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MR BURGE

III

August 25, 1942

TO: Camp #3 Housing Staff  
FROM: Housing-Registration Office Camp #1  
SUBJECT: Santa Anita Intake

Intake for arrivals from Santa Anita will begin on Wednesday, August 26, with the arrival by busses of approximately 234 people. The bus is expected in the afternoon or early evening of that date.

On August 27, Thursday, approximately 666 arrivals are expected by train to arrive in the morning.

On August 28, Friday, approximately 521 arrivals are expected by train in the morning.

The blocks in Camp #3 will be filled in the following order: Block 328, 329, 330, 322, 323, and 324.

Block 327, which is not filled to date, will be left in that condition and will not be filled during this intake unless notice to the contrary is issued from Mr. Burge's office.

Although intake is expected between 7:00 and 9:00 am in the morning, the Housing-Registration and Intake Staff will commute from Camp #1 instead of staying in Camp #3 overnight, due to the lack of beds in Camp #3.

Meals for the staff will be arranged for as before by Mr. Burge's office. The meals should include lunch and dinner on Wednesday, August 26; breakfast, lunch and dinner on Thursday, August 27, and also on Friday, August 28.

HOUSING-REGISTRATION OFFICE

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P.S. There will be absolutely no moving between Camp #3 and any other camps during intake of Santa Anita arrivals. And in all probability it is possible that there may be no further moving days between Camps due to the acute housing shortage in Camp #1.

During this intake it is possible that single family units will be separated for the three days of the intake;

August 25, 1942--page 2

Memo to Camp #3 Housing Staff

therefore, the housing department will especially have to be careful in assigning apartments in order to keep families arriving on different dates near each other or together.

CC to: Mr. John Evans  
Mr. Moris Burge  
Camp #2 Housing  
Camp #3 Housing  
Files

*W. W. Head*

Colorado River War Relocation Project  
Peston, Arizona

*CS*

September 22, 1942

Memorandum to: Mrs. Knutson

From: A. W. Emple, Chief Administrative Officer

Inasmuch as the housing division falls within the Community Services Branch of the Project organization, the Project Director has approved your transfer to the Community Service Branch for purposes of working with the chief of this Branch and others within the divisions in locating Project employees who have been living here and who are arriving daily.

I have spoken to Miss Findley about this situation and she would like to meet with you this evening looking to the working out of the many problems which are to be confronted.

A list of the available furniture is being compiled in such a way as will permit the most equitable distribution between the various divisions and types of quarters. For further information in regard to the availability of furniture you will please check with Mr. L. L. Nelson.

The proper accounting records are, of course, of prime importance and you should continue to work in close cooperation with Mr. H. W. Smith and Mr. T. D. Gulbertson in keeping a record of the people who occupy the various rooms and buildings for accounting for the property located in the various rooms and buildings. You will please cooperate closely with Mr. J. F. Reinhardt, Property Custodian, in order to satisfy the property accounting regulations, under which we are operating.

A. W. Emple,  
Chief Administrative Officer.

AWE:jbp  
cc-W. W. Head. /  
Nell Findley.  
H. W. Smith.  
J. E. Reinhardt.

September 24, 1942

TO: Dr. Powell and Mr. Evans  
FROM: Housing-Registration Office - Unit #1  
SUBJECT: Housing

I The problem

It is needless to say that one of the most vital problems facing Poston today is the housing problem because of the dire need for privacy and space and the need for a better accommodation; that is, linoleum or second-floor wall boards, stoves, etc.

II What should be done

1. In Poston Unit #1, the first consideration is for partitioning for small apartments in order to give privacy to separate family units.
2. The population of the camp should be adjusted block by block to a number more equal than it is now.
3. Floor covering and stoves are necessary in order to give the minimum comfort to these barracks.

III What can be done for the present

1. Wherever possible, survey should be conducted in each block to show the necessary number of partitions needed to adequately care for the privacy of families in that block.
2. Wherever possible, it is suggested that with the approval of the Housing authority that the partition now separating apartments be moved to families residing in adjoining apartments: for example, a family of six composed of three family units residing next to an apartment occupied by three persons composed of one family unit should be given consideration in moving their partition in order that the family of six may have more room as in block #46, apartments 12-B and 12-C. In apartment 12-B there are three family units composed of six people, in apartment 12-C there is one family unit of three. If the partition of 12-B can be moved over eight feet into apartment 12-C, it will give more room to the family of six temporarily without the requiring of new partitioning materials. Another example,

- in block #28 apartment 4-C contains seven people, apartment 12-D contains two people. It is suggested that the wall between these two apartments be moved over into 12-D for approximately twelve feet, which will give additional space to the family of seven and merely remove unneeded space from apartment 4-D. This will result in the happiness of both families and it does that without requiring new partitioning material.
3. Over populated blocks. With regard to over-populated blocks, the following solution is presented for consideration. Block #3, block #13, block #39, and block #54 have a population of over or approximately 300. All of these blocks have two dormitories full of bachelors, especially for block #39. It is suggested that one of the bachelor dormitory in block #3 be asked to move into bachelor quarters in block #5. It is also suggested that one of the bachelor dormitory in block #13 be asked to move to block #12. In block #54, it is suggested that the quad there of #54, #53, #59, and #60 get together and adjust the excess population of #54 since the people in that area are here from the same region in California. In block #39, it is suggested that some families be not forced to move but be encouraged to take small couple apartments in block #21, #22, #27, or #28 since block #29 has no space for small apartments, unless, the present apartments in that block were partitioned. Block #39 has approximately twelve families of couples and #32. If these number of family were encouraged to move to block #21, it will help to bring up the population of block #21 considerably and also reduce the population of block #39. If these four blocks of over 300 were allowed to go where they go, it would help to solve the problem in approximately 50% of the blocks in this camp.

IV. The present Housing Staff consists of the following:

Chief of Housing - Mits Kaneko  
Assistant Housing Director - Phyllis Kinoshita  
Housing clerk - Marion Orida  
Housing Investigations - Larry Orida  
Chief Filing Clerk and Bureau of Survey - Mary Nishimura  
Daily reports and Vital Statistics - Helen Nakagawa  
Daily Block Census Reports - Mary Yasuda  
Secretary to Chief of Housing - Suzie Mori  
Office Supervisor - Edith Takahashi  
Post Office Clerk - Sadako Yamachika, Miyeko Musashi

Clerk Typists - Betty Kitsuse  
Marion Yoshida  
Tsutaye Mori  
Kazume Oda  
Jimmy Morikawa

Supervisor of Unit #2 - Kiyoshi Abe  
Assistant Supervisor - Mickey Enagi  
Secretary - Shiz Yokoyama

Supervisor of Unit #3 - Ben Furuta  
Assistant Supervisor - Nobuko Okawa

V Future Housing Administration

The following suggestion is made that with the absence for six weeks of Larry Orida and Mits Kaneko that someone be asked to fill the position of Assistant Housing Supervisor to work with Miss Phyllis Kinoshita and Marion Orida of the Housing Department. It is suggested that this person be a person who will keep in close contact with the block managers and the Housing Office and that people at large. He will also keep in constant contact with Units 1, 2, and 3. Miss Phyllis Kinoshita should be placed on the head of the Housing Staff.

We trust the above report will meet with your approval.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mits Kaneko*

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*M. W. Evans*  
September 28, 1942  
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MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. J. E. Evans  
FROM: Housing-Registration Office - Unit #1  
SUBJECT: HOUSING STATUS OF PERSONS LEAVING FOR  
OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT

1. Names of persons who are leaving or have left for employment outside of Poston and their Poston addresses shall be kept on file in the Housing Office.
2. All individuals upon their return to Poston after termination of their labor contracts will, insofar as possible, reside in the same apartment where they dwelled previous to leaving for outside employment.
3. Single men leaving for outside employment who have not been residing with their own family units but with other men in a separate apartment will be reassigned to dormitories upon their return.
4. Upon the completion of small apartment<sup>s</sup>, there will follow the moving and adjustments of many families. Some of the individuals who have left Poston temporarily may be affected by this necessary relocation of families. They may find that their home addresses have been changed.
5. Also, other individuals may find, on returning, that they have been assigned to altogether new blocks within the unit or to entirely different buildings within any certain block. These moves, if found to be necessary moves by the Housing Department, will be due to the present plan under way to equalize the population of every block in Unit #1 to an average quota of 280 per block.
6. (For Housing Office)  
The names of these individuals leaving Poston shall be removed from the Block Files and a notation shall be made in the Consecutive Number Files that the person has left for outside employment.

HOUSING-REGISTRATION OFFICE  
Unit #1

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*Empie*

Colorado River War Relocation Project  
Poston, Arizona  
October 11, 1942

*WJH*

MEMORANDUM TO: ALL DIVISION CHIEFS  
FROM: W. WADE HEAD  
SUBJECT: PERSONNEL HOUSING

All requests for rooms and housing facilities in the personnel barracks and housekeeping quarters should be cleared through Miss Findley's office.

Please do not make any room or housing assignments or commitments without first clearing through her office, in order to prevent confusion and misunderstanding.

*W Wade Head*

W. Wade Head  
Project Director

RMG:hj

October, 1942

MEMO TO: Mr. Wade Head, Poston, Director of Colorado River Relocation Center

FROM: Block Manager of #46

RE: Inadequate Housing

As a Block Manager appointed by the Administration, my primary duty is to protect the welfare of the block. Due to several problems and complaints arising from conditions which can be remedied easily, I wish to present to you some of the urgent housing problems of my Block, #46.

We have been here over four months now, and most of the following things promised for us have not arrived:

1. Partitions (most important of all - privacy)
2. Floor, ceiling, and wall covering to keep out dust and insects. Insulation.
3. Screens: to keep out insects and large particles of soot.
4. Stoves: when will they be in, before winter or after winter?
5. Smoke stack covering on inner roof: at the present, dust and soot pour through as there are large openings around these smoke stacks.

I have repeated to the people of the Block, the same old story - "the Administration will get them soon", "it has been ordered", etc. How long will this continue, I do not know. I do know the Administration is trying, but trying is not enough now. If we had the materials, our present problems in this block would not have been created.

Under the conditions we are living now, our barracks could hardly be called homes, even temporary homes. Why? -- No privacy whatsoever; unbearable heat in the barracks; dust and soot all over everything; flies, crickets, dragon flies, etc., buzzing in and out the open windows and doors; and hatred and contempt between strange families, immediate families, and life-long friends due to lack of privacy and also due to "paper thin" walls.

Here are some of the cases I wish to present as my proof of why we must have an immediate improvement in our housing conditions:

A. Case No. A1036 (Filed in Housing Dept.)

Mr. A., age 31, from Gilroy, California, came to Poston, Arizona under the care of Mr. K., and has been with them for a period of ten years. He is a mental case, as the case report states. During the ten years, Mr. K. has done everything to

treat him as his own. Mr. A's own parents disowned him as a hopeless case. I know, Mr. K. is not the type of a man who would try to make it unfavorable for Mr. A. to stay with him. The K. family and Mr. A. resided here in Poston together. The housing condition and the small quarters for a family of eight have made things very uncomfortable for them all. The crowded quarters, dust, soot, etc., has brought ill feeling toward Mr. A., so he had to move outside. He could have been placed in a small partitioned room instead, if we had them. Now he has been placed in an apartment by himself, with nobody looking after him. This is only one emergency case in which I needed partitions urgently. But today I still have no absolute assurance after taking all the legal steps possible.

B. Case No. 1214 (Filed in Housing Dept.)

This case is of a woman, age 41, formerly of Los Angeles, now residing here in Poston with her husband and four children. I have learned that her condition of suffering is partly from nervousness due to menopause which had been improving back in Los Angeles. She has suffered for several years. Since coming here, it has been aggravated, because of the unnecessary crowded quarters. It was during the worst dust storm when the roofs were blown off, that the anxiety over the safety of the children further accentuated her nervousness. Now her condition is getting worse instead of improving, and the hospital has refused to let her stay because of the shortage of single rooms.

Now, during the day she is staying in the room which Mr. A. now occupies, because every little noise, as the rattle of the door, irritates her. In the evenings, she returns home to sleep with the family. This is another case waiting for the much needed partitions. I was informed that unless I separated and placed her in a quiet room she would go insane, so I have made the best possible arrangement under the circumstances.

The cause for her illness and sufferings lies partly in the children also. If they should be out playing or dancing, she would go out and get them, even in her night gown. Then she would scold and sometimes strike them not knowing what she was doing, because of her illness. So the separation would benefit her and the children as well. Her children are all very young, still being in their teen ages.

C.

I have a couple who are newly-weds and active in social circles. They were very happy back home in Los Angeles where they were married. Even with in-laws, they were happy. They are living with the same in-laws here in Poston, but in the last few weeks I have been informed that they wish to move or either be partitioned off from their in-laws. Here is created another feeling of hatred and contempt. As they are a couple who just recently have been married, they feel that they have the right to privacy and a room of their own.

