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COMMITTEE ON RESETTLEMENT OF JAPANESE AMERICANS

Sponsored Jointly

by

The Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America
The Home Missions Council of North America

in cooperation with

The Foreign Missions Conference of North America

GEORGE E. RUNDQUIST
Executive Secretary

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Chairman
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Secretary-Treasurer
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JOHN W. THOMAS

297 Fourth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

May 18, 1943

Mr. Edward Moulten
Chief of Employment Division
Rohwer Relocation Center
McGehee, Arkansas

Dear Mr. Moulten:

We should like to know whether an Evacuees' Committee on Resettlement has been formed among the people in your relocation center. If so, will you please let us have the name of the representative of this Committee with whom we might communicate?

Very sincerely yours,

George E. Rundquist
George E. Rundquist
Executive Secretary

TM:cl

Smith

RELOCATION BRANCH
McGEHEE, ARKANSAS

July 8, 1943

Mr. George E. Rundquist
Executive Secretary, Committee on
Resettlement of Japanese Americans
297 Fourth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Rundquist:

This is in reply to your letter of May 18 with reference to the formation of an evacuee committee on resettlement at this center. At this time, there are two such committees at this center. The first one, which was formed three weeks ago, was appointed by the Project Director and is composed of the following persons:

Mr. Paul Sato	10-8-D
Mr. Shikuma Mori	8-11-A
Mr. Chinata Sumida	7-2-E
Mr. Kenichi Saito	16-11-D
Miss Wilma Van Dusseldorp	
Mr. Hershel Abbott	
Mr. Austin Smith, Jr.	

Just recently the Community Council has formed an all-evacuee committee whose members are as follows:

Mr. S. Kobayashi	40-9-D
Mr. C. Sumida	7-2-E
Mr. Sam Minami	5-3-C
Mr. Saburo Muraoka	Block 32
Mr. Katsuto Nagai	26-3-C
Mr. M. Nakamura	9-11-F
Mr. T. Ito	25-1-C

It is expected that the group appointed by the Community Council will absorb the first committee and will undertake its duties. Members of the appointed personnel will meet with the committee as the occasion demands but will not, in a strict sense, be committee members.

We are glad to furnish you with this information. If we can help you in any other way, we shall be glad to do so.

Sincerely,

AUSTIN SMITH, Jr.
Reports Officer

AS:ri

Board of Resettlement (Councilmen)

1. S. Kobayashi #40-9-D
2. C. Sumida 7-2-A
3. Sam Minami 5-3-C
4. Saburo Muraoka #32
5. Kats Nagai 26-3-C
6. M. Nakamura 9-11-F
7. T. Ito 25-1-C

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to do this, must want to go
to that area & have clearance.
60 got clearance last week.

Mr. Mori: 100 families in group.
Need to furnish money, food & equip.
To produce 12 million tons of
fruits. Best way is to evacuate
in groups.

Mr. M- Public would object to
group relocation. Present
system is to arrive at
some point on progressive basis
as per Mr. Kanegawa buying
farm in Colo. Wounded if
some uncertainty did not
development develop from long
delays in reloc at first. 31
approved before Feb, 500 ago.

Mr. Miyake:
Think of us just effort on
attitude.

(Maps)

Relocation & Schools, question of
To have joint meeting & look over ^{Chairman of Council} to see Mr. M -

November 25, 1943

Mr. Ray D. Johnston
Project Director
WRA Rohwer Relocation Center
Relocation, Arkansas

Dear Mr. Johnston:

It was about six months ago that the Community Council of this Center formed the Committee for the Study of Relocation Problems. I was appointed as one of the committee members from the beginning, and I have done my best not only as a member of the committee but as one of the residents in the Center. It is my pleasure to inform you that I appreciate the deep understanding and great assistance given us by Mr. E. B. Moulton, Mr. H. L. Abbott, Mr. L. A. Smith, and all the other appointed personnel of the Center. Without this understanding and assistance, we could not have accomplished half of what we have so far. I wish to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to you because I believe that this courtesy shown by the personnel in the Center is the result of your influence being reflected upon them.

After we spent considerable time studying the situation, the committee started to take action. We sent out questionnaires to all the relocatees, and made the statement addressed to Mr. Myer with your approval. The survey we undertook created considerable reaction, and we are very happy to announce at this time that we received many compliments on our work. The survey itself gives us vital information regarding the relocation problems of the evacuees still remaining in the Center. At this time, I am still unable to find enough time to sort them out and make definite statistics; however, I am enclosing, for your information, some outstanding suggestions the relocatees gave us in this questionnaire. I am also enclosing all the communications we have made with the relocatees and Relocation Officers. The committee will be happy to have you know what we have been doing all this time.

Regarding the statement to Mr. Myer, in which the relocation problems prepared by our committee were set forth, we are also very glad to know that WRA has already started the program in accordance with the wishes of all the evacuees. Mr. McVoy gave us a thorough explanation of this statement; in turn, I made a brief announcement at the Council's meeting on November 23rd. I believe that all the residents of the center are well aware of the fact that WRA is working for the evacuees and they are very highly pleased.

I am leaving the center in a short time. Whoever takes my place will have, I am certain, the same happy relationship between your office and the committee, and will continue to carry out the program successfully.

Allow me again to express my sincere appreciation to you and your associates for the courtesy and assistance extended to our committee in the past.

Sincerely yours,

S. Muraoka, Chairman
of the Committee for the Study of
Relocation Problems
Rohwer Community Council
Relocation, Arkansas

Enc.

*referred
relocation
Comm.*

ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
COMMITTEE FOR STUDY OF RELOCATION PROBLEMS
RELOCATION, ARKANSAS

NOVEMBER 24, 1943

Chairman of Community Council
Relocation Center
Topaz, Utah

Dear Chairman:

The Committee for Study of Relocation Problems of the Rohwer Community Council is sending you a copy of the prepared statement of our finding which will serve to clarify the average evacuee's sentiments towards the relocation program as laid out by the War Relocation Authority. In turn this report has been forwarded to Mr. Dillon S. Myer, National Director of the War Relocation Authority, at Washington, for his recognition through Mr. Johnston of this project.

The Committee has been sending out questionnaire to the relocatees of this center. A sample is enclosed hereby in order to give you a idea of our work being done by our Committee. We are receiving many compliments from various WRA officers and other people. As a whole, those relocatees' answers give us very good suggestions, and we consider that the result was very successful.

It will be greatly appreciated if you will keep us advised of the program you are following with respect to this matter. As it is our desire to work as closely as possible with other Council bodies, any information you may have that will be helpful to us, we would appreciate your cooperation in forwarding that information to us.

Sincerely yours,

S. Muraoka
S. Muraoka, Chairman of Committee
for Study of Relocation Problems
Rohwer Community Council

SM:mo

ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
COMMITTEE FOR STUDY OF RELOCATION PROBLEMS
RELOCATION, ARKANSAS

NOVEMBER 24, 1943

Chairman of Community Council
Relocation Center (all 8 centers)
City and State

Dear Chairman:

The Committee for Study of Relocation Problems of the Rohwer Community Council is sending you a copy of the prepared statement of our finding which will serve to clarify the average evacuee's sentiments towards the relocation program as laid out by the War Relocation Authority. In turn this report has been forwarded to Mr. Dillon S. Myer, National Director of the War Relocation Authority, at Washington, for his recognition through Mr. Johnston of this project.

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Sincerely yours,

S. Muracka, Chairman of Committee
for Study of Relocation Problems
Rohwer Community Council

SM:mc

November 20, 1943

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

Attention: Mr. Ray D. Johnston
Project Director
Rohwer Relocation Center
Relocation, Arkansas

Dear Sir:

The Committee for the Study of Relocation Problems of the Rohwer Community Council has prepared a statement which we believe and hope will serve to clarify the average evacuee's sentiments toward the relocation program as laid out by the War Relocation Authority.

