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PMG:hb

JAJB
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Mr. John J. McCloy
Assistant Secretary of War
Washington, D. C.

April 9, 1943

Subject: The functions of the Joint Board now
operating in the War Department

Dear Mr. McCloy:

We have had so many conversations during the last few weeks concerning the functions of the Joint Board that is now reviewing the questionnaires filled out at the relocation centers during the recent special registration, that I should like in this letter to summarize my understanding of what we have agreed upon.

As I see it, the functions of the Joint Board, and the relationship of its work to the work of the War Relocation Authority in the general administration of its program, are to be as follows:

1. There will be submitted to the Joint Board and the Provost Marshal General's Department all the completed questionnaires filled in by citizen evacuees, both male and female.
2. In connection with the processing of these questionnaires, the Joint Board will serve as a policy-making and review board. The Provost Marshal General's Department will serve as the technical personnel, processing the questionnaires in accordance with the policies laid down by the Joint Board.
3. The Joint Board will establish certain criteria to be applied in the analysis of the questionnaires. Many, if not most, of the evacuees can then automatically be cleared through application of the criteria to the answers in their questionnaires.

This processing of the papers in accordance with the criteria of the Joint Board will be performed by the Provost Marshal General's Department.

4. Those dockets not automatically cleared through application of the criteria will be considered by the Joint Board. Special criteria may be developed by the Joint Board for the further processing of those cases.

5. There are two purposes for which the Joint Board will be reviewing these questionnaires and establishing these criteria:

A. to indicate which citizen evacuees, both male and female, are to be approved as being eligible for employment in war industries;

B. to indicate which citizen evacuees, both male and female, can be recommended by the Joint Board for the issuance of indefinite leave on the basis of the information available to it.

6. The Joint Board may determine that a particular evacuee is not acceptable for employment in war industries, or that, upon the basis of the information available to it, a particular evacuee cannot be recommended by the Board for indefinite leave. Yet the information available at that time may not be sufficient, in the opinion of the WRA, to justify it in denying indefinite leave on the ground that the issuance of the leave would endanger the internal security of the country. The Joint Board, therefore, will not in any case state that a particular docket is disapproved in

general; nor will it state in any case that it recommends denial of indefinite leave. Instead, the Joint Board will approve for employment in war industries those evacuees whom it wishes to approve for this purpose, and will recommend the issuance of indefinite leave for those evacuees whom it feels are qualified for indefinite leave. All other dockets will be returned for the further consideration of the WRA. The Joint Board will, however, summarize or call attention to any facts that it believes pertinent. The WRA will then undertake to secure whatever additional information is necessary before taking final action.

7. In connection with its work in the processing of applications for indefinite leave or for leave clearance, and in connection with its program for the segregation of certain evacuees, the War Relocation Authority will be continuously developing additional information that will suggest additional criteria that may be helpful in examining the dockets of individual evacuees. The Authority will submit such further information and recommendations from time to time to the Joint Board through its representative on the Joint Board.

I am confident that on the basis here summarized we can continue to cooperate in an effective and mutually beneficial manner.

Sincerely,

Director

JAGB FS

April

E. M. Rowalt, Acting Director

4/15/43

Thomas W. Holland, Chief, Employment Division

It was the general feeling the other day when we discussed with Mr. Myer the scope of the Joint Board that it would be acceptable to WRA to have the Board consider all the leave clearance applications of the evacuee citizens with the dual objective of advising us on indefinite leave and eligibility for employment in vital war plants.

We were in agreement at this meeting that the Board could be of assistance to WRA by indicating those evacuees who, on the basis of available evidence, were considered by the Board to be safe bets for indefinite leave and for the war plant employment.

It was felt by us, however, that a definite recommendation by the Board against the granting of indefinite leave to an evacuee would definitely not be of assistance to WRA and raised such a grave problem that we would not want the Board to make a definite negative recommendation.

The problem, briefly stated, is that WRA, and not the Board, has the responsibility for denying the evacuees their freedom to leave the relocation centers. After an adverse recommendation as to leave from the Board it would still remain for WRA to take the steps to finally incarcerate the individual. This gets us into the realm of the law. Both substantive and procedural issues have to be met. Before we could deny leave to an evacuee WRA would have to be ready to defend its action with substantial available information which should be conveyed to the evacuee. WRA would have to provide a mechanism for a full and fair hearing before action could safely be taken.

If the Board were to make a definite recommendation that indefinite leave should not be granted the die would be cast at the beginning instead of the end of the process leading to the deprivation of liberty. The prestige of the Board is great and WRA would be reluctant to issue indefinite leave to an evacuee adversely recommended against by the Board even if further consideration of the case indicated that the individual was not unsafe for residence outside the center. Furthermore, there is a question of the availability to WRA of the evidence upon which the judgment of the Board is based. Another point is that a representative of WRA sits on the Board and, unless he dissented automatically to all the adverse recommendations, WRA would be committed to the adverse recommendation in advance of the subsequent consideration that WRA must give to the case.

WRA

For these and other reasons which members of the staff attending the conference with Mr. Myer had it was the strong opinion of all that the Board should not formally indicate a recommendation against the granting of indefinite leave.

