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EXCERPT FROM  
MEETING OF THE CALIFORNIA USDA DEFENSE BOARD

December 18, 1941

The Chairman gave a brief resume of the status of Japanese since the declaration of war. Immediately after this declaration, he said that all funds of Japanese were frozen by the Treasury Department and this had created a very bad situation in the Los Angeles vegetable markets. He had been requested by the Office of the Secretary to make an investigation of this situation and send in a report, together with any recommendations which he thought might be helpful. (This report is attached hereto, designated as Exhibit A and made a part of these minutes.)

He told the Board that because of the many difficulties caused by this general freezing order, the Treasury Department had next issued two general licenses (Nos. 11A and 77) which permitted restricted withdrawals of funds and allowed some freedom of operation of Japanese business enterprises. Following this the Treasury issued another license, No. 68A, which puts Japanese nationals, with some exceptions, in about the same position they had been prior to December 7, 1941. It was agreed that a general letter should go out to all Members of the County Defense Boards summarizing the status of the Japanese up to the present and recommending that all people who have dealings with Japanese nationals obtain current information from the local banks.

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USDA meeting Sec 18

COPY

EXHIBIT A

P. O. Box 247  
Berkeley, California

AIRMAIL

December 15, 1941

The Honorable  
The Secretary of Agriculture

Attention: Mr. Carl Hamilton  
Assistant to the Secretary

Dear Mr. Secretary:

When I reported to you by telephone on Saturday, December 13, regarding the vegetable situation in California, which resulted from the impounding of Japanese funds, you asked me to make my report in writing as well. The following is as near as I can remember a resume of what I told you on the telephone.

In regard to the immediate situation, the reports that I have indicate that the two Treasury Department licenses Nos. 77 and 11A have been quite effective in relieving the shortages. As you suggested, I discussed this subject with Helen Gahagan by telephone. She had reports of excessively high prices for vegetables. However, reports from the Los Angeles County Defense Board Chairman, Mr. Dallas I. Walker, do not confirm her statement. I believe his report was based on more recent information and that Miss Gahagan would not report differently. The following is a quotation from the wire which I received from Mr. Walker:

"December 12, 1941  
5:04 p.m.

"DAVE DAVIDSON, CHAIRMAN  
CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL  
CONSERVATION COMMITTEE  
2288 FULTON STREET  
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

VEGETABLE SUPPLY HOSPITALS AND MARKETS NORMAL. PRICE UP SLIGHTLY.

DALLAS I. WALKER"

Although the supply of vegetables did drop off very greatly during the first part of last week, there seems to have been no time when actual shortages were experienced by hospitals. In addition, to the reduction in the supply, there was a curtailment in demand for fresh vegetables at the same time. This was caused by the general confusion and by some hysterical fear of the possibility of poison. The demand has now picked up again and I believe that the fear of poisoning has been dissipated. It is my understanding that the State Department of Agriculture and the Army have both added to the number of their vegetable inspectors.



I have not been able to obtain general information in regard to shipments of fresh vegetables east. There was, undoubtedly, some disturbance in these shipments, but not a large amount. Also it is the opinion of the Treasury Department that these licenses which they issued should allow business to operate so that there need be no further disturbance in fresh vegetable shipments out of the State.

The State Defense Board has been definitely concerned with this subject and we have done what we could to make available to people connected with the Japanese all the information which would help them in continuing their business. We are inclosing two letters, addressed to Chairmen of the County Defense Boards, which were sent out from our office to all Members of the County Defense Boards and to County AAA Offices. We also supplied the State Defense Council with copies of these letters for distribution to the Agricultural Committees of the County Defense Councils.

In addition, we are now recommending to the Treasury Department that they provide for the re-opening of regular Japanese channels of information to their people by allowing two Northern California Japanese papers to resume publication. Our recommendation is that they allow publication of the English section only of these two papers. Such action has already been taken in regard to one Los Angeles daily Japanese paper.

Although the immediate situation seems well-in-hand, the State Defense Board is much more concerned about the long-time aspects of this problem of production and distribution of food by Japanese, both American citizens and Japanese nationals. We are concerned because we realize even more than ever the need for adequate supplies of food and because the Japanese are such a large factor in the production of a number of our crops, particularly vegetables. A rough guess indicates that about two-thirds of the canning tomatoes are produced by Japanese and that at least one-half of these Japanese have alien connections in their business operations. As you know, in some of the wholesale and retail markets the Japanese handle a large proportion of the vegetables. The Los Angeles wholesale market is a case in point where 60 percent of the wholesalers are Japanese. In fact Japanese, and to a lesser extent, Italians, are concerned with such a large percentage of the production of these very much needed crops that no complete program for 1942 production can be worked out until this problem in regard to these enemy nationals has been handled. Not only will it be impossible to continue with production at its present high level, but there will be no chance to get the increases desired until the problem has been solved.

Not only is the California USDA Defense Board concerned, but other people are interested. Inclosed are copies of two wires which were sent independently by Professor Crocheron dealing with this subject. Several reports from many other individuals and organizations stating their concern have come in. As yet, however, we have not very many suggestions.



These licenses, which we have referred to, have improved the situation. There are, however, still many questions left unanswered and the procedure is, of course, quite complicated. There are two items that work against smooth operation of the Japanese nationals' business in addition to the complications of the procedure itself. The first is the responsibility which is placed upon banks and others who disburse funds to Japanese nationals. There is bound to be hesitation on the part of Americans dealing with Japanese as long as they are held responsible for the outcome of such business dealings. An example of that is found in the Cannerymen's League. My ~~xx~~ unofficial information from them indicates great hesitancy to proceed with canning tomato contracts under the present setup. The second item is that the Japanese themselves may not be inclined to continue their operations unless there is some possibility of realizing a profit from them. Perhaps, the Japanese can be induced to continue production and even to increase it, but if so, it will be necessary to arrange a setup that is clearly understood by everyone.

In light of these matters already discussed above, I have the following recommendations to make. This letter will be reviewed by the full State Defense Board on December 18. At that time they may wish to make changes in these recommendations or additions thereto. However, I don't believe they will disagree with them in general because I had an opportunity to confer individually with several Members of the State Defense Board before I telephoned my report to you.

1. Do not, because of the improved current situation, consider that this important subject of Japanese production of food is settled. I had a call yesterday from Mr. Towson of the Federal Reserve Bank in San Francisco asking me for an opinion on the situation now. Apparently Secretary Morgenthau was quite concerned. I told Mr. Towson that I believed the immediate situation had been relieved to a large extent, but that I could not make any statement about the long-time features of this problem until we had more information as to how it was working out in the counties. Consequently, I repeat my recommendation that we do not consider the matter as settled until we see how the present arrangement is working.
2. I believe that prompt steps should be taken to arrive at a definite decision as to whether Japanese are to be allowed to farm or not. Perhaps, the decision will later have to apply to Germans and Italians. In this State Italians produce substantial quantities of some vegetables and also some fruits. If we are going to meet the goals set up in the Food-for-Freedom Campaign, it is necessary that very shortly we know which way we will proceed on the question of production by Japanese. An extended delay on this point will, regardless of the decision, adversely affect the production for 1942.
3. If it is decided that Japanese nationals will be allowed to farm, then the restrictions should be relaxed so that they can operate in a businesslike fashion. The Treasury Department



informs me that the interpretation of the present license No. 77 will be liberal and that the intention is that Japanese be allowed to carry on normal operations. Such an interpretation would have to be quite liberal, considering the wording of the license, if the Japanese were to conduct their business in such a way that we would obtain the amounts of agricultural commodities which we desire.