We request that this report of the Committee's finding forwarded to Mr. Dillon S. Myer, National Director of the War Relocation Authority, at Washington.

We believe we represent the voice of the majority of residents, and if our findings will add even a rung to the ladder in the Government's evacuee relocation program, the Committee will have known that its efforts were not wasted.

With the best interest of all concerned at heart, the Committee sincerely requests your approval and the forwarding of this statement to the National Director.

Yours very truly,

S. Muracka
Chairman of the Committee
for the Study of Relocation
Problems

ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
COMMITTEE FOR STUDY OF RELOCATION PROBLEMS
RELOCATION, ARKANSAS

NOVEMBER 23, 1943

All Relocation Officer and Supervisor
Address
City and State

Dear Mr. _____:

The Committee for study of Relocation Problems of the Rohwer Community Council is sending you a copy of the prepared statement of our finding which will serve to clarify the average evacuee's sentiments towards the Relocation program as laid out by the War Relocation Authority. In turn this report has been forwarded to Mr. Dillon S. Myer, National Director of the War Relocation Authority, at Washington, for his recognition through Mr. Johnston of this project.

It will be greatly appreciated if you keep contact with us and advise us on the program we are studying as it is our desire to work as closely as possible with all of you Relocation Officer.

Sincerely yours,

S. Muraoka, Chairman
Committee for Study of Relocation Problems
Rohwer Community Council

SM:mo

ROHWER COMMUNITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE FOR STUDY OF RELOCATION PROBLEMS

(FINDINGS)

In the early Spring of 1942, the War Relocation Authority had announced that all the evacuees were to be interned in Relocation Centers for the duration of the war. On or about May 1942, this policy of WRA had been changed. We now fully appreciate that the present policy is to encourage relocation from the centers for our assimilation into normal American life.

Subsequently, the Rohwer Community Council, in order to thoroughly co-operate with this program toward the establishment of a solid foundation for the rehabilitation of all evacuees into the democratic channels of American life, has formed the Committee for the Study of Relocation Problems. This committee for the study of all phases of relocation with its attendant problems, realizing the gravity of the task assigned to it, has not only availed itself of every opportunity for the exchange of suggestions and viewpoints with Regional Relocation Supervisors and Officers who have visited this center.

As a result of intensive research, the Committee has been able to arrive at the following conclusions:

- 1 - That WRA has not completely grasped the evacuees' true sentiments as regards to relocation.
- 2 - That WRA has not formulated any concrete plan regarding our further welfare after relocation from these centers.

Inasmuch as our relocation today is an important step towards our future destinies, the Committee called together a conference with the Councilmen and Block Managers of Rohwer Center on October 28, 1943. The outcome of this joint meeting was that it brought forth two points which we submit for your study and reference. The reason for failure of the evacuee residents to render wholehearted support to the relocation programs is not because we still continue to harbor resentment against the American Government for our unfortunate evacuation from our home on the Pacific Coast. Nor is it necessary to state that we do not remain complacently satisfied with this dull existence of privation within the confines of a wartime relocation center.

The two points are:

- 1 - Failure of WRA to provide for the safeguard of our lives after the relocation.
- 2 - The lack of provision for group relocation, especially for farmers.

For the first point, the Committee wishes to present a recent example:

We have a young evacuee couple who relocated this spring to an Iowa farm from the Manzanar War Relocation Project. Their first reception was splendid and they were accepted almost as members of the family.

However, this was not to continue. Word was later received from Army Headquarters that the Farmer's son had been "killed in Action" on the South Pacific battle front.

The farmer's attitude towards the couple changed immediately, with the result that the evacuee couple were forced to leave.

The time will undoubtedly arrive when the Pacific area will be the main theatre of war operations. We must assume that many of our American boys will

be sacrificed on the front. At that time, drawing from the aforementioned example, we must expect a decided deterioration in the freshly created good will of our Caucasian neighbors and among members of the new community. Through wartime tensions, there may even be cases of physical violence directed at us. Under such circumstances, it may be highly probable that a second evacuation, much more disastrous than the first, might result. What will WRA do to safeguard us then? There is no indication of protection under such impending issues contained in the existing plans of WRA relocation program. We feel justified in requesting that the WRA should direct its efforts toward a more deeper understanding of the evacuees' sentiments concerning relocation in view of this existing doubt.

For the second point, the Committee believes that group relocation is the best solution, especially for prospective farmers. Financial assistance, to be maintained by WRA until the members of the group are economically independent and self supporting, is essentially desirable.

Although termed "group" relocation, it need not be on a scale any larger than twenty to thirty families comprising a group. This procedure should in no way conflict with WRA's dispersed resettlement aim. Our assumption is that the present relocation program is concerned chiefly with the resettlement of bachelors and persons without family encumbrances. Contrary to this assumption, our concern is the resettlement into normal life of the Issei. The majority of the aged Issei, who have long ago reached the limit of their productive years, through the sudden and unforeseen losses incurred by abrupt evacuation, have not now the economic ability for another reconstruction of their broken lives. Added to this, the task of independent re-establishment of a large family amidst strangers and in unknown territory is practically impossible to expect of these evacuees now.

You must strive to understand this hidden aspect of the evacuees' hesitation to make a hasty decision. The Committee has considered your possible apprehension over any problems arising along this line of group relocation. However, the ultimate success or failure of this relocation program hinges on this suggested point, and we firmly believe this to be the sole solution to our programs.

In conclusion, our sincere belief is that the true success of the program rests not in the mere number of indefinite leave issued but in the complete harmonious assimilation of the evacuees into our American way of life after eventual relocation.

The Committee for the study of Relocation Problems hereby offers its findings, with sincere hope for the successful rehabilitation of all Evacuees in accordance with the policies of the War Relocation Authority.

Pammy
C. B. Benson

COPY

Community Council
November 30, 1943 *76.100*

Rohwer Community Council
Rohwer Relocation Center
Relocation, Arkansas

Gentlemen:

The statement of the Committee of the Rohwer Relocation Council for the Study of Relocation Problems has been forwarded to me by Mr. Johnston. I find it a thoughtful, mature presentation of certain aspects of relocation, and as such it has been given careful consideration.

For the sake of clarity it seems desirable to discuss separately each point raised in your letter.

1. "The WRA has not completely grasped the evacuees' true sentiments as regards relocation."

The WRA believes that the understanding of "the evacuees' true sentiments as regards relocation" is a continuing process. It is of great importance that there be full understanding by the evacuees as to the congressional and budgetary limitations under which the WRA operates. Such communications as yours are to be commended as an effective means of helping to bring about this mutual understanding. It should be emphasized that the proposed family counseling program and the provisions for increased evacuee participation in the relocation program, which were outlined in the Acting Director's letter of October 28, are steps toward gaining a better understanding of evacuees' attitudes in regard to relocation. Community Analysis is also working toward promoting our understanding of evacuee relocation attitudes, and we have recently begun to obtain the views of resettlers concerning their experiences.

2. "The WRA has not formulated any concrete plan regarding our further welfare after relocation from these centers."

By "further welfare after relocation" it is presumed that the Council is referring to the adjustment period when the resettler is working out the transition from center life to normal life in American communities. The WRA has developed extensive plans for the welfare of resettlers during the adjustment period, which are indicated in the

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following paragraphs. Planning for the future of the Japanese Americans beyond the transition period is surely something in which the evacuees themselves will wish to take the lead.