Mr. Myer talked over the phone with Mr. McCloy and Captain Hall and I gathered that they saw the point. Mr. Myer suggested to them that the following language be used by the Board when they concluded that they could not recommend the granting of indefinite leave.

"The Joint Board recommends to the War Relocation Authority that further study be given to this case before indefinite leave is granted."

Yesterday Mr. Dedrick told me over the phone that he had objected to this language and that the PMG office had gone ahead and mimeographed some face sheets for the cases on which other language had been used. I gathered that this language does recommend the denial of the leave on the basis of the evidence considered.

I think that we should raise this question of adverse recommendation at the Board meeting today and insist that the WRA not be tied up by a formula which has in it a definite denial recommendation.

After thinking over various possible wording I think that in case there is argument about the formula Mr. Myer suggested we might ask that no recommendation be made if the decision is adverse. I favor this:

"The Joint Board (1) Recommends to the War Relocation Authority that indefinite leave be granted, or (2) No recommendation."

TWHolland/mbg

WWT
COPY

gagb
FS

July 31, 1943

Mr. George J. Furutani
1437 S Street
Lincoln, Nebraska

Dear Mr. Furutani:

In reply to your letter of July 20, 1943, there are attached four copies of Form WHA 126 (rev.). If you will fill out and sign three of these and return them to me, they will be submitted to the War Department to establish your eligibility for employment in war plants. This may take ~~two or three months~~, and you may wish to take other employment meanwhile.

Sincerely

Robert W. Frase
Assistant Chief
Employment Division

Enclosure

cc Walter N. Parmeter
Relocation Officer, Omaha

Note: This man has been on indefinite leave since January 3, 1943.

Mrs. Dixon

7-31-43
FILE COPY

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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
Washington

Void
August 12, 1943

MEMORANDUM

To: Project Directors
Subject: Action by the Japanese-American Joint Board,

This will refer to the Director's memorandum of May 21, 1943, on the subject of "Eligibility for war production employment, and indefinite leave in the Eastern Defense Command and the Gulf Coast Area."

We have been receiving a considerable number of requests from project directors requesting that "action be expedited" to secure the approval of the Joint Board for particular individuals for residence in the Eastern Defense Command and/or employment in vital war plants. We also receive similar requests from relocation officers on war plant clearance.

The purpose of this memorandum is to explain the present situation on these two matters and to indicate what may reasonably be expected. First, as to Joint Board approval for the Eastern Defense Command on lists 258a. As a practical matter very little can be done to expedite action for individuals who may have employment opportunities waiting for them in the Eastern Defense Command. The Joint Board has a set procedure for various types of cases, and some types take longer than others. It is anticipated, however, that the great majority of all the American citizens who registered during the general leave registration will be processed by the Joint Board in the next six or eight weeks. Some 10,000 cases have already been recommended for indefinite leave by the Joint Board and their names sent to you on Forms WRA 258a. When we receive a request for special action on an Eastern Defense Command case, we flag it and notify the project director by teletype when the Board has acted, thus saving a few days. We are not, however, able to expedite action by the Board itself.

We have received some requests for Eastern Defense Command clearance for persons age 16 and under. Such clearance is not necessary. (See Leave Handbook, Section 60.4A(5).) Project directors may issue indefinite leave to persons 16 years of age and younger to any part of the United States except the evacuated areas on the Pacific Coast. We also receive some requests for Eastern Defense Command clearance for aliens. Since the Joint Board is not considering the cases of all aliens automatically, action on these alien cases will be slow. The names of any aliens who might be interested in relocation in the Eastern Defense Command should be submitted to us as far as possible in advance of the time they might wish to go. It is also suggested that in recruiting on employment offers in the Eastern Defense Command, recruitment be limited to persons on lists 258a and 258b so that there may be no possibility of delay for lack of clearance.

The matter of clearance by the Joint Board for employment in war plants is a separate and distinct question. Some 2,000 American citizens are being automatically processed by the Joint Board to establish their eligibility for employment in vital war plants. These two thousand individuals are selected on the basis

of their personal records and histories and their occupational backgrounds. It is expected that the field investigations on all of these two thousand individuals will not be completed for some months, but two or three hundred cases may be expected to be acted upon by the Joint Board each month until the 2,000 cases have been completed. Mr. Holland's memorandum of August 3, 1943, on the subject of "Procedure for placement of persons with war plant clearance (Form 258b)", covers the procedure which will be used in attempting to secure employment opportunities for these individuals. We are transmitting requests to the Joint Board for field investigations to determine eligibility for work in war plants for certain additional persons who have prospects of such employment, but there is no assurance that any particular case will be investigated by the War Department. The personal records and histories of some individuals will not meet the very high standards set up by the War Department for this type of employment. Other persons will not be investigated because the War Department has only a certain limited investigating staff assigned to this particular work. Finally, if the case is accepted by the War Department for field investigation, it will require several months to secure a determination from the Joint Board because of the backlog of prior cases which have accumulated. In view of these factors, it will be seen that unless a person has special skills and/or a particularly good education and a very clear background the chances of his case being accepted by the Joint Board for field investigation looking toward employment in vital war plants are not good. It should be borne in mind also that other types of employment and business activity, such as agriculture and many essential civilian services, are likely to be much more stable and offer better long run opportunities for American citizens of Japanese ancestry than industries temporarily engaged in war production.

