

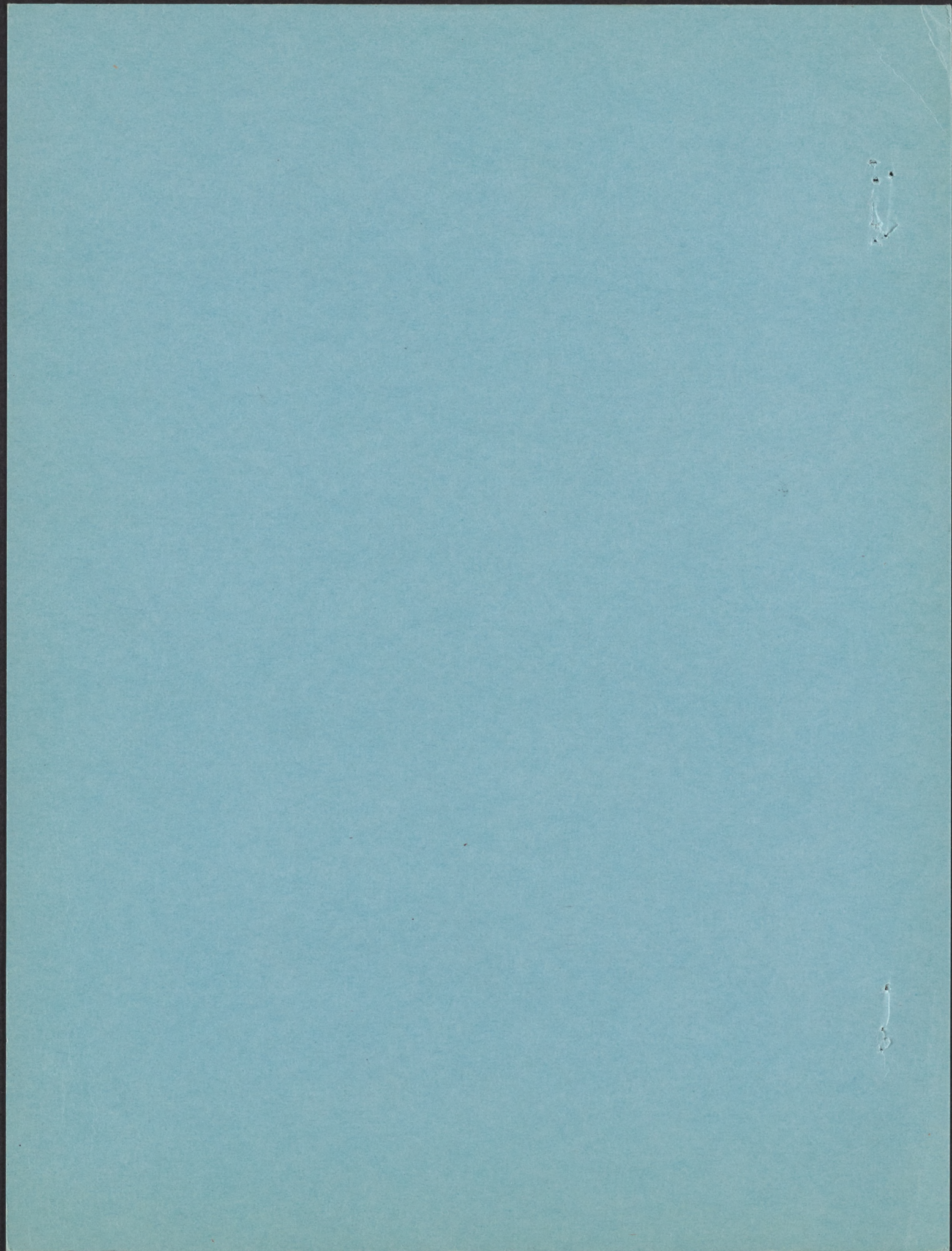
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C

ALL CENTER
CONFERENCE

SALT LAKE CITY
UTAH

FEB. 16 TO 22, 1945



Message From Topaz Community Council

The residents of all the WRA relocation centers are confronted with problems of major importance as a result of the revocation of the West Coast mass exclusion orders and the new WRA policy of closing all relocation centers within a year.

While these problems are responsibilities of the government and the WRA, they nevertheless affect all the residents in relocation centers. Therefore, we are keenly aware of the importance of problems which are of mutual concern.

We have agreed and approved that it was necessary to hold this All-Center Conference to collaborate for the best interest and the general welfare of the residents in relocation centers.

Therefore, it is the responsibility of each and every delegate to confer diligently, intelligently, and wisely; to be able to present sound and constructive plans, requests, and suggestions to the proper authorities.

I know it is your sincere wish, as well as ours, that this Conference will be a successful one.

Masaru Narahara, Chairman
Topaz Community Council

ALL-CENTER CONFERENCE

SCHEDULE

Feb. 16)
Feb. 17)