Meanwhile an increasing amount of time and energy has been devoted by WRA to planning and developing on a nationwide scale aids to the security of the evacuee resettlers. Churches, private citizens, social agencies, labor unions, and many government agencies have been drawn into the plans of the Authority and are now taking an active part in developing concrete plans for the welfare of the evacuees after relocation. The basis of this program for the welfare and security of resettlers was laid over a year ago. At that time WRA enlisted the aid of the Committee on Japanese Americans Resettlement of the Federal Council of Churches and with the committee made contacts with the leading citizens of many American communities deemed most suitable for resettlement. Since that time the number of influential and prominent persons assisting the WRA in the resettlement program has grown enormously until now many hundreds of community leaders throughout the Middle West and East are supporting the WRA resettlement program and working constantly toward achieving greater social and economic security for resettlers.

The WRA itself has established 45 offices in 25 states, with a total personnel of 144 specialists in the fields of employment and social adjustment. WRA staff members in these offices are in close touch with organizations in their home communities, informing them of the excellent record of the evacuees on the West Coast, making clear the loyal and lawabiding character of the evacuees, and pointing out the importance of full recognition for their civil rights. They are pointing out the successful adjustment resettlers have thus far made, and the further contribution they are potentially capable of making to the community's welfare and the war effort. They are working with cooperating groups of leading citizens in every place where evacuees are resettling, working out plans for employment, health and social security.

Various national organizations are working with the Authority in planning for the welfare of the evacuees after resettlement. The Brethren, the Friends, the Baptists, the Congregationalists, Methodists, Presbyterians, and many other denominations in cooperation with the WRA are developing programs to acquaint their vast membership in

many thousands of individual churches with the need for assistance to evacuees during the adjustment period. Many pamphlets and leaflets have been distributed to the church members making clear the problems of the evacuees and their rights. Hostels have been established in several cities by the Baptists, Friends, and Brethren. Y.M.C.A.'s and Y.W.C.A.'s throughout the areas of resettlement have extended hospitality and are aiding resettlers in their social adjustment. The Travelers Aid Society has been actively cooperating for many months in aiding evacuees en route. Instructions have gone out to every Travelers Aid Office in the United States to the effect that they are to keep alert for opportunities to aid evacuees arriving at various cities. Colleges and universities have participated in the planning for the welfare of resettlers. The National Japanese American Student Relocation Council representing the cooperation of church groups, colleges and universities of the country, and now in its second year, has been responsible for educational opportunities extended to hundreds of evacuees. The Student Relocation Council estimates that the same number of Japanese Americans are now attending institutions of higher learning as was the case prior to evacuation.

The WRA has been active in securing the assistance of government agencies for resettlers. Through an agreement with the Social Security Board a system of financial aid to evacuee resettlers confronted by economic or health problems too difficult for them to solve is in operation in every state except Colorado. The details of this plan are in the hands of your relocation program officer.

The United States Employment Service has been thoroughly acquainted with the problems of relocation and now includes in its own manual of instructions a provision making available to resettlers its full resources for job placement.

The National Housing Agency has been thoroughly acquainted with the housing problems of the evacuees and has given assurance that evacuees/^{finding} employment in essential occupations of all types may call upon the war housing resources available in most localities. Some resettlers are now living in such war housing.

The United States Office of Education has been similarly acquainted with the problems of resettlement and has prepared packets of information in regard to resettlement of Japanese Americans which are being widely distributed. State officials, educational officials, school boards, super-

intendents of schools, and educational authorities on a local level have been contacted by WRA, and the result has been that in all communities where evacuees have gone, their children have been accepted without question in the public school system.

The Department of Agriculture, the Department of Interior, the Department of Labor, and the Maritime Commission are among the agencies currently planning with WRA for the future of resettlers. The WRA has carried out an active campaign for the education of other government agencies in regard to the loyalty, abilities and rights of the evacuees, and as a result many evacuees are now in government jobs.

In addition to the cooperation which has already been secured from the various government agencies referred to, the WRA through the Washington Office and also through its relocation supervisors and officers in the field is constantly developing and extending through its educational program the list of private and public agencies assisting resettlers.

3. "Failure of the WRA to provide for the safeguard of our lives after relocation."

The mention of this point was a little surprising in view of the vast evidence piling up that relocated evacuees have been accepted in the areas of resettlement practically without incident. It is probable, however, that insufficient information on community attitudes has been presented to evacuees still in the centers. A year ago when the relocation program was first getting under way, it was thought necessary before relocation took place in any area to obtain the assurances of local and state officials that the evacuees would receive the same protection as other residents. It soon became apparent that even stronger guarantees existed in the overwhelming community belief in fair play for resettlers. Experience of the past year has shown that the population in the Middle West and East is prepared to vigorously support the civil rights and peaceful existence of the resettlers. Consider the fact that approximately 40,000 Japanese Americans, one-third of the total Japanese American population, are living outside the relocation centers. Approximately half of this group has never been in relocation centers. Resettled evacuees have been involved in disturbances less frequently than an average cross section of the American public, and the three or four incidents that have occurred were not serious. In each of these cases peace officers acted promptly for the punishment of the wrongdoers and the protection of the resettlers. The attitude of soldiers and sailors and other members of the armed forces has generally been friendly

beyond the average, and specific instances have been written up in project papers as to the unusually courteous and friendly treatment accorded evacuees by members of the armed forces.

A question is raised as to the attitude of American communities if and when casualties in the South Pacific become more severe. It is of interest in this connection to point out that there are now several towns in which evacuees have resettled where a large part of the male youth of the town was killed or taken prisoner by the Japanese in the earlier days of the war. There have been no instances of violence in any of these communities. Nisei soldiers who received their basic training at Fort Douglas in Utah reported that they were accepted on a completely friendly basis by convalescent soldiers who had fought and been wounded in the South Pacific. The excellent record of the 100th Battalion in Italy has been widely publicized by the War Department, and it may be expected that the further fighting of this unit and the participation of the combat team now in training at Camp Shelby will be extremely effective in continuing these favorable public attitudes.

It is obvious that certain special groups particularly active on the West Coast have for months carried on a campaign in the newspapers with the aim of arousing hatred for all persons of Japanese ancestry. It must be emphasized that this West Coast newspaper campaign does not have its counterpart in the Middle West and East, and that on the contrary many of the largest and most influential newspapers of these areas have actively supported the rights of evacuees. Among these are the St. Louis Post Dispatch, Des Moines Register, Kansas City Times, Milwaukee Journal, Chicago Sun, Cincinnati Times-Star, Washington Post, and New York Times. Many other newspapers in both small and large communities have been favorable to Japanese Americans. Copies of this favorable publicity are in the files of the Reports Division and can be furnished to the Council if desired.

In connection with the future safety of the persons of Japanese ancestry in this country, it should be pointed out that to date most public criticism has been centered on the persons remaining in the relocation centers and not upon the resettlers. The case of the young evacuee couple who relocated on an Iowa farm this spring and who were discharged after word was received that the farmer's son had been killed in action in the South Pacific is regrettable, but certainly substantiates the entire experience of the WRA in its belief that evacuees resettling in the Middle West and East at the very worst need not fear attacks on their persons. Evacuees fearing such violence under-estimate the essential fairmindedness of the residents of

the Middle West and East and their ability to differentiate between the Japanese with whom we are at war and the loyal, law-abiding persons of Japanese ancestry who have chosen America for their home. The very fact that evacuees have resettled and are working actively to contribute to the war effort counts heavily in their favor. There is a likelihood that recent criticism directed at evacuees remaining in centers and thus withholding their contributions from the war effort will be intensified.

4. "Lack for provision for group relocation especially farmers."