E. M. Rausell
Acting Director

cc: Relocation Supervisors
Relocation Officers



WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

WASHINGTON

September 11, 1945

JAB

D2.044

MEMORANDUM

To: Project Directors.

Subject: Action by the Japanese-American Joint Board.
(supersedes memorandum of August 12, 1943)

This memorandum supersedes the memorandum from Acting Director Rowalt on the same subject, dated August 12, 1943. Please dispose of your copies of the August 12 memorandum. The last paragraph has been modified because the War Department is not in a position to assign additional investigative personnel to the field investigations required.

We have been receiving a considerable number of requests from project directors requesting that "action be expedited" to secure the approval of the Joint Board for particular individuals for residence in the Eastern Defense Command and/or employment in vital war plants. We also receive similar requests from relocation officers on war plant clearance.

The purpose of this memorandum is to explain the present situation on these two matters and to indicate what may reasonably be expected. First, as to Joint Board approval for the Eastern Defense Command on lists 258a. As a practical matter very little can be done to expedite action for individuals who may have employment opportunities waiting for them in the Eastern Defense Command. The Joint Board has a set procedure for various types of cases, and some types take longer than others. It is anticipated, however, that the great majority of all the American citizens who registered during the general leave registration will be processed by the Joint Board in the next six or eight weeks. Some 16,000 cases have already been recommended for indefinite leave by the Joint Board and their names sent to you on Forms WRA 258a. When we receive a request for special action on an Eastern Defense Command case, we flag it and notify the project director by teletype when the Board has acted, thus saving a few days. We are not, however, able to expedite action by the Board itself.

We have received some requests for Eastern Defense Command clearance for persons age 16 and under. Such clearance is not necessary. (See Leave Handbook, Section 60.4.4A (5).) Project

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directors may issue indefinite leave to persons 16 years of age and younger to any part of the United States except the evacuated areas on the Pacific Coast. We also receive some requests for Eastern Defense Command clearance for aliens. Since the Joint Board is not considering the cases of all aliens automatically, action on these alien cases will be slow. The names of any aliens who might be interested in relocation in the Eastern Defense Command should be submitted to us as far as possible in advance of the time they might wish to go. It is also suggested that in recruiting on employment offers in the Eastern Defense Command, recruitment be limited to persons on lists 258a and 258b so that there may be no possibility of delay for lack of clearance.

The matter of clearance by the Joint Board for employment in war plants is a separate and distinct question. Some 2,000 American citizens are being automatically processed by the Joint Board to establish their eligibility for employment in vital war plants. All Army volunteers rejected on the physical examination are also being considered. Except for Army volunteers, no aliens are being considered for advance war plant clearance. These two thousand individuals have been selected on the basis of their personal records and histories and their occupational backgrounds. The individuals selected for field investigation appear on the attached copies of Form 258a which have already been sent to you. It is expected that the field investigations on all of these two thousand individuals will not be completed for some months, but two or three hundred cases may be expected to be acted upon by the Joint Board each month until the 2,000 cases have been completed. Mr. Holland's memorandum of August 3, 1943, on the subject of "Procedure for placement of persons with war plant clearance (Form 258b)", covers the procedure which will be used in attempting to secure employment opportunities for these individuals. The War Department is not prepared to order field investigations for any additional number of persons to give advance clearance for war work. There is no point, therefore, in sending us the names of individuals not already selected for field investigation with the request that they be considered by the War Department for advance war plant clearance. Such individuals should be advised that advance war plant clearance cannot be secured, but if they relocate and subsequently have an opportunity to work in a war plant, their prospective employer may be able to secure permission from the local Army district security officer to employ them. Similarly, evacuees who inquire of relocation officers about war plant clearance and whose names do not appear on the attached lists should be informed that a prospective employer can secure advice from the local district security officer as to whether or not they may be hired for a specific job. Clearance secured by an employer from a district security officer for a specific job is good for that job only. Advance war plant clearance (Form 258b) on the other hand is a general clearance for employment in war plants.

D. P. Myer
Director

cc Relocation Supervisors
Relocation Officers

OM-279

GAYB

As

SUMMARY AND REPORT
(Male Citizen Form)

Occupation: (Hotel Janitor, Cook)