Through this letter, I am pleading for immediate action to get the necessary materials to help solve the many such housing problems and conditions which exist. Unless housing conditions are improved, it is my strong conviction that Poston will crumble from within the families.

Sincerely,

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Bill Tanaka  
Block Manager #46

December 5, 1942

TO: Executive Committee and Civic Planning Board  
 FROM: Housing Department, Unit I  
 SUBJECT: CRISIS IN HOUSING SITUATION OF UNIT I

The residents of Poston I have constrained themselves fully 7 (seven) months, holding back, as much as possible, their inner feelings and smouldering emotions in relation to the unendurable housing situation. Today, this restraint may snap at the slightest provocation:

The residents have arrived at the point where personal reputation does not mean as much as the end for which they are struggling. The Housing Department has fully realized the impending danger, so will set forth the facts, figures, and written statements which point to the conclusive peril to the morale and general welfare of the people.

They are as follows:

1. There is not a single vacancy available to residents in Unit I to which maladjusted families and emergency cases can be moved. (A few typical housing cases have been attached to this report)
2. There are almost 500 families living with other families. This means that there is a constant source of irritation and friction within these households.
  - 394 cases where 2 families are living together
  - 82 .....3 families living together
  - 16 .....4 families living together
3. More than 60% of all changes of address in September and October due to reasons of Overcrowding, Lack of Privacy, and Incompatibility. (The other reasons include Health, Relatives and Friends, Proximity to Employment, Convenience, and Miscellaneous.)
4. Buildings 13 & 14 are for the most part, unpartitioned. (There are 21 families living in unpartitioned buildings)
5. Census Report shows unequal distribution of population in the blocks of Unit I. (See census report)

To Executive Committee  
and Civic Planning Board -2- From Housing Dept., Unit I

6. Schools are using whole block for educational purposes in each of the other units, II and III. In Unit I, schools occupy Recreation Halls. The Recreation Department invades the housing barracks in some cases.--Result--shortage of housing space.
7. Some apartments used for Community Enterprise purposes and offices, thus decreasing housing space by so many apartments.
8. Five apartments must be reserved as "Honeymoon Cottages". At present, 4 rooms are held in reservation.
9. In the present housing set-up, some couples or families of 3 occupy a large apartment, while in other cases, families of 7, 8, or 9 occupy the same size apartment. The Housing Department knows that most changes of address requests are made by residents because of friction between families living together. Therefore this department has avoided, as much as possible, the further doubling up of families in one apartment.

(What Has Housing Department Done?)

The Housing Department has taken the following steps:

1. Prepared a general plan for Housing Readjustment in Unit I. This plan has been given approval by the Administration and was approved at the Block Managers meeting of November 10, 1942. The Community Council was to discuss this plan on November 18, 1942, but due to the general unrest and turn of events from the routine procedure of community life, this schedule was cancelled. As yet, it has not been presented to the people. Purpose of plan-- distribute living space equally as possible and to show, by maps, where partitions needed.
2. Stopped all moves into Unit I from Unit II and III and also from other relocation centers. Moves within Unit I have been frozen, unless that move would aid or further the above readjustment plan.
3. Requested voluntary movements to Unit II and possibly, III. Unit II has the most available apartments for residential purposes at present.-- (Available as they are not occupied as yet)

To Executive Committee  
and Civic Planning Board -3- From Housing Dept., Unit I ✓

4. To the best of its knowledge, answers have been prepared by this department to questions which are most frequently asked about the housing situation.

The Housing Department feels that the people should be informed of the latest developments-- of what is going on and the efforts put forth by the parties in responsible positions to alleviate this situation.

The Housing Department earnestly requests the Civic Planning Board as well as the Administration, Community Council and the Block Managers to "drop everything" to take up the crisis issue of the day!

HOUSING DEPARTMENT, UNIT I

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Phyllis Kinoshita  
Ass't Chief of Housing

(Acting Chief of Housing)

c/d Mr. Wade Head, Project Director  
Mr. John Evans-- (Block Managers) Ass't Proj. Director  
Miss Findley,--Director of Housing  
Dr. Ishimaru, Chmn. of Community Council

September 9, 1942

REPORT TO: MR. JOHN G. EVANS  
ASSISTANT PROJECT DIRECTOR  
HOUSING AND REGISTRATION OFFICE

SUBJECT: HOUSING

SUBMITTED BY: REV. JITSUO MORIKAWA ON REQUEST OF  
MR. JOHN G. EVANS

### I. THE HOUSING PROBLEM

It is an unquestioned fact that the most critically urgent and acute problem of Poston is the intolerable housing condition. It is hard for a normal human personality to be expected to create a home out of a floor space of eight feet square, except it were in the slums, and yet that is the Government allotment per person where a family of seven occupies one apartment. The community is baffled as to the moral ideals our democratic Government has when fathers and mothers and sons and daughters of one family, yes, two families and even three are thrown together into a moral and social heterogeneous company. The Japanese and the Americans of Japanese ancestry along with other races are fighting a determined battle, a battle, for individual and family integrity, and it is most disheartening when conditions and circumstances forcibly superimposed threaten to defeat them in that fight.

To whom the criticism should be directed is not known nor whether it is a purposed plan or an unavoidable condition, but the improvement processes of Poston to the casual eye seem to have a very distorted sense of values. It is apparently proceeding on the assumption that smooth roads are more essential than happy homes and that community economics demand greater attention than community morale. But continue to proceed in this direction for a few more months and there will be danger of a collapse of morale, that will have serious repercussions in all the departments of our community.

What are the actual problems created by inadequate housing. It must be understood that anything presented on paper and read and interpreted from paper seriously lacks the drive of experiential reality. The subjective element is usually ignored by the reader and judgment is cast on the basis of objective data. But life's greatest agonies are subjective and no

figures and graphs are going to adequately present and interpret the deep sufferings of our people in Poston. The only fair opportunity that can be given these people is to set up a hearing board before whom their representatives can express and articulate their deep experiences as well as present and interpret the facts and figures of the problem. What are the problems. Those presented here in the following pages are but few but probably representative, and added to them are some suggestions as means of alleviating our housing condition.

1. CROWDED QUARTERS

Here is an apartment occupied by three families with a total of seven adults. In order to secure some measure of privacy the apartment is divided into three sections with curtains making the divisions, and a narrow hallway so that the family occupying the inner section need not disturb the other two families. What is the consequent result. Each family has a floor space of less than 12 feet square, and in that space there are two beds in two of the sections and three in the third. The rest of the floor space is congested with trunks, bags and boxes to conserve space. The curtains completely cut off the air current from some sections of the apartments, that during the hot spell the heat was unendurable to the point that many nights were spent absolutely sleepless. No man goes out the next day with mental balance but he is charged with tension and irritation to the point of explosion at the slightest provocation. It is little wonder that men and women have been acting very abnormally since coming to Poston.

2. THE DIRE NEED OF PRIVACY

Life in Poston is a contradiction and a strange paradox. The people were brought from the crowded cities and thrown into immense desert plains with its unlimited space, and they find to their deep dismay that they cannot have any privacy. There is plenty of space but not enough for a man to have the privilege of calling a little shelter his home. He cannot have a little place where he can get away from the congested and compressed society of men and women and secure for himself a few moments of aloneness and quiet. He comes home from his day's work out in public life and finds his home just as public as any other place. Unrelieved tension continued over a period of months will have serious consequences.

3. BREAK OF MORALE

Many friendships of long standing have come to an end. Many more are being threatened to a breaking point because of the unhappy enforced living with other families. Japanese are a sensitive people and the breaking of friendships is a matter of serious concern, a matter that cannot be healed in a day or a week. Sometimes it means the complete termination of relations. There are rumours, though most must be utterly unfounded that the moral condition of the young people is declining. If this is true it can hardly be otherwise expected when housing conditions force children and young people regardless of age or sex to be thrown in together in one room. The housing of course cannot ~~bare~~ bear the full burden of responsibility but it is very evident that it is a decidedly contributing factor.

4. IMPOSSIBILITY OF HOME-LIFE

The lack of adequate room drives children into "the streets" and young people outside of their homes for their social life. Organized recreation is trying nobly to recompense this need, but nothing can adequately take the place of life in the home. It would not even be impossible to anticipate a reaction against everything organized, even organized recreation and a determination for individual freedom if we assume organization and regimentation to replace and become a substitute of the home. It is a common fact that nobody stays at home in Poston and that is an unhealthy and dangerous sign. The older people try to make front rooms of their doorsteps but the approaching fall and winter is going to deprive them even of this luxury and they must find room in the shelter of the barracks. The nights are going to be longer and there must be much consideration of leisure hours that cannot be comfortably spent in cramped quarters.

5. UNEQUAL HOUSING DISTRIBUTION

Much criticism is current in finding some blocks provided with conspicuously more space and privacy. With it there is added irritation that Camp Two and Three are proportionately much less crowded than Camp One. There are also reports that housing conditions in the Salinas Reception Center were far superior so far as adequate space is concerned, and it is wondered why a temporary center of a few month's duration would be given more consideration than a Relocation Center where men and women are expected to spend at least five or six years.

6. FAMILIES WITH COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

When two or three families live together, so compressed, and there is even one individual who is afflicted with some serious contagious disease the situation is most unhappy and serious to say the least. Especially is this true when one understands the fact that tuberculosis is feared with almost superstitious repulsion especially by the older people and in many cases even with the young.

7. SINGLE MEN'S BARRACKS

Their life is as remote from privacy and comforts of home as can possibly be conceived. It is a most discouraging and depressing sight to visit one of these barracks. Added to this, young men and older men are put together whose habits are radically different. For example, young men retire late and rise late while the older men retire early and rise early. Thus creating unavoidable difficulty, the young disturbing the old at night and the older men disturbing the young in the morning. This merely one of the many existent problems in the single men's barracks.

8. THE AGED SINGLE MEN

Some of the aged single men are too feeble to take care of themselves, are actually in need of institutional care but not critical enough for hospitalization.

9. GRADUAL LOSS OF CONFIDENCE

Three months ago the community started hearing encouraging promises of how the living quarters would be improved and along with many other promises they created a healthy co-operative and an appreciative spirit toward the administration of Poston quite in contrast from the rather negative rebellious spirit with which they came. After three months there seems to be little sign of those promises being fulfilled and the people are gradually beginning to lose faith, coming to feel that all of those promises were just empty "pep talks" to infuse spirit into the discouraged people.

## II SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

### 1. THE ABSOLUTE MINIMUM

The absolute minimum provision must be an apartment to each family. The demand is unreasonable to expect two families, regardless of congeniality, to live together for the duration.

### 2. LARGE FAMILIES

A family of seven cannot be expected to find sufficient room in one apartment. Such a family should be given the adjoining apartment, or at least part of it partitioned, with a door connecting the two. Dividing families, with some members living in other barracks with friends as is being done now must be thoroughly avoided and discouraged. The family unit should be by all means maintained.

### 3. FAIRNESS AND EQUALITY IN DISTRIBUTION

The proposed plan of constructing small apartments in each block will increase the problem, creating hard feelings, unless quarters are provided for all couples and all small families without exceptions and not just to a few or even many. One unfortunate and unhappy family will create a problem that will permeate the whole block. This is not to discourage constructing additional small apartments but an insistence on a one hundred percent alleviation of the need.

### 4. ADDITIONAL BARRACKS

It is very evident that there are not enough barracks in Camp No. 1 to comfortably house ten thousand people. There must be additional barracks built and the cost should not be a problem. If only the material is provided, the people themselves could and would build them as is being done in certain Relocation Projects of Canada. A rumour is current that the original plan called for sixty blocks in Camp No. 1 but for some unknown reason there are only thirty six.

### 5. IMPROVEMENT OF BARRACKS

The walls, floors, and ceilings should be lined for the winter season. In its present condition it can hardly weather the winter cold. Lumber should be provided to build shelves and closets to conserve the little enough space there is.

6. HEALTH PROBLEMS

The housing department should work in close cooperation with the public health department and segregate families with communicable diseases. Very frequently where sickness actually exists people are loathe to apply and request for a change of quarters for very apparent social reasons. In such cases the health department as well as the housing ought to take the initiative and insist upon their separation.

7. COMMUNITY SURVEY

Conduct a community survey through questionnaires to give the people opportunity to air their housing problems and to suggest improvements. Their tabulation will give direction to energies of alleviation.

8. SINGLE MEN'S BARRACKS

Partition single men's barracks into smaller units. Allow the young men to have quarters of their own separate from the older men and vice versa.

9. HOME FOR THE AGED

A home should be established to take care of the aged who are unable to take care of themselves but not sufficiently critical for hospital care.

10. YOUNG WOMEN'S SOCIAL HALLS

In the young women's barracks there should be a separately partitioned livingroom or social parlour where guests may be entertained.