It is not clear just what the Rohwer Community Council means by group relocation, and admittedly it is a term which seems to mean a great many different things to different people. If by group relocation the Council means the purchase of a fairly large tract of land and the colonization of a considerable number of evacuees on this land, the WRA will have to answer that it actively discourages such plans. While the people of the Middle West and East are prepared to accept resettlers as fellow Americans, such a colonization plan would be met, we believe, with strong opposition. Such colonization implies that the Japanese Americans are less interested in being accepted as fellow members of these communities than a separate group having a special community life and set apart from the other people of this nation. Such special groups whether they are Japanese, Italian, Greek, Polish, or Turkish, will meet with antagonism and opposition.

It should be entirely possible, however, for half a dozen or more families to establish themselves in agriculture in a locality. The WRA is ready to consider any such propositions made by evacuees, devote its resources to this end and endeavor to obtain the resources of cooperating agencies, toward the successful relocation of these small groups. There are also many opportunities for relocation of a number of farm families as tenants or on a crop-share basis in neighborhoods where the families will be fairly close to each other.

In addition to the points enumerated, the WRA is currently exploring the possibilities of developing credit unions of evacuees to aid in the financing of group and family relocation plans. The Authority has detailed a supervisor to develop at two centers specific plans for the experimental relocation of small groups of families in agriculture. It is not necessary, however, for the evacuees at Rohwer to wait for the full development of these plans. WRA will be very glad to review specific propositions for group relocation and assist those interested in every way possible. While WRA is not in a position to finance

such plans, other government agencies, such as Farm Credit, Farm Security and National Housing Agency, have been created to handle the types of financing which evacuees require in the course of resettlement. WRA will aid in securing the assistance of these agencies. However the fact that these agencies exist for the purpose of financing precludes any possibility of WRA's receiving funds to spend for this purpose.

To sum up:

1. The WRA is anxious to improve its knowledge of evacuee sentiments in regard to relocation and will shortly undertake a family counseling program at every center in order to discuss future plans with every family group and secure accurate information on evacuee attitudes concerning relocation.

2. While the WRA believes that the evacuees will desire to take a major part in planning for their future welfare, the WRA has formulated concrete plans for aiding resettlers during the transition period. The present large scale program directed to this end is continuing and additional assistance is being secured from private and public agencies.

3. The attitude of the people of the Middle West and East towards resettled evacuees has been good, and the WRA believes that in addition to the educational work being done to increase this friendly feeling, the excellent records of resettlers and the participation of Japanese American soldiers in the war will create even greater community acceptance. Consequently there is no basis for believing that the evacuees are running any physical risk in the many approved areas of resettlement.

4. Group relocation within certain limitations is feasible, and if specific proposals are made by evacuee groups, WRA is prepared to assist these groups and will aid in securing the assistance of private and government agencies.

We, here in Washington, even as you at the centers, are primarily concerned with the future of your children, and it is this concern that they have the opportunity to live normal lives that primarily motivates our vigorous development of relocation opportunities.

May I express my appreciation for your communication as evidence of your desire to share fully in planning for the future of Japanese Americans. It is hoped that this letter will to some extent answer the questions you have raised.

Please be assured that your communication will receive the continued study and thought of Washington Staff members concerned with relocation.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ D. S. Myer

Director



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ROHWER COMMUNITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE FOR STUDY OF RELOCATION PROBLEMS

(FINDINGS)

In the early Spring of 1942, the War Relocation Authority had announced that all the evacuees were to be interned in Relocation Centers for the duration of the war. On or about May 1942, this policy of the WRA had been changed. We now fully appreciate that the present policy is to encourage relocation from the centers for our assimilation into normal American life.

Subsequently, the Rohwer Community Council, in order to thoroughly cooperate with this program towards establishment of a solid foundation for the rehabilitation of all evacuees into the democratic channels of American life, has formed the Committee for the Study of Relocation Problems. This committee for the study of all phases of relocation with its attendant problems, realizing the gravity of the task assigned to it, has not only availed every opportunity for the exchange of suggestions and viewpoints with the Relocation Officers and the Leave Officers of Rohwer Center but as well with Regional Relocation Supervisors and Officers who have visited this center.

As a result of intensive research, the Committee has been able to arrive at the following conclusions:

1. That the WRA has not completely grasped the evacuees' true sentiments as regards relocation.
2. That the WRA has not formulated any concrete plan regarding our further welfare after relocation from these centers.

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The two points are:

1. Failure of W.R.A. to provide for the safeguard of our lives after the relocation.
2. The lack of provision for group relocation, especially for farmers.

For the first point, the Committee wishes to present a recent example:

We have a young evacuee couple who relocated this spring to Iowa farm from the Manzanar War Relocation Project. Their first reception was splendid and they were accepted almost as members of the family.

However, this was not to continue. Word was later received from Army Headquarters that the Farmer's son had been "killed in Action" on the South Pacific battle front.

The farmer's attitude towards the couple changed immediately with the result that the evacuee couple were forced to leave.

The time will undoubtedly arrive when the Pacific area will be the main theatre of war operations. We must assume that many of our American boys will be sacrificed on the front. At that time, drawing from the aforementioned example, we must expect a decided degradation in the freshly created good will of our caucasian neighbors and among members of the new community. Through wartime tensions, there may even be cases of physical violence directed at us. Under such circumstances, it may be highly probable that a second evacuation, much more disastrous than the first, might be necessitated. What will the W.R.A. do to safeguard us then? There is no indication of protection under such impending issues contained in the existing plans of the W.R.A. relocation program. We feel justified in requesting that the W.R.A. should direct its efforts toward a more deeper understanding of the evacuees' sentiments concerning relocation in view of this existing doubt.

For the second point, the Committee believes, that group relocation is the best solution, especially for prospective farmers. Financial assistance, to be maintained by the W.R.A. until the constituents of the group are economically independent and self supporting is essentially desirable.

Although termed "group" relocation, it need not be on a scale any larger than twenty to thirty families comprising a group. This procedure should in no way conflict with the W.R.A.'s dispersed resettlement aim. Our assumption is that the present relocation program is inclined to be concerned chiefly with the resettlement of bachelors and persons without family encumbrances. Contrary to this assumption, our concern is the resettlement into normal life of the Isseis. The majority of the aged Isseis, who have long ago reached the limit of their productive years, through the sudden and unforeseen losses incurred by the abrupt evacuation, have not now the economic ability for another reconstruction of their broken lives. Added to this, the task of independent re-establishment of a large family amidst strangers and unknown territory is practically impossible to expect of these evacuees now.

You must strive to understand this hidden aspect of evacuees' hesitation to a hasty decision. The Committee has considered your possible apprehension over any problems arising along this line of group

relocation. However, the ultimate successor failure of this relocation program hinges on this suggested point, and we firmly believe this to be the sole solution to our programs.

In conclusion, our sincere belief is that the true success of the program rests, not in the mere number of indefinite leave issued; but, in the complete harmonious assimilation of the evacuees into our American way of life after eventual relocation.

The Committee for the study of Relocation Problems, hereby offers its findings, with indefinite hopes for the successful rehabilitation of all Evacuees in accordance with the policies of the War Relocation Authority.

Submitted on November 9, 1943

ROHWER COMMUNITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE FOR STUDY OF RELOCATION PROBLEMS

(FINDINGS)

In the early Spring of 1942, the War Relocation Authority had announced that all the evacuees were to be interned in Relocation Centers for the duration of the war. On or about May 1942, this policy of the WRA had been changed. We now fully appreciate that the present policy is to encourage relocation from the centers for our assimilation into normal American life.