- 11. Relatives in U.S. Mil. Service.....()
- 13. Entire education in U.S.....()
- 16. Christian.....()
- 17. J.A.C.L.....()
- Boy Scouts of America.....()
- Y.M.C.A.....()
- K of C, Mason, Rotarian, other Nat'l Fraternity or Club.....()
- 25. Japanese birth record cancelled or cancellation pending.()
- 27. Yes.....() No.....() _____
- 28. Yes.....() No.....() _____
- F.B.I. _____
- O.N.I. _____
- W.D.C. _____
- W.R.A. _____
- 11. Father interned.....()
- 12. Immediate relatives in Japan.....()
- 13. Gunji Kyoren.....()
- _____ years in school in Japan.....()
- _____ years in Jap. language school in U.S.....()
- Post-graduate work in Japan.....()
- 14. Travelled to Japan _____ times.....()
- Travelled for foreign interests _____ years.....()
- Resided in Japan _____ years.....()
- 15. Employed by Jap. Govt. Agency.....()
- Employed by steamship line
- Occ. _____()
- Employed by listed firm
- _____ ()
- Jap. Language School instr.....()
- 16. Shintoist.....()
- Buddhist or other Oriental.....()
- 17. Member of a listed organization _____()
- Member of a Kibei Club.....()
- 18. Japanese language proficiency: None..() Fair..() Good.....()
- 26. Repatriation requested; or intends to repatriate.....()

The Office of the Provost Marshal General does (not) object to the employment of this individual at this time in plants and facilities important to the war effort.

For The Provost Marshal General:

Remarks: _____

.....

The Joint Board, having considered this case on the facts available to it on this date, has taken the following action:

1. It recommends (cannot recommend) in favor of the granting of indefinite leave at this time.
2. This individual may (not) be employed in plants and facilities important to the war effort for the present.

For the Joint Board:

Per: _____ Date _____

CONFIDENTIAL

JAB. FS

Feb. 2, 1943

Mr. John J. McCloy
Assistant Secretary of War
War Department
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. McCloy:

The War Relocation Authority concurs in Paragraph 1 of the directive under which the War Department is to conduct loyalty investigations of Japanese-American citizens in relocation center. This paragraph reads as follows:

"A plan has been formulated whereby the War Department will, upon request of the War Relocation Authority, assist in determining the loyalty of American citizens of Japanese ancestry under its jurisdiction. The purpose of the plan is to determine (a) loyalty of American citizens of Japanese ancestry to permit of their release by War Relocation Authority from war relocation centers, and (b) whether those so released may be inducted into the military service or may be available for employment in plants and facilities important to the war effort."

The War Relocation Authority is very glad to have this assistance from the War Department and will do everything possible to facilitate the work of the War Department representatives while they are on the project.

Sincerely,

/s/ E. M. Rowalt

Acting Director

C
O
P
Y

JAJB

15

WAR DEPARTMENT
Office of the Assistant Secretary
Washington, D.C.

25 June 1943

Dear Mr. Myer:

There is enclosed a draft of a letter which, if agreeable to you, will be sent to the Director of Naval Intelligence and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The War Department cannot permit the employment of Japanese-Americans in vital war plants without prior approval of the Japanese-American Joint Board, except in the limited manner outlined in the proposed letter. Even this may not be acceptable to the other agencies.

It has been my understanding from the beginning that evacuees would be "precleared" before employment in vital war plants. Before this program they were not eligible at all. Furthermore, it has been the basis upon which the Joint Board has been operating. The minutes of the third meeting, held on March 26, which, incidentally, I attended, as well as Mr. Holland Mr. Frase, read in part:

"It was also emphasized that it was not unreasonable to require a thorough investigation before permitting individuals to serve in plants and facilities important to the war effort, and that a worthwhile investigation inevitably involves time."

Sincerely,

/Signed/ John J. McCloy
John J. McCloy

Mr. Dillon S. Myer, Director
War Relocation Authority
Room 822, Barr Building
Washington, D. C.

Enc.
CC proposed letter.

Draft of Proposed Letter to the Office of Naval Intelligence and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

You will recall that in order to facilitate the more effective utilization of loyal American citizens of Japanese ancestry in the war effort, and to eliminate duplication of investigation, there was established under War Department directive dated January 20, 1943, copy enclosed, the Japanese-American Joint Board, composed of representatives from the Military Intelligence Service, the Provost Marshall General's Office, and the War Relocation Authority, with a liaison representative from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the functions of which were to consider the loyalty of American citizens of Japanese ancestry on the basis of loyalty questionnaires to be executed by the evacuees and such other investigational measures as appeared desirable. The spirit of the undertaking can be expressed as follows: "The country is short on manpower. There is some employable manpower in the relocation centers not being utilized in the war effort. However, some of the citizen evacuees are disloyal to this country. Let us once and for all carefully scrutinize all citizens evacuees in relocation centers, and facilitate the placement of the loyal ones where they can be of real use, including, where appropriate, employment in plants and facilities important to the war effort, a field of activity not previously open to individuals of Japanese ancestry under War Department security policies."

Under Paragraph 2 h of the directive, the Japanese-American Joint Board has two functions: the first, advisory; the second, regulatory.

(1) The Joint Board transmits to the War Relocation Authority its recommendation concerning the desirability of granting to the individual concerned indefinite leave; and

(2) The Joint Board states to the War Relocation Authority whether or not objection exists to the employment of the individual in plants and facilities important to the war effort.

