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OFFICIAL NOTICE

TO: THE PEOPLE OF THE MINIDOKA WAR RELOCATION PROJECT

WHEREAS, DUE TO THE NON-EXISTENCE OF COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION AND MACHINERY NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH A PERMANENT PLAN OF SELF-GOVERNMENT, BY VIRTUE OF MY AUTHORITY AS PROJECT DIRECTOR OF THE MINIDOKA WAR RELOCATION PROJECT, I, HARRY L. STAFFORD, DO HEREBY DELEGATE ALL NECESSARY AUTHORITY TO THE ORGANIZATION COMMISSION FOR COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT FOR THE ASSUMPTION OF ALL REQUISITE RESPONSIBILITIES IN ORDER TO PUT INTO OPERATION THE PERMANENT PLAN OF SELF-GOVERNMENT AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE.

Signed: _____

HARRY L. STAFFORD
Project Director

Dated this _____ th day of November, 1942, at the Minidoka War Relocation Project, Idaho.

OCCG: 2
Oct. 30, 1942

*file in Comm. Gover.
office copy*

COMMITTEE MEETING WITH
HARRY L. STAFFORD

Sept. 22, 1942
2:00 o'clock, p.m.

Committee Members Attending:

Okajima	Sasaki
Fujii	Akiyama
Yoshida	Yasui
Ikoma	Chiujo

Mr. Geo. Townsend
Mr. Schaeffer

Okajima: Stated various problems pertaining to the residents of this project with regard to potential development. Mentioned problems of

1. Self-government
2. Moral welfare of young people
3. Improvement of physical conditions

Stafford: Explained procedure of self-government as outlined by W.R.A. instructions. Pointed out Dillon S. Myer's bulletin with regard to

Noted that in petition that Issei object to the domination of Nisei in various positions.

Requested reading of instructions from Dillon S. Myer, for benefits of Issei delegation to note limitation of powers of Issei and latitude of discretion of Project Director.

Townsend: (Reading of instructions from Myer)

Stafford: Noted that Paragraph IIA calls for formation of organizing commission. Method of forming to be reviewed by the staff. Problem of how best to accomplish formation of organizing commission.

Townsend: Pointed out that directive of June 5th, directed to Project Director, and referred to in instructions, allowed Project Director to act in any way he sees fit for making up the organizing commission.

Approval of plan of government is to be subject to popular vote.

Explained the division of the entire Center into 7 sections for purposes of community enterprises and for employment. Suggested that organizing of commission should be along same lines.

Suggested that commission should draw up plan of government and introduce a Constitution. Such a commission should be appointed by Project Director.

Yasui: Asks whether contemplated to appoint one or more from each section, as Center divided, or whether block to block appointees.

Akiyama: Question of Issei or Nisei appointees. Possibility of only one appointee or two representatives from each section.

Townsend: Believes that only one person should be appointed for each ward. Not make distinction between Issei and Nisei.

Gave detailed break-down as to block to block division of each section.

Stafford: Necessary to set up a commission to Constitution.
Next step to vote upon and adopt a constitution.
Council then can be elected upon a tentative basis until Constitution adopted and permanent plan of government adopted and put in effect.

Townsend: No, disapproves. Suggests that Commission should provide for a permanent organization of a council. Wait until Constitution and plan of government drawn up and adopted, before electing council members.

Stafford: Then plan to divide up Center into 7 sections in order to form a Commission. Appointment on commission to be on basis of section representation.
Question of objection to precinct or section form of representation might arise.

Townsend: Approves of section system. Commission then would have problem of whether to submitting the constitution to the 7 sections, or to the Center as a whole.

Stafford: Question of Issei and Nisei representation from section. Should there be both Issei and Nisei?

Consensus of opinion: Only 7 representatives would be satisfactory, without distinction between Issei and Nisei.

Schaeffer: Representatives would be limited to residents of that block or particular section.

Townsend: Yes, would limit to only residents of block or ward.

Schaeffer: Then possibility of more than one capable person from each section. Would advocate an election or selection at large from entire center.

Consensus of Opinion: Approves of selection of commission from center at large.

Stafford: Believes that there would be discretion exercised by the Project Director in the selection of the organizing commission. Would prefer to have at least one person from each ward; believes that they must be appointed.
Question of whether any objection to section system of selection.

Townsend: Believes that section system of representation satisfactory. Moreover, appointment by Project Director is proper procedure.
(Search for directive of June 5th to verify statement)

Stafford: How does group feel in regard to above?

Okajima: Cannot express opinion, as have not studied problem sufficiently. Assumes that appointive representatives on organizing commission is proper and satisfactory.

Townsend: Question of what people would make up the organizing commission.

Okajima: Difficult to say at present, in regard as to which people should be appointed.

Stafford: That is reason why Project Director must be enlightened as to which people to be appointed. Must be guided by recommendation of each section recommends particular person, Project Director would have guidance in making appointment.

There yet remains problem of eligibility of such persons.

Schaeffer: Points out desirable qualities, such as stability, consciousness of group problem, familiarity with organizational work, ability to speak English, etc. However, points out that in the instructions from W.R.A., no restrictions are enumerated; therefore, anyone should be qualified to be appointed.

Stafford: Undoubtedly, people of each section would have definite ideas of whom they want appointed in order to do this type of work in organization of self-government. Possibility of submitting to Project Director, their first, second, and third choice.

Schaeffer: Suggests that each block submit several names of individuals they want appointed and who are capable of doing the work. Hence would be a panel of several hundred names. However, in principle, would be representatives from each block instead of sectional system. Director then would have some discretion in making choice of appointees.

Townsend: Block managers know residents of each block. Hence, ought to be mass meeting for every few blocks, and names brought up at such meeting. The policies of the W.R.A. could be explained with regard to self-government. Suggests that there be seven such mass meetings, to coincide with the 7 sections.

Schaeffer: Objection. Then, in effect, head office would be imposing their decisions and their policies in matter of selection of such persons. Moreover, if Block Managers would state qualifications of persons to be named, might be more criticism that administration is imposing their will, and not the will of the people.

Townsend: Points out that nevertheless, the Project Director has to appoint the members of the Commission. In that respect, administration must impose its will upon the people.

Stafford: Agrees that individuals would have to be appointed. However, might work out understanding that individuals selected by some certain method would be appointed. What would be best preliminary method of making such selection.

Rather than holding mass meetings, suggests that bulletins be posted and newspaper publicity be given to plan of selection.

As for recommendation of persons to the Project Director, inclined to agree with Schaeffer. The principal consideration would be the dissemination of the information that an organizing commission

is to be formed. Method of recommendation to be left to the will of the people. Inclined to believe that block concept of selecting persons for recommendation to commission to be better.

Consensus of Opinion: Better to have representatives from blocks to make recommendation, rather than representatives from sections.

Stafford: Problem of number of representatives: Whether to have 2 from each block or only one per block. What is the pleasure of the group? Would recommend that there be not less than 2 and not more than 3 from each block.

Schaeffer: Suggests that 2 persons be elected from each block, who in turn, a congress of 72 persons, elect 7 persons to constitute the organizing commission.

Stafford: Believes that discretion granted in Instructions from W.R.A. seems broad enough to allow such procedure.

Consensus of opinion: Schaeffer's plan is acceptable.

Townsend: Believes that this plan is unwise, inasmuch for such specialized work as drawing up plan of government and framing a constitution requires men who are capable. Under the proposed plan, might be only matter of popularity rather than ability.

Schaeffer: Clarifying his plan: instead of electing 7 persons who are to constitute the organizing commission, the congress of 72 would recommend 7 persons. Project Director would still have discretion of appointing the 7 persons named, including some and appointing other, or rejecting the entire group.

Stafford: Believes that whatever plan is adopted, the whole population of this center must get together for their own mutual benefit. Must avoid factions and cliques, in order to avoid the possibility of jeopardizing the future.

Public is going to watch developments and progress of this Project very closely. We cannot afford to have factional difficulties. Says that he is impressed with the importance of cooperation here. Have marvelled to see how people will work under handicaps as are present here. The matter of public relations is a delicate one. Best way for the residents here to win public support is to conduct their affairs in such a manner as to be above all criticism.

However, will take no recognition of the Issei-Nisei conflict.

As for qualifications for holding office, favors the policy is followed thru do the greatest good for the greatest number. If this policy is followed thru out, it is bound to advance the welfare of the entire population.

Factional fighting and bickering may bring disastrous consequences. If the war comes to a critical balance, conduct here may easily influence the outcome of the war, and seriously impair the welfare of this project. Broad public sentiment may be swayed against the residents here because of the conduct of affairs at the center, if war comes to such a crucial

The Issei-Nisei question will not concern the Project Director. Is not afraid of meeting that issue at any time.

Mike Masaoka, the National J.A.C.L. secretary, advocates the limitation of eligibility of non-citizens to hold office in these centers. Cannot understand why he should insist that older, mature minds should be weeded out in the work of government.

Example of adverse effect on public sentiment. Turckloads of boys sent out; on return loaded rocks, and at entrance to project, threw rocks at the Victory signs, in sight of God and all the construction workers. This thoughtless act gave the impression that here is a group of subversive people. In Stafford's opinion, was merely a high schoolish prank, and had probably been throwing rocks at all signs along the highway. However, will call the boys together and get an explanation of their conduct. Such thoughtlessness cannot be permitted to jeopardize the welfare of the whole group. Has been policy of administration to send out safe people to contact persons on the outside, so as to create the most favorable impression of the residents here.

Akiyama: Emphasized fact that Isseis are cognizant of the smart-alecky attitude of the Nisei. Gave example of some high school kid ordering and demanding that an oldster leave and get out.