Subsequently, the Rohwer Community Council, in order to thoroughly cooperate with this program towards establishment of a solid foundation for the rehabilitation of all evacuees into the democratic channels of American life, has formed the Committee for the Study of Relocation Problems. This committee for the study of all phases of relocation with its attendant problems, realizing the gravity of the task assigned to it, has not only availed every opportunity for the exchange of suggestions and viewpoints with the Relocation Officers and the Leave Officers of Rohwer Center but as well with Regional Relocation Supervisors and Officers who have visited this center.

As a result of intensive research, the Committee has been able to arrive at the following conclusions:

1. That the WRA has not completely grasped the evacuees' true sentiments as regards relocation.
2. That the WRA has not formulated any concrete plan regarding our further welfare after relocation from these centers.

Inasmuch as our relocation today is an important step towards our future destinies, the Committee called together a conference with the Councilmen and Block Managers of Rohwer Center on October 28, 1943. The outcome of this joint meeting was that it brought forth two points which we submit for your study and reference. The reason for failure of the evacuee residents to render wholehearted support to the relocation programs, is not because we still continue to harbor resentment against the American Government for our unfortunate evacuation from our home on the Pacific Coast; Nor, remindful of our pride, it is hardly necessary to state that we do not remain complacently satisfied with this dull existence of privation within the confines of a wartime relocation center.

The two points are:

1. Failure of W.R.A. to provide for the safeguard of our lives after the relocation.
2. The lack of provision for group relocation, especially for farmers.

For the first point, the Committee wishes to present a recent example:

We have a young evacuee couple who relocated this spring to Iowa farm from the Manzanar War Relocation Project. Their first reception was splendid and they were accepted almost as members of the family.

However, this was not to continue. Word was later received from Army Headquarters that the Farmer's son had been "killed in Action" on the South Pacific battle front.

The farmer's attitude towards the couple changed immediately with the result that the evacuee couple were forced to leave.

The time will undoubtedly arrive when the Pacific area will be the main theatre of war operations. We must assume that many of our American boys will be sacrificed on the front. At that time, drawing from the aforementioned example, we must expect a decided degradation in the freshly created good will of our caucasian neighbors and among members of the new community. Through wartime tensions, there may even be cases of physical violence directed at us. Under such circumstances, it may be highly probable that a second evacuation, much more disastrous than the first, might be necessitated. What will the W.R.A. do to safeguard us then? There is no indication of protection under such impending issues contained in the existing plans of the W.R.A. relocation program. We feel justified in requesting that the W.R.A. should direct its efforts toward a more deeper understanding of the evacuees' sentiments concerning relocation in view of this existing doubt.

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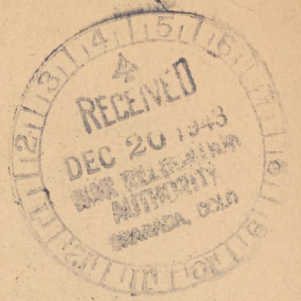
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Submitted on November 9, 1943



Polmer

ROHWER COMMUNITY COUNCIL
RELOCATION, ARKANSAS

FEBRUARY 5, 1944

Dr. G.A. Ochikubo
Chairman of Community Council
Relocation Center
Topaz, Utah

Dear Dr. Ochikubo:

I am enclosing for your information a copy of the translation of the answer from Dillon S. Myer, received last November. This answer is regarding to the findings of relocation problems.

Due to our Committee being busy with other things, I am sorry we could not keep up this matter as it should be. Forgive us for the delay.

Sincerely,

S. Muraoka
S. Muraoka
Committee for Study of
Relocation problems

SM:mo

那利市政事會 再駐在問題研究委員會より昨午長官マイヤ氏に提出せし意見書に對す長官より返信を左に譯載致します (譯責有村園)

那利市政事會 玉城重成

那利市政事會 申中

十九百三十五年十一月廿日

長官 ティロレス・ワイヤー 閣下

貴會委員会に於て提出されし意見書に所長ジョースト氏を通じて受取りました。再駐在問題に關し、深き研究の上準備されし此の意見の提出を見て、私も注意を深く考慮致しました。就ては、此の問題の明白を期する爲に提出されし意見を各個人別に論議致したと思ひます。

第一 WRAは再駐在問題に對するセラー住民の意見感情を

充分に把握して居ない

再駐在問題に關するセラー住民の意見感情と理解せんとする事は、WRAとして常に經濟上可成り事と信じます。例へばWRAの仕事を常に議會及び豫算に於て制限されて居る事をセラー住民は充分に解されし事も必要であります。此の意味に於て、貴會提出の意見書が好まら相互の了解を深めるに好果的のものとして補綴されべきであります。

十月廿日付發表の長官代理の書面にも依る如く、家庭を中心と相談する方法とあり、ある事、セラー住民がより多く再駐在問題研究に參與せしめ、標準準備しつつある事、コミュニティ・アワードに關して調査しつつある事、概言はして、此のセラー住民の再駐在問題に對する見方、意見感情等を知らんとしつつあるWRAの努力の表れである事と強調したいのであります。

第二 WRAはセラー住民の再駐在後の福祉に關し何等具体

案を準備して居ない。

WRAとしては、再駐在者の新居土地に落着き、獨立生活を営むまでは援助す可き広範に亘る案を作成した事と申上ります。例へば全米に亘り、教會、個人、團體、社會局、労働組合、其他各政府代表の先官憲に働きかけ、目的の徹底を計て居ます。此の運動の礎石は、既に一々手前設置され下りて居ります。當時は日常再駐在者の一部有志及び地方教會聯盟要人の、其の地方にて、適當と認められたる有力者に依頼して、直接と間接した下りて居ります。現在に於ては、東部及び中部の有力者や團體のWRAの方針を援助して、再駐在者の社會的、經濟的地盤の出来得る極大に努力を盡して居ります。

WRA又下りて五州に亘る事務所を置き、百四十人の所員の再駐在者の仕事にの周旋し、或はシヤルウエルフアの問題に關し専念して居ります。且、他、何等所員は、それ以外の地方住民に再駐在者の太平洋沿岸に在りし當時の好き記録を示し、忠誠を、且、法律違反者の民権の全面的確認の定す性も指摘し、過去に於て此等再駐在者の米國に貢獻する諸兵を列記して、將來に於ても、再駐在者の米國平民として、夫の地方に貢獻する可き可能なる事を宣傳して居ります。

全米各地に連絡を持ち、各種團體、教會、聯盟、YMCA、YWCA、WRAに協力して居り下りて、政府の各部署の援助を求め居る事に、努力して居ります。

第三

WRAは再駐在者の生命財産に對する保証をして居らない

再駐在者の各地に於て、何等事故なく生活してゐる夥しき多數の記録が、現在如き事と指摘されるのは、寧ろ其の難うきところであり、然し此は處

らるる各地に於ける報告の未だセクター住民に充分知られて居ないからと思
ひます。一々年々前に在てはセクター住民の住所に先立ち其の人の行き先地の
住所のありし、再居住者を受入れぬや否やに、特に注意を拂ひ、其の地方の官憲
の保証を求めたのであります。過去一々年の経験の示す如く、仍れば、東部、中部
に於ては、再居住者の民権擁護及び平和なる存在の爲には、地方住民より力ある
支持ある事の保証を求めたのであります。現在では日米人全人の約三分の一が常居する人
日米人か外部で生活して居ります。此の内の半数は慮らく、リベラーシオンセンターに
入らなかつた人であります。

過去に於て三つの事故があり、其の何れもが重大性のものとなく、全米の公衆
よりも僅く、比較的平和なる生活状態に在ります。

再居住者に対し、一般平民よりも軍人の方がより友好的であり、礼儀的である事
由数々、常に報告される事とあります。

太平洋戦争の今後概観となり、戦死傷者の増加を見た既に一般米国民の對日米人
の感情態度の悪化を慮れ、兵士と接せられて居ります。此に對し、再居住者の居住
する数々の都市に於て、その居住民中の大半が戦死し或は日本軍の捕虜とな
つたと云ふ必があり、其処でも再居住者に対し何等不祥事件が起つた事と
申上ります。