4. If the decision is not to allow Japanese to continue to operate their own business, then it is extremely urgent that we begin at once to take whatever steps are necessary to get the production desired. Such a decision would involve considerable upset and it would take some time to re-arrange productive systems in this State.
5. Immediate steps should be taken so that Americans can acquire Japanese assets. A number of Japanese are bound to be confused and discouraged so that they will not wish to continue operating under any conditions. Quite generally, Americans can be found who would acquire these operations and be glad to continue with them. However, such procedure is now, as I understand it, not permissible and again I would like to point out that such transfers should be made promptly in order that production be not interfered with.
6. Information channels to the Japanese should be cleared so that the Japanese can be informed of what we want them to do. I have already recommended to the Treasury Department, as I indicated earlier in this letter, that publication of the English section of some Japanese papers be allowed. Since this has been done in Los Angeles, presumably the same action will be taken in Northern California. However, this seems to be one of the best means of maintaining contacts with the Japanese which will result in their cooperation with us, rather than in alienating them entirely. This has important ramifications in addition to the production of Food-for-Freedom.

These recommendations which I have sent down here are made with the hope that we can soon get this matter cleared up. We trust that no delay will be allowed to interfere with decisions because we are certain that if the matter is delayed too long, additional complications will arise. There is a lot of dynamite in the possibilities contained in the California Alien Land Law alone and any time I would not be surprised to hear that someone had touched off the dynamite.

Trusting that this report will be of some value and that you can do something in regard to those off-grade prunes which should be utilized and which I referred to in my telephone conversation, I am

Very truly yours,

Dave Davidson, Chairman  
California USDA Defense Board

Inclosures



EXCERPT FROM  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CALIFORNIA USDA DEFENSE BOARD

DECEMBER 26, 1941

Since it was estimated that over one-half of the canning tomatoes in California were produced by Japanese, the Board felt that the status of these aliens operating in the State was very closely related to the possibility of their meeting the desired production in the Tomato Expansion Program. Mr. Tapp read a resolution of the Agricultural Committee of the State Council of Defense, which requested that Federal custodians have charge of the property of enemy aliens who produced, marketed, or distributed food products. They felt that this sort of Governmental control would be to the interest of the Defense Program as well as to the Japanese.

Mr. Davidson also read a resolution from Monterey County which requested strict Governmental control of these operations.

Professor Crocheron stated that he had already sent Mr. Mengis into the counties to make an investigation of this problem, because he thought it was highly important that these enemy aliens be kept at work, since there was such a shortage of agricultural man-power.

In view of this survey already made by the AES, Mr. Bell made a motion that this matter be taken up for definite action at the next State Defense Board meeting, and that in the meantime each agency obtain confidential reports from their representatives in the counties on the following questions:

1. Are the Japanese going to continue in business?
2. What is the public reaction toward these enemy aliens now operating under the present Treasury License No. 68A?
3. What can the State Defense Board do to stabilize the situation so they can get the desired production?



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CALIFORNIA USDA DEFENSE BOARD

January 6, 1942

PERSONS PRESENT:

Mr. Dave Davidson, Chairman, AAA  
Professor B. H. Crocheron, AES  
Mr. R. B. Cozzens, SCS  
Mr. Bert L. Smith, FCA  
Mr. Russell W. Beeson, FS  
Mr. Roscoe E. Bell, BAE  
Mr. Keith Southard, SMA  
Mr. George A. Scott, AMS  
Mr. R. W. Hollenberg, FSA  
Mr. W. J. Cecil, Agricultural Committee, State Council of Defense  
Mr. Jesse W. Tapp, Agricultural Committee, State Council of Defense  
Mr. J. B. Fairbank, AES  
Mr. J. B. Schneider, AES  
Mr. Stewart Lockwood, Supervising Entomologist, State Dept. of Agri.  
Mr. John Lawler, Treasury Department, Washington, D.C.  
Mr. Norman Towson, Treasury Department, Washington, D.C.  
Mr. Murray Thompson, USDA, Washington, D.C.

The meeting of the California USDA Defense Board convened at 9:00 a.m. in the State Office of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration in Berkeley, with the Chairman of the Board presiding.

Mr. Davidson gave a brief resume of a meeting held on January 5 relative to the Japanese situation in California. Present at this meeting were Mr. Norman Towson and Mr. John Lawler of the Treasury Department, and Mr. Murray Thompson of the USDA. These men had been sent out from Washington to obtain recommendations from the State Defense Board, and other groups and individuals and to consult with the Army, Navy and FBI in this area as to the best handling of this problem. Mr. Davidson stated that he had assembled a group, who were cognizant of the facts, in order that they might present their information to the men from Washington.

Mr. Smith also read a summary of this meeting, which brought out conclusions which were almost the same as those reached by Mr. Davidson.

As agreed upon at the last meeting, several Members gave summaries of reports which they had obtained from their county representatives in answer to the following questions:

1. Are the Japanese going to continue in business?
2. What is the public reaction towards these enemy aliens?
3. What can the State Defense Board do to stabilize the situation so as to get the most production?

Mr. Davidson reported that generally most counties were not



unduly concerned about the Japanese, but nearly all favored more supervision of Japanese operations.

A report by Prof. P. A. Minges, Extension Specialist in Truck Crops, AES, indicated that practically all Japanese farmers were going ahead with present crops, although problems such as financing their crops, labor, and leasing of land would undoubtedly cause them some trouble. He found that public sentiment in the southern and coastal counties was anti-Japanese, and he was afraid that it might be aroused against the use of Japanese-grown or handled produce. In which case all California growers might suffer. He found that some people wanted to see the young American-Japanese gain control of the Japanese enterprises, while others desired that the Japanese nationals be put under direct Federal jurisdiction and made to work where needed.

Mr. Cozzens stated that reports from his people were along the same line as those from Mr. Minges, only they were stronger for Federal supervision.

After considering these reports, the Board generally agreed with Professor Crocheron that there were two ways in which continued Japanese production of needed food products could be assured: They were:

1. Provide the hope of profit to the Japanese.
2. Put the Japanese in national concentration camps and force them to work where needed.

Mr. Southard suggested that there might be a third possibility, such as having the canners and others finance the production on property now operated by Japanese and hiring the Japanese to work for them.

At the request of the Chairman, Mr. Cecil told the Board briefly of his actions relative to the issuance of licenses to wholesale produce dealers, etc., to enemy nationals in his capacity as Director of the California State Department of Agriculture. It was his feeling that Japanese businessmen, having contacts throughout the State and having licenses which permitted them to travel anywhere, were much more dangerous than the Japanese farm operators. In order to avoid as much of this danger as possible, he said he had already refused to issue new licenses and to renew old licenses for enemy nationals. Also he was investigating applications for licenses and refusing new licenses or renewals to citizens who seem to have connections with aliens. Furthermore, he hoped to obtain permission from the State Council of Defense to cancel all existing licenses issued by the Department of Agriculture to enemy nationals. He asked that the Board Members express their sentiments as to the action he had already taken and the action contemplated in the future.