Townsend: Explains that no one in the outside world would be permitted to hold an elective office unless a citizen. Therefore, only citizens have the right to hold office in the government of such a project. Points out that the WRA is more liberal than the outside world, because it allows the non-citizens a right to vote.

Stafford: Points out that he will not allow young, immature minds to run away with the scheme of things at this project. Yet, cannot stifle the young people. Requires a matter of balance. The burden of proof that the people are capable of conducting their affairs in an orderly fashion is upon the people.

Townsend: With regard to Issei-Nisei issue, well to remember to salient facts:

1. That not all nisei are "kids". Have some mature and capable among the nisei. Men of forty among the nisei.
2. Experience at Tule Lake in self-government shows that Nisei not running away with the control of government. Self-government there and administrative work going along well.

Stafford: Method of curbing Issei-Nisei difficulty would be the working out of a balancing of the powers of the Issei and Nisei. Will not tolerate any discrimination, but will balance their powers.

Yasui: With regard to self-government, could work out a supplemental advisory board composed entirely of Isseis, appointed by the Project Director, to sit in collaboration with the Council, in order to advise, recommend and discuss, but with no power to vote or initiate legislation.

Staff Member: Points out that executive branch of government must be filled by Issei, to balance the powers of the Nisei legislative branch.

Schaeffer: Broad principles in the constitution can be incorporated to prevent any discriminatory measures from being passed, which do not affect all persons.

Sasaki: Suggests that Issei-Nisei question could be resolved by a modification or nullification of Paragraph III B which prevents Issei from holding an elective office.

Stafford: Inasmuch as instructions come from WRA would be impractical to secure such nullification. Most practical method would be work out feasible plan to get around that clause so as to balance the discrimination.

Assures group that Project Director will reject any plan which will detract from the welfare of the whole population.

Best to work around the limitations of Par. III B. The limitation is unequivocal. Must make the best of a bad situation.

Points out gambling situation, with regard to protecting the welfare of the populace. Would send any professional gambler to the Federal prison. Is not objecting to gambling, but to the practice of mulcting and beating some other fellow out of his money. By allowing sharpers to take suckers, it would detract from the morale of the populace; hence will not permit it.

Townsend: Returning to the point under discussion. We have agreed then, upon a congress of 72 persons.

Yoshida: That congress of 72 would then proceed to elect 7 persons who would be recommended for appointment on the organizing commission.

Townsend: Why not have entire matter a question of popular vote instead of going thru necessity of electing 72 block representatives who would in turn elect 7 persons.

Schaeffer: Believes that this is the proper democratic procedure; moreover, it would relieve the Project Director of responsibility of selecting the organizing commission without knowing of the qualifications of the people and without knowing the desires of the people.

Stafford: Agrees that this method would be authorized under the Instructions from WRA. Aim of the WRA is to promote harmonious living here at the project. If any plan submitted to the Director has bad features, would not hesitate to throw it out for revision or further action. Now, if such a plan is adopted here, would it coincide with the desires of the people at large. In order to determine whether the action taken here at the recommendation of this committee, necessary to inquire as to their authority and whom they are representing.

Members: Explained from which blocks they came. Point made that preponderance from the upper part of the Center. However, noted that signatures on petition listed at least one person from each block, and moreover constituted a group of 88 persons.

Stafford: Believes that such representation is acceptable, and that the action taken by this committee would represent the wishes of the people. Agreed that a congress of 72 persons shall be elected, two individuals from each block. This congress shall name 7 persons who shall be recommended to the Project Director to act on the organizing commission.

Necessary to get this information out to the people.

Yoshida: Asks with regard to the two attorneys, whether they would act in an advisory capacity.

Stafford: Would take cognizance of legal assistance. The attorneys would act in an ex officio capacity on the constitutional commission, by appointment by the Project Director.

Only question remaining is where to meet, and when to meet.

Townsend: Believes that constitution could be drawn up in 10 or 14 days, and could get organized upon permanent basis.

Schaeffer: Disagrees; feels that it would take a much longer time. Necessary for commission to consult the desires of the people. Moreover, work involved in drawing up a constitutional is technically difficult, and would take a great deal of time.

Staff Member: Suggests that the congress of 72 persons would act as a temporary council, in a provisional government.

Stafford: Believes suggest is out of line. Issue involved is matter of formation of government and framing of constitution. Better to proceed with work of getting this project upon a permanent basis.

Council would have to adopt ordinances, safety regulations and other legislative matters. Should not have such action by a provisional government that may be later rescinded by the regularly elected Council.

Yoshida: Points out present employment difficulties, whereby Issei cannot secure good positions.

Stafford: During construction and occupation of living quarters, admits that iniquities have crept in. May be straightened out in the future when things are better organized.

Townsend: Introduced Mr. Bigelow, of the newspaper. Mentioned that the Twin Falls paper is bringing out a special edition devoted entirely on the front page to the Minidoka Project.

Yasui: Reminds that issue of when and how and where of electing 72 congressmen not yet determined.

Stafford: As to where, each Block could hold its meeting in own mess hall.

Schaeffer: As to question of when, suggests that the first part of next week would be best time for meeting. Could get publicity thru the project paper and the thru the Twin Falls special edition.

Consensus of Opinion: Tentative date of block meetings would be Tuesday, September 29th, at 7:30 p.m.

Schaeffer: Community services could post bulletin notices as well.

Stafford: Should be uniform procedure at each block.

Consensus of Opinion: Allow Block Manager to open the meeting, and have election of temporary chairman. Then Block Manager of his representative will explain the purpose of meeting, and then the meeting will proceed with business of electing two representatives to the 72 man congress.

(Desultory talk.....)

Respectfully submitted.

Min Yasui
Acting Secretary

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
MINIDOKA WAR RELOCATION PROJECT
Hunt, Idaho

October 6, 1942

MINUTES OF BLOCK REPRESENTATIVES MEETING
TO SELECT A 7-MAN BOARD

The meeting was called to order by Temporary Chairman, George L. Townsend, Chief, Community Services.

Mr. Townsend briefly outlined the Administrative Order No. 34 on Community Evacuee Self-Government, stressing the importance of democratic process.

Mr. Townsend declared that the intention of the project director is that in event the two attorney is not elected to the 7-man board, they will be selected by the project director to serve on a special legal advisory board to assist the 7-man board in drawing up the city charter and constitutions.

Mr. Townsend was retained as chairman when it was moved and seconded by C. T. Arai and Min Yasui respectively, and carried unanimously.

Takeo Nogaki motioned for an interpreter in order that the many isseis can better understand the progress of the meeting. Motion was seconded by Frank Toribara and carried.

The chairman appointed Dick Kanaya to serve as interpreter. Mr. Kanaya summarized the meeting to that point.

Ben Yoshida moved and Y. Nakagawa seconded to set aside the two lawyers from the 7-man board.

George Ishihara raised the point of technicality stating that if such a motion is carried, the block which these two men represents will be deprived of "votes" on the board, if they are to be elected.

Dr. Tani answered by assuring all that the question involves the welfare of the entire community and not the voice of any particular block. At this point a great deal of confusion developed among the representatives. Two thoughts clashed in heated arguments as to the interpretation of the motion and the original intention of the project director regarding the two lawyers. The argument blew over when Min Yasui moved to have the principal motion (Yoshida) withdrawn. This was seconded and carried unanimously.

Frank Toribara moved, seconded by Min Yasui, to accept the declination of the two attorneys to run for the 7-man board. The motion was carried.

The chairman asked for suggestions as to what procedure can be

taken in nominating and electing the 7-man board. James Sakamoto suggested to elect one man at a time. This suggestion was turned down by the Congress.

Roy Setsuda made a motion to accept the 7 highest votes as those lected. This motion was seconded by Floyd Tokuda. Motion carried. The eight highest to be the first alternate, and so on. In event the 8th highest vote becomes tied, another ballot will be taken to determine the rank. It was decided that a special balloting will decide the order of rank.

The Congress accepted S. Oda to replace Niguma of Block 29. Mr. Niguma declined as he did not wish to take part in politics.

Nomination of candidates were in order. The following men were nominated:

Kinya Okajima	Yoshito Fujii
James Y. Sakamoto	Dr. George Tani
Roy Akiyama	Harry Hatate
Sadahiko Ikoma	Dick Kanaya
Floyd Tokuda	George Ishihara
Junjiro Yukawa	Benjamin Yoshida
Francis Chujo	Toshikazu Hirokane
Juro Yoshioka	Renald Shiozaki
Takeo Nogaki	Frank Kinomoto
George Okada	George Yamauchi
Keiji Saito	

Dick Shimono moved that the nomination be closed and was carried unanimously.

The chairman appointed a election committee consisting of Mr. I. Masumoto, Dr. George Tani and Rev. T. Terakawa.

The results of the election were:

Kinya Okajima	35	votes
Dick Kanaya	26	"
Yoshito Fujii	24	"
Juro Yoshioka	23	"
Junjiro Yukawa	23	"
Roy Akiyama	23	"
George Tani	22	"
Alternates: James Sakamoto	21	"
Francis Chujo	21	"
Frank Kinomoto	21	"

Juro Yoshioka resigned his position due to the fact that he has accepted outside work. A special balloting was conducted to de-

termine the rank of the next three alternates who were led,
for the eighth position, first alternate.

Result of this election: Francis Chujo 1st Replaced Yoshioka
James Sakamoto 2nd Became 1st alternate
Frank Kinomoto 3rd Became 2nd alternate

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 PM in Dining Hall 21.