11. INFORM THE PEOPLE

If plans of housing improvements are in progress, the people should be adequately informed to help keep up the morale and spirit lest they become tragically hardened and bitterly reconciled.

As is very evident, the report proposes no claim of scientific survey but is the observation and conviction of an unprofessional eye mingled also with his own personal experience.

Respectfully submitted,

(Rev.) Jitsuo Morikawa

September 28, 1942

HOUSING COMMITTEE REPORT

OS

The Committee appointed to investigate the housing condition of the community of Poston, Unit II, wishes to submit the following facts and conditions which exists in this community:

1. Flooring with wide cracks and knot holes.
  2. No ceiling nor inner walls.
  3. No screen on windows nor screen door.
  4. No spring bed nor mattress.
  5. Insufficient number of barracks.
  6. No privacy in apartments with two or more families or within families.
  7. Electrical wiring not heavy enough to use electrical appliances.
  8. No heating system for apartments as yet.
  9. Fire hazard very high.
- Temperature chart compiled by the U. S. Department of Commerce

Division of Weather Bureau for the region around Parker shows that the temperature ranges between a high of 127 degrees and an extreme low of 9 degrees, average maximum temperature in the summer being 110 degrees with average low temperature for winter running 30 degrees. Due to poor insulation of the barracks, women, children, invalids, and aged people will suffer from the heat during summer and from the cold during winter. Thermometer readings show that there is very little

temperature difference between inside and outside of apartment on cold mornings. Colds reported to the clinic during the uncompleted month of September more than doubled that reported the previous month which can be traced to the early morning chills that we have been getting this past month. Poor flooring and lack of insulation can hardly be expected to keep the cold out. Tonsillitis, a disease not reported in previous month became one of the common ailments during September.

Furthermore, we frequently have dust storms of varying intensity which blow fine dust particles through the cracks in the floor and also through the cracks in the walls where the tar paper covering have been ripped. Cases of eye trouble and laryngitis are due to this dust.

Not only dust but also bugs and insects enter the apartment through the wide cracks. Mosquitoes, gnats, and similar insects fly into the apartments through the screenless windows and door. That they sting with consequent itchiness, sores and pain is brought out by number of cases treated at the clinic. There are many instances where scorpions have been found within the apartment. Even rattlesnakes have been found in the apartment in a couple of cases. They could have very well come through the large knot holes in the floor.

Old age people and pregnant women sleep on army cots. In some instances they have mattresses of straw, but many do not have any mattresses. The straw mattresses are not only unsanitary but also cause hay fever and rashes on the body among those who are susceptible. Cot beds frequently break and are not replaceable.

Social Welfare and Housing departments agree that the apartments are congested. Families with 7 or 8 grown-ups live within a 20x25 feet apartments. This condition can easily lead to increase of communicable diseases and also may eventually cause friction within a family. The above applies even more-so in cases where two or more families are living in same apartment without any partitions whatsoever for privacy.

Electrical wiring of the barracks are not heavy enough to carry the load of necessary electrical appliances. Uses of such appliances as sewing machine, hot plate, refrigerator, etc., are a necessary part in rounding out a home life as normal as can be expected under the circumstances.

The temperature of Poston can be expected to go down to 9 degrees during winter according to the weather bureau reports. As yet we have no heating system of any kind.

Fire hazard among the barracks is very high according to the fire department. The tar paper covering is easily kindled and will burn vigorously. Furthermore, the wide cracks in the

floor creates a draft which will serve to whip up any flames that might be present. Lack of insulation will require much more heat and for longer periods which will increase the fire hazard considerably.

We find that the present housing condition is detrimental to health, sanitation, welfare and safety and recommend that the following improvements be made to better those conditions:

1. Better flooring--even linoleum will do.
2. Inner walls and ceiling--plasterboard preferred as it is fireproof.
3. Screen on windows and screen door.
4. Spring beds, cotton mattress, and additional blankets.
5. Additional barracks. Alternative is to stop further intakes and assign families in crowded apartments to blocks which are unoccupied.
6. Family partition and double wall between apartments.
7. Electrical wiring in barracks made heavy enough to carry load of necessary electrical appliances.
8. Heating system of some sort installed.
9. Better covering on outside walls of barracks to reduce fire hazard.

Respectfully submitted,

HOUSING COMMITTEE

signed:

H. Iwashige

Kenzo Yoshida

George Nakaji

A. Hayashi

*H. Iwashige*  
*Kenzo Yoshida*  
*George Nakaji*  
*A. Hayashi*

From Construction Dept.  
September 28, 1942

Memo: To the Council Committee on Housing

Regarding your note on the "Construction of Barracks. I wish to make the following observations and recommendations:

Basically, the barracks built in Poston are known as the T & O type of barracks, so constructed as very temporary structures and not intended to last for any great period of time. Henceforth, in the very near future, the maintenance of these buildings would be a problem to be considered seriously.

Improvements of the structure from the construction point of view would require the following:

1. Foundations
  - A. Footings on barracks should be placed on solid ground, not placed on sand as they are at present.
  - B. Footings and joists on canteens, recreation halls and kitchens, especially under stove, sinks, boilers and refrigerators, should be supplemented by additional footing and joists spread at the minimum of 5 feet instead of 10 feet at the present time.
2. Floors
  - A. Floors should be floored with 4" T & G over the present 6" rough flooring. Linoleum as now being laid would be practical for a year or two at the most but would eventually wear out due to the uneven flooring and the spaces between the present flooring.
3. Walls
  - A. Walls of the present structures can be improved by sheathing the outside with wood rustic over the present waterproof tar paper. Interior walls can be improved by using plaster board but would require extra studding spaced 2 feet on centers, i.e., an extra stud placed in between the present studs to act as a backing for the plaster board to be applied. Doors of present barracks should be sheathed similar to exterior walls.
4. Ceiling
  - A. Ceiling should be applied in the same manner as the interior walls.

5. Roofs

A. The present double roofs now in the barracks are unsatisfactory due primarily to the fact that ~~that~~ the roofing paper is not securely nailed and tarred down onto the roof. Another fault in roof construction are the supports holding up the upper roof. These supports are not strong enough to resist the wind stresses which are prevalent at certain times of the year. To remedy this, these supports should be scabbed on to the existing wall studs and not nailed on the lower roof as they are at present time.

6. Miscellaneous

A. Other factors which would improve living quarters are:

1. Screen on windows to eliminate bugs and insects.
2. Boarding up of lower part of building to eliminate wind and sand from entering building.
3. Partitioning of existing barracks into smaller units on cases where 2 or more families are living together.

In summary, <sup>factors</sup> such as wind storms, rain, heat and cold spells I believe, will be greatly taken care of if the above mentioned items are executed. Safety factors such as wiring, fire hazards due to construction and maintenance of these buildings would necessarily have to be considered seriously in whatever improvement are to be made.

Sincerely submitted,

*Robert Kitaji*

September 28, 1942

### HOUSING REPORT

In spite of certain restrictions imposed upon this department in regards to placing persons and families in their respective apartments, we have stretched those restrictions to the limit and have endeavored to satisfy the majority. It is not our duty nor shall we try to satisfy every whim, but it is our duty to see that everyone is housed as comfortably and as conveniently as possible. However, there is still a great number who are enduring hardships because of the inadequate housing facilities afforded them.

In comparison to the number of people in this camp, and to the original plans drawn for this camp, the housing accommodations that we do have are relatively insufficient. Building more apartments would naturally ease most of our problems. Having more small apartments in each block would alleviate the over-crowded congestion of families of seven and eight in one apartment. More small apartments would allow the many small families of only two and three members to live separately instead of having to join up with another small family of the same number in order to fill the minimum requirement of a large room.

If the larger rooms were to have been of different sizes, they should have been made running in comparative sizes

to accommodate families of different numbers--a large room for a family of seven; a trifle smaller room for six, and so on. The apartments now are made so that of Barracks 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, and 12, the "D" apartments are larger by approximately four feet.

Other reasons supplied by persons desiring to move from one place to another are those of age and health, relatives and friends, proximity to employment, incompatibility, and convenience.

On top of all this apartment shortage, many rooms, and not too infrequently, whole barracks are being taken for community purposes, thereby making this condition even more acute. A great majority of the recreation halls are being used for such purposes as the library, beauty and barber shops, sewing, clothing, etc., so that they cannot be used even for emergency purposes.

If nothing else can be done about it, and families must share an apartment, then lumber should be provided so that the individuals themselves can make their own partitions. Other improvements--these are not only improvements, but actual civilized living necessities--are better floors, preferably linoleum; double walls; a ceiling; steel beds, cotton mattress and more blankets; window screens, and screen doors.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITATION  
Camp #2

September 26, 1942.

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. Wade Head, Project Director  
Mr. James D. Crawford, Administrator, Unit #2

In view of the approaching winter which is statistically evidenced by the United States Division of Weather Bureau, Phoenix, Arizona, as being very cold, the existing housing accommodations in Camp #2 are inadequate to facilitate comfortable living, especially for the invalids, old aged, and for the small children - during the winter. This is also true for the summer when the heat is very extreme supplemented by aggravating dust storms.

Existing detrimental conditions are:

1. Flooring with open seams and knot holes everywhere; no ceiling, and no inner walls; no preservation of warmth is possible and also dust is easily permeated.
2. No screens on windows and doors to exclude flies and mosquitoes and other undesirable insects.
3. More barracks needed to alleviate crowded conditions.
4. Immediate improvements in latrines needed:
  - A. No means provided for the disposal of chambers. Important.
  - B. Urinals in the men's latrines are poorly improvised. (Creates profuse odors and crust are formed.
5. Accommodations in the kitchens lacking:
  - A. No double wall: easily accessed by dust and insects.
  - B. Poor flooring: cracks, evidenced of decay from moisture.

These inadequate prevailing housing conditions are detrimental toward the promotion of Health and Sanitation.

Therefore, we recommend immediate improvements as to these living conditions.

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

*W. Masahiro Yamamoto*  
Supervisor  
Camp # 2

POSTON TWO FIRE DEPARTMENT

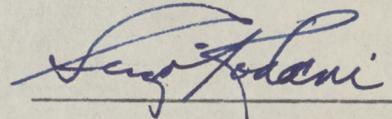
September 29, 1942

FOR BETTER LIVING CONDITIONS

Due to the terrific heat as we have here in Poston the slightest spark from the chimneys of the kitchens or from the barrack stoves, when they are installed, will set afire the tar roofing paper on these barracks. Therefore, my suggestion is that these roofs be covered with any fire proof material instead of paper.

Throughout camp there are many barracks with the paper sidings torn away. This loose paper results in a very dangerous fire hazard and it should be repaired immediately. My recommendation is that these barrack walls be covered with wood instead of paper so that it will not be so easily torn away.

With cracks in our barrack floors and barrack walls it will be necessary to keep a stove burning inside at all times during the cold season. If these barracks can have a double floor and a double wall, the rooms will be much warmer and the fire hazards will be greatly lessened.



Fire Chief

Unit #2

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. W. Wade Head, Project Director  
Mr. James D. Crawford, Administrator, Unit II

SUBJECT: Improvements in Housing Conditions

FROM: Family Welfare, Unit II

DATE: September 27, 1942

In our contact with the people, it has been called to our attention that the present housing conditions in the center are causing needless friction within the family groups. Many of the undesirable factors have been eased through the housing department, but there are still others remaining which should be given attention if we are to expect a more satisfied group of persons in our Center.

The factors contributing to family up-sets may be brought down to these conditions:

1. Individuals being housed with families wholly unknown to them prior to their entrance into that particular household after entering this center.
2. Persons within the family group who are of such an emotional make-up that prohibits their being happily or satisfactorily housed with other individuals.
3. The lack of privacy in homes where the age range of the children is great.
4. Chronic illness in the family which requires privacy not provided for in the apartments.

The greater majority of these problems cannot be alleviated just through housing alone. There are certain conditions within the individuals which needs to be adjusted. However, we feel that there are certain improvements that would aid in bettering the attitudes and outlooks of these persons who find themselves so ill adjusted to their environment.

We are submitting the following suggestions for your consideration:

1. Smaller housing units to be built to care for family groups of several sizes. These smaller units may provide a solution also in instances where the individual is of such a make-up that he feels himself in discomfort among his own people.
2. Partitioning within the apartments for privacy's sake. This is particularly essential in homes housing growing children and ill and aged folks.