PRE-OFFICIAL CONFERENCE

Feb. 18

SUNDAY

Feb. 19

OFFICIAL CONFERENCE

Feb. 20

OFFICIAL CONFERENCE

Feb. 21

OFFICIAL CONFERENCE
MR. DILLON MYER AND OTHER
WRA OFFICIALS

Feb. 22

OFFICIAL CONFERENCE

PLACE OF CONFERENCE: Y.W.C.A.
306 East 3rd South
Salt Lake City, Utah

JAPANESE CHURCH
243 West 1st South
Salt Lake City, Utah

ALL-CENTER CONFERENCE

NUMBER OF DELEGATES

1. GILA

2. GRANADA

3. HEART MOUNTAIN

4. Manzanar

5. MINIDOKA

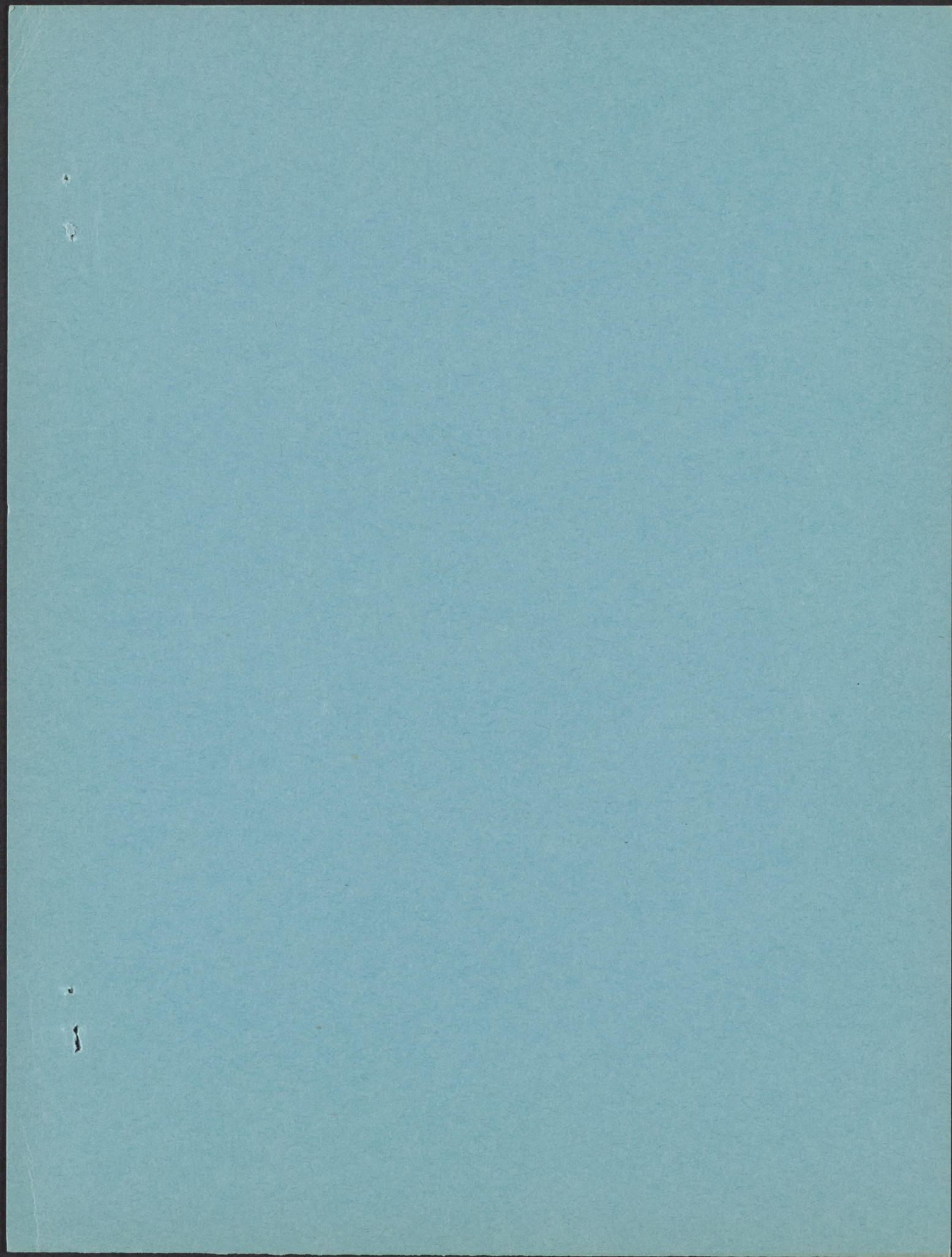
6. POSTON

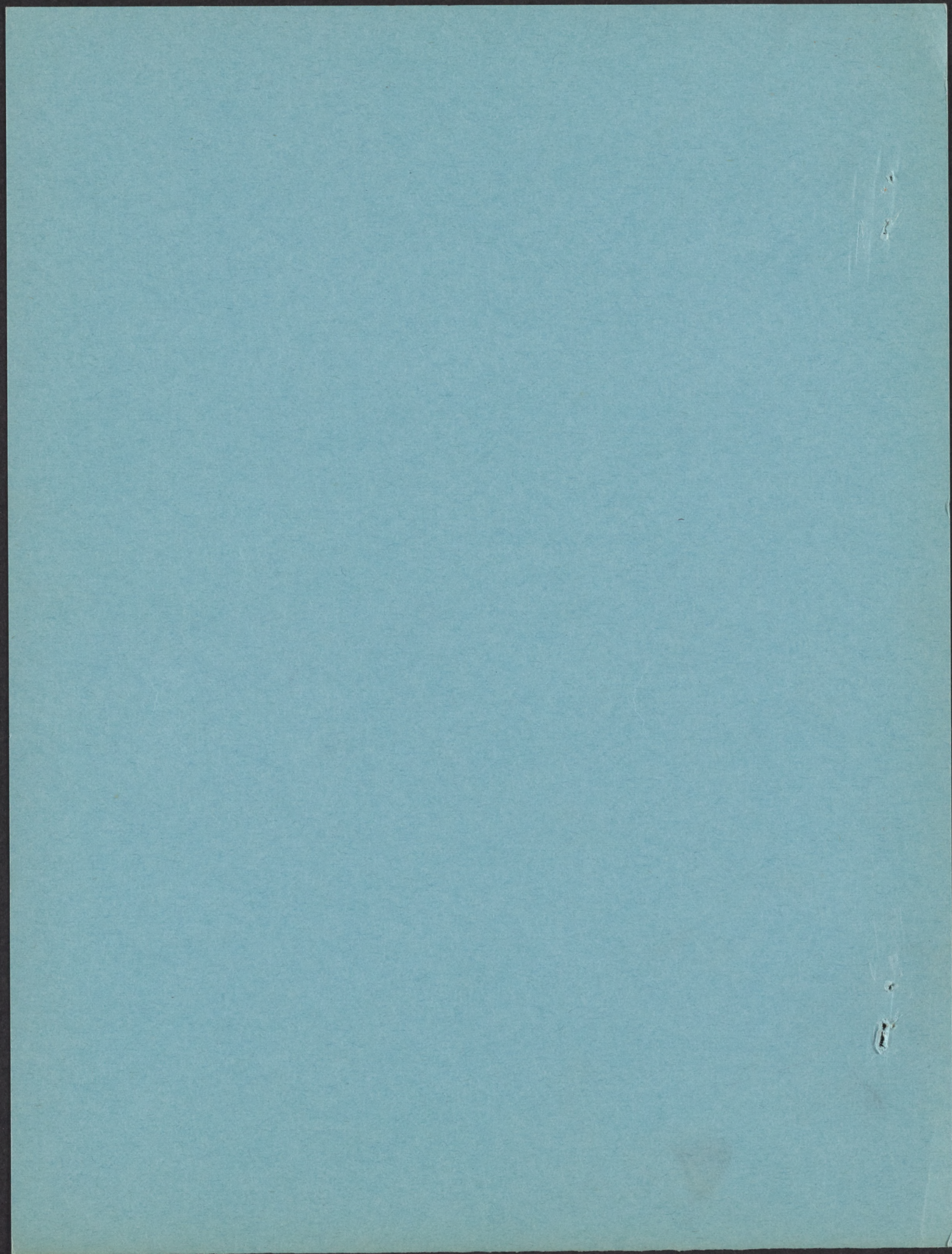
7. ROHVER

8. TOPAZ

SECRETARIES

N O T E S





WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
Central Utah Project
Topaz, Utah