伊予利に駐在する米軍部隊の特別なる記録は陸軍省に仍て宣伝され今後米軍部隊
の記録或は、山下元二少将に於て訓練中の、日米部隊の戦争を如きは、一般大
衆より、友好的待遇を受ける爲には非常な好意の下であります。

ユラチアフォードクラスに於て、訓練中の日米兵士は南太平洋の戦場で負傷し、山下
快復期にある兵士より、全く友好的待遇を受けるものと云ふ報告があります。

太平洋沿岸の或種團體の新聞紙を通じて、すべて日米人に反感を起さす可き途
程を経験して居る事實はあります。然し、此の太平洋沿岸の新聞紙上の運動
が何等東部及び中部方面に、反感を起さす事と特筆致し度、寧ろ、其の反
對に大部会の大新聞は主眼者の權利擁護の爲に筆を執つて居ります。

五米日米將來の安全保障に關連し、今日迫る多くの世評は再居住者の上に非ず
して、未だセクターに對し、人々に安全の害を及ぼす事と些微の偏見を起します。既に再
居住者も人々には忠誠であり、法律遵守者として、且、戦時産業の多量兵者として
大衆に受け入れられて居ります。最近では、セクターに對し、人々は米國の戦時産
業に力を補助する人々であるとの世評を評し、批判する傾向のある事とす。

第四

特に農家の集團移住に對する準備規定が無い

日米戦争全の日は、集團移住の定議の判全と致し、其の若しこれの大きな土
地を賣ひ、コロニーと作る意味に於ける集團移住ならば、WRAは、反對致しま
す。東部、中部の住民は再居住者を地方の一員として、要するに、移入し、移入
のであり、たゞ、コロニーシジョンの如く、案には必要や反對の聲の出る事をW
RAは信じます。此のコロニーシジョンの案は、其の地方の住民と離れ、特種なる部族
を形成する事になり、其の地方の一員となる事に意味を付たないと云ふ意味と含意
事に及びます。是の如く、集團移住は日米人に限らず、他、何等外國人にして
も同様、其の地方住民より反感を受けます。

然るに、五軒十軒の少數の家族が、夫々の地方に於て、農業に従事する事は可
能であります。WRAは此の程度の集團移住であり、其の地方々々の政府代理役
員と協力して、極力実行可能な様子を慮して居ります。此の意味の集團移
住の他は、或は借地として、或はフラフシエラーの方法に於て、お互に隣近所の交際の土
米得る程度の再居住方法であります。

その他、WRAとしては、規模の集團移住、或は家族再居住の爲に、資金融通の二助
として、米退者の間に、クレジットユニオンを組織する準備中であり、トパス・マンザナ
の二つのセクターは既に此の組織を得て、集團移住開始の運びになつて居ります。

調和の住民と他の地域の完備するを待つ近きなく、希望とあらばWRAは喜んで
集團移住の方法方針の指示援助と致します。WRAは直接に資金融通の
援助の必要なき場合にあるとせんが、フールクレット、フアセ、ユリ、全米ハウレンス、
局、市政府代理局は再移住者に必要なる資金の融通は既に始めて居ります。

総制的に結論を申上げます

一、WRAとしては、セロー住民の再移住問題に關する感情、態度は今後異常
に知る必要を感じ、その方法の一つとして、近きセローに家庭相談役を遣
く送るであります。

此の相談役の人は、常に再移住を希望する家庭の人と接觸して、住民
の再移住に對する、正確なる態度、希望を知り、今後の方針に資する
べきであります。

二、WRAはセロー住民が再移住後の福祉に多大なる關心を寄せて居ります
故、再移住者の獨立可能時期まで援助する様、具体案を考へて居
ります。

三、東部、中西部の人の再移住者に對する感情、態度は良好であります。
其の上再移住者の好記録及び同東部隊の記録に供ひ、WRAの大衆
に對する教育的宣傳は、此の良き感情態度を益々深めて居ります。
隨ち、再移住するに當り、危害を受けるかも知れないと云ふ如き心配は
必要のなき事と信じます。

四、五軒十軒程度の小規模な集團移住は、設備下ります。若し特別な
を要請申せば、あればWRAは其の人々を援助する様、既に準備が
出来て居ります。

ワシントン事務所は、吾々は、セロー住民の貴族等同様、貴族等の子孫の持
来の家業下下居ります。吾々も、此の再移住の機会を極力發達せしめんとしつゝあ
る集團も、各住居に再移住する事に、仍り、平等なる生活が出来る様との
配慮の下であります。

資金の面は、結局は、貴族方の將來の同東市民の爲に、考慮して居るこ
とが、證據の一つとして、私は茲に貴族に對し、感謝の意を表する者であります。
然し、此の返書の資金からの質問の解答ともなる事を望むて居ります。
資金及び、セロー住民からの書面や申上りに對し、吾々ワシントン本局に
居る者は、今後とも、常に今後同様、考慮を伴ふ事を、お信じ下さる様
希望致します。

(終)

ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
COMMITTEE FOR STUDY OF RELOCATION PROBLEMS
RELOCATION, ARKANSAS

NOVEMBER 3, 1943

Mr. Elmer L. Shirrell
226 West Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Mr. Shirrell:

The Committee of Studying Relocation Problems has been sending out questionnaires to all relocatee of this center. A sample is enclosed hereby. Due to the many unknown addresses quite a few have been returned. I am sending them to you in package form and will you be kind enough to trace them and send it to the owners?

Thank you for your trouble, I remain,

Yours truly,

S. Muraoka
Chairman of the Committee

SM:mo

ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
COMMITTEE FOR STUDY OF RELOCATION PROBLEMS
RELOCATION, ARKANSAS

NOVEMBER 15, 1943

Mr. Harold S. Pistere
Relocation Supervisor
960 Union Commerce Bldg.
Cleveland 14, Ohio

Dear Mr. Pistere:

The Committee for Study of Relocation Problems in WRA Relocation Center of Rohwer has sent out approximately 800 copies of questionnaire to the relocatees from this Center. The purpose of sending out these was to have a survey of how the relocatees are situated and what suggestions they might wish to make for the benefit of those who are still within the Center.

Up to this time we have about 200 answers. Some of them give us very good suggestions to the remaining residents of this Center. Majority of them is in favor of relocation.

When we classified these answers into districts, we noticed that relocatees in Ann Arbor, Michigan, show comparatively high percentage of dissatisfaction with the life "outside".

We assume that the main reason for the dissatisfaction on the part of the relocatees is that the antagonistic feeling is shown them by the residents of the community. I am enclosing a copy of some notations of relocatees for your reference.

Ann Arbor may be the only place that shows antagonism toward relocatees, but the effect it gives to the remaining evacuees is very great. We wish you to work among the community there to eradicate such unfavorable sentiment.

Mr. Cross from Washington, D.C., who is working with us along this same line, will probably write you about this.

Your effort will be appreciated not only by the relocatees but by all of us evacuees.

Yours sincerely,

S. Muraoka
Chairman of the Committee for
Study of Relocation Problems.

ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
COMMITTEE FOR STUDY OF RELOCATION PROBLEMS
RELOCATION, ARKANSAS

NOVEMBER 20, 1943

Mr. Harry Weiss
Information Specialist
960 Union Commerce Building
Cleveland 14, Ohio

Dear Mr. Weiss:

Thank you for your thoughtful letter of November 15th. In regards to the questionnaire materials, I have sent them to Mr. Pistere the morning I received your letter, hoping he will be able to help in straightening out the discontent in Ann Arbor.