Mr. Bell then made a motion that the Board commend the Director of the State Department of Agriculture, (1) for his refusal to issue new licenses to enemy nationals; (2) for his refusal to renew licenses



already held by enemy nationals; and (3) for his investigations of all requests for new licenses and renewals of licenses by citizens who might be connected with enemy nationals; and his refusal of such licenses where the suspicion was justified, and that the Board recommend the extension of the same action in regard to licenses which have not yet expired. Mr. Scott seconded the motion.

Since the Board thought the recommendation should be more specific, Mr. Bell made a motion for an amendment that the licenses of all enemy nationals be cancelled and that licenses of American citizens be cancelled if a careful investigation shows that they are connected with enemy aliens, and that they have investigations of all licenses that come up for renewal. Mr. Hollenberg seconded the motion for the amendment, which was unanimously carried. The amended motion was then unanimously carried.

In order that the men from the Treasury Department might have some concrete recommendations to present to Washington, Mr. Davidson requested the Board to make decisions on items which they thought should be considered.

In order that no Japanese production of needed foods might be lost, Mr. Cozzens made a motion that the Army and Navy be requested to make decisions at once as to the areas in which enemy nationals and/or Japanese will not be permitted to operate. Mr. Smith seconded this motion which was unanimously carried.

Mr. Bell made a motion that, in order to obtain as much production as possible, landlords be requested to continue to lease land to Japanese tenants who are good farmers who will operate the farms themselves and who upon investigation have been found to be patriotic American citizens. Mr. Cozzens seconded this motion which was unanimously carried. It was suggested that possibly County Defense Boards or other local groups might take over most of these investigations, but those which they could not handle, would be turned over to the FBI.

Professor Crocheron made a motion that it be urged upon Filipinos that the production of food is a national duty and they should continue to work for those who upon investigation have been found to be patriotic American citizens. Mr. Southard seconded this motion which was unanimously carried.

The Board agreed that they wanted some sort of Federal protective supervision of Japanese for two reasons:

1. To protect the Japanese from the fear of public abuse and thus encourage them to continue their farming operations.
2. To protect the Government, since they could then watch the operations of the Japanese. Professor Crocheron suggested



to the men from the Treasury Department that probably a Federal custodian, who knew the legal aspects, might be appointed on a county basis and be located at some designated headquarters such as that of the County Defense Board. The Board could then advise him on all agricultural aspects.

The Chairman made the recommendation that the Federal Government be urged to take into custody the persons of all Japanese nationals; that those who acted with any suspicion be turned over to the FBI; and that all others be allowed to work with adequate governmental supervision. He felt that if the nationals weren't segregated from the American-born Japanese, it would be impossible to clear up problems connected with the California Alien Land Law. The board took no action.

The Treasury representatives informed the Board that under the war powers, the President has the authority to appoint custodians over enemy alien property and that under the Freezing Act there is already some supervision. Also, under these war orders anybody connected with enemy nationals can be considered the same as enemy nationals. They stated that regulations relative to Treasury supervision might go all the way from occasional reporting by a business, to the actual taking over of the Company's operations by the Treasury.

The Board Members told these representatives they felt that under Federal supervision not only would the Japanese be more willing to continue their production of food, but that crop financing might be more easily provided and that the public reactions generally would be more favorable.

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Conversation with Washington January 2 1942

Japanese situation getting worse

Treasury sending a man if Sec. of Agric  
sends one.

They would arrive Monday, would attend Tuesday  
meeting of USDA War Board

No matter how good a job they do it looks like  
we will lose a lot of Japanese production.



1/5/42

A group composed of: Jesse Tapp, Homer Harris, Joe Carey, Bert Smith, Ray Wiser, Mr. Hooper, Mr. Bridges & Major Everetts, Gus Chick, Bill Parker, Prof Crocheron and I (Davidson) met with Norman Tawson and John Lowler of Treasury Dept and J. M. Thompson of U.S.D.A & M. Takahashi of Japanese Association.

my recommendations after the conference are

1. Urge American landlord to continue to lease land to bonafide Japanese American citizens who are good Farmers and will operate their farm themselves. In case of minors have custodian save a guardian
2. Urge Phillipino leaders to have their gangs not refuse to work for Japanese, but in case of gangs have the place officers provide adequate protection
3. Urge Federal gov. to take custody of all property of enemy nationals as of Dec 7 but suggest that such custodian allow & facilitate transfer of such property to American citizens when duly investigated & chiefly for purpose of obtaining more production
4. Urge Federal gov. to take into custody the persons of all German, Italian & Japanese nationals. Suspicious turned over to FBI. Other should be allowed to work under supervision
5. Move all aliens from proximity of war centers
6. State Dept of Agric. should be commended for not renewing license of enemy nationals
7. Every effort should be made to get as much production as possible from Japanese. This will mean giving assistance in the form of leases, contracts, labor supply, draft deferment, finances, travel permits. adequate protection
8. Publicize these items so public will be assured & willing to cooperate.



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CALIFORNIA USDA WAR BOARD

FEBRUARY 3, 1942

PERSONS PRESENT:

Mr. Dave Davidson, Chairman, AAA  
Mr. R. B. Cozzens, SCS  
Mr. George A. Scott, AMS  
Mr. Bert L. Smith, FCA  
Mr. Roscoe E. Bell, BAE  
Professor B. H. Crocheron, AES  
Mr. Russell W. Beeson, FS  
Mr. R. W. Hollenberg, FSA  
Mr. Myron Schmittlinger, SMA  
Mr. Jonathan Garst, SMA  
Mr. J. Murray Thompson, USDA  
Mr. W. J. Cecil, State Council of Defense  
Mr. Jesse W. Tapp, State Council of Defense  
Mr. Carl Schiller, AMS  
Mr. Jesse Short, FCA  
Mr. Frank Gilcriste, California Packing Corporation  
Major W. S. Everts, Cannerymen's League of California  
Mr. William Darcy, Walnut Grove  
Mr. Thomas Clark, Department of Justice  
Mr. Hall, San Francisco Office of Department of Justice  
Mr. Richard C. Neustadt, Social Security Board  
Mr. F. DuBois, AAA

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The Meeting of the California USDA War Board convened at 9:15 a.m. in the State Office of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration with the Chairman of the Board presiding.

Mr. Davidson informed the Board concerning a telephone call from Mr. Dodd, Director of the Western Division of AAA, regarding the availability of 2,000,000 pounds of copper sulphate for California, if the orders were placed that day. He said he was gathering information on the amounts that could be used immediately and transmitting it to Mr. Dodd that afternoon.

He said the particular reason for calling the meeting and for inviting others than the Board Members was to give further consideration to the problem of enemy aliens. He reviewed briefly the background of this problem as it affected California.

Since the settlement of this matter was considered so vital, and since there was such a feeling of unrest in the minds of the public generally, Mr. Thompson said that he had been sent out from Washington again to meet with the various groups, directly concerned with this subject. He stated that the Secretary of Agriculture had been given the responsibility for the agricultural part of the picture and that the social security phases of it had been turned over to Mr. Paul McNutt, Social Security Administrator.



