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CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT

Topaz, Utah

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RELOCATION SURVEY AT TOPAZ

by

Evelyn Kirimura

December 1, 1943

PROJECT REPORTS DIVISION  
Historical Section  
Russell A. Bankson  
CHIEF



W A R   R E L O C A T I O N   A U T H O R I T Y

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## RELOCATION SURVEY AT TOPAZ

A vista of cities stretches before the prospective relocatee. Some of the cities are receptive; others have been found to be cold and forbidding, or just indifferent.

A wealth of positions awaits those resettling outside after a period spent within a relocation center. Some of the jobs lead to greater opportunities; others are admittedly "dead end" in nature.

A horde of relocatees have already ventured forth to try their fortunes in these cities and in these positions. They have had good luck along with the bad. From the relocatees' viewpoint, they believe they can now see the faults of not only the W.R.A. program, but of the attitudes of the evacuees themselves.

Some can easily be recognized as "grippers", but the majority are sincere in their efforts to aid prospective relocatees. They warn against haste in the selection of jobs, against shortages of housing, against a "chip on the shoulder" attitude.

Previously, these valuable advices were received only in private letters from individuals outside the center. However, with the receipt of questionnaires sent out by the Historical Documentation Section of the Project Reports Division, relocatees freely contributed the results of their experiences, or in-experiences, as the case might be.

Besides contributing cold statistics, these questionnaires give an insight into the mental processes of the average relo-



catee--his views on evacuation itself, the height of his morale, his opinion of the W.R.A., his hopes for posterity.

Of the 900 questionnaires mailed to relocatees, 25 per cent were answered. This figure discounts the innumerable dispatches which failed to find the proper persons due to changed in addresses. This, in itself, may be considered as a remediable fault--lack of information on the whereabouts of relocatees.

Thirty per cent of the answers came from the state of Utah, centering in Salt Lake City, while Illinois accounted for 20 per cent, mainly in Chicago. If the returns might be considered a standard, Salt Lake City and Chicago have borne the biggest brunt of Topaz's relocating population, or they may also be an indication that these were the earliest focal points of relocation, hence relocatees considered themselves "settled enough" to pass judgment.

#### SALT LAKE CITY

Forty-one relocatees of Salt Lake contributed their opinions to this poll. Of this number, 22 were men of which the oldest was 66 and the youngest, 20. Of the 16 women, the eldest was 52 and the youngest, also 20.

Their occupations included: garage attendant, upholsterer, power machine (sewing) operator, kitchen or related work, type-setter, domestic, laundry, mechanic-electrician, stenographer, dry cleaner, teacher and nurse.

Sixty-five per cent of the relocatees believed they were doing the type of work to which they were fitted. A domestic



reported the longest working hours, 90, while a stenographer struck the lower end of the scale with 39 hours per week. Fifty-nine per cent attested to good working conditions and the remainder designated "fair." The W.R.A. secured positions for 24 per cent of the relocatees of this city. Thirty-nine per cent of those employed declared there was possibility of advancement in their respective positions.

Those able to save the most, \$25 a week, fell in the upholsterer, waiter-fry cook, teacher and mechanic classifications.

Three advised prospective relocatees against too frequently switching jobs once they have resettled. These were the comments they offered:

"Any individual who accepts employment through any agency should be well advised to accept the employment on somewhat of a permanent nature. To jump a job after a brief employment for some other work with more pay or any other selfish reason is a bad example. It is not fair to the employer who made it possible for the individual to leave the center for employment on the outside."

"The present system of handling relocation is not satisfactory because as soon as one leaves the center, he (or she) is on his own. I noticed quite a number go back to the W.R.A. office for aid, but the staff is not too helpful. I think for this reason many try different jobs and quit. This makes it bad for the rest of the relocatees looking for jobs. The employer loses faith in Japanese because they change their jobs too often."



Regarding community acceptance, Salt Lake relocatees classed the attitude of the people as good, 60 per cent, and fair, 40 per cent.

Lacking of housing was recognized by 78 per cent as an important obstacle facing the happiness and welfare of relocatees in this city. Only one person was assisted by the government in securing housing. Comments offered were:

"Housing problem is very hard. Unless the W.R.A. does something about it, the people can't come out and make a living. That's where most of the trouble is now. I know quite a few husbands are out here from different camps and are looking for a place so they can bring the rest of the family. The people who can afford to buy a place of their own are all right, but some can't afford it."

"Definite and precise information should be made available as to housing facilities available for the relocatees. This information should include the cost and type of living quarters."

Sixty-six per cent believed there was possibility of permanent resettlement after the war in their community, in spite of this fact, 56 per cent fully intend to return to their former locales when that time comes, even if they hold satisfactory jobs.

Movies headed the recreation list in this city, with 76 per cent involved. In order of importance, movies were closely followed by shopping, social calls, church and meetings. The miscellaneous list included reading, bowling, sports, gardening



and study.

Seventy-five per cent admitted that it was a desire to leave the center which prompted them to resettle in Salt Lake, rather than a particular job offer or contributing factors. A scattered few mentioned particular job offers, hospitality invitation, sake of children or education as their particular inducements to relocate.

Fifty-one per cent relocated alone to Salt Lake. As one relocatee has stated, this was probably due to lack of housing for families. However, 34 per cent did relocate with their families. Only three persons went out in the company of friends. A youth of 25 declared that more opportunities should be provided for relocation of families with children. Another suggested relaxation of present rules not allowing any more indefinite leaves to Salt Lake to allow for reunion of families.

Only three persons found it difficult to adjust themselves to the new environment.

Asked what they liked about relocation, their answers listed freedom, the hospitality of the people, a normal life, self-reliance and sightseeing. On the other hand, they criticized inadequate housing, separation from the family, expense, propaganda that Nisei are saboteurs, loneliness, and congregations in one place.

Criticisms and suggestions offered for the handling of the relocation program included, in addition to those mentioned heretofore:



- 1) More specific information on social contacts, housing and acceptance into the community before the resident leaves the center.
- 2) Giving the relocatees the idea that they are not members of an outside community just for the duration and just to be out of camp, and so conduct themselves accordingly.
- 3) A guardianship system for the young boys and girls allowed to leave the center alone.
- 4) Assistance for those who fall ill while employed.
- 5) More opportunities for Caucasian contact.
- 6) Explain fully unfortunate incidents involving relocatees to those remaining in the center, but do not stress them to the point of frightening prospective resettlers.
- 7) Discourage unnecessary agitation arousing hatred against the Japanese.
- 8) Relocate people to the west coast now that the transfer program has been completed. "This will help tremendously in the labor shortage and will aid this country in winning the war."

Summing Salt Lake's contribution is this 41-year-old man's sage advice:

"The important thing is what the relocatees can offer and give through relocation, thus building a foundation for themselves as well--and not what they can get out of relocation."

#### CHICAGO

Thirty-six returns were received from this boom city. Of these, 14 were women with the eldest 52 years old and the youngest, 19; 22 were men, with the oldest, 75, and the youngest, 16.

Their occupations covered: secretarial, kitchen work, nursing, candy maker, bookbinder, student-minister, laboratory technician, advisor to evacuees, plating, machinist, stock boy,



art and costume modeling, domestic, nurseryman, shipping clerk, laborer, pipe welder, commercial artist and beauty operator.

As compared to Salt Lake's 65 per cent, only 58 per cent of the relocatees of this city were engaged in occupations to which they were fitted. An unskilled laborer reported the high in working hours per week, 60, while a stenographer reached the low with  $37\frac{1}{2}$  hours. Fifty-six per cent were working under good conditions. Only two of the remaining portion believed their conditions were bad; the others designated "fair." The W.R.A. aided 36 per cent in securing positions.

The weekly amounts saved by the relocatees ranged from nothing to the \$30 put aside by an automotive machinist. Interesting to note is the fact that 20 of the 36 questionnaires received either indicated that no sum was saved or failed to volunteer an answer altogether.

One relocatee expressed disappointment at the low wages prevalent in Chicago. He wrote: "Our so-called standard wages are 35 cents an hour." He was employed at the Edgewater Beach Hotel at the time he filled the questionnaire.

Another wrote: "Many persons relocate and then find that their job is not all that it was claimed to be. Then, they are on their own in getting another job. Couldn't the W.R.A. be more helpful in cases like these?"

"Job offers in the W.R.A. office here are the lowest paying available. Many of us find it more desirable to go to the U.S. Employment Service."



Regarding positions in defense plants, one warned that "chances are slim" while another cautioned about the special clearance necessary to enter into certain types of jobs. ("Too many have waited weeks and months for their clearance after relocation.")

The most constructive criticism came from a 28-year-old machine shop apprentice: "Many firms tend to create separate departments within their shops, composed only of American Japanese, and as a result, the wage scale and working conditions are, as a rule, less favorable than in the regular departments. This might possibly be avoided by inducing firms to employ a limited number in each of their separate departments where the individual worker might gain entity in the eyes of both his Caucasian fellow-workers and the firm, as an individual. The base rate of pay for each type of work should be clearly defined by the firms contacting the W.R.A. as firms have made a practice in some cases of stating their lowest pay and have later transferred efficient workers to advanced skills at this same rate or only a minimum raise."

Community acceptance was placed as good by 69 per cent of the relocatees, as compared to Salt Lake's 60 per cent. Only one person found acceptance bad, while the others quoted "fair."

Fifty per cent found housing adequate. However, the remaining half was quite vociferous in its criticisms of the housing shortage.

"The one big complaint I have heard leveled against the



W.R.A. is that it has given so little housing. It may be that the W.R.A. field offices do not have the time to look up available living quarters for those who relocate, especially families, but it seems to me that this should be the major concern of relocation--even ahead of jobs. Thousands of evacuees--although they know they can get jobs--will not leave the centers because they are not sure of decent housing, at least comparable to the homes they had on the Pacific Coast. A single man or a group of young men and women do not have too much trouble finding apartments, but most families are not likely to be satisfied with two or three-room housing."