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ORGANIZATION COMMISSION FOR COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT
WORK ACCOMPLISHED

(October 30, 1942)

1. Table of Contents
2. Official Authorization by Project Director
3. Proposed Charter (Final Draft)
4. Summary of Charter
5. Alternative Revisions (11-9-42)
6. Recommendation of Organization Commission
7. Community Clerk Manual
8. Manual on Judicial Commission
9. Manual on Arbitration Commission

OCCG: 1
Nov. 9, 1942

take care of the punishment, but the arbitrary board will merely warn the offenders."

At this point copies of the proposed charter were given out. The proposed charter was read by Mr. Townsend. This embodied the various points which have been worked out by the Organization Commission.

Mr. Townsend, "The temporary council will be appointed by Mr. Stafford. This body would function until the time of election."

Mr. Okajima, "The Project Director appoints a temporary council. Who makes the code of organization, rules, and organizations? Is this the first thing?"

Mr. Townsend, "I will outline the steps which will be necessary.

1. The Organization Commission will report at a representatives meeting as to the proposed charter.
2. The charter will be submitted to the people for ratification and approval.
3. The Organization Commission will sign the ratification.
4. Mr. Stafford will sign the proclamation.
5. Mr. Stafford will appoint the temporary council.
6. The rules and by-laws will be drawn up by the temporary council.
7. Proceed then to hold the first election and hold the first council.

Let us have a charter which can be understood by the people and not filled out with rules and regulations. Is there a more suitable word than 'code'?"

Mr. Moore, "Probably "by-laws" may be used, but it may be educational to use "code" for it is a body of rules and regulations. In the first instance these rules and regulations will be made by the temporary advisory council. The permanent council will make any amendments that may be necessary. It would be legally a code of organization."

CONCLUSION: Code is a better word, a more dignified word especially in translation and may be translated synonymous to "law" in Japanese.

Dr. Tani, "Why is not the number of representatives set forth in the charter?"

Mr. Moore, "This leaves it flexible so that the temporary council can determine the number."

Mr. Okajima, "What you have said is that the charter is flexible so that all rules and regulations can be worked out. We understand it as such."

Mr. Townsend, "A charter is an instrument which gives one authorization to operate as you wish within certain limits. The limitations of power is in the charter. This is limited to four points."

Mr. Stafford pointed out that when the Advisory Council is elected, different problems will be worked out as it comes up. We will head for trouble if we set up a Judicial Court. This will merely pass the buck by making the Commission inflict punishments of regulations imposed by the Project Director."

Mr. Chiujo, "Residents like to appear before Mr. Stafford, if he is to be judged."

Mr. Akiyama, "The Project Director may get too busy."

Mr. Chiujo, "We will give the Project Director advice whenever that time comes."

Mr. Townsend, "Mr. Stafford does not desire to change anything from the way it is going on now. He desires to have a representative group who can tell him the "pulse of the residents."

Mr. Fujii, "When you submit the charter for ratification, is that an election?"

Mr. Townsend, "Yes. There will be two elections.

1. Ratification of the charter.
2. Election of the permanent councilmen."

Mr. Kanaya, "Some block representatives have left the camp."

Mr. Townsend, "Should we call a special election in blocks that have no representatives?"

Mr. Okajima, "I think it should be done so that there will be equal representatives at the meeting."

Dr. Tani, "Each block should have block representatives so that the charter can be expressed and responsibility placed for block meetings to be held to advise the public as to the contents and possibilities of the charter."

Mr. Fujii, "Let us submit the charter to the people for ratification and with it a recommendation as to the proposed or possible code of organization so that the people will know what is in mind."

Mr. Townsend, "This code of organization may cause bickering, but then again it will show what we have done."

Dr. Tani, "At the meeting we will show the possibilities of this charter and if any questions are asked about this code, it will be out of order for this is merely a recommendation."

Mr. Townsend, "This charter must be yours. If you do not like it please let us be frank and let us throw the whole thing away."

Mr. Moore, "We believe the main points that you have proposed in the previous work that you might have done. This is oftentimes done in legal work."

Mr. Fujii, "We shall consider it our charter."

Mr. Kanaya, "Would it be wise to inform the block managers to make sure of the block representatives?"

Mr. Townsend, "There will be the following steps:

1. Election of block vacancies of Congress.
2. Mr. Okajima shall call a meeting for the members of all the Congress delegates. The time schedule shall be as follows:
 1. The absentee election on Monday night in respect to blocks.
 2. Representatives meeting on Thursday night in Block 23.

There will be mimeographed copies of the proposed charter and recommendations as to the code of organization. Thursday, May 13, at 2:00 p.m., we shall have another meeting to revise the recommendations as to the code of organization."

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

George T. Tani, Secretary

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
MINIDOKA PROJECT
Hunt, Idaho

MINUTES ORGANIZATION COMMISSION
for
COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Date: December 17, 1942

Place: Community Council Office, Block 23-12-EF

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Okajima, chairman. All members of the Commission were present. A report of the Commission was printed in the Irrigator, the Minidoka newspaper. Mr. Ukawa was asked to make a Japanese translation of this report to present to the editor for publication in the Japanese section.

The Commission discussed recommendations as pointed out by Mr. E. R. Fryer, Regional Director, in a memorandum given to Harry L. Stafford, Project Director. The following corrections were made after a thorough discussion.

Articles I, Section 8, Clause 3.

All regulations and ordinances shall be published immediately upon final passage prior to the effective date of such ordinances, at least once in a community newspaper..... Yes, it is the intention of this clause that regulations or ordinances be published previous to their effective date.

It was decided to put an emergency legislation clause in the Charter to be headed under Section 8, Clause 5. Emergency legislation may be passed by the Council upon recommendation from the Project Director with the unanimous affirmative vote of the Council. Such legislation shall be effective immediately.

Article I, Section 9.

Was changed by inserting the following statement which would read: "All the powers of the community related under legislation, the determination of all matters of policy subject to the approval of the Project Director,..... in the enactment of all ordinances....." This phrase, "subject to the approval of the Project Director" was inserted to clarify the position of the Project Director.

Article 3, Section 5.

No. change. The Commission felt that the judiciary should be apart from the Council. Those in the judiciary would be appointed. The Commission felt that it would be wise to have such judges act independent of the Council so that there will be no

influence by any member of the Council is deciding matters relating to justice.

Article 5, Section 6, Clause 3.

It was decided to insert the following sentence: Each delegate shall be limited to one nomination.

Article 5, Section 9, Clause 5.

It was decided to insert the following sentence: There shall be only one run-off election and the candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected for the vacant positions.

Article 7, Section 3.

Had considerable discussion and the Commission decided that such proposed amendment will undoubtedly be suggested to the Project Director before the final form of passage is submitted to the people for vote. The Commission felt that the logic was more sound to have the official approval of the Project Director after the vote and affirmation of the people. There may be a thought that it would create an unsatisfactory condition if the Project Director officially approved an amendment and then have the people reject the amendment. The logic is that the Project Director always Refer to Article II, Section 9.

The articles in question were to be rewritten by the secretary and presented to the members of the Commission at the following meeting on December 22.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

George Tani
Secretary

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 2.

Was corrected to read--Time and Ordinances Effected: All rules and regulations, ordinances, or legislation shall become effective fourteen days after final passage unless otherwise specified.

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
MINIDOKA PROJECT
Hunt, Idaho

MINUTES ORGANIZATION COMMISSION
for
COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Date: December 22, 1942

Place: Community Council Office, Block 23-12-EF

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Kinya Okajima, Chairman. Mr. Akiyam, Mr. Chujo, Mr. Kanaya, Mr. Okajima, and George Tani were present at the meeting. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. The recommendations as given by Mr. E. R. Fryer, Regional Director, were discussed again. After a thorough discussion, the articles in question were made as follows:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 2.

Time and Ordinances Effected: All rules and regulations, ordinances, or legislation shall become effective fourteen days after final passage unless otherwise specified.

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3.

All regulations or ordinances shall be published immediately upon final passage, prior to the effective date of such ordinances, at least once in the community newspaper, and shall be posted in conspicuous places to be designated by the Community Council.

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 5.

The enacting clause shall be numbered Clause 6.

Article 1, Section 9.

Powers and Functions of Community Council: All the powers of the community relating to legislation, the determination of all matters of policy subject to the approval of the Project Director and the enactment of all ordinances, regulations and the taking of such official action shall be vested in the Community Council, which shall function in accordance with the best interests of the people and in accordance with the regulations of the War Relocation Authority; without limitations

of the foregoing, the Community Council shall have specific power to:

Article 3, Section 5.

No change. The Commission felt that the judiciary should be apart from the Council and that it was not wise to have any changes made.

Article 5, Section 6, Clause 3.

Nominations: The Nominating Convention shall proceed to nominate from the floor not less than ten nor more than twenty-one candidates for Councilmen and not less than seven nor more than fifteen candidates for the advisory board; all nominations shall be verbal and a second shall be required. Each delegate shall be limited to one nomination.

Article 5, Section 9, Clause 5.

Run-off Elections: All candidates receiving a majority of votes cast by the qualified electors of the Community shall be declared elected by the Community Clerk; in the event that the full membership of the Community Council not be elected in the first regular election, the Community Clerk shall certify this fact to the Community Council which shall forthwith call a special meeting at the earliest possible date, and shall set the day for a run-off election. The Community Clerk shall certify in the run-off election twice as many unelected candidates as the number of positions remaining unfilled. The unelected candidates in such number having the greatest number of votes in the original election shall be certified. There shall be only one run-off election and the candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected for the unfilled positions.

Article 7, Section 3.

After considerable discussion on this point, it was decided by the Commission that since the Project Director would most likely be contacted before the amendment would be brought to the people and since it is his privilege to make the final rejection or approval, that sound logic rule it correct to leave this section as stated.