On his arrival in California, Mr. Thompson had talked with representatives of the Army, FBI, and others. They had advised him that the Army had set up 88 "A", or prohibited, areas in California, from which all enemy aliens were to be removed. Also tentative "B", or restricted, areas had been set up, but the final decisions as to the territory they would cover had not yet been decided upon. In these "B" areas, at present, aliens would be allowed to remain only by permit. No action had been taken with respect to Japanese-American citizens in these areas.

Mr. Hollenberg reported on a meeting which had been called February 2, 1942, by Earl Warren, Attorney General for the State of California. He said that county district attorneys, sheriffs, and others at this meeting were definitely of the opinion that stronger measures should be taken regarding removal of enemy aliens in order to protect the public from fifth column activity and sabotage. Also they intended to use the Alien Land Law as their vehicle for obtaining eviction of the Japanese.

Other members of the group reported that a great many organizations and individuals throughout the State also felt that the Government should take a firmer stand in the control of these people.

After a review of a map of California, it was agreed that agriculture would not be much affected in the "A" areas by the removal of enemy aliens. However, in the "B" areas, as set up at present, agriculture would be confronted with a big problem because many farms are operated by Japanese and Japanese serve as laborers on many other farms. These could not be easily replaced due to the general labor shortage.

Major Everts told the Board that it was very vital that a definite procedure regarding these people be established immediately in order that tomato canners and growers might make plans before it was too late to get the tomato plants in. However, he stated that he believed the canners would go ahead with their contracts and take the chances that the "B" areas would stay as set up.

The Board agreed that it was improbable that the Army would make definite commitments concerning the extent of "B" areas, because the military situation might change them at any time.

Mr. Gilcriste stated that from an agricultural standpoint, if the aliens from the "A" areas could be moved into the "B" areas and put to work on farms, it would be very helpful in bringing about the production desired. He said that his company had already put on a direct campaign to encourage farmers to come into the Woodland region, which was a big tomato production area. So far they had not been very successful.

Mr. Bell made the suggestion that it might be possible for



canners to lease land and employ the Japanese as laborers. It was agreed that the success of such a plan would depend largely on whether or not the Government would assure the canners that these laborers would be available at the time of harvest.

Mr. Cecil commented that, if the uncertainty regarding the "B" areas and the wide-spread criticisms of present Japanese control continued, he was afraid there wouldn't be any Japanese agricultural operation in the State in two months.

Mr. Tapp felt it was imperative that the Federal Government immediately assert its jurisdiction with regard to the handling of enemy aliens and that provision be made for the identification and supervision of Japanese American citizens in "A" areas.

As a result of a thorough discussion of the different phases of this problem, Mr. Hollenberg made a motion that the Board adopt the following resolution:

That the Federal Government through the Department of Justice or other appropriate Federal Agencies, assume and declare its jurisdiction over the person and property of all Japanese and enemy nationals of other countries. That all persons in these groups certified by the Federal Government as not dangerous to the safety of the United States who may be engaged in agriculture as farm operators or farm laborers be placed under a Federal supervisory custodianship which will facilitate their farming operations so long as they are carried on in the national interest. That all such persons be provided with proper identification regardless of their status as citizen or non-citizen.

That facilities of the U. S. Department of Agriculture be utilized for supervising the agricultural aspects of this program with a view to maintaining food production and providing as far as possible for the maintenance of normal farming operations by those previously engaged therein or who may be adapted to such operations.

Mr. Scott seconded this motion.

At the suggestion of Professor Crocheron, it was agreed that the following preamble be added to this resolution:

In view of the immediate importance of the settlement of the agricultural situation in California with regard to persons of enemy races, we urge - - - - -.

Mr. Bell made a motion that the second paragraph of the resolution be amended to read:

That appropriate facilities of the U. S. Department of



Agriculture under the general direction of the Department of Justice be utilized for supervising the agricultural aspects of this program with a view to maintaining food production and providing as far as possible for the maintenance of normal farming operations by those who have been previously engaged therein or who may be adapted to such operations.

Mr. Beeson seconded this motion. Three voted - Yes. Five voted - No. The motion did not carry.

Professor Crocheron then made a motion that the words "utilized for supervising" be stricken out in the second paragraph of this resolution and the following words substituted:

"Offered to the Department of Justice for advising upon." Mr. Smith seconded this motion. Five voted - Yes. Three voted - No. The motion carried.

The amended motion to adopt the resolution was the unanimously carried. (The resolution as finally adopted is attached hereto, designated Exhibit A and made a part of these minutes.)

At the invitation of the Board, Mr. Richard Neustadt, Regional Director of the Social Security Administration, Mr. Clark and Mr. Hall of the Department of Justice attended the meeting in the late afternoon. They briefly outlined various phases of this problem for which they were responsible and answered questions from the Board Members.

Mr. Neustadt stated that his Board was confronted with the serious problem of housing these enemy aliens who were to be removed from the "A" areas, advising them where work would be available, and giving them financial aid they might need. At the present time, they were not ready to take on all the responsibility assigned to them. They would welcome any help and advice which USDA people could give and they wanted to work very closely with agriculture in obtaining employment for aliens and Japanese Americans who have to move. He said they had no responsibility as yet for enemy aliens in the "B" area nor for others than enemy aliens in the "A" areas. He informed the Board that their activities covered eight western states.

Professor Crocheron stated that the State USDA War Board was charged with the responsibility of getting increased food production and, therefore, they were anxious to know what was going to happen to these people, not only in the "A" areas but in the "B" area as well, since this would greatly affect agriculture in California. If there was going to be a collapse of the Japanese agricultural labor, then some solution would have to be set up, because man power was going to be very scarce.



Mr. Clark stated that General DeWitt was going to clear out all enemy aliens from "A" areas and, if possible, all Japanese American citizens as well. If some resettlement of these people where they would be productive could not be worked out by the Department of Agriculture, then the only practical solution he could see would be for the Army to take over. With respect to the "B" area, he felt that the Board could say with some degree of certainty, keeping in mind that military conditions might change at any time, that if an emergency came up in the labor supply, these people might be used under the permit system to relieve this situation in the "B" area. He also informed the Board that he was going to have meetings with county district attorneys in order to get them to work along with the plans of the Department of Justice, rather than taking over the job themselves.

. . . . .

EXHIBIT A

February 3, 1942

RESOLUTION

In View of the immediate importance of the settlement of the agricultural situation in California with regard to persons of enemy races, we urge that the Federal Government through the Department of Justice or other appropriate Federal Agencies, assume and declare its jurisdiction over the person and property of all Japanese and enemy nationals of other countries. That all persons in these groups certified by the Federal Government as not dangerous to the safety of the U.S. who may be engaged in agriculture as farm operators or farm laborers be placed under a federal supervisory custodianship which will facilitate their farming operations so long as they are carried on in the National interest. That all such persons be provided with proper identification regardless of their status as citizen or non-citizen.

That appropriate facilities of the U.S. Department of Agriculture be offered to the Department of Justice for advising upon the agricultural aspects of this program with a view to maintaining food production and providing as far as possible for the maintenance of normal farming operations by those previously engaged therein or who may be adapted to such operations.



EXCERPT FROM  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CALIFORNIA USDA WAR BOARD

FEBRUARY 11, 1942

The meeting of the California USDA War Board convened at 1:30 p.m. in the State Office of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration with the Chairman of the Board presiding.