"The W.R.A. has been relocating center residents on job offers or hostel invitations. Particularly in Chicago with the acute shortage of housing, I question strongly the advisability of this. Jobs are plentiful and should not be the main factor of relocation. I believe that there should be a more intensive housing study before many more are relocated to Chicago."

Seventy-five per cent believed there was possibility for permanent resettlement in Chicago after the war. However, 53 per cent intend to return to their former homes after the war.

The city's recreational activities were also headed by movies and showed more variety than Salt Lake's. Shopping, church, social calls and meetings followed movies in order of preference. Others were reading, teas, bowling, hiking, sightseeing, dancing, letter writing, school, clubs, and plays.

Sixty-one per cent stated their presence in Chicago was



due to their desire to leave the center. Five relocated with a particular job offer, four on a hostel invitation, and one on a hospitality bid. Other reasons given included relocation with family, furthering education, and for the sake of children's education.

Almost half (47 per cent) relocated with their families. Thirty-one per cent ventured out alone and the remainder with friends.

Only four persons declared that it had been difficult to adjust themselves to their new environment.

Their likes and dislikes about relocation were almost identical with the relocatees of Salt Lake, disclosing that these matters do not vary so much with the locale.

In addition to criticisms and comments offered above, the following were volunteered in the questionnaires:

- 1) W.R.A. field offices "lack a realistic understanding of the evacuees' problem."
- 2) Request influential evacuees (relocated) to write letters on relocation for center-wide consumption.
- 3) Continue financial aid until evacuee has a job.
- 4) Assimilation program in Chicago is weak due to lukewarm interest of churches and ministers.
- 5) Considering the war feeling against the evacuees at the present time, I believe the W.R.A. has done a remarkably good job of relocating those who have left the centers. The W.R.A. and the evacuees have not only had to contend with the strong war feeling against the Japanese, but the usual race prejudice present in all parts of the United States. Fortunately, the general good behavior of the evacuees has helped the relocation program to a great degree as new employers of the relocating workers have found them to be hard working and trustworthy. In this respect, the favorable percentage



of evacuee workers is likely to be higher than that of any other racial group.

Eighteen returns were received from Michigan, with ten from Ann Arbor, five from Detroit, and three from scattered points. Occupations of the Ann Arbor relocatees included: receiving clerk, storeroom, instructors, baker, janitors, and nurses' aide; two in Detroit were employed in war plants, and the rest in a foundry supply company, social work, accounting.

Forty per cent of those in Ann Arbor believed themselves fitted for the positions which they held; the accountant and social worker were the only Detroit persons who answered in the affirmative.

In Ann Arbor, a university instructor reported the least number of working hours, twenty-four, while a university janitor quoted "approximately 60." One of Detroit's war plant workers reported 65 hours while the accountant's work week consisted of 40 hours. Opinion as to Ann Arbor working conditions was equally divided, with 40 per cent siding with "good" and 40 per cent with "fair"; in Detroit, the "good" faction took a slight edge with 60 per cent. The W.R.A. secured the positions of 40 per cent of the Ann Arbor's relocatees and 60 per cent (war workers, accountant, and foundry supply) of Detroit's.

The university town's workers reported little or no savings, but in the case of the war industries of Detroit, one worker saved as much as \$40 (65-hour work week) weekly while the other (56-hour work week) put aside \$25. The person with the \$40 savings was the only Detroit person who declared that there was an



opportunity for advancement in his position: in Ann Arbor, 20 per cent (receiving clerk and instructor) indicated the affirmative. Mature and constructive comments were received from the campus.town.

One of the Ann Arbor instructors advised an intensive vocational training for prospective relocatees who have no special talents "so that their resettlement would be a positive addition to the community in which they are to resettle. Confidence begets permanency and a sense of security." The same person advocated the encouragement of farmers to resettle, not as farm hands, but as land-owners.

Another Ann Arborite deplored the fact that so many of the younger persons sent there were untrained and apparently uneducated. "It seems that there are so many houseboys and girls."

Community acceptance in Ann Arbor was placed as 70 per cent good ("Many restaurants are using Japanese waiters, waitresses, busboys, etc., and the public seems to accept them without question.") and 60 per cent in Detroit. An Ann Arborite praised the sincere Christian attitude in his town and advocated more contacts with churches and ministers, as an aid to resettlement. Housing was noted as 90 per cent inadequate in Ann Arbor while Detroit was 80 per cent of the same opinion. Advance solution of this problem was advised.

Sixty per cent believed there was a possibility of permanent resettlement in Ann Arbor and 80 per cent in Detroit. Despite this majority, 50 per cent of the Ann Arborites indicated that



they plan to return to their former homes after the war. The ratio, 20, of the Detroit persons who plan to return balances the equation.

Movies, shopping and meetings took equal importances in Ann Arbor's recreational list; while in Detroit the list was almost identical, except that church services supplant shopping.

Detroit relocatees (40 per cent) declared that a desire to leave the center had prompted their move, but in the case of Ann Arborites, 30 per cent set out in search of higher education.

Relocatees of both cities (60 per cent in Detroit; 50 per cent in Ann Arbor) resettled alone and were predominantly (60 per cent in Ann Arbor; 100 per cent in Detroit) not planning to have their families rejoin them.

An Ann Arborite criticized: "If a receptive community is found for several people of Japanese descent, there is a tendency to send (or allow) too many to relocate there. I know that the W.R.A. is making wonderful advancement in this line now and is counteracting some of the unpleasantness that such a situation can create. As a matter of interest, may I say that the situation here almost became critical sometime last June when approximately 200 relocators came practically masse. However, due to the fact that this is a campus town, there were and are enough rational people and things never came to ahead."

Another advocated the resettlement of families, but cautioned: "Be sure that the families can make a go of themselves on the income they are to receive as the initial cost is heavy."



This advice is from Ann Arbor.

A Detroit comment also realized the need of family relocation, declaring, "the youth out on a job needs the security of family life to encourage and help him adjust himself to a new situation."

Opinion was almost unanimous, 90 per cent, in Ann Arbor that no difficulties were experienced in re-orientation and 60 per cent in Detroit.

Their likes and dislikes followed closely along the lines of those in Salt Lake and Chicago.

Miscellaneous criticisms and comments offered were:

From Ann Arbor:

1) "I would like to commend the W.R.A. for its magnificent struggle to surmount what seemed like impossible for those of Japanese descent to be assimilated back into normal society after the terrific setback caused by the evacuation. Such efforts serve to verify the ideals of democracy, the Four Freedoms and should serve to point out to the group of nisei, kibe, and issei, who are a bit doubtful, that deep in its heart, the United States does not dislike them as a group nor does she wish to treat them as outcasts."

2) "The authorities should take into consideration the possibilities of social problems arising out of relocation of young men and women. Although not acute at present, sex matters should be carefully considered. A proportionate distribution of both sexes to any given part is paramount for a successful resettlement."

3) For post-war, a consideration of compensation for economic losses suffered because of evacuation based in reliable information such as the financial statement filed upon or prior to evacuation with the WCCA should be justly studied and given.

4) A map showing possible resettlement areas and main industries will be helpful to resettlement officers and prospective resettlers.



Detroit:

1) Evacuees lack a true picture of outside community life. Too many already outside have an "America owes me a living" type of attitude.

2) The cash grant is positively insufficient. Taking Detroit as an example, its costs a minimum of \$3.50 a day per person, counting meals and hotel. "Even if one works from the day after arrival, he cannot expect the first pay check for two weeks, during which his expense will run to over \$45, without having spent a single cent for recreation, laundry, etc. There should be a \$75 cash grant for each person whether head of family or not, unless he is financially able to take care of himself without aid."

Seventeen returns came in from the state of Ohio, including nine from Cleveland, three from Dayton and five from scattered points. As Cleveland appears to be the focus of the Ohio relocatees, only the statistics on this city are given herewith:

Occupations ranged from office work to laborer, basket braider and lathe operator. Fifty-six per cent believed they were fitted to the work which they were doing. No abnormality was noted in the working hours, as the peak was the 48-hour work week of the stenographer and lathe operator. Opinion was divided equally on working conditions, with 44 per cent backing "good" and 44 per cent backing "fair." The W.R.A. secured the majority (55 per cent) of the positions for the relocatees of this city. Savings did not seem to be as high as the cities mentioned heretofore, not even hitting Salt Lake's peak of \$25. The basketbraider put aside \$23 while the laborer broke even. Fifty-five per cent saw no opportunity for advancement in their present jobs. One advised: "Evacuees should come out and look for their own jobs, instead of coming out on a definite offer. Placements



made through personal interviews are more satisfactory both from the standpoint of the employer and evacuee."

Cleveland was almost wholeheartedly agreed on the fine calibre of community acceptance. Only one person believed that acceptance was bad. Again, as in the other cities, a majority, 78 per cent, deplored their housing as inadequate. Said one: "Would like to suggest that the W.R.A. not encourage relocation in areas where the housing situation is too acute because if housing is too difficult, it tends to force people to live in slum areas."

Another deplored the practice of sending all the evacuees to one hotel and thus creating another "Little Tokio." He scored the W.R.A. for failing to inform the prospective resettler of exact housing conditions.

All except one person believed there was possibility of permanent resettlement in Cleveland after the war. Forty-five per cent intend to return to their former homes after the war, however.

Movies, social calls, and shopping headed the leisure-time activities. Only one person designated church services as one of his activities.

Thirty-three per cent each relocated on particular job offers and hostel invitations and the remainder was equally divided on hospitality invitations and a desire to leave the center.

Forty-four per cent each relocated with families or alone.



Only one person left with friends.

Only one person in Cleveland found it difficult to adjust himself to the new environment.

