1945
Sixth Session

Meeting of the Sixth day of the All Center Conference was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Narahara, at 9:45 a.m. Thursday, February 22, 1945, at the YWCA Conference Room.

The Chairman outlined the business to be taken up this morning.

Roll call was called by the Chairman. Reverend Carl Nugent of Topaz, Utah, spoke to the delegates explaining the work of the Protestant Church Commission and extending their services to the Japanese people of this country.

Minutes of the February 20th Meeting was read by Mr. Murakami and was approved after corrections were made.

The Chairman announced that a letter was received from Mr. Galen Fisher extending regrets of not being able to attend the All Center Conference and outlined briefly of the situation in California.

Mr. Clyde Baird, Father Laverly, Mr. Wirin, Mr. Bill Carr of the Friends of the American Way, and Gordon Chapman also extended regrets for not being able to be present at the Open Meeting on Wednesday, February 21.

(Mr. Hayashida, Vice-Chairman presided from here)
Report from the Resolution Committee was made by Mr. Sugiyama, Topaz.

There was some discussion regarding who the compiled resolutions should be sent to.

Mr. Okamoto, Poston, suggested to send the resolutions to WRA and send copies to other organizations.

Majority agreed to send the resolutions to Mr. Dillon S. Myer and also to the following governmental bureaus: Department of Interior, Department of Affairs, Justice Department, House of Senate and Congress, and War Department.

At 11:45 a.m. the delegates had a group picture taken in front of the YWCA Building.

There was some discussion on how to send the resolutions.

The delegates agreed to send the original to Mr. Myer and send copies to various organizations and governmental bureaus.

The delegates agreed to leave to the disgression of the Public Relation Committee as to the distribution of the resolutions to the various organizavions which are sympathetic with the cause of the Japanese of this country.

Poston explained the reason for the ~~xxxxl~~ refusal of sending resolutions to ~~the other governmental~~ ^{bureaus} ~~as being~~ because majority agreed not to send one to the President of the United States and felt that if not sent to the President, none should be sent to the Departms of the U.S. Government.

Mr. Kubota, Poston, expressed his desire to have the resolutions sent to the three governors of the West Coast States; namely, California, Oregon, and Washington.

Meeting was adjourned for lunch at 12:30 p.m.

AFTERNOON SESSION

The afternoon session was called to order by Mr. Hayashida, Acting Chairman at 2:40 p.m.

The delegates approved the final resolutions as set up by the Resolution Committee.

The Acting Chairman announced that the Topaz delegates has extended an invitation to the other delegates for dinner party at Dawn Cafe this evening at 7 P.M. ~~Minxxx~~ Members accepted the invitation.

There was discussion on forming a headquarter organization to handle problems concerning closing of centers after the All Center Conference is through.

Mr. Sato, Gila, suggested to form this organization throughout the large cities in California and to help solve problems of the Japanese people of this country, but Mr. Sasaki's, Topaz, suggestion which was accepted by other delegates, was to form a headquarter in Topaz and discuss problems dealing with closing of centers only.

Since there was sufficient time, delegates discussed center problems, also the Stencil Committee will cut stencils tomorrow morning from 9:00 a.m.

Those appointed to cut stencils were:
As there were few other business to be accomplished, delegates agreed to prolong the conference one more day and the deleages were asked to meet at the YWCA Conference Room on Friday, February 23, from 9:00 a.m.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

(over)

Respectfully submitted,

May T. Gernert

~~Myra Ends~~

all Center Conference
English Secretaries

ALL CENTER CONFERENCE
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

February 23, 1945
Seventh Session

The Chairman, Mr. Narahara, called the meeting of the last day of the All Center Conference at the YWCA Conference Room at 10:00 A.M.

The Chairman announced the business for today.

1. Translation of resolution.
2. Report by the Public Relation Committee.
3. Urgent Agenda.
4. Future Planning Organization.

Roll call of the seven centers was called by the Chairman.

Minutes of the Sixth Session was read by Mr. Murakami and approved after corrections were made.

A report was made by Mr. Sugiyama, Topaz, on his volunteering to cut the stencils for the resolution. Mr. Sugiyama questioned whether actual percentage of people who believe cannot relocate be reported in the resolution or the word majority be inserted. Discussions followed.

Majority agreed to have the actual percentage reported in the resolution.

The Chairman asked the Translation Committee to get together and start translating the resolution into English.

Mr. Yamashita, Topaz, member of the Public Relation Committee, thought that it would be better to retract the motion made at yesterday's meeting not to send a copy of the resolution to the President of the United States.

There was a lengthy discussion on this. After the consideration of the Public Relation Committee to retract the decision made at yesterday's meeting, majority agreed to send a copy of the resolution to the President of the United States.

Mr. Fujino, Rohwer, suggested to send original of the resolution to Mr. Ickes rather than to Mr. Myer. After some discussion on this, majority of the centers agreed not to accept Mr. Fujino's suggestion.

Mr. Nishimura's, Gila, suggestion to reward the three secretaries for the work they have done, and send letters of appreciation to the YWCA, to the Utah Nippo, WRA Salt Lake City Office, Japanese

Christian Church and to the Japanese Community was approved unanimously by the delegates.

The following suggestions were approved unanimously by the delegates.

1. To hold another farewell party tonight. Arrangement was left to the Public Relation Committee. (Mr. Kubota of Poston)
- 2 To translate the minutes of the meeting with Mr. Dillon S. Myer into English. (Mr. Kawano, Heart Mountain)

Mr. Tsunokai of Heart Mountain, expressed his opinion that it is the wish of the Heart Mountain delegates to have the statement made by Mr. Hatchimonji during the session with Mr. Myer crossed off the record. Other delegates thought it would be better to include it in the minutes explaining that it was an individual statement and not of the center.

3. To maintain a headquarter in Topaz until the time of next conference to handle problems of all the centers in connection with the closure of the centers.
4. To collect fund to start this headquarter. Members agreed to return to the center and get the approval of the Council before deciding on the matter of the amount of the fund.

Mr. Mihara, Minidoka, read a letter of appreciation to the Topaz delegates signed by Mr. Akashi, Heart Mountain, and seconded by Mr. Mihara, Mr. Okamoto, Poston, and Mr. Urugami, Granada.

Mr. Akashi read a letter of appreciation to the Chairman, Mr. Narahara, two Vice- Chairmen, Mr. Hayashida, Heart Mountain, and Mr. Mihara, Minidoka, and the three secretaries signed by the seven center delegates.

Mr. Nishimura announced that the farewell ~~party~~ party will be held this evening from 7:00 p.m. at the Dawn Cafe.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Respectfully submitted

Mrs. Mary T. Yamamoto
Miss Mitsuye Endo
All Center Conference
English Secretaries