The Chairman said he had called the meeting in order that the Members might meet with Mr. Dodd, who could give them information on developments in Washington.

In connection with the enemy alien problem, he stated that a possible organization in the USDA to assist in supervising farming activities of aliens had been discussed. However, with developments of vigilantism throughout the State, he doubted if any such organization could do much good now until and unless the Army and the Department of Justice take a much stronger hand in the matter.

With reference to evacuation of enemy aliens from vital "A" defense areas, Mr. Bell said he had tabulated replies from Farm Labor Subcommittees in 25 counties and found that approximately 10,000 of these aliens could be used for agricultural labor. He made a motion that this report be made available to Mr. Neustadt, representatives of the FBI, General DeWitt, the Western Division, Mr. Thompson, and any others who were intimately working on this problem. The motion further directed that the covering letter state the way in which this survey was conducted by pointing out that the questionnaire had not been sent to coastal counties because the "A" or prohibited areas were generally in those counties. Mr. Beeson seconded this motion, which was unanimously carried.

Mr. Davidson reported on the meetings in Los Angeles on February 9 and 10, which were conducted by Mr. Roy F. Hendrickson, Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Administration, to discuss marketing problems with growers. At the session where tomatoes were discussed, he read the Board's press release announcing tomato prices for 1942. He said growers felt that the specific statements were all right, but didn't think there would be any increase in tomato production in Southern California because of the low prices.

The Board then discussed briefly with Mr. Schwartz and Mr. Dodd the revised national Food-for Freedom goals. In answer to a question as to the procedure for the Board to follow in publicizing these revised goals, Mr. Dodd said that they need not stress very much increases asked on the county or farm basis. Increases for everything except wheat, cotton, and tobacco are needed in the State.

Continuing with discussion of the enemy alien problem, Mr. Thompson said he had been asked for specific information by the Army and that he would like the Board to give him general answers to questions which had been asked of him. It was agreed that a committee



should be appointed to work with Mr. Thompson in compiling all definite information on this subject. (This committee appointed consisted of Mr. Scott, Mr. Bell, Mr. Cecil, and someone from the AES.)

Specific questions asked by Mr. Thompson and general comments made were as follows:

1. What would be the loss in vegetable production in this State if Los Angeles county and the Bay Area (including the Peninsula and territory about halfway to Stockton and Sacramento) were added to the "A" areas? It was generally agreed that this addition to the "A" areas would take out much important vegetable land in the State. Mr. Minges stated that, in his opinion, the pinch would come in the local markets principally, rather than in inter-state shipments.
2. What would be the loss in vegetable production in this State if Japanese-American citizens were also taken out of these expanded "A" areas? It was generally agreed that most of the Japanese-American citizens would move out when the aliens were removed and that it would not make much additional change in vegetable production.
3. What would be the loss if all the aliens were taken out of the "B" area? It was agreed that much of the vegetable production of these aliens would be lost because these operators could not all be replaced by Americans this year.
4. What would be the loss in vegetable production if Japanese-American citizens were also taken out of the "B" area? It was agreed that this wouldn't change the picture much from the answer to question 3.
5. How much of this loss of vegetable production could be made up in other places in California if both aliens and Japanese American citizens were removed from the State? It was generally agreed that most of it would be made up eventually, but not this year. It was felt that possibly in the near future high school, junior college and university students would have to be made available for agricultural labor, due to the seriousness of labor shortages.
6. Supposing 25,000 aliens were moved out of "A" areas, (which would include Los Angeles County and the Bay Area) what would be the best way to handle them as far as agriculture is concerned? It was generally agreed that they could not be assimilated in other counties in the State, unless it was evident to the general public that a very positive policing effort was carried out on the part of the FBI. Mr. Beeson stated that there were some vacant CCC camps which might be used for this purpose. Mr. Hewes said that the FSA could take care of 1,000 male adults, but they would not be responsible for women and children in the winter. Mr. Cozzens



suggested that Mr. Thompson get in touch with Mr. Kenneth Wolfe, who is in charge of CCC camps, and determine whether or not there were any vacant camps, formerly used by the Department or the Grazing Service, which might be used.

It was the consensus of the group that if the Department of Justice had established adequate protective supervision a month or 6 weeks ago so that the local people would have known that somebody from the Federal government had the situation in hand, these people could have been used in agricultural production and vigilantism throughout the State would not have started.



EXCERPTS FROM  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CALIFORNIA USDA WAR BOARD

FEBRUARY 26, 1942

PERSONS-PRESENT:

Mr. Murray Thompson then reported on developments in connection with the alien problem and answered questions from members of the State War Board. He said the Army is working hard to get out the announcement of additional areas. On Friday and Saturday, he will attend meetings in San Francisco and areas. On Friday and Saturday, he will attend meetings in San Francisco and will have more information as to where evacuees will be moved and whether they will be placed in agriculture. A proposed proclamation is in the hands of the Secretary of War. Officers at the Presidio have defined new prohibited and restricted zones and are working on the problems of removal and housing of evacuees. In answer to a question by Mr. Bell concerning the extension of prohibited areas, Mr. Thompson said that these will be both enlarged and multiplied. For example, Los Angeles County has just a few "dots" announced thus far; it may be expected that they will be made bigger. Mr. Cozzens asked if the areas will be large or small. Mr. Thompson said that eventually there will be a strip of prohibited area down the coast, at some points wide and some narrow. Army officers do not want much said about this, though, until it is announced.

Mr. Davidson said we are much concerned about our part in the evacuation program as well as in the maintenance of agricultural production. Mr. Thompson said that by Friday night we will know enough to start doing what we have to do, but that the Army must make several determinations first. Mr. Bell asked if the Army would indicate broad general areas to which evacuees might be moved, or if the rest of the State would be open to them. Mr. Thompson replied that the final decision depends on what areas will be restructured and what remains. Mr. Davidson asked two questions: (1) what is being done about the enforcement of regulations in "B" areas already announced; and (2) what are the developments on the proposition of custodianship. In answer to the first question, Mr. Thompson said no positive steps have yet been taken; in answer to the second, he said that Mr. Morgenthau has been put in charge, but thus far the Federal Reserve Bank at San Francisco does not know anything about it. Mr. Vader, who is in charge of Invested Foreign Funds Control for this area, said all he knew was from a clipping from an Eastern newspaper, which said a committee of three would be set up. Mr. Davidson said the agricultural coordinator of the Japanese-American Citizens' League, Mr. Takahashi, had called on him today and had reported that Japanese farmers, both American and alien, are asking whether they should continue farming operations. Mr. Takahashi is urging them to carry on their farming with the assurance that, insofar as the Board is able, it will work to help see they do not lose their



investment if they are forced to move.

Mr. Hollenberg said the Farm Security Administration has been granted funds to aid farmers who want to move in on land vacated by the Japanese, and that he would like any information by which to expand the loan program for maintaining agricultural production. In answer to a question by Mr. Bell, Mr. Hollenberg then explained in detail what the FSA can do in this connection.