Among the suggestions offered was that of the person who advised larger staffs for the W.R.A. relocation offices so that they would be in a position to do more field work instead of confining their work to routine matters. This, it was believed, would aid in securing better employment and housing for the relocatees.

The remainder of the relocatees were scattered throughout the middle west and on the eastern coast, not in great numbers as were the cases mentioned above, but a few here and there.

New York City returns only numbered six, however (taking into consideration negligence of the relocatees in returning questionnaires), this figure may be only a forerunner of a huge influx, pending Eastern Defense clearances. Sixty-seven per cent was satisfied with community acceptance while only one person (unemployed) believed that housing in New York was inadequate.

Advices offered from this city were:

- 1) Evacuees can and should settle more permanently in New York. There will not be too great a change here after the war.
- 2) The government might give each evacuee a \$2,000 grant, which would not only be an incentive for relocation but would be far less than the cost of operating the centers for the period of one year. (The relocatee bases his advice on the premise that this incentive would empty the centers.)



- 3) New York is definitely not a boom town. For those evacuees who hope to obtain lucrative positions without definite skills in some profession or trade, this city is a good place to avoid.

Judged on the basis of community acceptance and housing facilities, the remainder of the resettlement points are given as follows:

Arkansas--Little Rock, one return: community attitude, fair; housing, inadequate.

Colorado--Boulder, four returns: community attitude, 100 per cent good; housing 100 per cent adequate.

Denver, one return: community attitude, good; housing, inadequate.

Greeley, one return: community attitude, good; housing, adequate.

Connecticut--Hartford, one return: community attitude, good; housing, inadequate. ("My funds were nil by the time I reached my destination.")

Delaware--Wilmington, one return: community attitude, good; housing, adequate.

District of Columbia--Washington, two returns: community attitude, evenly divided on good and fair; housing, both adequate.

("Believed that persons relocating should try to find jobs for which they are best fitted and in which they would be happy. Many relocated evacuees seem to be working in jobs in which they are not happy. This, I believe, hinders their working ability and does not show them at their best.")  
("The W.R.A. relocation offices are doing a wonderful job of re-establishing evacuees in many parts of the country. The evacuees still remaining in the centers should have no fears as to being stranded in a strange community, since the relocation officers are always willing and able to aid them.")

Idaho--Preston, one return: community attitude, good; housing, inadequate.

Malad City, one return: community attitude, good;



housing, inadequate.

Huston, one return: community attitude, fair;  
housing inadequate.

Iowa--Indianola, one return: community attitude, good;  
housing, adequate.

Des Moines, one return: community attitude, good;  
housing, adequate.

("Relocation being handled very effectively. You might further suggest to the young people that relocation is nothing to fear as so many people think. The younger group should not hesitate in its chance for relocation for camp life only tends toward loss of ambition and toward irresponsibility. It would be so much easier to take the step now than later.")

Maryland--Towson, one return: community attitude, no answer; housing, inadequate.

("Center life made me realized how passive one can become and indifferent to the social, economic and political changes outside. Very fine liberal groups and individuals have been especially fine to those from the centers.")

("When job offers come in to the W.R.A. offices, I believe there should be a more thorough investigation of working conditions, salaries in relation to the cost of room and board, so that those who are contemplating relocation will have a detailed picture of the job they are about to accept. One important suggestion for those who are planning to relocate is to consider the job offers with an eye to the future. It is also important for those who are planning to relocate to keep in mind that they will be in communities where the greater majority of the residents are not accustomed to seeing large groups of Orientals. It is wisest to take precautions and limit the groups using public vehicles and attending restaurants to the maximum of four. This may seem like an unimportant suggestion, but it is important that all of us who are relocating do nothing to impede the re-settlement process.")

("It should be the job of the W.R.A. offices in the various cities to help those who have had difficulties with their jobs, besides their task of relocating the center residents.")



Maryland--Baltimore, one return: community attitude, bad; housing, adequate.

Boston, three returns: community attitude, two, good; one, fair; housing, two adequate; one, inadequate.

("Advise some system whereby a prospective relocatee can know specifically when he can receive his indefinite and Eastern Defense clearances.")

Minnesota--Minneapolis, four returns: community attitude, three, good; one, fair; housing, 100 per cent inadequate.

("The W.R.A. should see to it that large relocating families should have in its possession a sufficient sum of money in order to get along until an income is assured.")

("The W.R.A. should tell the whole story--exact conditions--to relocatees to save them possible disillusionment.")

St. Paul, four returns: community attitude, 100 per cent good; housing, half and half on adequate and inadequate.

("The \$25 subsistence was not enough to cover my expenses for the first month. I don't think large families such as mine are able to meet even one-third of the expenses on what the W.R.A. grants.")

("I believe that the relocated should not come out on domestic jobs as there are other kinds of opportunities.")

("Investigate jobs thoroughly and in detail.")

Camp Savage, one return: community attitude, good; housing, inadequate.

Wayzata, one return: community attitude, fair; housing, no answer.

Missouri--St. Louis, one return: community attitude, good; housing, inadequate.

("I would like to suggest to the W.R.A. offices of the various cities to have a means of acquainting the newcomer to the restricted areas and to what extent an individual may use a camera, so



that the American-born Japanese will not be found guilty of violating the wartime security regulations. Living within the confines of a relocation center for any length of time, one forgets the rules and regulations of the outside.")

Springfield, one return: community attitude, fair; housing, adequate.

Nebraska--Omaha, two returns: community attitude and housing, 100 per cent good and adequate, respectively.

Lincoln, two returns: community attitude and housing, 100 per cent good and adequate, respectively.

Nevada--Ely, two returns: community attitude and housing, 100 per cent good and adequate, respectively.

("Speed relocation process as employers hesitate to apply to W.R.A. because of red tape involved. Let more of the public know that many loyal nisei and issei are within the center and eagerly looking for employment.")

Pennsylvania--Philadelphia, four returns: community attitude, 100 per cent good; housing 100 per cent inadequate.

("It would be indeed helpful if the evacuees could have more assistance from the relocation office in finding housing. Philadelphia has been successful in this only because the wife of the relocation officer has taken it upon herself to do her utmost without pay to help each evacuee personally.")

("Be sure that the person relocating is of the type that will be of benefit to community and will make a good impression to pave the way for those who will resettle later.")

("Publicize the better points of the nisei. Educate the public as to what the nisei can do, are qualified to do. Have the W.R.A. take a personal interest in each person that comes out. The Chicago and St. Louis officers are no good.")

("Mrs. Henry G. Patterson is a wonderful person and is doing a fine piece of work in the Philadelphia W.R.A. office as a volunteer worker. She takes a personal interest in each individual which



is the important thing in the handling of relocation. We experienced an impersonal attitude and officiousness and patronizing air in the Chicago and St. Louis offices. Can't the W.R.A. use better judgment in the choice of people as receptionists, also? The initial contact is important--the evacuee either is able to meet his new situation, job hunting, with confidence because of W.R.A. helpfulness or he becomes bitterly disappointed, disgusted and discouraged.")

("One of the problems is how can persons with limited resources or none at all hold out for the right job--one that he is suited for? Oftentimes there is no choice but to 'get stuck' in just any job just to earn a livelihood.")

Tennessee--Madison College, one return: community attitude, good; housing, no answer.

Wisconsin--Madison, two returns: community attitude and housing, good and adequate respectively.

("One of the chief criticisms I have of present methods of relocation is the lack of adequate means of relocating families, especially those of limited means. More financial aid and more positive aid in getting adequate housing should be given.")

Waukesha, two returns: community attitude, 100 per cent good; housing, one adequate, the other fails to answer.

Wyoming--Douglas, one return: community attitude, good; housing, adequate.

("I consider it a poor policy to allow too many persons to relocate into one area. When that happens, the community attitude usually becomes unfriendly. I believe the cases of Provo, Salt Lake City, Denver and Chicago prove my statement. It is also bad for the future of the people who settle too thickly in one place as they may group or be forced to group in Little Tokios again. Another fault is that which causes many Japanese Americans of good character to be investigated and put through all kinds of red tape while people of undesirable character are allowed to relocate freely. Too much time has been spent investigating loyalty instead of character.



Cheyenne, two returns: community attitude, one fair, one good; housing, inadequate.

Returns of scattered points in Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, New York, and Utah have been omitted as representative cities have been discussed in detail.

This, then, is a cross-section of the vast relocatee population which has squared its shoulders and ventured into the unknown. Some have found the way difficult, but the great majority feel satisfied and express no desire to return to the centers.

The majority placed on the credit side of the ledger the freedom, normalcy, friendly community attitude, leisure-time activities, weekly savings and working conditions; "in the red" were such disadvantages as inadequate housing, separation from family and friends, job discrimination, unsuitable work and inability to return to former homes.

They, the relocatees, believed that the following should be stressed in the W.R.A. program for resettling residents: insure adequate housing; educate 1) the prospective resettlers, 2) the public-at-large; increase subsistence grants; thoroughly investigate jobs, working conditions and community attitudes before sending out residents; and return the loyal to the west coast.

The criticisms and suggestions, many of which are from the issel relocatees, indicated an active interest in not only the welfare of those who are already outside the center, but in the future well being of those who remain. ("The important thing is what the relocatees can offer and give through relocation--



and not what they can get out of relocation.")

They inclined toward the constructive trend and an awareness of what constitute the good and evils of the relocation program. They were cognizant of the good work of the W.R.A., and yet objectively pointed to the faults, with the hope that they might be corrected.

They realized their own faults ("Don't congregate in large groups in public places. Be aware of changed conditions outside.") They realized the faults of those who remain in the center ("Don't go out with an 'the world owes me a living' attitude. Don't be afraid."). They are happy and want others to be happy.

All in all, the picture is quite optimistic, as prospective relocatees may go out, armed with the advices of the experienced, and with the promised aid of not only the W.R.A. branch offices, but of their vast world of fellow beings whether resettlers or the public-at-large. All that is necessary is to remember the advice of the Salt Lake relocatee: "Wherever they (relocatees) go, whatever they do, does not make any difference, so long as they have the American spirit to do and to appreciate things the American way!"