I am going to send letters to the other centers informing them about our survey, which may be some help to them.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the interest you have shown in relocation matters. I am glad to know you and will continue to remember the occasion, we had, discussing problems.

With many thanks, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

S. Muraoka, Chairman
Committee for Study of Relocation problems

SM: mo

Dea r Friend:

We wish to thank you for your cooperation in sending us back the questionnaire we have sent to you. It gave vital importance to our survey which we are undertaking.

We request, at this time, that you keep in touch with us and whenever you do come across things which are worth while mentioning, please report to our Committee.

Yours truly,

D. Murakami
Committee of Study for
Relocation Problems

THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS



Relocation Center
Relocation, Arkansas

Name _____

Address _____

(Print your Name and Address)

Dear Friend:

We shall greatly appreciate your cooperation in filling out the following questionnaire. You are pioneering the resettlement phase of evacuation...what happens to you, the adjustments you make, whether you are happy or not, what you think of resettlement for the rest of us...are questions of vital interest and importance to those of us still in the centers. Thank you for your consideration.

B. Murakami
Com. of Studying Relocation Problems
Rohwer community Council Body

When did you leave the relocation center? _____

Nature of present job? _____ Pay _____

How did you secure your position? _____

What is your employer's and fellow employee's attitude toward you and toward your work? _____

Are you satisfied _____ Are you planning a change? _____

How did you solve your housing problem? _____

Are you married? _____ Number of dependants? _____

Are they living with you? _____ How did you solve the educational problems for your children? _____

Is the cost of living satisfactory? _____

Can you make a saving out of your income? _____

How is the reaction to your presence in your locale, in the theatre, in eating places, churches, etc.? _____

Have you made an caucasian friends? _____ How have you made your friends? _____

Did they come to you or did you go to them? _____

Are you on a short term leave or an indefinite leave? _____

If you are on a short term leave, do you have any intentions to make it an indefinite leave? _____

Give us your true opinion regarding relocation. Do you sincerely advise the people still in the centers to relocate? If not why? _____

Are there any special suggestions that you might wish to make? _____

(Use other side of paper if necessary)

Date _____

THIS IS A SUMMARY OF THE HIGH LIGHT FROM ANSWERS OF
THE QUESTIONNAIRE WE HAVE SENT TO ALL RELOCATEES.

- Q. Give us your true opinion regarding relocation. Do you sincerely advise the people still in the center to relocate? If not why?
- A. Majorities say emphatically YES. Especially for Nisei; however, for Issei, they hesitate to advise for relocation because housing problem alone is a great hazard to them. Beside lack of language makes it very difficult for them to mingle with new community.
- Q. Are there any special suggestions that you might wish to make?
- A. a. This study is a very good idea. Are you going to send more of these questionnaire? The time changes as war goes on, things do change.
- b. If financial positions permit you to go out on seasonal or a short term leave, although little inconvenience on these leaves may be had, you may be able to get a better job; jobs that are offered to this center results mostly as dissatisfactory.
- c. Make a definite arrangement on wages before taking a job to avoid grief and misunderstanding.
- d. Find out the living conditions, housing, and etc. If the housing which is provided by the employer is dissatisfactory, you must not crab; make the best of it.
- e. Ask, "What do I have to bring?" to your employer. Always bring something to eat in your luggage, not in your baggage. Sometimes baggage is delayed because of transportation difficulties.
- f. Always think before you act. People are always testing you out to see how you are. Expect anything to happen, at any time, especially, if you are the first to be admitted in that territory.
- g. There hasn't been enough of the right kind of publicity for us.
- h. When you come out of the center, you will realize that the outside things are a lot different, and you will have to change things overnight; so prepare yourself for anything to happen.

ROHWER COMMUNITY COUNCIL
RESETTLEMENT PLANNING COMMISSION

PROPOSAL ON INVESTIGATION TEAM TO
WEST COAST AREA

On November 8, 1944, Mr. Hugo W. Wolter, Chief Liason Officer, W.R.A., Washington, D.C. visited our center. During his visit, Mr. Wolter stated that there were possibilities that the exclusion order for all persons, aliens and citizens, of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast area might be lifted. He further stated publicly that the War Relocation Authority is willing to give every possible assistance to the evacuees to return to their former homes and restore themselves to private and normal life.

On December 17, 1944, the Commanding General, Western Defense Command, and the War Department announced concurrently recession of the blanket exclusion order, to become effective January 2, 1945. Then Mr. Harold Ickes, Secretary of the Interior, followed with a statement in which he indicated that closing of all the Relocation Centers is anticipated within a period of from six months to one year after revocation of the exclusion order.

Giving careful study and consideration to this sudden development, we, the Resettlement Planning Commission wish to submit the following proposal which, we believe, is based on the actual situations of all evacuees residing within the centers:

Whereas, The Resettlement Planning Commission is pleased to learn lifting of the exclusion order; and

Whereas, The Residents in relocation centers have been completely isolated for the last two and a half years from conditions developed in the West Coast Area; the actual conditions in the area are not known to the residents, while it can be said without doubt that conditions have developed beyond one's imagination, especially in these times of national crisis; and

Whereas, We, The Resettlement Planning Commission, strongly believe it is imperative to investigate the actual conditions in the West Coast area, before the evacuees decide on their future plans with confidence,

Therefore, We, The Resettlement Planning Commission, resolve to send an investigation team to the West Coast area. The objective of this investigation shall be to obtain data necessary for the possible returning of the evacuees to the Western Defense area.

As to the method, scope, and extent of such an investigation, a draft shall be placed before the center residents for their deliberation. At this time, however, we, the Resettlement Planning Commission, wish

to make the following suggestions:

1 - The investigation team shall be composed of five evacuee representatives and one W.R.A. local official. The team shall depart at the earliest possible date.

2 - All expenses for the investigation shall be paid by the War Relocation Authority. In making selection of representative, both residents and W.R.A. shall be consulted.

3 - The scope of the investigation shall include: Occupations-- Trading business, agriculture, fishery; all phases of welfare problems-- Housing, educational facilities; Classes of those promoting return of evacuees; Financial facilities and sources for reestablishing oneself in business; security of property and life; possibilities of self-enterprise; present labor condition; etc.

4 - The investigation team shall also investigate and report on actual situation of individual property rights and other matters, on request of individuals who at the time of evacuation left their properties at large in the West Coast area.

5 - As to the method of investigation, the investigation team shall make full use of facilities of public and private agencies, such as public officials, Chambers of Commerce, factories, companies, land owners, business owners, various organizations and news publishers, etc. It is also strongly desired that the team make contact with the religious groups fighting against minority-race problems, social organizations, and individuals who are to be civic and rural leaders.

6 - As to the time an period of the proposed investigation, consultation shall be made with W.R.A. We the commission, recommend, in advance, that the period be not less than four weeks.

We, the Resettlement Planning Commission, strongly believe that this is a most vital matter to every evacuee in making decisions on his future plans, and we recommend that an immediate action be taken and for the proposed investigation team to set out at an immediate possible date.