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Mr. W.S. Cecil, State Defense Council, brought the following matters to the attention of the Board:

- (1) Current practice of junk dealers in southern California to buy farm machinery of Japanese at 5 to 10 cents on the dollar, leaving the land without equipment.
- (2) Procedure regarding airplane use of sprays in connection
- (3) -----



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CALIFORNIA USDA WAR BOARD

MARCH 18, 1942

PERSONS PRESENT:

Mr. Dave Davidson, Chairman, AAA	(Agric. Adjust. Admin.)
Mr. Roscoe E. Bell, BAE	(Bureau of Agric. Econ.)
Mr. Bert L. Smith, FCA	
Professor B. H. Crocheron, AES	(Agric. Extension Service)
Mr. R.W. Hollenberg, FSA	(Farm Sec. Admin.)
Mr. Rex E. Willard, BAE	
Mr. Fred D. Douthitt, FS	
Mr. Walter E. Sykes, SCS	(Soil Conservation Service)
Mr. W.J. Cecil, Calif. State Council of Defense	
Mr. Jesse W. Tapp, Calif. State Council of Defense	
Mr. Pierce Davies, FSA	
Mr. Francis DuBois, AAA	

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The meeting of the California USDA War Board convened at 9:00 a.m. in the Office of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration with the Chairman of the Board presiding.

The meeting had been called particularly to discuss development of plans for cooperation in the matter of handling of property owned and operated by Japanese. Mr. Davidson said that, on behalf of the War Board and Mr. Murray Thompson, he had been carrying on liaison work with the agencies concerned with this matter and had sent out information to County War Boards which he thought they should know. Following the announcement of the specific assignment given to the FSA to handle the project, he had met with Mr. Hewes, Mr. Hollenberg and others, and had then called the War Board meeting. He also had word from Washington that morning which indicated that, as far as the Department of Agriculture was concerned, FSA was given the assignment for agriculture and that State and County USDA War Boards should cooperate fully in assisting this agency for the best interests of agriculture. He then asked Mr. Hollenberg to outline the duties and responsibilities of the FSA under this assignment.

Mr. Hollenberg stated that the Executive Order of the President on February 19, authorized the Secretary of War to prescribe military areas. By virtue of the authority vested in him, Lieutenant General J. L. DeWitt, Commanding General, Western Defense Command and Fourth Army, on March 15, 1942, gave the assignment to FSA. (This order is attached hereto, designated as Exhibit A and made a part of these minutes.) The General also designated certain personnel from the various Federal Agencies engaged in the evacuation program to serve on his civilian staff, which will work in conjunction with his military staff. The following persons were named to



this staff:

AGRICULTURE, DEPARTMENT OF . . . . .	Laurence I. Hewes, Jr.
CENSUS BUREAU. . . . .	Dr. Calvert L. Dedrick
FEDERAL RESERVE BANK . . . . .	Wm. M. Hale
FEDERAL SECURITY AGENCY. . . . .	R.M. Neustadt, A.C. Miller
IMMIGRATION & NATURALIZATION . . . . .	I.F. Wixon
JUSTICE, DEPARTMENT OF . . . . .	Tom C. Clark, Wallace Howland
NATIONAL RESOURCES PLANNING BOARD. . . . .	Dr. B.M. Woods
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT . . . . .	Ralph B. Thompson, Leo F. Gentner
TREASURY DEPARTMENT. . . . .	John Lawler
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY . . . . .	Milton Eisenhower
WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION . . . . .	R.L. Nicholson
U.S. POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT. . . . .	Inspector Charles W. Pfaffenberger

Immediately after receiving the order from General DeWitt, the FSA sent out a letter to all their District Officers and Field Agents outlining their duties and responsibilities under the newly created Wartime Farm Adjustment Program. The State Board Members reviewed this letter and asked questions about various portions of it. They then directed that it should be sent to all County USDA War Boards, together with a covering letter setting forth the functions of War Boards in connection with the program of evacuating enemy aliens and American-born Japanese from prohibited and restricted zones in California. (This covering letter, together with the letter from FSA and a press release, is attached hereto, designated Exhibit B and made a part of these minutes.)

Mr. Hollenberg said they hoped all credit agencies and banks would give priorities on credit cases for Japanese, since it was very essential that they get funds immediately if they were to continue their farming operations until they were moved. He advised that all credit agencies who would make such loans get in touch with the Field Agents in the respective areas in order better to understand the credit facilities. He further stated that the FSA ~~letter~~ ~~of~~ was going to set up joint bank accounts for all such loans, in order to prevent collusion. FSA hoped that publicity concerning the new program would help to stop the hysteria of loan companies which had resulted in so many loans made to Japanese being called in. Mr. Tapp stated that he would send the FSA letter of March 15 to the Bankers' Association, and Mr. Smith agreed to see that all bankers' cooperatives in the FCA received the letter. It was also suggested that a copy be sent to the Canner's League, since canners financed many Japanese. Mr. Davies from Mr. Neudstadt's Office informed the Board that the Federal Security Agency was prepared to provide travel money, interim subsistence money, and to take care of the social aspects of the evacuation of Japanese.



The Board then discussed further the possibility of creating a full-time War Board Staff, rather than assigning jobs to the different agencies. Messrs. Hollenberg, Southard and Willard expressed the opinion that such a staff would be much more effective; it need not exclude the assignment of jobs to agencies along their regular lines. Mr. Southard told the Chairman he could pick out a man to assist with this work and that the SMA would place him on their payroll. The Chairman said he would accept the offer.

Mr. Davidson stated that there was a growing feeling in the counties that they were doing a lot of work that was not effectual because of the lack of organization to pursue recommendations in Washington. Several Members of the State Board expressed the opinion that an additional problem was created by the tendency of Washington officials to correspond freely on War Board problems with persons in the State not affiliated with the War Board. In spite of this, however, it was agreed that a letter should be sent to County War Boards encouraging them to keep up their good work, because, undoubtedly, it would be useful when present difficulties are cleared.

Mr. Cecil said that, as soon as the details were clear concerning the certification for obtaining sugar for bee feeding, he would send the information to Mr. Davidson.

Mr. Cecil also stated that if the Army sends all alien Italians out of Military zones, this would do more damage than the removal of Japanese, especially in the fruit-drying and dairy industries. Mr. Hollenberg said that committees probably would be set up to work out some deferments of Italians and Germans, although there was no definite announcement of this as yet. It was agreed that Mr. Tapp and Mr. Southard should meet with Mr. Helvey to go over this situation and work out a basis of consideration from the farm production standpoint.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.



EXCERPT FROM  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CALIFORNIA USDA WAR BOARD  
APRIL 6, 1942

Mr. Hewes (FSA) described some of the difficulties being encountered by the FSA in its administration of the Wartime Farm Adjustment Program, and asked for the assistance of the War Boards, especially on the following problems:

- (1) Investigations concerning the competence of operators taking over Japanese-evacuated land. Frequently, FSA has available neither the information nor the personnel to render an informed decision, although it is the FSA's responsibility to secure loans as much as possible.
- (2) Investigation and advice in connection with the "freezing of property when the situation warrants such action. An order giving the Secretary of Agriculture, who in turn will delegate to FSA, the "power to freeze, to divest title, to manage, to transfer title, and to develop" such property, is expected to be signed by the Secretary of Treasury.
- (3) Arbitration in arranging transfers of Japanese property where the need arises. An example cited is a situation wherein the parties concerned cannot agree on all the details of the transfer.
- (4) Disposition of Japanese property in cases where it is necessary to break up operations into smaller units either for continued operation or for sale.