(Attached as exhibits are complete copies of the criticisms and suggestions offered with the questionnaires.)



WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT  
TOPAZ, UTAH  
RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

Oct. // 1943

In order to aid those still within the center to relocate, it would be beneficial to know the conditions now prevalent in areas where residents have already found homes and livelihood. With this objective in mind, we are asking relocatees to answer pertinent questions which, we hope, will solve problems facing prospective resettlers. Your name is not necessary. We would appreciate your cooperation in seeing this project to a successful conclusion by returning your completed questionnaire as soon as possible in the enclosed franked and self-addressed envelope.

MALE ( ) FEMALE ( ) AGE \_\_\_\_\_ TYPE OF WORK \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

1. How is the community attitude? good ( ) fair ( ) bad ( )
2. How are the housing facilities? adequate ( ) inadequate ( )
3. Are you doing the type of work to which you are fitted? yes ( )  
no ( )
4. Do you think there is any possibility of permanent resettlement after the war in the community where you have relocated? yes ( )  
no ( )
5. How many hours a week do you work? \_\_\_\_\_ hrs.
6. What are the conditions under which you work? good ( )  
fair ( )  
bad ( )
7. What are your main leisure time activities? movies ( ) church ( )  
shopping ( ) meetings ( ) social calls ( ) others \_\_\_\_\_
8. What induced you to relocate? particular job offer ( )  
hostel invitation ( ) hospitality invitation ( ) desire to  
leave the center ( ) others \_\_\_\_\_
9. Did the WRA help you to get your job? yes ( ) no ( )
10. Did a government agency assist you in finding housing? yes ( )  
no ( )
11. How much do you save a week? \_\_\_\_\_
12. Is there opportunity for advancement in your present position?  
yes ( ) no ( )
13. Have you relocated with your family? yes ( ) no ( ) With  
friends? yes ( ) no ( ) Alone? yes ( ) no ( )
14. Are you making plans to call out other members of your family?  
yes ( ) no ( ) How many? \_\_\_\_\_
15. Do you plan to return to your former location after the war, in  
spite of a satisfactory job in your present locale? yes ( )  
no ( )
16. Are you happy in your new environment? yes ( ) no ( )
17. Has center life hindered or aided your relocation? \_\_\_\_\_
18. Do you find it difficult to adjust yourself to the new environ-  
ment? yes ( ) no ( )
19. What do you like most about relocation? \_\_\_\_\_
20. What do you dislike most about relocation? \_\_\_\_\_
21. What suggestions or criticisms have you to offer in regards to  
the present system of handling relocation? Please use reverse  
side for your answer.

Historical Section  
Project Reports Division



## RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Wilmette, Illinois.

I am only a nineteen-year-old nisei girl. You ask me my opinion--frankly both good and bad: -- I appreciate the fact that the government has paid our way and aided us in obtaining a job. However, if you analyze this clearly -- this whole evacuation--especially of Jap-Americans was not necessary. You had sort of messed up our lives. Separated families and in a way -- narrow-minded us--spoilt us--thus making relocation difficult.

Also what I cannot see is why the WRA keeps on sending Japanese to Chicago area. Not that I dislike my race but the fact is that one must remember Chicago did not have this many orientals--but now by leaps and bounds evacuees are crowding in. At first caucasians may understand but now as one sees too many downtown on Sundays in groups one begins to resent. People have been quiet--but--anytime a spark maybe ignited and endanger all of us --which might result in the fact that people might want us to remain in camp which is costing the government too much expense.

How others feel I do not know. But I surely wish that evacuees could be distributed more evenly.



## RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Ann Arbor, Michigan

1. Actual living conditions, outside should be made known.
2. Housing problems should be solved before hand.
3. Education and orientation of ration system in helpful.
4. Social problem: authority should take into consideration, possibilities of social problems arising out of relocation of young men or women. Although, presently, perhaps not accute, sex matters should be carefully considered. Must be realistic and human. A proportionate distribution, shall I say, of both sexes to any given part of the states in paramount for a successful resettlement. A problem of social worker--for them to solve.
5. Encourage resettlement of families, but be sure that the families can make a go of themselves on the income they are to receive. Initial cost is heavy.
6. Christians found to be the ones mostly kind, congenial, helpful and understanding. Personally, I sincerely appreciate their thoughtfulness and kindness. More contacts with churches and ministers will greatly aid relocation and resettlement because they are sincere.
7. Instill, especially in young persons, a sense of responsibility which they assume upon their relocation and resettlement for on their attitude, acceptance by the community depends.
8. For those who have no special talent, a intensive and extensive vocational training should be given so that their resettlement would be positive addition to the community in which they are to resettle. Confidence begets permanency and a sense of security.
9. For post-war, a consideration of compensation for economic lossess suffered because of evacuation based on reliable information such as the Financial Statement filed upon or prior to evacuation with the WCCA should be justly studied and given. Some equitable and just system should evolve by then, if not now considered.
10. Resettlement as farmers should be encouraged, but the authorities should try to arrange for their becoming land-owning farmers in the end if not at the beginning--and not farm hand permanently.



11. A knowledge of climatic conditions, racial elements, characteristic or type of place (such as predominantly laboring, intellectual, etc.) etc. will be helpful.

12. A map showing possible resettlement areas and main industries (agricultural, industrial, commercial) will be helpful to resettlement officers and prospective re-settlers.



## RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Hartford 2, Conneticut

I arrived at my destination safely after a little train trouble. Relocation through your method worked out beautifully only I was at sea when I got to my new destination; if it hadn't been for my sister's comforting guidance and company, I think I would have returned to the camp. My funds were nil by the time I reached my destination.



## RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Ogden, Utah

The leave office should give more instructions; because of not enough details they miss the bus. I heard people saying same thing, too.

Also it would be good idea to thoroughly inquire jobs before you get them. Job, housing, etc.



RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Boulder, Colorado

From my personal experience -- the handling of relocation seems to be entirely satisfactory.



RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: New York, New York

The W.R.A. office isn't offering enough assistance in New York. Wages are cheap as h---here. Advise people not to come here unless they got plenty of kush.



## RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Salt Lake City, Utah.

This is strictly a suggestion and my opinion.

There is a policy now of the U. R. A. in Salt Lake City that no person will be eligible to Salt Lake City unless he has a good reason. A good reason, of course, could be anything by exceptions and reasoning.

My suggestion is that as there is such a policy which is really supposed to unite any family, why not allow any member or members of a family that has a any number of their family in Salt Lake City to come out, rather than other reasons?

I'm hoping.



## RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: New York City, New York

Relocation takes absolutely too long a time ( I mean getting of leave clearances). Grant I'm afraid is not sufficient for relocation at all.



## RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Minneapolis, Minnesota

As to question 21, I have nothing but praise for the work being done by Relocation Authority. One thing which I would like to caution is that when relocating large family, the Authority should see to it that they should have in their possession sufficient sum of money in order to get themselves settled till enough incomes are assured to sustain them.

I would not and never will condone a forcible attitude on your part to resettle anybody in order to make a name for yourself, as the saying goes, as it might prove disastrous and tragical to all persons involved.

With these humble opinions on my part, I wish all the success in rehabilitating unfortunates.



## RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: New York, New York

Suggestions or criticisms in regards to the present system of handling relocation.

1. \$25 or \$50 allowances are hardly sufficient for anyone to relocate. It seems that each relocatee sends home an itemized list of the cost of living to his wife, parent, or friends. Glancing at the cost of food, shelter, and clothing, many people, I think hesitate in relocating.

Suggestion: The Government can give each evacuee \$2000 to relocate as an incentive, and this amount in grant would be far less than the cost of operating the centers for a period of one year.

2. The W.R.A. office in New York City stinks -- positively! They seem to be passing the buck to the various church committees, housing especially. Already there is a tendency to form a Lil Tokyo, not that it is undesirable, but inconsistent with W.R.A. policy.

3. New York is definitely not a boom town, and for those evacuees who hope to obtain lucrative positions without definite skill in some profession or trade, New York is a good place to avoid.

4. Single rooms can be had for \$3.50 per week and up.



## RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Washington D. C.

Believe that persons relocating should try to find jobs for which they are best fitted and in which they would be happy. Many relocated evacuees seem to be working in jobs in which they are not happy---this I believe hinders their working ability and does not show them at their best.

The W.R.A. relocation offices are doing a wonderful job of re-establishing evacuees in many parts of the country. The evacuees still remaining in the centers should have no fears as to being stranded in a strange community, since the relocation officers are always willing and able to aid them. The point I'm trying to bring out is, that no matter what your problems may be in relocation, the W. R. A. offices will help you to find a solution.



## RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Douglas, Wyoming

In answer to question 21, I consider it a poor policy to allow too many persons to relocate into one area or city. When that happens the attitude usually become unfriendly. I believe the case of Provo, Salt Lake City, Denver, and Chicago will prove my statement. There should be a limit on each city and area. It is also bad on the future of the people who settle too thickly in one place as they may group or be forced to group and settle together in Little Tokio again. If that happens it will be or become the same as it was before the war, on the coast. Therefore I believe that it would be best if the people that are relocating would settle a few here, and a few there all over the country into friendly areas only and become absorbed by the vast American population.

There is also another fault in the relocation program that I should like to bring up.

There have been many Japanese Americans of good character, held up, investigated and put through all kinds of red tape for over a year while people of undesirable character were allowed to relocate freely. Too much time has been spent investigating loyalty instead of character. Many rowdys and zoot zooters have gone out to cities such as Salt Lake and caused trouble with the result that a lot of night clubs and all sorts of public place have been closed to all Japanese. I think that it is a mistake to allow these troublemakers to relocate and turn the people against all Japanese. It's really tough on the relocators coming out later to settle in the same area.



## RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Boston, Massachusetts

To have a list of jobs in the various locations so that the people will have a line on the type of work there is. They should be informed something about housing and the cost of living in the community.



## RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Ogden, Utah

One thing that I have noticed is the young person going out on indefinite alone from a family. I think that these young "kids" should not come out alone and do what they please such as quitting a job for a better paying job etc., especially without giving notice to his employer. Young people do not think about other evacuees being nearby. I suggest that WRA do something about when "kids" leave the center.



## RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Boston, Massachusetts

Some system in Washington, D.C., whereby a prospective relocatee can know specifically when he can receive his indefinite leave clearance, and also his Eastern Defense clearance. Cannot Washington give an allotted time to each application and within that allotted time either issue the clearance or deny it? The wait has been terrific . . . . . especially for the issei.



## RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Cleveland, Ohio

WRA relocation offices should be manned by larger staffs so that they will be in a position to do more field work instead of confining their work to routine office matters. Active aid in seeking more decent employment and proper housing for the relocators is essential.



## RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Ann Arbor, Michigan.

The only criticism I have at this point is one that I believe you have been faced with previously. This is the fact that in general, if a receptive community is found for several people of Japanese descent, there is a tendency to send (or allow) too many to relocate there. I know that the W.R.A. is making wonderful advancement in this line now and is counter-acting some of the unpleasantness that such a situation can bring about.

As a matter of interest, may I say that the situation here in Ann Arbor almost became critical sometime last June when approximately 200 relocators came practically en masse. However, due to the fact that this is a campus town (although now quite a boom town due to the proximity of the Ford Willow Run Bomber Plant) there were and are enough rational people and things never came to a head. I do feel that it is unfortunate that so many of the younger persons sent here are untrained and apparently uneducated. It seems that there are so many house-boys and girls. A point of interest-----many of these house-boys are working in the houses used by the army in the army college training program. Many restaurants are using Japanese waiters, waitresses, busboys, etc., and the public seems to accept them without question.

I would like to commend the W.R.A. for their magnificent struggle to surmount what seemed like impossible odds to make it possible for those of Japanese descent to be assimilated back into normal society after the terrific setback caused by the evacuation. Such efforts serve to verify the ideals of democracy, the Four Freedoms, and should serve to point out to the group of nisei, kibe, and issei, who are a bit doubtful, that deep in its heart, the United States does not dislike them as a group nor does she wish to treat them as outcasts.

The above paragraph I should like to dedicate to Messrs. C. Ernst, J. Hughes, L. Bell, C. Cornwall, W. Honderich, E. Sekerak and many other friends I have made while in camp both among the appointive personnel and the evacuees. They have been, are, and will be working with the thought uppermost in their minds that we of Japanese descent shall be able to live more happily than in the pre-evacuation era.



## RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Salt Lake City, Utah.

### Concerning Work

Definite and precise information should be made available as to

1. Type and nature of jobs open to relocatees in the respective locality.
2. Rate of pay.

Housing facilities available for the relocatees. Cost and type of living quarters.

Cost of living.

Historical background of the locality and community. Some geographical knowledge of the locality.

Community attitude towards the relocatees.

Success or failure is all up to the individual -- his or her initiative and willingness to try and do their utmost, giving their best at all times.

The important thing is what the relocatees can offer and give through relocation, thus building a foundation for themselves as well--and not what they can get out of relocation.



## RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Cleveland, Ohio

One suggestion I would like to make is that those relocating would get more complete information from their employers. So many come out on jobs and are so disillusioned and discouraged when they actually start working.



## RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Detroit, Michigan.

Housing problem is so bad, that one should be positively assured of such before leaving the center for a position, as it is very hard to save, if you are lucky to be able to save, as cost of living is high. There should be some agency to aid in this problem and investigate for a happier and satisfactory relocation.



## RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Detroit, Michigan.

1. Financial assistant inadequate.
2. Follow through methods a necessity.
3. Thorough education to those planning to leave center.
4. Easing of technicalities.



RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Chicago, Illinois.

Instructing evacuees more definitely as to conditions  
outside of center.



RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Chicago, Illinois.

That more definite instructions be given evacuees before  
leaving centers: as to

Manners,

etiquette,

appearance in public,

attending church in new community,

becoming acquainted in new neighborhood  
activities.



## RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Chicago, Illinois.

From my own experience I have found W.R.A. field offices to be of no help whatsoever. They lack a realistic understanding of the evacuees' problem.

My outlook may not jive with others in the same area. Working and living conditions for me are good because I try to remedy the bad, if any, and adjust myself to the tempo of living here.



RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: St. Paul, Minnesota.

To investigate jobs thoroughly with more in detail.

Give the person ample time to know enough of the position.

Give more information of the city or relocation settlement  
of their destination.



## RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: St. Paul, Minnesota.

I think before a person is sent on relocation, W.R.A. should investigate further details, as to sort of place one is going to work, the employer, and working conditions. I believe that the relocater should not come out on domestic job as there are other kinds of job opportunities.



## RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Denver, Colorado,

One particular suggestion for "Relocation" especially for nisei carefully study: each individual who is about to relocate, his character, training of occupation or ability, and etiquette as a member of community.

My observation of them at this locality, it is rather heart ache to see, their character is such and ignorant about the work in which they are about pursue, in addition with their rude manner and making themselves a group and less trying to associate with other racial group. Often, shows too much of their inferiority complex.

Most of them are having not a principal or future plan of their work but simply moving around in balance of few dollars and cents.



RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Chicago, Illinois.

Would recommend that more adequate housing facilities  
be provided for nisei -- especially for families being relocated.



RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Salt Lake City, Utah.

I have a place to stay and good jobs for my brothers,  
but they are still unable to come out here.



## RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Ann Arbor, Michigan.

I have no criticism nor have I any suggestions to make but the resident people who are planning to relocate should bear in mind always that regardless of where they planning to go -- they will be looked upon as enemies and will be greeted with cold stare. With this factor in mind, and the strength to bear through it, the relocators, I'm sure, will enjoy their new environment very much. Wherever they go, whatever they do doesn't make any difference, so as long as they have the American spirit to do and to appreciate things the American way-----



RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: New York, New York.

I believe you sent this to us as a sample. I am at the Committee on Resettlement of Japanese Americans, 297 Fourth Ave., New York City, where Mr. Rundquist is executive secretary.

I am returning the questionnaire any way because I have moved to Laudmont, New York from the city and find it grand.

Evacuees can and should settle more permanently in New York. There will not be too great a change after the war here.



## RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Chicago, Illinois.

In regards to question numbers 9 and 21. I would like to ask a few question.

1. I have relocated to Chicago with a job offer from the Edgewater Beach Hotel.

It was my understanding that we were to receive standard wages, but to my surprise and disappointment I found that wages here are exceptionally low.

For you information, our so called standard wages is 35 cents an hour.



## RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Salt Lake City, Utah

I have no particular criticism about the way relocation is being handled, but I think there could be improvements made. I do not consider myself in a position to improve your extensively planned system, but just offer a suggestion or two.

Those who are relocated or about to be relocated should be given more information about what they are getting into. High wages and luxuries should not be a subject to distract the other points of importance such as social contacts, housing, and acceptance into a community.

I also believe many of us are not awake that we left our communities in a time when conditions were different. It seems we expect too much and don't realize there's a war on at times. Many permanent residents resent the fact that the relocaters are not taking the proper attitude and disrespect the fact that they want the right conditions to remain in post war times. In short, those relocating must be given the idea that they are not there just for the duration and to be out of camp. Many things about the community as a whole must be considered.

Just one man's opinion,



## RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: American Fork, Utah.

You can find the job though it is not the kind you want, so let the people go out of the camp if they want to whether there is a job waiting for them or not.

Everything, especially the food, is more expensive than what I expected, therefore \$50.00 allowance is not enough till they get the first pay. We have to pay rent and groceries in either cash or in advance.

This is not really your fault, but we are found loyal citizens of the United States by F.B.I. and the Army, therefore there is no reason to prohibit us from owning short wave radio, guns, etc. Hunting is a nice sport. My boss invited me to go to deer hunting on my next off day but I can't go.

Public does not know that all the people relocated from W.R.A. center are investigated before they went out, so spend more money and time to tell American public about it.

Try something so at least loyal citizens who wish to go, can go back to west coast; we are as loyal to our country as any American, and better than some Germans.



RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Spanish Fork, Utah.

Be more specific with your regulations; not change your regulations too often and be more definite.



## RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Cleveland, Ohio.

The W.R.A. offices are a big joke as far as relocation. We were moved out of California, because of the "Little Tokio." Now when we are supposed to be relocated, the only apartments open to evacuees are apartments where there are all Japanese Americans staying. The W.R.A. sends all the new comers in town to one hotel. There they are all bunched up in one hotel. What the hell do you call it?

Housing is lousy, nothing decent available yet W.R.A. sends them out here without telling the people the true conditions about housing.

All in all, I don't think a helluva lot of the W.R.A. office, if you ask me.



## RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Detroit, Michigan.

#17 Were it not for evacuation and center life, it is unlikely that I would have relocatee at all. Center life having been inevitable, I do not fully understand the purpose of the question. Center life has hindered relocation, but only to the extent of being more self-conscious than pre-evacuation days. This, however, lasted only five or six days, and I am absolutely normal now as if evacuation did not take place at all.

#21 A. The policy of sending out any type of evacuee without a true picture of outside community life. Too many already outside have "America owes me a living" type of attitude. They blame, any unpleasantness at work to discrimination, don't know what a man sized job is. It appears as if the only reason these people had for coming out was to play pool, drink, dance, etc., and the minute there is unpleasant experience or dissatisfaction, they go to W.R.A. office and express their desire to re-enter their former center. The relocation forum should stress the true condition to expect rather than advice on how to dress and behave; furthermore the forum's picture of outside is too optimistic. Special attention to work should be called on young people who graduated from high school in the center or just prior to evacuation, and who knows "work" as only what they have been employed on the centers.