Respectfully submitted,

(signed) Masa Hayashi  
Masa Hayashi

Family Welfare, Unit II

September 29, 1942

Memo to: Housing Committee  
From: Maintenance

Subject: Improvement on Electrical Wiring

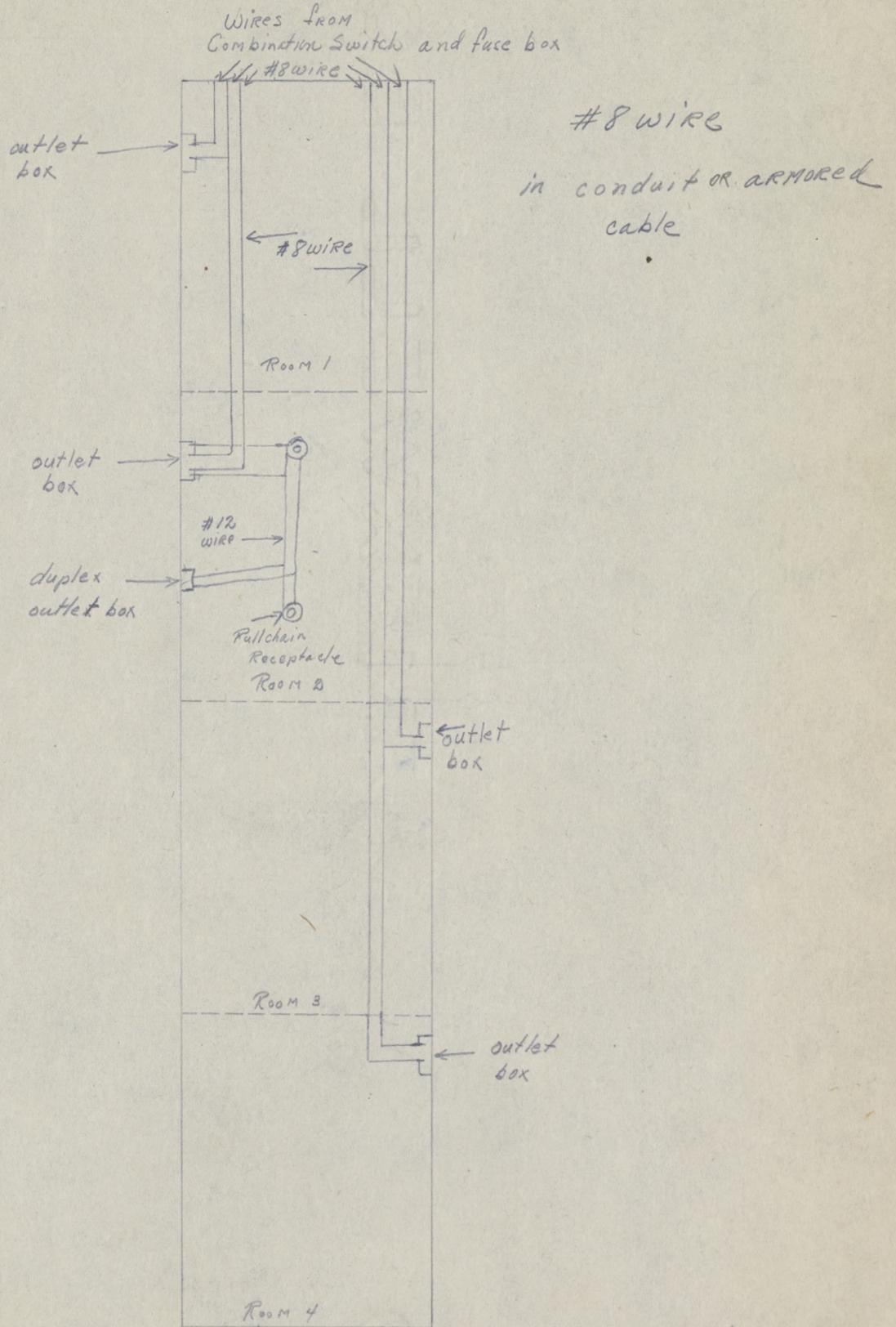
In regards to the wiring of barracks in Camp #2, we find that the wiring installed is up to the National Code for lighting facilities up to 20 amperage capacity.

In order for improvement and accommodation for all of the electrical facilities, we hereby forward the following diagram and changes necessary:

1. Transformer must be increased to at least 2 transformer per block with capacity of 220 amperage per transformer. *or 1 stepdown transformer 98 KVA type-- ratio 10 to 1.*
2. Wiring to barracks must be of 220 volt leadin.
3. Inside building wiring to combination switch and fuse box with cartridge type 60 amperage fuses, using #8 wiring in conduit or armoured cable to each apartment gang or outlet box.
4. Making all wiring for lights and duplex outlet in each apartment from gang or outlet box with #12 wire.

With the above specification of wiring, you will be able to use hot plates, irons, and other electrical equipment without any danger of damaging or burning out fuses and transformers.

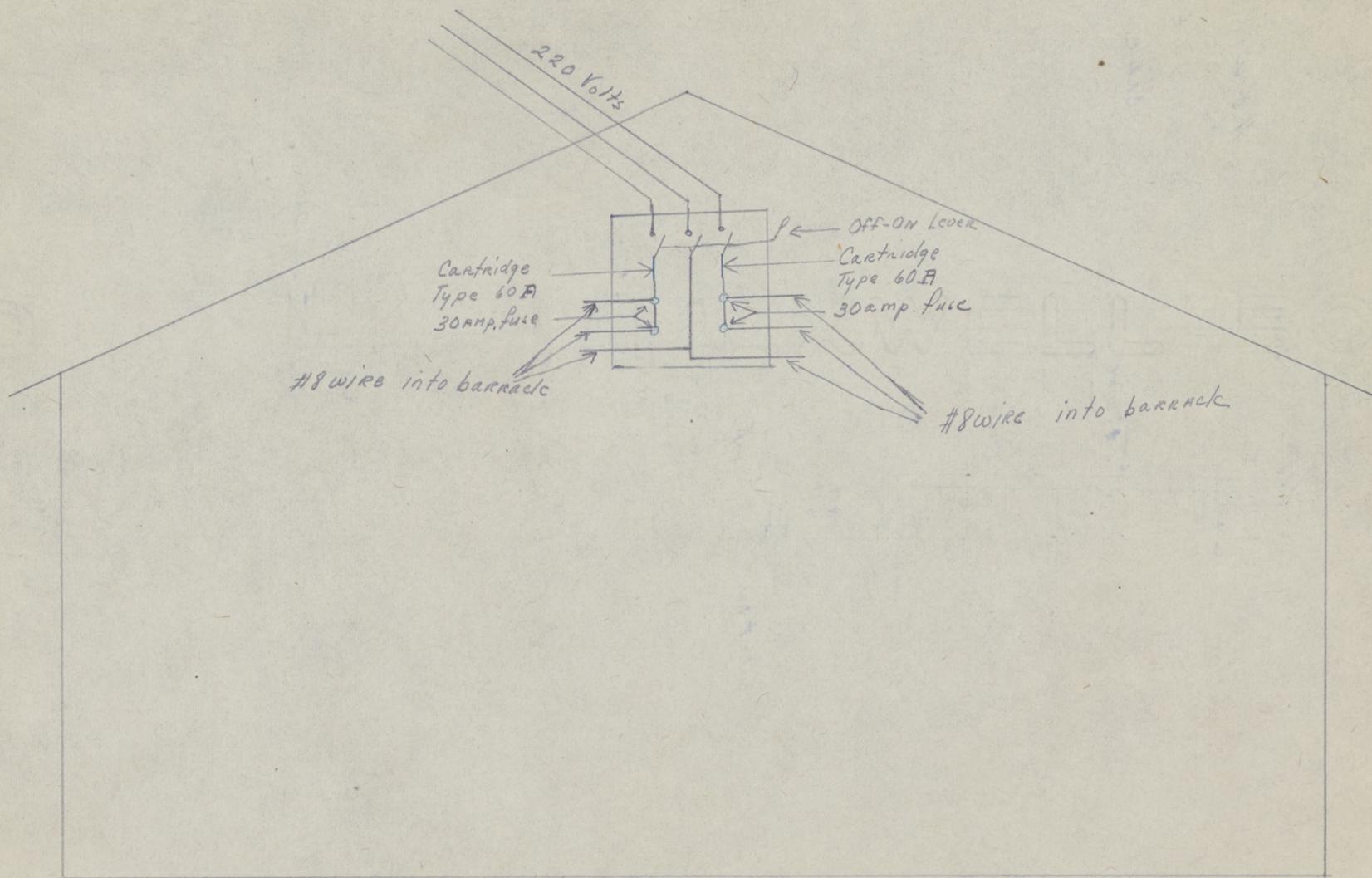
Attached herewith is a wiring diagram.



TRANSFORMER



# Combination Switch and Fuse Box



*Crawford*  
September 30, 1943  
Crawford's Office  
Housing Meeting

Crawford: Mr. Hasegawa doesn't understand English. Does Rev. Nagaki understand English? Well, Kenji or John will translate it, won't you? I have to take a trip to Parker and check up some baggages that were mixed up at 4:00 o'clock.

I called this meeting this afternoon for the purpose of discussing and talking about the housing problem in 227. I have talked to each individual here individually but never talked together. There has been a misunderstanding of misinterpretation of my statement. I thought it was possible to meet together this afternoon for a discussion and leave this room with no misunderstanding on hand.

Kenji Uyeno translates what Mr. Crawford has said.

I want to first go into the background of the housing department. When we first came into Poston we were assigned to our different apartments. After we found each room given by the intake housing department, we had to make changes because of one family being in a block with total strangers from another area, babies being born, and death occurring; housing increased and decreased, all types of problems occurred then. Housing Department took over from the original Registration Department. The housing and registration were more or less together; on one table the Registration Department worked and on the other table was for the Housing Department. Since we came through the hall, they did not have to have the Registration Department and from then on the Housing Department took over. Then relative, friends, and hospital invalids came back so there more housing adjustments to be made. All changes have to have some rules and regulations. This statement is for the background of the Housing Department.

Kenji Uyeno translates.

All of us can see the Housing Department set-up with an over-all picture of our housing problems. When it was originally set-up, our camps were built to house 10,000, 5,000, and 5,000. Most of us who have friends realize the tremendous housing problem because we tried to put 300 or more in each block. As much as three or four separate families lived in one apartment. Scores of apartments were occupied by two families. Therefore, the Housing Department had many problems. There you have the whole picture in mind. We did not know how many were coming in or who they were. Wherever necessary to do it from the center's point.

Now from that set-up, today we have the same background. The same 2700. Although the Housing Department have been instructed to and have in three camps cooperated with the residents, Block Managers, and the Councilmen, they have tried, when a new family wants to move into a certain apartment, they tried to discuss the problem with the neighbors and all the people who were involved in the problem to see that everybody would be as happy as possible. We have a different problem facing us, day after tomorrow, well, up to the 5th of October, we are going to lose 250 families, at least 700 people. And those 700 people at present occupy various sets of apartments, and we have adjustments to make; housing problems where they have housing problem that come out. The problems we face today is how we are going to help 2700 people after segregation how we are going to house them up to the time population will change with people going out and coming in.

Kenji Uyeno translates.

OCT 1 8 A.M.

Crawford: To Mr. Hasegawa and to Mr. Nagai, I want to say that Miss Kayashima and Mr. Hashimoto represent the Housing Department, and they have been in that department for a considerable time. Miss Kayashima has been in the department since Ky Abe was there. Mr. Hashimoto has been in there for the past 8 or 9 months. They have made mistakes, but all of us do make mistakes. On the other hand, for these same gentlemen, I would like to say that Mr. Ito has been our finest Block Manager and as far as the administration goes, he has performed his duties in a very satisfactory way. I want all of us to realize and try to get away from personal feelings in our discussion.

Kenji Uyeno translates.

Now, theoretically, the housing department or changes in housing are handled in this way: (1) In all the units in Poston, if an individual wants to move or wants additional room or housing, normally he goes to the Block Manager and talk the problem over with him; and the Block Manager takes it up with the Housing Department. The individual, therefore, has been to the Housing Department and the block manager handles the problem. (2) In the case that the Block Manager is new and doesn't know how to handle the problem, he sends the individual to the Housing Department. The Block Manager in conjunction with the individual will get the problem settled. Visa versa when the Housing Department has to place an individual into another block the problem must be discussed with 2 individuals, 2 block managers, and the Housing Department. There are 5 people instead of 3 people involved, nevertheless, it is theoretically the same principle. Then the third type of case is where an individual come from another center or marry, transferred from the hospital or from another camp, Mr. Head calls up and says that such and such a family is coming, make housing available for them; it is a family of 5 coming in and need a large apartment. They look that up and the Housing Department assign the individual after it is discussed with the individual concerned and make room. These 3 types of housing assignments, as far as I know or theoretically take care of normal cases. Normally an individual coming in from the outside, the family or friends go to the housing department and say, "I have my family coming in so may I have a certain room put aside for them." and the assignment is made. Those 3 types are theoretically the 3 ways that is followed here in the center.

Kenji Uyeno translates.

Now, this problem we have today is only one of several that are pending at the Housing Department and most of them are hinged on decision today or hinged on a policy, a new policy as it is established. Getting into our problem today Mr. Nagai, Mr. Ito and Mr. Hashimoto have been in to talk with me about this. It has occurred through the statement I have made with may have been blight or may have been wrong. I am not interested in whether they were right or wrong, whether my statement was misinterpreted as they were taken back to the blocks and repeated to the other people. Those things are past and we do not want to go into the little things.