Mr. Davidson pointed out that on April 1 War Letter No. 86 to County War Boards and a related Memorandum to Chairmen of County Agricultural Conservation Committees of the AAA were sent out on the subject of cooperation with the Wartime Civil Control Administration and the Farm Security Administration. He suggested that another War Letter and Memorandum, particularly stressing the above-mentioned items, be sent out at this time. Mr. Tippet placed this suggestion in the form of a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Smith (FCA) and passed unanimously.

Tippet  
AES

Mr. Hewes mentioned that a meeting is being called in Los Angeles County Wednesday afternoon in connection with the evacuation situation there, and he hoped someone from the War Board could attend. Mr. Davidson said he would be in Los Angeles Thursday and would go into the problem that exists in Los Angeles County.



EXCERPTS FROM  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CALIFORNIA USDA WAR BOARD

APRIL 22, 1942

Mr. Hollenberg (FSA) reported that the evacuation of Japanese land was going very well, most large tracts already having been taken over. The FSA had been given authority to freeze and operate lands, whether or not the Japanese had made arrangements for their transfer. Mr. Hollenberg said he believed the Japanese had planted as they originally planned, but this had not been fully determined yet.

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LABOR DISCUSSION AT WAR BOARD MEETING

May 5, 1942

EXCERPTS FROM:

BUCKNER . . . . . Take for example the Japanese evacuation. It has presented problems, the magnitude of which perhaps we haven't even felt yet. Acreages on crops are pretty well known; there is an increase in sugar beets and in tomatoes. There will be problems in particular with these crops, as well as with other vegetable crops which require stoop labor. New labor can probably be brought into the harvesting of other crops, but they can't do stoop labor. One of the things we will have to do is make a more effective use of the labor we have.

BUCKNER . . . . . We have an order for vegetable workers in Los Angeles County which is something we have never had before, and which is due to the Japanese evacuation. Then we have a cucumber order from this county, and an order for strawberry pickers from San Diego, which are all due to the Japanese.

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Frank Buckner, USES



EXCEPRTS FROM  
MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE  
CALIFORNIA STATE U. S. D. A. WAR BOARD

Date: Wednesday, June 3, 1942.

The Board agreed that the labor situation was much more serious now due to two factors: (1) there was little likelihood of the importation of Mexican laborers because of Mexico's entry into the war; (2) Proclamation No. 6 of the WCCA freezing Japanese in Military Area No. 2. Mr. Bell (~~assignment not given~~) further stated that the student and adult registrations for agricultural workers had not been as successful as had been hoped. It was pointed out that if the agricultural labor demand in California now for 60,000 workers could not be met, it would be vastly more difficult to meet the anticipated peak demand for 150,000 workers in October.

Use of Japanese for Agricultural Labor in California

Mr. Cecil (Director, Calif. State Dept. of Agriculture) stated that Colonel Boekel had made the suggestion that a survey should be made in detail of all the man-power needs in the western states, keeping in mind that Japanese and Mexicans might not be available for agricultural labor. From this information, a case could be built and presented to Mr. McNutt's Commission for immediate action. Since Proclamation No. 6 freezes all Japanese in Military Area No. 2, it was believed that eventually all uninterned Japanese would be removed from California.

It was the feeling of the Board that citizens would not feel so much concern as formerly, if Japanese were put to work under strict supervision to help relieve the labor shortage. Mr. Bell made a motion that the Board go on record as definitely favoring the retention of the Japanese in the Reception Centers of the interior valleys; that they be made available as much as possible for agricultural work in California; and that the Board would cooperate with other groups and agencies to bring this about. Mr. Southard (FDA) seconded this motion, which was unanimously carried.



EXCERPT FROM  
MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE  
CALIFORNIA STATE U. S. D. A. WAR BOARD

Date: Friday: June 12, 1942

Use of Japanese Labor from Relocation Centers

Mr. Cecil reported that the feeling out in the country is most favorable in regard to the use of Japanese labor but that in some counties there was a definite feeling against this proposal and that there was not enough unanimity of feeling in any given community to make it worthwhile. It was decided that this problem should be brought up for further discussion after the question of the importation of Mexican labor had been settled.

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W.J. Cecil, Director, California State Dept. of Agriculture



A 9.01

EXCERPT FROM  
MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE  
CALIFORNIA STATE U. S. D. A. WAR BOARD

Date: Thursday, October 1, 1942

Future Handling of Evacuee Property

Mr. Russell Robinson, Chief, Evacuee Property Division, War Relocation Authority, appeared before the Board to discuss the situation in regard to the handling of evacuee property and to ask for recommendations as to how this matter should be handled in the future. Mr. Robinson explained that when the evacuation program was ordered by the Army, two agencies were given responsibility for the handling of property problems. FSA took care of those concerning farm properties, and the Federal Reserve Bank those concerned with commercial and other city properties. Upon the arrival of the evacuees at relocation centers the responsibilities of both these agencies were handed to the Division of Evacuee Property of the WRA. The time allowed by the Army to effect the transfer of these properties was very limited. Also, certain of the Japanese holdings did not lend themselves particularly well to individual operations. In order to facilitate their transfer within the time limitations and maintain production, corporations were formed by processing and packing houses to take over the operation of a considerable number of these farms. Funds were secured from the FSA for operating these farms through twelve-month loans. The cropping season is now coming to a close and these companies have indicated to the WRA that unless Government money will be available to them their operation of these farms will be discontinued.

The operations in question are located largely in Placer County and comprise some 200 farms with an approximate acreage of 5800 acres. The average size of each farm is 29.8 acres. The principal crops are plums, peaches and pears, some sugar beets, tomatoes and grapes.

The two problems faced by the WRA at this time are the question of whether funds will be made available and whether the production of these lands would be considered essential and should be continued. Mr. Robinson stated that the WRA is concerned with carrying out its responsibility in seeing that there is continuity of production on these lands and that the interests of the evacuees are preserved and protected.

Mr. Hollenberg pointed out that the funds made available by the Army to FSA were advanced in the interests of national defense as a means of meeting an emergency situation and now that the Japanese are out of the area they are no longer concerned. He also stated that the corporations organized to operate these Japanese properties are subsidiary corporations to existing successful



corporations formed for the purpose of securing Government money without risk for these particular operations and that FSA has no responsibility or authority for the continuation of these loans. He thought the most important question was what should be done about individual ownership. Mr. Hollenberg was asked if the FSA would consider making a loan for the following season on those individual farms which had paid out the initial loan. He indicated that this would be done but that such loans were limited to \$2500. Mr. Tapp (Vice President, Bank of America, S.F.) asked about the policy of WRA with regard to non-crop property. Mr. Robinson said that depended on the decision of the owner of the property. Mr. Robinson said that depended on the decision of the owner of the property. In some instances owners have requested WRA to liquidate their holdings and in other cases owners are maintaining their properties with the hope of being able to return after the war.