January 17, 1945

MEMORANDUM TO: Manzanar Community Council

SUBJECT: Reply to Topaz Community Council recommendation
for all center conference

FROM: Topaz Community Council

GRANADA No official reply but on Nov. 26, 1944 - Mr. Ed.
Kitezumi, Chairman of Granada Community Council
made a personal trip to Topaz requesting the opinion
of Topaz Council on all center conference and also
made suggestion for realization of same.

GILA January 8, 1945 - Teletype -
Favors all center conference.

HT. MOUNTAIN January 9, 1945 - Letter -
Accepts invitation and recommend immediate action.

MANZANAR Received January 15, 1945 - Letter -
Does not seem to be the need for all center
conference - without further clarification of
the object of the conference - will not send
delegates.

MINIDOKA December 28, 1944 - Teletype -
Agreed upon the desirability of having inter-
center conference.

POSTON No official reply as yet
Official WRA communications mentions Poston's
request for official WRA approval of having all
center conference in Poston.

ROWHER December 29, 1944 - Teletype -
Strongly recommends all center conference.

Topaz Community Council recommend conference be held in Salt Lake City tentatively on week starting February 5, 1945. There has been a suggestion that this conference be held if possible on the West Coast. San Francisco has also been suggested. There are three reasons given.

1. All center conference
2. Delegates may report actual conditions of West Coast relative to acceptance of returning evacuees.
3. Possible for delegates to investigate individual properties and community acceptance for their return at their (individual requesting investigation) expense. These investigations to be made prior to conference with the cooperation of WRA.

We suggest delegates spend two days in preparation of conference program. Three to four days for official general discussion and decisions. Reserve the second day of the official conference to meet with WRA officials.

Heart Mountain suggests Salt Lake City, starting February 1, 1945. We would appreciate your suggestions as to time and place which would be most advantageous and beneficial to each center and its residents.

Masaru Narahara, Chairman
Community Council

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
Central Utah Project
Topaz, Utah

January 17, 1945

MEMORANDUM TO: Rowher Community Council

SUBJECT: Reply to Topaz Community Council recommendation
for all center conference

FROM: Topaz Community Council

GRANADA No official reply but on Nov. 26, 1944 - Mr. Ed. Kitazumi, Chairman of Granada Community Council made a personal trip to Topaz requesting the opinion of Topaz Council on all center conference and also made suggestion for realization of same.

GILA January 8, 1945 - Teletype -
Favors all center conference.

HT. MOUNTAIN Received January 19, 1945 - Letter -
Accepts invitation and recommend immediate action.

MANZANAR Received January 15, 1945 - Letter -
Does not seem to be the need for all center conference - without further clarification of the object of the conference - will not send delegates.

MINIDOKA December 28, 1944 - Teletype -
Agreed upon the desirability of having inter-center conference.

POSTION No official reply as yet
Official WRA communications mentions Poston's request for official WRA approval of having all center conference in Poston.

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Heart Mountain suggests Salt Lake City, starting February 1, 1945. We would appreciate your suggestions as to time and place which would be most advantageous and beneficial to each center and its residents.

Masaru Narahara, Chairman
Community Council

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
Central Utah Project
Topaz, Utah

January 17, 1945

MEMORANDUM TO: Granada Community Council

SUBJECT: Reply to Topaz Community Council recommendation
for all center conference

FROM: Topaz Community Council

GRANADA No official reply but on Nov. 26, 1944 - Mr. Ed.
Kitazumi, Chairman of Granada Community Council
made a personal trip to Topaz requesting the opinion
of Topaz Council on all center conference and also
made suggestions for realization of same.

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Favors all center conference.

HT. MOUNTAIN January 9, 1945 - Letter -
Accepts invitation and recommend immediate action.

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Does not seem to be the need for all center
conference - without further clarification of
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Official WRA communications mentions Poston's
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center conference in Poston.

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Strongly recommends all center conference.

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We suggest delegates spend two days in preparation of conference program. Three to four days for official general discussion and decisions. Reserve the second day of the official conference to meet with WRA officials.

Heart Mountain suggests Salt Lake City, starting February 1, 1945. We would appreciate your suggestions as to time and place which would be most advantageous and beneficial to each center and its residents.

Masaru Narahara, Chairman
Community Council

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
Central Utah Project
Topaz, Utah

January 17, 1945

MEMORANDUM TO: Heart Mountain Community Council

SUBJECT: Reply to Topaz Community Council recommendation
for all center conference

FROM: Topaz Community Council

GRANADA No official reply but on Nov. 26, 1944 - Mr. Ed.
Kitazumi, Chairman of Granada Community Council
made a personal trip to Topaz requesting the opinion
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We suggest delegates spend two days in preparation of conference program. Three to four days for official general discussion and decisions. Reserve the second day of the official conference to meet with WRA officials.

Heart Mountain suggests Salt Lake City, starting February 1, 1945. We would appreciate your suggestions as to time and place which would be most advantageous and beneficial to each center and its residents.

Masaru Narahara, Chairman
Community Council

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
Central Utah Project
Topaz, Utah

January 17, 1945

MEMORANDUM TO: Gila Community Council

SUBJECT: Reply to Topaz Community Council recommendation
for all center conference

FROM: Topaz Community Council

GRANADA No official reply but on Nov. 26, 1944 - Mr. Ed. Kitazumi, Chairman of Granada Community Council made a personal trip to Topaz requesting the opinion of Topaz Council on all center conference and also made suggestion for realization of same.

GILA January 3, 1945 - Teletype -
Favors all center conference.

HT. MOUNTAIN January 9, 1945 - Letter -
Accepts invitation and recommend immediate action.

MANZANAR Received January 15, 1945 - Letter -
Does not seem to be the need for all center conference - without further clarification of the object of the conference - will not send delegates.

MINIDOKA December 28, 1944 - Teletype -
Agreed upon the desirability of having inter-center conference.