In compliance with Mr. Townsend's letter, it was decided to send the copies of the minutes of December 17th and December 22d to Mr. Townsend. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

George Tani

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
MINIDOKA PROJECT
Hunt, Idaho

ORGANIZATION COMMISSION FOR COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT

Conference with J. A. McLaughlin, Ass't. Solicitor, W.R.A.,
Washington, D. C.

Date & Time: November 10, 1942 10:00 a.m.

Place: Administrative building: Mr. Stafford's Office

Those Present: Mr. Kinya Okajima, Chairman
Dr. George Tani, Secretary
Mr. Min Yasui

As a continuation of the conference held the previous day with Mr. J. A. McLaughlin, the chairman, secretary, and the legal advisor of the Organization Commission met in order to discuss the technical details of the Proposed Charter.

Detailed corrections as to draftsmanship and wording were in general accepted as suggested by Mr. McLaughlin as being clearly acceptable.

The Matter of whether recall of councilmen should not require more than a bare majority was raised by Mr. McLaughlin, but the explanation by the members of the Commission that it was believed that the best interests of the Community would be served by providing that a majority of the electors should determine whether a council man is suited to execute the functions of his office. The original proposal of the commission was retained.

Again discussion turned to the disciplinary powers of the community government. Mr. McLaughlin pointed out that all of the judicial power of the community should be vested in a single Judicial Commission, which would have the inherent power to appoint subsidiary agencies as fact-finding bodies. Although it is not specifically provided for by administrative Instructions, Mr. McLaughlin suggested that the matter of law enforcement be discussed with the Project Director in order to carry out the decisions of the Judicial Commission. This matter was reserved for further consideration and discussion with the members of the local administration.

Meeting recessed at 12:15 p.m. until 1:30 p.m.

At 1:30 p.m. the conferees met to discuss further the technical corrections of the Charter. The question of electing non-citizen Block Delegates to the nominating convention was again raised as being contrary to the explicit instructions

of Administrative Instruction No. 34. The Commission pointed out two reasons why it was felt that although the latter of the Instruction may have been violated, the spirit of the instruction was preserved: (1) Because of the temporary nature of the function of the Block Delegates in not having any permanent status in the framework of government, and (2) Because inasmuch as the non-citizen is given the right of vote, it logically follows that they should be extended the privilege of selecting the persons for whom they are to vote. Mr. McLaughlin promised to bring this matter to attention of the proper authorities in Washington, D. C. and ascertain the validity of such a provision.

Mr. Okajima raised the question of the actual intent of the W.R.A. in granting self-government to the evacuees. Whether or not it was intended that the people of the relocation centers should actually have a voice in the determination of policies affecting the centers locally. Mr. McLaughlin answered that there were two principal reasons, viz.: (1) Self-government is the easiest and most practical means of administrative for these centers, and (2) it would be much better for the evacuees themselves. He pointed out that Instruction No. 34 lays down the broad principles upon which the self-government must be organized, and the work of Me. McLaughlin was merely to assist in following these instructions. He emphasized the fact the W.R.A. recognizes the need of Issei counsel and advice in community government, especially in view of the extensive leave policies which would leave an increasingly larger percentage of non-citizens in the relocation centers. However, he mentioned that there is a distinction drawn between the two generations, because of the difference in Americanization of the two. The first generation is inclined to be less Americanized having less association and intimate contact with the American institutions of life.

Necessary technical corrections were made pertaining to the certification of nominees, and the holding of run-off elections. Considerable revision was made pertaining to Initiative and Referendum, but no substantive changes were made. Unfortunately, due to the shortness of time, Mr. McLaughlin was not able to give the Commission the benefit of his opinion pertaining to the final Articles of the Charter.

Before adjourning, the question of enlistments and drafting of Nisei from Relocation Centers was raised. Mr. McLaughlin assured the commission that efforts are being made by the W.R.A. to secure full recognition of the Nisei by the U. S. Army. However, he pointed out that the important thing is to secure for the Nisei soldiers, equality of service and no discrimination. In other words, if Nisei are drafted, it is the desire of the W.R.A. to see them as American soldiers, and not drafted into labor battalions to shoulder shovels instead of rifles.

Meeting adjourned: 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

George Tani

THE ORGANIZATION COMMISSION FOR COMMUNITY SELF-GOVERNMENT

Event: Block Delegates Meeting
Time: March 31, 1943 8:00 p.m.
Place: Block 21 Dining Hall
Chairman: Mr. Kinya Okajima

The meeting of the block representatives was called to order by Mr. Okajima. Minutes of the last meeting were read by Dr. George Tani. Minutes were approved as read. Roll call was taken.

Mr. Okajima gave a brief review of the work of the Organization Commission in Japanese. Several details were added to this by Dr. George Tani. On October 6, 1942 the seven-man board was elected by the representatives of the respective blocks of the Hunt community. This board was named as the Organization Commission for Self-Government. The first meeting was held on Monday, October 12, 1942. Mr. Kinya Okajima was elected as chairman and Dr. George Tani as secretary. Mr. Townsend distributed administrative Instruction No. 34. The framework of the self-government was to be formed within the limitations of these instructions.

The Organization Commission has tried in every way to complete a charter in which both issei and Nisei would benefit. Daily meetings were held continuously for a month. Materials concerning community self-government were acquired from different centers in which there was already established a form of evazuee self-governments as in Poston, Tule Lake, Gila River, and Manzanar. Different forms of city government were studied and discussed.

Administrative Instruction No. 34 had limitations that only citizens can hold offices in community government. With this limitation the charter was made. Mr. Dillon Myer met with the commission on October 7, 1942 and impressed the commission why elective officers should be citizens. The charter was redrafted three times and was submitted to the administration on November 7, 1942.

On November 9, 1942 Mr. J. A. McLaughlin, Assistant Solicitor, WRA, re-read the charter and made additional corrections. The problem of having non-citizens as an advisory board was discussed. Mr. McLaughlin's personal opinion ---he felt that it was within the limitations of the charter, but wired to Washington for confirmation. The Western Union telegram was read. The charter was then retyped and sent to the Washington and the San Francisco regional offices.

Mr. Fryer, regional director in San Francisco, commended the Commission very highly upon the completion of our charter in a letter addressed to Mr. Stafford on December 17, 1942, and a few minor changes were suggested. The Commission met, corrected the minor changes on December 22, 1942 and sent them to Mr. Stafford. No further word was heard from Mr. Stafford's office and on January 25, 1943 Mr. Kinya Okajima inquired as to the approval of this proposed charter.

Mr. Stafford replied pointing out that the self-government was not put into operation because of the difficulty which had arisen at both Poston and Manzanar. We were asked to wait until final approval came from Washington, D. C. On March 5, 1943 a letter was addressed to Mr. Stafford from Dillon Myer.

On March 19, 1943 the Commission met at Mr. Stafford's office and the topic why the community government was not started was discussed. Mr. Stafford pointed out that the basic policy of Instruction No. 34 which excludes non-citizens from holding elective offices may be a source of irritation and conflict in our project if self-government is instituted as proposed in our charter. Mr. Stafford asked the Commission to wait until further word came from Washington.

On March 24, 1943 the Commission unanimously decided to hold a meeting of the block delegates to reveal to them what work had been done to this state. The Organization Commission owes a great deal for the fine assistance given to us by Mr. Minoru Yasui and Mr. Arai, Mr. Kimball of the regional office, Mr. O'Brien, project attorney, and Mr. McLaughlin, Assistant Solicitor, W. R. A.

Mr. Townsend, "First, let me say a word of praise for the fine job the commission has done. I can assure you that they have worked hard and have done a magnificent job. From the very start we had certain misgivings of Instruction No. 34... the point that is in discussion, in that we took into account the respect of elders and felt that limiting the council to citizens was wrong. We still hope to have a community government. We are not objecting to community government. There should be some kind of community government in some form. Mr. Stafford has attempted to operate this project for the benefit of all concerned and not to have anyone faction. This is an opinion which I attempt to review and which is expressed by many of the residents. There may be a friction and possible break which may come about from a self-government limited to citizens.

"In November the charter was submitted. The administration has asked for a definite opinion to have non-citizens on the advisory council as proposed in the charter from the WRA director in Washington, D. C. There has been no reply. Mr. Schafer and I went to Denver and the topic of self-government was discussed among the various project representatives. About this time there occurred what is now known as the Manzanar-Poston Incident. There might be some relationship in the inability of the self-government in these centers to cope with the situation which occurred. There was an appointment by the United States Senate subcommittee to investigate these centers. Other important events had arisen during that time. At present we are waiting until this irritating and disputing point of non-citizens be clarified and are hoping for word advising changes.

"There is no real democratic power in the council if the project director has a final say in all its reservations. As in the opinion of many, let us have a good advisory council and call it that and make it that. We had been told by a number of your people and we have also received a number of letters that the way we are operating now is satisfactory. We do not attempt to dis-

courage self-government which will be beneficial to all of us."

Mr. Kanaya gave a Japanese interpretation.

The members were asked if they would like to hear a summary of the charter. This was refused. Mr. Nogaki asked if each member could have a copy of the charter. This was granted---70 copies, Mr. Nogaki suggested that it would be a good policy to decide whether we desired self-government on this project for many members of the community have expressed their opinion of being satisfied with its present commission.

Reverend Terakawa, "We have no power to decide whether we should have a self-government or not."

Mr. Tomita, "If self-government is to be for citizens, we non-citizens have no voice and need not decide this matter."

Mr. Ochi, "There seems to be no need for a Japanese administration. Is there a need for self-government? Many members of the block feel that there is no need for self-government."