Mr. Tapp was of the opinion that the Government was obligated to maintain these properties in a producing capacity and that it was the responsibility to WRA to continue production. Mr. Ralston AES - alternate for Prof. Crocheron) pointed out that frequently the farms owned by the Japanese were peculiarly adapted to Japanese family operations and he doubted whether any other family could take over such farms and make any profit. Mr. Robinson cited the example followed by one company which had taken over some evacuated farms. The original is being removed and the vineyard is being replaced with ladino clover to produce livestock with a minimum of labor requirements. He said this might be done with some evacuee farms but it was doubtful if the income derived from this type of operation would equal the income from the original crop and also, that permission would have to be obtained from the owner of the land before such a change could be made. Mr. Reddick (SCS) agreed with this, pointing out that on many of these farms the irrigation is very poor because of the rocky and uneven nature of the terrain and he thought such land should be pastured to ladino clover or natural grasses. Mr. Ralston asked if Mr. Robinson had talked with local people in the area concerned to see if they could offer advice as to whether an alternative use of these farms could be made in such a way that they could be operated more economically and still contribute to the war effort. It was his opinion that a detailed appraisal of these farms should be made to determine how they can be best used under war conditions.

If these operations are to be continued he did not feel that the Government was obligated to take all the risk.

Mr. Robinson asked the Board for their opinion as to how essential they considered the production from this property in relation to the present national need. If decided that it is not essential he pointed out that plans for substituting something else should



be made or if it is considered essential plans should be made for continuing the present production. Mr. Davidson informed Mr. Robinson that the State Board had been endeavoring to obtain from Washington information as to which agricultural commodities are wanted and in what quantities. A list of ten war crops has been received but no information has yet been sent out regarding vegetables and some fruits. However, he said it could safely be assumed that vegetables would be needed, probably processed rather than fresh shipments. Flax is considered more essential than such crops as lettuce and melons. Dehydrated fruits will be in demand and fruits that can be dehydrated will have to be used for that purpose. No word has been received to indicate that fresh pears and plums are very essential.

.(FBF)

Mr. Deuel was of the opinion that the farms in Placer County were too small to produce any very essential crop and the effect of the shortage of manpower would have to be considered in any operation. Mr. Tapp maintained that the Government had assumed the responsibility of taking the evacuee property over and acting as an intermediary and this policy should be continued. Mr. Scott (AMS & BAE) did not believe the War Board should attempt to settle the policies to be administered by the WRA but that it should convey to them the commodities that are wanted. He also called attention to the fact that the Japanese had been very well protected in all arrangements made. It was agreed by the Board, however, that continued production is essential.

Mr. Davidson asked for expressions from the Board regarding continued production on any Japanese lands whether operated by corporations or individuals. Mr. Reddick (SCS) stated that some crops would have to be produced to take the place of the foods taken over for Lend-Lease and the Army and Navy and that soon the point would be reached where certain crops would be taken over entirely by the armed forces. His viewpoint was that each acreage should be used to produce to its best capacity whether the crop was classed as an essential war crop or not. It was Mr. Hollenberg's opinion that before long a priority of crops would be established. Mr. Ralston said that this would have to be done on some scientific basis that could be supported. He reported that P. A. Minges of the Extension Service and other scientists of the University have been making an appraisal of the principal vegetable crops of California on the basis of food value produced per acre per hour of man labor. Through this survey a fund of scientific information will be accumulated on which the value of particular crops may be determined. Mr. Hollenberg further stated that regardless of whether a priority crop rating was established, the fact should be kept in mind that it is essential to produce as much as possible, and any crop that can be raised without misusing the land should be produced if the land cannot be used for priority crops. Mr. Deuel concurred in this opinion saying that every pound of food that can be produced is needed. Mr. Robinson indicated that the opinions expressed by the Board would be very helpful.



EXCERPT FROM  
MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE  
CALIFORNIA STATE U. S. D. A. WAR BOARD

Date: Wednesday, November 25, 1942

Japanese-Owned Farm Machinery

It was pointed out by Mr. Hollenberg (FSA) that one possible source of farm machinery which had not been tapped as yet was that equipment which was stored in warehouses by Japanese farmers at the time of their evacuation. Mr. Davidson stated that inquiries had been received from several counties regarding this equipment and the State Board had been requested to look into the possibility of securing the release of some of these items. In response to these letters contact was made with the War Relocation Authority by Mr. Triggs. (Exec. Asst., AAA) He was informed that a considerable amount of equipment is stored throughout the State at present although there are no accurate figures available. This machinery remains the personal property of the individual Japanese owners. Some transfers have been made to persons who have made private arrangements to buy certain items from the Japanese. The WRA agreed that it might be possible to work out some plan. It was their opinion that every Japanese in the evacuation camps would have to be contacted in order to obtain an accurate inventory of the equipment owned, where it is stored, and if it would be offered for sale. WRA officials indicated correspondence had been received from the Washington and Oregon State War Boards regarding this same matter and these Boards should be informed of any action taken in California.

It was the opinion of the Board that a project of this nature would serve a worthwhile purpose, especially if it were carried out on a voluntary basis rather than through the requisitioning of private property. A motion was made by Mr. Smith that Japanese-owned farm machinery now in storage be suggested to the WRA as a possible source of securing additional equipment and that this Agency be asked to contact the Japanese at the relocation camps in order to ascertain if any of the equipment is for sale. The motion was seconded by Mr. Reddick and carried unanimously.

(SSC)



A 901

EXCERPT FROM  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
of the  
CALIFORNIA STATE U. S. D. A. WAR BOARD

Date: Thursday, December 31, 1942

Japanese-owned Machinery

In response to a letter sent to Washington regarding the use of Japanese-owned farm machinery, a reply received from Mr. Wallace indicated that the matter had been taken up with the WRA and Mr. Robinson would be instructed to ask the WRA fieldmen to cooperate with the County War Boards in getting information regarding essential machinery which might be of use. Mr. Robinson has stated that he plans to develop a working procedure in California whereby the representatives of the various agencies on the County Boards would, in the normal course of business, make inquiries to ascertain the inventories of such Japanese-owned equipment - where located, owner, where in use, etc., and report back to the WRA, which in turn would contact the evacuee in question and endeavor to induce him to sell it. Mr. Livingstone said the War Board should consider what instructions should be sent to County War Boards in this regard and that some procedure should be developed by which a definite check could be made. Mr. Davidson reported that all the Japanese-owned machinery in the hands of the Federal Reserve Bank had been followed through to the owner and there had been practically no difficulty in inducing him to sell. Mr. Livingstone suggested that the War Board should publicize the fact that they are looking for this equipment and ask people who have any information to contact County War Boards. Mr. Everett recommended that the Japanese themselves should be circularized in the camps.

A motion was made by Mr. Ralston that publicity should be issued in the form of a news release setting forth the information desired and asking that contact be made with County War Boards, and also that ~~thaxx~~ Mr. Robinson should be asked to circularize the Japanese in the camps. The motion was seconded by Mr. Southard and carried unanimously. It was agreed that the publicity should be issued in the form of a press release from the State Office to be put out by the County War Boards, this publicity to be reviewed by the OWI before release. Mr. Hartline was requested to write the news release and Mr. Livingstone the letter to Mr. Robinson of the WRA.

J.S. Livingstone, War Board Assistant, AAA  
E.W. Everett, Regional Supervisor, Bureau of Agric. Education  
W.R. Ralston, AES  
Keith Southard, FDA