POSTON No official reply as yet
Official WRA communications mentions Poston's request for official WRA approval of having all center conference in Poston.

ROWHER December 29, 1944 - Teletype -
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We suggest delegates spend two days in preparation of conference program. Three to four days for official general discussion and decisions. Reserve the second day of the official conference to meet with WRA officials.

Heart Mountain suggests Salt Lake City, starting February 1, 1945. We would appreciate your suggestions as to time and place which would be most advantageous and beneficial to each center and its residents.

Masaru Narahara, Chairman
Community Council

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
Central Utah Project
Topaz, Utah

January 17, 1945

MEMORANDU TO: Minidoka Community Council

SUBJECT: Reply to Topaz Community Council recommendation
for all center conference

FROM: Topaz Community Council

GRANADA No official reply but on Nov. 26, 1944 - Mr. Ed. Kitazumi, Chairman of Granada Community Council made a personal trip to Topaz requesting the opinion of Topaz Council on all center conference and also made suggestion for realization of same.

GILA January 8, 1945 - Teletype -
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HT. MOUNTAIN January 9, 1945 - Letter
Accepts invitation and recommend immediate action.

MANZANAR Received January 15, 1945 - Letter -
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Agreed upon the desirability of having inter-center conference.

POSTON No official reply as yet
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We suggest delegates spend two days in preparation of conference program. Three to four days for official general discussion and decisions. Reserve the second day of the official conference to meet with WRA officials.

Heart Mountain suggests Salt Lake City, starting February 1, 1945. We would appreciate your suggestions as to time and place which would be most advantageous and beneficial to each center and its residents.

Masaru Narahara, Chairman
Community Council

Central Utah Project
Topaz, Utah

Community Gov't.

February 8, 1945

Mr. Chester C. Fujino, Chairman
Rohwer Community Council
Rohwer, Arkansas

Dear Mr. Fujino:

Our teletype of February 1st, should be corrected in part as follows: INTER-CENTER CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT SALT LAKE CITY FROM FEBRUARY 16 TO 22 INCLUSIVE.

Our desire as in our letter of January 17th, is to have February 16th and 17th set aside for preparation of the conference program. Three to four days for official conference on discussions and decisions. If it is possible to finish business on the third day then the conference will end on the 21st.

We have assurance from Mr. Myer that he will attend our conference on the 21st.

Gila - four delegates, Heart Mountain - five delegates, Poston - four delegates, and Topaz - five delegates to the conference. Granada and Minidoka will attend.

We understand that Heart Mountain Community Council has sent their proposed agenda to all centers and that you are one of the recipient.

Our problems are identical in view of the lifting of army order and the new W.R.A. policy in closing these centers. Our Council is working on the following three basic issues:

1. Request to keep these centers open for the duration and/or until such time when all avenues of resettlement presented by the W.R.A. can be accepted by the residents.
2. To request to the W.R.A. that more consideration be given to those that desire to resettle. The present grant of \$25.00 plus transportation and subsistence

is not sufficient to assure any residents the ease of mind to think and plan constructively for their future. Also the assurance of federal assistance until such time as evacuees are able to re-establish themselves.

3. That W.R.A. to use their good offices to assist the group that desire to resettle who were formally engaged in agriculture and other private enterprises. This group requires long term federal loans to enable them to re-establish themselves as near as possible to their former status.

Along with the above requests, we believe there are number of local center problems that can and must be discussed, also any informations or any difficult problems that were settled would be of interest.

We know that your fullest cooperation will be given in making this center conference a success but at this time may we formally request the same. Hoping to see you and the delegates in Salt Lake City on February 16th.

Very truly yours,

TOPAZ COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Masaru Narahara, Chairman
Community Council

P.S. We have made ~~three~~ reservations for three
Rowley delegates.

Central Utah Project
Topaz, Utah

Community Gov't.

February 10, 1945

Mr. Y. Fujii, Chairman
Minidoka Community Council
Hunt, Idaho

Dear Mr. Fujii:

Our teletype of February 1st, should be corrected in part as follows: INTER-CENTER CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT SALT LAKE CITY FROM FEBRUARY 16 TO 22 INCLUSIVE.

Our desire as in our letter of January 17th, is to have February 16th and 17th set aside for preparation of the conference program. Three to four days of official conference on discussions and decisions. If it is possible to finish business on the third day then the conference will end on the 21st.

We have assurance from Mr. Myer that he will attend our conference on the 21st.

Heart Mountain - five delegates, Poston - five delegates, Rohwer - three delegates, Gila - four delegates, Granada - three delegates, and Topaz sending five delegates to the conference.

We understand that Heart Mountain Community Council has sent their proposed agenda to all centers and that you are one of the recipient.

Our problems are identical in view of the lifting of army order and the new W.R.A. policy in closing these centers. Our Council is working on the following three basic issues:

1. Request to keep these centers open for the duration and/or until such time when all avenues of resettlement presented by the W.R.A. can be accepted by the residents.
2. To request to the W.R.A. that more consideration be given to those that desire to resettle. The present grant of \$25.00 plus transportation and subsistence

is not sufficient to assure any residents the ease of mind to think and plan constructively for their future. Also the assurance of federal assistance until such time as evacuees are able to re-establish themselves.

- 3 3. That W.R.A. to use their good offices to assist the group that desire to resettle who were formally engaged in agriculture and other private enterprises. This group requires long term federal loans to enable them to re-establish themselves as near as possible to their former status.

Along with the above requests, we believe there are number of local center problems that can and must be discussed, also any informations or any difficult problems that were settled would be of interest.

We received a letter from Manzanar dated January 31st stating that they are not sending any delegates at this time. Two days following we also received a teletype from them that they will further consider and discuss. We are hoping that they will send delegates to this convention.

We know that your fullest cooperation will be given in making this center conference a success but at this time may we formally request the same. Hoping to see you and the delegates in Salt Lake City on February 16th.

Very truly yours,

TOPAZ COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Masaru Narahara, Chairman
Community Council

P.S. Please notify us number of delegates for hotel reservation.

Central Utah Project
Topaz, Utah

Community Gov't.

February 8, 1945

Mr. Sakae Kawajiri, Chairman
Granada Community Council
Amache, Colorado

Dear Mr. Kawajiri:

Our teletype of February 1st, should be corrected in part as follows: INTER-CENTER CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT SALT LAKE CITY FROM FEBRUARY 16 TO 22 INCLUSIVE.