Mr. Shaeffer spoke at this point. "A great many people have asked me about self-government. The point I would like to make first is that Mr. Stafford is unable to be here at this meeting tonight. We want to be very certain on your understanding thoroughly that whatever the delay there has been on the administration, the Commission had done a magnificent job and tried to get such a government in operation, but not all the blame is ours. There have been number of causes. Mr. Townsend has outlined some of the reasons to you.

"Because of these disturbing events there was no move to form community government here. It seemed to me wise not to form a self-government in which there may be a question of whether you want any form of government of an alternative government conceived and formed outside of the Administrative Instruction No. 34 which would be most beneficial to all of the residents here. In other words we might decide whether we want some government and whether that government should be of a nature open to both citizens and non-citizens with equal rights.

"It seems to me that the Commission which you have elected has not finished its work. I know they have done a fine job. They have much to their credit, but they cannot stop here because we would like to see them device some other form of government charter or an alternate if 34 did not exist. They might be willing to submit to the administration some charter which meets the needs of this project.

"I do not like the provisions in 34. Neither do I like an administration which can operate as it pleases willy-nilly. A satisfactory administration which is for going to work and bring to you the closest relations must have the best advise of the council of the best minds in the project.

In my mind there are many questions about how those people should be chosen. Should they be chosen in block groups, representative groups, or at large.

"It seems to me that the committee might feel that their work is done, that they have completed their work. We are not finished yet. Should they not think further in the line of possibility I am opening up to you tonight? Such a government might be permitted. The people which you represent might submit us an alternative. I would like to see some further study come out of this committee.

"This is your project. We really believe, we mean it. I am sure that there is not a man who does not want the project to continue in harmony and be beneficial to the welfare of all residents. It seems to me there is a clearer channel to have the wants and needs of the residents brought to the attention of the administration. We don't mean to exclude anyone not if you are sure. We do not mean to exclude from you from our conference. We desire to have the best form of advice from you residents and we shall be and do the best we can."

Interpreted by Mr. Dick Kanaya.

Mr. Nogaki suggested that it would be a wise policy to study the proposed charter in the respective blocks and decide whether we need a self-government here or some other form of government aside from the original.

Mr. Okajima, "It would be up to the residents of the block to decide whether we are going to have self-government."

Mr. Ochi, "We can decide the issue by blocks if people still want self-government."

Mr. Okajima, "We are willing to continue our work for which we were appointed. If there is nothing else to be done, we will start again."

Mr. Sakamoto, "Where there are other forms of government, some form of self-government will be desired. I agree with Mr. Nogaki in studying this charter and submitting our reaction."

Dr. Tani, "The Organization Commission has a group have formed this charter under the limitations of Instruction No. 34. I wish to make it plain that only citizens and no non-citizens can hold office. You will not receive a true charter if the fundamental policy is changed. We believe and the administration has asked for a change of policy giving equal rights for citizens and non-citizens to be definitely beneficial. This change of policy will completely change the whole charter. What I would like to make clear is that the proposed charter within the limitations of No. 34 will be entirely different from a more suitable charter outside of its limitations. A clarification on this basic policy from Washington, D. C. is expected soon."

Mr. Shaeffer, "In offering this possibility of an alternative, that is, equal rights for citizens as well as non-citizens to hold elective offices, I want to assure you of our efforts. However, I do not want to raise your hopes too high for we might not be successful. Each person here understands

that possibility. We will do everything in our power to receive a favorable answer from Washington."

Rev. Hayashi, "I move that the Organization Commission make a definite report to the residents at a definite time as to the progress of this Commission's work."

Seconded by Mr. Tomita. The motion was carried.

"Mr. Stafford does not agree with this administrative instruction. The administration believes that factional difficulties may arise. We hope to have a favorable answer soon, but let me repeat again that we do not wish to raise your hopes too high."

Mr. Yoshioka, "Is it not wise to withhold this point and wait for an answer from Washington?"

Mr. Sakamoto, "I would like to open up certain suggestions. The clause in Instruction 34 limits elective offices to citizens only. I believe that if one is permitted to vote, he should be able to hold office. Yet public sentiment is against the WRA. There are Senate investigating committees. I suggest to the people another formula. The term "government" is impressive to these people. It has that sort of an impressive tone.

"I suggest that the project director's office submit to the people a different kind of a body. This body would hear the complaints and suggestions for active and beneficial welfare of the residents. If we did institute self-government, the very thing we try to avoid is the very thing we bump up against.

However, if we did have an informal commission, I do not think the public would care whether it was composed of citizens or non-citizens. This group could be selected by a special commission or by the people at large. I do not believe the Washington office will have any objection to this informal type of commission. We could submit a form of government which might be accepted by Washington. It will be wise to suggest or introduce a non-controversial form. It might be acceptable."

Mr. Hosokawa, "The people here elected us as a representative body and we appointed a committee some time ago. The conditions of this camp changed since that time. What we have to do now is to reply to them what we have completed so far. I suggest we have a meeting to tell the block residents of the progress to this state."

Mr. Yoshioka, "If this news of non-citizen holding elective offices should leak out, would it not stop the progress?"

Reverend Hayashi, "I suggest that the Commission make a report to the community residents from time to time as to the progress of this Commission's work."

Dr. Tani, "Would you please make that into a motion?"

Rev. Hayashi, "I move that the Organization Commission make a definite report to the residents at a definite time as to the progress of this Commission's work."

Seconded by Mr. Tomita. The motion was carried.

Mr. Ochi, "It would be wise to have the people in this camp decide whether they want self-government."

Mr. Okajima, "If the block residents desire not to have self-government, that is up to them, but at this meeting we cannot decide this matter for we were elected to form self-government."

Mr. Ochi, "The conditions at present are different from the time we were elected."

Mr. Okajima, "It is up to the residents of the block and not us to say whether they want self-gvoernment or not."

Dr. Tani, "The method by which Mr. Ochi can raise this point is by acting as a resident of that particular block and holding a block meeting and they can decide whether they need a self-government in this project. If then, you are duly delegated as an official of that block to go on record as not desiring self-government, then it would be in order for you to make such a recommendation to this group."

"There may be some persons in this representative group that think that there would be a new body selected to continue this work further since it will take some time to complete the work. If any one should feel that we are not capable of doing such work, I would like to hear such voices raised now so that it will be known to us. We are willing to do this work, but we would like a word from you."

Abe Hagiwara, "Do you mean a vote of confidence?"

Dr. Tani, "I feel that we have to have the backing of this group. The work that we have completed has been based on the limitations of Instruction No. 34. The work that is to follow from this date will be an entirely new revision because the fundamental policy will be changed. If you desire to have a new commission now, it would be wise to select one tonight."

Mr. Kaneko, "We don't know whether to give you a vote of confidence because we have not read the charter."

Dr. Tani, "That is true and yet, the charter had been completed by November 7. We had a tentative timetable made by the end of October. October 31--Adoption of the charter. November 5--Approval of the charter. November 5-12--Discussion of the charter by the community. November 13--Ratification of the charter by the community. By December 7; the induction of the councilmen would have taken place. Those were our plans. The charter was given to the Administration to approve and we had every intention of mimeographing it as soon as that approval came. The reasons why the charter

had not been distributed and the reasons for the delay have been brought to your attention by Mr. Townsend and Mr. Shaeffer at the beginning of the meeting.

Mr. Sakamoto, "I move that this Commission continue their work in forming a charter for this project."

Mr. Kaneko, "I second the motion."

Motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Time: 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

George T. Tani,
Secretary

Commun. govern.

ORGANIZATION COMMISSION FOR COMMUNITY SELF-GOVERNMENT

Time: April 7, 1943
Place: Home of Mr. Kinya Okajima
Chairman: MMr. Kinya Okajima

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Kinya Okajima. All members of the commission were present. Mr. B. H. Spicer of the Poston Relocation Center and Mr. Townsend were also present.

The question was raised by the secretary whether the commission was instructed by the block representatives to mimeograph the proposed charter which was drafted in November. The opinion of the organization Commission was that the block representatives did not desire the proposed charter, but a new form which would be finished at the meeting. The representatives desired to be informed of the Commission's progress as soon as possible. Mr. Townsend added further that it would entail a great deal of unnecessary secretarial work if the rejected charter were to be mimeographed.

Mr. Okajima questioned Mr. Townsend about the block coordinators as proposed by Mr. Hara. Mr. Townsend stated that the coordinating group had nothing to do with self-government and is conserving itself with the activities of the Steward's department. The nature of their concern was that of community activities such as holding affairs in dining halls, etc. Mr. Townsend further stated that block managers' functions should be confined to carrying out of instructions of the administration. They are an employee of the administration.

Mr. Spicer gave us a report of the community government of the Poston Relocation Center. In Poston the community government does not work very well. We are conducting the self-government according to instruction No. 34 and probably will be necessary to continue as such.

The first election was held last July, 1942. The permanent form of government is just being instituted now. The council did not have the respect of the people and one could feel it moving farther away from the community. This was corrected by an Issei advisory council. This office has made in the latter part of September. It formed to parallel the council. The two councils met and there was usually a conflict present.

In respect to the strike--the temporary community council resigned in a body. Probably it was due to a lack of leadership. There was definite lack of skill in handling such a matter and groups of people. The Issei advisory council also resigned. The community set up its own government then according to instruction No. 34. The leadership was in the Issei advisory council who

negotiated the settling of the strike. At present there are three distinct groups in the over-all picture.

1. Temporary council form as government in accordance with the WRA regulations.
2. An Issei advisory council.
3. A central executive board not an accordance with WRA regulations and dominated by the Issei.