We have a problem which is to me is very simple. I think it can be very easily solved, I hope. Everyone called here represent block manager supervisor, family, council, and everyone concerned so that when we did leave the room, there will be no difficulty. The way I understand the problem is this: After next week, we have 2700 people left in camp; we have enough room for 5000 people and the problem is whether to house these 2700 people as

comfortably as possible or not. I have discussed this problem with Mr. Gelvin, Mr. Head and Mr. Nelson, and they fully believe that we should not believe too strongly the rumors that more people are coming into Poston after Christmas, but we should be prepared for the intake after Christmas and the concensus of our residents to make are people as happy as possible and in future adjustment, if we do have an intake. (It maybe like the rumor as the one about Poston going to Arkansas which came up about a year now.)

Last Friday at the Block Manager's meeting some housing problems were brought up. At that time the Block Managers requested that housing be so adjusted that small apartments will be kept open for married couples or young couples with a baby. Some of the Block Managers were not represented and no representatives from the Housing Department, we suggested that they invite the Housing Department to attend this meeting.

Mr. Kubota, Block Manager Supervisor, I believe Mr. Ito was present, Mr. Hashimoto, and myself had a meeting but decided that it was difficult about our housing problem. We should have all the Block Manager and talk it over at the Block Managers' meeting. If the housing department gave a room to a certain party in one block, for example if they gave a small family a large room in 227 or 213, block 214 might come in and say, "Why can't we do that for our residents." At that meeting some of the Block Managers were absent because of the funeral and the Housing Department was absent. At the meeting the recommendation was made that we do everything possible to make our residents happy in regard to housing and taking the rumors and regulations in. We have to have all the Block Managers and Housing Department and discuss the problem at tomorrow's Block Managers' meeting.

Kenji Uyeno translates.

Now, our policy has always been that when we give a room to any department there be a signed statement by all parties concerned that the particular room is to be used by the individual or the department only so long as it is not needed for housing. I don't know, we must have about 100 apartments used for purposes other than housing. These rooms as been built for housing purposes and not for other purpose. If the housing department need the apartment for housing, it should be used for housing. In giving extra rooms or individuals moving into larger apartments, it should be carefully explained to the individuals involved that we might have to go back to the old housing regulations. We have to have a minimum of 5 and maximum of 8 in a large apartment, and 2 or 3 in the small apartments with a family of 4 in the end apartment of the small apartments. I think in the discussion, we felt that the welfare of the people were at stake and we will make room for recreational activities as we could in the block or quad. When the people take the apartments they must have the full understanding that the privelege of using the apartment is restricted in the major intake when the time came, they must vacate the room. That might be the basis of opinion that will be the measuring stick in all the housing problem. If by the cooperation of the housing department and the cooperation of the people, I believe that we do it that way in every case concerned. In the case of 215 and 214 and the case brought up in 209. All cases are very sincere and it stakes the welfare of the people. The individual should sign a statement that they are going to vacate upon accommodation for the family. Housing is available in 2 weeks, that is find and dandy, and they must sacrifice when the time comes. If we use that policy in entire Poston, we will have the people happy and if we do have an intake, we will sacrifice. At the same time I would like to state that in moving to additional apartment

they must have the construction regulations, fire regulations and a signed statement saying that they will vacate the room when the time comes. These regulations must be added and adhered to by those who move. There should be no objection to the move made after. Also I would like to say that the Fire Department, through their supervisor, Mr. Peterson and Mr. Fien, must make inspection inside and outside before any movement can be made. If an individual makes an application for movement, there must be a written statement that the house had been cleared by the Fire Department and, therefore, occupied by the people. At least couple 100 apartments will be open after next week. We will have the Fire Department take down the shades and other fire hazards before the changes are made and that apartment will be open and set up for the welfare of our unit. After discussing with the housing department, the Block Manager Supervisor in Camp I and Assistant Project Director that changes after this should be made to have our people housed properly. I have been asked to go to the other extreme and fight a case in 214 where there are 3 mothers living in 3 apartments where some residents are crowded in one small room and some block managers requested them to be consolidated.

I know this problem has arose from a minor problem. Mr. Ito made mistakes, Mr. Hashimoto made mistakes, and everyone of us made mistakes and I think this matter is going to place two measures; my statement and our willingness on it and leave the meeting and never to think about it again. All of us were wrong somewhere along the line. I being in the quartet of the misunderstanding or misinterpretation, I am willing to put it aside and if we analyze our action, we realize we have all made mistakes, and the simplest way is to straighten this matter here and after the meeting forget about what went before the meeting.

Kenji Uyeno translates.

I have gone over the problem with Mr. Kubota and I like to ask if you have any comments to make as you understand the problem and what your recommendation is.

J. Kubota: I don't like to say too much. In other words too deep because I don't know what's about in the future. All I know were through my experience. I haven't any trouble in my block, and what you think about what you just explained to us in the case like 214, the three mothers living in three rooms -- what you think about it?

Crawford: I thought all that problem may be some of the mothers have to be partitioned. The older people seem to be much more attached to the homes. They have lived at this particular apartment for the past 15 months. They have porches, cupboards, shelves, or something that means home, and it is pretty easy to turn young persons than older persons.

In one block a young married couple had moved into a large apartment even though there were small apartments there; like the case brought up in 209. I like to see the families with a lot of children in couple of apartments since it is not good to have teen-age boys and girls to sleep in the same room even though they are brothers and sisters. The people who use the latrines quite often to have apartments near them. I like to see our individuals just as happy as I can. But by making them happy in this way they might be faced with an intake; and moving couples into large apartments, it might mean that they may have to go back to small apartments. If they will understand this, I am

willing. There will be 2700 people, and 2 or 3 apartments will be open in each block. We have housing for 5000, it is logical to make changes for the people who want to move. There will be apartments open with the exception of 227 for housing. How many apartments open in 227?

S. Kayashima: Let's see one. A man will be left, after he leaves as he is planning to leave, but no definite plan.

Crawford: I understand there will be one or two apartments open.

S. Kayashima: Yes.

Crawford: I believe 214 is the tightest and 213 the easiest. You have to reshuffle. Well, I would like to recommend that we leave one or 2 small apartments for the newly married couples. I know that the principle of this little misunderstanding came about through the Block Managers' meeting through my own fault in bring the problem up then without them knowing the background and the Housing Department not being there. Mr. Ito conscientiously carried back to the block the recommendation we had made at the meeting. Mr. Ito has been carrying out the Block Manager Supervisor's instructions. Mr. Ito had very sincerely tried to make adjustments without difficulty and is restricted to this. From the authority I would give (interruption) I think our statement I have made was misunderstood by some. I will assume all the blame and not blame anyone else here on it. If your recommendation is given to me with the understanding of full cooperation and any differences before the meeting be dispensed with after the meeting, I will take in consideration.

Kenji Uyeno translates.

Since forgetting all the mistakes all of us had made, Mr. Nagai, I made mistakes and Mr. Ito carried it on to the Housing Department. I don't know whether I made mistake or not or there is some mental mistake. Mr. Nagai, you have taken away one partition and this partition had not been broken?

Nagai: Yes.

Crawford: You have the understanding that you have 2 small apartments. It isn't possible to give you two stoves. It might be possible to put one big heater in. The Fire Department will authorize Housing to put the heaters in when there is enough of them. If you use 2 apartments you will be entitled to 2 kerosene stoves. You understand that as I told you that if housing shortage does come in, you will be the first to vacate it.

Nagai: Yes.

Crawford: In thinking it over and talking it over, Mr. Ito. I have made a mistake of discussing at the Block Managers' meeting with all the block managers about these matters. The welfare of the people is at stake than any other outside activities. Don't you think the people should come first? Move the girl school or library if we need the room, instead, I feel not to hurt the welfare of the people. For our first problem, my mistake in stating the restriction at the first Block Managers' meeting without going into discussion. Our people is at stake, isn't that right?

Ito: That's right.

Crawford: Mr. Hasegawa, you are the council member of the block. The welfare of the people in your block is much your responsibility as Mr. Ito. Don't you feel that welfare of the people comes before? Close rooms as necessary and long a time as necessary until we have a big intake. How do you feel about it?

Hasegawa: Does he mean instead of setting aside room for other activities?

Kenji Uyeno translates.

Crawford: If the residents need it for the housing purpose use it for that purpose.

Hasegawa: I being 227 councilman since Mr. Yagi had taken ill believe that if the club is very essential and need the room, the room should be given to them, but if the club is not necessary and the other is needed for housing, it should be given to the individual. It is my personal opinion. I want the trouble in our block lessen and I think we came to a decision at last night's meeting.

Kenji Uyeno Translates.

Crawford: I like to ask Mr. Nagai that we all make mistakes, and make misstatements, and we have all come here with the sincerity in our hearts and the welfare of the people is at stake; and if Mr. Nagai is willing to go out of the meeting without any malice in his heart and of cooperation in his heart.

Kenji Uyeno translates.

Rev. Nagai: Yesterday the trouble began when Mr. Ito definitely stated that Frank went to Mr. Crawford and asked him to let Mr. Ito give up his position as Block Manager. I want 2 or 3 points clarified of the mistake. Frank presented to you some question in regard to the reelection of a Block Manager and the method of having the block manager out of office. Mr. Ito had said that Frank went to Mr. Crawford saying that he wanted Mr. Ito out of office. Unless these matters are clarified, I cannot face the residents of the block

Kenji Uyeno translates. More or less a rumor to the residents that Frank Nagai did not get the approval of the Block Manager to get the room.

F. Nagai: I went to the Housing Department and got the o.k. from the Housing Department with Mr. Ito knowing, isn't that right Mr. Ito?

Ito: Yes, that's right.

Rev. Nagai: At last night's meeting Mr. Ito said that Frank was wrong and what should they do with him. We were expecting Mr. Crawford and Mr. Hashimoto to attend this meeting, but they did not come.

Hasegawa: I may have said too much last night but there was a misunderstanding. Mr. Nagai said that he will give the room that he has taken back to you.

Rev. Nagai: Frank is a sinner.

Kenji Uyeno translates Rev. Nagai.

Crawford: Frank did come to the office to ask about the legal procedure of electing a new block manager. He mentioned no block or names. The election or selection

of a block manager is taken care by the council member of the block. The council member should be approached and I referred him to Mr. Hasegawa, and told him that Mr. Hasegawa had the rules and regulations for the block manager's election. I also referred him to Mr. Kubota, Block Manager Supervisor, and told him to ask him the problems regarding the block managers before he took it up with anyone else. In the course of the conversation Mr. Ito's name was brought into the conversation.

F. Nagai: That was the time when we were talking about my father.

Crawford: Mr. Hashimoto was on the other end of the phone and Mr. Ito happen to be in his office. Mr. Nagai was in my office. I made some strong statement to Mr. Hashimoto and hung up; and Mr. Nagai said that he thought I was going to talk to Mr. Hashimoto about his case in 227.

F. Nagai: I asked about at the same time the reason for the resignation of the block managers.

Crawford: I immediately asked about Mr. Ito. Why didn't you get someone else that was not in office at that time when all the block managers resigned. I asked you why you elected Mr. Ito as block manager. Why didn't you have another candidate, and you said that the meeting came up so fast that the old people didn't understand. I talked to you pretty hard about it. You should attend the meeting and put up another candidate. He said to me, "I understand all the block managers resigned and I also understand that some block elected or selected a block manager." You didn't know about the block manager resigning. I sent a notice to the councilman. The council should handle the election or selection here. Mr. Kubota and the executive committee had met at that time. Councilman handle this election of new manager and submit the names. Your block wanted Mr. Ito as block manager and I sent Mr. Hasegawa a notice. That was my explanation to Mr. Nagai.

Nagai: I asked at the same time if I had the right to come to your office.

Crawford: Kenji, I told him that all women, child, and men has a right to come to my office whether they have position or not and talk to me, and my office is open at any time and all times. Mr. Nagai did ask that question and I said "yes".

Kenji Uyeno translates.

Rev. Nagai: Do you understand?

Ito: I understand.

Rev. Nagai: Why did you say such a thing?

Ito: Why did he mention my name?

F. Nagai: Mr. Ito understood that I did not mention his name to Mr. Crawford.

Rev. Nagai: Did you say about Mr. Ito?

F. Nagai: No.

Hasegawa: He asked how a new block manager could be elected.