Our desire as in our letter of January 17th, is to have February 16th and 17th set aside for preparation of the conference program. Three to four days for official conference on discussions and decisions. If it is possible to finish business on the third day then the conference will end on the 21st.

We have assurance from Mr. Myer that he will attend our conference on the 21st.

Gila - four delegates, Heart Mountain - five delegates, Rohwer - three delegates, and Poston - four delegates to the conference. Minidoka will attend.

We understand that Heart Community Council has sent their proposed agenda to all centers and that you are one of the recipient.

Our problems are identical in view of the lifting of army order and the new W.R.A. policy in closing these centers. Our Council is working on the following three basic issues:

1. Request to keep these centers open for the duration and/or until such time when all avenues of resettlement presented by the W.R.A. can be accepted by the residents.
2. To request to the W.R.A. that more consideration be given to those that desire to resettle. The present grant of \$25.00 plus transportation and subsistence

is not sufficient to assure any residents the ease of mind to think and plan constructively for their future. Also the assurance of federal assistance until such time as evacuees are able to re-establish themselves.

3. That W.R.A. to use their good offices to assist the group that desire to resettle who were formally engaged in agriculture and other private enterprises. This group requires long term federal loans to enable them to re-establish themselves as near as possible to their former status.

Along with the above requests, we believe there are number of local center problems that can and must be discussed, also any informations or any difficult problems that were settled would be of interest.

As yet we have not received the information as to number of delegates. Please let us know immediately by wire for hotel reservations.

We know that your fullest cooperation will be given in making this center conference a success but at this time may we formally request the same. Hoping to see you and the delegates in Salt Lake City on February 16th.

Very truly yours,

TOPAZ COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Masaru Narahara, Chairman
Community Council

Central Utah Project
Topaz, Utah

Community Gov't.

February 7, 1945

Mr. Munejiro Hayashida, Chairman
Heart Mountain Community Council
Heart Mountain, Wyoming

Dear Mr. Hayashida:

Our teletype of February 1st, should be corrected in part as follows: INTER-CENTER CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT SALT LAKE CITY FROM 16 TO 22 INCLUSIVE.

Our desire as in our letter of January 17th, is to have February 16th and 17th set aside for preparation of the conference program. Three to four days for official conference on discussions and decisions. If it is possible to finish business on the third day then the conference will end on the 21st.

We have assurance from Mr. Myer that he will attend our conference on the 20th.

Gila - four delegates, Rohwer - three delegates, and Poston - four delegates to the conference. Granada and Minidoka will attend.

Many thanks for the copy of your agenda. We know that your copy of the agenda to all centers is of great help in standardizing the conference agenda.

We believe the facts you have brought out in the agenda are the very problems which all of the center residents are facing.

Our problems are identical in view of the lifting of army orders, and the new W.R.A. policy in closing these centers. Our Council is working on the following three basic issues:

1. Request to keep these centers open for the duration and/or until such time when all avenues of resettlement presented by the W.R.A. can be accepted by the residents.

2. To request to the W.R.A. that more consideration be given to those that desire to resettle. The present grant of \$25.00 plus transportation and subsistence is not sufficient to assure any residents the ease of mind to think and plan constructively for their future. Also the assurance of federal assistance until such time as evacuees are able to re-establish themselves.
3. That W.R.A. to use their good offices to assist the group that desire to resettle who were formally engaged in agriculture and other private enterprises. This group requires long term federal loans to enable them to re-establish themselves as near as possible to their former status.

Along with the above requests, we believe there are number of local center problems that can and must be discussed, also any informations or any difficult problems that were settled would be of interest.

Although the original proposal of all-center conference was your Council's original idea, we had hoped to be of some assistance in the realization of your proposal. At this time, with your suggestion in your teletype of January 13th, we shall be happy to act as host.

We know that your fullest cooperation will be given in making this center conference a success but at this time may we formally request the same. Hoping to see you and the delegates in Salt Lake City on February 16th.

Very truly yours,

TOPAZ COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Masaru Narahara, Chairman
Community Council

P. S. Your hotel reservations are made at the New Grand Hotel.

Central Utah Project
Topaz, Utah

Community Gov't.

February 7, 1945

Mr. Kiyoharu Anzai, Chairman
Manzanar Block Managers Assembly
Manzanar, California

Dear Mr. Anzai:

Our teletype of February 1st, should be corrected in part as follows: INTER-CENTER CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT SALT LAKE CITY FROM FEBRUARY 16 TO 22 INCLUSIVE.

Our desire as in our letter of January 17th, is to have February 16th and 17th set aside for preparation of the conference program. Three to four days for official conference on discussions and decisions. If it is possible to finish business on the third day then the conference will end on the 21st.

We have assurance from Mr. Myer that he will attend our conference on the 20th.

Gila is sending four delegates, Heart Mountain sending five delegates, Poston sending four delegates, Rohwer sending three delegates, and Topaz sending five delegates to the conference. Granada and Minidoka will attend.

We understand that Heart Mountain Community Council has sent their proposed agenda to all centers and that you are one of the recipient.

Our problems are identical in view of the lifting of army order and the new W.R.A. policy in closing these centers. Our Council is working on the following three basic issues:

1. Request to keep these centers open for the duration and/or until such time when all avenues of resettlement presented by the W.R.A. can be accepted by the residents.
2. To request to the W.R.A. that more consideration be given to those that desire to resettle. The present grant of \$25.00 plus transportation and subsistence

is not sufficient to assure any residents the ease of mind to think and plan constructively for their future. Also the assurance of federal assistance until such time as evacuees are able to re-establish themselves.

3. That W.R.A. to use their good offices to assist the group that desire to resettle who were formally engaged in agriculture and other private enterprises. This group requires long term federal loans to enable them to re-establish themselves as near as possible to their former status.

Along with the above requests, we believe there are number of local center problems that can and must be discussed, also any informations or any difficult problems that were settled would be of interest.

While the Topaz Community Council is still working on details of the three basic issues of the agenda, it will not be the conference agenda as some may be different. We believe each center should work on their own and at the conference the final completed agenda will be formulated.

We believe that problems of center residents are the same in any center. Every center has agreed to the all-center conference and will send delegates in view of the most important problems that we are now facing.