There seems to be continual political dickering of the different groups and Kenjinkai, etc. groups before evacuations are in the picture. There is a continuous jockeying for power in the three or four mentioned groups. The basic cause of the whole issue of Issei and Nisei distrust has been magnified and has caused a split of the community. It would be extremely wise to coordinate Issei and Nisei points of view to have a smoothly run community government.

Mr. Townsend asked for two points to be clarified:

1. A planning board which would coordinate the activities of different groups and which would have representatives from movies, playgrounds, P.T.A., Y.M.C.A., Boy Scouts, churches, etc. need not be concerned with self-government, or should it be?
2. Should the block representatives in a possible lower body be concerned with the community activities of the particular section?

There would be representatives from different cross sections of the camp. The planning board would have need of money for community activities. The project attorney has been directed by the project director to draw a community activities coop which would handle funds and income from self-sustaining income producing activities. This fund would take care of the different community activities.

The commission decided that the planning board should be separate from the council and not a part of the self-government setup. The planning board would be composed of representative members of different divisions of the community activities program. The self-government would be concerned and related to the planning board by making ordinances and matters of board policy which affect the whole community.

CONCLUSION: The community activities planning board would carry out functions and make decisions as to whether functions are to be held, and regulations of a broad nature concerning the whole community, even though of a community activities nature should be carried out by the Project Director and the self-government advisory board.

More possible forms of self-government were discussed. Mr. Kanaya, "There is a definite need of some form of government so that persons in close touch with the administration do not assert power without the full consent and trust of the residents of this community."

Mr. Chuijo suggested that there be a council of seven members and a congress of block delegates.

1. Council of seven members.
2. A congress of block delegates.
3. An advisory board aside from the council, appointed by Mr. Stafford.

Mr. Akiyama suggested that we need not have a formalized community council, but an advisory board elected by the people to go between the administration and the people. All rules and regulations would be prescribed and promulgated by the project director with the consultation of this advisory board. A larger body of one or two members from each block delegate would be advisable.

Mr. Okajima pointed out that a judicial commission was necessary. It would be a moral building factor and would add stability to this community. All offenses except felonies would be turned over to the judicial commission.

CONCLUSION: Self-government will be in the nature of a community advisory council composed of seven members who would be elected at large. There would be a lower body of one member from each respective block who would act as a coordinating commission. The Project Director would have the responsibility of prescribing and promulgating all rules and regulations for this camp. There shall be a judicial commission which would take care of all minor offenses. The officers of this council shall not be discriminated--either Issei or Nisei.

Mr. Townsend suggested that a rough draft of the charter be presented to Mr. Provinse, assistant director of the WRA, upon his arrival to this center. Mr. Spicer gave a brief background of Mr. Provinse:

"Mr. Provinse is a very tall and fine looking gentleman. He is a very understanding humanitarian. He originally studied for law at the University of Chicago, but after completing his law study he decided that the field of anthropology would be more beneficial. He subsequently graduated from the College of Anthropology and received a Ph. D. in that field. He taught anthropology at the University of Arizona. Later he became interested in the social aspects of soil conservation, the human problem of soil conservation and worked for the Bureau of Economics in the Department of Agriculture. He made a study of the rural communities and of the different factors which caused a favorable or unfavorable rural community. This broad humanitarian background of sociology has made Mr. Provinse an ideal man to have as the Assistant Director of the WRA and Chief of the Community Program."

Mr. Townsend--"Mr. Provinse will be here about Monday or Tuesday of the following week."

It was decided there be a diagram and draft of the proposed plans made. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. Time: 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

George T. Tani
Secretary

Minidoka W.R.A.

Meeting of Organization Commission

Time: 10:00 A.M. April 15, 1943

Place: Mr. Stafford's office

Chairman: Mr. Okijima

The meeting of the Commission was called to order by K. Okijima. Dr. Provense, Chief Community Activities, Assistant Director of W.R.A. was present to discuss matters of self-government of Minidoka.

Members present: K. Okijima, D. Kanaya, J. Yukawa, Roy Akiyama, George Tani, F. Chujo, Y. Fujii, George Townsend, Dr. J. Provense, J. de Young.

Dr. Provense was introduced to all the members of the commission. The proposed charter of the community advisory council was presented to the group. The commission felt that some form of advisory council was best suited to the community under the terms of the administrative instruction No. 34.

Dr. Provense gave a historical account of instruction No. 34, telling in detail how the restriction preventing Issei from holding office had been arrived at. Dr. Provense asked the question, "If the restriction of Issei and Nisei is removed do you think it would make a difference? Secondly, is evacuee government necessary in these projects?"

Dr. Provense spoke of the experiences in Manganar. Meetings of residents were conducted. ^{in Japanese} It gave a rather unfavorable public relationship. Then again they asked for the rights of citizens. The Japanese-American Citizens League was strongly for citizens holding elective offices in community government. There had been doubts as to advisability of instruction No. 34 limitations as to citizens only. In many camps, because of this it has resulted in conflict between the various groups.

There is a definite Issei participation in all camps. In Tulalake there is a planning board. In Poston an advisory council. In Gila there is an advisory council. In Heart Mountain there are two councils--Issei and Nisei.

Dr. Provense asked whether we would care to change the charter if instruction No. 34 were to be changed. He informed the group that the decision to change 34 had only been made and only awaited D.S. Myers signature which may have been affixed to the amendment by this time.

Mr. Akiyama stated that he was in favor of having a simpler form of government in Minidoka if possible. That considering the peculiar situation here an elaborate charter was not needed. The project director and other top men would see that everything was done right.

Mr. Fujii pointed out that the caliber of the top men was not the issue at stake and that the commission had to act on principle. It would be more democratic if the responsibilities were given to everyone. There must be a formal charter background.

Mr. Akiyama: "A complicated form would create more trouble. Simplified is more suitable."

Mr. Fujii: "Let us take the Cooperative that we have. We find that the people have more confidence in our own people and since the time we elected the board everything has ironed out and it now runs smoothly. I do not think it would satisfy the people if the charter is simplified."

Mr. Kanaya: "If No. 34 were changed, Issei may dominate the group and run this camp. The background of the older Japanese, their education may not be along democratic lines and could not be expected to think along these lines. A complicated form of self-government may be a doubtful thing and there is danger in giving power to one group of people."

Dr. Provence: "In our own congress, the same thing may happen. The most ablest leaders may not be there. Naturally there is the matter of politics."

Mr. Kanaya: "There would be a great deal of politics in our self-government here also, because of the enclosed nature of our group. In all probability this group will be formed and then again the Japanese people are very competitive."

Mr. Fujii: "If the advisory council is elected the responsibility would be placed directly on the project director."

Mr. Kanaya: "The less power that the residents hold would be better for them."

Mr. Chujo: "I would like to study the community advisory form of government before making a decision. I have noticed recently that a great many people are not concerned about self-government. They are satisfied with the present administration, and the relocation seems to be progressing smoothly. Since this center is a temporary place to stay there is no real steady feeling. It may be wise to have a temporary form of government. If able Nisei were here, men who we could respect and have confidence in, then I would suggest that the council be composed of Nisei. I believe that the camp would be very peaceful."

Mr. Okijima: "I believe the Nisei are too young."

Mr. Chujo: "If the Nisei were elected at large the whole camp would have confidence in them."

Mr. Okijima: "But the fact remains that it is impossible to find even seven capable young men. As the leave program progresses the ablest young men leave this project."

Mr. Chujc: "The elders can give good advice but as for working, the young men are more energetic and hard workers. They must be capable men with a sense of responsibility. However, I agree with you gentlemen that the most capable men whom we have been acquainted with have relocated and I believe that it would be wise to have an advisory council. There is no need to have a permanent form of self-government."

Dr. Provence: "It is true that there is a temporary atmosphere in these relocation centers."

Mr. Yukawa: "If No. 34 were changed and Issei were allowed to hold office, all would go smoothly and the Issei and Nisei would work hand in hand."

Mr. Kanaya: "That is something to be doubted."

George Tani: "The advisory council as proposed is a totalitarian form of government, for all the power is placed in the hands of the project director. I do know the relocation centers are temporary however, and because of its nature, it may be more expedient and desirous to have a form of government which will facilitate and make possible quicker relocation of the people in this project. I would protest vigorously and ask for a more democratic form of government if this camp was to be permanent."

The Nisei are getting out and as the project is to be for the elders, provisions should be made to let them have a voice in running it. As far as basic policies of the camp is concerned, the elders should have the say for they will remain, more so than the Nisei who are relocating every day. I realize that this camp is of a changing temporary nature.

Dr. Provence stated that a close parallel to the relocation had been experienced in the United States in the 150 years of the Indian service.

The Indian service directors were in a sense dictatorial. It depended on them personally to see what treatment would be given the Indians. There has been a definite lessening of initiative of Indians in these Indian Centers. It is rather difficult to draw a close comparison for the Indian Reservations have been continued for a number of years, while the Relocation Centers have plans of not being permanent. However, the Commission should take into consideration of a possible change in the Administration in drafting plans for self-government. This particular group of administrative men might have the communities confidence. Later men might think along different lines.

Mr. Kanaya asked for background of the project directors of the various relocation centers. Dr. Provense stated that much of the progress of these relocation centers were of operations nature. For that reason men with a sociological background were not necessarily chosen. Later when they made the community services division with its human problem involved, the able men were picked who had a sociological background. The men we have as project directors in the relocation centers are a mining engineer, sociologist, a man from the forest service, an agricultural supervisor, a YMCA administrator, and an educational supervisor. We have in our W.R.A. offices an excellent staff and each person, each man, is working to the very best of his abilities. We have been complimented by many persons as having one of the finest personnel of any government department."