- Hashimoto: He has the right to ask such a question.
- F. Nagai: Mr. Ito said at the meeting last night that I had mentioned his name when I went to Mr. Crawford to ask how we could get another block manager.
- Hashimoto: I want to give enough room to everyone. I can't give to another block if 227 doesn't house people so.
- Nagai: You have the authority to settle this. If I go into the Housing Department you told me if I had the approval of the Housing department and the block manager, I could have the room.
- S. Kayashima: Mr. Ito said that Mr. Crawford had the full authority.
- Crawford: No. I think the individual should go to the block manager and the Housing Department and get their approval, and get the form.
- S. Kayashima: If he refuse the form.
- Ito: I didn't refuse.
- Crawford: I understand that Mr. Ito didn't have the form. He came to the office. Though, Mr. Nagai, theoretically, you live in the block so you should go to Mr. Ito and take your problem to him saying that 'we have lots of apartment and I like to go into one of them.' And Mr. Ito will say 'I will look into the problem and help the people.' He will take it to the Housing Department and the Housing Department may say that 'we can't do that'. I never in my life issued a pink slip. As long as housing department has the rules and regulations they represent housing as the other administration represent the residents. Mr. Nagai, you said that you had waited three days for this room.
- Nagai: No, that was since the person moved, and he is going to move out.
- Crawford: I understood that you had waited three days.
- Nagai: No that was not what I said.
- Crawford: That was my misunderstanding of repeating that you had waited three days.
- Nagai: I waited one day.
- Hashimoto: The residents could come into the Housing Department and if they wish to go through the block manager they could go to the block manager.
- Crawford: Resident could go to the housing department and housing department go to the block manager. The individual discuss from their own problem; the block manager discuss from the block problem, and the housing department discuss from the project.
- Hashimoto: Technically, there is no mistake on this problem.
- Crawford: Only thing we didn't have any approval and signature of Mr. Nagai. If we had the signature, there will be no mistake. I thought he had waited three days after that woman moved out.

When we first came in, this camp was built to house 5000 people so the Housing

Department put 2 or 3 family in one apartment; so the families came to the Housing Department with many housing department with many housing problems. After the block manager was set up, they felt it was better to go to the block manager; so technically both way is right, but the preferred way is to present the problem to the block manager. Block Manager will take the problem in the light of the block and the Housing Department take the housing in the light of Poston.

Nagai: What is Mr. Ito's objection of taking that room?

Crawford: I had made an announcement at the block managers' meeting that we have rumors of having so many people coming in. We said that a family of 4 or 5 located in a big apartment or a family of 8, 5, or 10 in an end apartment with the extra beam. In the small apartments put 2, 3, or 4 persons. For instance, the Ohara family in 227 is occupying a small apartment, a family of 4 grown persons. If they should want to move into a larger apartment, they will call the housing and discuss the problem.

Nagai: Is that the only reason or is there any other reason?

Ito: That is only reason. You said that you were going to notify the housing and they won't misunderstand.

Crawford: Mr. Ito mentioned one other thing. Since that time he had the application from the ladies to use it for flower arrangement. Mr. Ito had mentioned no personal reasons. He mentioned that you had been educated in Japan, therefore, I called you a kibe.

Nagai: There was no personal feeling? I was talking to Mr. Hasegawa's wife--there is one big room, and I was talking to her about the ladies using the room right next to mine for flower arrangement, and she said that was too small for it.

Crawford: Mr. Ito had said that the ladies had come to him saying that it was too small.

Nagai: Small room for flower arrangement. This could be settled if there is no personal feelings.

Crawford: It has been said by Mr. Ito that you were educated in Japan, and so I thought you were a kibe.

Hasegawa: We thought if it was for the good of the block we thought we would use it for the flower arrangement.

Nagai: Why couldn't they use the other room for the flower arrangement?

Ito: At the discussion last night there was a discussion why these people could not use the large room for the flower arrangement and some of the women thought it was too big.

Rev. Nagai: Mr. Crawford came to talk at the Block Managers' meeting. When did you go to Mr. Hashimoto?

Ito: Saturday morning. Friday meeting Mr. Kubota was there and Mr. Crawford and I talked over it. We came to the decision that that room cannot be used.

Nagai: Mr. Crawford, you said that at the meeting Friday night, you had made a mistake.

Crawford: Yes.

Rev. Nagai: You didn't say that reason did you?

Nagai : Mr. Crawford made mistake so it is not Mr. Ito's fault.

Rev. Nagai: At last night's meeting Mr. Ito should have said that. You said that Frank was a bad man and what should be done with him.

Nagai: I talked to you little while ago you said that Mr. Ito said that I was an agitator.

Crawford: No. Ben and I always josh around so I never know when he is serious and I had said to him you were a kibe, and if you heard that from Mr. Hashimoto just forget about it because I was kidding him. I was ribbing Ben that since he goes to the warehouse often and because you work there that you and Ben were good friends.

Nagai: Mr. Ito had said at last night's meeting that I never attend meetings and never help block. He said lot of other things and that I was agitating. Mr. Ito, is it all right for me to have the room?

Ito: One shouldn't have such a fine room.

S. Kayashima: What? Why can't the people of the block come into Mr. Hashimoto and say their reason?

Ito: That's too comfortable for you.

Hashimoto: Haven't you got two rooms?

Ito: Yes, I have 8 in the family. Another thing Mr. Crawford mentioned, I wanted it set aside for married people.

Nagai: As a block manager how is he going to settle it?

Crawford: My talk with Mr. Ito-----for example, 214 block manager had said at the block managers' meeting, "What am I going to do if I should suddenly get married and no small apartments. The concensus of the block managers was that it would be a good idea to reserve 1 or 2 small apartments for married couples. We will hold the people to couple or 3 in small apartments and 4 in large apartments. Some of the block managers were not present. Mr. Kubota and I got together and we decided to put aside the instructions until we have a meeting together with the Block Managers and the Housing Department. Mr. Ito, Mr. Kubota and I realized that the statement I made was true at that time, but we had not discussed it. Why should we set it without discussing it with the Housing Department. We should wait until such time came. Discussion with Mr. Kubota, Mr. Hashimoto, and I, we couldn't hold that as a rule and we decided that the welfare of the people was more important. I talked with the Camp I administration and explained the welfare of 227 and go ahead that way. If we have accommodation to made, we will have other adjustment to make. We still have 2 big apartments.

Nagai: Since we cause so much problem will you ask Mr. Ito how he is going to settle this?

- Crawford: 209 has a problem coming up. Mr. Motoki and his wife are living in a small apartment, but both of them are asking for a larger apartment as their health are not too good and they want more room.
- Hashimoto: He has 4 on his hand.
- Crawford: Mr. Ito had sincerely and carefully carried it out. None of the other cases came up. Don't you think, Mr. Ito, that if the block residents do have some objections, if it is some jealousy -- if you have a reason you might be able to work out with them and not have too much problem with them. For flower arrangement, some want a small room and some a large room.
- Hashimoto: Let us leave the flower arrangement room out.
- Ito: There is another reason to it. Frank doesn't come to the meeting or volunteer work like other people.
- Nagai: I made the adobe house and brought a truck load of gravel. Block Manager shouldn't say such a thing at a meeting.
- Crawford: Mr. Ito, what time is it when Frank hasn't helped out.
- Ito: Last one was going out and cut woods for kitchen use and I have heard from the people who went that so and so wasn't there, etc.
- S. Kayashima: Volunteering doesn't involve housing.
- Nagai: What is his reason for objecting of not giving me that room.
- Crawford: Frank has volunteered and there <sup>are</sup> times when he hasn't, that is only the difference.
- Nagai: At the meeting Mr. Hasegawa asked me if I will give up the room. Legally I got the room. I said definitely if you are giving it to the block or not. So I said I will go back to them. It really is a little matter. There is a little jealousy. If you ask Mr. Ito how he feels and why he objects.
- Hasegawa: Ito said that he will give room.
- Hashimoto: About stoves, there will be a lot of it left over so why can't you give it to him?
- Ito: You said that Mr. Crawford had to b.k.
- Hashimoto: No.
- S. Kayashima: Why should we.
- Rev. Nagai: You gave Yamagata privilege to get partition.
- Hashimoto: You didn't sign that did you? We look at the camp as a whole and Mr. Ito look at it only as a block. If we can't give them room to Nagai right now, we can't give it to the other blocks either. Can't tell when the people are coming in so might as well give the people as much room as possible. If Mr. Ito give the room to Mr. Nagai, it will benefit the people.

- Kubota: It is getting late and you people both live together in the same block so we can't tell you what to do and what not to. Mr. Ito you are a block Manager so please settle it. Compromise and settle it.
- Crawford: Kenji, ask in Japanese if they don't feel we have all made mistakes on it and give in a little by it and settle it? I was wrong and my statement was wrong, I admit it. So Mr. Ito had followed my statement so he isn't wrong. We will take care of housing first. If that can't be settled then let us have another meeting.
- K. Uyeno: At first when I entered this room I thought it was a housing problem but it seems to be a personal problem. More or less a statement that they had made at the meeting.
- Nagai: Could I stay at the room?
- Hasegawa: Yes, You could stay at the room?
- Ito: That's all right and if he will get the regulation from the construction and fire department, and a statement signed that he will give up the room when necessary.
- Nagai: If I give it back and apply for the apartment, is it all right?
- Ito: Yes, that's all right.
- K. Uyeno: He is going to give up the room and apply for it by going through the proper channel. He wants Mr. Hasegawa to accept this.
- Crawford: Is all the questions answered that Mr. Nagai wants?
- Rev. Nagai: Mr. Crawford's statement was a mistake. We will let the block people know about it; that is our responsibility.
- Kenji Uyeno translates.
- Crawford: Who should I tell it?
- Rev. Nagai: To the whole residents.
- Crawford: I will send a notice. Frank, will you return the pink slip and go through the proper procedure, getting the fire and construction regulations, and also the signed statement that you will give up the room when the time comes?
- Hashimoto: Frank, put the wail back and you won't need a fire department's inspection.
- Nagai: Is that all right, what I said? I think it is settled.
- Ito: I think the block attitude was that he shouldn't have the room.
- Crawford: To Mr. Hasegawa and Mr. Nagai, the meeting last night was based on my original statement probably that was why all the anger was thrown back and forth.

I think we should go back to our residents and merely tell them that it was misinterpreted. If we can do that, we can return to our block with malice towards none and good feeling towards all. How do you feel about it? Mr. Hasegawa.

Nagai: If I return the pink slip to the Housing, and if I ask Mr. Ito and apply for the room, I could have it?

Ito: Can't tell.

Crawford: We will have a pre-block managers' meeting and discuss what has been discussed here without the personal feeling.

S. Kayashima: What Frank wants is a guarantee that if he goes through the proper channel, he will get the room, but Mr. Ito would not guarantee the room wanted.

Crawford: If the result of our meeting goes back to the residents there might be a petition that Mr. Nagai cannot have the room. Petition have come from 209 and 207 in regard to the housing problem. Even if everything is all right, still there might be a letter from Mr. Head stating no housing could be issued. In that case he'll keep the pink slip. But I think Mr. Ito is sincere in his statement and he will take up in the proper channel. Something might happen, bearing anything in that sort, he will get the room. You must get the approval of the Construction and the Fire Departments.

Hashimoto: Put back the wall and get application and he will present it to block Managers' meeting. I will pick it up from the meeting.

Crawford: If discussion is all right at the block managers' meeting, you will go through proper channel and get the apartment. Actually I rather have you go through proper channel and in your case I can't say it will hurt the adjustment. Put the partition back and go through the proper channel.

Nagai: What would I do with the things I have in it.

Crawford: Since the people in the block doesn't know that your things are in there, it won't hurt to leave it there. Don't you think you could take those things out in case of emergency? Is it necessary to report to the block people about this? All the residents do not know about the things being there, do they?

Ito: I don't know.

Crawford: You yourself and Mr. Hasegawa feel just in housing the 2700 people? If there is any personal feeling between Mr. Nagai and you, you should settle it between yourselves. Get hold of Mr. Peterson in the morning and show him just what he wants you to do; so that it will be all settled. All apologies are our own, and the block residents do not have any report on it, as far as I am concerned. My statement was wrong, and I do want to say that Mr. Ito carried out instruction, and this problem came up at the meeting you had last night. Does everyone feel that you can leave the room without any ill feeling?

I will address the notice to the resident. I will be glad to send it to the block resident, to the councilman, and to the block manager.

Nagai: Will you please translate that notice?

Crawford: Yes. John will you write a letter for me in Japanese? Can You leave the room without any malice?

Rev. Nagai: I am satisfied if the statement is made to the residents.

Hasegawa: I have no objection on this problem. I only wanted to settle this.

Crawford: Mr. Ito you have no malice after the meeting? Could you leave the meeting with no ill feeling? Ben? Skeets? Frank? Kenji? John?

All: Yes.

K. Uyeno: I never did have any ill feeling from the beginning. Just listening in.

nr

December 6, 1942

HOUSING CRISIS REPORT--(Case 1)

In a certain block, there are 6 families who have lined themselves up--3 families (Called A group for convenience) and 3 others (called B group). The peculiar angle of this case is that the housing arrangement of these families happens to be such that each separate A family resides with a family of the B group.