B. The cash grant is positively insufficient. Taking Detroit as an example, it costs a minimum of \$3.50 per day per person for new arrival to live on (hotel and three meals out). Even if one works from the day after arrival, he cannot expect the first pay check for two weeks, during which his expense will run to over \$45.00 without having spent a single cent for recreation, cigarettes, laundry, etc. There should be a \$75.00 cash grant for each person whether head of family or not, unless he is financially able to take care of himself without aid.



## RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Chicago, Illinois.

Considering the war feeling against the evacuees at the present time, I believe the W.R.A. has done a remarkably good job of relocating those who have left the centers.

W.R.A. and the evacuees have not only had to contend with the strong war feeling against the Japanese, but the usual race prejudice present in all parts of the United States. Fortunately, the general good behavior of the evacuees has helped the relocation program to a great degree as new employers of the relocating workers have found them to be hard working and trustworthy. In this respect, the favorable percentage of evacuee workers is likely to be higher than that of any other racial group.

The one big complaint I have heard leveled against the W.R.A. is that it has given so little housing. It may be that the W.R.A. field offices do not have the time to look up available living quarters for those who relocate, especially families but it seems to me that this should be the major concern of relocation -- even ahead of jobs. Thousands of evacuees -- although they know they can get jobs will not leave the centers because they are not sure of decent housing--at least comparable to the homes they had on the Pacific Coast. A single man or a group of young men and young women do not have too much trouble finding apartments, but most families are not likely to be satisfied with 2 or 3 room housing.



## RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Towson, Maryland

Center life made me realize how passive one can become, and indifferant to the social, econ. political changes outside. Very fine liberal groups and individuals haven been especially fine to those who have had experience in the centers.

I relocated primarily to earn some money during the summer to enable me to enter school this fall. I relocated on a job offer from the W.R.A. but found the work unsatisfactory making it necessary for me to find another on my own.

When job offers come into the W.R.A. offices I believe there should be a more thorough investigation of working conditions, salaries in relation to cost of room and board, so that those who are contemplating relocation will have a detail picture of the job they are about to accept.

I have met many in Chicago who have had bitter disappointment because their work was not like what it was said to be.

One important suggestion for those who are planning to relocate is to consider the job offers with an eye to the future--that is--working to earn money for some definite purpose, or to learn a particular trade so as to establish himself later on; or to look over the particular community to establish himself permanently in a profession of his own.

There is absolutely no point in relocation in strange surroundings to accept a job with a seemingly attractive salary and to the job for which one has no interest or ability. There is a big chance for them to become wards of the community after the war.

It is important for those who are planning to relocate to keep in mind that they will be in a community where the greater majority of the residents are not accustomed to seeing large groups of Orientals. There have been many instances in Chicago where groups of 7 to 8 Niseis have congregated conspicuously on the streets of the Loop. I do not know whether any unfavorable incidents have resulted from this, but to me it is wisest to take precautions and limit the group using public vehicles, and attending restaurants to the maximum of four. This may seem like an unimportant suggestion, but it is important that all of us, who are relocating, do nothing to impede the resettlement process.

It should be the job of the W.R.A. offices in the various cities to help those who have had difficulties with their jobs, besides their task of relocating the center residents.



## RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Cleveland, Ohio

Evacuees should come out and look for their own jobs, instead of coming out on a definite offer. Placements made thru personal interviews are more satisfactory both from the standpoint of the employer and the evacuee.



## RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Murray, Utah.

I have nothing to say about the system of handling relocation. It seems to me perfectly satisfactory. But when and if location and localities of relocation are included within this item, I have a little to criticize.

What is the main reason beside racial prejudice that V.R.A. and the Army of the U.S.A. does not relocate us on the Pacific Coast? If you say it is from the strategical standpoint, take the Hawaiian Islands where relocation is not enforced upon. Are not the Hawaiian Islands just as important as the Pacific Coast strategically? There exists no racial prejudice in Hawaii and when we reflect this fact on the Coast, we can understand more than half of the meaning why we cannot relocate back to the Coast. I have lived in California nearly 40 years and understand the American democracy to its fullest extent but when I look back those 40 long years of anti-Japanese movement and enactment by registrations on the Coast and recently the judgement passed by the Supreme Court of the U.S.A. upholding the Army degree barring U.S. citizen to confine in relocation centers, this whole thing is far away from the U.S. Constitution and the spirit of American democracy. After all, the American Constitution and the democracy is for, among and within themselves -- the so-called white-race, and the other peoples are not included, especially Oriental people. America has a long way to develop yet.



# RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

I do think sincerely, although I have never had to ask for assistance from the W.F.A. through the various regional relocation offices, that it would be indeed helpful if the evacuee could have more assistance from the relocation office in finding housing. Philadelphia has been successful in this only because the wife of the relocation officer has taken it upon herself to do her utmost without pay to help each evacuee personally.

I mention this only because so many of my friends have written me of the problem of housing they were confronted with in relocation. It is costly and impossible for an evacuee to stay in a hotel for any length of time.



## RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Ann Arbor, Michigan.

I have no "gripes" regarding the present relocation system now in effect because the difficulties lie in the outside. By this I mean the trouble lies chiefly in the community where one chooses to reside or in the position where one chooses to work. I have had several experience where the latter (reason) has affected me to an extent whereby I had to seek termination. It seems the employer consider little (or none at all) of its employees (mostly Japanese-Americans). This condition has led me to discuss the problem to my employer. Whether the discussion had any effects on my employer is yet to be seen.



## RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Dayton, Ohio.

You should allow more freight weight than 500 pounds allowance per family. The way it is now its the same as a couple or 7 or 8 in a family and this is not fair.

You should give assistants to persons who is out on seasonal and changing to indefinite.

They all should receive assistants regardless when they are going out from the center on indefinite.



## RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Saint Louis, Missouri.

I would like to suggest to the W.R.A. Offices of the different cities or localities to have a means of acquainting the new-comer to the restricted areas, if there is any in that particular locale and to what extent an individual may use a camera, so that the American born Japanese will not be found guilty of violating the wartime security regulation. Living within the confines of relocation center for any length of time one forgets the rules and regulations the people on the outside must abide by.

When an evacuee is leaving the center we are given instructions as to how we must use the ration book and why we should be on our best behavior at all times, at the same time it is just as important to instruct that person upon arriving at their destination what is expected of them in his or her new community. In a few instances the W.R.A. and a few other organizations who are taking a great part in resettlement program, have been very successful in opening the doors of opportunity for the niseis and isseis alike, but it is very difficult to convince the public if any little obstacle comes into view.

Below is an article taken from one of the local newspapers. To my knowledge this case is the second recorded in the city of St. Louis. Let's do something about it before it is too late for the welfare of those who are to resettle as well as for those who have done so, already.

### JAPANESE TAKING PHOTOGRAPHS OF RIVERFRONT HELD.

"John Yoneo Masuda, American-born Japanese, was held by Naval Intelligence authorities and Federal Bureau of Investigation agents today after he was arrested yesterday while taking pictures of the Missouri shore of the Mississippi River from MacArthur Bridge in violation of wartime security regulations.

The film in the small inexpensive camera Masuda was using was taken by F.B.I. agents and will be developed to determine whether any war plants or vital shore installations are included in the pictures.

Masuda, 20 years old, came to St. Louis about a month ago after his release from a relocation camp at Rivers, Ariz. Since that time he has been employed as a domestic at the home Taylor E. Patton, at 39 Fair Oaks, Ladue. At the time of his arrest he did not have a Selective Service re-



gistration card.

The young Japanese, who said he was born in California, was arrested near the western toll house of the bridge after a bridge patrolman had seen him taking pictures. He insisted he was taking the pictures merely for his own pleasure.

In addition to working at the Patton home, where he said he earned about \$20.00 a month," Masuda told authorities he is a student at the St. Louis College of Pharmacy. Officials of the college said he was registered there as a first year student.

Members of the Patton family declined to comment on Masuda's arrest.

Masuda told police he registered for the draft at Fresno, California, and had lost his registration card. He said his parents, who were born in Japan, were still at the relocation camp at Rivers."



## RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Detroit, Michigan.

More emphasis should be given family relocation so that the youth out on job have the security of family life to encourage and help him as he adjust himself to a new situation.



RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Cleveland, Ohio.

I suggest that all joint-board, and other clearances be automatically applied for, for all relocating persons.



## RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Chicago, Illinois.

### Suggestions:

The W.R.A. has been relocating center residents on job offers or hostel invitations. Particularly in Chicago with the acute shortage of housing I question strongly the advisability of this. Jobs are plentiful and should not be the main factor of relocation. I believe that there should be a more intensive housing study before many more are relocated to Chicago.

A statement should be made and stressed upon all skilled professional residents about the special clearance from Washington necessary to enter into certain types of defense jobs. To many have suffered waiting weeks and months for their clearance after relocation.

Why all the red tape of securing signature of all department heads in the centers before getting one's permit?



## RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: De Kalb, Illinois.

Too much red tape. People who are very anxious to relocate must wait for such a long time before they receive their clearances, as was so in my case. And those who aren't particularly anxious to relocate receive their clearance comparatively sooner. In this way people who have jobs or opportunities awaiting them must either give them up and wait for another to arise later, or be sitting uneasy on pine and needles waiting for their clearance to come through.

#14. I would like to have the other members of my family relocate to this locality but at the present time there are no housing facilities available. As this town has so many defense plants, there are many out of town people coming to live here.



## RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Be sure that the person relocating is of the type that will be of benefit to the community and will make a good impression so that others to follow may have a better opportunity to get re-settled. See that the person coming out is sincere and not just coming out to see the country; stay in one place for a week then moving on or creating a bad impression by his actions.



## RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Dayton, Ohio.

I believe that relocation procedure should be simplified and hastened. There's too much red tape--lots of correspondence, etc.---

Also I suggest that the W.R.A. office in various cities undertake to establish a recreation center to help acquaint the Japanese people of that community with their neighbors (Caucasians and Japanese).

Newspapers of various centers should be sent to all the city's church group or Federation so that the city's organization can help to speed up a closer relationship of their members with us Japanese.



## RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Yellow Springs, Ohio.

By kitchen manager I mean it is my duty to see that the dishes are done, how they are done etc, that meals are on schedule, the kitchen is rully stocked. My technical title is "Work Co-ordinator" and it implies to coordinate the college students with work here.

Since this is a cooperative, it is run by the students, and the only full-time employees are the cook, dietician and myself.

Answer to #21.

I believe, that the average resident planning to relocate should be better prepared to meet the outside world. By this I mean education, even though you are required to attend one relocation forum.

I guess being a senior in high school helped an awful lot, because there we were educated for relocation over a period of months. But the average relocater, I'm sure, would be better prepared to act as an ambassador, if he were given a few more facts and figures about what to expect outside.

I hope, I didn't make myself sound too mixed up.



RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Chicago, Illinois.

Help in finding housing early enough.



RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

RETIION: Ely, Nevada.

Thanks for your deep consideration for those still in the center.

Suggestion:

To let those still in the center know that center life is spoiling both young and old.

That they are deteriorating both in spirit and body without knowing.

That they shouldn't stick to "Safety First" life.

That American public is kind and sympathetic to relocatees.

Especially so the church people.

That one must fight one's way though the world.

That to take the first chance to be out, even if it is not satisfactory.

I can't think of any criticism.



## RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Ely, Nevada.

On reading this questionnaire, I was deeply impressed with your kindness and consideration toward those still remaining in the center, for which I thank you very much. Naturally I have to think of some suggestions to offer.

Speedy handling relocation matter. I found that some employers are hesitating to apply to W.R.A. for getting help. They are afraid it may take long time. So they look for those already outside the center.

To let more people know that you have many good loyal nisei and issei within the center eagerly looking for employment. Many employers are ignorant of the fact.

To those still within the center, know that the American general public is kind and considerate for relocatees. When in the center, we formed an opinion about attitude of American public toward relocatees through reading papers written by politicians. Naturally we were afraid to be out.

When once outside, we found it a mistake. American general public is quite different from those politicians. As to criticisms, I have none.



## RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Washington, D.C.

Positions in various parts of the country should be made more specifically known to those within the centers and positive availability of housing. How many evacuees already located there--movies showing city and countryside.



RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Ogden, Utah.

#21. W.R.A. does not put enough effort in trying to find housing for us.

Does not realize the expense we have to go through.

Permitting too many "zoot-suiters" to roam around in pool halls and restaurants which is disliked by people of this community very much.

W.R.A. should investigate and find out the opinion of people living there before allowing relocatees to resettle, especially so in Ogden and Salt Lake City where the pre-war Japanese residents of these communities put a protest against the resettlement we evacuees in their town! They believe we are prisoners and saboteurs and, therefore will not associate with us.

Does not realize that because we evacuees are disliked by most people, we have difficulties in finding a place to stay so must live in "slums" around the cheap drinking districts, in cheap filthy hotels where we dread to go into and yet we must because we have no choice but either stay or return into camp!

Now that the loyal and disloyal ones have been segregated, W.R.A. should try to help out in permitting those who wish to return to their former homes along the West Coast to go back and live like any citizen.



## RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Cleveland, Ohio.

All persons desiring to relocate should have G-2 clearance. Now that you can't quit your job except under special conditions, you have to be skilled in order to save money.

A family member should relocate alone and then send for his family.

Relocation is swell if you don't have any trouble with the War Department.



RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Salt Lake City, Utah.

I believe that young boys and girls should not be allowed to go out on their own without some sort of guardianship system. I have seen too many wild youngsters in this vicinity.

If possible some sort of assistance should be given to those who become ill while employed on the "outside" --that is, to those who really need the assistance.

There does not seem to be enough opportunity for the majority of the relocatees for caucasian contacts.



RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Chicago, Illinois.

1. Increase grants.
2. Take more responsibility in helping to find jobs.
3. Get more relocators in essential war jobs.



# RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Des Moines, Iowa.

No criticism at all. Relocation being handled very effectively. You might further suggest to the young people that relocation is nothing to fear as so many people think. Perhaps I'm prejudiced because of the friendly attitude of the people here, but have not heard of any serious case of discrimination in other localities at all. On the contrary, they seem to adjust themselves easily. The younger group should not hesitate in its chance for relocation, for camp life only tends towards loss in ambition, and irresponsibility.

It would be so much easier for them to take the step now than later.



## RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Chicago, Illinois.

#21. Too much red tape in securing indefinite leave especially for aliens is slowing down relocation. The W.R.A. should try to have more hostels or dormitories for people to come out and live there until jobs are found instead of waiting for replies in regard to work opportunities. First thing is to come out and find jobs if the relocation program is to be accelerated. Assimilation program for visits in Chicago isn't too satisfactory because the churches and ministers do not take an active interest. A few teas are given each Sunday, but the nisei as a rule don't come out and mix in.

I personally feel that nisei churches, clubs and other social organizations will temporarily make them feel quite at home, altho the policy here is to have no segregated religious meetings except for Issei's.

Some drastic measures have to be taken to train workers in Centers for jobs ahead and move them out after the training period. Because the W.R.A. is just letting individual stay in camp too long, the people are becoming more accustomed to a sheltered and "pampered" existence which is very much like the Indians in reservations have been dealt with. I see tragedy ahead unless people are sent out to their former communities or to more friendlier places.



RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Chicago, Illinois.

The forums should be improved.



RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Salt Lake City, Utah.

It is too late to suggest or criticize after being placed in camp life and have to start out in life again. I really feel sorry for myself; but particularly for my children.



## RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Delta, Utah.

In regard to question 20. Relocation as it is being handled now is very unsatisfactory and inefficient. The majority of the persons now relocating may have a job, but adequate housing is not provided. The present system of dumping evacuees into an unknown place and expecting them to find their own housing, because the Japanese are conscientious and uncomplaining type of people, is not being very democratic. In the first place, the whole setup, right from the time of evacuation has been done in an Undemocratic and Hitleristic way. Why don't the W.R.A. come right out and admit their mistakes, instead of alibiing and trying to cover up all the mistakes with a lot of hot air and MALARKY!

The W.R.A. should provide housing, that is find the relocatees a liveable house or apartment. After all we were forced to evacuate against our will, and now if you want us to relocate, find us first adequate housing.

Another thing the W.R.A. has been neglecting is favorable publicity. Unfavorable propoganda goes almost unchallenged, while favorable publicity hardly gets any notice in newspapers and radio. Why doesn't the W.R.A. put a more distinct effort in trying to educate the public? Throughout the country there are many relocation offices and relocation officers, but what do they do? Just check incoming evacuees and sit in their offices and draw fat salaries. When the going gets tough they don't know nothing! Boy, what efficiency????



## RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Salt Lake City, Utah.

My only comment is that future relocators be well informed as to the wartime conditions that is existing, and to make the best of it -- because of the racial background. That to expect pre-war conditions of which, that those who have not the opportunity to see the present day conditions after nearly one year and half confinement in Assembly and Relocation Centers, is hardly possible on the outside. The behavior of an individual after leaving Relocation Centers, is the best evidence whether that particular individual is the good example, and to be accepted in the whatever community the individual decides to relocate.

Any individual who accepts employment through any agency, be well advised to accept the employment on somewhat a permanent nature. To jump a job after a brief employment for some other work for more pay or any other selfish reason, is a bad example. It is not fair to the employer who made it possible for the individual to leave the Center for employment on the outside. This has been one of the main reason for many prospective employers for not caring to accept Japanese-American, or any Alien Japanese for employment. They could not be depended upon.



RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Salt Lake City, Utah.

There are plenty of jobs but they don't pay enough to support a family unless both husband and wife work. Housing problem is very hard. Unless the W.R.A. do something about it, people can't come out and make a living. That's where most of the trouble is now. I know quite a few husbands are out here from different camps and are looking for a place so they could bring the rest of the family. The people who could afford to buy a place of their own is all right but some can't afford it.

We were fortunate enough to get all our furnitures from home but some haven't any furniture to sent home.



RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Sandy, Utah.

The people in the community are very friendly. You'll find very few who are prejudiced against Japanese.

I want to feel settled but with a home and furnishings still in California my heart just isn't in the work. Also with labor shortage my husband is doing the work of these men with 24 hrs. duty. (He sleeps at nite "with one eye open." Nite watch).

For the sake of their own good and for the children's however, I hope to see many out of the centers as soon as possible. Camp life is bad for them for I have seen many become so lazy and don't work the way they should, thinking they are still in camp. It will be so hard for them to get adjusted again the longer they are there. For the sake of our future, I'll never go back to camp. There are plenty to do out here.

Good luck to all.



RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Salt Lake City, Utah.

Suggestions to #21 from relocatees.

1. Encouraging news should be more publicised in both English and Japanese in the Center.

2. The facts regarding such unfortunate incident in Provo Camp shooting should be fully explained so that the people in the center would understand this was only a small incident in the wide world and there so many more pleasant happenings in the same world outside exist with us who relocated.

3. I think the W.R.A. should call attention of the proper Government Agency to discourage as much as possible unnecessary agitation such as in movies, other posters arousing hatred against Japanese.



RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Helper, Utah.

In order to aid those who wish to get good job outside of the Center, give them about 6 months limited leave also \$20 for each person with travel fare and meal.

If the job fitted them they would like to stay longer. If not they would find suitable position themselves and then ask W.R.A. about indefinite leave.

I am sure that 70 per cent out of hundred would step outside and help America at present necessity of industry.