Mr. Townsend: "I think the question that faces us all now is, whether the Washington office/^{will} look kindly on any plan that deviates from administrative instruction No. 34."

Dr. Provense was certain that the Washington offices reply would be

favorable, as No. 34 had never been strictly mandatory with the exceptions of certain clauses. The organization commission decided that even if No. 34 were changed the proposed community advisory government would be best suited for this project. The organization commission decided to review the charter and make additional changes before submitting to the project director. After approval it would be presented to the public for ratification.

And being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 o'clock noon.

Respectfully submitted

George Tani

ORGANIZATION COMMISSION MEETING

Place: Mr. Stafford's office
Date: May 11, 1943
Time: 3:00 p.m.
Chairman: Mr. Kinya Okajima

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Okajima. The members present were: Mr. Yukawa, Mr. Fujii, Mr. Chiujo, Mr. Kanaya, Mr. Okajima, Mr. Akiyama, Dr. Tani, Mr. Townsend, Mr. De-Young, and Mr. Moore, project attorney.

Resignation of Dr. George Tani, who is leaving the project, was accepted. Mr. Okajima's resignation will not be accepted until he leaves the project. Mr. Dick Kanaya was appointed to act as the secretary of the Commission. Mr. Sakamoto (alternate) shall be notified by the secretary.

Mr. Townsend, "We have discussed the charter with Mr. Stafford. The opinion was that a charter without rigid rules and regulations should be made. Mr. Stafford has asked that a charter which does not have any entangling clauses like the Judicial Commission be proposed. Mr. Stafford feels that as long as the Administration sets its rules and orders of conduct, they should pass the judgment and not pass this work to the residents as in a Judicial Commission. Mr. Stafford is willing to assume the responsibility of infraction of rules which may be set up."

Mr. Okajima, "If Mr. Stafford has decided to assume all of the responsibilities, I am perfectly willing to agree."

Mr. Akiyama, "Sometimes should be set up like an arbitrary board."

Mr. Townsend, "How about boys who cause infraction of rules and property damage? If they are tried in a formal court, there will be a record remaining. In cases it may be necessary to call a grand jury and that will not be wise for it may harm them when they try to relocate. Recently, there were some boys who continued to violate regulations concerning tractors. The chief offenders were taken to the Jerome jail for a few days and then brought back to the project. They realize the gravity of the situation and now there is no further infractions. I think this is a better method for no criminal record has been kept of their offenses."

Mr. Akiyama, "An arbitrary board is wise for it will work as a warning before the project director sets any judgment upon these persons. The Project Director and the Police Force will

take care of the punishment, but the arbitrary board will merely warn the offenders."

At this point copies of the proposed charter were given out. The proposed charter was read by Mr. Townsend. This embodied the various points which have been worked out by the Organization Commission.

Mr. Townsend, "The temporary council will be appointed by Mr. Stafford. This body would function until the time of election."

Mr. Okajima, "The Project Director appoints a temporary council. Who makes the code of organization, rules, and organizations? Is this the first thing?"

Mr. Townsend, "I will outline the steps which will be necessary.

1. The Organization Commission will report at a representatives meeting as to the proposed charter.
2. The charter will be submitted to the people for ratification and approval.
3. The Organization Commission will sign the ratification.
4. Mr. Stafford will sign the proclamation.
5. Mr. Stafford will appoint the temporary council.
6. The rules and by-laws will be drawn up by the temporary council.
7. Proceed then to hold the first election and hold the first council.

Let us have a charter which can be understood by the people and not filled out with rules and regulations. Is there a more suitable word than 'code'?"

Mr. Moore, "Probably "by-laws" may be used, but it may be educational to use "code" for it is a body of rules and regulations. In the first instance these rules and regulations will be made by the temporary advisory council. The permanent council will make any amendments that may be necessary. It would be legally a code of organization."

CONCLUSION: Code is a better word, a more dignified word especially in translation and may be translated synonymous to "law" in Japanese.

Dr. Tani, "why is not the number of representatives set forth in the charter?"

Mr. Moore, "This leaves it flexible so that the temporary council can determine the number."

Mr. Okajima, "What you have said is that the charter is flexible so that all rules and regulations can be worked out. We understand it as such."

Mr. Townsend, "A charter is an instrument which gives one authorization to operate as you wish within certain limits. The limitations of power is in the charter. This is limited to four points."

Mr. Stafford pointed out that when the Advisory Council is elected, different problems will be worked out as it comes up. We will head for trouble if we set up a Judicial Court. This will merely pass the buck by making the Commission inflict punishments of regulations imposed by the Project Director."

Mr. Chiujo, "Residents like to appear before Mr. Stafford, if he is to be judged."

Mr. Akiyama, "The Project Director may get too busy."

Mr. Chiujo, "We will give the Project Director advice whenever that time come."

Mr. Townsend, "Mr. Stafford does not desire to change anything from the way it is going on now. He desires to have a representative group who can tell him the "pulse of the residents."

Mr. Fujii, "When you submit the charter for ratification, is that an election?"

Mr. Townsend, "Yes. There will be two elections.

1. Ratification of the charter.
2. Election of the permanent councilmen."

Mr. Kanaya, "Some block representatives have left the camp."

Mr. Townsend, "should we call a special election blocks that have no representatives?"

Mr. Okajima, "I think it should be done so that there will be equal representatives at the meeting."

Dr. Tani, "Each block whould have block representatives so that the charter can be expressed and responsibility placed for block meetings to be held to advise the public as to the contents and possibilities of the charter."

Mr. Fujii, "Let us submit the charter to the people for ratification and with it a recommendation as to the proposed or possible code of organization so that the people will know what is in mind."

Mr. Townsend, "This code of organization may cause bicker-
ing, but then again it will show what we have done."

Dr. Tani, "At the meeting we will show the possibilities of this charter and if any questions are asked about this code, it will be out of order for this is merely a recommendation."

Mr. Townsend, "This charter must be yours. If you do not like it please let us be frank and let us throw the whole thing away."

Mr. Moore, "We believe the main points that you have proposed in the previous work that you might have done. This is oftentimes done in legal work."

Mr. Fujii, "We shall consider it our charter."

Mr. Kanaya, "Would it be wise to inform the block managers to make sure of the block representatives?"

Mr. Townsend, "There will be the following steps:

1. Election of block vacancies of Congress.
2. Mr. Okajima shall call a meeting for the members of all the Congress delegates. The time schedule shall be as follows:
 1. The absentee election on Monday night in respect to blocks.
 2. Representatives meeting on Thursday night in Block 23.

There will be mimeographed copies of the proposed charter and recommendations as to the code of organizations. Thursday, May 13, at 2:00 p.m., we shall have another meeting to revise the recommendations as to the code of organization."

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned,

Respectfully submitted,

George T. Tani, Secretary

ORGANIZATION COMMISSION MEETING
Hunt, Idaho

PLACE: Mr. Townsend's office
DATE: May 13, 1943
TIME: 3:00 p.m.
CHAIRMAN: Mr. Okajima

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Okajima. The members present were: Mr. Okajima, Mr. Yukawa, Mr. Fujii, Mr. Akiyama, Mr. Kanaya and Mr. Townsend and Mr. Chujo.

Mr. Townsend took the lead in the discussion. The discussion was on the subject of "Proposed Charter and Procedure for Organizing a Community Advisory Council" and on the "Code of Organization". A few changes were made in the Code of Organization as follows:

ARTICLE II: Community Advisory Council Coordinating Commission was changed to "Block Commissioner" on order to avoid the confusion with the terms Kitchen Coordinator and Recreational Coordinator. Also Article III of the original Charter which deals with Judicial Commission. After the corrections, all the Commission members agreed that the revised Charter be mimeographed so that it will be ready for the next meeting, of the Commission members and the Congress of Delegates. Such matters as selection of election committee, making of by-laws for the election and other rules will be discussed at the next meeting which is to be held on May 20. There will be also meetings held in the blocks to elect block representatives where a block representative is absent due to an indefinite leave from the Center on May 17.

After this has been done, the Organization Commission will meet with the Congress of Delegates from each block on next Thursday May 20. The notice to block representatives will be sent out by the Community Services Department.

Mr. Townsend notified Mr. James Sakamoto (alternate Commission member) in order to fill the vacancy of Dr. George Tani who left this project for Chicago on May 11, 1943.

There was no further discussion. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Dick Kanaya
Secretary

MINIDOKA PROJECT
Hunt, Idaho

ORGANIZATION COMMISSION AND CONGRESS OF DELEGATES MEETING.

PLACE: Block 23
TIME: 7:50 P.M. May 20, 1943
Attendance: 50 representatives out of possible 70

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Akiyama. Four members of the Organization Commission were present: they were: Mr. Akiyama, Mr. Fujii, Mr. Chiujo, and Mr. Kanaya. Mr. Yukawa was absent due to illness.

Mr. Akiyama gave the reason why he was acting as chairman tonight by saying Mr. Okajima left this center. He reviewed briefly what had taken place in the past, touching the following subjects: the result of meeting with Mr. Provinse, the formation of the Advisory Board and its expediency, the change in the Administrative Instruction #34, and the formulation of Proposed Charter and Recommended Code of Organization.

Mr. Fujii briefly gave the reasons why the Organization Commission made final charter so short and simple. The chairman explained in Japanese page by page the content of the proposed charter for the benefit of Issei representatives.

Mr. Shimono and Mr. Urakawa raised the question concerning Temporary Advisory Council. Mr. Fujii explained the duties of Temporary Advisory Council.