About ten days a ago, when Rev. Nagatomi from Manzanar was here, we heard that he was one of the member to the Block Managers Assembly so immediately following this information a small committee contacted him. We requested him if he would be so kind as to explain why Topaz residents felt it was necessary to have the all center conference, also to persuade your assembly to see a way clear to be able to send delegates to this all important conference.

We received your letter of January 31st and teletype of February 2nd.

We would certainly appreciate your participation so that we may be able to say in our requests to the W.R.A. or any agency of the Federal Government that these requests are the voice of every resident of these relocation centers.

Minidoka Community Council have requested that we contact you and persuade your participation which would make this all-center conference a success with 100% participation.

Even at this late date, we do hope you may be able to send delegates to the all-center conference in Salt Lake City.

If you will notify us by wire the number of delegates, we can still make hotel reservation.

Very truly yours,

TOPAZ COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Masaru Narahara, Chairman
Community Council

Central Utah Project
Topaz, Utah

Communitiy Gov't.

February 7, 1945

Gila Council Chamber
Gila, Arizona

Gentlemen:

Our teletype of February 1st, should be corrected in part as follows: INTER-CENTER CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT SALT LAKE CITY FROM FEBRUARY 16 TO 22 INCLUSIVE.

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We have assurance from Mr. Myer that he will attend our conference on the 21st.

Heart Mountain sending five delegates, Poston sending four delegates, Rohwer sending three delegates, and Topaz sending five delegates to the conference. Granada and Minidoka will attend. *Topaz will send 6-10* (3)

We understand that Heart Mountain Community Council has sent their proposed agenda to all centers and that you are one of the recipient.

Our problems are identical in view of the lifting of army order and the new W.R.A. policy in closing these centers. Our Council is working on the following three basic issues:

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Along with the above requests, we believe there are number of local center problems that can and must be discussed, also any informations or any difficult problems that were settled would be of interest.

We know that your fullest cooperation will be given in making this center conference a success but at this time may we formally request the same. Hoping to see you and the delegates in Salt Lake City on February 16th.

Very Truly yours,

TOPAZ COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Masaru Narahara, Chairman
Community Council

P. S. Your hotel reservations is made at the New Grand Hotel.

ALL CENTER CONFERENCE

February 16, 1945

A G E N D A

1. Opening Remarks -- Topaz Council
2. Introduction of Delegates
3. Business
 - a. Invitations to outside organization to be decided by the delegates.
 - b. Subject of Meeting places and luncheons and dinners.
 - c. Invitations by the Japanese Community of Salt Lake on Monday night, February 19, 1945, at 7 p.m. at Colonial Restaurant.
 - d. General review of the WRA Post-Exclusion Manual and informations given to residents of different Centers.
4. Brief Remarks of Each Center's Opinion in regard to Agenda
 - a. Gila, Granada, Heart Mountain, Minidoka, Poston, Rohwer, and Topaz.
5. Discussions

*Committee
All Center Conf.*

ALL CENTER CONFERENCE

COMMITTEES

February 16, 1945

CHAIRMAN: MR. MASARU NARAHARA

VICE CHAIRMEN: MESSRS. MINEJIRO HAYASHIDA & GENJI MIHARA

AGENDA COMMITTEE

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

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

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

Topaz Yamashita
Iselle Donna
Helen Donna

SPOKESMEN

February 20, 1945

Gila	Mr. Mitsuru Fukuzawa
Granada	Mr. Sakae Kawashiri
Heart Mountain	Mr. Kumezo Hatchimonji
Minidoka	Mr. Tohru Ogawa
Poston	Mr. George Kubota
Rohwer	Mr. Chester Fujino
Topaz	Mr. Susumu Yamashita

*Topaz
Yamashita*

PUBLIC RELATION COMMITTEE

February 19, 1945

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

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The Poston Community Council has proposed that a conference of evacuee representatives from all relocation centers be held at that center in early February for the purpose of discussing problems facint the evacuees in the next few months. The Central Utah Community Council has made a similar proposal, except that the place of meeting would be Topaz. Heart Mountain and Granada have in the past indicated a similar interest.

The position which we should take on these proposals is that we will not officially sponsor such a conference, but that we believe that such a meeting would be desirable, and that the WRA would be willing to lend what ever assistance possible in making arrangements, etc., although it cannot supply any financial assistance.

We do not consider it advisable to hold such a conference at a relocation center. We would suggest that such a conference be held in some locality convenient to all centers. The place and time of such a meeting and the selection of those who would attend should be the responsibility of the evacuees. The Director and other responsible WRA officials would make every effort to attend such a meeting on invitation from the sponsoring evacuee group.

Sponsorship should be entirely in the hands of the evacuees in order that the problems discussed, the agreements reached, or the resolutions passed, should reflect the evacuee thinking, and in order that the WRA may be provided information to assist in furthering the objectives of such a meeting insofar as possible.

In the event of such a conference, it will be appropriate to review once again with evacuees the basic responsibilities, policies, and position of the WRA. The WRA as a war-time agency was charged with the responsibility for caring for persons evacuated from the West Coast during the period of the emergency, and assisting in the relocation of evacuees in normal American communities. Now that the emergency is over and most persons of Japanese ancestry find themselves in the same category as other citizens and aliens in the United States, it becomes the primary responsibility of WRA to complete as soon as possible the return of all eligible evacuees to normal life.

It should again be stated that the funds provided by Congress were and are for the purpose of center operation and relocation assistance. Funds provided for transportation costs, relocation grants, or costs of transporting property, were never intended to be either funds for long-time rehabilitation or as restitution to those suffering losses as a result of the evacuation. WRA will continue to advise evacuees regarding the lending facilities of appropriate Federal agencies--such as, FSA, RFC, FHA--and will attempt to obtain the same services as are normally available to others. However, idemnification for losses from evacuation is beyond the authority of the WRA since it must be provided for through an Act of Congress. This principle of government is generally applicable to any residents of the United States who may suffer loss through government action.

If the residents in the centers, and the delegates to the conference are aware of the basic responsibilities of the WRA, of the limitations within which it works, both in terms of funds and function, and of the process through which funds for rehabilitation can be secured, and the principles which apply to securing Federal indemnification for loss, the work of the conference will be in terms of realities, and hence be constructive.