In consequence of the directive, loyalty questionnaires were executed during February and the first part of March by citizen evacuees in the relocation centers 17 years of age and over. At the same time, but independently, the War Relocation Authority caused similar questionnaires to be completed by the alien evacuees. Thereafter under the direction of the Provost Marshal General's Office, in which a special Japanese-American section was established, procedures were developed to provide for the analysis of the completed citizen questionnaires and such additional investigational work as the situation appeared to require. By the middle of April, the Japanese-American Joint Board began to process a substantial number of cases each week, resulting in a total to date of slightly over 6100 cases passed upon.

By agreement with the War Relocation Authority, cases where the individual was apparently entitled to favorable consideration have been processed first, so that of the 6100 cases handled, the Joint Board has failed to recommend in favor of indefinite leave in only 125 cases. On the other hand, since it was felt that at least as rigorous an investigation should precede the employment of citizens of Japanese ancestry in plants and facilities important to the war effort as is given Caucasians, (although investigation of the latter usually follows employment), cases where employment in plants and facilities important to the war effort seems a reasonable possibility have been referred, usually to the Western Defense Command, for special field investigation in addition to record check. As must be expected, field investigations take time. Consequently, but a few individuals, 74 in all, have thus far been cleared for such employment.

The time necessary to accomplish special investigations has resulted in a situation where the opportunities for placement of Japanese-Americans in vital war employment are said currently to exceed the supply of individuals cleared for such employment. In fact, a number of Japanese-Americans evacuated from the West Coast have obtained employment in vital war plants without prior Joint Board clearance. This is a matter of considerable present concern to Army security officers in the various service commands.

It is felt desirable from an internal security point of view to adhere to the present policy of requiring prior approval by the Joint Board as a condition precedent to such employment. However, the War Relocation Authority is naturally desirous of taking advantage of these opportunities as they arise, so that the relocation program may advance as rapidly as possible. In an effort to assist the War Relocation Authority in its program without interfering with internal security to any substantial degree, the following proposals, acceptable to the War Relocation Authority, are suggested and submitted for your comment:

1. Japanese Americans, whether evacuees or not, now employed in plants and facilities important to the war effort, who have not been cleared for such employment by the Japanese-American Joint Board, will be permitted to remain in such employment pending investigation, but will be required forthwith to execute personnel security questionnaires which will be submitted for the consideration of the Joint Board with such additional investigatory material as may be developed.

2. Each employment representative of the War Relocation Authority will consult with the local Army District Security Officer before securing employment for a person of Japanese ancestry not previously cleared by the Joint Board for employment in plants and facilities important to the war effort in any plant or facility conceivably of importance to the war effort. The District Security Officer will inform the employ-

ment representative whether or not a plant or facility important to the war effort is involved, and if so, whether or not objection exists to such employment. The District Security Officer will be authorized to waive the requirement of previous clearance by the Joint Board in cases involving employment of citizens in plants and facilities important to the war effort where the particular job involved is of a noncritical nature.

3. Except as provided in 1 and 2 above, no person of Japanese ancestry will be employed in plants and facilities important to the war effort unless previously approved for such employment by the Japanese-American Joint Board or the Provost Marshall General's Office. (Japanese aliens may not be employed in war industry on classified or aeronautical contracts without prior permission of the Secretary of War or Navy.)

It will be noted that Paragraph 2 authorizes the employment of persons of Japanese ancestry in plants and facilities important to the war effort without the prior approval of the Japanese-American Joint Board where the job is noncritical. This will tend to increase the number of job opportunities for Japanese-Americans.

It will be necessary for the Navy Department to keep the War Department currently informed as to the identity of contractors and sub-contractors involved in production for the Navy.

The directive of January 20, 1943, limits the operations of the Japanese-American Joint Board to American citizens of Japanese ancestry in relocation centers at the time the questionnaires were executed. Under an agreement between the War Department and the War Relocation Authority, no person of Japanese ancestry, whether citizen or alien, is being initially resettled in the Eastern or Southern Military Areas unless previously recommended for indefinite leave by the Joint Board. Numbered Paragraphs 1 and 3, above, would make it likely that the Joint Board would be called upon to pass upon cases of individuals who had never been in relocation centers. Accordingly, it is proposed that the jurisdiction of the Board be enlarged to include cases of alien Japanese and of Japanese-Americans who were not in relocation centers at the time the loyalty questionnaires were executed.

Paragraph 4 of the directive of January 20, 1943, provides as follows:

"To prevent duplication of investigation, except where necessary upon receipt of supplementary information or for other cogent reasons, a list of American citizens of Japanese ancestry recommended for release by the Joint Board and their classification for employment in plants and facilities important to the war effort, will be forwarded to the Western, Eastern, Southern and Central Defense Commands, and all Service Commands."

Notification of defense and service commanders in this manner has been deemed unworkable, as it would entail the transmission to a service commander of the names of cleared persons who would never come into that service command; some of them might not even choose to leave the relocation center. As an alternative, the War Relocation Authority will keep the Provost Marshal General's Office currently informed of all persons released from relocation centers on indefinite leave and place of initial employment. This information will be transmitted by the Provost Marshall General's Office to the service and defense commander within whose jurisdiction the evacuee initially resettles.