Mr. Sakamoto thought appointment of Temporary Advisory Council is useless because it has no significance. Mr. Arai: "We are dealing primarily with that which concerns the ratification of Charter tonight. Organization Commission is nothing else but the election committee for the coming election." The chairman: "We made the charter. We are merely asking you to ratify it or not. It is all up to you."

Mr. Urakawa: "I still think it is unnecessary to have Article I Section 2 where it deals with Temporary Advisory Council."

Finally Mr. Urakawa made the motion that Section 2 of Article I should be deleted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sakamoto and carried by Majority votes. Then the Recommended Code of Organization was passed to the Congress of Delegates. It is decided that the final rejection or ratification of the Charter rests upon the residents of the Center and not the Congress of Delegates because the Congress of Delegates merely represents the residents of the Center.

Mr. Sakamoto: "We cannot approve the Code of Organization unless we know what is in it."

Mr. Fujii translated in Japanese, very briefly the contents of Recommended Code of Organization. After the translation Mr. Sakamoto raised the question as to the age limit of twenty-one yrs. The chairman gave the reasons why they made it twenty-one years. Mr. Sakamoto, Mr. Arai and Mr. Ishi all opposed the age limit of twenty-one years. They claimed that the people of 18 years of

age or over are taking vital part in the community life of this project; furthermore, the Administrative Instruction #34 provides all persons eighteen years of age or over shall be eligible to vote. Why is there discrimination? Give them a change. We were elected by the persons who are 18 years or over. Mr. Sakamoto discussed the question of advisability of election. He felt that the election might create factionalism and rivalry among the people of the center. He stated the Project Director is opposed to self-government and if we have enough confidence in the Project Director, appointment of Advisory Council could be considered. The chairman expressed the opinion that election should be held because it is more democratic way. Very few people came in contact with the Administrative Staff; consequently, the Administration has no way of knowing who is the capable person. Mr. Sakamoto: "Even if there is going to be an election, it doesn't necessary mean we get the right person. Everything has to be approved by the Project Director, the final decision rests upon the Project Director. There is no assurance, we get the right kind of person by election."

The chairman: "The Project Director might change any day."

Finally Mr. Sakamoto made the motion that the proposed Charter and the Code of Organization should be accepted. It was seconded by Mr. Urakawa and the motion was carried unani-

mously. After a somewhat heated argument, Mr. Sakamoto made the motion that the age limit should be lowered to 18 years instead of twenty-one (21) years as provided in the Code of Organization. The motion was seconded by Rev. Hayashi and was carried by the vote of 24 to 8. Then Mr. Urakawa made the motion that the Code of Organization should be approved. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ishihara, and carried unanimously.

This time Mr. Fujii took the place of Mr. Akiyama.

As to the matter of selecting of election committee: the Organization Commissions were given authority to select election committee to conduct election for the submission for the ratification of the Proposed Charter and Code of Organization. The Congress of Delegates felt that the election of two Organization Commission vacancies were not necessary, so it was decided that the remaining five will carry on the work.

Mr. Hosokawa suggested that the complete translation of the Code of Organization into Japanese is necessary.

The date of election was not made definite because it will take some time before the translation of the Code of Organization will be finished.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 P.M.

Dick Kanaya

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
MINIDOKA PROJECT
Hunt, Idaho

ORGANIZATION COMMISSION FOR COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT

Conference with J. A. McLaughlin, Assistant Solicitor of W.R.A.,
Washington, D.C.

Date: November 9, 1943

Time: 3:00 P.M.

Place: Administration Bldg.-- Mr.
Stafford's Off.

Members Present:

Roy Akiyama
Francis Chujo
Dick Kanaya

Min Yasui
Dr. George Tani

An informal conference was held by the Organization Commission with Mr. J. A. McLaughlin from Washington, D. C. in reference to the community self-government.

Mr. McLaughlin first discussed technical corrections pertaining to the working of various sections of the Charter as proposed by the Organization Commission. All corrections as submitted were accepted by the Commission, being clearly acceptable.

Pertaining to the disciplinary powers of the Community Council, the subject of federal felonies was brought up by Mr. McLaughlin, with the observation that no provision was made in the Charter for the handling of such federal offenses. In his belief, adequate measures should be taken to preserve the peace of the community, and that proper machinery should be organized to handle this matter. However, the question of whether the Project Director should or would delegate this matter to the Community Council was yet a moot question. He said that he was calling the attention of the Solicitor in Washington to this point. In the meantime he was going to advise the Project Director that it was probably not safe to prosecute any Federal felonies through community discipline. In any event State or Federal authorities should be notified when felonies or serious misdemeanors are committed. It will be a question for Washington to consider whether it should be possible to waive felonies with the consent of State offenses. In the absence of expressed authorization from Washington, the Project Director and the Community Council ought to go slow. The recommendations of the Organization Committee or the Community Council on this point would receive considerable consideration.

The matter of election of non-citizen electors to elective offices was discussed. Mr. McLaughlin did not form or present a definite opinion on this matter and informed the Organization Commission that he had sent a wire to Philip Glick, Solicitor W.R.A., Washington, D. C., as follows:

"Minidoka Community Government draft proposes aliens eligible to elective advisory council. Arguable loose construction, Administrative regulation 34 would admit alien to elective advisory offices not therein established. Proposal here probably excessive in making alien eligible as elected electors of councilmen with full speaking rights in council meetings lacking only voting policy. Yamamoto, October 6, indicates firm policy against alien control but I am inclined to countenance election separate alien council purely advisory to community council. Leaving here tomorrow afternoon reserving whole questions for you unless you wire opinion or authority. I wired because this live issue here particularly needs expeditious disposal."

Mr. McLaughlin informed us that a group of representative citizens from Gila River, W.R.A. Project had petitioned the W.R.A. to give the non-citizens the right to hold elective office in equality with the citizens evacuees. The War Relocation Authority's theory pertaining to this matter were addressed to Mr. Yamamoto whose name was on top of the list of names. The pertinent points were: (1) the citizen evacuee should be given special rights and consideration. (2) Avoid domination of the community government by non-citizen element. Moreover, Mr. McLaughlin pointed out that the nisei were more Americanized, having had a better background in the American institutions and traditions of democracy, and hence would be able to contribute to a more Americanized community government.

Mr. McLaughlin suggested that if the Advisory Board had separate meetings and more fully conveyed its advice to the Council through a single representative that the procedure would be much less likely to be found by the Director in Washington to run counter to the purpose and spirit of Administrative Instruction 34 as explained by above mentioned letter to Mr. Yamamoto. Mr. McLaughlin expressed himself as considerably impressed by the arguments offered in favor of greater Issei participation in community self-government and undertook to discuss the matter with his chief, the Solicitor. The whole question of just how far Issei participation can go is in his opinion at present a doubtful one as appears from the foregoing telegram from him to the Solicitor.

The members of the Commission brought out the fact that the particular type of advisory council should be elected from the non-citizen group of evacuees for the following reasons:

1. They constitute a more experienced, more mature and mellow judgement.
2. It will give a representation to a group which con-

stitutes approximately 50 percent of the electors.

3. It will promote harmony and achieve a more efficient government.
4. Opinions would be given in an informal manner and would not dominate the adult nisei council. The Commission felt that it would facilitate matters and the Advisory Board should have the privilege of sitting in the meetings during the actual formation of the community policies by the council. The present granting of leaves which provide the citizens to leave camp more readily than the aliens, the discriminating opening of jobs for citizens, all tend to place the effects of the specific ordinances passed by the community council more on the older generation than on the nisei electors as a whole from a long range point of view. The members of the Commission felt that the more mature nisei would be elected to the Community Council, those persons whose ages would be between 26 years to 35 years of age; the Commission felt that such mature nisei would be elected to the Community Council, those persons whose ages would be between such age would not be swayed by the Advisory Board but would have a mind of their own, and would weigh advice given to them by the Advisory Board before passing judgment on any particular matter.

The members of the Commission felt that it was a very feeble gesture toward the Nisei to offer elective privileges inside the barbwire fence that is going up. Mr. Yasui gave his opinion as to the racial bases of evacuation, the violation of democratic principle that citizens are equal to other citizens regardless of race, color or creed, the unfairness of letting enemy alien Italians and Germans remain in their respective military zones while we loyal Americans were evacuated from our homes and not even permitted to join the various branches of the armed forces, that this was a blot on the Bill of Rights of American citizens and set a precedent for other mass evacuation of minority groups.

Mr. McLaughlin discussed the merits of evacuation, the military necessities, the fact that the Japanese were not assimilated into American life and the presence of large groups of people in important seaports. Since we are now here, the main guiding principle of the War Relocation Authority was to deal with the individual and get him relocated inside of some new community. Mr. McLaughlin mentioned the fact that the chief of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, J. Edgar Hoover, considered that the cases should be considered on an individual basis and not a categorial one.

Mr. Akiyama asserted that if the article on the Advisory Board was not inserted in the Charter the Issei would have nothing to do but step out completely.

Mr. McLaughlin pointed out the fact that there are various appointive positions to which the Issei would influence the Community Government in various degrees; but that the entire question of the degree of Issei participation was still open and many new possibilities for participation could be considered. The Nisei were young and would be detrimental to the community welfare if they were not advised at all by their elders. The kind of form of government may make a difference of varying degrees. The practical effects of who is in control. There may be a difference in how the project is run depending on the type of self-government. There is a definite limited physical scope of self-government in this community.

Administrative Instructions will influence the leave regulations, as soon as individuals are cleared they will leave this center and there may be a great number that will leave by next spring. Mr. McLaughlin suggests that we put in our application to have our name cleared. Eventually the projects may become depopulated so that it might be necessary to close some of the projects.

There were other important points to be discussed and it was decided to meet the following morning at 10:00 A.M.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

George Tani
Secretary