TOPAZ PROPOSALS

The Community Council of Central Utah Relocation Center, for, and in behalf of, all the evacuee residents of Topaz, request that the following be placed on the agenda of the All-Center Conference to be held in Salt Lake City from February 16 to February 22, 1945:

That the basic policy of the All-Center Conference be that the delegates from all centers participating in the Conference work for the best interest of all evacuee residents of all relocation centers;

That, to serve the best interest of all evacuee residents of all relocation centers, the delegates strive to negotiate with the WRA along the three points mentioned below, namely:

I. That the delegates request the WRA, in the name and on behalf of all the evacuee residents of all the relocation centers participating in this Conference, to keep all the War Relocation Centers open and provide for the evacuee residents with food, clothing, shelter, medical care, and protection, work opportunities, educational facilities, and other essentials of a normal community, for the duration of the war and/or until such time as when conditions on the outside become so improved that evacuees themselves feel absolutely safe and secure to resettle and when all avenues to resettle, as presented by the WRA, are acceptable to the residents.

The residents of all relocation centers participating in this Conference request the WRA to keep the centers open on the following grounds:

1. That the announced new WRA policy of closing WRA centers is in contradiction to oft-repeated statements by the WRA that centers are to remain open for the duration of the war.

2. That Japan is caring for U. S. civilians in Japan; therefore, the U. S. should take care of the Japanese subjects whom the government forced to evacuate.

3. That, though the Japanese intend to abide by the law, it is an impossibility for any local or federal government agency on the outside to give full protection and perfect guarantee against violence. Therefore, for the sake of those who are of the opinion that centers offer safety, the maintenance of all WRA centers is requested.

4. That protection of persons of Japanese ancestry against mob violence was one of the main reasons ~~for~~ the forced mass evacuation; that, therefore, the government ~~has~~

unquestionably has the moral obligation to care for the evacuees in centers until the evacuees themselves feel safe enough to go out. The government can not evade the moral responsibility it has toward evacuees on this point.

5. That the revocation of the West Coast exclusion orders can be no reason for the WRA to close the centers.

6. That, since the federal government forced this mass evacuation and thereby uprooted the evacuees' means of subsistence, it is the government's moral obligation and responsibility, quite unquestionably, that the government should care for the evacuees until such time ~~*****~~ during or after the war as when the evacuees themselves feel that the conditions outside permit their return to normal life.

7. That unfavorable public sentiments, public prejudice, and anti-Japanese feelings and even boycotting Japanese trade are all constant threats to the safety of life.

8. That, with increased war casualties, the evacuees believe, there will be increased hatred toward persons of Japanese ancestry--which undoubtedly will affect persons of Japanese descent unfavorably as the war continues.

^{where} 9. That older evacuees have reached such [^]stage in life ~~that~~ they are incapable of self-supporting under unfavorable conditions which at present exist on the outside.

10. That, it is certainly difficult for the evacuees to venture out and face a possibility of becoming a burden on any charitable organization of any local government; that, therefore, the evacuees believe, the government which ~~*****~~ ~~*****~~ deprived the evacuees of their means of subsistence by the mass evacuation should care for the evacuees.

11. That the evacuees know from the experiences of others that they may not be given proper medical care from hospital personnel which the Caucasian patients receive.

12. That, mental sufferings and financial losses caused by the mass evacuation, uprooting of the financial foundation of half a century, and center life of almost three years, have undermined the fighting spirit for any attempt at resettlement under the present unfavorable conditions.

13. That, with the basic pay of only \$16.00 for almost three years, evacuees have spent what little savings they had, and therefore, it is an utter impossibility for a great majority of evacuees now in the centers to hope to go out and re-establish themselves on the outside under the present conditions that exist.

14. That, family separation should not be brought about by forcing relocation of some members and by placing others in some charity organization.

15. Dependency Benefit Allotments are not sufficient for soldiers' dependents to live on the outside where the cost of daily necessities is very high.

16. That housing situation is very acute all over the country.

17. That, therefore, if an evacuee owner of a home tries to take back his own house from the present tenants, friction must be expected.

18. That, occupational competition at this time will create jealousy and hatred toward relocatees, and this jealousy and hatred may even become such that they may even endanger the lives of relocatees.

19. Great majority of Nisei evacuees now left in the centers are still dependent on the Issei evacuees; therefore, for the Issei evacuees with dependents, the prospect of relocation is not bright.

II. That the delegates likewise request the WRA to aid those who desire to resettle with substantial assistance in grant far, far greater than that given at present and also with assurance of the federal government assistance until such time as when the evacuees are able to re-establish themselves, in order that evacuee residents desirous of resettlement may be able

In assisting some evacuees to think constructively along the line of relocation, the delegates request the following:

1. That the federal government guarantee in assisting all the evacuees who have resettled or who will resettle with living expenses (which should include expenses for food, clothing, shelter, medical care) for the duration of the war and/or until the relocatee is able to re-establish himself to pre-evacuation status.

2. That there should be hospitalization insurance by the federal government; and also that there should be hospitals assigned for relocatees to insure prompt attention for the sick.

3. That relocatees should receive priority in acquiring means of transportation such as cars, trucks, bicycles, etc.

To think constructively along the line of relocation.

4. In some localities business licenses are not granted to persons of Japanese ancestry by local governments; therefore, the federal government should see to it that persons of Japanese ancestry be given equal rights and opportunities.

5. Frozen properties belonging to individuals of Japanese ancestry or their corporations be thawed out.

6. That each WRA Field Office in the West Coast should employ a person of Japanese ancestry who is acquainted with the locality and the public sentiment of that particular locality in order to assist relocatees with their various problems.

III. That the delegates also request the WRA to use their good offices to see that evacuees who desire to resettle and to re-establish themselves and who were formerly engaged in private enterprises such as farming, businesses, and fisheries, be given long term loan by the federal government.

Reasons for this request are as follows:

1. At the time of evacuation, the evacuees disposed of their personal properties and real estates. Most of the evacuees who were engaged in private enterprises and farming sold their equipments and personal properties at infinitesimal values of their original costs. Many made leases on their properties for the duration of the war. Therefore, these people are unable to relocate and re-establish themselves unless some means of federal assistance are given to them. This assistance can be accomplished by long term loans.

2. Present arrangement made by the WRA with FSA and RFC and other federal loan agencies are not applicable to all evacuees; many evacuees desire to have long term loans in order to relocate and to re-establish themselves by going back to their former trade, which are the only ways they know to earn a livelihood.

3. It is necessary for evacuees to have long term loans because it will take great length of time for them to re-establish themselves to their former trade status on account of the long lost contact with their former business associates.