The following shows the set-up in the apartments:

	(A)	(B)
Apt. 4-C	Moto	Tanaka
6-D	Soto	Yamada
7-B	Goto	Hamada

This is the usual way the quarrels begin. The Gotos and Yamadas exchange harsh words. Tanakas and Hamadas assail Gotos, then Motos and Sotos rush to the rescue of Gotos. Then the battle-royal begins. All kinds of gossip, subtle and open tactics are used to smear the other side. This goes on for days at a time.

This sort of thing has existed in this block for the last three months. This situation was brought to the attention of the Housing Department and the administration several times by the Block Manager. The representatives of each of the sides have been in to repeat their complaints and grievances to our department. Whenever this department suggests something after listening to their stories, the verbal controversy subsides. This particular situation has been referred to Mr. Evans, Miss Findley, and even taken to Father Clements by the parties involved, Housing Department, or the Block Managers. At one time, it was taken to the office of the Block Managers' Supervisors for settlement.

It is repeated again that the heated arguments would subside or calm down whenever a solution is suggested. For example, as there have been no vacancies available in Unit I for some time now, this department suggested the moving of one party to Unit II. This idea at first seemed acceptable, but no action ever followed.

As in the present housing set-up, members of the opposite faction are living with each other, suggestion was made that each family exchange places and live with the families with whom they could live agreeably. This plan was thrown out by both groups as unacceptable for various reasons. This means, that in reality, each group cannot get along among themselves.

The same situation has come to a big climax periodically. The Block Manager has been awakened in the middle of the night and begged to listen to one side or the other.

Perhaps these families enjoy a round or so of this sort of thing now and then, but as far as the welfare of the block is concerned, immediate and permanent settlement of such disgraceful situations should be made. If this is permitted to go on, it will seriously hinder the all-out effort towards building a better place in which to live.

Conclusion--

This department feels that the above case presents to some degree, the forever present tension in apartments which are occupied by two or more families.

All names and certain places involved are fictitious.

HOUSING DEPARTMENT

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December 8, 1942

Recently a memo regarding the transfer of Mr. A. from one block to another was received by this department. In this note Mr. A. states that Housing was contacted for this permission to move, and that he was told that it would be granted if the manager of the particular block agreed to his occupancy. Previously, he had approached the manager with the statement that Housing was desirous of equalizing the block population with an average of 280; he was given the manager's consent.

Mr. A. goes on to state that when he returned to Housing, he was refused permission to move on the ground that the apartment was already promised to Enterprise and further that Housing had a plan which they wish to bring up for approval before the Council and Block Managers. He was told that he would not receive further consideration for moving even if Community Enterprise relinquished their claim to that apartment.

Mr. A. expresses resentment of apparent brush-off given him by Housing. He has gone further and obtained a written statement from the Enterprise, relinquishing its claim to the room. He gives several reasons for his request to move, namely: overcrowdedness and proximity to work. He feels justified in his request, as he believes it to be in conformity with the Administrative and Housing Plan.

#### HOUSING VIEWPOINT

Housing memorandum was sent to Miss Findley presenting its stand upon Mr. A.'s request.

This department feels that Mr. A. had misunderstood the statement regarding his move into another block. This assertion is made on the grounds that Housing could not have agreed to his move into any block, even with the block manager's approval, as this department is fully aware that there are no vacancies which are not already reserved. However, as each manager is making his own block readjustment plan, Mr. A. was asked to contact the block manager and make reservations along with his approval for his residence there.

As the Community Enterprise was assigned that room by Housing, it was felt that any notice of intention to relinquish the apartment should have been received by this office directly.

Housing has received hundreds of applications to move, and so in fairness to all applicants, as no partitions

are available, this room will be considered a honeymoon apartment until a better arrangement can be made.

Even though there are three families living together, they are all related, whereas there are many instances in which there are unrelated families living together with greater difficulties.

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A letter was sent to Mr. A. in reply to his memo, stating the situation as confronted by Housing and the inability of this office to grant each request because of lack of vacancies.

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The latest report verifies that the above Mr. A., regardless of the rejection of his application by the Housing Dep't, and because of existing condition and circumstances, has moved into the above mentioned apartment without official permit. In all instances this party has gone over and above the authority of the Housing Dep't and feels himself to be justified in his action.

Housing Dep't can appreciate this party's position, yet, this office must be concerned with the camp situation at large.

As yet, the above party has not been approached regarding this una-authorized move into the apartment. This department being aware of the suppressed feelings of the above party and also knowing the facts of the housing situation from its initial stage, is conscious of its inability to make a definite stand.

In this exemplar case is foreshadowed the imminent danger which this community is facing. As this department is in a position, more so than any other division to know the existing acuteness of the housing problem, it re-emphasizes the imperativeness of immediate attention to the plight with which the community is confronted.

CASE NO. #3 (Fictitious names and places used)

With the report that the occupants of 11-11-C may move out, this department has received two applications for this room. Both sides will be presented--that of Mr. A. and Mr. B., both residents of Block 1.

\*\*\*Mr. A. and his wife are living with his parents in 1-11-D, but because of in-law trouble, they had decided to move to another block as block 1 had no vacancies and was also overcrowded. They had made an application to move to Block 7 barrack 7. The approval of everyone concerned was obtained and everything was arranged for their moving in, except for the pink slip, the final paper which is made out by our department. The A.'s decided to wait until a later date for this--until the partitions were available as 7-13 is unpartitioned. When they heard that 1-11-C may be vacated, they immediately cancelled their application to move to block 7 and applied for 1-11-C. (Family friction here)

\*\*\*Mr. B., his wife, and small child are living with her parents and family of four--thus housing 7 in one room. Mr. B. has been block manager for the past 6 months. Whenever other families had complained for overcrowdedness, he had felt that their situation should be relieved first and when any vacancies occurred, he states he always fulfilled or tried to meet their requests instead of thinking of his own troubles.

Another reason for his request for this room is that, since the Federal Reserve Bank has sent 25 pieces of furniture without any forewarning, he claims that there is absolutely no space to move around.

Mr. B. has received word from his interned brother, that he may be released soon and Mr. B. is hoping to have him live together with his family.

Attached is a statement signed by the Block Manager of 1, approving of Mr. B.'s occupying 1-11-C when it is vacated.

Housing Department feels that the two sides should be given equal consideration according to the weights of the cases presented and occasioned by the existing situation and past circumstances.

Final Decision <sup>BY</sup> CASE #3

TO: Files

SUBJECT: OCCUPANCY OF 1-11-C

Following the report that apartment 1-11-C will be vacated definitely, this department has been in receipt of two applications for this room.

The applications of Mr. A and Mr. B have been weighed carefully, and after a lengthy and thorough discussion with both sides concerned, each was found with equal and reasonable basis for moving.

It is felt that as partiality cannot be considered as contributing to the best possible solution of this situation, the only workable plan would be to partition the room and have each of the two families occupy one half of the apartment.

The acceptance of this plan will rest with the two families. If this plan is rejected by one or both of the families, the partitioned rooms or room will be retained by the Housing Department and be used for other purposes as deemed necessary.

HOUSING DEPARTMENT

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Nell Findley  
Housing Director

Conclusion:

This easily could have been the spark which would have set off the whole community--indignant over the terrible housing arrangement.

These two parties made a mad scramble for the above apartment even before the Housing Department had been notified of the intention to leave camp of the party residing in the apartment in question. It was apparent that each side was "ready to tear the other side apart" in order to gain its own end. This case was also a matter which involved much feeling and personal pride as each side would continue to stubbornly champion its own position only.

One party secured the signature of the Block Manager, thus feeling that he had the right to the room. The other side, not wishing to be out-done, started a petition among the residents, asking them to support his claims.

The Housing Department had no choice but to be <sup>be</sup>partial and give equal treatment in the final important decision. As is stated in

the brief case summary at the beginning, special request for an emergency partition was made to the Construction Department through Miss Findley, Head of Public Assistance. This was an ideal and satisfactory solution to this particular case, but it must be remembered that emergency materials are not available for all the other pressing cases which will inevitably flare up in the very near future.

HOUSING POLICIES

The influx of the residents to the outside communities under the new WRA re-relocation program is causing many complex problems within this community, among which the housing situation requires the special attention by those all concerned. We, the members of the Executive Board, in order to strengthen the housing authorities of this Unit I hereby recommend the Unit Administrator to establish the following housing policies:

- Article I. Average population of a block is to be 260.
- Article II. Average member of the barrack residents will number 18.
- Article III. In case a block manager faces a housing problem within a block, he will follow the housing authority described in the attached housing authority statement.
- Article IV. The established regulation for the housing adjustment will be as follows:

Section 1. Rafter-spaces and apartment

- a. The block manager will consider that five persons as the average number for one apartment.
- b. The standard apartment will have 6 rafter-spaces.
- c. Those with four person will be allowed 5 rafter-spaces.
- d. Those with 3 persons will be allotted at least 4 rafter-spaces.
- e. The block manager upon the recommendation of the duly established block council will retain the right to partition any apartment within the regulation set forth above; this re-adjustment plan requires the approval of the Unit Administrator.
- f. Unless the members of the family in one apartment is two or more less than the rafter-spaces, no party will be permitted to partition or remove any rafter-space from the said apartment without the consent of the family.
- g. Any family which has the rafter-spaces equal or more than the members of the family will not be entitled to request for more rafter-spaces.

Section 2. Minimum Population

- a. Each block is required to accept the average population stated above in Article I; but, however, those blocks with the residential barrack occupied by any other department are permitted to reduce the number of required population by 18 per barrack or 5 per apartment.

Section 3. Vacancy

- a. The Unit Administrator will make the final decision as to the occupancy for the vacant apartment upon the request of the block manager.

- b. The block managers are instructed or advised not to make any promises concerning any vacant apartment until he obtains the approval of the Unit Administrator.

Section 4. Record

- a. It is the responsibility of the block manager to keep all available records of the housing situation within the block.

Respectively submitted,

Approved by:

/s/ Masaru Kawashima  
Vice Chairman, Executive Board

/s/ John G. Evans  
Unit Administrator

/s/ Frank Fukuda  
Chairman, Housing Committee,  
TCC

/s/ Okabe, Satoru  
Chairman, Housing Committee,  
Issei Advisory Board  
March 17, 1943

EXHIBIT I

HOUSING AUTHORITY  
UNIT I

1. The Housing Department should be directly under the Unit Administrator.
2. The Chief of Community Services will be the consulting specialist to the Housing Department.
3. The minor housing problems within a block will be first considered by the block council.
4. In case the block manager and block council fail to reach the satisfactory settlement of the housing problem in a block, the matter should be taken to the Housing Department.
5. The Housing Department will act under the advisorship of the Unit Administrator.
6. In accordance with the Article 3, Section 1 of the Executive Board, the board will act as the advisor to the Unit Administrator for housing problems of this Unit.

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EXHIBIT II

. COLORADO RIVER WAR RELOCATION PROJECT  
Poston, Arizona  
February 26, 1943

Memorandum for: Executive Board

In response to your memorandum of Feb. 22nd regarding the Housing Dept. for Unit I, I wish to state I am in hearty accord with your suggestion. I have long believed that the Housing Dept. should be directly under the Unit Administrator. I will be pleased if you will urge that this department be removed from Community Services at the earliest date possible.

May I again thank you for the interest you are taking in Poston I. I am sure that with your cooperation we will be able to work out a satisfactory unit here.

cc to: Mr. Head  
Mr. Evans  
TCC  
Issei Adv. Bd.  
Housing Dept.

Nell Findley  
Chief of Community Services

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EXHIBIT III

COLORADO RIVER WAR RELOCATION PROJECT  
Poston, Arizona  
March 9, 1943

Memorandum to: Mr. John Evans  
From : W. Wade Head  
Subject; : Housing Department for Unit I

Under date of February 27, I received a memorandum from the Executive Board, asking that the Housing Department to be turned to you in order to alleviate some of the work of the Community Services Division.

I wish to state that this plan has my approval, so perhaps you should take the matter up with Miss Findley at your convenience and make the necessary arrangements.

W. Wade Head  
Project Director

cc: Executive Board  
Miss Findley

## HOUSING PLAN FOR READJUSTMENT OF UNIT I

The plan for general readjustment of Unit I has been adopted in order to redistribute the present space allotted for living quarters to residents of Poston more evenly and fairly among the people. Insofar as possible, the forthcoming arrangements will also provide for individual rooms for every separate family unit.

In order to bring about the readjustment of the block populations and the equitable distribution of living space in this far-reaching plan, there will be, of necessity, a certain amount of removal and addition of partitions. The residents of Poston I will contribute much to the immediate materializing of this plan if there is a general understanding that all apartments which are designated at the present are only temporary assignments which are subject to change. Still, it must be remembered, that most families will not be affected at all, especially if their present housing arrangements are satisfactory according to the general regulations governing all blocks which are as follows:

1. Average population of a block should be 280.
2. Average population of a barrack should be 20.
3. Every barrack 1-14, not occupied by residents, should be vacated as these were originally meant for housing purposes only.
4. Apartments with families of three or less will be partitioned, or the families will be moved to small apartments. Families of four may be partitioned or may be moved.
5. The Housing Department or the Administration has the authority to request any block with less than quota population to arrange apartments in such a way that the block will be able to accept the required population.