Your immediate attention to the proposals in this letter is requested. If satisfactory, a reply to that effect will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

DRAFT

THIS IS A DRAFT
MURPHY'S 1st Draft to
reply to letter
to McCloy

Dear Mr. McCloy:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of June 25 enclosing a draft of a letter to the Director of Naval Intelligence and the Federal Bureau of Investigation dealing with various matters related to the Japanese-American Joint Board and the Office of the Provost Marshal General.

I should like to comment on these proposals in the light of the historical evolution of the war plant employment plan. It is my recollection that

I personally much preferred the reinstatement of selective service, and I still believe that that step is much more in keeping with fair, undiscriminatory, democratic policy. American citizens of Japanese ancestry should shoulder the obligations of citizenship as well as share the rights of citizenship. It is hardly fair to place upon them the choice of entering the military service or not -- the only group of citizens given any choice in this matter. Our selective service procedure in time of war is designed to remove this burden of choice from the individual, to select those who can

be most valuable in the military service, and to insure a supply of manpower for the armed forces which would not be forthcoming by voluntary enlistment. Incidentally, it is unfortunate that as a consequence of the suspension of selective service, American citizens of Japanese descent have been classified by the Selective Service System as a matter of administrative convenience in Class 4-G, a classification set up for enemy aliens.

For these reasons I have not favored war plant employment for American citizens of Japanese ancestry as a substitute for selective service. However, I did not raise any strong objection to the proposal because the War Department felt that it was a necessary counter-balance to recruitment for the combat team, and I did not see why there need be any great delay in reinstating selective service.

It has been my impression from these early discussions and the wording of the Adjutant General's directive of January 20 that a panel of citizens of Japanese ancestry eligible for employment in war plants was to be quickly established on the basis of the questionnaires and the records of the intelligence agencies. After some preliminary delay occasioned by the recruiting of staff by the Provost Marshal's office, the Joint Board began to act on cases; and in addition to recommending indefinite leave, accorded pre-clearance for war plant employment to some seventy-four individuals by April 29. I am informed that at a meeting of the Joint Board prior to April 29, Dr. Dadrick of the Japanese-American Section of the Provost Marshal's

office stated that his office was imposing no higher standard for American citizens of Japanese descent than for other citizens in considering them for war plant employment. This statement was not recorded in the minutes of the Board.

Then at the meeting of the Joint Board on April 29 the representative of the Provost Marshal announced that his office would not present to the Board any further cases for action on war plant employment until after a field investigation of each individual by the Western Defense Command. The directive of January 20 gave the Provost Marshal's office complete discretion on this matter, and therefore it was not a matter for Board action. The quotation in your letter from the minutes of the third meeting of the Board, which you attended was a month before this change in procedure.

At the same meeting, the Provost Marshal's representative proposed that only a certain proportion of the very best or "white" cases would be considered for war plant eligibility, on the basis of the Provost Marshal's decision as to who might be interested in or be occupationally qualified for such work. This latter point was presented by the Board for discussion, but the Board was not asked to vote upon it. Captain Hall asked for my views on this question, and I said that I believed that the original intention and the wording of the January 20 directive should be adhered to, e.g., that all citizens with very clear records should be considered for war production. Nevertheless, the Provost Marshal's office has gone ahead to send only some 50% of the "white" cases forward for war plant eligibility consideration.

By the early part of June, as I understand it, some thousand or fifteen hundred of the "white" cases had been sent out to the Western Defense Command for field investigation looking toward action by the Board on war plant determinations. I further understand that it is not anticipated that field investigations on these cases will be completed until the latter part of September. Meanwhile, the relocation program has gone steadily ahead, as we all expected and hoped that it would, and employers have begun to develop a considerable interest in employing American citizens of Japanese ancestry in various types of work, including some work which I gather comes within the definition of "vital war plants" for which the Provost Marshal's office has a plant security function. I phrase the matter in this way because neither the Joint Board nor this Authority has a list of "vital war plants" or a definition of what may be covered by that term. Because of the field investigation requirement for pre-clearance and the absence of any pre-cleared cases, the whole plan has thus become a bottleneck in this employment field rather than opening it up more widely as was the intention of the original War Department proposal. As I understand it, there was never any prohibition of employment in war plants for American citizens of Japanese ancestry prior to the January 20 directive, and to my knowledge a number were so employed.

Within the last few days an employer in Cleveland called me about employing some sixty American citizens of Japanese ancestry which he had personally recruited at a relocation center for work

in his foundry. He is desperate for labor and a Colonel in the Ordnance Department was in favor of the employment of these men. The local security officer in Cleveland has not authorized the arrangement because of the pre-clearance policy. As I told the employer and the Colonel, I do not see any possibility of getting these sixty odd men or another qualified group of the same size through the present field investigation procedure within any practicable period of time.

I realize that the proposal in the draft letter to give the district security officers some discretion about the particular work involved is designed in part to provide some flexibility in the system and to compensate in some measure for the delay necessarily involved in advance field investigations. However, from the point of view of the operations of our relocation officers, it is not practicable. The time involved in checking all sorts of employment opportunities with the district security officer, and the frustration and ill-will created with employers who will not and cannot wait for determinations of this sort to be made will make it necessary for us to inquire of interested employers whether they have war contracts and if they do to tell them that it is not feasible to consider the employment of American citizens of Japanese ancestry at this time. We shall also need to tell the American citizens in the relocation centers that opportunities for employment in war production will not be available for some months to come.