4. Under the present conditions, it is difficult for persons of Japanese ancestry to obtain endorsements on loans that special federal loan is necessary; also, at the same time, evacuees are not able to offer proper and sufficient collateral to be able to borrow from private individuals or banks.

(5)

5. Because of economic blocks and boycott, which now prevail in some communities, it is necessary for some federal agency to assist evacuees in eliminating such practices.

6. Priorities for acquiring farm and other trade equipments such as trucks, tractors, cars, and so on, are indispensable to the evacuees to re-establish themselves.

7. Because of the very nature of ~~*****~~ some of the trades of the evacuees, it is necessary to have the 5-mile travel restriction removed.

8. In order to do business, persons of Japanese ancestry purchased real properties before the war, on an easy payment basis; however, as a result of the evacuation, they have not been able to keep up payments and consequently they can not have title to their properties unless their back payments are taken care of. Therefore due consideration be given by the federal government.

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3. That, though the Japanese intend to abide by the law, it is an impossibility to give full protection and perfect guarantee against violence. Therefore, for the sake of those who are of the opinion that centers offer safety, the maintenance of all WRA centers is requested.

4. That protection of persons of Japanese ancestry against mob violence was one of the main reasons for the forced mass evacuation; that, therefore, the government unquestionably has the moral obligation to care for the evacuees in centers until the evacuees themselves feel safe enough to go out. The government can not evade the moral responsibility it has toward evacuees on this point.

5. That the revocation of the West Coast exclusion orders can be no reason for the WRA to close the centers.

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8. That, with increased war casualties, the evacuees believe, there will be increased hatred toward persons of Japanese ancestry--which undoubtedly will affect persons of Japanese descent unfavorably as the war continues.

9. That older evacuees have reached such a stage in life where they are incapable of self-supporting under unfavorable conditions which at present exist on the outside.

10. That, it is certainly difficult for the evacuees to venture out and face a possibility of becoming a burden on any charitable organization of any local government; that, therefore, the evacuees believe, the government which deprived the evacuees of their means of subsistence by the mass evacuation should care for the evacuees.

11. That the evacuees know from the experiences of others that they may not be given proper medical care from hospital personnel which the Caucasian patients receive.

12. That, mental sufferings and financial losses caused by the mass evacuation, uprooting of the financial foundation of half a century, and center life of almost three years, have undermined the fighting spirit for any attempt at re-settlement under the present unfavorable conditions.

13. That, with the basic pay of only \$16.00 for almost three years, evacuees have spent what little savings they had, and therefore, it is an utter impossibility for a great majority of evacuees now in the centers to hope to go out and re-establish themselves on the outside under the present conditions that exist.

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with living expense (which should include expenses for food, clothing, shelter, medical care,) for the duration of the war and/or until the relocatee is able to re-establish himself to pre-evacuation status.

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6. That each WRA Field Office in the West Coast should employ a person of Japanese ancestry who is acquainted with the locality and the public sentiment of that particular locality in order to assist relocatees with their various problems.

III. That the delegates also request the WRA to use their good offices to see that evacuees who desire to re-settle and to re-establish themselves and who were formerly engaged in private enterprises such as farming, businesses, and fisheries, be given long term loan by the federal government. Reasons for this request are as follows:

1. At the time of evacuation, the evacuees disposed of their personal properties and real estates. Most of the evacuees who were engaged in private enterprises and farming sold their equipments and personal properties at infinitesimal values of their original costs. Many made leases on their properties for the duration of the war. Therefore, these people are unable to relocate and re-establish themselves unless some means of federal assistance are given to them. This assistance can be accomplished by long term loans.

2. Present arrangement made by the WRA with FSA and RFC and other federal loan agencies are not applicable to all evacuees; many evacuees desire to have long term loans in order to relocate and to re-establish themselves by going back to their former trades, which are the only ways they know to earn a livelihood.

3. It is necessary for evacuees to have long term loans because it will take great length of time for them to re-establish themselves to their former trade status on account of the long lost contact with their former business associates.

4. Under the present conditions, it is difficult for persons of Japanese ancestry to obtain endorsements on loans that special federal loan is necessary; also, at the same time, evacuees are not able to offer proper and sufficient collateral to be able to borrow from private individuals or banks.

5. Because of economic blocks and boycott, which now prevail in some communities, it is necessary for some federal agency to assist evacuees in eliminating such practices.

6. Priorities for acquiring farm and other trade equipments such as trucks, tractors, cars, and so on, are indispensable to the evacuees to re-establish themselves.

7. Because of the very nature of some of the trades of the evacuees, it is necessary to have the 5-mile travel restriction removed.

8. In order to do business, persons of Japanese ancestry purchased real properties before the war, on an easy payment basis; however, as a result of the evacuation, they can not have title to their properties unless their back payments are taken care of. Therefore due consideration be given by the federal government.

LEAVE TOPAZ - February 15th

Feb. 15th - Fare, round trip	\$ 6.00
15th - Supper and hotel	4.00
16th - Breakfast - Lunch - Supper	6.00
17th - " " "	6.00
18th - " " "	6.00
18th - Trip	3.00
19th - Breakfast - Lunch - Supper	6.00
20th - " " "	6.00
21st - " " "	6.00
22nd - " " "	6.00
23rd - " " "	<u>2.50</u>
Total	\$57.50

Five Delegates	\$287.50
Three Secretaries	172.50
Host Expense (Probable)	<u>175.00</u>
Total	\$635.00

Above is the approximate expense for Topaz delegates to all-center conference at Salt Lake City, Feb. 16 to Feb. 22, 1945.

It is the duty and responsibility of the Community Council that we work for the best interest of all residents. This is the basic policy.

The Council decided on January 18th that in regard to the problems that arises since the revocation of West Coast exclusion order and the new policy of the W.R.A. that the Council work on the following three basic issues:

1. To request the Administration to keep these centers open for the duration of the war for those that are not able to resettle.
2. To propose to the Administration that more consideration be given to those that desire to resettle. The sum of \$25.00 plus transportation and subsistence is not sufficient to assure any residents assurance or ease of mind to think constructively along the line of relocation. The need better or substantial assistance in grant from the W.R.A. before they can relocate.
3. The Council will also help those that had private enterprises before evacuation. These people require the assistance of government to enable them to reestablish themselves as near as possible to their former status. This can be accomplish by means of long term loan by the government.

all-Center Conference

(discuss)

A Legal procedure assistance is needed in all Field
Offices of WRA. A man to help the evacuee in all their
problems that might occur.