To date, volunteer blocks have enjoyed priority privileges in Housing, but if situations deem their cooperation necessary, full support will be requested.

A housing committee will be formed in each block to work with the Block Manager, Block Councilman, and the Housing Department on the individual block plan. The final map showing the new arrangements and readjustments must be approved by the people of the block at a general block meeting.

Approved by \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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QUERIES ON THE HOUSING SITUATION

1. What has been done about getting partitioning material for Unit I?

The Blk. Mgrs. have appealed )  
The Council has appealed ) To Adm.  
The Housing Dept. has appealed )

The Administration says that plaster boards are here. We are waiting for 2 x 4 lumber for the framework.

2. How did the housing ruling come about-- Minimum 5, maximum 8?

2,016 Apts in Unit I  
- 288 Dorms 13 - 14 (Unpart.)  
1,728

1,728 / 10,000.0 <sup>5.7</sup> Average to an apt.  
8,640  
1,3600  
1,2096  
1504

There are 2,016 apartments in Unit I under Housing Department for residential purposes. At the beginning when evacuee intakes were being held, the definite number of occupants which could be allowed to one apartment had to be determined. As buildings 13 and 14 were mostly unpartitioned, eight apartments in each block were subtracted from each of the 36 blocks which gave a total of 1,728 apartments in Unit I.

Dividing 1,728 into 10,000 gives us an average of about 6 evacuees to an apartment. In order to be able to strike an average of 6 to an apartment, the Housing office established the ruling of "Minimum of 5, Maximum, 8" to an apartment.

3. How does it happen that groups of 2 and 3's are living in large apartments today?

In the assigning of rooms at the time of intake and registration of evacuees, it was no easy matter to find an ideal family of 6 as far as the equal distribution of apartment space went. Therefore, in scattered cases, perhaps 2 or 3 isolated cases in a block, this set-up does exist.

These groups of people are occupying large apartments with the general understanding from the first that this arrangement is only temporary.

5. How many families are living together with other families at present?

500 families

394 -- living with one other family

82 -- living with two other families

16 -- living with three other families

6. How many people have been moved through changes of address applications filed at the Housing Office in Unit I?

3,000 people

7. What is the main reason or cause for moves?

The main reasons or causes can be classified under OVER-CROWDING, INCOMPATIBILITY, (and LACK OF PRIVACY!)

8. What are the minor or less numerous reasons or causes for moves?

Health, Employment, Convenience, and Relatives and Friends.

9. Why have families been allowed to occupy unpartitioned buildings?

Out of necessity because of the tremendous number of social and emergency cases of all types. The buildings 13 and 14 were originally being held in reserve until the barracks could be partitioned, but this idea was abandoned because the demand for more living space became acute.

10. Why are buildings 13 and 14 assigned to single men instead of any other building?

The last two of the 14 buildings were allotted to single men or women from the beginning. This was the arrangement which the Housing Office accepted as being the final word from the Authorities.

Yet, perhaps, it would have been a more satisfactory arrangement if the bachelor dorms were buildings 7 and 8 instead of 13 and 14 as then families with children or invalids could have been placed nearer the kitchen.

11. How will small apartments be numbered?

Beginning with the "A" apartment, each adjoining room will be numbered in the following order-- A, A<sub>1</sub>, B, B<sub>1</sub>, C, C<sub>1</sub>, D, D<sub>1</sub>.

12. Who will put up partitions in the apartments?

Each block will make its own arrangement through its

block council, such as asking for volunteers or selecting a committee to be responsible for the entire block.

13. Who will be in charge of the distribution of partitioning material?

The Housing Committee of the Block Managers  
The Housing Committee of the Community Council  
The Housing Department  
Civic Planning Board H. Committee

14. Who will decide where partitions are to be installed?

Block residents--their decision conforming to the general block readjustment plan.

15. When will stoves be in?

They have been ordered and are here now.

16. How does it happen that volunteer blocks have so called "priority privileges" in Housing?

The so-called "volunteer blocks" 6 and 11 are composed in the majority by individuals, who on May 9, 1942 fully six whole months ago, offered to come of their own free will to Poston as a pioneer group, to set up the various offices and activities which are necessary to the establishment of a newly proposed community. During this preliminary period these workers went through hardships, such as existing on the very simplest of foods, as the mess-hall system had not been worked out as yet. The newly-tapped, untreated water caused fever and stomach trouble throughout, while during the day the sun beat down mercilessly.

On top of this the volunteers were given typhoid injections which decreased their efficiency. Nevertheless, the work had to be done in order to have the intakes of the evacuees in the near future function smoothly and efficiently, so this group of workers, along with the administration staff, put forth their best for the benefit of the later arrivals to Poston, sometimes working 10 to 12 hours a day and in some cases late into the night.

Giving consideration to these matters, the Administration staff agreed that these blocks occupied by the volunteer workers would be reserved to the very last before any more evacuees were sent into them to fill them to capacity.

17. Why are all moves from II and III stopped at present?

In order not to interfere with the present readjustment of Unit I. Also no vacancies at present in Unit I.

18. Why are all transfers from the outside asked to stay in Unit II or III?

1. No available rooms.
2. Relieve congested population of Unit I.

19. Which block will be given partitioning material with which they can go ahead on their block readjustment plan first?

The one which has completed the block plan first in accordance with the general plan.

20. How does it happen that there are only 36 blocks in Unit I when the original number planned was 60?

1. Part of the original blocks are being used by the warehouses.
2. The Army leveled off the spaces and planned the community. The sections were numbered off before they realized that some blocks would not be suitable because of drainage. The terrain is just not suitable for residential purposes.
3. If we had 60 blocks we would have an increase which corresponds in our population.

21. Will there be enough space for Unit I residents if the readjustment plan is adopted?

Yes. Our readjustment plan is based on a population of 10,000. At present we have 9,500.

22. How is it that II and III Units have their small apartments before Unit I?

Learned through experience in Unit I that small apartments were a thing of necessity, therefore, buildings 13 and 14 in Units II and III were partitioned before being occupied.

23. Why have some blocks less or more population than others?

a. Some blocks have Community Enterprises or other offices in the apartment which should house families.

b. The intakes made some difference:

The population of a block tends to be larger if that block was completely filled in one intake. When partly filled during an intake and left that way for some time, the people in that block had an opportunity to move into another apartment if dissatisfied with their original assignment or requested another apartment if over-crowded; thereby losing that number of apartments to be filled.

c. Buildings 13 and 14 in many of the blocks were kept vacant (of occupants) because they were awaiting to be partitioned. Therefore, these blocks will have a small population.

d. The "volunteer blocks" on the north-east side of Unit I have some privileges in housing, therefore the small population there.

e. At some intakes, there were a greater number of small families than at others. Naturally, these blocks lost a portion of their population total there. These families of two and three were assigned to an apartment with the understanding that more would be sent in later as the total number in that apartment did not meet the established rule of "Minimum of 5--" to an apartment.

#### 24. How change of Address Applications were Determined.

a. The Administration and the Housing Department had no way of knowing whether the army would send in more evacuees to the Project or not; as this was the case, change of address applications to vacant apartments had to be approved very cautiously.

b. Because of the overcrowded and unsatisfactory housing arrangements in Unit I, only applications with special reasons were handled.

c. There will be no end to change of address applications coming into Housing Office if all are allowed to pass; therefore, of necessity, the Housing Department eliminated those which were classified under "insufficient reasons". They were judged according to the merits of each case.

d. The Housing Department soon hoped to release a plan called "Housing Readjustment for Unit I by which the present space allotted for living quarters to residents of Poston will be more evenly and fairly distributed among the people, and also to provide for individual rooms for every separate family unit. When the plan has been put into effect, there may be more vacancies which will be open to moves.

As the Block Managers, the Housing Councilman, and the Housing Department are working on these plans, all moves within Unit I and from Unit II and III have been stopped unless they help to promote or facilitate the plan.

(duplicate)

25. How many partition materials will be distributed to one block?

14-- as many as will make 8 small apartments in each of the 2 buildings

26. Will all small apartments be in buildings 13 and 14?

No The Arrangement will depend on the individual blocks. The committees named to work on this problem will decide where they are needed most.

March 16, 1944

Poster

The following plan was made up concerning housing.

1. All transfers are subject to approval by Block manager, or Block Council.
2. Transfers within the block shall be maintained by the Block manager. Only such cases of over-crowded apartments or where there is a necessity of such transfers to equalize the block shall be made.
3. Transfers of less than three persons will be discouraged unless in the case of:
  - (a) over-crowdedness
  - (b) newlyweds
  - (c) special cases
4. All blocks of average population of 150 to 185 must maintain a quota of 185 or better.
5. All transfers must be reported to the Block Managers Supervisor's Office in order to keep housing records.
  - (a) Survey of all transfers should include the former and present address and names of all persons who moved to another block, from other blocks, and within its own block.
6. All transferees must notify their change of address to the proper authorities.
  - (a) Bureau of Naturalization and Immigration.
  - (b) Federal Bureau of Investigation.
7. All special cases can be taken up with the Housing Committee which is composed of Mr. Murakami block 30, Mr. Frank Abe block 37, Mr. Frank Kobayashi block 21, Mr. Jo block 32 and Tom Sakai Blk. Mgrs. Supvr. This committee will have full authority over all housing problems.

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(Please post on your bulletin)

N O T I C E R E G A R D I N G M O V I N G O F A P T S .

TO: ALL RESIDENTS OF POSTON

FROM: HOUSING & REGISTRATION OFFICE (Reception Center)

SUBJECT: CHANGE OF ADDRESS AND HOUSING

If you desire to change your place of residence see your Block Manager at once, and make application with him immediately.

DO NOT MOVE OR CHANGE YOUR ADDRESS IN ANY WAY WITHOUT WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION FROM THE HOUSING AND REGISTRATION OFFICE. SEE YOUR BLOCK MANAGER FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

MEMORANDUM TO BLOCK MANAGERS

TO: \_\_\_\_\_ BLOCK NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: 6-15-42  
FROM: Registration-Housing Office (Reception Center) Recreation  
Hall, Block 18, one block north of the Administration Bldg.  
SUBJECT: Housing and Changes in Address

HOUSING ACCOMMODATIONS at present in five vacant blocks, yet to be occupied on the East side of Poston are adequate to house approximately 1400 people

This office regrets to advise that the United States Army authorities have notified us that 850 more people than the above 1400 will be sent to this immediate first settlement of Poston.

Therefore: every single block in Poston will temporarily be filled to more than capacity in the very near future, until further buildings are completed to house the extra people.

THE ADMINISTRATION, however, desires to house people as comfortably as possible in the meantime. Therefore, BEGINNING MONDAY, JUNE 15, kindly accept all applications and requests for moving apartments on the "REQUEST FOR CHANGE OF ADDRESS" FORM distributed herewith.

Then, either bring or send this form to this office immediately and careful consideration will be given every application.

It is absolutely essential that no families or individuals be allowed to move into apartments now vacant or to change their addresses in anyway without first clearing the matter through you and this office on the forms provided, AND RECEIVING FROM THIS OFFICE THE "BLUE MOVING-AUTHORIZATION" SLIP.

As there will be many more requests for change than can be authorized, do not allow anyone to move UNTIL WRITTEN "BLUE MOVING-AUTHORIZATION SLIP IS ISSUED TO THEM FROM THIS OFFICE."

All apartments which are occupied without authorization from this office must be vacated immediately. Listed below are the apartments which are vacant according to our records.

M E M O R A N D U M   T O   B L O C K   M A N A G E R S

TO: \_\_\_\_\_ BLOCK NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

FROM: Registration-Housing Office (Reception Center)  
Recreation Hall, Block 18, one block north of  
Administration Building.

SUBJECT: Instructions relative to "Changes of Address."

1. Have your block residents refer all requests for changes in Housing and addresses to you.
2. Request them to make their application for "Change of Address," on the FORMS herewith supplied.
3. Have them state reason or reasons for moving clearly in the spaces provided for on the FORM.
4. If moving is desired because of illness in the family kindly issue "Memorandum of Certification" FORM and have it filled out by their Doctor.
5. If moving is desired because of Employment, kindly issue "Memorandum of Certification" FORM and have it filled out by their Employer.
6. When the proper papers are filled-out bring or send them to this office for consideration. If application is accepted, WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION TO MOVE WILL be issued from this office. DO NOT MOVE ANYONE WITHOUT A BLUE AUTHORIZATION SLIP TO MOVE.
7. When moving into an apartment already occupied by relatives or friends, written approval must be had from those relatives or friends occupying that apartment. Such approval must show on the form "Request for Change of Address."