Respectfully submitted,

Resettlement Planning Commission

加州沿岸調査に關する提案

朗和市政參事會定住研究部

去る十一月八日WR A聯絡課々長ヒューコー Wウオルター氏はワシントン府本部より當セントターを訪問し近き將來に於て陸軍省は總ての日本人並に日系人に對し太平洋沿岸州を解放する意向なる旨を伝へWR Aは此機会に於て日本人の旧住地方帰還希望者に對し凡ゆる援助方法を講じ其の目的達成に便誼を計らんとするものであると公開的に發表致しました之に續いて十二月十七日西部沿岸司令長官並に陸軍長官は千九百四十五年一月二日を以つて西部沿岸日系人除外令を解除する旨を聲明し同日又内務長官イケ

ス氏は来る一ヶ年以内の全セントター閉鎖の目的なることを聲明發表されました此の突然の新情勢に關して私共定住研究部委員は我等セントター人の實際事情を基礎として慎重なる考慮研究討議の結果左の各條を提案すべき結論に達した次第であります

(一) 太平洋沿岸州への帰還が許可されし事は願はしい進展であつた
(二) 而し乍ら我等セントター人は當該沿岸州を離れて既に二ヶ年數ヶ月を経過し其間完全なる隔離状態に在つて地方情勢を知るべき便誼を持たなかつた
思ふに刻下非常事態の許に於ては想像を超越した時世の變化状況の果實があるべきことを察知するに難くない

(三) 故に我等は本新事態に処すべき方一の方法として先づ沿岸州の現状を實地について調査する要ありと認むるものであります
(四) 茲に於て當定住研究委員會は其の第一着手行動として當セントターより五名の調査隊を沿岸州に特派しWR A責任者隨伴保護の許に先づカリホルニア州の現實を調査しセントター人帰還生活を目的とする立場に於てすべきの角度より調査を行ふべきことを推挙するものがあります
(五) 調査の範圍實際方法手段並に程度について元より一般セントター人の協議を要する次第であります

調査團組織

並に運行

(六) 當該調査團は當セントター居住民五名と當駐在所WR A係役員一名を以つて組織し得る限り速に調査の旅程に上る
(七) 調査團の經費はWR Aの負擔たらしめる
從つて調査團員の決定はWR Aの意向を斟酌し最善の方法により適任者を依頼する
(八) 調査の範圍はセントター人各自の生業商業農業並に水産業經營に關する諸問題所謂日本人排斥の真相程度と一般社会問題居住家屋子女教育機關日本人の帰還を歓迎する方面範圍日系人の帰還復業につい

ての財政補助、救済、生命財産の保護、救済、一般營業の可能性、一般勞働生活の可能性等

(ウ) 当該調査團は此の救済會に於て當センター居住民の依頼により其の加州にのこしたる財産權利案件等に關する調査を出來得る範圍に於て調査する

(エ) 調査の方式としては官憲商業會議所各禮會社工場地主事業家等々と直接に交渉し團體新聞社等を訪問し特に所謂親日派宗教家社會團體有力なる個人等の援助を有効に利用する

(オ) 調査旅行期間はWR Aと交渉し少くとも四週間とする

(カ) 本件は急を要する行動と認むるが故にWR Aに對して直ちに交渉し最短期間内に実行に

移すべきにして之と同時各センターに當委員の趣意具體案を傳達共通なる方針を立てWR A本部に交渉し太平洋沿岸調査終了の報告の如何に依つては全代表者會を開催し研究討議する必要があるものと認むるものであります

Rohwer

December 22, 1943 ✓

Mr. Dillon S. Myer, Director
War Relocation Authority
19 Bar Building
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Mr. Ray D. Johnston,
Project Director
Rohwer Relocation Center
Relocation, Arkansas

Dear Sir:

In the statement, the findings of the Committee of Rohwer Community Council, we made a presentation of an incident of an Iowa Farm as a citing. After we have tried to obtain more details regarding the case, we received word that the couple had changed their mind and are still there; although they had decided to leave the place.

We would like to express our deep apology to every one whom it may concern for making a statement based on a premature report. However, it is our great pleasure to make this announcement at this time, of the fact that the incident turns out to be a proof of a true sentiment of American public. It is a good material and subject of eradicating the fear expressed by evacuees in case future relocatees might face similar occasion.

Please be advised that the Rohwer Community Council will circulate copies of this letter to every one to whom we have sent our statement of findings previously.

Yours very truly,

Chester Fujino
Chester Fujino,
Chairman of the Committee
for Studying of Relocation
Problems
Rohwer Community Council
Relocation, Arkansas

S. Muraoka

JAN - 8 1944

QUESTIONNAIRE SENT TO ROHWER RELOCATEES

ON RELOCATION

St. Louis

New York Cleveland Little Rock Salt Lake Denver Chicago Total

1. What is your employer's and fellow employee's attitude toward you and your work?

Good:	6	40	11	21	17	56	145
Fair:		5		3	1	2	11
Bad:		3				1	4

2. Are you satisfied?

Yes:	6	23	12	21	17	50	129
Fair:	1	3		2		8	14
No:	1	15	4	2	4	4	30

3. How did you solve your housing problem?

Self:	5	8	8	7	10	15	53
WRA:		4			1	1	6
Friend:	1	3	3	4		9	20
Employer:		27	2	4	8	21	62

4. Are you married?

Married:		11	8	9	9	13	50
Single:	9	35	10	16	16	46	132

5. Is the cost of living satisfactory?

Yes:	2	28	15	15	19	37	116
Fair:	1	3	1	4	2	9	20
No:	2	15	3	8		14	42

6. Can you make a saving out of your income?

Yes:	3	25	8	11	11	30	88
No:	1	3	5	12	8	12	41
Little	1	19	5	3	2	17	48

7. How is the reaction to your presence in your locale, in the theatre, in eating places, churches, etc?

Good:	5	40	17	14	38	55	159
Fair:	2	7	5	7	4	6	31
Bad:			3	4		5	12

8. Have you made any Caucasian friends?

Yes:	7	44	16	21	16	55	159
No:		4	1	3	3	6	17

9. Give us your true opinion regarding relocation. Do you sincerely advise the people still in the centers to relocate?

Yes:	6	40	15	24	37	60	182
No:		5	1	6	2	4	18

The Committee for Studying Relocation Problems sent out the above Questions to all Relocates from this Center during Sept. 1943. We received approximately 200 answers from the total 800 Relocates who had gone out by that time.

The figures shown above give us very interesting hints, and are well worth studying. We have planned to make a more thorough study of the attitudes and conditions of our Relocates again in the near future.

Chester Fujino
 Chester Fujino
 Chairman, Committee for
 Studying Relocation Problems

朗和市政参事會

玉城 正盛

朗和市政参事會は昨年秋、再転住問題研究委員会と通じ、當朗和センターの再転住者八百名に對し、彼等の再転住に對する感想及び、再転住後の彼等の状態と調査する質問書を送りました。約二百名の人々より回答に接しましたが、本紙の裏面にあり統計がきれであります。

吾々の参考となるべき幾多の意見が夫々の回答の中に表はれて居ります。此處で特に注意申上げたい事は、再転住に賛成の意を表し居る、百八十二の回答中、大部分は二世には無條件で出所を奨励して居るが、一世は考慮を要すと云ふ矣であります。夫等の理由は一概に此處で語り盡くせん故、本組は本事務所に在る回答書と、夫々の検討の上、各位の判断にお任せ致したいと思ひます。

亦、大多數の人々が、特に吾々の注意を喚起して居る事は、住宅難であります。而し、是は全米を通じての一般的事故、吾々立退者のみの問題と解す可きではありません。

昨年九月には、當センターよりの再転住者は約八百名でありましたが、去り一月迄の統計は、殆ど千四百名となつて居ります。委員会と近く改めて二回目の質問書を送り、最近の統計を取る可き計畫中であります。

今回は、経費節約の爲、各個人別には此の質問書を發送せず、各地にはレター・ボックスを通じて再転住者に手渡しして貰ふ事に致しました。

各位から此の度の質問書に對する、何かの提案もあらは、直教委員会まで、ご通知被下願、希望致します。

二月十五日

(記 村岡)