I know you will understand that I have no desire to offer any advice on how the War Department carries out its plant protection responsibilities. My interest in the matter is one of knowing what

to expect in conducting the relocation program. If a fairly large number of eligible citizens are to be available for war production employment in the near future, we can plan accordingly. If this is not feasible, we shall inform the American citizens in the centers of the situation and develop our reemployment program in other directions.

In the light of this entire development and the present situation, I have several specific suggestions to make:

1. That selective service be reinstated for American citizens of Japanese ancestry. If that were done we could forget about war plant employment.

2. That the War Department consider the possibility of reverting to the original practice of the Joint Board and make war plant eligibility determinations without an individual field investigation. As was pointed out by the Provost Marshal's office in a memorandum presented to the Joint Board on April 29, field investigations are unlikely to be of much value anyhow because many of the usual sources of information are not available in the present situation and the general age of the citizen group is so low as to make improbable the securing of any information of value. In addition, it was pointed out in the memorandum that "The sharp Anti and Pro-Japanese issues on the West Coast have vitiated many, if not most, of the impartial sources of information among the Caucasian population."

3. If a reversion to the original practice of the Board of acting on war plant eligibility without field investigation is not

considered practicable by the War Department, I will instruct our relocation officers to stay out of the war plant field by checking this point with interested employers in the manner set forth above until such time as a reasonable backlog of pre-cleared cases becomes available. It is possible that our relocation staff ^{will} be greatly reduced by that time because within another six months the vast majority of the eligible American citizens of employable age will probably have relocated outside the centers.

4. Whatever is done about war plant employment, it seems to me that the system of distributing names of American citizens of Japanese ancestry who are eligible for such employment to the Service Commands, as provided in the directive of January 20, is entirely practicable. The lists of such persons will be so small, a few thousand names at most at the present rate of operations, that the eligible lists could be distributed quickly and easily for the guidance of the district security officers.

5. The War Relocation Authority is limited in its activities to persons evacuated from military areas, and therefore we could not participate in any extension of the work of the Joint Board to other persons.

Sincerely

Director

*This is letter
for only sent*

FS
JAB

Dear Mr. McCloy:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of June 25 enclosing a draft of a proposed letter to the Director of the Naval Intelligence and the Federal Bureau of Investigation dealing with various matters relating to the Japanese-American Joint Board and the Office of the Provost Marshal General.

Under the system now being followed, the eligibility of an evacuee for employment in a vital war plant is determined after a special field investigation and record check in the Western Defense Command. This step in the procedure for determining eligibility to work in vital war plants has been taken by the Provost Marshal General's office and it is recognized, of course, that it is this office which decides upon the steps to be taken and the extent of an investigation to determine eligibility for employment in private war plants.

Several weeks are required to complete an investigation to determine eligibility of an evacuee for employment in vital war plants. Members of the WRA staff engaged in relocation work report that it is now difficult as a practical matter to handle job offers for evacuees where the source of the offer is a vital war plant employer. As a consequence, I have instructed the Relocation Officers to postpone handling job offers coming from vital war plants for the time being and to wait, before pursuing this type of offer further, until a panel of pre-cleared evacuees begins to be approved and issued by the

Joint Board. When this panel begins to be forthcoming it ought to be possible to do some placement of evacuees in vital war plants. Such job offers in the meantime will, of course, be lost but during the summer months it should be possible for the Relocation Officers to use extra efforts to place evacuees in fields of enterprise outside the scope of vital war plant production.

I carefully considered the proposals suggested in your draft and am of the opinion that the changes in present procedure suggested there would not result in materially improving the present procedure now in operation and would not be of substantial assistance to the WRA in its relocation program. In fact, I do not believe that the changes that have been suggested would accomplish the purpose of assuring some evacuee employment in vital war plants nearly as well as the procedure which has been put into operation after considerable discussion about the problems involved and the objectives desired to be accomplished.

Rather than alter the present procedure, as proposed in your letter, I should like to suggest that present procedure be broadened by sending out to the Western Defense Command for field investigation or record check all of the cases which fall within the so-called white classification. Another suggestion that I should like to make in connection with the present procedure is that a more clear definition or description of the term "vital war plant" be furnished us.

I want to call attention to a statement in your letter with

regard to the Southern Military Area which is not in accord with my understanding of the agreement with the War Department. The area in the Southern Military Area to be checked first with the military authorities before issuing indefinite leave from the relocation centers to go into such place is the territory immediately adjacent to the Gulf and not the entire Southern Military area.

In connection with the proposal made in your letter that the jurisdiction of the Board be enlarged to include cases of alien Japanese and Japanese-Americans who were not in relocation centers at the time the questionnaires were executed, I do not feel competent to express an opinion since the War Relocation Authority is confining itself, ~~at least at the present time~~, to those persons of Japanese ancestry who were evacuated from the West Coast.