Maybe some of them should come back to the center if they have fallen ill and need to preserve their health.

There are too many regulations for alien Japanese about traveling and moving away.

The W.R.A. should dismiss such regulations. Not only have we words to express our gratitude, but by helping America by us going out on outside employment, we would be cutting down the ordinary expenditure of all the centers.

I hope you will give your support to my desire.



# RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Ogden, Utah.

I do not know the system of releasing evacuees from the Center at the present time since I have been out of the Center for about four or five months. But the system before was very haphazard; just asking if a person wants the certain job doesn't make him qualified for that certain job. You can't fit a round peg in a square hole or vice-versa. I've seen many go out and find a job and in a few months look for another. That is one thing I can't do since I'm in a war essential position and cannot leave any time I choose.

It is trying at times to find other persons finding jobs that they are suited for and here I stay in one job that wears a fellow out doing 10 hours to 11 hours a day. Well I suppose there is a War going on.



RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Ogden, Utah.

Do not like seasonal leave traveling restriction. If one's allowed to travel or leave center, I should think that he is allowed to travel freely.



## RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Salt Lake City, Utah.

The present system of handling relocation is not satisfactory because as soon as one leaves the center, he (or she) is on his own. I noticed quite a number go back to the W.R.A. office for aid but they are not too helpful.

I think for this reason many try different jobs and quit. This makes it bad for the rest of the relocatees looking for jobs. The employer loses faith in Japanese because of changing jobs too often.

Why doesn't the government get started in relocating people to the coast as soon as the segregation is over. Many still have business and homes on the coast and are losing financially every day. The government will not be responsible for all these things I think, so from my point of view they should eventually ease up on the military zone and let the Japanese go back to the coast. This will help tremendously in labor shortage and will aid this country in winning the war.

Look what the government is spending to feed all the people in centers and all other expenses to keep it up. I think all this is foolishness. Most of us are loyal to the land where we were born and we are all supposed to be citizens. We certainly aren't treated as we should be.

I know the government has another point of view regarding the Japanese and I don't blame them.

I sure would like to see the government do something about the people in relocation centers. So it would be beneficial to this country as well as to the people in it.



RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Salt Lake City, Utah.

1. People are urged to go out when they are not fully aware of life out of camp. The change in cost of living, the shortage of food, high prices, and few things available are not known to relocators.

2. Housing is a chief factor one runs into when relocating.

3. Maps should be available in camps before people relocate.



RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Salt Lake City, Utah.

Too many relocates are changing from one job to another -- they should look into their new work very thoroughly before taking it over at that I don't think it's possible for a person to stick to one job very long. It's very hard.



RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Tremonton, Utah.

Prolongation of issuing indefinite leaves to person  
who really deserve and want it.



RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Tremonton, Utah.

Should have indefinite leaves. Should not restrict  
numbers to each district.



## RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Delta, Utah.

The W.R.A. should make a more distinct effort in informing the public in general as to the real situation that caused us to be evacuated. I have traveled thru quite a bit of the country in the past six weeks and I find that the majority of the public in the midwest and east are still in the belief that all Japanese and Americans of Japanese ancestry are aliens. There is not enough favorable publicity as yet to make us acceptable in many community. Altho I have not been discriminated in my travels, I believe that was due to the fact that, in most of the cases I was not taken for a person of Japanese ancestry.

Another thing is jobs. Why can't we Americans of Japanese ancestry get into defense jobs as easily as the rest? There are a few that has been able to get good jobs but most of the evacuees are holding jobs that I consider second class.

Summarizing it all I still believe that the various W.R.A. offices set up in various cities are doing a very inefficient job in so far as publicity is concerned. And I believe favorable publicity is the most important phase of relocation.



RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Salt Lake City, Utah.

More opportunities for relocation of families with  
children should be afforded.



# RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Salt Lake City, Utah.

If one does not have a good understanding with your employer to be, eventually they begin to take advantage of you by giving you more work to do. An interview with employer and employee is very essential for one to stay long with the job. Cannot discuss much on how to handle the relocation for the present ways are different from the time I left Topaz, for I was among the first to leave.



RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Salt Lake City, Utah.

I think nice to let person go out of center and do what person want to work, that is who want to go out to work.

I had difficult time to go out from center. Anyway I am glad to out of Center.



RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: St. Paul, Minnesota.

The \$25 subsistence I received was not enough to cover my expenses for the first month and also I don't think large families like mine would be able to meet expenses even one-third, the first month of what the W.R.A. gives, especially when small items have to be bought to set up housekeeping.



RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Ann Arbor, Michigan.

The more scattered we are the better off we'll be.



RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Cleveland, Ohio

Would like to suggest that the W.R.A. not reencourage relocation in areas where the housing situation is too acute because if housing is too difficult, it tends to force people to live in slum areas.



RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Akron, Ohio.

The W.R.A. should thoroughly check attitudes of communities toward Japanese before sending evacuees out to relocate. Have not heard any favorable reports about W.R.A. supervisors, believe them to be indifferent, can't expect too much help from the field offices.



## RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Chicago, Illinois

### Criticisms--

1. Too much red tape.

### Suggestions--

1. Request influential evacuees (relocated) write letters on relocation to Community Post on Bulletin Board. Of course the letters should be favorable on relocation.

2. Discourage, perhaps refuse evacuees to return to camp to live, once they have relocated. Permit visits occasionally.

3. If evacuee is relying on W.R.A. to find him or her work outside camp, guarantee the work.

4. Continue financial aid until evacuee has a job.



## RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Chicago, Illinois

I think the persons handling relocation should inform those coming out here in hopes of landing a good paying job that the chances are slim in a defense plant.

My friend and I tried all the big defense plants to get rush a job but found that they are instructed by the gov't not to hire us unless we have a joint board OK and everyone knows how few of these permits were issued. Out here we are considered in the same status as an alien, because of our 4-C classification, by the employers.

Job offers in the W.R.A. office here are of the lowest paying available. Many of us find it more desirable to go to the U.S. employment service.

Finally I think the W.R.A. office here is very inefficient in helping us find a good job.



RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Melrose Park, Illinois

In relocating myself I have at first, relied on the W.R.A.; however, I have not received any assistance as to housing or employment. Therefore, I have contacted my present employer personally and had to break all barriers that existed. I have made all my dealing without the aid of the W.R.A.

The American Friends Service Com. has been most beneficial to me.

I am sorry I have no constructive suggestions to make.



## RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Chicago, Illinois.

The practice of sending large groups of inexperienced workers direct from relocation centers to firms contacted through the W.R.A. makes it difficult for advancement due to managements attitude toward American-Japanese as groups and not as individuals. Whatever merits or defect exhibited by any member of the group is attributed by the management to the group as a whole and not to the individual. Many firms tend to create separate departments within their shops composed only of American-Japanese and as a result, the wage scale and working conditions are, as a rule, less favorable than in the regular departments. This might possibly be avoided to and certain extent by inducing firms to employ a limited number in each of their separate departments where the individual worker might gain entity in the eyes of both his caucasian fellow-workers and the firm, as an individual. Antagonism of regular employees will be lessened with closer association thus resulting. His wage and advancement will tend to follow the usual policy applied to regular employees. Individual relocatees who have personally applied to certain firms and have specified their choice of apprenticeship have found a certain amount of success.

The base rate of pay for each type of work should be clearly defined by the firms contacting W.R.A. employment channels, as firms have made a practice in some cases of stating their lowest pay (usually their rates to minors, and standard workers) and have later transferred efficient workers to advanced skills at this same rate or only a minimus raise which might still be far below the base pay for that particular work. Regular employees tend to resent this as an effort to keep down wages, and the relocated worker may find himself in the uncomfortable position of asking interference by the W.R.A. at this late stage.



## RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Mrs. Henry G. Patterson is a wonderful person and is doing a fine piece of work in the Philadelphia W.R.A. office as a volunteer worker. She takes a personal interest in each individual which is the important thing in the handling of relocation.

We experienced an impersonal ("Here's another one") attitude, and officiousness, and patronizing air in the Chicago and St. Louis offices.

Can't they use better judgment in the choice of people as receptionists also? Perhaps persons with background in social work might be able to fill these jobs better. A little more sympathy would certainly help. The first impression "sticks". The initial contact is important. The evacuee either is able to meet his new situation, job hunting, with confidence because of W.R.A. helpfulness and friendliness or he becomes bitterly disappointed, disgusted and discouraged.

One of the problems is how can persons with limited resources or none at all hold out for the right job -- one that he is suited for that can bring an adequate income at the same time for real relocation? Often times there is no choice but to "get stuck" in just a job to earn a livelihood. It's hard to if not impossible to look for another or better job while holding this job.



RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Publicize the better points of the Nisei. Educate the public as to what the Nisei can do, are qualified to do. Have W.R.A. take a personal interest in each person that comes out. Chicago W.R.A. is no good. St. Louis is no good either.



RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Minneapolis, Minnesota

The W.R.A. should tell the whole story to persons relocating. I mean exactly the conditions, such as to the difficulty of finding decent housing, making new friends, finding good satisfactory jobs. So far in most cases fellows or girls have left camp on jobs offers and upon arrival at destination have found the conditions very disappointing. Many of them have wished they stayed in camp. I, myself, sometimes wished I was back in camp. I so far have been in Cleveland, Chicago and now here in Minneapolis.



# RELOCATION QUESTIONNAIRE

REGION: Boston, Mass.

The employer does not give the particulars which are most important in asking for someone as for instance in my particular case (1) what kind of a house -- old or new -- makes a big difference in cleaning, (2) what kind of people in family-- old or young -- one can't be happy with an old people about the place, (3) distance from nearest city where one would like to attend school -- costs quite a great deal to commute, (4) and what one is really expected to do, (5) and most important of all the hours!! I don't have any real time to myself as you can probably see by the hours I've written on the other side!