In the last paragraph of your proposed letter it is stated that the War Relocation Authority will keep the Provost Marshal General's office currently informed of all persons released from relocation centers on indefinite leave and the place of initial employment. Whenever the Provost Marshal General's office makes a request to us for this information, we will be glad to furnish it. I do not believe, however, that this information should be substituted as an alternative for the notification to Defense and Service Commanders of the names of persons eligible for employment in vital war plants. It appears to me that the preparation of a panel of evacuees who have been cleared for work in vital war plants is essential to effective placement of these people and that it will be necessary for the Defense and Service Commanders, as well as the WRA Relocation Officers in the field, to have such lists available.

Sincerely,
DSM

JAGB BS

COPY

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Memorandum

Date: Sept. 9, 1943

CONFIDENTIAL

To: P. M. Glick
From: Robert W. Frase
Subject: Discussion of Butoku-kai by Ensign Gorham, ONI,
on September 7.

In connection with a case considered at the Japanese-American Joint Board meeting on September 7, 1943, Ensign Gorham of the Office of Naval Intelligence discussed the significance of Butoku-kai. The following is a summary of Ensign Gorham's statements:

Butoku-kai is an organization which promotes several Japanese sports, principally kendo (fencing) but also sumo and judo to some extent. The instructors are usually alien Japanese, and often veterans of the Japanese army who engaged in these sports during their army service. The sports themselves are harmless enough, but they are accompanied by a certain amount of Japanese "spiritual" training or atmosphere and the instructors are usually pro-Japanese. Butoku-kai members are given "ranks" depending on the extent of their training and the degree of proficiency acquired. Therefore, a Butoku-kai trained kendo man of the "second rank" will ordinarily have had three or four years of training. Conversely, a man with no rank will have had relatively little training. Some members of Butoku-kai may be interested primarily or solely in the sport of kendo or sumo. Butoku-kai was not organized in the United States until about 1937.

As a matter of principle, the ONI representative on the Joint Board has ordinarily not voted in favor of indefinite leave for persons alleged to be members or contributors to Butoku-kai, but I do not believe this indicates any belief on their part that all members of Butoku-kai are dangerous, un-American, or subversive. On the other hand, the Provost Marshal's representatives tend to look solely at the fact that Butoku-kai appears on the ONI list of subversive or suspicious organizations and regard all alleged members of Butoku-kai in the same light.

I believe that the ONI view of Butoku-kai should guide our investigation of this point in doubtful cases. For example, the fact that Jiro Walter Habara of Jerome was removed on order from the Provost Marshal from the Master Chrome plant in Cleveland because his name was listed as a kendo player in a book on Japanese fencing in the United States, is not at all a conclusive indication that Habara is not a loyal American citizen. Our decision of his case should be based on the extent and effect of his kendo training in relation to all his other training, actions, and environment.

(Signed) Robert W. Frase

Thursday - MONDAY

JOINT BOARD

Expansion of Jt. Bd. Det 11, 1952

848 B

Fund out would have 36,000 cases.

Couldn't do this.

investigate ALL citizens!
These ALIENS that are sent to them for EDC only. Aliens for EDC only!

- ① 2400 out 36,000 to W.D.C. for defense industries. 363 approved.
- ② Anyone they recommended for W.D.C. ~~is sent to camp~~ ^{Defense work} is automatically cleared for E.D.C.
- ③ Alien cases are in special category for EDC.

36,000 citiz. cases.

{ 18,000 cleared.

{ (6,000) to recommend return (WRA recs. 100 + 144 renewed) total

Higher percentage of Blacks here - so hearings at camps could get under way.

WRA will probably receive majority.

Jt Bd:

Prov. Marshall's office: DeLoach
O'H
Bucke

FBI (dropped out) ← when WPA got some review

G2
Air Force P.M.G.
Coast Guard

M

At 1st work case by case - very slowly.

Now work in pairs - if agree - OK.
otherwise - go to 3rd man or Board as whole.

White - all clear

Brown - middle

Black - Santo Priest, member of Red of Kai!, concrete industry, agent, "No", qualified answers, etc x

Jnt Board has 26 revised, 126A (revised)
— only limited information! WRA goes beyond!

FBI has already record checked!!!

① If Jnt Board ~~affirms~~ — WRA affirms
automatically — unless clerical error,

② If Jnt Board ^{declines} to recommend:

① Send WRA 260 to Proj. Dir -
request for further investigation.

② Person not fit - turned down —
if wants leave clearance, has to
have hearing.

③ Hearing on Project

④ Project Committee makes Recm.
to Project Director.

⑤ Proj. Dir. makes ~~final~~ final decs.
in Project level + sends to Wash. for

⑥ Whole case assembled + goes to
review Committee — Thehr (Comm), ~~Board~~,

⑦ Comm. gives careful overview

⑧ Recm. + Director then must sign

Header (3)

The Wash. Bd will follow Project in most cases, Reviewal comes in @ no legal basis for detention @ lack of conviction.

Group A - } Citizen cases only
B - }
C - } Criteria by Review
Brd of Wash. Bd to
facilitate final
signature
of Director

Qualified answer included, in
answer to # 28

4, when I am given my full
rights + privileges.

Aufg - Energiezustände